



# Cambridge IGCSE

## Factsheet



### What is Cambridge IGCSE?

The Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is one of the most recognised qualifications around the world. IGCSE courses are renowned for developing vital educational skills, including recall of knowledge, oral skills, problem solving, initiative, team work and investigative skills. The resulting qualification provides a foundation for higher level courses, such as A and AS Levels, the Advanced International Certificate of Education, the North American Advanced Placement programme and the International Baccalaureate.

Cambridge IGCSE caters for different levels of ability with a choice between core and extended papers in many subjects. The core curriculum is based on an overview of the subject and is suitable for students expected to achieve grades C to G. The extended curriculum is more challenging and designed for students who are expected to achieve grades A\* to C. Grades achieved through either route have the same value.

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible course of study that gives candidates the freedom to choose subjects that are right for them, whilst providing them with a broad knowledge base and lifelong skills.

### Where is IGCSE accepted and recognised?

IGCSE is a high-profile qualification. It has exactly the same value in admitting students to institutes of further education and employment as the UK equivalent – GCSE.

- IGCSE is comparable with GCE O Level and the UK GCSE
- IGCSE has an excellent reputation amongst international schools worldwide
- IGCSEs are recognised as a reliable record of attainment which counts towards entry to universities and colleges around the world
- A good grade (i.e. C or above) in IGCSE English as a Second Language is accepted for entry by almost all universities in the UK and many in the USA, Canada and Australia as evidence of adequate competence in the English language

### Who can take IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE is designed to be taught as a two year course for students aged 14 to 16 years. In some countries IGCSE courses last just one year and there are no formal age regulations.

In most subjects there is a choice between core and extended curricula, making IGCSE suitable for a wide range of abilities. Students can enter for the level that is most appropriate for them and this need not be the same across all subjects.

### How is Cambridge IGCSE taught?

At school, students are encouraged to study a wide range of subjects at IGCSE level, at the same time. In order to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, many students take courses from each of the IGCSE groups (see subjects listed overleaf), particularly if they're aiming to go on to further education. This can lead to the award of the International Certificate of Education – an additional qualification that recognises students who pass exams in seven or more subjects, including two languages and one subject from each of the other groups. However, it is also possible to study a free choice of IGCSE subjects.

The syllabus is set by Cambridge, but how it is taught will depend on the school or college.

The course differs for each subject, but there will be a mix of assessment methods throughout, including coursework, practical exercises, oral and listening tests, projects and written examinations.

### Examination Information

IGCSE courses take two years to complete and exams are taken at the end of that period.

Examinations are held in June and November each year with results issued in August and February respectively.

Students must enter for Cambridge IGCSE through a registered CIE Centre.

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## Subjects on offer

### Languages\* – First Language

Afrikaans	Japanese
Arabic	Portuguese
Chinese	Russian
Czech	Sesotho
Dutch	Spanish
English	Thai
French	Turkish
German	

### Languages\* – Second Language

Afrikaans  
English

### Languages\* – Foreign Language

Dutch	Malay
French	Mandarin Chinese
German	Portuguese
Indonesian	Spanish
Italian	

### Mathematics

Mathematics  
Additional Mathematics

### Sciences

Agriculture	Environmental Management
Biology	
Chemistry	Physical Science
Combined Science	Physics
Co-ordinated Sciences	

### Humanities and Social Sciences

Development Studies  
Economics  
Geography  
History  
Latin  
Literature (available in English and Spanish)  
Religious Studies  
Sociology

### Business, Creative, Technical and Vocational

Accounting  
Art and Design  
Art and Design: Graphics  
Art and Design: Painting and Drawing  
Art and Design: Photography  
Art and Design: Textiles  
Art and Design: 3D Studies  
Business Studies  
Child Development  
Computer Studies  
Design and Technology  
Drama  
Food and Nutrition  
Information Technology  
Music  
Physical Education

## About CIE

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds. CIE's broad range of qualifications are recognised by universities, education providers and employers across the globe.

## Learn more!

\* Local language qualifications are also available in many regions