

History Comparative Government & Politics

Syllabus outlines

Cambridge
Pre-U



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Excellence in education

Cambridge Pre-U is available in 28 subjects:

Art and Design	History
Art History	Italian
Biology	Latin
Business and Management	Literature in English
Chemistry	Mandarin Chinese
Classical Greek	Mathematics*
Classical Heritage	Music
Comparative Government and Politics	Philosophy and Theology
Drama and Theatre	Physics
Economics	Psychology
French*	Russian*
Further Mathematics*	Spanish*
Geography	Sports Science
German*	
Global Perspectives and Research	

**a one-year certified Short Course is also available.*

Feedback from schools



- 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 overview

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16–19 year olds who want to go to university. It equips students with the knowledge and 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

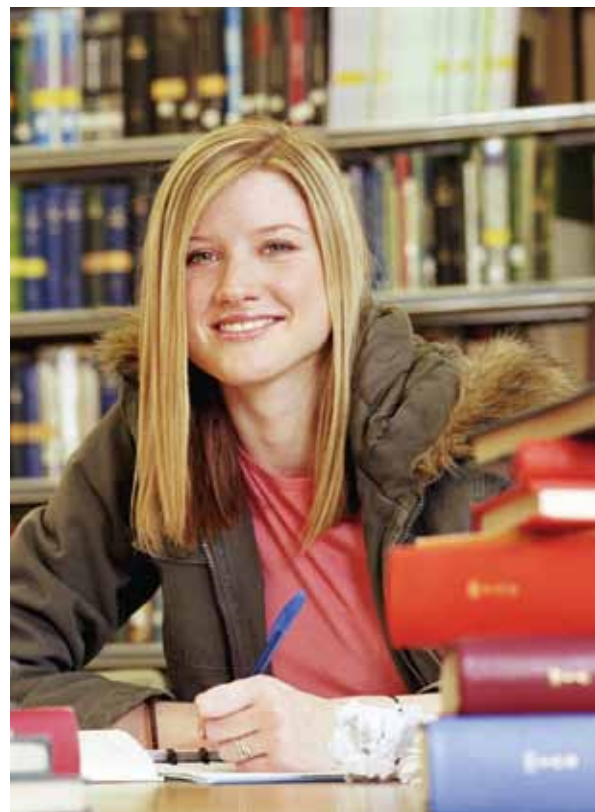
Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and Short Courses are stand-alone qualifications, recognised by universities and attracting a rewarding UCAS tariff. They are compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

For Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, students take all examination components at the end of a two-year programme of study, and we assess them at the full Cambridge Pre-U standard.

For Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses, students take all examination components at the end of a one-year programme of study. A Short Course grade does not contribute to a Principal Subject result. In this sense, a distinctive feature of Cambridge Pre-U is linearity.

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.



Cambridge Pre-U History

In a rapidly changing world, studying history gives students the opportunity to develop an understanding of the complexity of human societies. The Cambridge Pre-U History course requires students to study different areas and substantial periods of history, identifying patterns in, and connections between, apparently contrasting events and developments. It is designed to be stimulating, enjoyable and engaging.

Curriculum

Cambridge Pre-U History encourages students to use independent study skills, to read widely, write fluently, and to develop the capacity to formulate and justify their own ideas about the past. It includes source-based studies to develop students' skills in interpreting and evaluating evidence. The course is intended to give freedom to choose aspects of historical study but also to ensure that all students are given an opportunity to put their study into wider historical context.

Syllabus

The History Outlines Papers encourage students to study chosen themes within a wider historical context. A wide choice is offered and students are not expected to study all the topics.

Paper 1

British History Outlines c.300–2000

British History, c.300–1547
British History, 1399–1815
British History, 1689–2000

Paper 2

European History Outlines c.300–2000

European History,
c.300–c.1516
European History,
c.1378–c.1815
European History
c.1715–2000

Paper 3

United States History Outlines c.1750–2000

Paper 4

Asian and African History Outlines c.1750–2000

Paper 5

Special subject

This will require students to answer one source-based and one essay question. Students will be expected to study only one subject from this list:

The Norman Conquest, 1051–1087
The Crusades, 1095–1192
The Reign of Henry VIII, 1509–1547
Reformation Europe, 1516–1559
The Reign of Charles I, 1625–1649
The French Revolution, 1774–1794
The Origins and Cause of the American Civil War, c.1820–1861
Gladstone and Disraeli, 1867–1886
The Campaign for Female Suffrage, c.1880–1928

Russia in Revolution, 1905–1924
Winston Churchill, 1914–1946
Germany, 1919–1945
China under Mao Zedong, 1949–1976
The Civil Rights Movement in the USA, 1954–1980

Paper 6

Personal investigation

Students write an extended essay of approximately 3,500–4,000 words on a topic of their choosing approved in advance by University of Cambridge International Examinations.

Scheme of assessment

For the Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject qualification in History, students take two components from Papers 1 to 4 (they must be from a different country or region) plus Papers 5 and 6 at the end of the course in the same examination session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
Paper 1a	British History Outlines c. 300–1547	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 1b	British History Outlines 1399–1815	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 1c	British History Outlines 1689–2000	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 2a	European History Outlines c. 300–1516	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 2b	European History Outlines c. 1378–1815	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 2c	European History Outlines c. 1715–2000	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 3	US History Outlines c. 1750–2000	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 4	African and Asian History Outlines c. 1750–2000	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 5	Special subject	2 hours	25%	Written document-based and essay paper, externally set and marked
Paper 6	Personal investigation	–	25%	Externally marked long essay

“ I think that the key advantage of Cambridge Pre-U courses is that they generate and sustain enthusiasm among students and staff alike. We get a panoramic vision rather than the view down a mineshaft, and there is real variety and flexibility in how teachers can approach the challenges involved. Zest and joy of learning is really possible. ”
Matthew Hayward, Head of History, Leweston School

Cambridge Pre-U Comparative Government and Politics

Cambridge Pre-U Comparative Government and Politics develops an enthusiasm for politics and the nature, traditions and philosophy of political thought and practice. Students will learn to communicate both orally and in writing; articulate informed opinions about government and politics; and debate the issues.

Curriculum

Studying Cambridge Pre-U Comparative Government and Politics involves:

- Understanding the processes by which power is deployed and the outcomes that its application achieves
- Analysing structures and issues in governance, and understanding the complex nature of the relationships within and between political institutions
- Appreciating the ideals of liberal representative democracy that have shaped much of the modern world, and the practical forms that it can take in contemporary societies
- Identifying the principles and philosophies motivating major political movements and examining how these influence the policies and programmes of contemporary politicians and parties
- Recognising the diversity of different contemporary political systems and ideas, and making meaningful comparisons between them in a regional and global context

Syllabus

Paper 1: Concepts and institutions

This paper aims to develop an advanced understanding of recent and contemporary governance in context. Students may answer on the UK or the USA or both.

Section A: UK concepts and institutions

Core concepts: sovereignty, consent, constitution, democracy, representative government.

Section B: US concepts and institutions

Core concepts: the separation of powers, federalism, consent, constitution, democracy, government.

Paper 2: Parties and ideas

This paper aims to develop an advanced understanding of recent and contemporary party politics in context. Students may answer on the UK or the USA or both.

Section A: Parties and ideas in the UK

Core concepts: democracy, representation, liberalism, conservatism, socialism/social democracy/'The Third Way', nationalism.

Section B: Parties and ideas in the US

Core concepts: democracy, representation, liberalism, conservatism, 'Americanism: pluralism and the small state'.

Paper 3: Ideologies and philosophies

This paper extends work undertaken in Papers 1 and 2, exploring political thinking about theories of power and legitimacy, political systems, the role of the state, the purposes and responsibilities of government, the rights and responsibilities of the individual.

Options: liberalism and the individual, conservatism and the nation, socialism and the common good, democracy and its critics, current ideological debates.

Paper 4: Contemporary international debates: contexts and comparisons

This thematic paper studies important issues in contemporary international politics, in a comparative context drawn from various countries/regions of the world:

1. Governance: issues in how states govern themselves.

Concepts: constitutions, legitimacy, separation of powers, citizens, civil liberties/human rights/minority rights, failed states.

2. Independence and inter-dependence: issues in how states interact

Concepts: sovereignty, nations, separatism, subsidiarity, intranationalism, internationalism, supranationalism, peacekeeping/peacebuilding/

peace enforcement, interventionism, 'rogue states', 'war on terror', regime change, state building, neo-colonialism, geopolitics.

3. Global issues that affect states and individuals

Concepts: civil liberties/human rights, political socialisation, sustainable development and sustainable societies, global commons, north-south divide.

Scheme of assessment

For the Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject qualification in Comparative Government and Politics students take all four components in the same session together at the end of the course.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
Paper 1	Concepts and institutions (UK and/or USA)	1 hour 30 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 2	Parties and ideas (UK and/or USA)	1 hour 30 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 3	Ideologies and philosophies	2 hours	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 4	Contemporary international debates: contexts and comparisons	1 hour 40 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked

“ Students really seem to think that Cambridge Pre-U makes a difference, not only in their enjoyment of learning but also their ability to think, their ability to write – it has long-lasting results. ”
Olivia Windle, Head of History and Politics, Walthamstow Hall

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 Cambridge Pre-U standard).

Universities which normally ask for three A grades at A Level typically make 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 UCAS tariff	Equivalent A Level UCAS tariff	Short Course UCAS tariff
Distinction	D1	tbc	n/a	tbc
	D2	145	(A*) 140	tbc
	D3	130	(A) 120	60
Merit	M1	115		53
	M2	101	(B) 100	46
	M3	87		39
Pass	P1	73		32
	P2	59		26
	P3	46	(E) 40	20

Cambridge Pre-U is recognised by all UK universities and many universities abroad, including all US Ivy League universities. For more details, please go to www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition.

Support and resources for teachers

We offer a programme of free Cambridge Pre-U INSET training for teachers accompanied by online support materials including syllabuses, specimen/past papers, mark schemes and example candidate responses.

A free Teacher Guide expands on each syllabus, to help teachers understand what students are expected to know.

It is written by a teacher for teachers and suggests for each topic:

- a checklist of what to cover with students
- resources, both paper and web based
- additional extension/'stretch and challenge' areas
- further teaching and learning opportunities.

Learn more! For more information on Cambridge Pre-U visit www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu or contact Customer Services on +44 (0)1223 553554 or email international@cie.org.uk

