www.XtremePapers.com

Cambr
Pre-U

Modern Foreign Languages

Syllabus outlines

For examination from 2012–2015

French
German
Italian
Mandarin Chinese
Russian
Spanish

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations
Excellence in education

Cambridge Pre-U is available in 28 subjects:

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

**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

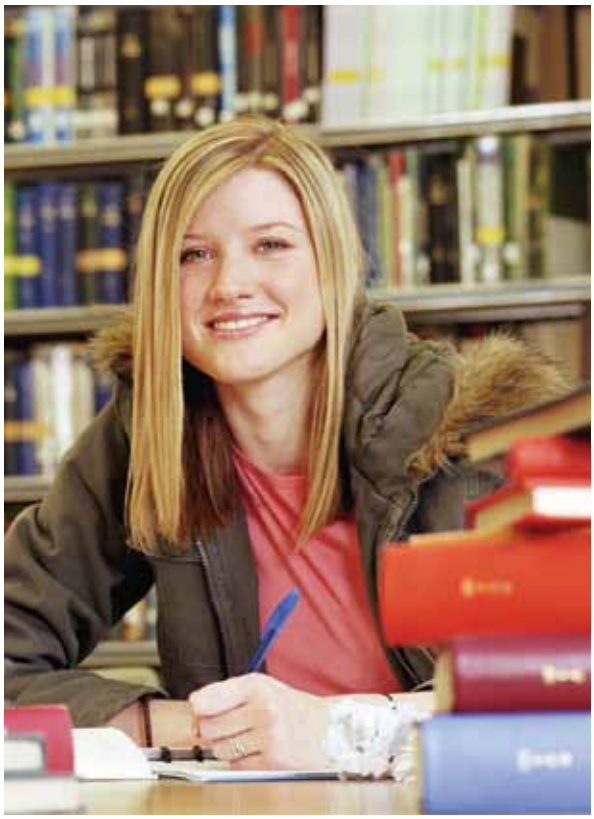
Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and Short Courses are stand-alone qualifications, recognised by universities and attracting a rewarding UCAS tariff. They are compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

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 Principal Subject

French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish

Cambridge Pre-U offers a fresh and rewarding approach to teaching and learning modern foreign languages. It offers students engaging courses that will allow them to develop their confidence and acquisition of a language, and prepare them well for university.

The syllabuses move away from an emphasis on classroom language towards an immersion in authentic language and culture – from the news media, radio, television, or internet.

The linear structure gives teachers time to focus on exploring new topics and developing understanding of usage and grammar. It also gives students time to mature gradually as linguists, uninterrupted by the requirements for modular exams.

Curriculum

Cambridge Pre-U Modern Foreign Languages syllabuses aim to:

- Develop students' ability to understand the language in a variety of registers
- Enable students to communicate confidently and clearly in the target language
- Form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- Develop insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken
- Encourage positive attitudes to language learning and a sympathetic approach to other cultures
- Further intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills

Cambridge Pre-U encourages students to learn in context through a personal engagement with the culture by means of authentic press, radio and television. All textual material used in the examination is 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.

Scheme of assessment

Students take all four components at the end of the course in the same examination session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
1	Speaking	16 mins	25%	Externally assessed oral
2	Reading and listening	2 hours 15 mins	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
3	Writing and usage	2 hours 15 mins	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
4	Topics and texts	2 hours 30 mins	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked

Description of components

Component 1

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

Part II: Students 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.

Component 2

Part I: Students 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. Students then translate from English into the target language a passage based on the material in the reading passages.

Part II: Students 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. Students then summarise the third passage in English using bullet points for guidance. Students have control of their own listening equipment.

Component 3

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

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

Component 4

Part I: Cultural topics: Students 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: Students prepare one literary text. They answer one essay question in English. This part of the examination will promote literary appreciation through detailed textual analysis.

Cambridge Pre-U Short Course

French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish

Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses allow students to broaden their learning beyond their major subject specialisms. They are one-year courses (180 guided learning hours), designed to follow GCSE or IGCSE.

Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses in languages are designed for students who want to continue with the study of languages in their first year in the sixth form, and offer an advanced qualification in languages as part of their application to university.

Scheme of assessment

Students take both components together at the end of the course in the same examination session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
1	Speaking	8–10 mins	25%	Externally assessed oral
2	Reading, listening and writing	2 hours 15 mins	75%	Externally set and marked written paper

Description of components	
Component 1 **Prepared topic discussion (8–10 minutes)** Students research a topic related to the history, current affairs or culture (including art, cinema, literature and traditions) of the areas of the world where the target language is spoken. They identify five to eight headings within their topic, and submit these to University of Cambridge International Examinations before the start of the examining period. In the examination, students are allowed to present their research for up to one minute (identifying interesting/contentious points in their topic, and reasons for choosing it) before discussion of the headings starts. Students can bring the headings into the examination to act as a prompt. They may also bring up to three pieces of visual material. Mark grids will assess knowledge as well as linguistic competence.	**Component 2** **Listening (45 minutes)** Several recordings with listening comprehension questions in the target language and English. Language accuracy will not be taken into account as long as it does not impede communication. Students hear the recordings three times with pauses between each section. **Reading (45 minutes)** Several passages with reading comprehension questions in the target language and English. Language accuracy will not be taken into account as long as it does not impede communication. **Guided writing (45 minutes)** A guided piece of writing of 220–250 words in the target language (Russian 150–180 words), based on the stimulus of a short reading passage and dealing with a contemporary topic of a general discursive nature. Language accuracy and linguistic range will be taken into account in the mark scheme.

Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese

Principal Subject and Short Course

Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese equips students learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language with the skills to cope confidently in a Chinese environment. It also provides a stepping stone for university courses in Chinese and Chinese Studies, allowing universities to offer successful Cambridge Pre-U candidates alternative courses to the prevailing *ab initio* classes.

As well as allowing students to develop their language skills, Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese fosters an awareness of Chinese culture and history.

Curriculum

As the majority of Chinese communities speak and understand Mandarin, both syllabuses only require knowledge of this language. The syllabuses aim to:

- Develop students' ability to understand Mandarin Chinese
- Enable students to communicate confidently and clearly in Mandarin Chinese
- Form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- Develop insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where Chinese is spoken
- Encourage positive attitudes to language learning and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- Further intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills

Scheme of assessment

For the Principal Subject, students take all four components together at the end of the course in the same examination session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
1	Speaking	c. 15 mins	20%	Externally assessed oral
2	Listening, reading and translation	2 hours 30 mins	30%	Externally set and marked written paper
3	Writing and usage	2 hours	25%	Externally set and marked written paper
4	Chinese culture	2 hours 30 mins	25%	Externally set and marked written paper

For the Short Course, students take both components together at the end of the course in the same examination session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
1	Speaking	c. 15 mins	40%	Internally assessed oral – externally moderated
2	Chinese culture	1 hour 15 mins	60%	Externally set and marked written paper

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**

University of Cambridge International Examinations
1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, United Kingdom
Tel: 011 44 1223 553 554 Fax: 011 44 1223 553 558
international@cie.org.uk www.cie.org.uk

© University of Cambridge International Examinations, June 2011

5918943587

PART OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT
GROUP