

SYLLABUS

Cambridge International Level 3

Pre-U Diploma

For examination in 2019, 2020 and 2021

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate. QN: 500/3815/1

Changes to the syllabus for 2019, 2020 and 2021

The syllabus has been updated. The latest syllabus is version 1, published September 2016.

Information about UCAS tariff points and Additional Information have been updated.

TQT

We have added guidance on Total Qualification Time (TQT). TQT includes both guided learning hours and independent learning activities. The number of hours required to gain a qualification may vary according to local curricular practice and the learners' prior experience of the subject.

! Significant changes to the syllabus are indicated by black vertical lines either side of the text. !

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

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Introduction

The Cambridge Pre-U Diploma aims to equip learners with the skills required to make a success of their subsequent studies at university, involving not only a solid grounding in each specialist subject at an appropriate level, but also the ability to undertake independent and self-directed learning and to think laterally, critically and creatively.

The Cambridge Pre-U curriculum is underpinned by a core set of educational principles:

- A programme of study which supports the development of well-informed, open and independent-minded individuals capable of applying their skills to meet the demands of the world as they will find it and over which they may have influence.
- A curriculum which retains the integrity of subject specialisms and which can be efficiently, effectively and reliably assessed, graded and reported to meet the needs of universities.
- A curriculum which is designed to recognise a wide range of individual talents, interests and abilities and which provides the depth and rigour required for a university degree course.
- A curriculum which encourages the acquisition of specific skills and abilities, in particular the skills of problem solving, creativity, thinking critically, team working and effective communication.
- The encouragement of 'deep understanding' in learning – where that deep understanding is likely to involve higher order cognitive activities.
- The development of a perspective which equips young people to understand a range of different cultures and ideas and to respond successfully to the opportunity for international mobility.

Within the common Cambridge Pre-U criteria, each subject syllabus approaches its subject with a commitment to maintaining and enhancing its academic integrity, learner interest and contemporary relevance. Syllabus teams have taken the opportunity to introduce new and cutting-edge topics which underscore their subjects' relevance. Assessments are not generic but are closely tied to the nature of the subject, with assessment methods and criteria selected on the basis of fitness for purpose for each individual subject.

In addition to the aims that run through and inform the Cambridge Pre-U Subject syllabuses, the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma seeks to add value in terms of coherence, depth and breadth, through:

- providing a platform for subject specialisation
- allowing candidates choice to tailor programmes to meet their individual needs
- encouraging focused personal exploration and increased depth of study through the Independent Research Report
- expanding creative, critical and responsible awareness through the tackling of global issues in Cambridge Global Perspectives.

Cambridge Pre-U offers the advantages of a Diploma structure while maximising permissiveness in allowing candidates to tailor their own programme to suit their interests, enthusiasms and expertise. Cambridge Pre-U raises the individualised learning agenda to a new level.

While the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma is rooted in subject specialism, through its two common core elements it develops the skills necessary to deal with the complex, connected and rapidly changing world in which candidates live, study and work. The Cambridge Pre-U Diploma harnesses academic rigour to a passion for problem-solving and engagement, grounding specialist knowledge in cross-border commonality and shared responsibility.

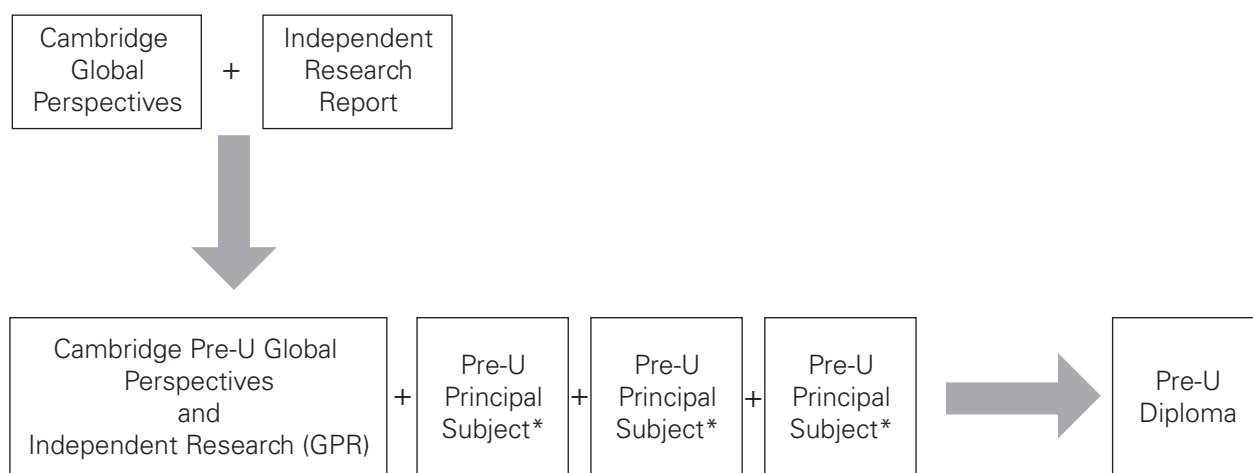
Within the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma structure, there are two common core elements that add value to a candidate's programme:

Cambridge Global Perspectives places academic specialisation in a practical, real-world context, being a seminar-based opportunity to research and explore a range of issues challenging people across the globe. Developing critical/analytical, research, and problem-solving skills essential to higher education, candidates will learn to place their personal perspectives in a global context, finding new inspiration and challenges for their studies. Candidates will sit an examination, submit an essay and a presentation.

The **Independent Research Report** gives a candidate the chance to dig still deeper into a particular subject, or to cross boundaries by doing interdisciplinary work, or to make a new departure by investigating a subject not covered by traditional school syllabuses. Candidates submit a single report on their chosen theme.

The Cambridge Pre-U Diploma will constitute evidence that a candidate has specialised in at least three specified subjects, has shown the ability to research and communicate at depth in a chosen subject, and in addition has shown skills of thinking critically, reflection and empathy with regard to key contemporary issues and debates.

Diploma structure



* Up to two Pre-U Principal Subjects can be substituted by equivalent qualifications.

Cambridge Pre-U Diploma requirements

Candidates qualify for the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma if they achieve at least a Pass grade in:

- three Pre-U Principal Subject Certificates
- the Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report (GPR).

Candidates may take any combination of the following subjects to suit their interests, enthusiasms and expertise:

Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects		
Art and Design	French	Mathematics
Art History	Further Mathematics	Music
Biology	Geography	Philosophy and Theology
Business and Management	German	Physics
Chemistry	History	Psychology
Classical Greek	Italian	Russian
Literature in English	Latin	Spanish
Mandarin Chinese	Economics	

Full syllabus details for each Principal Subject are available separately, and can be found at www.cie.org.uk

There is no limit on the number of Principal Subjects a candidate may take; they will need to pass in three in order to be eligible for the Diploma award. All subjects are reported separately, so candidates will receive credit for the full extent of their academic programmes.

Full syllabus details for the Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report (GPR) can be found at www.cie.org.uk

Cambridge Pre-U assesses a candidate's knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of particular academic subjects. However, each of the Principal Subject syllabuses also promotes the development of generic study skills.

The Cambridge Global Perspectives element of the Diploma assesses generic skills relating to thinking critically and enquiry.

The Independent Research Report assesses some generic study skills at a high level, while also giving credit for advanced subject (and where appropriate interdisciplinary) knowledge and understanding.

	Detail	Principal Subject	Global Perspectives	Independent Research Report
Knowledge	Subject-specific	*		*
	Cross-curricular			*
Understanding	Subject-specific	*		*
	Cross-curricular		*	*
Skills	Subject-specific	*		
	Generic study skills	*	*	*
Reflection	Interdisciplinary		*	*
	Self-reflective		*	*
	Thinking critically		*	

Assessment, grading and aggregation of the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

All Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject syllabuses are linear. A candidate taking a Principal Subject must take all the external examination components for that subject together at the end of the two-year course in one examination session.

A candidate taking Cambridge Global Perspectives must take all the components for that subject in one session. The Independent Research Report can be taken in a different session to Global Perspectives but should be taken within 13 months to count towards the Diploma.

The Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificates in the Principal Subjects are qualifications in their own right. Each individual Principal Subject is graded separately on a scale of nine grades: D1 (Distinction 1), D2, D3, M1 (Merit 1), M2, M3, P1 (Pass 1), P2, P3. These grades are reported on a separate certificate to the Diploma itself.

Each element of the Diploma is awarded a score, as shown in the table below. These scores are then summed to create a single score for the Diploma as a whole.

Contribution of each element to the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma score		
Grade	Principal Subjects	Global Perspectives and Independent Research
D1	24	24
D2	22	22
D3	20	20
M1	18	18
M2	16	16
M3	14	14
P1	12	12
P2	10	10
P3	8	8

To pass the Diploma a candidate must achieve at least P3 in all their Principal Subjects and GPR, i.e. a minimum of 32 points.

Within each Principal Subject, candidates wishing to improve their performance must retake all external assessments. They will not be allowed to resit individual syllabus components. As stated in the *Cambridge Handbook (UK)*, coursework marks may be carried forward once within a 13 month period unless an individual syllabus states otherwise.

Using other qualifications within the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

To allow for programmes that combine other qualifications with Cambridge Pre-U, candidates are permitted to substitute up to two Principal Subjects within the Diploma. Qualifications that can be used instead of Principal Subjects must be approved by the regulatory authorities for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA) and may be drawn from:

- GCE A Level qualifications (excluding AS Awards and GCE General Studies)
- Scottish Advanced Higher qualifications
- IBO Level 3 Certificate Higher Level qualifications.

The Pre-U Diploma itself does not attract UCAS tariff points. However, the constituent qualifications of the Diploma do. The tariff points for a Pre-U Diploma can be calculated by adding together the tariff points for each of its components.

A full list of qualifications that can be used instead of Principal Subjects can be found at <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>. Note that no substitutions will be permitted for Global Perspectives or the Independent Research Report.

The points score for qualifications imported into the Diploma will be established through equivalence in the UCAS tariff. Candidates importing a qualification that has a lower maximum UCAS tariff than the Pre-U Principal Subjects will not have access to the points equivalent of the highest Pre-U grades.

Additional information

Equality and inclusion

This syllabus complies with our *Code of Practice* and *Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition*.

Cambridge has taken great care in the preparation of this syllabus and related assessment materials to avoid bias of any kind. To comply with the UK Equality Act (2010), Cambridge has designed this qualification with the aim of avoiding direct and indirect discrimination.

The standard assessment arrangements may present unnecessary barriers for candidates with disabilities or learning difficulties. Arrangements can be put in place for these candidates to enable them to access the assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. Access arrangements will not be agreed 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 found in the *Cambridge Handbook (UK)*, for the relevant year, which can be downloaded from the website www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers

Guided learning hours

Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses are designed on the assumption that learners have around 380 guided learning hours per Principal Subject over the duration of the course, but this is for guidance only. The number of hours may vary according to curricular practice and the learners' prior experience of the subject.

Total qualification time

Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses are designed assuming that the total qualification time per subject will include both guided learning and independent learning activities. The estimated number of guided learning hours for each syllabus is 380 hours over the duration of the course. The total qualification time for each syllabus has been estimated to be approximately 500 hours per subject over the duration of the course. These values are guidance only. The number of hours required to gain the qualification may vary according to local curricular practice and the learners' prior experience of the subject.

Certification title

This qualification is shown on a certificate as:

Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Diploma

Achievement in Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research (GPR) will be reported on a separate certificate, along with the results of any Principal Subjects taken.

If you are not yet a Cambridge school

Learn about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge school at www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge. Email us at info@cie.org.uk to find out how your organisation can register to become a Cambridge school.

Language

For each Principal Subject the syllabus and the associated assessment materials are available in English only.

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