

# Making informed subject choices

## Guidance for students in Pakistan

### Pathways to professional careers

The table below shows the subjects you need to study if you want to follow a professional career pathway. Please consult the student counselor at your school for further details and for information about other professions.

Profession	Mandatory subjects in Cambridge O Level	Cambridge International A Level subjects to build-up foundation	Career pathway to be a specialized professional	Estimated length of studies post-International A Level
<b>Medical doctor</b>	Science subjects with biology	Physics, chemistry and biology	- MBBS - House job - Postgrad specialization	11-12 years
<b>Engineering/ Computer sciences</b>	Science subjects with biology or computer science	- Physics, chemistry and maths - Physics, maths and computer sciences	- Bachelor's degree - Masters	6 years
<b>Chartered accountant (CA)</b>	Science/humanities subjects	Accounting	- Bachelor's degree - CA	8 years
<b>Lawyer</b>	Science/humanities subjects	Law	- Bachelor's degree - LLB	7 years
<b>Academia</b>	Science/humanities subjects	Relevant foundation subject	- Bachelor's degree - Masters/MPhil - PhD	10-11 years
<b>Business administration / Management sciences</b>	Science/humanities subjects	Business	- Bachelor's degree - Masters	6 years

### Did you know?

1. Universities locally and internationally recognise Cambridge qualifications. Every year, 9 out of 10 Cambridge learners in Pakistan take admission in local universities for their higher education.
2. A large number of Cambridge International A Level students secure admission in top state-owned medical and engineering colleges in Pakistan. Despite representing only 1% of the total number of higher secondary students in Pakistan, Cambridge International A Level students have secured around 6% and 13% of the state-owned medical and engineering seats respectively on an average in the four years time. This statistic was ascertained from some market research undertaken with schools in Pakistan – focusing on progression of Cambridge International A Level students in Pakistan

3. Cambridge learners outperform students from other boards in the entrance tests for admissions to local universities. As per data<sup>1</sup> collected by some media outlets regarding entrance exams taken between October and December 2020, 78% of Cambridge learners passed the entrance test exam for NED University Karachi, where the overall ratio was 54%. Similarly, 79.5% of Cambridge learners cleared the entrance test for Karachi University, compared to an overall result ratio of 29.58%
4. Top subject areas studied by the Cambridge students in Pakistan:
  - a. Business
  - b. Humanities
  - c. Engineering
  - d. Arts
  - e. Law
5. According to a report by McKinsey Global Institute, a lot of jobs will be created and lost by 2030 due to automation<sup>2</sup>. This has important implications for workforce skills. Cambridge Global Perspectives and the Cambridge International Project Qualification (IPQ) build non-academic skills that prepare learners for such future challenges<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/news/news-details/view/cambridge-international-students-excel-in-top-pakistan-university-entrance-tests-20210202/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Industries/Public%20and%20Social%20Sector/Our%20Insights/What%20the%20future%20of%20work%20will%20mean%20for%20jobs%20skills%20and%20wages/MGI-Jobs-Lost-Jobs-Gained-Executive-summary-December-6-2017.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The following weblinks provide further information on Cambridge Global Perspectives (<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-global-perspectives/>) and the Cambridge International Project Qualification (<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-ipq/>)