

Cambridge IGCSE in the UK

Information for schools

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14–16 year olds. Over 500 UK independent and state schools now take it.

Cambridge IGCSE is available in over 70 subjects. Funding is now available for state schools in England to offer 18 Ofqual-accredited subjects, with more on the way.

Accredited Cambridge IGCSEs are included in the UK Government's school performance tables and some subjects count towards the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

University of Cambridge International Examinations developed the first International GCSE (IGCSE) more than 25 years ago. Its worldwide success has encouraged other UK awarding bodies to develop similar qualifications.

Subjects available for state schools:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- English (Language)
- English (Literature)
- English (Second Language)
- French
- Geography
- German
- Greek (Modern)
- Hindi (Second Language)
- History
- Information and Communication Technology
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Spanish

We welcome enquiries from state maintained and independent schools – contact us at [**international@cie.org.uk**](mailto:international@cie.org.uk)



Why Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE is linear

Students take all the exams at the end of the two-year course, which gives more time for teaching and learning. Cambridge IGCSE is designed to be taught holistically to allow longer-term development of ideas for students.

Better preparation for further study

Schools tell us that Cambridge IGCSE prepares learners extremely well for A Level and Cambridge Pre-U, developing a solid foundation of knowledge and skills.

International context

Learners are assessed alongside their peers in 135 countries, including USA, New Zealand, India, China, Spain and Switzerland.

Cambridge IGCSE is accredited and funded for state schools

It is benchmarked to the same standard and is the equivalent, grade-for-grade, as UK GCSE.

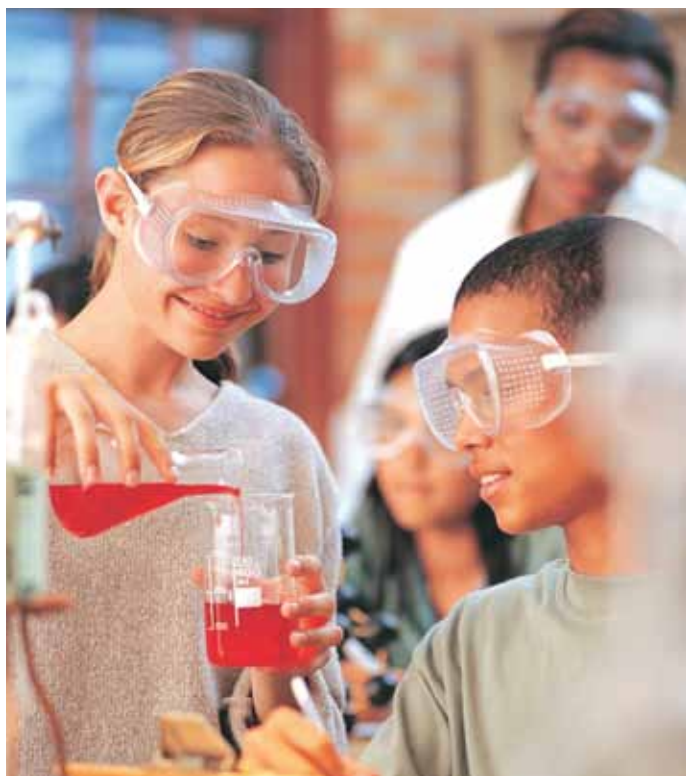
What are the differences for teachers?

- More time for teaching and learning without the interruptions of modular assessment
- Greater freedom to plan lessons over time
- Time to return to key concepts and subjects to ensure learners gain full understanding across the whole syllabus
- Greater freedom and flexibility of curriculum leads to more enjoyment of the subject for both teachers and learners.

Switching to Cambridge IGCSE

Hundreds of UK schools have already switched to Cambridge IGCSE. The syllabuses map simply on to current teaching and learning frameworks in UK schools.

We can easily put you in touch with schools already offering Cambridge IGCSE, to learn more about introducing it. Contact us at international@cie.org.uk or phone 01223 553554.



Training and teacher resources

We offer an extensive programme of training events and services, including online training and face-to-face workshops, seminars and subject-specific INSET.

Our teacher support website provides a wealth of support materials – including subject-specific online discussion groups, standards documents, examiner reports and an archive of past papers and mark schemes.

Getting started

To register as a Cambridge School, please email us at international@cie.org.uk or call 01223 553554.

UK GCSE and IGCSE comparison

	UK GCSE	Cambridge IGCSE
Context of the curriculum	Based on the UK National Curriculum to Key Stage 3.	Based on best-in-class syllabuses throughout the world (including the UK), drawing best practice from several areas.
Subject criteria (knowledge and skills)	Owned by QCDA/Ofqual. Written by UK-based subject experts determining the appropriate subject content for learners at age 16 with a UK background.	Owned by University of Cambridge International Examinations. Accredited by the regulator. Written by subject experts with international experience.
Amount of content	Defined by Ofqual through the subject criteria.	Defined by University of Cambridge International Examinations – greater freedom to include content that is different, motivating, interesting. Uses a greater variety of source material.
Assessment Objectives	Defined by the regulator through the subject criteria.	Defined by University of Cambridge International Examinations – greater freedom to use appropriate weightings of skills to fit individual subjects.
Scheme of assessment	Most GCSEs are unitised. This means students can take some modules before the end of the two-year course if they choose, and get a good idea of the standard they are reaching.	Cambridge IGCSE is linear. This means that all the exams are at the end of the two year course. Students can gain an idea of the standard they are reaching during the course by using <i>Standards Booklets</i> .
Approach to learning	Encourages a unitised approach – learning a module, taking an exam, moving on to the next module.	Encourages an holistic approach – subject content is developed over time so students can develop and internalise ideas thoroughly.
Re-sits	It is possible to re-sit modules.	Re-sits of individual modules are not possible during the course, saving time spent on preparation and examinations.
Accessibility	Designed to be accessible to all students and inclusive of all students within the framework of the subject criteria.	Designed to be accessible to all students and inclusive of all students within the framework of the subject criteria. No assumption that English is the first language. Takes account of the needs of students with diverse national and linguistic backgrounds.
Controlled assessment	GCSE has controlled assessment for either 25%, 40% or 0% of the course.	No controlled assessment.
Standards	GCSE defines the national standard in a subject at KS4.	Same standard as GCSE.
Skills	Maths, English and ICT cover the Functional Skills criteria.	Learner-centred skills-based education is integrated into all the syllabuses to give students the tools to compete internationally.
Funding for state schools	Yes, available.	Yes, available in 16 subjects.
Recognised by UK universities	Yes.	Yes.

Cambridge IGCSE

Q: How is Cambridge IGCSE different to GCSE?

A: It's linear rather than modular. Coursework is optional in Cambridge IGCSE and there is no 'controlled assessment' during the year. Cambridge IGCSE is not so prescriptive and offers more freedom. It is designed with an international student body in mind and is not UK-centric.

Q: What is the recommended number of teaching hours for Cambridge IGCSE?

A: Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses are designed on the assumption that candidates have about 130 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course.

Q: Is Cambridge IGCSE harder than GCSE?

A: No. Cambridge IGCSE is benchmarked to GCSE standard and is equivalent, grade-for-grade with UK GCSE. Cambridge carries out comparability studies with OCR GCSE and uses many of the same examiners as OCR.

Q: Is there an A* grade for Cambridge IGCSE?

A: Yes, the Cambridge IGCSE grade range goes from A* to G.

Q: Can I use my existing GCSE resources to teach Cambridge IGCSE?

A: A wide range of GCSE resources can be used for teaching Cambridge IGCSE, although this varies from subject to subject. For more information on our recommended resources for a given subject, check the resource lists on www.cie.org.uk/igcse.

Q: How are Cambridge IGCSE grade thresholds determined?

A: Grade thresholds are determined by a mixture of statistical evidence and the professional judgement of the principal examiners. If a question paper proves to have been easier or harder than the equivalent paper in the previous year, we raise or lower the thresholds to compensate the students. That way, it remains just as hard or easy to obtain a certain grade in the subject from one year to another.



Q: Do Cambridge IGCSEs count towards the English Baccalaureate?

A: Yes, Cambridge IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, English, French, Geography, German, Greek, History, Hindi, Mathematics, Physics and Spanish count towards the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

About University of Cambridge International Examinations

University of Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5–19 year olds. For over 150 years, we have worked with ministries of education and assessment agencies around the world to deliver excellence in education.

Cambridge international qualifications are taken in over 9,000 schools in over 160 countries and recognised by universities and employers around the world. Like our sister organisation, OCR (the UK awarding body), we are part of the Cambridge Assessment Group, a not-for-profit organisation and a department of the University of Cambridge.

Learn more! For more information on Cambridge IGCSE please visit www.cie.org.uk/igcseuk or contact Customer Services on **01223 553554** or email international@cie.org.uk



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