

Syllabus Outline

Cambridge Pre-U
CLASSICAL HERITAGE

Cambridge
Pre-U

For examination in 2010, 2011, 2012



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Cambridge Pre-U Overview

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16-19 year olds who want to go to university. It equips students with the skills they need to make a success of their undergraduate studies:

- a solid and coherent grounding in specialist subjects at an appropriate level;
- the ability to undertake independent and self directed learning;
- the ability to think laterally, critically and creatively and communicate effectively.

The Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject in Classical Heritage is a stand-alone qualification, with all components assessed at the full Cambridge Pre-U standard at the end of a two-year programme of study. There are no unit retakes. Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects are certificated separately. They are fully compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

Reporting of Achievement

Achievement is reported on a scale of nine grades: Distinction 1, 2 and 3, Merit 1, 2 and 3 and Pass 1, 2 and 3. The Distinction 3 standard is aligned to that of Grade A and the Pass 3 is aligned to that of Grade E at A Level. Distinction 1 reports achievement above the new A* grade. The intention is to differentiate more finely and extend reporting at the top end, while keeping the grading scale accessible to the full range of ability currently achieving passes at A Level.

UCAS Tariff Points

The table shows the UCAS tariff awarded to each Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject Grade and how this compares with the tariff for A Level.

The tariff reflects the additional content within each syllabus and the linear assessment (terminal examinations at full Pre-U standard).

Universities which normally ask for three A grades at A Level might therefore consider Cambridge Pre-U offers involving a combination of Distinction 3 and Merit 1. Other offers may include asking for a Merit 2 in place of a B, Merit 3 or Pass 1 for a C, Pass 2 for a D and Pass 3 for an E.

Cambridge Pre-U Band	Cambridge Pre-U Grade	Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject Tariff	Equivalent A Level Tariff
Distinction	1	tbc	n/a
	2	145	(A*) 140
	3	130	(A) 120
Merit	1	115	
	2	101	(B) 100
	3	87	
Pass	1	73	
	2	59	
	3	46	(E) 40

For more details, please go to www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition.

Common characteristics of Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses

- **Design:** focused on the development of high level knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare for university and beyond, through extensive consultation with teachers/students and universities.
- **Stretch:** built into syllabus content (380 guided learning hours and challenging concepts), assessment (open ended questions) and grading outcomes (finer differentiation at the top end).
- **Innovation:** new approaches to subjects, greater freedom in subject combination, new topics, new methods of delivery and new forms of assessment.
- **Progression in learning:** Cambridge Pre-U builds on prior knowledge gained at 14-16, where appropriate and develops broad generic skills (independent study and research skills). Students are better prepared for undergraduate study.
- **Linearity:** assessment at the end of the course makes for greater coherence in teaching and learning.

Feedback from Schools

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Increased focus and motivation in year 12 pupils

Richer, more coherent educational experience

Encourages wider reading

More independent inquiry and learning

Opportunity to develop and pursue own academic interests

Greater scope for upper ability pupils to distinguish themselves

More time and support available for lower ability pupils

Greater maturity at examination time”

Cambridge Pre-U Classical Heritage Scheme of Assessment

Four compulsory components. Examinations take place at the end of the two-year course and a single grade is awarded. Individual components cannot be retaken.

Paper 1. Foundations of history and culture (Greek): Essays on two topics from the syllabus, externally set and marked.

Paper 2. Foundations of history and culture (Roman): Essays on two topics from the syllabus, externally set and marked.

Paper 3. Classical Literature (sources and evidence): Essay on a single topic on the syllabus, externally set and marked.

Paper 4. Classical Heritage. Personal study chosen by each candidate, written up under exam conditions, externally marked.

Curriculum content

This interdisciplinary linear syllabus offers a series of converging domains: history, archaeology and mythology, literature and drama, religion and society, art and architecture, philosophy and science, government and politics, social and personal life. This leads to an understanding of relationships and tensions between different intellectual disciplines.

The fourth component Classical Heritage is a personal study. Candidates have the freedom to choose a topic, and refine it into a specific question. It provides the candidates with the opportunity to show the ways in which ancient Greece and Rome have been received, interpreted and appropriated by subsequent periods, including our own.

Paper 1 Topics

Foundations of history and culture (Greek)

Historical: Alexander the Great

Literary: Foundations of comedy: Aristophanes and Menander

Viewpoint: Socrates as seen through the eyes of Plato

Artistic: Greek architecture

Political: The rise of democracy in fifth century Athens

Archaeological: The archaeology of Minoan Crete

Paper 2 Topics

Foundations of history and culture (Roman)

Historical: Augustus and the creation of the principate

Literary: Ovid's Metamorphoses

Viewpoint: Nero as seen through the eyes of Suetonius and Tacitus

Artistic: Roman architecture and building

Political: Cicero and the fall of the republic

Archaeological: Urban archaeology in the Roman Near East

Paper 3 Topics

Classical literature (sources and evidence)

Four topics will be set per paper. There are no limits to the number of topics that may be studied.

The changing world of Athens: its friends and enemies

The Roman empire: civilisation or submission?

Drama: the idea of tragedy

Gods and heroes: the importance of epic

Paper 4

The Classical heritage

There are no prescribed topics, but each candidate must investigate ways in which their chosen aspect of the Classical world has been interpreted by a later time or times (including the present). A candidate might look at:

- Rome and Egypt: Cleopatra in history, literature and/or art;
- Ancient and modern: the legacies of Greek science or Roman technology;
- Attic attitudes: versions of pastoral;
- The idea of Troy;
- The transmission of mythology or epic;
- Sport, spectacle and the cult of celebrity;
- Cinema and the Classical world;
- Reactions to the Classical world by modern novelists or travel writers;
- The influence of Classical philosophy;
- Imperium and imperialism;
- Interest in Alexander the Great during the Middle Ages;
- The appropriation of the Classical world by a modern dictator.

Support and Resources

CIE offers a programme of Cambridge Pre-U INSET training for teachers accompanied by support materials on a dedicated Cambridge Pre-U website.

Full syllabus details are at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu

Specimen assessment materials are available from: international@cie.org.uk



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