

Art History

Syllabus outline

For examination from 2012–2015

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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 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 Art History

Cambridge Pre-U Art History fosters a high level of visual and/or other forms of awareness and develops a critical understanding of works of art, placing them firmly in the context in which they are found.

The subject content is chronologically wide ranging, extending from the art of classical antiquity to that of the present day, covering a wide variety of media including painting, sculpture, architecture, printing, photography, installations, film and video art.



“ Students leaving the Cambridge Pre-U Art History exam – the thematic paper on the nude – told me they enjoyed it. I don’t think I’ve ever heard anyone talk about an exam like that before. ”
Matthew Hayward, Head of History, Leweston School

Syllabus

Paper 1: Analytical studies in Western and non-Western art

Students are expected to study the 48 works specified by the syllabus. The works are split into the following sections:

Painting

Sculpture

Architecture

Drawing, printing, photography, collage and film.

Paper 2: Historical topics

Topics range from classical antiquity to the present day. The syllabus gives a suggested bibliography and key texts where relevant for each topic. Each historical topic is designed to be taught over one term although teachers can be flexible in their ways of teaching.

Students study at least two of the following topics:

1. The art and architecture of classical antiquity
2. Art, religion and society in Romanesque Europe c. 1000–1200
3. A new heaven and new earth: Gothic art and architecture c. 1140–1540
4. Man, the measure of all things: the early Italian Renaissance 1400–1500
5. The Renaissance in Northern Europe 1420–1570
6. Faith triumphant: 17th century art and architecture

7. Defining the nation: art and architecture in Britain c. 1700–1860s
8. Art, society and politics in Europe c.1790–1900
9. The shock of the new: art and architecture in Europe and the United States in the 20th and 21st centuries

Paper 3: Thematic topics

Each thematic topic is broken down into themes, listed in the syllabus. The syllabus also gives suggested topic areas within each theme, which may help when creating a course.

Topic 1: Art and architecture in the city

Topic 2: Landscape

Topic 3: Portraiture

Topic 4: The nude

Topic 5: Still life

Paper 4: Personal investigation

The personal investigation of approximately 3000 words provides students with the opportunity to apply skills and knowledge acquired to a new issue, area or body of work of their own choosing. Students are free to choose their topic from within and beyond the Western tradition. Following submission of the essay, an examiner will visit the school to conduct a viva of not more than 20 minutes long with each student, consisting of a short presentation of the work followed by discussion with the examiner.

Scheme of assessment

Students take all components in the same session:

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
1	Analytical studies	1 hour 30 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
2	Historical topics	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
3	Thematic topics	2 hours 15 minutes	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
4	Personal investigation	n/a	25%	Independent investigation, externally marked with viva

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 student 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

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