

Cambridge IGCSE

A guide for universities

Cambridge IGCSE® subjects are recognised by leading universities, further education institutions and employers around the world as evidence of academic achievement and as an 'international passport' to progression and success.

What is Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)?

Cambridge IGCSEs are subject-based qualifications, usually taken over a two-year period and assessment takes place at the end of the course. Schools worldwide have been involved in the development of Cambridge IGCSE. The syllabuses are international in outlook, but retain a local relevance. They have been created specifically for international students avoiding cultural bias. The contexts or examples used in syllabuses and exam question papers are culturally sensitive in an international context. Developed over 25 years ago, these qualifications are administered by Cambridge International Examinations, part of the University of Cambridge.

In March 2016, UK NARIC completed an independent and objective benchmarking analysis of Cambridge IGCSE to the UK education system. UK NARIC finds the Cambridge IGCSE comparable to GCSE standards.

Flexible Subject Choices

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible curriculum, with a choice of over **70** subjects in any combination. There are no compulsory subjects and students are free to study a range of subjects. Giving students the power to choose helps to motivate them throughout their studies.

Who takes Cambridge IGCSEs?

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is taken in over **145** countries and taught by over **6100** schools worldwide. Over **990000** exam entries were made by schools around the world in 2015/2016. Cambridge IGCSEs are taken in years 10 and 11 of the secondary school curriculum in the UK.

Why choose Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE provides the ideal preparation for any upper secondary education or advanced study placement and helps improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving.

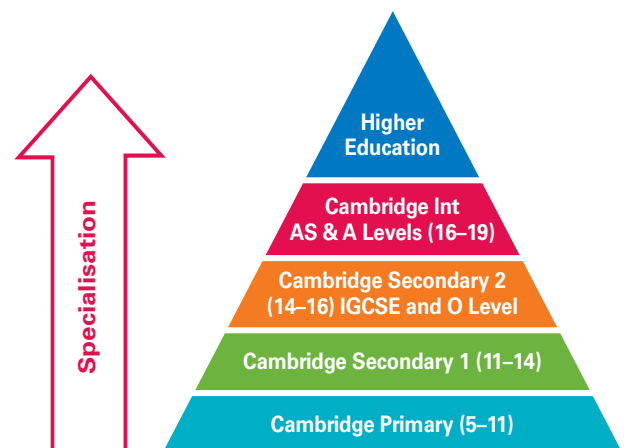
Cambridge IGCSE Curriculum Areas

Languages	Mathematics	Science
Humanities	Creative, Technical and Vocational	

Develop unique skills

Cambridge IGCSE develops student knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- Subject content
- Applying knowledge and understanding to new, as well as unfamiliar, situations
- Intellectual enquiry
- Flexibility and responsiveness to change
- Working and communicating in English
- Influencing outcomes
- Cultural awareness



Cambridge ICE (International Certificate of Education)

Cambridge ICE is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE. It allows schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum by recognising the achievements of students who pass examinations in at least seven Cambridge IGCSE subjects from five different curriculum areas, including two different languages.



Grading and assessment

The Cambridge IGCSE is reported on a grade scale from A* (highest) to G (minimum required performance).

Assessment takes place at the end of the course and provides different options that best suit students, including written and oral examinations, coursework and practical assessment. This broadens opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning, particularly when their first language is not English.

Percentage Uniform Mark

The Percentage Uniform Mark (PUM) is a numerical mark provided for some countries alongside grades for each subject. It transfers a candidate's results to a common scale which reports how well they performed within that grade. For example if a candidate achieves a PUM of 79 then they have achieved a score at the top end of a B grade.

IGCSE Grade	PUM range
A*	90–100
A	80–89
B	70–79
C	60–69
D	50–59
E	40–49
F	30–39
G	20–29

PUMs, if they are awarded, are shown on a candidate's Statement of Results (shown below) and on CIE Direct.

Statement of Results			
INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL			
Candidate Name A SPECIMEN	Date of Birth XX/XX/XXXX	Centre / Cand. No. XXXX/XXXX	
Centre Name CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE CENTRE	Series June 2015	To be quoted on all correspondence	
IGCSE			
Syllabus	Syllabus Title	Result	Percentage Uniform Mark
0470	History	B(b)	77%
0486	Literature (English)	C(c)	64%
0500	First Language English	B(b)	70%
0546	Malay	A*(a*)	94%
0580	Mathematics	A(a)	80%
0510	Biology	B(b)	72%
0620	Chemistry	A(a)	83%
0625	Physics	A(a)	86%
Explanatory Notes			
<p>This statement of results is not a certificate. Cambridge International Examinations reserves the right to amend the information on this statement. Results will be confirmed by the issue of certificates.</p> <p>International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) results are reported on an 8-point scale of grades: A*(a*), A(a), B(b), C(c), D(d), E(e), F(f) or G(g), grade A*(a*) being the highest and grade G(g) the lowest. UNGRADED indicates a standard below that required for grade G(g).</p> <p>General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O Level) results are reported on a 5-point scale of grades: A*(a*), A(a), B(b), C(c), D(d) or E(e), grade A*(a*) being the highest and grade E(e) the lowest. UNGRADED indicates a standard below that required for grade E(e).</p> <p>NO RESULT indicates that a result cannot be issued because of absence for the whole or part of the examination in the syllabus or because of a decision not to issue a result for some other reason.</p> <p>PENDING indicates that a result cannot be issued at present but will follow in due course.</p> <p>TO BE ISSUED indicates that the results will be awarded in the next series.</p> <p>In some IGCSE syllabuses Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication is reported separately on a 5-point numerical scale, grade 1(ONE) being the highest and grade 5(FIVE) the lowest. Candidates who fail to reach the minimum standard for grade 5(FIVE) will not receive an Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication endorsement. The endorsement grade for Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication will be reported on IGCSE certificates provided the overall IGCSE syllabus result is grade G(g) or higher.</p> <p>For English as a Second Language 0510 and 0526 the Oral/Aural is compulsory and is reported separately. For English as a Second Language 0511 the Oral/Aural is compulsory but is not reported separately.</p> <p>For First Language syllabuses and A-levels as a Second Language, Speaking & Listening is optional and is reported separately. For First Language English 0522 the Speaking & Listening is compulsory but is not reported separately.</p> <p>The Percentage Uniform Mark for IGCSE and GCE O Level is provided in addition to the grade for a syllabus. The Percentage Uniform Mark is not the total mark achieved for the syllabus. It is a common scale for all syllabuses to show whether the candidate's performance is close to the top, bottom or middle of the grade. A Percentage Uniform Mark is not provided where the candidate's result is Ungraded, No Result, Pending or To Be Issued.</p> <p>Only grades A*(a*) to G(g) achieved in IGCSE syllabuses will be reported on certificates.</p> <p>Only grades A*(a*) to E(e) achieved in GCE O Level syllabuses will be reported on certificates.</p>			

Ofqual Regulated Cambridge IGCSE Syllabuses (Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificates)

We have over 20 Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses which are regulated by Ofqual, the regulatory body in England.

The regulatory title for all Cambridge IGCSEs, including for syllabuses with the 9-1 grading scale, is **Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificates**. There is no difference in standard between Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificates

After careful consideration, we have concluded that our regulated Cambridge IGCSEs no longer need to be recognised by UK exam regulators; therefore, all Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificates will be deregulated in the UK by the end of 2019. More information at www.cie.org.uk/uk-state-schools

The new 9-1 Grading Structure

We have developed Cambridge International Level 1/ Level 2 (9-1) Certificates in First Language English (syllabus 0627), English Literature (syllabus 0477) and Mathematics (syllabus 0626) which are only available to schools in England. They have been designed to offer the same breadth and depth as the reformed GCSEs in England and will be graded on the new 9-1 scale. **Cambridge IGCSE subjects will retain the A*-G grading structure for all schools outside the UK.**

However, for schools in the UK only, we offer the Cambridge IGCSE with a 9-1 grading option for the most popular subjects. Schools in the UK can choose either the A*-G or 9-1 grading option for these subjects without the need to switch syllabus. More information can be found at www.cie.org.uk/uk-independent-schools

UK universities have reassured us that they will continue to welcome applications with A*-G grades for Cambridge IGCSE.

Cambridge IGCSE grading structure									
A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	
4 and above = C and above									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U

Diagram adapted from *Grading the New GCSEs in 2017* on their website at www.gov.uk/government/news/setting-standards-for-new-gcse-in-2017

Assessment methods – sample certificates



Both the Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate and the Cambridge IGCSE certificate are evidence of official results from Cambridge.

Other hidden security features are also present on official Cambridge documentation.

CIE Direct

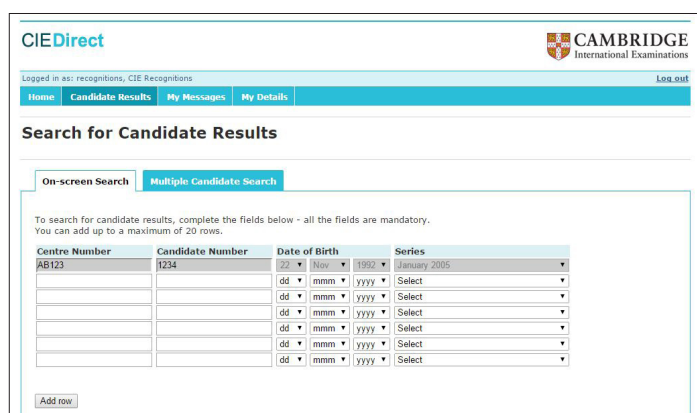
Cambridge can provide universities with access to our secure website, CIE Direct, so they can view and verify students' results online. This is a free service offered by Cambridge.

CIE Direct allows users to search for results individually, using the 'on screen search' function or by uploading a template of data, via the 'multiple candidate search' function. The template can be populated offline and uploaded at your convenience.

Please visit www.cie.org.uk/ciedirect-userguide for further information about how to access Cambridge results, together with frequently asked questions. To apply for access please complete the form at the end of the user guide and return it to recognitions@cie.org.uk

Key

1	Syllabuses taken
2	Watermark
3	Signature of VC of University of Cambridge
4	Centre Number/Candidate Number
5	Hologram
6	Serial Number
7	Upper and lower case reporting of grades achieved



“ UK NARIC finds the Cambridge IGCSE to be a rigorous and robust international lower secondary-level qualification, underpinned by sufficient quality assurance policies and procedures in place to maintain standards ”

UK NARIC benchmarking report 2016

Cambridge IGCSE English Language qualifications

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English and Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language are recognised by a significant number of universities worldwide, including in the UK, as proof of English proficiency.

Certifying Statement for CEFR

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (syllabuses 0500 and 0522) and Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (syllabuses 0510 and 0511) have been mapped to the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR). Students who require written evidence of their competence in English in all four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) can apply to Cambridge for an additional certificate entitled *Certifying Statement for CEFR*. This document gives a breakdown of a student's Cambridge IGCSE English Language results into component grades and corresponding levels according to the CEFR. There is a charge for this service.

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Series
Candidate Name
Date of Birth of
Centre Name
Centre Number/Candidate Number

Syllabus Code	Certification Title	Overall Grade
0510	English as a Second Language	A

Component No.	Component Title	Component Grade	Skill	CEFR Level by skill
5	Speaking	ONE	Oral	C1
22	Reading & Coursework	A	Reading	B2
42	Listening	B	Writing	B2
			Listening	B2

A.K. Raghunivas
Vice-Chancellor
University of Cambridge

Explanatory Notes are printed overleaf
Date of Issue: DDMMYYYY

Key	
1	Syllabus number
2	Breakdown of grades by component
3	Equivalent CEFR level achieved

University Recognition

Many universities worldwide require a combination of Cambridge International A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs to meet their entry requirements. For example, leading US and Canadian universities require Cambridge International AS & A Levels, but some US and Canadian colleges and universities will accept students with five Cambridge IGCSEs at grade C or above.

In the UK, Cambridge IGCSE is accepted as equivalent to GCSE. Many UK universities look at Cambridge IGCSE grades, as well as predicted grades for Cambridge International A Level, when making admissions decisions.

The recognition database

The recognition database is an online directory of worldwide institutions that have given formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications. It is regularly updated with new recognition statements allowing Cambridge students to see where their Cambridge qualifications are accepted. The database is not an exhaustive list; there are many organisations not listed which do accept Cambridge qualifications.

Please visit www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch for more information.

Recognition search

Welcome to the Recognition Search Page. Please enter your search criteria below.

- Register your institution's admissions policy
- Recognition Search home

Latest recognition

- Yale University
- University of Oxford
- National University of Singapore

If you would like to see information about your organisation included in our Recognition Search results, please [register your recognition details here \(open new window\)](#).

Country: Please select...

Organisation name: [input field]

Organisation type

- Select all Organisation types
- Universities and colleges
- Government ministries
- Professional associations
- Companies

Cambridge IGCSE and O Level +

Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE +

Cambridge Pre-U +

Cambridge Global Perspectives +

Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (Cambridge PDQs) +

Withdrawn qualifications +

Search

Learn more! For more information on Cambridge IGCSE please visit www.cie.org.uk/igcserecognition or contact Customer Services on +44 1223 553554 or email info@cie.org.uk