

Cambridge Pre-U Overview

Cambridge Pre-U equips students with the skills they need to make a success of their studies at university.

It focuses on:

- 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 Short Course is a stand alone qualification to be taken after one year of post-GCSE study, and it is intended for those candidates who may not wish to complete the two year Pre-U programme. It is certificated separately. The emphasis will be on effective communication, grammatical accuracy and basic awareness of societies where the target language is spoken.

Candidates are encouraged to engage personally in their learning and build up a portfolio of authentic articles, which could be obtained from a variety of free on-line sources, including mainstream newspapers as well as other publications.

In order to facilitate the learning process a number of topic areas have been identified, and all textual and listening material in the examination will be drawn from them. There is also a core grammar syllabus, but this will not be formally tested.

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.

Cambridge Pre-U Language Short Courses

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

Scheme of Assessment

Component	Name	Duration	Weighting (%)	Type of Assessment
Paper 1	Speaking	8 - 10 m	25	Externally assessed oral
	<p>Prepared topic discussion (8 - 10 minutes). Candidates 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 5 to 8 headings within their topic, and submit these to CIE before the start of the examining period. In the examination, candidates are allowed to present their research for up to 1 minute (identifying interesting/contentious points in their topic, and reasons for choosing it) before discussion of the headings starts. Candidates 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.</p>			
Paper 2	Reading, Listening and Writing	2 h 15 m	75	Externally set and marked written paper
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 			

Curriculum Content

Topic Areas

All textual material used in the examination will be drawn from the topic areas below, with reference to the country or countries where the language is spoken.

Human relationships

Family

Generation gap

Young people

The media

Food and drink

Law and order

Health and fitness

Work and leisure

Sport

Travel and tourism

Education

Technological innovation

Environment

Short Course Grammar

Nouns

Articles

Adjectives

Adverbs

Quantifiers/intensifiers

Pronouns

Verbs

Indirect speech

Inversion after speech

Prepositions

Conjunctions

Number, quantity and time

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