

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series

This document outlines differences in syllabus content between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series. We have produced this guidance to support centres that are making entries for the first time in a March series because we know that some of our centres were unable to run the November 2020 exam series because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (0500)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Literature (English) (0475)	No		No	2020 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (0510) Mathematics	No		No	2020 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE Additional Mathematics (0606)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE International Mathematics (0607)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics (0580)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Biology (0610)	No		No	2020 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry (0620)	No		No	2020 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE Physics (0625)	No		No	2020 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE Environmental Management (0680)	No		No	2019 to 2021

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge IGCSE Combined Science (0653)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Science (0654)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE French – Foreign Language (0520)	Yes	<p>Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have updated information on Paper 1 Listening. The duration is now approximately 50 minutes, including six minutes' transfer time. Candidates will complete the question paper as they listen to the audio material. At the end of the test, they will be asked to transfer their responses onto the separate answer sheet. The numbering of the questions has changed. Question 15 has been split into five separate questions to make sure candidates can record one correct answer for each part of the task. We have updated the specimen paper, mark scheme, transcript and audio material to allow you to practise this with your students before the first exam. <p>Other changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Paper 1 Listening we have replaced the word 'CD' with 'audio material', to reflect the use of new technology. For further information on when the audio materials will be available and how to access them see the <i>Cambridge Handbook</i>: www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide <p>The syllabus has been reviewed and revised for first examination in 2021.</p> <p>Changes to version 1, published September 2019</p> <p>Changes to syllabus content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information that was previously in the <i>Defined Content Booklet</i>, such as the Minimum Core Vocabulary and the List of Grammar and Structures, is now in the syllabus. The list of broad topic areas remains the same as the previous syllabus. <p>The list of sub-topics has been updated. These sub-topics are not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sub-skills to be taught are identified and listed under the relevant skills in the 'Subject content' section. The vocabulary list has been updated. The list is intended as a guide for teachers to assist in the planning of lessons and schemes of work. It is not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive. Some assessment tasks may require students to understand and respond to words (and/or forms of words) that are not on the list. 	No	2021

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge IGCSE Hindi as a Second Language (0549)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Spanish (0530)	Yes	<p>Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have updated information on Paper 1 Listening. The duration is now approximately 50 minutes, including six minutes' transfer time. Candidates will complete the question paper as they listen to the audio material. At the end of the test, they will be asked to transfer their responses onto the separate answer sheet. The numbering of the questions has changed. Question 15 has been split into five separate questions to make sure candidates can record one correct answer for each part of the task. We have updated the specimen paper, mark scheme, transcript and audio material to allow you to practise this with your students before the first exam. <p>Other changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Paper 1 Listening we have replaced the word 'CD' with 'audio material', to reflect the use of new technology. For further information on when the audio materials will be available and how to access them see the <i>Cambridge Handbook</i>: www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide <p>Changes to version 2, published January 2019</p> <p>Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This syllabus is now available for examination in the March 2021 series for India only. <p>The syllabus has been reviewed and revised for first examination in 2021.</p> <p>Changes to version 1</p> <p>Changes to syllabus content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information that was previously in the <i>Defined Content Booklet</i>, such as the Minimum Core Vocabulary and the List of Grammar and Structures, is now in the syllabus. The list of broad topic areas remains the same as the previous syllabus. <p>The list of sub-topics has been updated. These sub-topics are not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sub-skills to be taught are identified and listed under the relevant skills in the 'Subject content' section. The vocabulary list has been updated. The list is intended as a guide for teachers to assist in the planning of lessons and schemes of work. 	No	2021

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge IGCSE Spanish (0530) continued	Yes	<p>Changes to version 1</p> <p>Changes to syllabus content continued</p> <p>It is not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive. Some assessment tasks may require students to understand and respond to words (and/or forms of words) that are not on the list.</p> <p>Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment objectives (AOs) have been revised. • Paper 1 Listening will consist of matching as well as three-, four- and five-option multiple-choice questions. • Paper 2 Reading will consist of six groups of questions, each comprising a number of multiple-choice or matching items, as well as items requiring short answers in Spanish. • Paper 3 Speaking has been updated. Candidates will complete one role play (consisting of five tasks) and two topic conversations. • The level descriptors in the mark scheme for Paper 3 have also been revised. • Paper 4 Writing will consist of three tasks – a form-filling task, a directed writing task and a choice of two extended writing tasks (an email/letter or an article/blog). • The mark scheme for Paper 4 has also been revised. Candidates' responses to Questions 2 and 3 will be marked using level descriptors. <p>Other changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changes to the syllabus content and assessment have been made to make sure candidates have opportunities to demonstrate language proficiency at level A2 (Basic User) and some elements of level B1 (Independent User) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR). • Grade descriptions will be published after the first assessment of this syllabus. 		
Cambridge IGCSE Economics (0455)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Geography (0460)	No		No	2020 to 2022

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Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives (0457)	Yes	<p>Changes to this syllabus are:</p> <p>Page 16 – Clarification of the meaning of a national and global perspective.</p> <p>Page 17 – Clarification of how issues should be analysed in Component 2 Individual Report.</p> <p>Clarification that the bibliography should not be included in the word count for Component 2.</p> <p>Individual Report</p> <p>Page 20 – Clarification on the assessment of the Team Element.</p> <p>Page 20 – Clarification that the bibliography should not be included in the word count for the Reflective Paper.</p> <p>Page 23 – Detail has been added on the requirements for submission and moderation.</p> <p>Significant changes to the syllabus are indicated by black vertical lines either side of the text.</p> <p>You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.</p>	No	2021
Cambridge IGCSE History (0470)	No		Yes, component 2 topics change for each series and year	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Accounting (0452)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies (0450)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Information & Communication Technology (0417)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science (0478)	No		No	2020 to 2021
Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design (0400)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge International AS Level English General Paper (8021)	No		No	2020 to 2021

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge International AS & A Level English Language (9093)	Yes	<p>Changes to syllabus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An item has been added to the transcription key on page 22: '<italics> = contextual information'. The order of items on the transcription key has been amended for clarity. <p>Changes to version 1, published September 2018</p> <p>Carry forward from 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates taking AS Level in 2020 can carry forward their results towards the full A Level with the revised syllabus in 2021. <p>Changes to syllabus content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key concepts have been updated to better reflect the overarching ideas that run throughout English Language. The 'Subject content' section has been updated and further explanation has been provided, including useful examples to help teaching and learning. The subject content is now presented in four main sections: <p>AS Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paper 1 Reading. – Paper 2 Writing. <p>A Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paper 3 Language Analysis. – Paper 4 Language Topics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have introduced new content within Paper 3 that focuses on the analysis and interpretation of language data. Please see the 'Subject content' and 'Details of the assessment' sections. The topics in Paper 4 have changed to 'English in the world' and 'Language and the self'. 'English in the world' is a new title for the current 'English as a global language'. 'Language and the self' is a new topic that concentrates on relationships between language and thought and language and social identity. Child language acquisition has moved to Paper 3. An International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) table and transcription key have been introduced into the syllabus to aid in the teaching and assessment of Paper 3. A list of command words has been added to the syllabus. 	No	2021 to 2023

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge International AS & A Level English Language (9093) continued	Yes	<p>Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The syllabus aims have been updated. The assessment objectives (AOs) have been updated so the expectations of each AO are more explicit. The AOs have increased from three to five. AO1 to AO3 broadly cover the current AOs whereas AO4 and AO5 are new and are only assessed at A Level. <p>Paper 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optionality has been removed. Candidates now answer two compulsory questions. Question 1 now has a comparative element. Question 2 no longer requires directed writing. The duration of the paper and number of marks are unchanged. <p>Paper 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A has changed. It is now compulsory and requires candidates to write a shorter piece of writing and then reflect on this. Section B remains as three optional questions. Candidates will choose one question from three categories: imaginative/descriptive, discursive/argumentative or review/critical. The duration of the paper and number of marks are unchanged. <p>Paper 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A is new and requires candidates to discuss texts that demonstrate how English language has changed over time. It also focuses on the skills and knowledge needed for analysing language data. Please see the 'Details of the assessment' section. Child language acquisition now sits within Section B of this paper rather than in Paper 4. The style and format of the question remains the same. The transcription key has been updated and an International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) table has been introduced. The duration of the paper and number of marks are unchanged. <p>Paper 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The style and format of questions and the skills and knowledge required by candidates are unchanged. The number of topics has reduced from three to two as 'Child language acquisition' has moved to Paper 3. The topics have changed to 'English in the world' and 'Language and the self'. 'Spoken language and social groups' has been replaced. The duration of the paper and number of marks are unchanged. 		

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge International AS & A Level English Language (9093) continued	Yes	<p>Changes to assessment continued</p> <p>Mark schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The levels of response marking criteria have been updated. Please see the specimen mark schemes for further information. <p>Other changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The syllabus is no longer in a shared document with AS & A Level Literature in English (9695) and AS Level Language and Literature in English (8695). A Glossary of terms, Teacher guide and Learner guide will be provided as part of the new support materials package. Existing support materials will be updated to reflect the revised syllabus. 		
Cambridge International AS & A Level Literature in English (9695)	Yes	<p>Changes to syllabus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes have been made to titles and first lines of set texts and poems. See pages 10 to 37 for details. On page 37, a sentence has been added to the paragraph on 'Editions of set texts used for setting passages in the examination'. <p>Carry forward from 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates taking AS Level in 2020 can carry forward their results towards the full A Level with the revised syllabus in 2021. <p>Changes to syllabus content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key concepts have been updated. The list of set texts in the 'Subject content' section has been updated. A list of command words has been added to the syllabus. <p>Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The syllabus aims have been updated. The assessment objectives (AOs) have been updated and titles have been added to highlight the focus of each AO. The assessment model has changed. We have removed optional routes through the syllabus. There are now compulsory components: Paper 1 and Paper 2 at AS Level, with the addition of Paper 3 and Paper 4 at A Level. Paper 2: The assessment of an unseen text has been introduced to this paper. 	No	2021 to 2023

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge International AS & A Level Literature in English (9695) continued	Yes	<p>Changes to assessment continued (including changes to specimen papers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework has been removed. All learners will now study poetry, prose and drama at both AS and A Level. The organisation of the question papers has changed, as have the paper titles. Please refer to the 'Assessment overview' section and also the specimen papers for further information. The rubrics in all of the question papers have changed. Please see the specimen papers for further information. The levels-based marking criteria have been updated. Please see the specimen mark schemes for further information. <p>Other changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The syllabus is no longer in a shared document with AS & A Level English Language (9093) and AS Level Language and Literature in English (8695). 		
Cambridge International AS & A Level Mathematics (9709)	No		No	2020 to 2022
Cambridge International AS & A Level Biology (9700)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level Chemistry (9701)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level Physics (9702)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level Economics (9708)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research (9239)	No		No	2020 to 2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level History (9489)	New syllabus for 2021	Replaces 9389, which is not available in March.		

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology (9990)	Yes	<p>The syllabus has been updated. The latest syllabus is version 1, published September 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates are no longer required to know 'types' of schizophrenia. • The A Level debates, reductionism and determinism, now clarify their counter-arguments, holism and free-will. <p>Significant changes to the syllabus are indicated by black vertical lines either side of the text.</p> <p>You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.</p>	No	2021 to 2023
Cambridge International AS & A Level Sociology (9699)	Yes	<p>Carry forward from 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates taking AS Level in 2020 can carry forward their results towards the full A Level with the revised syllabus in 2021. <p>Changes to syllabus content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all topic areas, the content has been reorganised. The existing lists of key concepts for each topic have been reduced and integrated into the core content descriptions. • Changes have been made to the content of Paper 1 and Paper 2. • The theory content in Paper 2 Theory and Methods has been reduced significantly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marxist, functionalist, feminist, postmodernist, and Weberian theories have been removed (Marxist, functionalist, feminist and postmodernist theories will be assessed in 'The Family'). – The amount of content on structuralist and interactionist approaches has been reduced. Candidates now only need to be aware of the difference between structuralist and interactionist views on the relationship between the individual and society. A detailed knowledge of the approaches is not required. • The Theory and Methods paper has been renamed to reflect the revised content. The new name is: Socialisation, identity and methods of research. • Changes have been made to the content of Paper 3. The content has been split between two papers (3 and 4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Some changes have been made to the content of unit 3 Education. This is now assessed in Paper 3. – Unit 4 Global Development has been removed from the syllabus and replaced by new content on the topic of 'Globalisation'. Globalisation is now assessed in Paper 4. – Some changes have been made to the content of unit 5 Media and unit 6 Religion. These are now assessed in Paper 4. 	No	2021 to 2023

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge International AS & A Level Sociology (9699) continued	Yes	<p>Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are now four compulsory components which are assessed by examination. • The aims and assessment objectives have been updated. • Mark schemes have been revised to reflect changes to the assessment model and the content. <p>AS Level assessment (Paper 1 and Paper 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 and Paper 2 have been reordered. The current Paper 2 Theory and Methods has been renamed to reflect the revised content. The new AS Level papers are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paper 1 Socialisation, identity and methods of research. – Paper 2 The Family. • The number of marks for Paper 1 and Paper 2 has increased to 60 marks per paper. • The question structure has changed slightly in Paper 1 and Paper 2, and the introductory source has been removed from the structured question. <p>A Level assessment (Paper 3 and Paper 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 3 has been replaced with two exam papers, with one topic area in Paper 3 and three topic areas in Paper 4. The A Level papers are now: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paper 3 Education (1 hour 15 minutes, 50 marks, 20 per cent of A Level). – Paper 4 Globalisation, Media and Religion (1 hour 45 minutes, 70 marks, 30 per cent of A Level). • The combined duration of Paper 3 and Paper 4 is the same as the current Paper 3. • The question structure for Paper 3 is similar to the new Paper 1 and Paper 2. • Paper 4 has essay questions only. Candidates will write two essays, each on a different topic. <p>Other changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overarching key concepts for AS & A Level Sociology have been introduced. • A glossary of command words has been introduced. • Topic areas in the syllabus are no longer called 'units'. 	No	

Syllabus changes between the November 2020 and March 2021 exam series continued

Syllabus	Change for 2021?	Details of changes	Series-specific details	Syllabus covers
Cambridge International AS & A Level Accounting (9706)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level Business (9609)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level Information Technology (9626)	Yes	<p>The syllabus has been updated. The latest syllabus is version 3, published September 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 11: in 'Combining this with other syllabuses' Cambridge International AS & A Level Computer Science (9618) has been added to the list of syllabuses that must not be combined with Cambridge International Information Technology (9626) in an exam series. <p>Previous changes to version 2 of this syllabus, published June 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page 29: in Paper 1 Theory calculators must not be used. Page 29: in Paper 3 Advanced Theory calculators must not be used. <p>Previous changes to version 1 of this syllabus, published September 2018</p> <p>There are no significant changes which affect teaching.</p> <p>You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.</p>	No	2021
Cambridge International AS & A Level Art & Design (9479)	No		No	2019 to 2021
Cambridge International Project Qualification (9980)	No		No	2019 to 2022

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