

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 IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSEs are subject-based qualifications, usually taken over a two-year period. 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 30 years ago, these qualifications are administered by Cambridge Assessment International Education, part of the University of Cambridge.

In September 2019, Ecctis Ltd (then known as UK NARIC) completed an independent and objective benchmarking analysis of Cambridge IGCSE to the UK education system. Ecctis Ltd finds the Cambridge IGCSE (A*-G and 9-1) comparable to the reformed GCSE.

Flexible subject choices

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible curriculum, with a choice of over 70 subjects in any combination. Students are free to study a wide variety of subjects, enabling them to discover their strengths and develop a passion for learning.

Who takes Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is taken in over 150 countries and taught by over 4800 schools worldwide. Over 800 000 exam entries were made by schools around the world in 2020/21. Cambridge IGCSEs are taken in years 10 and 11 of the secondary school curriculum in the UK.

Cambridge IGCSE curriculum areas		
Languages	Mathematics	Science
Humanities and Social Sciences		English Language and Literature
The Arts		Creative and Professional

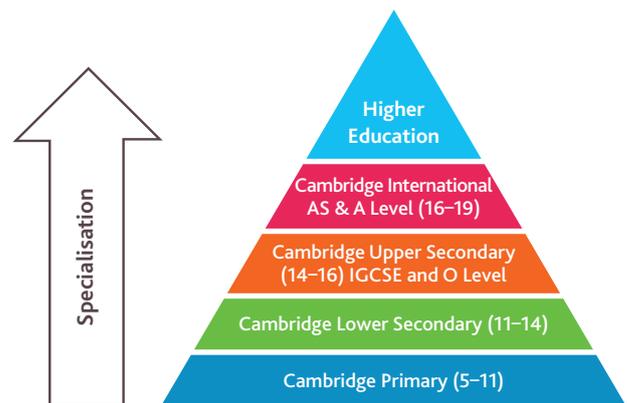
Why choose Cambridge IGCSE?

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.

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 worldwide on a grade scale from A* (highest) to G (minimum required performance) or from 9 (highest) to 1 (minimum required performance). The syllabus content and assessment is identical, regardless of which grading option the school chooses. More information at www.cambridgeinternational.org/grading-choice

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

Anchor point

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There are three anchor points where standards are benchmarked between the two systems.

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.

Statement of Results

Syllabus grades for all examination types are reported on the Statement of Results as an upper case letter followed by the corresponding lower case letter in brackets, e.g. B(b). This format is used as a security feature to prevent grades being altered by hand.

The Cambridge ICE group award result will be reported on Cambridge IGCSE Statements of Results for students who satisfy the ICE award rules. The ICE group award is reported on a three point scale: Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Statement of Results

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL

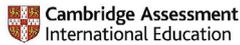
Candidate Name ASAMPLE	Date of Birth XX/XX/XXXX	Centre / Cand. No. XXXXXX/XXXX
Centre Name ASAMPLE CENTRE	Series June 2018	To be quoted on all correspondence

IGCSE

Syllabus	Syllabus Title	Result
0470	History	B(b)
0466	Literature (English)	C(c)
0580	Mathematics	A*(a*)

Explanatory Notes

SPECIMEN

 Cambridge Assessment
International Education

09811

“ UK NARIC's (now known as Ecctis Ltd.) review found suitably clear policies to ensure consistency in standards within the Cambridge IGCSE and for UK NARIC to determine the Cambridge IGCSE is considered comparable to GCSE. ”

Ecctis Ltd. Independent Evaluations and Benchmarking Report 2019



Sample certificates

Cambridge IGCSE certificates (A*–G and 9–1) are evidence of official results from Cambridge. Other hidden security features are also present on official Cambridge documentation.

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



Cambridge International Direct

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

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.

Visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/cidirect-userguide for further information about how to access Cambridge results, together with frequently asked questions.

To apply for access, complete the online form on the 'Verification of students' results' webpage: www.cambridgeinternational.org/verification

The screenshot shows a web interface for searching candidate results. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Home, Candidate Results, My Messages, and My Details. Below this is a section titled 'Search for Candidate Results' with two options: 'On-screen Search' and 'Multiple Candidate Search'. A message states: 'To search for candidate results, complete the fields below - all the fields are mandatory. You can add up to a maximum of 20 rows.' Below this is a table with columns: Centre Number, Candidate Number, Date of Birth, and Series. The first row contains 'AB123', '1234', '22 Nov 1992', and 'January 2005'. Each date field is a dropdown menu with 'dd', 'mmm', and 'yyyy' options. Below the table is an 'Add row' button and a 'Search' button. At the bottom, there are radio buttons for 'Display results: On screen' and 'Export to file (CSV)', and a link: 'I am missing the results for a candidate or some candidates. Why is this?'.

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.

Visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition-search for more information.

The screenshot shows the 'Recognition Search' page. It has a blue header with the title 'Recognition Search'. Below the header, there is a 'Welcome to the recognition search page' section. The main content area contains several paragraphs of text explaining the database and providing instructions. There is a 'Please enter your search criteria below.' section with a 'Location' dropdown menu. Below that is an 'Organisation' section with a text input for 'Organisation Name' and a list of 'Organisation type' checkboxes: 'Select all organisation types', 'Universities and colleges', 'Government/ ministries', 'Professional associations', and 'Companies'. At the bottom, there is a list of Cambridge qualifications with expandable sections: 'Cambridge IGCSE and O Level', 'Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE', 'Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (Cambridge PDQs)', 'Cambridge Global Perspectives', 'Cambridge Pre-U', and 'Withdrawn qualifications'. A 'Search' button is located at the bottom of the page.

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