

For examination in 2010



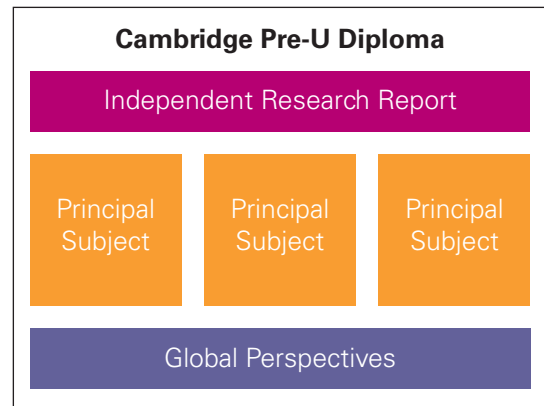
Cambridge Pre-U Overview

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.

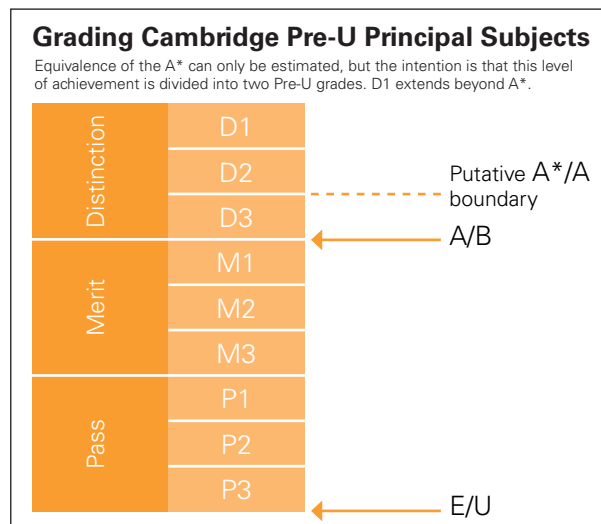
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate in Modern Foreign Languages is a stand-alone qualification, certificated separately.

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:** introducing 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 Modern Foreign Languages

Assessment Objectives

Candidates should:

AO1	understand and respond to texts written in the target language, drawn from a variety of sources such as magazines, newspapers, reports, books and other forms of extended written and spoken material
AO2	manipulate the target language accurately in spoken and written forms to demonstrate an ability to choose appropriate examples of lexis and structure
AO3	select and present information, organising arguments and ideas logically
AO4	understand and respond to cultural topics and literary texts

Scheme of Assessment

Candidates take Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4

Component	Name	Duration	Weighting(%)	Type of Assessment
1	Speaking	c. 16m	25	Externally assessed oral
2	Reading & Listening	2h 15m	25	Externally set and marked written paper
3	Writing and Usage	2h 15m	25	Externally set and marked written paper
4	Topics and Texts	2h 30m	25	Externally set and marked written paper

Cambridge Pre-U Modern Languages strives to move away from the emphasis on classroom language towards an immersion in authentic language and culture. Candidates are encouraged to learn in context through a personal engagement with the culture by means of authentic press, radio and television.

Scheme of Assessment (continued)

Paper 1: Speaking

The oral examination will be conducted by a visiting examiner.

Part I: Candidates study a newspaper article, present an overview of it and then discuss the article and matters arising from it.

Part II: Candidates present and then discuss a topic related to the history, current affairs or culture of the areas of the world where the target language is spoken.

Paper 2: Reading and Listening

Part I: Candidates read two passages in the target language. They answer questions in the target language on the first passage and questions in English on the second. Candidates then translate from English into the target language a passage based on the material in the reading passages.

Part II: Candidates listen to three passages in the target language. They answer comprehension questions in the target language on the first passage and questions in English on the second. Candidates then summarise the third passage in English using bullet points for guidance. Candidates have control of their own listening equipment.

Paper 3: Writing and Usage

Part I: Candidates write one discursive essay in the target language from a choice of five titles.

Part II: Candidates are tested on their grammatical usage of the target language. All exercises will be based on the Pre-U grammar syllabus.

Paper 4: Topics and Texts

Part I: Cultural topics: Candidates prepare two texts/films within the same topic.

They answer one general essay question in the target language. Emphasis in assessment is placed on the acquisition of a broad cultural knowledge of the topic.

Part II: Literary texts: Candidates prepare one literary text. They answer one essay question in English. This part of the examination will promote literary appreciation through detailed textual analysis.

Curriculum content

All textual material used in the examination will be drawn from the topic list detailed in the syllabus, with reference to the country or countries where the language is spoken. Teachers are free to explore topic areas in any way they choose. Examples of topics included in the syllabus are: human relationships, patterns of daily life, food and drink, equality of opportunity, war and peace, medical advances, environment, cultural life/heritage and religion and belief.

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