



# Cambridge IGCSE™

## A guide for universities

Leading universities, further education institutions and employers around the world recognise Cambridge IGCSE subjects as evidence of academic achievement and as an ‘international passport’ to progression and success.

### Key facts

Cambridge IGCSEs are subject-based qualifications, usually taken over a two-year period. Assessment takes place at the end of the course. Schools worldwide have been involved in developing Cambridge IGCSEs. The syllabuses are international in outlook but retain a local relevance. They have been created specifically for international students, avoiding cultural bias. The contexts or examples used in syllabuses and exam question papers are culturally sensitive in an international context. Developed over 30 years ago, these qualifications are administered by Cambridge International Education, part of the University of Cambridge. In September 2019, Ecctis Ltd (then known as UK NARIC) completed an independent and objective benchmarking analysis of Cambridge IGCSE to the UK education system. Ecctis Ltd found the Cambridge IGCSE (A\*–G and 9–1) comparable to the reformed GCSE.

### Flexible subject choices

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible curriculum, with a choice of over 70 subjects in any combination. Students are free to study a wide variety of subjects, enabling them to discover their strengths and develop a passion for learning.

You can find a full list of subjects and syllabuses at: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-upper-secondary/cambridge-igcse/subjects](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-upper-secondary/cambridge-igcse/subjects)

### Who takes Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE is the world’s most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is taken in over 140 countries and taught by over 4000 schools worldwide. Schools around the world made over 900 000 exam entries in 2024/25. Students take Cambridge IGCSEs in Years 10 and 11 of the secondary school curriculum in the UK.

### Why do schools choose Cambridge IGCSE?

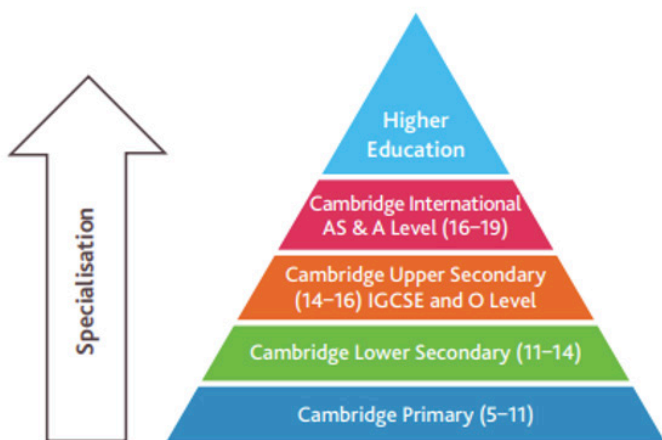
Cambridge IGCSE provides the ideal preparation for upper secondary education or advanced study placement. It helps improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving.

More than  
**900 000**  
exam entries made  
worldwide for  
**Cambridge**  
**IGCSE**   
in 2024/25

## Develop unique skills

Cambridge IGCSE develops student knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- subject content
- applying knowledge and understanding to familiar and new situations
- intellectual enquiry
- flexibility and responsiveness to change
- working and communicating in English
- influencing outcomes
- cultural awareness.



## Cambridge ICE (International Certificate of Education)

Cambridge ICE is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE. It allows schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum by recognising the achievements of students who pass exams in at least seven Cambridge IGCSE subjects. The subjects must be from five different curriculum areas, including two different languages.

## Grading and assessment

Cambridge IGCSE is reported worldwide on a grade scale from A\* (highest) to G (minimum required performance) or from 9 (highest) to 1 (minimum required performance). The syllabus content and assessment are identical, regardless of which grading option the school chooses. You can find more information at:

[www.cambridgeinternational.org/grading-choice](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/grading-choice)

Cambridge IGCSE grading structure		
A*	9	
A	8	
B	7	Anchor point
C	6	
D	5	
E	4	Anchor point
F	3	
G	2	
	1	
U	U	Anchor point

There are three anchor points where standards are benchmarked between the two systems.

Assessment takes place at the end of the course. It provides different options that best suit students, including written and oral exams, coursework and practical assessment. This broadens opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning, particularly when their first language is not English.

## Cambridge IGCSE First Language English and English as a Second Language

You can find more information on Cambridge IGCSE English Language qualifications at: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/682501-cambridge-igcse-english-language-qualifications-a-guide-for-universities.pdf](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/682501-cambridge-igcse-english-language-qualifications-a-guide-for-universities.pdf)



## Sample certificate and statement of results

Cambridge IGCSE certificates are evidence of official results from Cambridge. Official Cambridge documents also have other hidden security features.

### Cambridge IGCSE certificate

The image shows a sample Cambridge IGCSE certificate with several callout boxes pointing to specific features:

- Upper and lower case reporting of grades achieved:** Points to the text "Grade A(a)".
- Number of syllabuses taken:** Points to the text "SYLLABUSES REPORTED: ONE".
- Signature of VC of University of Cambridge:** Points to the signature of the Vice-Chancellor.
- Watermark:** Points to the large, faint watermark of the University of Cambridge crest in the center of the certificate.
- Candidate Number / Certificate Number:** Points to the text "Candidate Number: XXXXX/XXXXX" and "Certificate Number: XXXXXXX".
- Hologram:** Points to the small, square hologram with the Cambridge crest and the text "CAMBRIDGE" and "00920798".
- Serial number:** Points to the text "00920798" and "DP963" below the hologram.

## Sample certificate and statement of results continued

### Cambridge IGCSE statement of results

## Statement of Results

**INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION  
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL**

Candidate Name <b>A SAMPLE</b>	Date of Birth <b>XX/XX/XXXX</b>	Centre / Cand. No. <b>XXXXX/XXXX</b>
Centre Name <b>A SAMPLE CENTRE</b>	Series <b>November 2024</b>	To be quoted on all correspondence

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**IGCSE**

Syllabus	Syllabus Title	Result
0450	Business Studies	D(d)
0510	English as a Second Language With Grade 1(ONE) in Speaking	B(b)
0654	Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award)	A*(a*)
0654	Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award)	A*(a*)

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**Explanatory Notes**

This is an International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O Level) Statement of Results. Cambridge University Press & Assessment (Cambridge) reserves the right to amend the information on this statement. Results will be confirmed by the issue of a certificate.

IGCSE results are reported on an 8-point scale of grades: A\*(a\*), A(a), B(b), C(c), D(d), E(e), F(f) or G(g), grade A\*(a\*) being the highest and grade G(g) the lowest. UNGRADED indicates a standard below that required for grade G(g).

GCE O Level results are reported on a 6-point scale of grades: A\*(a\*), A(a), B(b), C(c), D(d) or E(e), grade A\*(a\*) being the highest and grade E(e) the lowest. UNGRADED indicates a standard below that required for grade E(e).

NO RESULT indicates that a result cannot be issued because of absence for the whole or part of the examination in the syllabus or because of a decision not to issue a result for some other reason.

PENDING indicates that a result cannot be issued at present but will follow in due course.

In some IGCSE and GCE O Level syllabuses, Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication is reported separately on a 5-point numerical scale, grade 1(ONE) being the highest and grade 5(FIVE) the lowest. Candidates who fail to reach the minimum standard for grade 5(FIVE) will not receive an Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication endorsement. The endorsement grade for Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication will be reported on certificates provided the overall IGCSE syllabus result is grade G(g) or higher and provided the overall GCE O Level result is grade E(e) or higher.

For English as a Second Language 0510, Speaking is compulsory and is reported separately. For English as a Second Language 0511, Speaking is compulsory but is not reported separately. For IGCSE First Language syllabuses, Afrikaans as a Second Language and GCE O Level French, Oral/Aural (Speaking & Listening) communication is optional and is reported separately.

Only grades A\*(a\*) to G(g) achieved in IGCSE syllabuses and grades A\*(a\*) to E(e) in GCE O Level syllabuses will be reported on the certificate.



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education

D/198

Candidate details including candidate number

Syllabus number

## Recognise Cambridge IGCSE

Our online database includes higher education institutions worldwide that have provided us with their formal acceptance policies for Cambridge qualifications. Schools, Cambridge learners and their parents use the database to research options before following up with universities directly.

Visit [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition-search](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition-search) for more information.

To add your institutional policy or discuss accepting Cambridge qualifications, please contact our Recognition team at [recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org)

Please note that policies are subject to change. Also, some universities or colleges may not yet be listed on our database, but still may recognise Cambridge qualifications or grant credit. Check with organisations directly for the most up-to-date information.



More  
than

4000

schools in over  
140 countries  
worldwide offer

Cambridge  
IGCSE



## Results verification

Our secure online student results verification website, Direct, allows universities, higher education institutions and ministries of education to verify applicants' Cambridge results online.

We can give university admissions office staff access to the website so they can view and verify students' results online. This is a free service.

Visit [www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/guidance-for-universities/results-services-for-universities](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/guidance-for-universities/results-services-for-universities) for more information about how to access Cambridge results, together with frequently asked questions.

To apply for access to the website, complete the online form on the 'Verification of students' results' webpage: [www.cambridgeinternational.org/exam-administration/results/verification-of-students-results](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/exam-administration/results/verification-of-students-results)

## Cambridge alumni

We aim to prepare students to be ready for the world, and we are always thrilled to hear what Cambridge learners go on to do next. We would be delighted to feature Cambridge alumni from your institution in future case studies. Please contact us at [recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org) to find out more.

## University showcase

Universities can be considered to feature in publications and events for Cambridge learners. If you are interested in showcasing your university with Cambridge schools and their learners, please contact us at [recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org) to explore further.

## Resources

### Recognition database



Our recognition database is an online directory of worldwide institutions that have given formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications, as part of their admissions and entry requirements. It is regularly updated

with new recognition statements allowing Cambridge students to see where their Cambridge qualifications are accepted. The database is the first place for students, parents and schools to check whether a particular institution would consider an application from a student holding Cambridge qualifications. Students then visit the university's own website for more details.

Cambridge IGCSE policies are listed on our database. Add or check yours by following the link from:

[www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognitionsearch)

An informative recognition policy on our database can really set your university apart.

### Cambridge International Direct



Direct is our online student results verification system, which allows universities, higher education institutions and ministries of education to verify applicants' Cambridge results online.

To apply for access (free of charge) visit:

[www.cambridgeinternational.org/exam-administration/results/verification-of-students-results](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/exam-administration/results/verification-of-students-results)

### International Admissions Officer Toolkit



For more information about Cambridge International Education, our qualifications, and resources for universities and recognising organisations, please refer to our International Admissions Officer Toolkit:

[www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/707355-international-admissions-officer-s-toolkit.pdf](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/707355-international-admissions-officer-s-toolkit.pdf)

### Recognition and credit policy search

#### Search Cambridge International's global database of recognition policies

Our online database includes higher education institutions worldwide which have provided us with their formal acceptance policies for Cambridge qualifications.

Please note that policies are subject to change. Also, some universities or colleges may not yet be listed here, but still may recognise Cambridge qualifications or grant credit. Check with organisations directly for the most up-to-date information.

**Higher education institutions:** To be added to this search, an official employee or designated representative may [register your recognition policy details](#).

**How to search**  
To search by organisation only, enter the organisation name and select search.  
To search by other criteria, select the categories (organisation name, location, organisation type, qualifications) separately or in any combination. All categories are optional but selecting a combination will increase the number of your search results.

#### Organisation name

Enter name(s) (up to 20)

#### Location

#### Organisation type

- Select all
- Universities and colleges
- Governments and ministries
- Professional organisations
- Companies

#### Qualifications

- Cambridge IGCSE and O Level
- Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE
- Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (Cambridge PDQs)
- Cambridge Global Perspectives
- Cambridge Pre-U
- Withdrawn qualifications

### CIEDirect



Logged in as: Recognitions, CIE Recognitions

[Log out](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Candidate Results](#)
- [My Messages](#)
- [My Details](#)

You have no new secure messages

#### Welcome to CIE Direct

You can use CIE Direct to view and verify prospective student results quickly and easily.

To access a student's results you need to know their:

- ▶ Cambridge Centre number
- ▶ Cambridge candidate number
- ▶ date of birth.

You also need to know the relevant exam series.

You must tell the student you will use this data to access their results from Cambridge Assessment International Education.

From CIE Direct you can:

- ▶ search for up to 20 sets of candidate results on screen
- ▶ search for up to 1200 sets of candidate results using the multiple candidate search facility
- ▶ view results on screen or download a file of results.

#### Feedback on CIE Direct

Please email any feedback to [recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:recognitions@cambridgeinternational.org)

Cambridge International Education is the name of our awarding body and a part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, but you may know us as Cambridge. See our [Legal Notice](#) for more information.



**Learn more!** For more information, visit [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition)



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