

# Syllabus Outline

## Cambridge Pre-U **MUSIC**

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Cambridge  
**Pre-U**

For examination in 2010, 2011, 2012



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

## 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 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.

The Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject in Music is a stand-alone qualification, with all components assessed at the full Cambridge Pre-U standard at the end of a two-year programme of study. There are no unit retakes. Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects are certificated separately. They are fully compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

## 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 Pre-U standard).

Universities which normally ask for three A grades at A Level might therefore consider 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 Tariff	Equivalent A Level Tariff
Distinction	1	tbc	n/a
	2	145	(A*) 140
	3	130	(A) 120
Merit	1	115	
	2	101	(B) 100
	3	87	
Pass	1	73	
	2	59	
	3	46	(E) 40

For more details, please go to [www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition).

## 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.

## 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 Music Scheme of Assessment

Four compulsory components. Examinations take place at the end of the two-year course and a single grade is awarded. Individual components cannot be retaken.

Paper 1. Listening, Analysis and Historical Study. Written paper, externally set and marked.

Paper 2. Performing. Performances marked by a visiting examiner.

Paper 3. Composing. Coursework + examination. Externally marked

Paper 4. Personal Study. Internally marked and externally moderated.

The syllabus embraces the creative, interpretative, historical and analytical aspects of the subject and tests candidates' interpretative, comparative and critical thinking skills.

The fourth component, Personal Study allows candidates to extend their skills through a challenging project of personal interest choosing between a dissertation, advanced recital, free composition or music technology project.

Cambridge Pre-U Music provides the basis for an informed and lasting love of music; a context for personal growth; a preparation for further study and an opportunity for candidates to develop a range of skills, knowledge and understanding in music. The syllabus embraces creative, interpretative, historical and analytical aspects of the subject.

## Description of Components

### Listening, Analysis and Historical Study

**Section A:** Candidates listen to two performances from Topic A (The Concerto in the late Baroque and Classical periods). They compare the performances and comment on performance practice issues.

**Section B:** Candidates listen to one extract from Topic B (B1 Instrumental or B2 Vocal Music in the Romantic period). They answer varied questions, e.g. writing down missing sections of melody, rhythmical figures or articulation; identifying chords, harmonic/cadential progressions, errors in the printed score. Further questions require comment on, for example, texture, instrumentation, phrase structure, form or style. Candidates are to relate the piece of music to the wider repertoire of the topic and comment on that relationship.

**Section C:** Candidates choose a topic for close study and analysis. This allows historical understanding to extend beyond the periods of Topic A and Topic B, either backwards to a Renaissance or earlier Baroque work, or forwards into the twentieth century. Two questions are set on each topic and candidates answer both. The first asks for specific analytical detail of the Prescribed Work, e.g. matters of harmony, texture, orchestration. The second is more general, relating the work to its cultural context, the composer's musical output or dealing with the repertoire of the topic as a whole.

**Section D:** Candidates choose one question from five. Candidates are invited to form connecting links between the topics studied in this component or any music studied for the examination as a whole.

### Performing

**Section A: Recital:** Candidates present a 20 minute recital (instrument or voice). They may perform as a soloist, an accompanist, in a duet or as a member of a small ensemble.

**Section B:** Extended performing. Candidates present one further skill in a programme lasting not longer than 10 minutes.

### Composing

**Section A: Stylistic exercises (examination):** Candidates complete one exercise in one genre. They may use a keyboard.

**Section B: Stylistic exercises (coursework):** Candidates submit five exercises in each of two genres

**Section C: Commissioned Composition (coursework):** Candidates submit one composition, based on a commission, which may be in any style of their choice.

### Personal Study (coursework)

Candidates extend their musical skills through a challenging project of personal interest: dissertation, advanced recital, a free composition or music technology project.

## 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](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu)

Specimen assessment materials are available from: [international@cie.org.uk](mailto:international@cie.org.uk)

