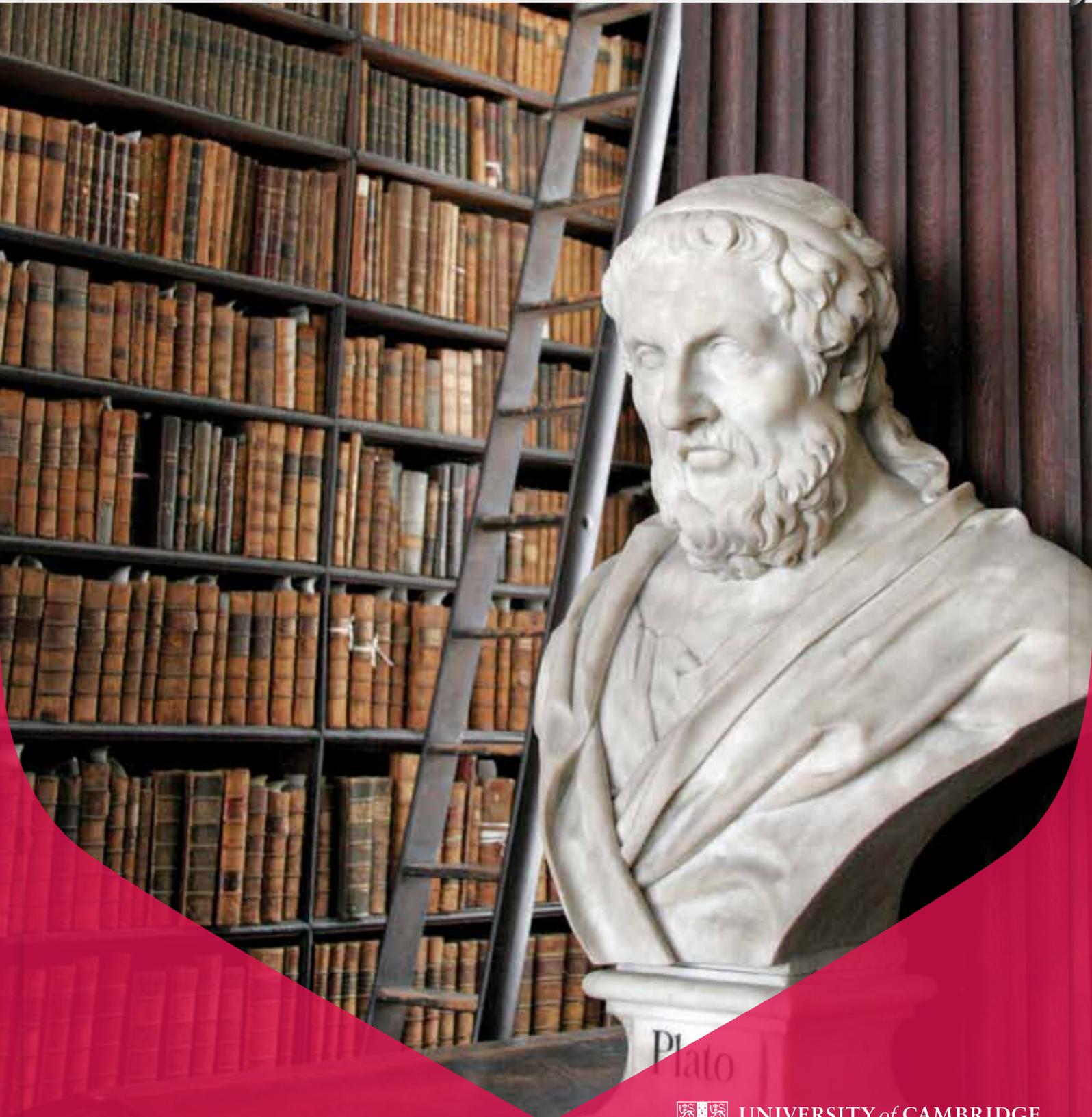


Philosophy and Theology

Syllabus outline

For examination from 2012–2015

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 Philosophy and Theology

Cambridge Pre-U Philosophy and Theology encourages students to think rigorously about fundamental questions of truth and human understanding. It also introduces students to the academic study of philosophy and theology.

Curriculum

Cambridge Pre-U Philosophy and Theology encourages students to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the issues arising from the relevant religious and philosophical themes and texts
- demonstrate the ability to identify, select and apply ideas and concepts through the use of examples and evidence from recognised sources of authority
- provide a systematic critical analysis of texts and theories they have studied, sustain a line of argument and justify a point of view
- where appropriate, refer to and evaluate different views, including those of different scholars and schools of thought
- demonstrate a synoptic approach to the areas studied and make links between them in their responses.

“ The primary difference between Cambridge Pre-U and other examinations is the independent study... When our students go to university in September they are going to be well prepared for undergraduate life. ”

Louise Mitchell, Philosophy and Belief teacher,
Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury



Syllabus

Paper 1: Introduction to philosophy and theology

Foundational debates in philosophy
 Foundational debates in epistemology
 Ethics
 The nature of belief
 Conscience, free will and determinism
 This paper covers compulsory content and is designed as an introduction to the key aspects of the course, covering a range of themes which are central to the study of both philosophy and theology.

Paper 2: Topics and key texts in philosophy and theology 1

Students answer one textual comment question and one essay question chosen from one of the following topics:

Epistemology

Scepticism
 The relationship between knowledge, belief and justification
 Knowledge of the external world: theories of perception

Philosophical and theological language

Language, meaning and truth
 Understanding ethical language
 Understanding of God

Philosophy of religion

Arguments for the existence of God
 Religious experience
 Religion, science, evil and life after death

New Testament: the four gospels

Historical, social and religious background
 Aspects of Jesus' teaching
 Passion, resurrection and the christological debate

Paper 3: Topics and key texts in philosophy and theology 2

Philosophy of mind

The mind–body problem and attempts to solve it
 Other solutions to the mind–body problem
 The problem of other minds; the problem of personal identity; the problem of consciousness

Ethics

Christian ethics
 Other ethical theories
 Applied ethics

Old Testament: prophecy

Historical background and development
 Prophetic phenomena
 The 'writing prophets' and their message

Key texts in Papers 2 and 3:

Epistemology: Hume – *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Berkeley – *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous in Opposition to Sceptics and Atheists*, Russell – *Problems of Philosophy*

Philosophical and theological language:

Mitchell – *The Philosophy of Religion*, Ayer – *Language, Truth and Logic*

Philosophy of religion: Polkinghorne – *Science and Creation: The Search for Understanding*, Hick – *Evil and the God of Love*

New Testament: the four gospels:

Mark, Matthew, Luke, John

Philosophy of mind: Parfit – *Reasons and Persons*, Searle – *Minds, Brains and Science*

Ethics: J S Mill – *Utilitarianism* (including *Essay on Bentham*), Sartre – *Existentialism and Humanism*

Old Testament: prophecy – 1 & 2 Kings, Second-Isaiah, Micah and Malachi, Jeremiah, The Book of Hosea, The Book of Amos

Scheme of assessment

Students take all three examination papers in the same session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
Paper 1	Introduction	2 hours 15 minutes	30%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 2	Topics and key texts 1	2 hours	35%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 3	Topics and key texts 2	2 hours	35%	Written examination, externally set and marked

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, plus online support materials including syllabuses, specimen/past papers, mark schemes and example student responses.

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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