

Update for schools

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting post-16 qualification preparing learners for university

Preparing to graduate from university

The first Cambridge Pre-U students reach another milestone.

Students who took the first Cambridge Pre-U exams in June 2010 are graduating from university this year. It marks another milestone for the qualification, which grew out of a need to give students better preparation for university.

So is it delivering on its promise? Yes, according to the undergraduates we've spoken to. Cambridge Pre-U's emphasis on self-directed learning and critical thinking helps close the gap between school and university, and sets up students for undergraduate study.



Amy Bond

Degree:

History, University of Cambridge

Cambridge Pre-U:

History, Watford Grammar School

Next steps: To study fine art or work in the charity sector

“ I think Cambridge Pre-U History vastly improved my university application and really helped me settle into the university course a lot quicker. In particular, the individual coursework project I did at Cambridge Pre-U – which was entirely self-written and researched – was great preparation for what I would be doing each week at Cambridge. ”



**Damiya Aloysius
Yogaratnam**

Degree:

Economics and Accountancy, City University London

Cambridge Pre-U:

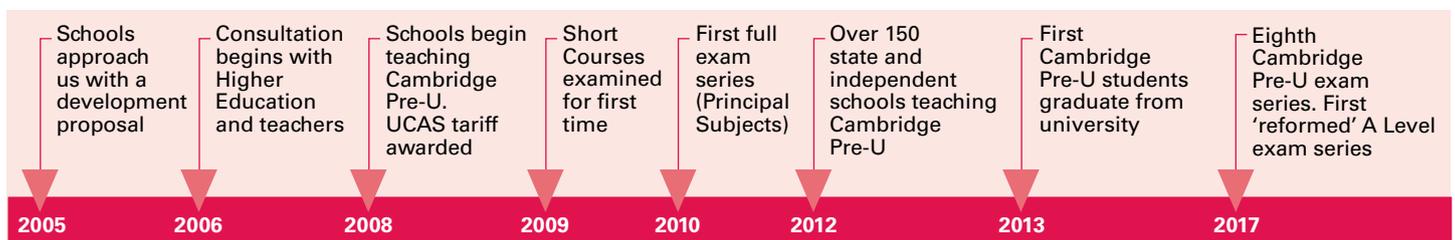
Business and Finance, Coloma Convent Girls' School

Next steps: To pursue a career in finance

“ Cambridge Pre-U helped me to prepare really well for university. I not only developed as a student but also as a person, having to communicate with business managers as part of my coursework and also with their customers for surveys. The requirements of the coursework allowed me to experience the level of work required of an undergraduate. ”

Read these case studies in full – and others – at www.cie.org.uk/PreUGraduates

Cambridge Pre-U milestones



Spotlight on: Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English

Literature in English is one of the most popular Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects. It gives students space to develop their literary interests.

Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English encourages students to read widely, and develops skills in research and literary criticism. There is plenty of freedom for teachers and students to pursue their own literary interests outside the set texts.

It includes a Personal Investigation – a 3000 to 3500-word essay – that allows students to work independently. They choose the title of their own essay, and develop skills in research and comparing texts by

different authors – great preparation for university.

The Comment and Analysis paper helps students appreciate how writers use form, structure and language to shape meaning and effect. They learn to use critical concepts and terminology, which is especially useful for those going on to study a literature degree.

Find the syllabus and set texts for 2015 on our website at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu



A teacher's view

“ Students can grow as readers, writers and thinkers without the fear of failure that studying for an exam inevitably entails. ”

“The Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English syllabus has proved popular with teachers and students at our school since its inception because it offers variety as well as independence.

“The opportunity to explore the subject in the first year, and gain a thorough grounding in, and appreciation of, English literature rather than immediately study for a prescribed module is extremely refreshing.

“By the time the exams do come around, the students have invariably matured into confident, proficient candidates: our results certainly reflect this so far. Perhaps most importantly, we have found that each student has emerged with the grade he or she truly deserves; this course genuinely rewards those willing to commit to it.”

David Cheshire, Head of English, St Bede's School, Hailsham

Assessment

Component	Key features
Two compulsory text-based exam papers (closed-book): 1. Poetry and Prose, and 2. Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Shakespeare and writing both before and after 1900. • Texts are studied in their literary and historical context.
Comment and Analysis paper (unseen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes fiction and non-fiction. • Encourages wider reading. • Develops skills in literary criticism.
A Personal Investigation (externally marked)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 3000 to 3500-word essay involving significant comparisons between two authors. • Allows each student to pursue own interests. • Develops research skills.

Studying English at Cambridge IGCSE®

We offer three Cambridge IGCSE English syllabuses: English First Language, English Second Language and English Literature. The two-year programme of study prepares students well for Cambridge Pre-U or A Level.

Cambridge IGCSE has grown rapidly in the UK this year, with exam entries for June 2013 up 115 per cent on 2012. English is one of the subjects that has grown the most, along with sciences and ICT.

Find out more on our website at www.cie.org.uk/ukigcse or come to our Learn More! seminar – see page 7 for details.

More universities worldwide welcome Cambridge Pre-U

Our strong links with US universities are helping us extend recognition of Cambridge Pre-U.

The United States is the most desirable destination for UK students considering overseas study, according to the British Council's new *Broadening Horizons* report.

We know of Cambridge Pre-U students who have taken up places at Boston University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and others who have received offers to Seattle, Trinity and Brown to name a few. According to admissions staff at MIT, Cambridge Pre-U students on their campus are progressing well.

We are also extending university recognition of Cambridge Pre-U in Europe. Recent developments include the acceptance of Cambridge Pre-U by the national agencies for higher education in Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and the Netherlands. National universities will follow recommendations from these overarching bodies.

You can find specific entry criteria for Cambridge Pre-U from universities worldwide by searching our recognition database at www.cie.org.uk/recognition



“ When Cambridge Pre-U students go to university they feel like they're really ready to take on the challenges we're going to offer them. ”

Stuart Schmill,
Dean of Admissions, MIT

Top 10 universities for number of Cambridge Pre-U applicants accepting places – 2012

1	Oxford University
2	University of Bristol
3	University of Cambridge
4	University College London (University of London)
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Durham University
7	University of Exeter
8	University of Manchester
9	University of Leeds
10	University of Nottingham

Data source: UCAS

Schools help us to develop Cambridge Pre-U

Since our last newsletter, we have been pressing ahead with reviews of Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses.

All syllabuses are being reviewed in consultation with schools as part of our continuous improvement programme – and any changes will be implemented for first examination in 2016. The consultations give teachers a chance to tell us what not to change, as well as making suggestions for enhancements.

For example, at the consultation meeting for science syllabuses, teachers asked for a change to the multiple-choice paper. Currently this paper only examines half of the course content, but teachers said they wanted it to examine the whole course. We are making this change, resulting in a more even assessment for all three sciences.

Jamie Russ, a teacher at St Albans School in Hertfordshire, attended our consultation for modern languages in March 2013. He said: “I wanted to get involved as Cambridge Pre-U is a qualification that I believe in. My experiences of teaching the course have been very positive.”

He found the meeting very useful, commenting: “I was particularly interested to hear from colleagues who have entered lower and middle ability linguists for Cambridge Pre-U. I found this [discussion] reassuring.”

The meetings will be followed by consultations on the draft syllabuses. Do contact us if you would like to be involved – email info@cie.org.uk



Are you interested in examining?

We have a variety of opportunities for Cambridge teachers who want to join our examiner team. The roles are flexible – we will appoint you on a freelance basis and you can fit examining around your teaching commitments. One of the benefits of examining for Cambridge is that you join a community of similar professionals working around the world, helping you extend your network and enhance your teaching knowledge. We are looking for examiners for Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International AS and A Level and Cambridge Pre-U subjects. To find out more, go to www.cie.org.uk/makeyourmark

Schools turn to Cambridge Pre-U GPR in pursuit of 'college readiness'

Global Perspectives and Research (GPR) is now being taught in 16 countries, including the UK, USA, China, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and the Netherlands, as more schools worldwide seek courses that prepare students for university.

The GPR course, an extended project qualification, is a natural next step for many international schools already teaching our Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives. It gives learners experience of researching a global issue and constructing clear arguments in preparation for university study.

In the USA, 15 schools are piloting a version of our GPR course as part of a collaboration between ourselves and the College Board. The AP® | Cambridge Capstone Program and

Credential has been developed to help US high school students become 'college ready'.

It will be examined for the first time in June 2013.

New resource:

A Global Perspectives Short Course Example Candidate Responses booklet is

now available, showing real student answers alongside examiner commentary. Cambridge teachers can find it on Teacher Support at <http://teachers.cie.org.uk>



November re-sit series 2013

This year we are holding the first November series for re-sit purposes. Re-sits will be available for all Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, except Art and Design. Re-sits will not be available for Short Courses. To find out more about the re-sit series and the options available, contact us at info@cie.org.uk



Starting Cambridge Pre-U in September 2013?

If you are interested in teaching Cambridge Pre-U from September 2013, here are some ways you can find out more:

1 Come to our Learn More! seminar – London, 18 June 2013

This free seminar is for heads and directors of studies. It gives an overview of Cambridge Pre-U including syllabuses, assessment, curriculum support and university recognition, and offers a chance to meet teachers from schools already offering the qualification. To register, go to www.cie.org.uk/PreULearnMore

2 Register for INSET courses in September 2013

Our subject-specific training workshops are suitable for teachers who are considering Cambridge Pre-U, as well as those already teaching it. Register your interest at www.cie.org.uk/PreUTraining

3 Contact our subject experts

If you want to talk to a Cambridge Pre-U subject expert about a specific syllabus, email us at info@cie.org.uk or call 01223 553554.

4 Talk to a Cambridge Pre-U school

We can put you in touch with other schools. Contact us at info@cie.org.uk for help.

5 Arrange a school visit

If you'd like us to visit your school, email info@cie.org.uk or call 01223 553554 and ask for the UK Schools Development team.



Implementing the curriculum with Cambridge – new guide

Implementing the Curriculum with Cambridge is a new free guide to help school leaders design, implement and evaluate the use of Cambridge programmes in their curricula.

Many schools worldwide implement Cambridge programmes alongside the national curriculum – as in the UK – and so the guide draws on their experiences. It covers:

- Curriculum planning
- Developing the Cambridge learner attributes
- Designing a curriculum
- Leadership, curriculum, evaluation and building school capacity

You can download the guide at www.cie.org.uk/education

Making the move to linear qualifications?

We have produced a guide to help teachers plan and teach linear specifications, such as Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge Pre-U. If you are used to teaching modular courses, and are new to the linear approach, this guide is for you. Find *Making the Move to Linear Qualifications* at www.cie.org.uk/linearguide

Case study: Charterhouse, Surrey



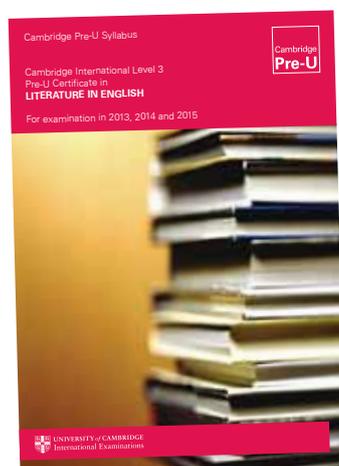
Charterhouse has been involved with Cambridge Pre-U since the beginning and offers Cambridge Pre-U in almost all subjects. We spoke to Matthew Armstrong, Assistant Headmaster (External Relations) to find out more about their experience.

Q. How did Charterhouse contribute to the development of Cambridge Pre-U?

A. Charterhouse's involvement with Cambridge Pre-U started at the very beginning of the qualification. We were among the schools expressing the view that a more attractive syllabus could be developed for examination at 18. When Cambridge International Examinations indicated its willingness to engage in this process, a number of teachers here became involved.

I was fortunate to be asked to chair the development committee for the Literature in English syllabus. Working with colleagues from other schools proved stimulating and exciting. I was expecting weeks of

debate, but what was striking was how quickly consensus was reached on what remains as the core structure of the course. We're delighted that it has proved to be among the most popular.



Matthew Armstrong chaired the Literature in English syllabus development committee.

Q. How does Cambridge Pre-U benefit your students?

A. Charterhouse does Cambridge Pre-U in almost all subjects, and it has had a hugely positive effect on students' intellectual development. Its linear structure has the huge merit of allowing understanding to be developed without the need for constant exam

preparation, meaning that a fuller understanding of the material can be developed. When the exams do come around, they provide an imaginative and interesting assessment of students' abilities.

Q. Have you found the marking consistent from year to year?

A. One of the great attractions of Cambridge Pre-U is the high quality of the marking. Examiners' ability to identify strengths and weaknesses and to create a credible rank order gives great confidence in the examination. This is of course particularly difficult in arts subjects, and something which we hugely value at Charterhouse.

“ One of the great attractions of Cambridge Pre-U is the high quality of the marking. ”

Q. How have you found the support from Cambridge?

A. The range of resources and advice available for schools beginning Cambridge Pre-U is extremely helpful. Training sessions have proved very useful, as has the facility for interim assessment, which enables schools to do a trial run to ensure that their standards match those of Cambridge International Examinations.

Most important, though, is the sense of dealing with an exam board which is actively interested in the views of its schools, and which is staffed by people who genuinely care about educational improvement.

Training and events



Learn More! Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge Pre-U

Are you considering offering Cambridge Pre-U and/or Cambridge IGCSE? If so, come along to our free half-day Learn More! seminars – one for Cambridge IGCSE and one for Cambridge Pre-U – in London on Tuesday 18 June 2013.

You can attend just one event, or both. They give school leaders an overview of each qualification, and offer an opportunity to hear from teachers at schools already offering these qualifications.

Register at www.cie.org.uk/PreULearnMore

Cambridge Pre-U INSET – September 2013

We will be holding training for Cambridge Pre-U subjects in September 2013. These courses are for teachers who are teaching Cambridge Pre-U, or considering teaching it. Keep an eye on our training calendar for more details – go to www.cie.org.uk/events. We will list the INSET events in the calendar soon with details of how to book, or you can register your interest now at www.cie.org.uk/PreUTraining

Cambridge Schools Conference

If you are interested in international education, join us at this year's Cambridge Schools Conference in Singapore from Wednesday 16 to Thursday 17 October 2013. The theme is 'Educating today's learners for tomorrow's world'.

The conference gives you the chance to meet, and work alongside, Cambridge heads and teachers from schools worldwide. We are also offering optional training for Cambridge teachers on Friday 18 October 2013.

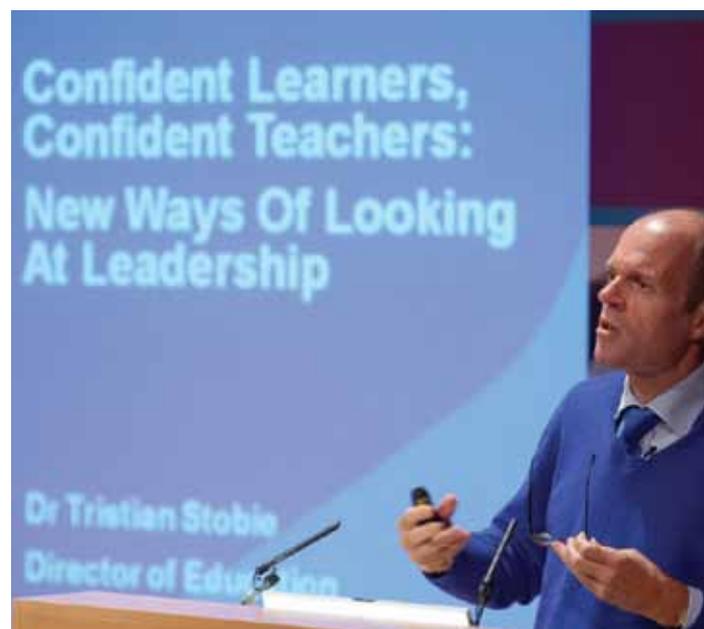
To find out more and book your place, go to www.cie.org.uk/events

Are you attending these events?

Come and talk to us about Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge Pre-U at the following events:

Date	Event
14 June 2013	EBEA (Economics, Business and Enterprise Association) Annual Conference
18 June 2013	Learn More! seminars for Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge Pre-U
24 June 2013	Sixth Form Colleges Association Summer Conference
28 June 2013	NATE (The National Association for the Teaching of English) Conference
5 July 2013	ATP (Association for the Teaching of Psychology) Conference
8 July 2013	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Maths and Science Conference
30 September 2013	HMC (The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) Annual Conference
October 2013	SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Humanities Conference

For the latest information about our events, go to www.cie.org.uk/events



Cambridge Schools Conference 2012



Meet our new Chief Executive

Michael O'Sullivan has been appointed Chief Executive of Cambridge International Examinations. He took over from Ann Puntis, who stepped down at the end of March 2013 after eight years at the helm.

Michael was previously Director of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and Cambridge Overseas Trust, and prior to that role he was Secretary General of the EU Chamber of Commerce in China. He spent most of his earlier career with the British Council.

Michael joins Cambridge International Examinations at an exciting time, with schools joining our network at a faster rate than ever before. He said: "Cambridge Pre-U has developed into a qualification that is respected and trusted by schools across the country. It is also well recognised by universities in the UK and other countries. This is a solid foundation for us to build on as we move into the fourth Cambridge Pre-U exam series. Cambridge Pre-U has shown itself to be a reliable qualification that has influenced post-16 education in the UK and helped prepare students, not just for university, but also for success in life beyond."



Learn more! Find us at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu, or contact us at info@cie.org.uk or on +44 (0)1223 553554. Find our stand at conferences, or attend one of our free INSET days.

What's available

Here's a list of subjects for examination in 2016. We offer Short Courses in some subjects. Find the syllabuses at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu

Mathematics
Further Mathematics

Literature in English

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

French
German
Italian
Mandarin Chinese
Russian
Spanish

Art History
Classical Greek
Comparative Government and Politics
Geography
History
Latin
Philosophy and Theology
Psychology

Business and Management
Economics

Art and Design
Drama and Theatre
Music

Global Perspectives and Research
(a two-year extended project qualification)

Please note: Classical Heritage and Sports Science have been withdrawn. The last examinations for these subjects will take place in 2015.

Follow us on Twitter!



For the latest news and educational debate follow us @cambridgepreu