

Cambridge Pre-U Syllabus

Cambridge International Level 3
PRE-U DIPLOMA

For examination in 2013, 2014 and 2015

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Diploma

**Cambridge International Level 3
Pre-U Diploma**

For examination in 2013, 2014 and 2015

QN 500/3815/1

Support

CIE provides comprehensive support for all its qualifications, including the Cambridge Pre-U. There are resources for teachers and candidates written by experts. CIE also endorses a range of materials from other publishers to give a choice of approach. More information on what is available for this particular syllabus can be found at **www.cie.org.uk**.

Syllabus updates

This syllabus is for teaching from 2011 and is valid for examination in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

If there are any changes to this syllabus, CIE will write to centres to inform them. This syllabus will also be published annually on the CIE website (**www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu**). The version of the syllabus on the website should always be considered as the definitive version.

Further copies of this, or any other, Cambridge Pre-U syllabus can be obtained by either downloading from our website **www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu**

or contacting:

Customer Services, University of Cambridge International Examinations,

1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU

Telephone: +44 (0)1223 553554

Fax: +44 (0)1223 553558

E-mail: **international@cie.org.uk**

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Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Diploma

Diploma

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Introduction

The Cambridge Pre-U Diploma aims to equip students with the skills required to make a success of their subsequent studies at university, involving not only a solid grounding in each specialist subject at an appropriate level, but also the ability to undertake independent and self-directed learning and to think laterally, critically and creatively.

The Cambridge Pre-U curriculum is underpinned by a core set of educational principles:

- A programme of study which supports the development of well-informed, open and independent-minded individuals capable of applying their skills to meet the demands of the world as they will find it and over which they may have influence.
- A curriculum which retains the integrity of subject specialisms and which can be efficiently, effectively and reliably assessed, graded and reported to meet the needs of universities.
- A curriculum which is designed to recognise a wide range of individual talents, interests and abilities and which provides the depth and rigour required for a university degree course.
- A curriculum which encourages the acquisition of specific skills and abilities, in particular the skills of problem solving, creativity, thinking critically, team working and effective communication.
- The encouragement of 'deep understanding' in learning – where that deep understanding is likely to involve higher order cognitive activities.
- The development of a perspective which equips young people to understand a range of different cultures and ideas and to respond successfully to the opportunity for international mobility.

Within the common Cambridge Pre-U criteria, each subject syllabus approaches its subject with a commitment to maintaining and enhancing its academic integrity, student interest and contemporary relevance. Syllabus teams have taken the opportunity to introduce new and cutting-edge topics which underscore their subjects' relevance. Assessments are not generic but are closely tied to the nature of the subject, with assessment methods and criteria selected on the basis of fitness for purpose for each individual subject.

In addition to the aims that run through and inform the Cambridge Pre-U subject syllabuses, the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma seeks to add value in terms of coherence, depth and breadth, through:

- Providing a platform for subject specialisation
- Allowing candidates choice to tailor programmes to meet their individual needs
- Encouraging focused personal exploration and increased depth of study through the Independent Research Report
- Expanding creative, critical and responsible awareness through the tackling of global issues in Global Perspectives.

Cambridge Pre-U offers the advantages of a Diploma structure while maximising permissiveness in allowing candidates to tailor their own programme to suit their interests, enthusiasms and expertise. Cambridge Pre-U raises the individualised learning agenda to a new level.

While the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma is rooted in subject specialism, through its two common core elements it develops the skills necessary to deal with the complex, connected and rapidly changing world in which candidates live, study and work. The Cambridge Pre-U Diploma harnesses academic rigour to a passion for problem-solving and engagement, grounding specialist knowledge in cross-border commonality and shared responsibility.

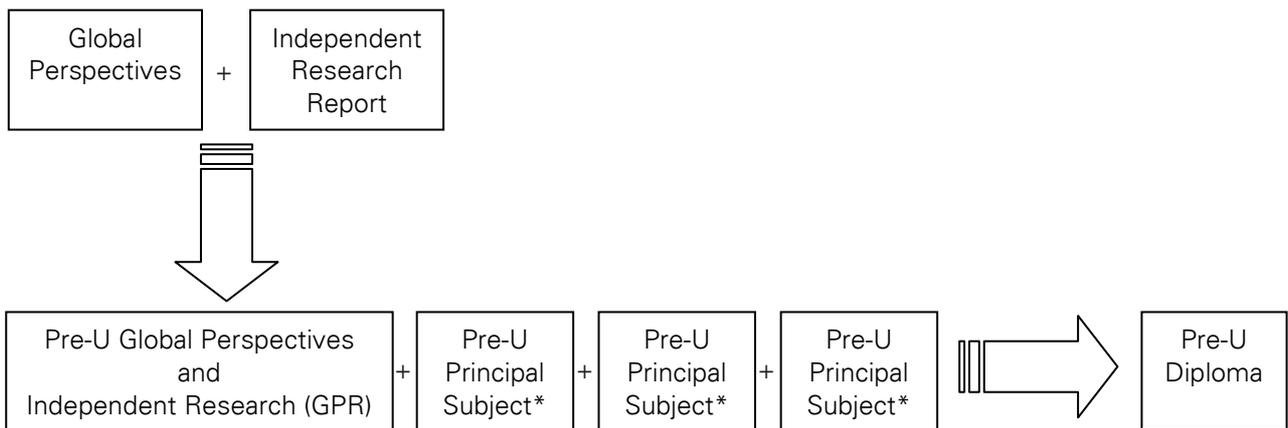
Within the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma structure, there are two common core elements that add value to a candidate's programme:

Global Perspectives places academic specialisation in a practical, real-world context, being a seminar-based opportunity to research and explore a range of issues challenging people across the globe. Developing critical/analytical, research, and problem-solving skills essential to higher education, students will learn to place their personal perspectives in a global context, finding new inspiration and challenges for their studies. Candidates will sit an examination, submit an essay and a presentation.

The **Independent Research Report** gives a candidate the chance to dig still deeper into a particular subject, or to cross boundaries by doing interdisciplinary work, or to make a new departure by investigating a subject not covered by traditional school syllabuses. Candidates submit a single report on their chosen theme.

The Cambridge Pre-U Diploma will constitute evidence that a candidate has specialised in at least three specified subjects, has shown the ability to research and communicate at depth in a chosen subject, and in addition has shown skills of thinking critically, reflection and empathy with regard to key contemporary issues and debates.

Diploma structure



* Up to two Pre-U Principal Subjects can be substituted by equivalent qualifications.

Diploma requirements

Candidates qualify for the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma if they achieve at least a Pass grade in:

- three Pre-U Principal Subject Certificates
- the Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report (GPR)

Candidates may take any combination of the following subjects to suit their interests, enthusiasms and expertise.

Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects		
Art and Design	Geography	Mathematics
Biology	German	Music
Business and Management	Greek	Philosophy and Theology
Chemistry	History	Physics
Classical Heritage	History of Art	Psychology
Comparative Government and Politics	Italian	Russian
Economics	Latin	Spanish
French	Literature in English	Sports Science
Further Mathematics	Mandarin Chinese	

Full syllabus details for each Principal Subject are available separately, and can be found on www.cie.org.uk.

There is no limit on the number of Principal Subjects a candidate may actually take; they will need to pass in three in order to be eligible for the Diploma award. All subjects are reported separately, so candidates will receive credit for the full extent of their academic programmes.

Short courses are available in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Mathematics and Mandarin Chinese. These are intended as one year courses, examined at the end of the programme of study. Short courses have syllabuses that are different from the Principal Subjects, and are intended to allow candidates to broaden their programmes beyond their major specialisms. A short course outcome cannot contribute to a Principal result or the Diploma.

Full syllabus details for the Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report (GPR) can be found on www.cie.org.uk.

Cambridge Pre-U assesses a candidate's knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of particular academic subjects. However, each of the Principal Subject syllabuses also promotes the development of generic study skills.

The Global Perspectives element of the Diploma assesses generic skills relating to thinking critically and enquiry.

The Independent Research Report assesses some generic study skills at a high level, while also giving credit for advanced subject (and where appropriate interdisciplinary) knowledge and understanding.

	Detail	Principal Subjects	Global Perspectives	Independent Research Report
Knowledge	Subject-specific	*		*
	Cross-curricular			*
Understanding	Subject-specific	*		*
	Cross-curricular		*	*
Skills	Subject-specific	*		
	Generic study skills	*	*	*
Reflection	Interdisciplinary		*	*
	Self-reflective		*	*
	Thinking critically		*	

Assessment, grading and aggregation of the Diploma

All Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject syllabuses are linear. A candidate taking a Principal Subject must take all the external examination components for that subject together at the end of the two-year course in one examination session.

A candidate taking Global Perspectives must take all the components for that subject in one session. The Independent Research Report can be taken in a different session to Global Perspectives but should be taken within 13 months to count towards the Diploma.

The Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificates in the Principal Subjects are qualifications in their own right. Each individual Principal Subject is graded separately on a scale of nine grades: D1 (Distinction 1), D2, D3, M1 (Merit 1), M2, M3, P1 (Pass 1), P2, P3. These grades are reported on a separate certificate to the Diploma itself.

Each element of the Diploma is awarded a score, as shown in the table below. These scores are then summed to create a single score for the Diploma as a whole.

Contribution of each element to the Diploma score		
Grade	Principal Subjects	Global Perspectives and Independent Research
D1	24	24
D2	22	22
D3	20	20
M1	18	18
M2	16	16
M3	14	14
P1	12	12
P2	10	10
P3	8	8

To pass the Diploma a candidate must achieve at least P3 in all their Principal Subjects and GPR i.e. a minimum of 32 points.

Within each Principal Subject, candidates wishing to improve their performance must retake all external assessments. They will not be allowed to resit individual syllabus components. As stated in the *CIE Handbook for Centres* (UK), coursework marks may be carried forward once within a 13 month period unless an individual syllabus states otherwise.

Using other qualifications within the Diploma

To allow for programmes that combine other qualifications with Cambridge Pre-U, candidates are permitted to substitute up to two Principal Subjects within the Diploma. Qualifications that can be used instead of Principal Subjects must be approved by the regulatory authorities for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Ofqual, DCELLS and CCEA) and may be drawn from:

- GCE A Level qualifications (excluding AS Awards and GCE General Studies)
- Scottish Advanced Higher qualifications
- IBO Level 3 Certificate Higher Level qualifications

The maximum UCAS tariff score for the qualification must also be at least 120 points.

A full list of qualifications that can be used instead of Principal Subjects can be found at **<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>**. Note that no substitutions will be permitted for Global Perspectives or the Independent Research Report.

The points score for qualifications imported into the Diploma will be established through equivalence in the UCAS tariff. Candidates importing a qualification that has a lower maximum UCAS tariff than the Pre-U Principal Subjects will not have access to the points equivalent of the highest Pre-U grades.

Additional information

Guided learning hours

It is anticipated that Global Perspectives will require approximately 200 hours of guided learning and the Independent Research Report will require approximately 120 hours. Principal Subjects require approximately 380 hours. This is a notional measure of the substance of the qualification. It includes an estimate of the time that might be allocated to direct teaching or instruction, together with other structured learning time such as directed assignments or supported individual study and practice. It excludes learner-initiated private study.

Certification title

This qualification is shown on a certificate as:

Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Diploma

The qualification is accredited at Level 3 of the UK National Qualifications Framework and provides a solid grounding for candidates to pursue a variety of progression pathways.

Achievement in Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research (GPR) will be reported on a separate certificate, along with the results of any Principal Subjects taken.

Classification code for UK Centres

In the UK, every syllabus is assigned to a national classification code that indicates the subject area to which it belongs. UK Centres should be aware that candidates who enter for more than one qualification with the same classification code will have only one grade (the highest) counted for the purpose of the School and College Performance Tables. Each Principal Subject within the Diploma, together with GPR, has been allocated a classification code (please see individual syllabuses for details)

Language

This syllabus and the associated assessment materials are available in English only.

Procedures and regulations

This syllabus complies with the *CIE Code of Practice* and *The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications 2004*.

Further information about the administration of Cambridge Pre-U qualifications can be found in the *CIE Handbook for Centres* (UK) available from CIE Publications or by contacting international@cie.org.uk.

Spiritual, moral, ethical, social, legislative, economic and cultural issues

The Diploma structure provides opportunities to investigate these issues within the Principal Subjects and Global Perspectives and Independent Research (GPR).

Global Perspectives

This element of the Diploma provides opportunities for candidates to develop their understanding of spiritual, moral, ethical, social, legislative, economic and cultural issues throughout the course.

Topics considered under the ethics theme offer opportunities for understanding of spiritual, moral and ethical issues to be developed.

Topics considered under the economics theme offer opportunities for understanding of economic issues to be developed.

Topics considered under the politics and culture theme offer opportunities for understanding of social, legislative, economic and cultural issues to be developed.

Independent Research Report

This element of the Diploma provides opportunities for candidates to develop their understanding of spiritual, moral, ethical, social, legislative, economic and cultural issues throughout the course. However, the extent to which understanding of any of these issues is developed is dependent entirely upon the subject and nature of the individual candidate's chosen research.

Sustainable development, environmental education, health and safety considerations, European dimension and international agreements

The Diploma structure provides opportunities to investigate these issues within the individual Principal Subjects and the core elements of the Diploma.

Global Perspectives

This element of the Diploma provides opportunities to consider aspects of environmental education within the economics, environment and technology themes.

There are opportunities in this syllabus to investigate local, national and international aspects throughout the course. Investigation of international dimensions is an integral part of the course.

Independent Research Report

This element of the Diploma provides opportunities to consider:

Environmental education (and/or) sustainable development
Health and safety considerations
European and international dimension

The extent of consideration of these areas will depend entirely upon the subject and nature of the individual candidate's chosen research.

CIE has developed this syllabus and the associated Principal Subjects in line with UK, European and International legislation and agreements.

Avoidance of bias

CIE has taken great care in the preparation of this syllabus and assessment materials to avoid bias of any kind.

Key Skills

The Cambridge International Pre-U Diploma provides opportunities for the development of the *Key Skills of Communication, Application of Number, Information Technology, Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance* and *Problem Solving* at Level 3. Opportunities exist within the various Principal Subjects as well as within the core components of the Diploma. However, the extent to which this evidence fulfils the Key Skills criteria at this level will be totally dependent on the style of teaching and learning adopted for each section and on the nature of the individual candidate's Independent Research Report.

The Key Skills awarding bodies and the regulatory authorities have produced a suite of example portfolios that will help to give candidates and practitioners a clear understanding of the requirements for the Key Skills portfolio. These are available on the QCDA website (www.qcda.org.uk/keyskills). Full details of the requirements for certification can be obtained from the awarding bodies that are approved to offer Key Skills. For further information about Key Skills assessment, please see the document *The Key Skills Qualifications Standards and Guidance* published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority 2004 (ISBN 1 85838 548 2).

The following table indicates where opportunities *may* exist for at least some coverage of the various Key Skills criteria at Level 3 for each of the core Diploma components.

	Communication	Application of Number	IT	Working with Others	Improving own Learning and Performance	Problem Solving
Global Perspectives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Independent Research Report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

University of Cambridge International Examinations
1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 1223 553554 Fax: +44 1223 553558
Email: international@cie.org.uk Website: www.cie.org.uk

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