



CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Syllabus

Cambridge IGCSETM First Language Thai 0518

Use this syllabus for exams in 2028 and 2029.

Exams are available in the June series.

This syllabus is **not** available in all administrative zones.

Please check the syllabus page at www.cambridgeinternational.org/0518 to see if this syllabus is available in your administrative zone.



Version I

For the purposes of screen readers, any mention in this document of Cambridge IGCSE refers to Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education.

Why choose Cambridge?

We work with schools worldwide to build an education that shapes knowledge, understanding and skills. Together, we give learners the confidence they need to thrive and make a positive impact in a changing world.

As part of the University of Cambridge, we offer a globally trusted and flexible framework for education from age 3 to 19, informed by research, experience, and listening to educators.

With recognised qualifications, high-quality resources, comprehensive support and valuable insights, we help schools prepare every student for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Qualifications that are recognised and valued worldwide

From the world's top-ranked universities to local higher education institutions, Cambridge qualifications open doors to a world of opportunities.

Setting a global standard

With over 160 years of experience in delivering fair, valid and reliable assessments to students worldwide, we offer a global, recognised performance standard for international education.

Your path, your way

Schools can adapt our curriculum, high-quality teaching and learning resources and flexible assessments to their local context. Our aligned offer helps Cambridge schools support every learner to reach their potential and thrive.

Learning with lasting impact

Cambridge learners build subject knowledge and conceptual understanding, and develop a broad range of skills, learning habits and attributes to help make them ready for the world.

Improving learning outcomes through data-led insight and action

Our trusted baseline and diagnostic assessments, together with our insights and evaluation service, help schools turn data into knowledge and actionable insights, to inform teaching decisions and improve learner outcomes.

Bringing together a community of experts

We bring together the collective knowledge of experts and our diverse community of educators worldwide, supporting them to learn from one another and share ideas and information.

Tackling the climate crisis together

We believe that education is key to tackling the climate crisis. Together with Cambridge schools, we can empower young people with the skills and knowledge to take action on climate change, helping them be ready for the world.

School feedback: 'We think the Cambridge curriculum is superb preparation for university.'

Feedback from: Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University, USA

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Important: Changes to this syllabus

The latest syllabus is version 1, published September 2025. There are no significant changes which affect teaching.

1 Why choose this syllabus?

Key benefits

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds, although it can be taken by students at any age. Taught by over 5000 schools in 150 countries, it is tried, tested and trusted.

Students can choose from 70 subjects in any combination, including 30 languages.

Our programmes promote a thorough knowledge and understanding of a subject and help to develop the skills learners need for their next steps in education or employment.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai is designed for learners whose mother tongue is Thai. The course allows learners to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when writing
- learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, and correct spelling, punctuation and grammar
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which Thai can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai encourages learners to be:

confident, exploring and evaluating ideas and arguments in a structured, critical and analytical way. They are able to communicate and defend views and opinions as well as respect those of others

responsible, understanding how to use language in different contexts and for different purposes to influence and affect the world around them

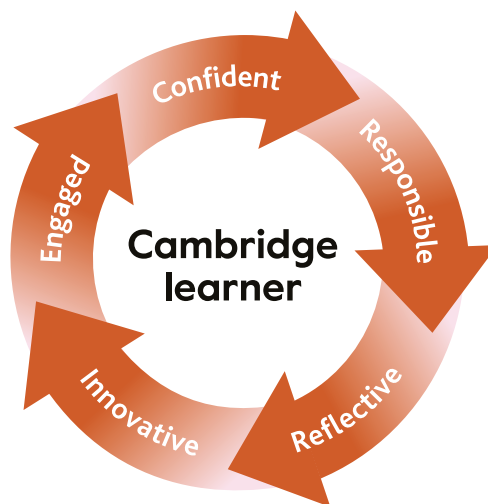
reflective, critically reviewing their own work and identifying ways to improve. They develop successful learning strategies to consolidate their skills

innovative, applying their knowledge and understanding to engage with a range of texts and styles of writing. They adapt their skills in order to respond to tasks in different contexts

engaged, taking inspiration from, and being interested in, the variety of language around them. They read critically, learn from others and understand how their learning fits within the wider context.

School feedback: 'The strength of Cambridge IGCSE qualifications is internationally recognised and has provided an international pathway for our students to continue their studies around the world.'

Feedback from: Gary Tan, Head of Schools and CEO, Raffles Group of Schools, Indonesia



Qualifications that are recognised and valued worldwide

Cambridge qualifications prepare and equip learners with the skills they need to thrive at university and beyond. The world's best higher education institutions recognise our qualifications and value the critical thinking skills, independent research abilities and deep subject knowledge that Cambridge learners bring.

We continually work with universities and colleges in every part of the world to ensure that they understand and accept our qualifications. Cambridge IGCSE provides a springboard to the Cambridge Advanced stage, as well as other post-16 routes. The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses.

Many universities require a combination of Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs or equivalent to meet their entry requirements.

UK ENIC, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has carried out an independent benchmarking study of Cambridge IGCSE and found it to be comparable to the standard of the GCSE in the UK. This means students can be confident that their Cambridge IGCSE qualifications are accepted as equivalent to UK GCSEs by leading universities worldwide.

Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition

School feedback: 'Cambridge IGCSE is one of the most sought-after and recognised qualifications in the world. It is very popular in Egypt because it provides the perfect preparation for success at advanced level programmes.'

Feedback from: Managing Director of British School of Egypt BSE

Supporting teachers

We believe education works best when teaching and learning are closely aligned to the curriculum, resources and assessment. Our high-quality teaching support helps to maximise teaching time and enables teachers to engage learners of all backgrounds and abilities.

We aim to provide the following support for each Cambridge qualification:

- Syllabus
- Specimen question papers and mark schemes
- Specimen paper answers
- Schemes of Work
- Example candidate responses
- Past papers and mark schemes
- Principal examiner reports for teachers

These resources are available on the School Support Hub at www.cambridgeinternational.org/support, our secure online site for Cambridge teachers. Your exams officer can provide you with a login.

Additional teaching & learning resources are also available for many syllabuses and vary according to the nature of the subject and the structure of the assessment of each syllabus. These can include ready-built lesson materials, digital resources and multimedia for the classroom and homework, guidance on assessment and much more. Beyond the resources available on the Schools Support Hub, a wide range of endorsed textbooks and associated teaching and learning support are available from Cambridge at www.cambridge.org/education and from other publishers. Resources vary according to the nature of the subject and the structure of the assessment of each syllabus.

You can also contact our global Cambridge community or talk to a senior examiner on our discussion forums.

Sign up for email notifications about changes to syllabuses, including new and revised products and services, at www.cambridgeinternational.org/syllabusupdates

Professional development

Find the next step on your professional development journey.

- **Introduction courses** – An introduction to Cambridge programmes and qualifications. For teachers who are new to Cambridge programmes or new to a specific syllabus.
- **Focus on Teaching courses** – These are for teachers who want to explore a specific area of teaching and learning within a syllabus or programme.
- **Focus on Assessment courses** – These are for teachers who want to understand the assessment of a syllabus in greater depth.
- **Marking workshops** – These workshops help you become more familiar with what examiners are looking for, and provide an opportunity to raise questions and share your experiences of the syllabus.
- **Enrichment Professional Development** – Transform your approach to teaching with our Enrichment workshops. Each workshop focuses on a specific area of teaching and learning practice.
- **Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (PDQs)** – Practice-based programmes that transform professional learning for practicing teachers. Available at Certificate and Diploma level.

For more information visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/support-and-training-for-schools

Supporting exams officers

We provide comprehensive support and guidance for all Cambridge exams officers.
Find out more at: www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide



2 Syllabus overview

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

Students following a course based on this syllabus will:

- read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding, enjoying and appreciating a variety of language
- read critically, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write accurately and effectively, using appropriate, standard language
- work with information and ideas in language by developing skills of critical evaluation, analysis, comparison, synthesis and inference
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions.

We are 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.



Content overview

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai offers candidates the opportunity to respond knowledgeably to a range of reading passages. Candidates will use some of these passages to inform and inspire their own writing, and write in a range of text types for different audiences.

The passages cover a range of genres and types, including fiction and non-fiction, and may also include other forms of writing, such as essays, reviews and articles.

Candidates are encouraged to become appreciative and critical readers and writers in Thai.

Assessment overview

All candidates take **two** components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates take:		and:	
Paper 1	2 hours	Paper 2	2 hours
Reading and Directed Writing	50%	Composition	50%
50 marks		50 marks	
Structured and extended writing questions.		Two composition tasks	
Questions will be based on three Thai passages.		Externally assessed	
Passages will be printed in a separate insert.			
Externally assessed			

Information on availability is in the **Before you start** section.

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives (AOs) are:

AO1 Reading

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- R1 identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and attitudes
- R2 demonstrate understanding of how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers
- R3 analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions
- R4 select and synthesise information for specific purposes.

AO2 Writing

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- W1 communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively
- W2 sequence facts, ideas and opinions
- W3 use a range of appropriate vocabulary
- W4 use tone, style and register appropriate to audience and context
- W5 make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Weighting for assessment objectives

The approximate weightings allocated to each of the assessment objectives (AOs) are summarised below.

Assessment objectives as a percentage of the qualification

Assessment objective	Weighting in IGCSE %
AO1 Reading	40
AO2 Writing	60
Total	100

Assessment objectives as a percentage of each component

Assessment objective	Weighting in components %	
	Paper 1	Paper 2
AO1 Reading	80	0
AO2 Writing	20	100
Total	100	100

3 Subject content

This syllabus gives you the flexibility to design a course that will interest, challenge and engage your learners. Where appropriate you are responsible for selecting resources and examples to support your learners' study. These should be appropriate for the learners' age, cultural background and learning context as well as complying with your school policies and local legal requirements.

In preparation for assessment, candidates should engage with a range of genres and types of texts, including fiction and non-fiction, essays, reviews and articles. This study should include focus on writers' use of language and style and the ways in which writers achieve effects and influence readers. Candidates should study how influence may include facts, ideas, perspectives, opinions and bias.

As developing writers themselves, candidates should be introduced to a range of skills – including the ability to compare, summarise and change perspective. They should develop the skills of summarising within the context of the following text types: letter, report, newspaper report, magazine article, journal, words of a speech. They should also learn to create a discursive/argumentative letter or article and a descriptive or narrative composition.

The skills covered in the syllabus are outlined below for the different areas of language developed.

AO1 Reading

Assessment objective

- identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and attitudes
- demonstrate understanding of how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers
- analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions
- select and synthesise information for specific purposes

Candidates should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of explicit and implicit meanings and viewpoints in texts
- identify and comment on specific ways in which writers use language, form and structure for effect
- make thoughtful and relevant responses to facts, ideas and opinions in texts
- accurately identify specific ideas, information and/or features in texts and develop them for a specified purpose

AO2 Writing**Assessment objective**

- communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively
- sequence facts, ideas and opinions
- use a range of appropriate vocabulary
- use tone, style and register appropriate to audience and context
- make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar

Candidates should be able to:

- produce clear and coherent texts that communicate effectively, sustaining the reader's interest
- structure text to make sequence and development of ideas clear to the reader
- choose vocabulary to create effects appropriate to purpose and audience
- use form and style suited to purpose and audience
- write in paragraphs, using varied sentence structures, demonstrating control of syntax and grammar, and using accurate spelling and punctuation.

Faculty feedback: ‘Understanding how and why our climate is changing and providing the knowledge and skills to explore the challenges plays a key role in every student’s education.’

Feedback from: Dr Amy Munro-Faure, Head of Education and Student Engagement of Cambridge Zero

4 Details of the assessment

Paper 1 – Reading and Directed Writing

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

Dictionaries may **not** be used in the examination.

Candidates answer **all** the questions in two compulsory sections.

The passages will be printed in the question paper Insert.

Section 1 Comprehension and Use of Language (25 marks)

Candidates respond to a series of sub-questions based on Passage 1, a fiction text. There will be comprehension questions worth a total of 16 marks, and 9 additional marks relating to the author's use of language and structure, and the effect these have.

Passage 1 will be approximately 850–950 words long and will be from either the twentieth or the twenty-first century.

This section tests the following reading assessment objectives (25 marks):

- R1 identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and attitudes
- R2 demonstrate understanding of how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers.

Section 2 Directed Writing (25 marks)

Candidates answer **one** compulsory question on two non-fiction passages – Passage 2 and Passage 3. Candidates use and evaluate the information in the two passages to create an argumentative/discursive letter or article. Candidates write a response of about 250–350 words.

Passage 2 and Passage 3 will have a combined total of up to 950 words and will be from either the twentieth or the twenty-first century, or both, and will be thematically linked.

This section tests the following writing assessment objectives (10 marks):

- W1 communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively
- W2 sequence facts, ideas and opinions
- W3 use a range of appropriate vocabulary
- W4 use tone, style and register appropriate to audience and context
- W5 make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

This question also tests the following reading assessment objectives (15 marks):

- R3 analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions
- R4 select and synthesise information for specific purposes.

Paper 2 – Composition

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

Dictionaries may **not** be used.

Candidates answer **two** questions, one from each section.

This paper tests the following writing assessment objectives (50 marks):

W1 communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively

W2 sequence facts, ideas and opinions

W3 use a range of appropriate vocabulary

W4 use tone, style and register appropriate to audience and context

W5 make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Section 1 Argumentative/Discursive Writing (25 marks)

Argumentative:

An argumentative composition attempts to clearly present a strong position on a particular topic. Its purpose is to both educate and persuade the reader on a particular point of view. It may target an audience that is more resistant to its viewpoint or message.

Discursive:

A discursive composition presents a balanced and objective examination of a subject. It does not, however, have to be expressly neutral. The composition should present both sides of the discussion.

Candidates answer **one** question from a choice of four titles: two argumentative and two discursive.

Candidates use the title to develop and write a composition.

Candidates write about 350–450 words.

Section 2 Descriptive/Narrative Writing (25 marks)

Descriptive:

A descriptive composition describes a person, place or situation, painting a picture with words so that the reader can picture it in his/her mind.

Narrative:

A narrative composition tells a story containing a sequence of connected events which may be real or imaginary.

Candidates answer **one** question from a choice of four titles: two descriptive and two narrative.

Candidates use the title to develop and write a composition.

Candidates write about 350–450 words.

5 What else you need to know

This section is an overview of other information you need to know about this syllabus. It will help to share the administrative information with your exams officer so they know when you will need their support. Find more information about our administrative processes at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Before you start

Previous study

We recommend that learners starting this course should have a level in Thai equivalent to first language competence.

Guided learning hours

We design Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses to require about 130 guided learning hours for each subject. This is for guidance only. The number of hours a learner needs to achieve the qualification may vary according to each school and the learners' previous experience of the subject.

Availability and timetables

All Cambridge schools are allocated to one of six administrative zones. Each zone has a specific timetable. Find your administrative zone at www.cambridgeinternational.org/adminzone. This syllabus is **not** available in all administrative zones. To find out if this syllabus is available to your administrative zone check the syllabus page at www.cambridgeinternational.org/0518

You can view the timetable for your administrative zone at www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables

You can enter candidates in the June exam series.

Check you are using the syllabus for the year the candidate is taking the exam.

Private candidates can enter for this syllabus. For more information, please refer to the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*.

Combining with other syllabuses

Candidates can take this syllabus alongside other Cambridge International syllabuses in a single exam series. The only exceptions are:

- syllabuses with the same title at the same level.

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

Group awards: Cambridge ICE

Cambridge ICE (International Certificate of Education) is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE. It encourages schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum by recognising the achievements of learners who pass exams in a range of different subjects.

Learn more about Cambridge ICE at www.cambridgeinternational.org/cambridgeice

Making entries

Exams officers are responsible for submitting entries. 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 access to 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 an 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.

Support for exams officers

We know how important exams officers are to the successful running of exams. We provide them with the support they need to make entries on time. Your exams officer will find this support, and guidance for all other phases of the Cambridge Exams Cycle, at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide**

Retakes

Candidates can retake the whole qualification as many times as they want to.

Learn more about retake entries, including definitions and information on entry deadlines, at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/retakes**

To confirm what entry options are available for this syllabus, refer to the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries* for the relevant series. Regulations for carrying forward component marks can be found in the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide**

Language

This syllabus is available in English with key information translated into Thai. The assessment materials are in Thai.

Accessibility and equality

Syllabus and assessment design

At Cambridge we recognise that our candidates have highly diverse socio-economic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and may also have a variety of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics include special educational needs and disability (SEND), religion and belief, and characteristics related to gender and identity.

We follow accessible design principles to make our syllabuses and assessment materials as accessible and inclusive as possible. We review language accessibility, visual resources, question layout and the contexts used in questions. Using this approach means that we give all candidates the fairest possible opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding.

Access arrangements

Our design principles aim to make sure our assessment materials are accessible for all candidates. To further minimise barriers faced by candidates with SEND, illness or injury, we offer a range of access arrangements and modified papers. This is the principal way in which we comply with our duty to make 'reasonable adjustments', as guided by the UK Equality Act 2010.

Important:

Requested access arrangements should be based on evidence of the candidate's barrier to taking an assessment and should also reflect their normal way of working. For Cambridge to approve an access arrangement, we need to agree that it constitutes a reasonable adjustment and does not affect the security or integrity of the assessment. This is explained in section 1.3 of the *Cambridge Handbook*

www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Applying for access arrangements

- Details of our standard access arrangements and modified question papers are available in section 1.3 of the *Cambridge Handbook* **www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide**
- Centres are expected to check the availability of access arrangements and modified question papers at the start of the course. Check the *Cambridge Handbook*, the assessment objectives listed in the syllabus document and, where applicable, any access arrangement restrictions listed in the syllabus document.
- Contact us at the start of the course to find out if we can approve an access arrangement that is not listed in the *Cambridge Handbook*.
- All applications should be made by the deadlines published in the *Cambridge Handbook*.

Some access arrangements are not allowed in this syllabus because they affect the assessment objectives:

- candidates must **not** use voice-activated software to dictate their written work
- candidates must **not** use word processing technology which uses word prediction and/or phrase prompting including spell check and grammar check
- candidates must **not** use a human reader.

Please note that we cannot provide braille papers for this syllabus. We can only provide braille papers for languages which use the Roman alphabet.

After the exam

Grading and reporting

Grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, F or G indicate the standard a candidate achieved at Cambridge IGCSE.

A* is the highest and G is the lowest. 'Ungraded' means that the candidate's performance did not meet the standard required for grade G. 'Ungraded' is reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

In specific circumstances your candidates may see one of the following letters on their statement of results:

- Q (PENDING)
- X (NO RESULT).

These letters do not appear on the certificate.

On the statement of results, Cambridge IGCSE is shown as INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (IGCSE).

On certificates, Cambridge IGCSE is shown as International General Certificate of Secondary Education.

How students and teachers can use the grades

Assessment at Cambridge IGCSE has two purposes:

- 1 to measure learning and achievement
The assessment confirms achievement and performance in relation to the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the syllabus.
- 2 to show likely future success
The outcomes help predict which students are well prepared for or likely to be successful in a particular course or career.
The outcomes help students choose the most suitable course or career.

Changes to this syllabus for 2028 and 2029

The syllabus has been updated. This is version 1, published September 2025.

You must read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme. We review our syllabuses regularly to make sure they continue to meet the needs of our schools. In updating this syllabus, we have made it easier for teachers and students to understand, keeping the familiar features that teachers and schools value.

There are no significant changes which affect teaching.

Syllabuses and specimen materials represent the final authority on the content and structure of all of our assessments.

With a Customer Services team available 24 hours a day, 6 days a week, and dedicated regional teams supporting schools in 160 countries, we understand your local context and are here to guide you so you can provide your learners with everything they need to prepare for Cambridge IGCSE.

Quality management



We are committed to providing exceptional quality. In line with this commitment, our quality management system for the provision of international education programmes and qualifications for students aged 5 to 19 is independently certified as meeting the internationally recognised standard, ISO 9001:2015.

Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/about-us/our-standards/

School feedback: ‘While studying Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Levels, students broaden their horizons through a global perspective and develop a lasting passion for learning.’

Feedback from: Zhai Xiaoning, Deputy Principal, The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China

We are committed to making our documents accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.1 Standard. We are always looking to improve the accessibility of our documents. If you find any problems or you think we are not meeting accessibility requirements, contact us at **info@cambridgeinternational.org** with the subject heading: Digital accessibility. If you need this document in a different format, contact us and supply your name, email address and requirements and we will respond within 15 working days.

Cambridge International Education, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
t: +44 (0)1223 553554 email: info@cambridgeinternational.org www.cambridgeinternational.org