

Cambridge Assessment International Education

The Cambridge curriculum is an international curriculum offered by more than 10 000 schools in over 160 countries. It offers learners a clear educational path from age five to 19. Cambridge is a well-established international curriculum and was developed by the University of Cambridge in the UK about 150 years ago.



Why Cambridge?

- Learners in a Cambridge school have the flexibility to move between Cambridge schools globally, without compromising their curriculum.
- Cambridge qualifications lay the foundation for international studies and are recognised as a premier university entrance qualification worldwide. Over 1 500 universities recognise Cambridge qualifications, including more than 600 universities in the US (also all the Ivy League) and all UK universities.
- Research indicates that Cambridge qualifications improve the chances of a student staying on at university and graduate on time. The demands of the Cambridge curricula and the rigorous assessments prepare learners to flourish in higher education.
- Cambridge also offers opportunities for 'greening' the curriculum via subjects such as Global Perspectives, preparing learners to manage 21st-century challenges such as climate change, global warming, renewable energy sources, social inequalities, and different lifestyles.

What is the difference between a Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) qualification and our National Senior Certificate (NSC) or IEB (Independent Examinations Board) matric qualification?

- IEB and NSC are monitored by Umalusi, the quality assurance authority for education in South Africa and are similar in content, grading, subject choice and pass requirements. The CIE is not conducted or assessed by a South African academic body, but by the CIE council, and is vastly different.
- The Cambridge Assessment International Education assessments and exams are generally recognised as being more in-depth and advanced.

The Cambridge pathway and how it works.

The Cambridge pathway has four stages that lead seamlessly from primary to secondary and pre-university years. Each stage builds on the learners' development from the previous one and offers a wide range of subjects with an emphasis on English, Mathematics and Science:

1. Cambridge Primary (5 to 11 years old)
2. Cambridge Lower Secondary (11 to 14 years old)
3. Cambridge Upper Secondary or the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) – IGCSE Core or IGCSE Extended (14 to 16 years old)
4. Cambridge Advanced AS and A levels (16 to 19 years old)

'A level' and 'AS level' are completed in Stage 4. AS level is completed at the end of year 12, and A level is completed a year after the 'matric' year, being equivalent to a first-year Cambridge University course. (Some schools do this differently.)