



# Syllabus

## Cambridge O Level

### Second Language Urdu 3248

Use this syllabus for exams in 2023.

Exams are available in the June and November series.



### Changes to the syllabus for 2023

The latest syllabus is version 1, published September 2020.

There are no significant changes which affect teaching.

**You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.**

**Any textbooks endorsed to support the syllabus for examination from 2016 are still suitable for use with this syllabus.**

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# Contents

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1. Introduction.....	2
1.1 Why choose Cambridge International?	
1.2 Why choose Cambridge O Level?	
1.3 Why choose Cambridge O Level Second Language Urdu?	
1.4 How can I find out more?	
2. Teacher support.....	5
2.1 Support materials	
2.2 Endorsed resources	
2.3 Training	
3. Assessment at a glance.....	6
4. Syllabus aims and assessment objectives.....	7
4.1 Syllabus aims	
4.2 Assessment objectives	
5. Description of components.....	8
5.1 Paper 1: Composition and Translation	
5.2 Paper 2: Language Usage, Summary and Comprehension	
6. Other information.....	9

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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Why choose Cambridge International?

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

Our Cambridge Pathway gives students a clear path for educational success from age 5 to 19. Schools can shape the curriculum around how they want students to learn – with a wide range of subjects and flexible ways to offer them. It helps students discover new abilities and a wider world, and gives them the skills they need for life, so they can achieve at school, university and work.

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 students to progress from one stage to the next, and are well supported by teaching and learning resources.

Every year, nearly a million Cambridge learners from 10000 schools in 160 countries prepare for their future with the Cambridge Pathway.

### Cambridge learners

Our mission is to provide educational benefit through provision of international programmes and qualifications for school education and to be the world leader in this field. Together with schools, we develop Cambridge 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, ready to make a difference.

### Recognition

Our expertise in curriculum, teaching and learning, and assessment is the basis for the recognition of our programmes and qualifications around the world.

Cambridge O Level is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent in demand to Cambridge IGCSE™ (International General Certificate of Secondary Education). There are over 600000 entries a year in over 50 countries. Learn more at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition)



Cambridge Assessment International Education is an education organisation and politically neutral. The contents of this syllabus, examination papers and associated materials do not endorse any political view. We endeavour to treat all aspects of the exam process neutrally.

## Support for teachers

A wide range of materials and resources is available to support teachers and learners in Cambridge schools. Resources suit a variety of teaching methods in different international contexts. Through subject discussion forums and training, teachers can access the expert advice they need for teaching our qualifications. More details can be found in Section 2 of this syllabus and at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/teachers](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/teachers)

## Support for exams officers

Exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exams entries and excellent personal support from our customer services. Learn more at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide)

## Quality management

Cambridge International is committed to providing exceptional quality. In line with this commitment, our quality management system for the provision of international qualifications and education programmes for students aged 5 to 19 is independently certified as meeting the internationally recognised standard, ISO 9001:2015. Learn more at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/ISO9001](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/ISO9001)

## 1.2 Why choose Cambridge O Level?

Cambridge O Level is typically for 14 to 16 year olds and is an internationally recognised qualification. It has been designed especially for an international market and is sensitive to the needs of different countries. Cambridge O Level is designed for learners whose first language may not be English, and this is acknowledged throughout the examination process.

Our aim is to balance knowledge, understanding and skills in our programmes and qualifications to enable students to become effective learners and to provide a solid foundation for their continuing educational journey.

Through our professional development courses and our support materials for Cambridge O Levels, we provide the tools to enable teachers to prepare students to the best of their ability and work with us in the pursuit of excellence in education.

Cambridge O Levels are considered to be an excellent preparation for Cambridge International AS & A Levels, the Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) Diploma, Cambridge Pre-U, and other education programmes, such as the US Advanced Placement program and the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. Learn more about Cambridge O Levels at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel)

## Guided learning hours

Cambridge O Level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that learners have about 130 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course, but this is for guidance only. The number of hours required to gain the qualification may vary according to local curricular practice and the students' prior experience of the subject.

## 1.3 Why choose Cambridge O Level Second Language Urdu?

Cambridge O Levels are established qualifications that keep pace with educational developments and trends. The Cambridge O Level curriculum places emphasis on broad and balanced study across a wide range of subject areas. The curriculum is structured so that students attain both practical skills and theoretical knowledge.

Cambridge O Level Second Language Urdu is recognised by universities and employers throughout the world as proof of linguistic knowledge and understanding. Successful Cambridge O Level Second Language Urdu candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- the ability to communicate confidently and clearly in Urdu
- a sound understanding of the nature of language and language study, and of the skills and abilities required for further study and leisure
- insight into the culture and contemporary society of countries where the language is spoken
- better integration into communities where the language is spoken
- positive attitudes towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and societies
- skills which can be used in other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills.

Candidates may also study for a Cambridge O Level in a number of other languages. In addition to Cambridge O Levels, Cambridge International also offers Cambridge International AS and A Levels for further study in both Urdu as well as other languages. See [www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel) for a full list of the qualifications you can take.

### Prior learning

Candidates beginning the course for 3248 Second Language Urdu are expected to have had prior contact with Urdu at school and/or in their community.

### Progression

Cambridge O Levels are general qualifications that enable candidates to progress either directly to employment, or to proceed to further qualifications.

Candidates who are awarded grades C to A\* in Cambridge O Level Second Language Urdu are well prepared to follow courses leading to Cambridge International AS and A Level Urdu, or the equivalent.

## 1.4 How can I find out more?

### If you are already a Cambridge school

You can make entries for this qualification through your usual channels. If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org)

### If you are not yet a Cambridge school

Learn about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge school at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/startcambridge](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/startcambridge)  
Email us at [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) to find out how your organisation can register to become a Cambridge school.

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## 2. Teacher support

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### 2.1 Support materials

You can go to our public website at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel) to download current and future syllabuses together with specimen papers or past question papers, examiner reports and grade threshold tables from one series.

For teachers at registered Cambridge schools a range of additional support materials for specific syllabuses is available online from the School Support Hub. Go to [www.cambridgeinternational.org/support](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support) (username and password required). If you do not have access, speak to the School Support coordinator at your school.

### 2.2 Endorsed resources

We work with publishers who provide a range of resources for our syllabuses including print and digital materials. Resources endorsed by Cambridge International go through a detailed quality assurance process to make sure they provide a high level of support for teachers and learners.

You can find resources to support this syllabus by clicking the Published resources link on the syllabus page [www.cambridgeinternational.org/3248](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/3248)

### 2.3 Training

We offer a range of support activities for teachers to ensure they have the relevant knowledge and skills to deliver our qualifications. See [www.cambridgeinternational.org/events](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/events) for further information.

### 3. Assessment at a glance

This syllabus is aimed at candidates for whom Urdu is not a first language/mother tongue but for whom it is a lingua franca or language of study.

Candidates take two papers and all questions are to be answered in Urdu.

#### Paper 1: Composition and Translation

2 hours

There are three sections in this paper. In **each** section, candidates answer **one** question.  
50% of total marks

#### Paper 2: Language Usage, Summary and Comprehension

1 hour 45 minutes

There are three sections in this paper. Candidates answer **all** questions in **each** section.  
50% of total marks

#### Availability

This syllabus is examined in the June and November examination series.

This syllabus is available to private candidates.

This syllabus is **not** available in all administrative zones. To find out about availability check the syllabus page at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/olevel)

Detailed timetables are available from [www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables)

#### Combining this with other syllabuses

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination series with any other Cambridge International syllabus, except:

- Cambridge IGCSE Urdu as a Second Language (0539)
- Cambridge O Level First Language Urdu (3247)
- syllabuses with the same title at the same level.

Please note that Cambridge O Level, Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) syllabuses are at the same level.

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## 4. Syllabus aims and assessment objectives

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### 4.1 Syllabus aims

The aims are to enable students to:

- 1 develop the ability to use Urdu effectively for the purpose of practical communication in a variety of situations
- 2 form a sound base for the skills required for further study or employment, using Urdu as the medium
- 3 develop an awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills along with skills of a more general application, (e.g. analysis, synthesis, drawing of inferences).

### 4.2 Assessment objectives

There are two assessment objectives for Cambridge O Level Second Language Urdu:

#### A Reading and Writing

Candidates should be able to:

- 1 understand and convey information
- 2 understand, order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- 3 evaluate information and select what is relevant to specific purposes
- 4 articulate experience and express what is felt and what is imagined
- 5 communicate effectively and appropriately.

#### B Usage

Candidates should be able to:

- 1 exercise control of appropriate grammatical structures
- 2 demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing, sentence structure and punctuation
- 3 understand and employ a range of appropriate vocabulary
- 4 show an awareness of register in both formal and informal situations.

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## 5. Description of components

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Candidates are expected to communicate appropriately in formal and semi-formal registers. The topics selected are intended to relate to the interests and needs of the candidates in using Urdu as a second language, e.g. education, the world of work, current affairs, health and welfare, travel.

### 5.1 Paper 1: Composition and Translation

**2 hours, 55 marks**

**Part 1: Directed Writing** (15 marks)

- Stimulus material, either visual or verbal is provided and candidates are required to demonstrate the ability to describe, persuade, comment or narrate in **one** essay of about 150 words which is to be written in Urdu.

**Part 2: Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech** (20 marks)

- From a choice of two topics, candidates write one letter, report, dialogue or speech of about 200 words in Urdu.

**Part 3: Translation** (20 marks)

- Translation of a short passage of about 200 words from English into Urdu.

### 5.2 Paper 2: Language Usage, Summary and Comprehension

**1 hour 45 minutes, 55 marks**

For all parts of this paper candidates write their answers in spaces provided in the question paper booklet.

**Part 1: Language Usage** (15 marks)

- Questions set include vocabulary, sentence transformation and a cloze passage.

**Part 2: Summary** (10 marks)

- Candidates read a passage and write a directed summary. Candidates are given a series of points that they must include in their summary. The summary should be no more than 100 words in length.

**Part 3: Comprehension (open-ended questions)** (30 marks)

- There are two comprehension passages of about 300 words each. Questions set on each passage will be direct, indirect and inferential in nature. Candidates have to answer questions on both passages.

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## 6. Other information

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### Equality and inclusion

We have taken great care in the preparation of this syllabus and assessment materials to avoid bias of any kind. In our effort to comply with the UK Equality Act (2010), we have taken all reasonable steps to avoid direct and indirect discrimination.

The standard assessment arrangements may present barriers for candidates with impairments. Where a candidate is eligible, we may be able to make arrangements to enable that candidate to access assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. We do not agree access arrangements if they give candidates an unfair advantage over others or if they compromise the standards being assessed.

Candidates who are unable to access the assessment of any component may be eligible to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have taken.

Information on access arrangements is in the *Cambridge Handbook* at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide)

### Language

This syllabus is in English only. The associated assessment materials are in Urdu.

### Making entries

Exams officers are responsible for submitting entries to Cambridge International. We encourage them to work closely with you to make sure they enter the right number of candidates for the right combination of syllabus components. Entry option codes and instructions for submitting entries are in the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*. Your exams officer has a copy of this guide.

### Exam administration

To keep our exams secure, we produce question papers for different areas of the world, known as 'administrative zones'. We allocate all Cambridge schools to one administrative zone determined by their location. Each zone has a specific timetable. Some of our syllabuses offer candidates different assessment options. An entry option code is used to identify the components the candidate will take relevant to the administrative zone and the available assessment options.

### Retakes

Candidates can retake the whole qualification as many times as they want to. This is a linear qualification so candidates cannot re-sit individual components.

### Grading and reporting

Cambridge O Level results are shown by one of the grades A\*, A, B, C, D or E, indicating the standard achieved, A\* being the highest and E the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for grade E. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. The letters Q (pending) and X (no result) may also appear on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

## How students and teachers can use the grades

Assessment at Cambridge O Level has two purposes:

- to measure learning and achievement

The assessment:

- confirms achievement and performance in relation to the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the syllabus, to the levels described in the grade descriptions.

- to show likely future success

The outcomes:

- help predict which students are well prepared for a particular course or career and/or which students are more likely to be successful
- help students choose the most suitable course or career.

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