

# University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) Media Information

## Cambridge IGCSE

### What is Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge was the first exam board to develop the International GCSE 20 years ago and it is now the world's most popular international qualification for 14-16 year olds. More than 2,000 schools across the world, including more than 200 UK schools, teach Cambridge IGCSE.

The IGCSE is taken in 125 countries (there are 500,000 entries a year worldwide) including countries in Europe, South Asia, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, South America, the Far East and the USA.

Internationally recognised and suitable for schools worldwide, Cambridge IGCSE brings out the best in students and develops successful learners through a skills-based approach to teaching and assessing. By working with schools and educators globally, CIE has created a balanced international curriculum that develops successful students through a practical approach to teaching and learning. IGCSE courses are renowned for developing vital educational skills, including recall of knowledge, oral skills, problem solving, initiative, teamwork and investigative skills.

IGCSE is designed to be taught as a two year course for students aged 14 – 17 years. In some countries IGCSE courses last just one year and there are no formal age regulations. In most subjects there is a choice between core and extended curricula, making IGCSE suitable for a wide range of abilities.

### Media Contacts

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### Recognised Awards

The IGCSE is internationally recognised as being equivalent to the GCSE in the United Kingdom.

In some parts of the world, schools use Cambridge IGCSE as an international alternative to the local government's examination.

### How does IGCSE differ from UK GCSE?

The IGCSE is internationally recognised as being equivalent to the GCSE in the United Kingdom but offers far more choice – Cambridge offers over 65 subjects. It was developed to meet the needs of international educators who wanted to prepare students for a global economy.

Although there is a huge overlap on content (what you learn) with the UK National Curriculum, there are some differences with an international flavour:

- History is not British-centric
- Geography has more about coral reefs than the English Midlands
- There are separate English Language and English Literature syllabuses
- Maths has one paper that has longer and more complex questions
- Languages – over 30, including some like Korean not offered by GCSE

Coursework is optional in IGCSE. This is advantageous when teachers structure lessons and for different teaching styles.



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## Facts

- Cambridge offers 60 different IGCSE subjects
- The most popular subjects are English, Maths and Science
- Cambridge offers more than 30 different IGCSE language syllabuses
- Cambridge IGCSE Korean (First language) is the only IGCSE available of its kind in the world

## Cambridge offers the following IGCSE subjects:

Accounting  
Afrikaans (First Language)  
Afrikaans (Second Language)  
Agriculture  
Arabic  
Arabic (First Language)  
Arabic (Foreign Language)  
Art and Design  
Bangladesh Studies  
Biology  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Child Development  
Chinese (First Language)  
Co-ordinated Sciences  
Combined Science  
Computer Studies  
Czech (First Language)  
Design and Technology  
Development Studies  
Drama  
Dutch (First Language)  
Dutch (Foreign Language)  
Economics  
English (First Language)  
English (Second Language)

English Literature  
Environmental Management  
Food and Nutrition  
French (First Language)  
French (Foreign Language)  
Geography  
German (First Language)  
German (Foreign Language)  
Greek  
Hindi (Second Language)  
History  
Indonesian (Foreign Language)  
Information Technology  
Italian (Foreign Language)  
Japanese (First Language)  
Japanese (Foreign Language)  
Korean (First Language)  
Latin  
Malay (Foreign Language)  
Mandarin Chinese (Foreign Language)  
Mathematics  
Mathematics (Additional)  
Music  
Pakistan Studies  
Physical Education  
Physical Science  
Physics  
Portuguese (First Language)  
Portuguese (Foreign Language)  
Religious Studies  
Russian (First Language)  
Sociology  
Spanish (First Language)  
Spanish (Foreign Language)  
Spanish Literature  
Thai (First Language)  
Travel and Tourism  
Turkish (First Language)

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