



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

## A guide for universities

**Cambridge International AS & A Levels are recognised as a passport to success in education, university and employment.**

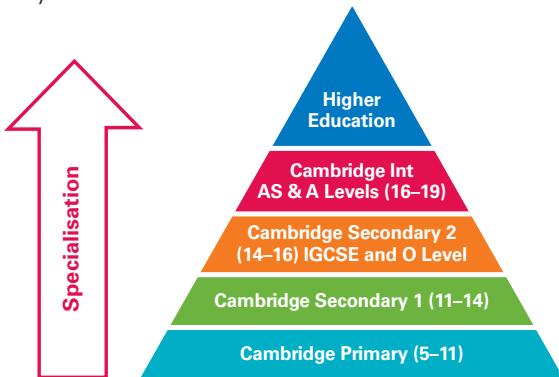
### What are Cambridge International AS & A Levels?

Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary Levels (AS Levels) and Cambridge International Advanced Levels (A Levels) are subject-based qualifications usually taken in the final two years of high school. Cambridge International AS Level is typically a one-year programme of study, while Cambridge International A Level typically takes two years. Assessment takes place at the end of each programme. Most subjects can be started as a Cambridge International AS Level and extended to a Cambridge International A Level. The syllabuses are international in outlook but retain local relevance. They have been created specifically for an international student body with content to suit a wide variety of schools and avoid cultural bias. The contexts or examples used in syllabuses and exam question papers are culturally sensitive in an international context.

Offered since 1951, these qualifications are administered by Cambridge International Examinations, a part of the University of Cambridge.

### Who takes Cambridge International AS & A Levels?

Aimed at 16–19 year old students before university study, Cambridge International AS & A Levels are taken by over 175 000 students in more than 125 countries every year. In the UK these are taken in years 12 and 13 of the secondary school curriculum.



### Why choose Cambridge International AS & A Levels?

#### Develop unique skills

The qualifications aim to develop students' knowledge, understanding and skills through:

- in-depth subject content
- learning to work independently
- applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- handling and evaluating different types of information sources
- thinking logically and presenting ordered and coherent arguments and explanations
- studying and communicating in English.

#### Flexible subject choices

A wide choice of over 50 subjects is available and schools have the freedom to offer them in almost any combination. There are no compulsory subjects and students are free to specialise or study a range of subjects.

Giving students the power to choose helps to motivate them throughout their studies. Students typically study four subjects at AS Level and three subjects at A Level. The standard admission requirement for UK universities is three A Levels.

#### Cambridge International AS & A Level subject groups

English	Mathematics	Science
Languages	Humanities	Technology
Social Sciences	The Arts	General Studies

“ Students we have who have taken Cambridge International A Levels do very well at our campus. They are very well-prepared for our curriculum and we find that they have a lot of confidence, but also that they have a good, deep subject knowledge, [and] the ability to think critically and well. ”

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

## Global Perspectives & Research

A pioneering skills-based qualification, Global Perspectives & Research (GPR), has been added to complement the existing suite of Cambridge International A Levels.

GPR uses a cross-curricular approach to learning the skills needed for success in higher education and at work. By studying global issues, students explore different and often opposing perspectives to develop their ability to deconstruct, reconstruct and reflect on how this impacts their own perspectives. The programme of study is comprised of a taught skills course in the first year and in the second year, a year-long research report called the Cambridge Research Report. The Research Report promotes the application and development of the skills taught in Global Perspectives and helps prepare students to cope with the demands of university study. For more information visit [www.cie.org.uk/gpr](http://www.cie.org.uk/gpr)

## In-depth preparation for universities

Findings from a number of research studies suggest that the Cambridge curriculum prepares students well for university. For more information visit <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ962510.pdf>

## Grading and assessment

Cambridge's internationally recognised grades are reported with clear guidelines to explain the standards of achievement. The Cambridge International A Level is reported on a grade scale from A\* (highest) to E (minimum required performance). There is no A\* grade for Cambridge International AS Levels, which are reported from grade A to E. Each subject is graded separately and no Grade Point Average is calculated. Separate certificates are issued for each examination series. Grades are awarded only for subjects that candidates pass.

### Percentage Uniform Mark

The Percentage Uniform Mark (PUM) is a numerical mark provided for some countries alongside grades for each subject. It transfers a candidate's results to a common scale which reports how well they performed within that grade. For example if a candidate achieves a Percentage Uniform Mark of 79 then they are at the top end of a B grade.

AS Level grade	PUM range
a	80–100
b	70–79
c	60–69
d	50–59
e	40–49

A Level grade	PUM range
A*	90–100
A	80–89
B	70–79
C	60–69
D	50–59
E	40–49

## Staged and linear assessment

### Option one

#### Cambridge International AS Level (standalone AS)

Students take the Cambridge International AS Level only. The syllabus content for Cambridge International AS Level is half of a Cambridge International A Level programme.

### Option two

#### Cambridge International AS Level (AS is first half of A Level)

#### Cambridge International A Level (remainder of A Level)

Students take the Cambridge International AS Level in Year 1 and in Year 2 complete the Cambridge International A Level.

### Option three

#### Cambridge International A Level

Students take all papers of the Cambridge International A Level course in the same examination series, usually at the end of the second year of study.

## Cambridge AICE Diploma

A group certificate is awarded for passing examinations in subjects drawn from three curriculum areas within Cambridge International AS & A Level. Curriculum areas include mathematics and science, languages, and arts and humanities. Each AS Level is awarded 1 credit and a full A Level is awarded 2 credits. From 2017, students are required to achieve a minimum of 7 credits, including the AS in Global Perspectives & Research as a compulsory subject. The AICE Diploma is taken primarily in the USA. For more information visit [www.cie.org.uk/aice](http://www.cie.org.uk/aice)

“ We have been impressed by the depth and breadth of knowledge exhibited by Cambridge students. They arrive on campus well-prepared and excited about learning, regardless of where they come from in the world. ”

**Greg Roberts**, Dean of Admissions, University of Virginia, USA

## **Assessment methods – Sample certificate and statement of results**

**General Certificate of Education**

This certifies that in June 2013 examination series  
A SPECIMEN  
of CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE CENTRE  
was awarded the following grade(s) in the syllabus(es) shown:

Syllabus	Advanced Level	Grade
French Language With Distinction in Speaking	Advanced Level	A*(a*)
Further Mathematics	Advanced Level	A(a)
Psychology	Advanced Level	B(b)
Literature in English	Advanced Subsidiary	C(c)

**SYLLABUSES REPORTED: FOUR**

**Vice-Chancellor  
University of Cambridge**

**SPECIMEN**

**Centre Number/  
Candidate Number**

**Hologram**

**Serial Number**

**Upper and lower case reporting of grades achieved. A Level reported as capital followed by lower case A(a)**

**AS Level reported by two lower case letters a(a)**

**Syllabus number**

**Candidate details including candidate number**

**Statement of Results**

**GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY LEVEL AND ADVANCED LEVEL**

Candidate Name		Date of Birth	Centre / Cand. No.
A SPECIMEN		DD/MM/YYYY	XXXXXX/XXXXXX
Centre Name		Series	To be quoted on all correspondence
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE CENTRE		June 2013	

**GCE AS & A Level**

Syllabus	Syllabus Title	Qualification	Result	Percentage Uniform Mark
9696	English Literature	Advanced Subsidiary	b(b)	77%
9700	Biology	Advanced Level	A(a)	87%
9701	Chemistry	Advanced Level	A*(a*)	92%
9709	Mathematics	Advanced Level	A(a)	83%

**SPECIMEN**

**Explanatory Notes**

This is a General Certificate of Education (GCE) statement of results for Advanced subsidiary Level (AS Level) and Advanced Level (A Level). Cambridge International Examinations reserves the right to amend the information on this statement. Results will be confirmed by the issue of certificates.

GCE AS Level results are reported on a 5-point scale of grades: a(a), b(b), c(c), d(d) or e(e), grade a(a) being the highest and grade e(e) the lowest. The content and difficulty of a GCE AS Level examination is equivalent to the first half of a corresponding GCE A Level.

GCE A Level results are reported on a 5-point scale: grades: A\*(a\*), A(a), B(b), C(c), D(d), E(e), grade A\*(a\*) being the highest and grade E(e) the lowest. Under some circumstances where a candidate has entered for a GCE A Level but does not achieve grade E(e) or above, a GCE AS Level grade a(a) to e(e) may be awarded in the syllabus.

The text Advanced Subsidiary or advanced Level preceding the results indicate the level at which the result was awarded for the syllabus.

The assessment of a language syllabus Speaking component is shown as 'With Distinction in Speaking', 'With Merit in Speaking' or 'With Pass in speaking'. Candidates who are UNGRADED in the Speaking component will have no record of their speaking performance printed on their statement of results or certificate.

UNGRADED indicates a standard below that required for grade e(e) for GCE AS Level and grade E(e) for GCE A level.

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.

The Percentage Uniform Mark for GCE AS Level and GCE A Level is provided in addition to the grade for the syllabus. The Percentage Uniform Mark is not the total mark achieved for the syllabus. It is a common scale for all syllabuses to show whether the candidate's performance is closest to the top, bottom or middle of the grade. A Percentage Uniform Mark is not provided where the candidate's result is Ungraded, No result or Pending.

Only syllabuses in which GCE AS Level grades a(a) to e(e) and GCE A Level grades A\*(a\*) to E(e) are achieved will be reported on certificates.

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

CIE Direct

CIE Direct allows universities and institutions to verify applicants' Cambridge results online. To apply for access please email [recognitions@cie.org.uk](mailto:recognitions@cie.org.uk)

CIEDirect
 CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

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[Home](#) [Candidate Results](#) [My Messages](#) [My Details](#) [Log out](#)

## Search for Candidate Results

[On-screen Search](#) [Multiple Candidate Search](#)

To search for candidate results, complete the fields below - all the fields are mandatory.  
 You can add up to a maximum of 20 rows.

Centre Number	Candidate Number	Date of Birth	Series
AB123	1234	dd • mmm • yyyy	January 2005
		dd • mmm • yyyy	Select
		dd • mmm • yyyy	Select
		dd • mmm • yyyy	Select
		dd • mmm • yyyy	Select
		dd • mmm • yyyy	Select
		dd • mmm • yyyy	Select
		dd • mmm • yyyy	Select

[Add row](#)

Display results:  On screen  Export to file (CSV) [Search](#)

I am missing the results for a candidate or some candidates. [Why is this?](#)

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## **Who recognises Cambridge International A Levels?**

Cambridge qualifications are recognised by universities and employers worldwide. Cambridge International AS & A Levels are recognised by UCAS, UK universities and institutions overseas as equivalent in standard and grade to the AS and A Levels taken by students in the UK. Students use Cambridge International AS & A Levels to gain places at leading universities worldwide including the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Singapore, Egypt, Jordan, South Africa, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain.

In countries such as the United States and Canada, good grades in carefully chosen Cambridge International A Level subjects can result in up to one year of university course credit.

## Examples of worldwide recognition

**Yale University** recognises Cambridge International A Levels for matriculation purposes. Credit is awarded for grades A or B. Students enrolled in A Level programmes may use completed A Level results as a substitute for the SAT II Subject Tests on a one-for-one basis. Yale gives credit for A Levels once they are approved by the student's academic advisor.

**University of Oxford** welcomes students with Cambridge International A Levels. Oxford has for many years accepted the Cambridge International A Level as a suitable qualification to meet the conditions for entry to the collegiate university. The qualifications provide students with suitable subject knowledge, although the competitive nature of applications means that success in A Levels alone does not automatically result in an offer.

**National University of Singapore** welcomes applications from students holding a good pass in at least three Cambridge International A Levels. Many applicants submit good passes in four or more A Levels. A total of all subject grades in two sittings taken within 12 months of each other is allowed.

**University of Sydney** welcomes applicants who achieve a minimum of three full A Level subjects in one academic year. Very competitive courses may need four subjects for admission. AS subjects will not be accepted in place of A Level subjects, but results in AS subjects may improve the competitiveness of qualified applicants.

“ We welcome applications from candidates with Cambridge International qualifications. Our experience is that Cambridge Advanced qualifications such as Cambridge International AS & A Levels are consistently robust and reliable, and prepare students very well for higher education. ”

**Katherine Hind**, Senior Undergraduate Admissions Manager,  
Newcastle University, UK

## The recognition database

The recognition database is an online directory of worldwide institutions that have given formal written acceptance of Cambridge qualifications. It is regularly updated with new recognition statements allowing Cambridge students to see where their Cambridge qualifications are accepted. It 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 further details.

The screenshot shows the 'Recognition search' page. At the top, there is a welcome message: 'Welcome to the Recognition Search Page. Please enter your search criteria below.' Below this is a note: 'Every year, thousands of students holding Cambridge qualifications are accepted to study at their chosen higher education organisations around the world. Our recognition database provides guidance on which organisations recognise Cambridge qualifications and it is regularly updated with details of additional recognition. Organisation policies listed in the database are correct according to the information provided to us but we recommend you check with the organisation concerned for the most up-to-date information as these policies can change.' There is a link: 'If you would like to see information about your organisation included in our Recognition Search results, please register your recognition details here (open new window)'.

On the left, there is a sidebar with links: 'Recognition and acceptance', 'Register your institution's admissions policy', and 'Recognition Search home'. Below this is a section titled 'Latest recognition' with a list of three institutions: 'Yale University', 'University of Oxford', and 'National University of Singapore'.

The main search area has fields for 'Country' (with a dropdown menu), 'Organisation name' (text input field), and 'Organisation type' (checkboxes for 'Select all Organisation types', 'Universities and colleges', 'Government/ministries', 'Professional associations', and 'Companies').

Below these fields is a list of qualification categories with '+' icons to expand them: 'Cambridge IGCSE and O Level', 'Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge AICE', 'Cambridge Pre-U', 'Cambridge Global Perspectives', 'Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (Cambridge PDQs)', and 'Withdrawn qualifications'.

At the bottom right of the search area is a 'Search' button.

**The database is growing: since 2012, the number of visitors to the site has grown by 45 per cent.**

The database receives more than 50 000 unique visitors each year. Currently, over 950 institutions worldwide have their recognition policies for Cambridge International A Levels listed on our database.

Add yours by following the link from the database [www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognitionsearch). An informative recognition policy on our database can really set your university apart.

**Learn more!** For more information on Cambridge International AS & A Level please visit [www.cie.org.uk/alevel](http://www.cie.org.uk/alevel) or contact Customer Services on +44 1223 553554 or email [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk)



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