

Update
February 2009

Supporting progression to university

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International Curriculum
Development

UCAS has recommended a tariff score for Cambridge Pre-U which reflects the HE view of the qualification as very good preparation for university study. Attention now turns to ensuring that all admissions staff understand the distinctive nature of Cambridge Pre-U.

Tracking students' progress

Cambridge Pre-U students making their university applications later in 2009 will be tracked by CIE in collaboration with schools. CIE will contact the faculties to which they apply through UCAS and send targeted information about the qualification.

The priority is to ensure that HEIs understand the grading structure, and apply it fairly in establishing equivalences with A Level grades. This is made much easier because of the UCAS tariff, which gives universities a benchmark for fair and objective comparison. In setting offers, universities use the UCAS tariff as a benchmark for comparison even if they don't actually use the tariff in communicating the offers themselves.

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Band	Cambridge Pre-U Grade	UCAS Tariff Points	A Level Grade & Tariff Points
Distinction	D1	tbc	
	D2	145	A* 140
	D3	130	A 120
Merit	M1	115	
	M2	101	B 100
	M3	87	C 80
Pass	P1	73	
	P2	59	D 60
	P3	46	E 40



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A Level equivalence scores

The same principle applies to CIE's method for importing A Levels into the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma. We will also use an 'exchange rate' based on UCAS tariff equivalences.

Using UCAS tariff scores as a benchmark, universities will be able to translate Cambridge Pre-U grades easily. For instance, as the table on page 1 shows, offers requiring B grades at A Level (100 tariff points) translate as Merit 2 (101 tariff points). At the top end, it should be clear to universities that the equivalent grade to A* will be Distinction 2.

CIE will make sure that admissions staff dealing with Cambridge Pre-U applicants are fully aware of, and understand, the nature of the qualification, encouraging offers that reflect the equivalences shown here.



Forum for Directors of Studies

This half-day forum is for Directors of Studies currently making the decision on whether to adopt Cambridge Pre-U. It is a great opportunity to hear from fellow practitioners who started teaching Cambridge Pre-U in September 2008, and to discuss:

- How schools have implemented Cambridge Pre-U within the curriculum frameworks of particular schools
- How Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects sit alongside A Levels within option structures
- Schools' experiences of moving from modular to linear assessment
- Managing the introduction of Cambridge Pre-U GPR (Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report)
- Communications with parents
- Development of resources to support Cambridge Pre-U
- The needs of students across the ability range

Tuesday 17 March 2009, 10.30 – 13.00, followed by lunch
British Medical Association House, London

How to register

For more information and to book your place,
email cieeventsteam@cie.org.uk or call **01223 553554**.

Cambridge Pre-U GPR UCAS tariff

Cambridge Pre-U GPR (Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report) is available as a free-standing qualification. The UCAS tariff for the Cambridge Pre-U GPR component is 140 points for Distinction 2, 126 points at

Distinction 3, and 42 points at Pass 3. The tariff score recognises that Cambridge Pre-U GPR prepares students for university, and develops the skills needed for self-directed study and independent research.

Cambridge Pre-U INSET

March 2009 INSETs: Focus on Teaching and Learning

These seminar-style INSETs are for people already teaching or preparing to teach Cambridge Pre-U.

The INSET is free and lunch is provided.

Register now at

www.cie.org.uk/events



INSET: Focus on Teaching and Learning

Name of Event	Location	Dates
Art and Design	Wimbledon College	3 March
Art History	Westminster School	5 March
Biology	Aeonian Centre, London	11 March
Business and Management	Cheadle Hulme School, Cheshire	12 March
Chemistry	Winchester College	3 March
Classical Greek and Latin	Aeonian Centre, London	11 March
Classical Heritage	Venue tbc	tbc
Comparative Government and Politics	Aeonian Centre, London	11 March
Economics	Oundle School, Peterborough	3 March
Geography	Wimbledon College	2 March
GPR – focus on Global Perspectives for schools teaching from 2009	Aeonian Centre, London	11 March
GPR – focus on IRR for schools teaching from 2008	Aeonian Centre, London	16 March
History	Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks	5 March
Literature in English	Westminster School	12 March
Mandarin Chinese	venue and date to be confirmed	tbc
Mathematics and Further Mathematics	Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks	13 March
Modern Foreign Languages	Westminster School	4 March
Music	The Perse School, Cambridge	10 March
Philosophy and Theology	venue to be confirmed	15 June
Physics – for new schools	Rugby School, Rugby	13 March
Physics – for schools already teaching	Shrewsbury School	2 March
Psychology	The Perse School, Cambridge	11 March
Sports Science	Aeonian Centre, London	5 March

INSET: Focus on Assessment May and June 2009

Assessing Progress in Cambridge Pre-U: Setting and Monitoring Standards

- Half-day events
- Led by Chief or Principal Examiners
- Opportunities to mark exemplar answers and discuss mark schemes
- Special format for Modern Foreign Languages (to take Short Courses into account)

These courses provide essential guidance for schools already teaching Cambridge Pre-U. Schools preparing to teach Cambridge Pre-U are also welcome.

Provisional dates: weeks of 11 May and 18 May, except for Modern Foreign Languages.

INSET to support the marking of Modern Foreign Languages assessment will take place in mid-June 2009. Schools will have the opportunity to use the live summer 2009 Short Course assessments for the purpose of interim assessment (in May 2009).



Cambridge Pre-U status update

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting new qualification for students aged 16 – 19. Schools started teaching Cambridge Pre-U in September 2008.



'Pupils doing Cambridge Pre-U Economics are really enjoying it. The linear nature of the course has allowed us to look at recent events without any fear of 'getting behind' with the syllabus.'

Andrew Ireson, Oundle School

'We plan to introduce more Cambridge Pre-U subjects next September.'

Andrew Corish, Assistant Head, Coloma Convent Girls' School

'I wouldn't swap the Cambridge Pre-U for anything else.'

Matthew Hayward, Head of History, Leweston School

Learn more about Cambridge Pre-U

Register now for a FREE introductory seminar on Cambridge Pre-U.

Tuesday 23 June 2009, 10:30 – 13.00, Castlefield Rooms, Manchester

Thursday 25 June 2009, 10.30 – 13.00, Institute of Engineering and Technology, London

How to register

For more information and to book your place, email cieeventsteam@cie.org.uk or call **01223 553554**.