

Introducing updated
Cambridge International
AS & A Level syllabuses for

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE SUBJECTS

Geography 9696
Psychology 9990

As part of our regular review process, we are pleased to introduce updates to two more of our Cambridge International AS & A Levels for examinations starting in 2018.

The refreshed syllabuses retain the familiar features of the qualifications and continue to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability for creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

This document gives you an overview of new developments in Cambridge International AS & A Level Geography and Psychology.

Please refer to the full syllabus document before planning to teach these courses.

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Cambridge International AS & A Level Geography 9696

Revised syllabus for first examination in June 2018

As part of our regular review process, we are pleased to announce updates to Cambridge International AS & A Level Geography. The refreshed syllabus retains the familiar features of the qualification and continues to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability for creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Geography occupies a central position in understanding and interpreting issues affecting people, places and environments, and changes in both space and time. Cambridge International

AS & A Level Geography helps learners develop the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for successful university study. Learners develop an understanding of the principal processes operating within physical geography and human geography, and an understanding of the causes and effects of change on natural and human environments.

Learners will be able to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information, including geographical analysis. They also develop the skills to think logically and present a coherent argument.

Key concepts

We have identified the following key concepts for Cambridge International AS & A Level Geography. They help teachers to encourage learners to make links between syllabus topics and develop a deeper understanding of the subject.

- **Space**
The implications of spatial distributions and patterns of a range of physical and human geographical phenomena.
- **Scale**
The significance of spatial scale in interpreting environments, features and places from local to global, and time scale in interpreting change from the geological past to future scenarios.
- **Place**
The importance of physical and human characteristics which create distinctive places with different opportunities and challenges.
- **Environment**
How the interactions between people and their environment create the need for environmental management and sustainability.
- **Interdependence**
How the complex nature of interacting physical systems, human systems and processes create links and interdependencies.
- **Diversity**
The significance of the similarities and differences between places, environments and people.
- **Change**
The importance of change and the dynamic nature of places, environments and systems.

Quick view of changes

The Cambridge International AS & A Level Geography syllabus has been updated. Please refer to the full syllabus document before planning to teach this course.

Important information



This syllabus is for examination in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Assessment

From 2018, the syllabus aims and assessment objectives have been updated. There are changes to the assessment objectives (AO) weightings in the syllabus.

The qualification comprises **two** compulsory components at Cambridge International AS Level Geography and **four** compulsory components at Cambridge International A Level Geography which are assessed by examination only.

The Cambridge International AS Level assessment has been split into two separate papers:

- **Paper 1 Core Physical Geography**, 1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks
- **Paper 2 Core Human Geography**, 1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks

Syllabus content

- The three Core Physical options now include a case study in the human impact sections.
- The terms LIC, MIC and HIC will now be used (low, middle and high-income countries) to differentiate countries at different levels of economic development instead of LEDC and MEDC.

The following areas of syllabus content have been deleted:

Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology	1.4 Human impact: droughts.
Atmosphere and weather	2.3 Weather processes and phenomena: humidity, environmental and adiabatic lapse rates, stability, instability and conditional stability, frost.
Rocks and weathering	3.2 Weathering: wetting/drying, exfoliation/spheroidal, solution, oxidation, organic action, properties of granite and limestone.
	3.3 Slope processes: slope development (rock type and structure, climate, soil, vegetation, gradient, aspect).
	3.4 The human impact: the impact of human activities on rocks and weathering.
Population	1.3 Population – resource relationships: the concept of a population ceiling and population adjustments over time (the J-curve and the S-curve).
Settlement dynamics	3.2 Urban trends and issues of urbanisation: gentrification, changing accessibility and lifestyles.
	3.4 Management of urban settlements: the inner city in a MEDC; strategies for reducing urbanisation in LEDCs.

Syllabus content overview

Cambridge International AS Level Geography

Candidates study the following topics:

Physical Geography

- Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology
- Atmosphere and weather
- Rocks and weathering.

Human Geography

- Population
- Migration
- Settlement dynamics.

Cambridge International A Level Geography

Candidates study the Cambridge International AS Level topics and two options from each of the following sections (four options in total):

Advanced Physical Geography

- Tropical environments
- Coastal environments
- Hazardous environments
- Hot and semi-arid environments.

Advanced Human Geography

- Production, location and change
- Environmental management
- Global interdependence
- Economic transition.



Assessment structure

Cambridge International AS Level Geography candidates take Papers 1 and 2.

Cambridge International A Level Geography candidates take Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Component	Weighting	
	AS Level	A Level
Paper 1 Core Physical Geography Written paper 60 marks	50%	25%
Paper 2 Core Human Geography Written paper 60 marks	50%	25%
Paper 3 Advanced Physical Geography options Written paper 60 marks		25%
Paper 4 Advanced Human Geography options Written paper 60 marks		25%

Assessment objectives

There are four assessment objectives:

	Weighting	
	AS Level	A Level
A01 Knowledge	30%	25%
A02 Understanding and application	30%	25%
A03 Skills	28%	24%
A04 Evaluation	12%	26%

Learn more!

You can find more details about support available for this syllabus at www.cie.org.uk/alevelsupport
 If you have any questions about implementing a new subject, our support teams are always happy to help. Contact info@cie.org.uk

Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology 9990

Revised syllabus for first examination in June 2018.

Also available for examination in March for India only.

As part of our regular review process, we are pleased to announce updates to Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology. The refreshed syllabus retains the familiar features of the qualification and continues to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability for creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology aims to encourage an interest in and appreciation of psychology through an exploration of the ways in which psychology is conducted. This includes reviewing a number of important research studies and looking at the ways in which psychology has been applied.

Key concepts

We have identified the following key concepts for Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology. They help teachers to encourage learners to make links between syllabus topics and develop a deeper understanding of the subject.

- **Nature versus nurture**
The nature–nurture debate is a crucial discussion running through all aspects of psychology in order to explain behaviour. Behaviours could be seen as resulting from innate, genetic factors (nature) or behaviours could be explained in terms of the environmental influences that begin to shape us from the moment of conception (nurture). The focus of contemporary psychology is to consider the relative contributions of each influence.
- **Ethics in psychological research**
The need for ethical research constrains the investigation of some topics, or the use of some research techniques. Our approach to ethics has changed over time, so some of the earlier studies that were the basis of the discipline are now no longer acceptable. Ethics must be considered when designing a psychological investigation to ensure that data is gathered without compromising the wellbeing of the participant(s).
- **Choice of psychological research methods**
Psychologists have to carefully choose the research method they use in terms of the information they wish to gather. Every research method, whether quantitative or qualitative, has strengths and weaknesses, and the psychologist must evaluate how the method they have chosen supports the validity and reliability of their specific investigation and contributes to the wider body of psychological research.
- **No one view in psychology is definitive**
Psychological theories are developed by posing hypotheses which are then tested through research. The research will be influenced by the psychological approach of the researcher and the time and context they are working in. A single topic is likely to be studied in more than one psychological approach, and each approach has its own assumptions, strengths and weaknesses. These different explanations can work together or be in opposition, so psychologists have to balance the evidence for each explanation.
- **Relevance of psychology in contemporary society**
Psychology is now used to underpin many aspects of our lives – it is used in organising businesses, in planning our shops and homes, in treating medical conditions and to improve how we learn. Every study is undertaken with a specific purpose in mind which can be applied in everyday life – whether it is improving our lives in general, understanding how groups of people behave or treating a disorder. By understanding psychology we can improve how we live our lives and society in general.

Quick view of changes

The Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology syllabus has been updated. Please refer to the full syllabus document before planning to teach this course.

Important information

This syllabus is for examination in June and November 2018, 2019 and 2020. Also available for examination in March 2018, 2019 and 2020 for India only.

Change of syllabus code

The syllabus has a new syllabus code, 9990. The syllabus has been revised from the 9698 syllabus. **In 2018, both 9698 and 9990 will be available.**

Candidates who take a linear route for Cambridge International A Level examination in 2018 should be entered for the new syllabus 9990. Candidates who take a staged route for Cambridge International AS Level examination in 2017 and Cambridge International A Level examination in 2018 should be entered for the existing 9698 syllabus.

Syllabus code	Papers	Jun 2017	Nov 2017	Mar 2018	Jun 2018	Nov 2018	Mar 2019	Jun 2019	Nov 2019	Mar 2020	Jun 2020	Nov 2020
old code 9698	AS Level	✓	✓		✓	✓						
	A Level	✓	✓		✓	✓						
new code 9990	AS Level			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	A Level			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Assessment

- For 2018, there are three assessment objectives.
- There are now **four** compulsory components which are assessed by examination only.
- From 2018, for components 1 and 2, candidates will write their answers on the question paper.
- The specimen materials have been revised to reflect the changes to the assessment and the syllabus content.

Changes to syllabus content

The syllabus content has been updated and refreshed. A brief summary of the changes is given below.

- Research methods are now listed in the Cambridge International AS Level Psychology syllabus content.
- The syllabus aims have been reworded to improve clarity and to reflect the explicit inclusion of research methods in the syllabus content.
- To facilitate the teaching of research methods, the number of core studies has been reduced from 20 to 12. Six of the core studies are new for 2018.
- The specialist options have been reviewed and updated in response to feedback from teachers:
 - the number of specialist options has been reduced from five to four
 - the Environment and Education specialist options have been replaced with Consumer behaviour
 - the Abnormality, Health and Organisations specialist topics have been refreshed
 - the content of each specialist option has been reviewed and the number of sub-topics has been reduced from six to five for each option
 - ‘e.g.’ has been removed from the Cambridge International A Level studies listed in each specialist option, to provide clarity for teachers on which studies must be taught. The amount of content covered for the studies and the approach to questions will remain the same.
- Key concepts underpinning the course have been introduced.

Syllabus content overview

Cambridge International AS Level Psychology

Candidates for Cambridge International AS Level Psychology study 12 core studies illustrating a wide range of research methods used in psychology, such as experiments, observations, self-reports and case studies.

Cambridge International A Level Psychology

Candidates for Cambridge International A Level Psychology study the AS Level content and two of the following options:

- Abnormality
- Consumer behaviour
- Health
- Organisations.

Assessment structure

Cambridge International AS Level Psychology candidates take Papers 1 and 2.

Cambridge International A Level Psychology candidates take Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Component	Weighting	
	AS Level	A Level
Paper 1 Approaches, issues and debates Written paper 60 marks	50%	25%
Paper 2 Research methods Written paper 60 marks	50%	25%
Paper 3 Specialist options: theory Written paper 60 marks		25%
Paper 4 Specialist options: application Written paper 60 marks		25%

Assessment objectives

From 2018, there will be three assessment objectives:

	Weighting	
	AS Level	A Level
A01 Knowledge and understanding	40%	35%
A02 Applying knowledge and understanding	30%	25%
A03 Analysis and evaluation	30%	40%

Support for teachers

Take advantage of the range of support, training and events for teachers that we offer.

Support online

Cambridge schools can access all the materials they need to teach Cambridge programmes from the Teacher Support site, including full syllabuses, specimen question papers, mark schemes, examiner reports, teacher guides, schemes of work, lesson plans and discussion forums. Find out what support is available at www.cie.org.uk/alevelsupport

Expert advice

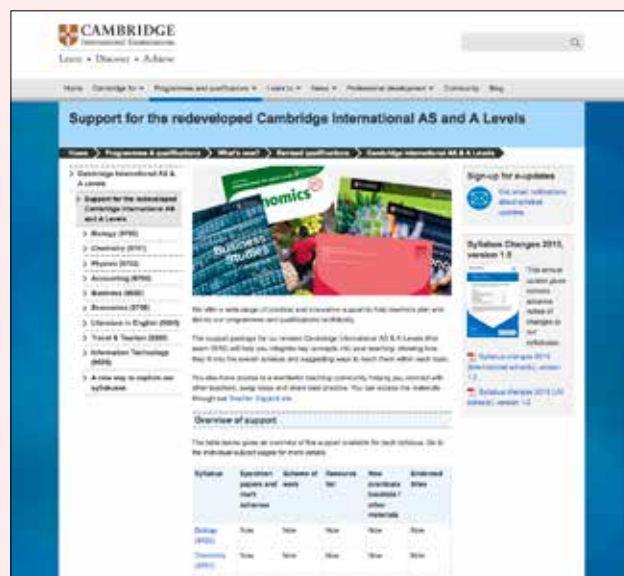
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Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects

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Divinity

Economics

Geography

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Hinduism

History

Islamic Studies

Law

Nepal Studies (AS Level only)

Psychology

Sociology

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