

# Cambridge Pre-U update

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting post-16 qualification preparing learners for university



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**And more!**

## June 2017 exam entries grow by 46%

**Continued growth in Principal Subjects will boost recognition for Cambridge Pre-U, says Chief Executive.**

Now a decade old, Cambridge Pre-U has become a well-established and widely recognised qualification, as demonstrated by the significant growth – of 46% – in 2017 exam entries for the 25 Principal Subjects.

More schools than ever before are choosing to follow Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses, says Cambridge Chief Executive Michael O'Sullivan: 'This means that universities will continue to see more and more Cambridge Pre-U grades on students' applications.' Michael continues: 'Cambridge Pre-U continues to be a key part of our offer. Schools tell us that they value Cambridge Pre-U because it provides rigorous

content, broader scope for learning, and develops skills that are essential for students progressing to higher education.'

This June, many more students achieved great success in their Cambridge Pre-U exams, and we report on some of their celebrations on the following page. We are also always delighted to hear from Cambridge Pre-U alumni who have used their qualifications to reach their academic or career goals. Please let us know if you have any current or former students with experiences to share, by contacting us at [ukschoolsdevelopment@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:ukschoolsdevelopment@cambridgeinternational.org)

## August 2017 – results day on Twitter – what schools said



'Once again, we pass on warmest congratulations to our leavers on a very strong set of examination results... 1 out of 6 entries graded at A\* (or Pre-U equivalents D1 & D2), and the average number of UCAS points per pupil is equivalent to 3 A grades at A level.'

**Marlborough College, Wiltshire**

'A Level and Pre-U grades up on last year! Congratulations on a superb result.'

**St Paul's School, London**

'Well done to LRGS Upper Sixth on their outstanding A Level and Pre-U results. Lovely to see so many happy faces today – off to new adventures!'

**Chris Pyle, Head, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Lancashire**

'Congratulations to Luke, from Lymm, who is bound for Durham University after a fantastic set of A Level/ Cambridge Pre-U results.'

**Manchester Grammar School**

'Proud to announce another year of superb A Level and Pre-U results. Many congratulations to all.'

**King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford**

'Congratulations to the "Class of 2017" on their A Level and Pre-U results.'

**Highgate School, London**

'Fine achievements at City of London School ... boys also sat the Pre-U for the first time and 81% achieved distinction. Happy celebrating.'

**City of London School, London (via @schoolhuntersUK)**

'Amazing results for our Pre-U Mandarin students, including 3 D1s. The highest grade possible!'

**Adam Moorman, teacher, Fortismere School, London**

### ...and in the news

'**Mayfield School** (East Sussex) is celebrating another year of exceptional A Level and Pre-U results ... [the school's] strong reputation for creativity is reflected in the consistent success of its Pre-U Creative Arts candidates, with 100% achieving a Distinction, the top grading level.'

[www.schoolsearch.co.uk](http://www.schoolsearch.co.uk)



*Results day celebrations at Mayfield School*

'**The King's School** in Worcester has been named the top independent school in the country for Pre-U results – all 27 Pre-U Art students received either an A\* or A grade equivalent in their exams with 24 gaining an A\*. Duncan King, deputy head, said: "In 2015, the art department took the decision that the Pre-U offered a more rigorous and meaningful sixth-form course ... the pupils have more than risen to this challenge to achieve this outstanding set of results.'"

**Worcester News**



*Becky Hartley, above left, and Shannon Asplen, above right, both received top grades in art from King's.*

# Example Candidate Responses – new format launched

Example Candidate Responses (ECRs) help Cambridge Pre-U teachers see the level of performance needed to achieve key grades and to understand exactly what examiners are looking for.

We have updated the format of our ECRs to make them even more helpful. The new format includes examiner comments and annotations, guidance on how the candidate could have improved their answer, and common mistakes. The latest ECRs are available on Teacher Support, and cover the following Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses:

- Cambridge Pre-U Art History (9799)
- Cambridge Pre-U Business & Management (9771)
- Cambridge Pre-U Classical Greek (9787)
- Cambridge Pre-U History (9769)
- Cambridge Pre-U Music (9800).

Log in to Teacher Support at <http://teachers.cambridgeinternational.org>

## Updated resources available online

Students and teachers can now access updated online resources for Cambridge Pre-U Business & Management (9771) and Cambridge Pre-U Economics (9772). The resources are available on the Cambridge International website, via the subject pages.



# June 2017 exam maladministration: from the Chief Executive

Two cases of maladministration were widely reported this year, with our Chief Executive Michael O’Sullivan writing to all Cambridge Pre-U schools to summarise what had happened, and to provide reassurance for the future.

‘Maladministration is extremely rare,’ he said, ‘and it is unfortunate that two such cases arose related to Cambridge Pre-U during the June 2017 examination series. We investigate all allegations of maladministration where evidence is provided and, where we find it has occurred, we take decisive action.’ He went on to say: ‘Protecting the integrity and validity of our exams is our priority. Both maladministration investigations were robust and thorough, and we have acted in accordance with the evidence that we found.’

The Cambridge team has been working closely with Ofqual – as exam regulations demand – and Michael confirmed that the regulator ‘has announced a general review of the rules under which serving teachers take part in writing and reviewing question papers, and the safeguards to prevent disclosure of confidential information. As a regulated qualification, Cambridge Pre-U will automatically be subject to any decisions Ofqual takes as part of its review.’

Michael went on to thank those schools ‘that have shared their positive experiences of Cambridge Pre-U prior to this year’s June series, and in the time since’, and provided reassurance to Cambridge Pre-U teachers – and their students – that the qualification ‘continues to be a key part of our offer.’

# A design and technology route through Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design

**A flexible syllabus gives students the chance to learn new skills and create impressive portfolios.**

The flexibility of the Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design syllabus is allowing students at Rugby School to pursue their own creative interests.

'Students strong in design and technology are passionate about making things and being creative,' says Phil Byrne, Head of the Design Faculty at Rugby School. 'We've found that these students can focus on their strengths, and create very individual portfolios, by taking a more tailored route through the Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design course.'

To do this, Phil and his team exploit the flexibility of the Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design syllabus. 'Our approach is to give students a start point or brief and then allow them to go in whichever direction they want,' says Phil. 'The assessment objectives are all coursework-based, and are sufficiently broad to allow technical or aesthetic outcomes, to work in 3D or

2D, and to use traditional skills or modern technology. Students can explore freely, adopt a broad or narrow focus, and even change direction mid-project if they feel a different approach is more relevant, as long as they can justify their decisions. A knowledge of theory and process is vital, but so is the understanding that the question being asked is just as important as the answer.'

The Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design syllabus is built around three components: a portfolio, a critical and contextual written study, and a project ('a fully resolved piece or body of work')

created in the studio. Rugby students have successfully used design and technology-based portfolios to support applications to higher education, both to study related subjects, such as architecture or product design, or for completely unrelated courses.

'One student showed their portfolio as part of their interview to study engineering at Imperial College, where the design and technology focus was particularly relevant,' says Phil. 'Another student, applying to Vet School, impressed her interviewers with a portfolio on 3D printing for animal prosthetics.'

“ Our approach is to give students a start point or brief and then allow them to go in whichever direction they want. ”

Phil Byrne, Head of the Design Faculty at Rugby School





A project by a Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design student at Rugby.

Since Rugby started to offer more tailored pathways through Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design, around four years ago, student numbers have grown dramatically: 'From around 10 students in the first year we've grown to a cohort of about 50, with students focusing on

a range of specialisms, including design and technology, graphics, photography, textiles and, of course, art and design.' Rugby's success has also attracted the interest of other schools. 'Teachers come to find out about our approach, and as a result we're seeing more schools

starting to offer a syllabus route tailored to strengths in design and technology,' says Phil. 'It's clear that the flexibility and freedom of the syllabus has great appeal for both students and their teachers, and can also produce some impressive results.'

## Giving students space to grow

'One of the most exciting things about Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design is that it gives students the time and space to grow and develop creatively,' says Rachel Logan, Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design Product Manager. 'The assessment is linear, and students can work in a range of art and design pathways, either in combination or focused on a particular area. At 3500 words, the critical and contextual study is a significant piece of work and demonstrates that students can be articulate and academic as well as practical and creative.'

'The final component, an extended body of creative work, demonstrates the ability to research, develop and resolve creative ideas with a high level of independent study. The broad grade set and linear nature also allows those students who need more time and support to focus on building their skills and confidence over the two years, without added exam pressure.'



### Support for teachers

- A booklet of Example Candidate Responses for Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design is scheduled for publication in January 2018
- Training is planned for February 2018

For more information visit [www.cambridgeinternational.org](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org)

# Become a Cambridge Pre-U trainer or assessment specialist

We are always keen to hear from committed, passionate individuals interested in becoming trainers or assessment specialists.

## Cambridge Pre-U trainers

We're looking for current or recently retired teachers who are:

- full of good teaching ideas
- engaging presenters and skilled facilitators
- confident in their subject knowledge and up to date with relevant theories of teaching and learning
- experienced in teaching Cambridge Pre-U
- committed to developing their own teaching practice
- able to connect with people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds
- well organised and capable of meeting deadlines.

Trainers work with teachers at every stage of their professional journey, and are fully supported by Cambridge International. The role is flexible and we pay attractive fees for training workshops.

“ I have always found that teaching a subject to others improves my own subject knowledge and communication skills, and this has proved to be the case with Cambridge Pre-U training. ”

Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson, Cambridge Pre-U trainer

## Assessment specialists

Cambridge Pre-U assessment specialists take on a wide range of roles, including:

- assistant or principal examiner
- team leader
- exam setter, reviser or vetter
- trainer
- item writer
- moderator

Assessment roles are an excellent way to enhance your own teaching skills and to gain an improved understanding of the assessment process. Assessment specialists have strong subject knowledge, a positive attitude, and can work constructively and supportively in a team. The roles are flexible, to fit around other commitments, and many specialists change roles as their skills develop.

To find out more about training and assessment opportunities visit the Cambridge website, where you can also register your interest.

Go to [www.cambridgeinternational.org/makeyourmark](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/makeyourmark)



# Training and events

We regularly hold Cambridge Pre-U training courses and exhibit at events across the UK. Here are details of our plans over the next few months. Details at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/events](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/events)

Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English (9765)	
Extension Training – London, UK	14 November 2017 – Face-to-face training

Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives – Independent Research Report (9777)	
Introductory Training – London, UK	24 November 2017 – Face-to-face training

*Please note: This half-day event focuses on the Independent Research Report – Paper 04.*

Cambridge Pre-U Music (9800)	
Introductory Training – London, UK	January 2018 – Face-to-face training*

Cambridge Pre-U Art and Design (9837)	
Extension Training – London, UK	February 2018 – Face-to-face training*

Cambridge Pre-U Philosophy and Theology (9774)	
Extension Training – London, UK	February 2018 – Face-to-face training*

Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese (9778)	
Introductory Training – London, UK	June 2018 – Face-to-face training*

*\* Date and venue to be confirmed*

3 February 2018	ISMLA (Independent Schools' Modern Languages Association) Annual Conference	Cambridge
3 February 2018	Historical Association Annual Conference	Stratford-upon-Avon
3–6 February 2018	BCME9 (Maths)	Warwick
23–24 March 2018	Language World (Association for Language Learning)	Hinckley
5–7 April 2018	Geographical Association Annual Conference	Sheffield



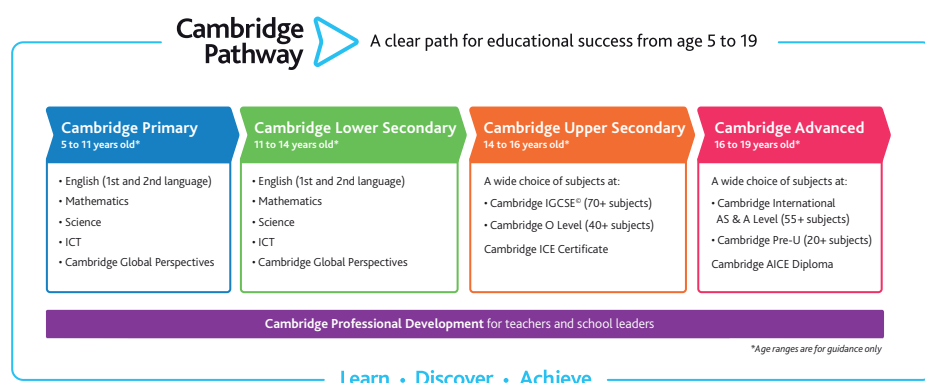
# We've changed our name

**In September, we changed our name and branding to Cambridge Assessment International Education.**

The change reflects our position as part of Cambridge Assessment, and underlines the broader suite of education services we offer schools around the world, including Cambridge Pre-U.

We're phasing in changes to our materials over the next few years (up until 2020), and more information on what's changing when is available on our website at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/newname](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/newname)

In our online Communications toolkit ([www.cambridgeinternational.org/toolkit](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/toolkit)) you'll find resources that can be used to explain the changes to our brand to students, parents and teachers.



We are also introducing a new name to talk about our whole programme, which we're now calling the Cambridge Pathway. This puts each of our education stages in the context of a clear, progressive, coherent plan for education success from age 5 to 19. Cambridge Pre-U is in the 'Cambridge Advanced' stage, which covers education for students typically aged 16 to 19. For more information, please visit our website.

To receive the latest news from Cambridge International, sign up for our monthly eNewsletter – *Cambridge Outlook eNews*. It includes updates on new qualifications and services, training, textbooks and more.

Go to: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/newsletters](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/newsletters)

**Learn more!**  
Find us at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/cambridgepreu](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/cambridgepreu)  
or contact us at [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) or on 01223 553554.  
Find our stand at conferences, or attend one of our free INSET days.

What's available
Here's a list of subjects for examination in 2018.
Mathematics Further Mathematics
Literature in English
Biology Chemistry Physics
French German Italian Mandarin Chinese Russian Spanish
Art History Classical Greek Geography History Latin Philosophy & Theology Psychology
Business & Management Economics
Art & Design Drama & Theatre Music
Global Perspectives & Research (a two-year extended project qualification). A Global Perspectives Short Course is also available.

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