

Syllabus Outline

Cambridge Pre-U  
**ECONOMICS**

Cambridge  
**Pre-U**

For examination in 2010



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

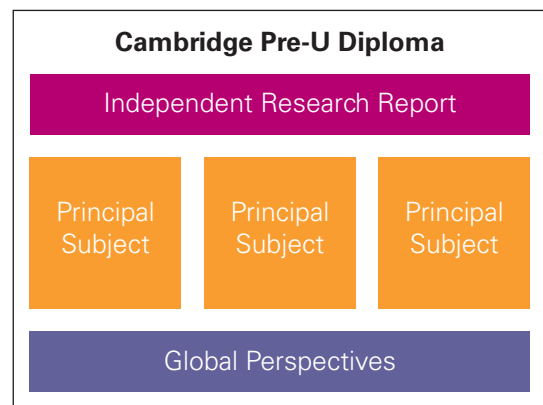
## Cambridge Pre-U Overview

Cambridge Pre-U equips students with the skills they need to make a success of their studies at university:

- 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.

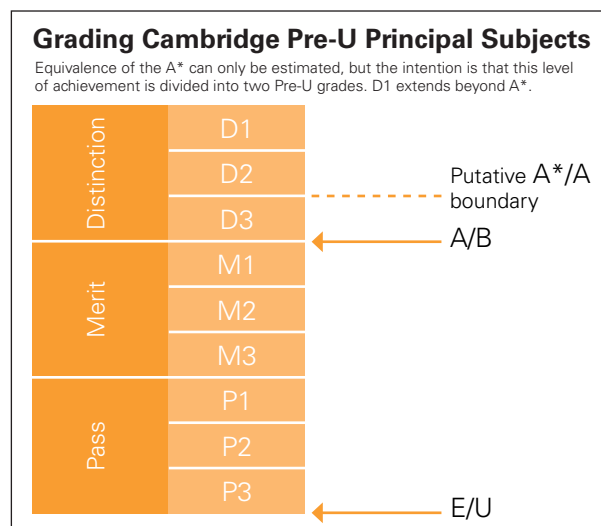
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate in Economics is a stand-alone qualification, certificated separately.

Students can combine it with other individual Principal Subjects and core components (Global Perspectives, Independent Research Report) to gain the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma.



## Common characteristics of Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses

- **Stretch:** built into syllabus content (challenging concepts), assessment (open-ended questions) and grading outcomes (finer differentiation at the top end).
- **Innovation:** new approaches to subjects, new topics, new methods of delivery and new forms of assessment.
- **Progression in learning:** building on prior knowledge gained at 14-16, where appropriate.
- **Linearity:** assessment at the end of the course makes for greater coherence in teaching and learning, by freeing up time currently used in module examinations and retakes, and by giving teachers the freedom to structure their courses in the most appropriate way for their students.



Cambridge Pre-U offers a joined-up approach to assessment, making possible a coherent approach to teaching and learning.

## Reporting of Achievement

Achievement is reported on a scale of nine grades: D1 (Distinction 1), D2, D3, M1 (Merit 1), M2, M3, P1 (Pass 1), P2, P3. The grade D1 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.

# Cambridge Pre-U Economics

## Assessment Objectives

Candidates should:

<b>AO1</b>	demonstrate knowledge and understanding
<b>AO2</b>	apply theoretical knowledge and understanding to real life situations presented to them
<b>AO3</b>	analyse economic problems and issues and have a good knowledge of statistical methods used within the discipline
<b>AO4</b>	evaluate and reach well-informed and considered conclusions. Candidates must be able to make a critical assessment of the relevance and appropriateness of assumptions made within models

## Scheme of Assessment

The Cambridge Pre-U Certificate in Economics is assessed through three compulsory components at the end of the two-year course. A single grade is awarded.

Component	Name	Duration	Weighting(%)	Type of Assessment
<b>Paper 1</b>	Multiple Choice, Short Answers and Data Response	2h 15m	40	Written paper, externally set and marked. 30 compulsory multiple-choice questions on the whole syllabus content, four compulsory short-answer questions and one compulsory data response question.
	If the short-answer questions are predominantly micro then the data response question will be predominantly macro, and vice versa.			
<b>Paper 2</b>	Essay Paper	2h 15m	40	Written paper, externally set and marked. Three essays.
	Three essays, one to be chosen from three predominantly micro questions, one from three predominantly macro questions and one free choice from the remaining titles.			
<b>Paper 3</b>	Investigation	1h 15m	20	One Essay, written in examination conditions and externally marked.
	A single piece of extended writing. Candidates are required to choose one essay from four titles, which reflect current issues in economics. The issues examined will change over time. Initially they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport and the Environment</li> <li>• China and the Global Economy</li> <li>• Expansion of the EU</li> <li>• The Pensions Crisis</li> </ul>			

## Curriculum content

Economics enables students to:

- gain a thorough and rigorous understanding of the theory that underpins the workings of a modern day economy
- develop quantitative skills through the appreciation and use of various statistical methods
- understand the concepts of causality and interdependence, both on a micro and a macro scale
- have a sound understanding of events, both internal and external, that have influenced the UK economy over the past 10 years as far as areas contained within the syllabus are concerned. A longer term perspective, where relevant, will clearly aid understanding

### Microeconomics

The Basic Economic Problem of Unlimited Wants and Limited Means  
The Market Mechanism and Demand and Supply Analysis  
Costs of Production, Profit and the Theory of the Firm  
Causes of Market Failure  
Government Intervention in the Market  
The Labour Market

### The National Economy

Standards of Living  
Economic Growth and Economic Cycle  
Employment and Unemployment  
Inflation and Deflation  
Distribution of Income  
Current Account of Balance of Payments  
Productivity and International Competitiveness

Candidates are also required to have knowledge of relevant:

Macroeconomic Theory  
Government Policy

Candidates should also be able to compare the performance of the United Kingdom economy with other national economies in these areas, but specific knowledge of any other economy is not expected.

### International Economics

The Theory of Free Trade  
The Pattern of Trade  
Protectionism  
The Current Account and Exchange Rates  
Development Economics and Globalisation  
The European Union

### Investigation Topics

The intention is to encourage students to apply their knowledge and understanding of economic concepts, combined with detailed individual research into the topic chosen by the Centre.

### 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](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu)

Specimen assessment materials are available from: [international@cie.org.uk](mailto:international@cie.org.uk)



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