

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in the UK and USA

With effect from the June 2003 examination Cambridge International Examinations will only accept entries in the UK and USA from students registered on courses at CIE registered Centres.

UK and USA private candidates will not be eligible to enter CIE examinations unless they are repatriating from outside the UK/USA and are part way through a course leading to a CIE examination. In that case a letter of support from the Principal of the school which they had attended is required. Other UK and USA private candidates should not embark on courses leading to a CIE examination after June 2003.

This regulation applies only to entry by private candidates in the UK and USA. Entry by private candidates through Centres in other countries is not affected.

Further details are available from Customer Services at Cambridge International Examinations.

GENERAL PAPER

GCE Advanced Subsidiary

Syllabus 8004

IMPORTANT NOTE

Candidates for the *General Paper* **MUST** enter as follows:

- (a) Candidates at **Caribbean** Centres must enter for **Subject 8004**;
- (b) Candidates in **Mauritius** must enter for **Subject 8009**
- (c) Candidates at **all other** Centres must enter for **either Subject 8001 or 8004**.

INTRODUCTION

The AS General Paper is multi-disciplinary, its subject matter drawn from across the curriculum. The syllabus encourages in candidates the ability to make cross-curricular links; to develop a maturity of thought appropriate to students at this level; and to achieve an understanding and usage of the English language which enables them to express arguments, ideas and opinions in a reflective and academic manner.

An awareness of the wider implications of particular issues will enhance the quality of the candidate's response to the questions set. However, the AS General Paper is not a test of general knowledge. The key objective must be for the candidate to convey information or opinion in a way that is thoughtful, perceptive and immediately intelligible to the reader.

AIMS

The aims of the AS General Paper are to:

- promote the skills of rational thought, persuasion, analysis, interpretation and evaluation;
- encourage candidates to explore and appraise social, cultural, economic, philosophical, scientific and technological issues;
- promote maturity of thought and clarity of expression;
- promote understanding and appreciation of individual, societal and cultural diversity;
- encourage independent, critical, reading.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The Assessment Objectives relate to the skills of
knowledge
understanding
analysis
application
communication
evaluation.

In order to meet the requirements of the AS General Paper, candidates will be expected to demonstrate:

- knowledge and understanding in relation to the topic areas identified in the syllabus;
- knowledge of methods and techniques appropriate to a specific task;
- the ability to identify, select and interpret, through reasoned consideration, material (including knowledge) appropriate to a specific task;
- the ability to apply knowledge, understanding and analysis in relation to a specific task (eg in drawing inferences, providing explanations, constructing and developing arguments, understanding the implications of a suggested course of action or conclusion, etc);
- the ability to exercise evaluation and discrimination in assessing evidence, ideas and opinions in order to formulate a supported conclusion;
- the ability to communicate information, ideas and opinions in a clear, concise, logical and appropriate manner.

GCE (AS) Subject 8004 (*June and November*)

One 2-hour question paper will be set. It is intended primarily to be a test of the extent to which the candidate has achieved a maturity of thought and expression appropriate to sixth-form students in their second year, rather than a test of general knowledge. Questions will be general in nature, demanding discussion and evaluation. Response should normally be in the region of 600 – 800 words. In awarding marks, Examiners will consider the ability of candidates (a) to use their specialised knowledge to answer questions on the broad aspects of school subjects, (b) to discuss general topics which are not directly related to school subjects, and (c) to use the English language.

The question paper will be divided into three sections with five questions in each. Candidates will be required to answer **one** question from each of **two** sections. Questions will not necessarily be set on every topic.

It is important to note that the topic areas listed below are cross-curricular and comprehensive, but teachers should be aware that they do not need to cover all the topic areas in teaching the course. Candidates are expected to be able to draw upon knowledge and understanding gained in relation to other subjects which they have studied. The possible areas for consideration (in italics below) are **suggestions only**. They are intended to provide assistance to teachers in devising and planning the course.

Section 1: Historical, social, economic, political and philosophical topics.

Possible areas for consideration:

the role of the individual in society - the family; marriage; peer pressure; minority groups; class; wealth;
the State and its institutions; freedom of speech, action, expression and creativity; matters of conscience; tolerance, etc;
the importance and impact of tourism on a country – implications for the economy, local industries, crafts, art etc; employment; cultural enhancement and/or dilution; language, etc;
public transport; environmental concerns;
sport, leisure; nationalism; international competition;
diet, health education, drug culture; population control; welfare provision; medical dilemmas;
role models; youth culture.

Section 2: Science, including its history, philosophy, general principles and applications; mathematical and geographical topics.

Possible areas for consideration:

old and new industries; the concept of progress in science; issues of research and ethics; information and communications technology; the Internet - uses and abuses, effects on communication, business, social life, language, culture; computers in the home; exploitation; political misuse; interactive media; costs; uses within education, research etc; feeding the global population; farming techniques for the twenty-first century; renewable energy resources; climate change; drug manufacture and provision; space travel - economic considerations, the space race, weaponry in space, mass communications/satellites, etc.

Section 3: Literature and language, arts and crafts.

Possible issues for consideration:

architecture; painting; literature; fashion; photography; sculpture; music; language; heritage; etc; traditional arts and crafts; national heritage/preservation; language; the global media - tv, radio, satellite; influence and controls; trends in IT; effects on lifestyle, culture and habits; censorship; privacy; the right to know: freedom of the press, etc.

MARK SCHEME**Use of English**

- Level 4** Paragraphs are used consistently and effectively and generally enhance the understanding of the text;
appropriate tone and fluency throughout;
few errors;
evidence of extensive vocabulary;
sound sentence structure and clear linkage.
- Level 3** Paragraphs are well arranged;
appropriate tone and fluency, some lapses possible;
occasionally errors detract from a clear understanding of the text;
vocabulary is wide ranging;
sentence structure possibly disjointed or lacking smooth linkage.
- Level 2** Paragraphs may be disorganised;
fluency may break down and tone could be variable;
expression mainly good enough for meaning to be clear, but mechanical errors present;
limited vocabulary;
sentence structure and linkage may be haphazard.
- Level 1** Lack of paragraphs possible;
extensive mechanical errors and poor vocabulary may make understanding difficult;
breakdown in sentence structure likely;
high frequency of all types of error, some sections may ramble and not make sense.

Content

- Level 5** A range of material which is relevant, interesting and thoughtfully presented;
clear evidence of perceptive/original thought and/or opinion;
coherent arguments demonstrating balance, sensitivity and awareness;
well illustrated, and wide ranging discussions are well structured.
- Level 4** A range of relevant material which shows some perception/originality;
a clear argument is offered which may not be fully developed;
an attempt at balance;
illustrations included, structure basically sound.
- Level 3** A range of material is presented which may include some irrelevance or digression;
solid information offered, perhaps lacking perception/originality;
an attempt to construct an argument;
some illustrations, the views expressed and the conclusion may be simplistic or lack balance.
- Level 2** A range of material which may lack depth or relevance;
no perception/originality of thought and few relevant illustrations;
a lack of coherent understanding;
an attempt to construct an argument and structure the essay may be evident.
- Level 1** An inadequate range of material which lacks perception/originality, illustration and relevance;
no obvious understanding;
poor structure, digression, and evidence of confusion.