

# Cambridge International AS & A Level

Cambridge  
International  
AS & A Level



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

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**“ We think the Cambridge curriculum is superb preparation for university. ”**

Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions,  
Duke University, USA

# Welcome to Cambridge

Cambridge International Examinations prepares school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. We are part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

Our international qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career. As a not-for-profit organisation, we devote our resources to delivering high-quality educational programmes that can unlock learners' potential.

Our programmes and qualifications set the global standard for international education. They are created by subject experts, rooted in academic rigour and reflect the latest educational research. They provide a strong platform for learners to progress from one stage to the next, and are well supported by teaching and learning resources.

We develop our qualifications according to our Code of Practice and the Cambridge Approach. We are accredited as an awarding body

by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), the UK government's regulator for awarding organisations and qualifications in England. Every year, nearly a million Cambridge learners from 10 000 schools in 160 countries prepare for their future with an international education from Cambridge.

## Benefits for you and your school

When you choose Cambridge, you create a relationship with an organisation that has an excellent reputation as the leader in international education. Our reputation will help strengthen the status of your school, as you become part of the global Cambridge learning community. We listen carefully to our community of schools to make sure we understand the needs of learners around the world.



## Benefits for your learners

Cambridge programmes and qualifications have a proven reputation for being an excellent preparation for university, employment and life.

Your learners can be confident that the results they receive are fairly awarded against our consistent global standard.

Every year, many thousands of Cambridge learners achieve the grades they need to progress to their chosen university. Leading universities and employers worldwide value and recognise Cambridge qualifications as evidence of academic ability. They open doors for Cambridge learners.

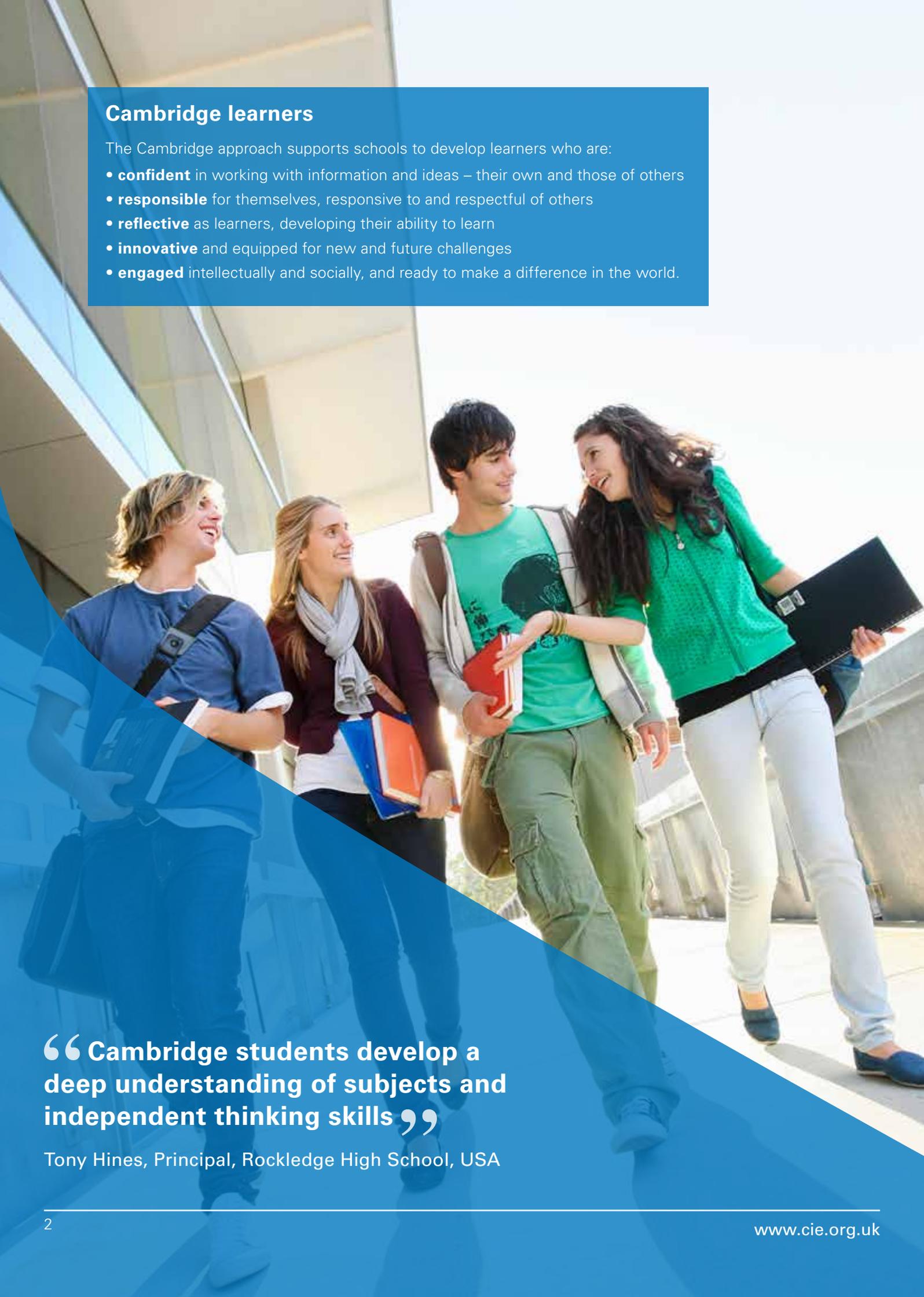
Together with schools, we develop Cambridge learners who are **confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged** – equipped for success in the fast-changing modern world.



## Cambridge learners

The Cambridge approach supports schools to develop learners who are:

- **confident** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- **responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- **reflective** as learners, developing their ability to learn
- **innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
- **engaged** intellectually and socially, and ready to make a difference in the world.

A photograph of four diverse students walking together on a school campus. They are smiling and engaged in conversation. The student on the far left is a young man with blonde hair wearing a blue t-shirt and a backpack. Next to him is a young woman with long blonde hair wearing a maroon cardigan and a grey scarf, carrying several colorful folders. In the center is a young man with dark hair wearing a green t-shirt and a grey jacket, also carrying folders. On the far right is a young woman with long dark hair wearing a green sweater and light blue jeans, carrying a black folder. The background shows a modern building with large windows and a clear sky.

“ Cambridge students develop a deep understanding of subjects and independent thinking skills ”

Tony Hines, Principal, Rockledge High School, USA

# Cambridge programmes and qualifications

Cambridge programmes and qualifications are carefully designed to engage your learners and give them solid foundations to achieve high levels of academic and personal attainment.

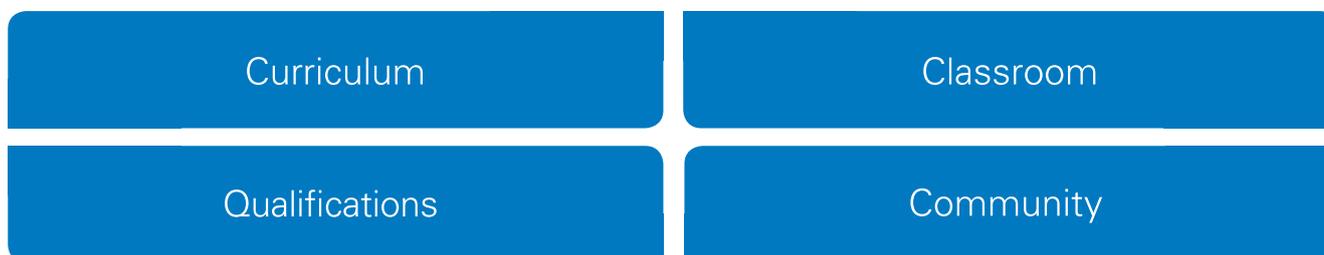
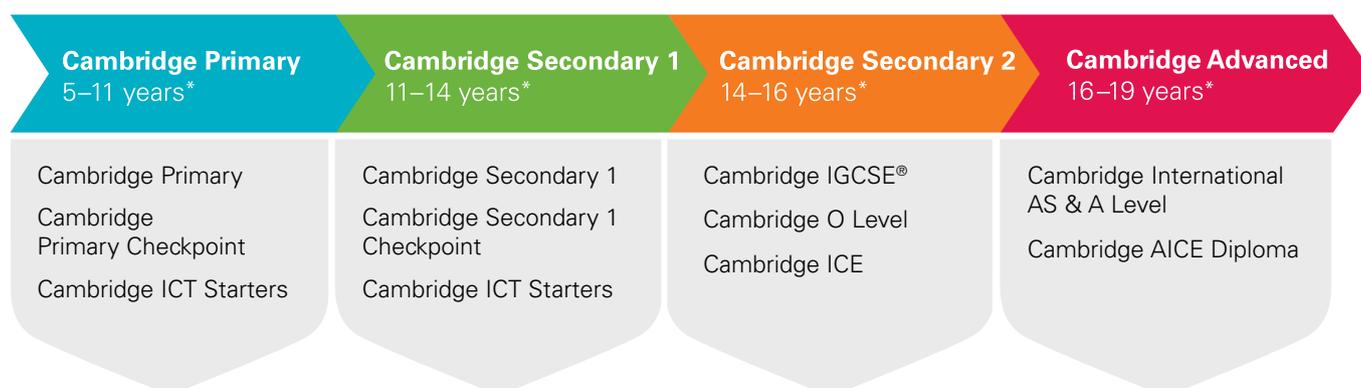
The programmes are progressive, giving you and your learners a clearly defined path to success from 5 to 19 years. Our four stages lead seamlessly from primary to secondary and pre-university years, and each stage builds on the learners' development from the previous one.

We offer flexibility, allowing you to shape Cambridge curricula to the needs and abilities of your learners. You can offer our programmes and qualifications for learners at every stage, or focus on specific ones.

Our programmes and qualifications are compatible with other curricula, so you are free to build a unique curriculum that suits your school's values. When you register with us we will give you support and guidance on how to implement Cambridge programmes, so that you make a smooth transition.

We offer comprehensive support in four areas, designed carefully around the needs of Cambridge learners and teachers:

- **Curriculum:** develops learners' knowledge, understanding and skills. Our curriculum sets clear goals for learners and teachers.
- **Classroom:** support and guidance helps teachers and learners perform to their maximum ability. We offer world-class teacher and learner resources.
- **Qualifications:** provide learners with a global passport to success. We offer reliable, rigorous and flexible assessment, leading to internationally recognised qualifications.
- **Community:** brings Cambridge schools, teachers and learners closer together through the sharing of best practice and ideas.



*\*Age ranges are for guidance only*



**“ Cambridge International A Levels are the ‘gold standard’ qualification. They are based on rigorous, academic syllabuses that are accessible to students from a wide range of abilities yet have the capacity to stretch our most able. ”**

Mark Vella, Director of Studies, Auckland Grammar School, New Zealand

# Cambridge Advanced

Cambridge Advanced is typically for learners aged 16 to 19 years who need advanced study to prepare for university and higher education. It builds on the foundations of the Cambridge Secondary 2 stage, although learners do not need to have completed that stage.

The Cambridge Advanced stage of the Cambridge curriculum includes Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications.

## Cambridge International AS & A Level

Thousands of learners use Cambridge International AS & A Level every year to gain places at leading universities worldwide. Students develop a deep understanding of subjects, as well as independent learning and constructive thinking skills – abilities which universities value highly.

Cambridge International A Level is typically a two-year course, and Cambridge International AS Level is typically one year. You have the freedom to offer Cambridge International AS Levels as qualifications in their own right, or as part of a progression to Cambridge International A Level. Your learners can study for Cambridge International AS Level alongside Cambridge International A Level subjects to increase breadth in the curriculum and to build further knowledge and understanding.

### Our curriculum

Cambridge International AS & A Level curricula are flexible. You can offer almost any combination of 55 subjects. Learners can specialise or study a range of subjects, ensuring breadth.

Giving learners the power to choose helps motivate them throughout their studies. This flexibility gives you building blocks to build an individualised curriculum that develops your learners' knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- in-depth subject content
- independent thinking
- applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- handling and evaluating different types of information source
- thinking logically and presenting ordered and coherent arguments
- making judgements, recommendations and decisions
- presenting reasoned explanations, understanding implications and communicating them clearly and logically
- working and communicating in English.



The syllabuses are international in outlook, but retain a local relevance. They have been created specifically for an international student body with content to suit a wide variety of schools and avoid cultural bias. The content, the structure and the administrative support make Cambridge International AS & A Level the answer to the needs of schools worldwide.

### Key concepts

We have a rolling review programme to make sure Cambridge qualifications reflect the latest developments in education. In revising our Cambridge International AS & A Level syllabuses we have consulted with some of the world's leading higher education institutes – including the University of Cambridge, Harvard and MIT. They told us that what really helps learners succeed at university is a firm grasp of the subject's key concepts. Concepts that, once grasped, enable learners to solve problems or understand new aspects of their subject.

Our revised syllabuses clearly identify the key concepts in Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects so that teachers can build them into their teaching.

### Cross-curricular perspectives

As well as developing in-depth subject knowledge, students need to be able to connect their learning across the curriculum. Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research is designed precisely with this in mind. It is a cross-curricular, skills-based course that encourages students to think critically about a range of global issues. It helps schools develop the skills students need for success in higher education.

## Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects

Regularly updated and extended, Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects provide you with a wide range of well-resourced and supported courses.

### Cambridge English language and literature

Cambridge International AS Level English Language is for learners who can already communicate effectively in English. The syllabus develops learners' ability to write clearly and persuasively using different styles and registers, and to analyse a variety of complex texts in different forms and styles.

Learners choosing Cambridge International AS & A Level Literature in English will critically analyse a range of texts in the three main forms: prose, poetry and drama, from a wide range of different periods and cultures.

#### Cambridge International AS Level

Language and Literature in English

#### Cambridge International AS & A Level

English – Literature  
English – Language

### Cambridge mathematics

Cambridge International AS & A Level Mathematics builds on the skills acquired at Cambridge IGCSE or equivalent level. The syllabus gives you the flexibility to choose from three different routes to Cambridge International AS Level Mathematics: Pure Mathematics only, or Pure Mathematics and Mechanics, or Pure Mathematics and Probability and Statistics.

You can choose from three different routes to Cambridge International A Level Mathematics depending on the choice of Mechanics, or Probability and Statistics, or both, in the broad area of 'applications'.

#### Cambridge International AS & A Level

Mathematics

#### Cambridge International A Level

Mathematics – Further

### Cambridge sciences

Biology, Chemistry and Physics are available at Cambridge International AS & A Level. They focus on the understanding of concepts and the application of scientific ideas in novel contexts.

The syllabuses develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills which are transferable to any future career path. They are ideal for learners who want to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics or related subjects at university, or to follow a career in science or medicine.

#### Cambridge International AS Level

Environmental Management  
Physical Science

#### Cambridge International AS & A Level

Biology  
Chemistry  
Marine Science  
Physics



## Cambridge languages

Cambridge International AS & A Levels in languages are the ideal foundation for university study, or to improve career prospects. Students learn how to use the language in a variety of situations. Through their studies, learners can expect to achieve greater fluency, accuracy and confidence in the language.

### Cambridge International AS Level

Afrikaans – First Language  
 Afrikaans – Language  
 Chinese – Language  
 French – Language  
 French – Literature  
 German – Language  
 Japanese – Language  
 Portuguese – Language  
 Portuguese – Literature  
 Spanish – First Language  
 Spanish – Language  
 Spanish – Literature  
 Urdu – Language

### Cambridge International A Level<sup>1</sup>

Afrikaans  
 Arabic  
 Chinese  
 French  
 German  
 Hindi  
 Portuguese  
 Spanish  
 Urdu

<sup>1</sup> All Cambridge International A Level language syllabuses cover both language and literature content

## Cambridge humanities and social sciences

Humanities and social sciences enable learners to develop a deeper insight and wider perspective on social issues and cultures around the globe.

### Cambridge International AS Level

General Paper  
 Nepal Studies

### Cambridge International AS & A Level

Classical Studies  
 Divinity  
 Economics  
 Geography  
 Global Perspectives & Research  
 Hinduism  
 History  
 Islamic Studies  
 Law  
 Psychology  
 Sociology

## Cambridge business, technical and creative

Business, technical and vocational subjects prepare learners for the world of work, and provide a foundation for university by building on the understanding of concepts and practical skills gained at Cambridge IGCSE or equivalent level.

### Cambridge International AS & A Level

Accounting  
 Applied Information & Communication Technology  
 Art & Design  
 Business  
 Computer Science  
 Design & Technology  
 Design & Textiles  
 Information Technology  
 Media Studies  
 Music  
 Physical Education  
 Thinking Skills  
 Travel & Tourism

### Cambridge International A Level

Food Studies



## Resources for teachers of Cambridge International AS & A Level

Syllabuses	✓
Syllabus and support DVD	✓
Teacher guides and/or schemes of work	✓
Textbooks and resources from publishers	✓
Speaking test handbooks (languages only)	✓
Training – face-to-face and online	✓
Teacher Support – secure support site	✓
Subject communities and discussion forums	✓
'Examiner Feedback' online question and answer sessions	✓
Online help – frequently asked questions <a href="http://www.cie.org.uk/help">www.cie.org.uk/help</a>	✓
Past/specimen question papers	✓
Mark schemes	✓
Examiner reports	✓
Example candidate responses (standards booklets)	✓
For more details of the support we offer to schools, see page 10.	

## Classroom support for teachers and learners

A wide range of support resources is available to help teachers plan and deliver Cambridge International AS & A Level. Resources suit a variety of teaching methods in different international contexts. Teachers can access these resources once their school becomes a registered Cambridge school.

## Our qualifications

### University recognition and research

Learners use Cambridge International AS & A Levels to gain places at leading universities worldwide including in the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Singapore, Egypt, Jordan, South Africa, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain.

**“ Students who have studied Cambridge International AS & A Levels have a real depth of understanding of the subject matter. ”**

**Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA**



UK NARIC, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has carried out an independent benchmarking study of Cambridge International AS & A Level and found it to be comparable to the standard of UK AS & A Level. This means students can be confident that their Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications are accepted as equivalent, grade for grade, to UK AS & A Levels by leading universities around the world.

Cambridge International AS & A Levels are accepted for entrance to all UK universities. In places such as the United States and Canada, good grades in carefully chosen Cambridge International A Level subjects can result in up to one year of university course credit.

Over 500 US universities accept Cambridge International AS & A Levels, including all Ivy League and Ivy Plus universities. These universities include Brown, Harvard, MIT, Stanford and Yale.

Research carried out<sup>1</sup> looked at whether Cambridge International AS & A Levels prepared learners for continued studies in colleges and universities in the US, as well as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programmes. The findings suggest that Cambridge qualifications compare favourably with the other programmes.

For more information about recognition of Cambridge qualifications, including a database of institutions that accept them, go to [www.cie.org.uk/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognition)

### Reporting achievement

Each subject that a learner takes at Cambridge International AS & A Level receives a separate grade. The Cambridge International A Level is reported on a grade scale from A\* grade, awarded for the highest level of achievement, to E, indicating the minimum required performance. There is no A\* grading in the certification of Cambridge International AS Levels, which runs from grade A to grade E.

### Performance feedback

Many schools use Cambridge International AS Level to give learners valuable feedback on their performance, identifying strengths and weaknesses before they complete their full Cambridge International A Level. Taking the Cambridge International AS Level examination during the Cambridge International A Level course gives learners helpful pointers that they can use to set learning goals for the second half of the course. It can also give learners the motivation and momentum to complete their studies.

### Group awards

The Cambridge AICE Diploma is a group certificate which requires learners to study subjects drawn from three curriculum areas within Cambridge International AS and A Level: mathematics and science, languages, and arts and humanities.

## Assessment

Cambridge International AS & A Levels have a linear structure with exams at the end of the course, which gives more time for teaching and learning.

Many of the world's top universities have made clear their appreciation of this linear approach, and we share their belief that linear courses allow learners to develop a deeper understanding of subjects.

Your learners can choose from a range of assessment options:

### Option one

Take the Cambridge International AS Level only. The Cambridge International AS Level syllabus content is half a Cambridge International A Level.

### Option two<sup>2</sup>

Take a 'staged' assessment route – take the Cambridge International AS Level in one examination series and complete the final Cambridge International A Level in a subsequent series.

### Option three

Take all papers of the Cambridge International A Level course in the same examination series, usually at the end of the course.

<sup>1</sup> Published in the *Journal of College Admission* (Number 213, Fall 2011)

<sup>2</sup> The staged assessment route is not possible in all subjects. The outcomes awarded for Cambridge International AS Level language syllabuses cannot be carried forward to Cambridge International A Level.

# Support for Cambridge teachers

We offer a wide range of support resources to help teachers plan and deliver our programmes and qualifications.

## Secure online support

We offer free, secure online support to Cambridge teachers.

### Teacher Support

An online resource bank and community forum where teachers can access thousands of Cambridge support resources, exchange lesson ideas and materials, and join subject-specific discussion forums.

### Assessment tools

We provide dedicated online support to schools registered to offer Cambridge Primary and Cambridge Secondary 1. Teachers can download Progression Tests and use results analysis tools to monitor learners' progress.



### Examiner Feedback presentations

Our pre-recorded examiner feedback presentations give:

- feedback on the key themes in the principal examiner report
- suggestions on how to put the feedback into practice
- top tips to help develop new teaching methods.

## Teaching resources

Our teaching and learning resources help teachers plan and deliver Cambridge programmes.

### Syllabus (or curriculum framework)

The most important documents teachers will use. They describe what learners need to know, what they must be able to do, and how they will be assessed.

### Schemes of work

A medium-term plan that gives ideas on how teachers might deliver the course.

### Teacher guides

Some subjects have teacher guides which provide extra guidance on planning and teaching.

### Textbooks and publisher resources

We publish lists of resources to support teaching, including textbooks and websites. Some of these resources are endorsed by Cambridge International Examinations, which means we have quality checked them and judge them to match the syllabus well.

### Example candidate responses (standards booklets)

Real candidate answers are shown alongside examiner comments so teachers can see the level of performance needed to achieve each grade.



## Exam preparation materials

We provide information after each exam series to help teachers understand the standard of Cambridge exams and prepare learners effectively.

### Past question papers

We publish past papers for each subject. Great for giving learners practice at answering different types of question.

### Examiner reports

Our principal examiners write detailed reports describing learners' overall performance on each part of the question. The reports give insight into common misconceptions shown by learners, which teachers can address in lessons.

### Grade thresholds

These show the minimum number of marks learners needed to achieve in order to be awarded a particular grade.

### Mark schemes

These help teachers understand how marks are awarded for each question and what examiners look for when they mark.



## Professional development

Our comprehensive professional development programme includes training courses and qualifications for teachers and school leaders at different stages of their careers.



Cambridge Professional Development includes Introductory Training, Extension Training and Enrichment Professional Development.

Our aim is to help Cambridge schools improve the quality of teaching and learning. We work with teachers and school leaders to build confidence in teaching Cambridge qualifications and transform classroom practice.

We hold face-to-face training workshops around the world, as well as webinars and online training.

### Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications

We provide qualifications for teachers and trainers who want to develop their thinking and practice. Find out more from our website at [www.cie.org.uk/pdq](http://www.cie.org.uk/pdq)



## Join the Cambridge community

Join our community and be part of a global network of more than 10 000 schools in over 160 countries.

When you become a Cambridge school, you join a worldwide education community. Our range of activities includes community events for Cambridge school leaders and heads of department, professional development events including our annual Cambridge Schools Conference, workshops with

Cambridge experts where you can learn at your own pace, and online 'Examiner Feedback' question and answer sessions. You have free and unlimited access to Teacher Support, our secure online support for Cambridge teachers where you can share resources and ideas, get access to Cambridge experts and explore

discussion forums. You can also use our LinkedIn group to network with Cambridge teachers.

Learners have access to online resources such as study guides and sample questions. We also have a Facebook page where learners can take part in debate, with Cambridge and with each other.

**“ Delegates at Cambridge Schools Conferences start to work in harmony, facing similar problems and seeking the same solutions. ”**

Muhammed Eissa, Principal/Academic Supervisor, Al Khandaq International Schools, Saudi Arabia

# What next?

If you would like to take Cambridge programmes and qualifications, and are already a Cambridge school, please contact us – our details are below. If you are not a Cambridge school already, you need to register first. There are four simple steps and we will guide you.

## Become a Cambridge school

There are four steps to becoming a Cambridge school:



### Step one: Express your interest

We aim to contact you within two working days of submitting your expression of interest.



### Step two: Complete our Application Form

We aim to contact you within five working days of submitting your *Application Form*.



### Step three: We carry out an approval visit

We will arrange a time that is convenient to you.



### Step four: You become a Cambridge school

If you are approved to become a Cambridge school we will send your contract letter within 30 working days of the approval visit.

You can find more information at [www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge](http://www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge)

## Start working with us

On completing the registration process, we will send you a *Welcome to Cambridge* pack. This contains a wide range of support materials to get you started.

## Classroom support

You will receive a range of excellent support for teachers and learners, to help deliver Cambridge education programmes and qualifications in every classroom.

## Teaching and learning

Our website provides resources to support teaching and learning in your school. The resources explore different aspects of educational practice, from designing a curriculum to improving the quality of classroom activity. More details at [www.cie.org.uk/teaching-and-learning](http://www.cie.org.uk/teaching-and-learning)

## Fees

We charge each school an annual registration fee, plus fees for each examination entry.

## Communications support

The communications toolkit on our website is full of materials to help schools explain Cambridge programmes to parents, students and others.

The toolkit includes factsheets, posters, presentations, videos and press releases. Registered Cambridge schools can also find our logo here, together with guidelines about how to use it.

Just go to [www.cie.org.uk/toolkit](http://www.cie.org.uk/toolkit)

## Administration support

You will be able to use CIE Direct, our online tool for exams officers, which allows you to communicate securely with us and exchange all administrative information, including exam entries and results, entry instruction booklets and other documentation.

You can always contact us if you need help, or simply have a question that is on your mind. We are pleased to say that our customer service is rated as the best in its class.

### Learn more!

Getting in touch with Cambridge is easy:  
Email: [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) Call: +44 (0)1223 553554  
Visit: [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

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For the latest updates on our new products and services – and to sign up for email alerts – go to [www.cie.org.uk/new](http://www.cie.org.uk/new)



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