

Growing interest in new qualification

October will see the publication of the first draft Cambridge Pre-U subject syllabuses.

Fifteen subject syllabuses will go to schools and universities around the world for final consultation. These include Maths, Further Maths, Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, English, History, Geography, Business Studies, German, French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Classical Heritage.

The consultation ends in December.



Ann Puntis, CIE's Chief Executive, said: "We are very interested in what the consultation process will show. I think the syllabuses are going to be different, exciting to teach and excellent grounding for students first year at university. Our mandate in developing these syllabuses was to provide students with a qualification that will unlock their enthusiasm for their subject and help them become independent learners. Working closely with teachers we have endeavoured to provide just this.

There has been a phenomenal response to Cambridge Pre-U over the last six months from schools, teachers, and those in higher education.

They are open to the idea of an alternative to current post-16 provision and eager to see what we have to offer."

Welcomed by schools

The concept of Cambridge Pre-U has been welcomed by both schools and teachers across the UK.

Fred Ward, Head of Curriculum at Bilborough College in Nottingham, said: "To ensure we are able to offer suitable subjects, and specifications, that meet learner requirements we continually increase our range of AS and A Level subjects. We are, however, considering some diversification to the curriculum we offer which would be appropriate for the more able learner whilst at the same time attract international students. A possible solution could be the Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses which, together, will provide evidence of ability and skills required for Higher Education."



Pilot

Bilborough College is one of the many schools who have offered to pilot the new qualification. CIE has also been contacted by schools in Switzerland, New Zealand and Oman who want to be part of the pilot in September 2007.

Andrew Halls, Head of Magdalen College School, Oxford, said: "Cambridge Pre-U is about being able to stretch the most able, show rank order and differentiate between candidates, but it is also about the level of excitement. It will involve complex thinking from pupils rather than digesting notes for exams."

Business interest

Leaders in the business world have also said that there should be more choice post-16 and welcomed Cambridge Pre-U.

Miles Templeman, Director General of the Institute of Directors (IoD), said: "We should develop this market in qualifications by encouraging more schools to offer the International Baccalaureate and should welcome proposals to develop new post-16 qualifications such as the 'Pre-U'."



Heads of Department seminars

On October 11, 12, 18 and 19, CIE will be hosting a series of seminars in Cambridge for Heads of Department to find out more about Cambridge Pre-U and the unique features of the syllabuses.

October 11 – Maths, English, Economics, Business Studies

October 12 – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Sports Science

October 18 – Geography, History, History of Art, Classical Heritage

October 19 – Mandarin Chinese, German, French, Spanish

If you are a Head of Department and would like to attend one of these events email consultation@cie.org.uk



Accreditation for Cambridge Pre-U

CIE considers it important to ensure access for its qualifications. In the UK this means making sure that students in both the maintained and independent sector can enter for Cambridge Pre-U.

The first step in gaining such recognition is via an approach to the UK's Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). An initial meeting has been held with QCA staff who were extremely helpful in this matter.

Work will continue in gaining full accreditation so that Cambridge Pre-U can be offered in both maintained and independent schools in the UK as well as CIE's international constituency.

More Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses on their way ...

Syllabuses for the first 15 Cambridge Pre-U subjects will go out to consultation in October. These are Maths, Further Maths, Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, English, History, Geography, Business Studies, German, French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and Classical Heritage.

In November, a further two subjects – History of Art and Sport Science will be available for consultation.

In March 2007, Art and Design, Comparative Government and Politics, Psychology, Music, Philosophy and Ethics, Latin and Greek will go out for consultation.

Cambridge Pre-U Principals' Reception

Cambridge Pre-U subject developers in Maths, Chemistry, History, Geography, Spanish and History of Art, together with the higher education advisers involved in the development will present unique features of their syllabuses at the Cambridge Pre-U Principals' reception on 22 September.

Head teachers and Directors of Studies will be able to learn more about CIE's exciting new post-16 qualification's key features and benefits.



New Director Takes Forward Cambridge Pre-U development



Kevin Stannard has joined CIE as Director of International Curriculum and Development. Kevin will take forward development of Cambridge Pre-U.

Kevin has extensive experience as a teacher, including 12 years at Eton College, UK, where he was Head of Geography and the Higher Education Adviser. Kevin studied Geography at University of Cambridge, and stayed to complete a Doctorate in the History of Education.

Kevin will develop not just syllabuses, assessment strategies and qualifications, but also appropriate forms of support for teachers and students that take CIE into even more productive partnership with Cambridge Centres.

Curriculum extension to promote independent learning

Curriculum extension aims to promote the attributes of an active, independent learner, focusing on research and communication skills.

Early consultation established that the most appropriate way to encourage the development of higher-order study skills is through a substantial research-based exercise, demonstrating to universities those skills that are vital for successful university study. It will also give students an opportunity for specialised, active and inspiring learning.

Curriculum extension will allow students to a number of options: digging deeper (going into a chosen

topic in greater detail); crossing boundaries (focusing on a topic that overlaps several school subjects); or new departures (looking into non-school subject areas such as anthropology).

Kevin Stannard, CIE's Director of International Curriculum Development, said: "We want to avoid straight-jacketing students, and aim to provide a format flexible enough to allow extended work in any appropriate subject. Curriculum extension should dovetail with, and build on, the work done in subject study within the Cambridge Pre-U, and act as bridge between school and university study."

Cambridge Pre-U Online

Find out more about our Cambridge Pre-U on the CIE website at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu

There you will find an overview of the new qualification, details of the subjects we are developing, latest news and details of forthcoming Cambridge Pre-U events where you can find out more about the qualification from those designing it.

Contact us

Let us know your views and receive updates on Cambridge Pre-U.

Contact: consultation@cie.org.uk



Cambridge Pre-U

Come and speak to us about Cambridge Pre-U, our new post-16 qualification, at the following venues:

September

- 4 Global Best Practice with Cambridge Conference
Venue: Intercontinental Grand Hotel, Delhi, India
-
- 18 Achievement awards in Bangladesh
Venue: British Council, Dhaka
-
- 22 Cambridge Pre-U Principals' Reception
Venue: Robinson College, Cambridge
-
- 27 Achievement awards in Indonesia
Venue: Bina Bangsa School, Jakarta
-
- 29 Achievement awards in Singapore
Venue: United World College, Pasir Panjang
-
- 30 Achievement awards in Thailand
Venue: Harrow International School
-
- ### October
- 2-5 HMC Conference
Venue: Midland Hotel, Manchester
-
- 2 Achievement awards in Malaysia
Venue: Armada Hotel, Petaling Jaya
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- 6-7 ACSNZ Conference in New Zealand
Venue: Novotel Ellerslie Hotel, Auckland

- 11 Cambridge Pre-U Heads of Department (Maths, English, Economics, Business Studies)

Venue: Cambridge

- 12 Cambridge Pre-U Heads of Department (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Sports Science)

Venue: Cambridge

- 18 Cambridge Pre-U Heads of Department (Geography, History, History of Art, Classical Heritage)

Venue: Cambridge

- 19 Cambridge Pre-U Heads of Department (Mandarin Chinese, German, French, Spanish)

Venue: Cambridge

November

- 7 Achievement awards in Jordan
Venue: British Council, Amman

- 13-15 GSA Annual Conference 2006
Venue: Macdonald Holland House Hotel, Cardiff

- 16-19 ECIS Conference in France
Venue: Nice Acropolis

December

- 13 Achievement awards in Cyprus
Venue: British Council, Nicosia