



University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)

Factsheet

About CIE

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is one of the world's leading providers of educational qualifications and assessments.

CIE offers a range of school-based qualifications, including IGCSE, A and AS Level. CIE also has a variety of professional qualifications in the Cambridge International Diplomas suite. Every year millions of students are entered for CIE examinations in over 150 different countries.

CIE assessments are familiar to students all around the world. They cover a huge range of subject areas, from sciences, languages and humanities, to business, Information Technology, travel and tourism. CIE aims to create flexible syllabuses which can be tailored to local experience, resulting in an interesting course of study and a highly relevant qualification.

Why choose a Cambridge qualification?

Choosing a course of study is one of the most important and most difficult decisions. When you're selecting an assessment, there are some key considerations:

- Is the award recognised?
- Is the award from a reputable assessment provider?
- Is the award at the right level for me?

Recognised Awards

Of fundamental importance is the international recognition of the qualification you take – that it is accepted and valued by educational institutions and employers worldwide. Recognition on this scale is something that cannot be taken for granted, so CIE operates a continuous recognition programme to ensure that its qualifications are globally accepted.

Quality Assessment Provider

As part of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) CIE has been offering assessments overseas for over 150 years and has a reputation for high quality examinations. CIE constantly reviews its assessments and introduces new subject areas and qualifications. By working closely with the University of Cambridge, CIE is at the forefront of developments in e-education – using new technology in the delivery and assessment of examinations. The aim is to increase the speed and efficiency with which courses are administered, examinations taken and results delivered.

In addition, CIE actively supports its teachers through training and other initiatives, so that they can deliver Cambridge syllabuses to the best of their ability and help you, as a student, gain the best grades possible and achieve your goals.

Clear Assessment Levels

CIE makes it clear what level its assessments are available at, by plotting them on the Cambridge Qualifications Framework – an internationally accepted set of achievement levels. The framework has been developed in line with UK assessment standards.

How to find out more

For further information, please contact our US representative.

Sherry Reach
University of Cambridge International Examinations
E-mail: cieusrep@comcast.net
Phone: 850 230 4770
Mon-Fri, 9-5 CST

More information overleaf ▶



The Cambridge Continuum

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) offers a flexible continuum of qualifications suitable for students aged 14–18 in schools worldwide. Each step of this continuum – Checkpoint, IGCSE and A/AS Levels/AICE – is appropriate for either public or private middle and high schools. Downloadable syllabuses and sample examinations for subjects at each level of the Cambridge Continuum are available free of charge on the CIE website, www.cie.org.uk (click on 'Qualifications and Diplomas' on left side menu).

Checkpoint (Grades 6 – 8)

The continuum begins with Checkpoint diagnostic tests in English (reading, writing, and usage), Mathematics (number, algebra and space), and Sciences (biology, chemistry and physics), for students aged about 14. We suggest students take these at the end of eighth grade or the beginning of ninth grade.

The three-year Checkpoint curriculum frameworks (for middle schools) are based on international standards for each subject. The test feedback measures a student's performance in relation to the curriculum framework, the teaching group (class), the whole school and the entire international cohort. The results may be used to predict future performance in the same subject examinations at the next level of the Cambridge Continuum – IGCSE.

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (Grades 9 – 10)

IGCSE subject syllabuses and examinations are typically studied and taken by 15 and 16 year old students, or those in ninth and tenth grades. IGCSE was developed to meet the need for an internationally focused curriculum appropriate for a wide range of student ability.

IGCSE syllabuses are designed for two-year courses although in some countries they only last one year and there are no formal age regulations. IGCSE examinations are offered in over 50 subjects. To take account of students' differing ability levels, in most subjects there is a choice between core and extended level. Both levels emphasise the development of higher order thinking skills, oral skills, writing skills, problem solving, initiative, teamwork and investigative skills. Assessment includes oral and listening tests, projects, coursework, laboratory practicals, and written examinations which are taken at the end of the course in either the May/June or November/December examination session.

Several IGCSE subject examinations are recognised as Standards of Learning (SOL) examination substitutes by the Department of Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These examinations serve as a means of earning verified credits that are required for all Virginia students seeking a high school Standard or Advanced Diploma. IGCSE is used in many parts of the world as a curriculum leading to rigorous pre-university higher-level secondary curriculums such as the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), the North American Advanced Placement (AP) and the International Baccalaureate (IB).

Advanced Subsidiary Level, Advanced Level and the Advanced International Certificate of Education (Grades 11 – 12)

The final step in the Cambridge Continuum is the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced (A) Level syllabuses and examinations. These may lead to the award of an Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma. A and AS Levels are typically used in grades 11 and 12 in US high schools, but they are considered college level courses. All Florida public colleges and universities grant credit and over 150 universities throughout the US either recognise A and AS Levels for matriculation purposes or award college credit.

AICE continues to emphasise the development of the same skills as IGCSE, and also features a variety of assessment techniques. The routes available to the award of an AICE Diploma are extremely flexible and may be easily tailored to suit individual students' strengths and interests.

Although International A Level examinations have been offered worldwide for over 50 years, this academic continuum programme was first introduced in the US to students in 1995. Since that time, the programme has expanded to schools in six different states. Each school or district has adopted the parts of the continuum that are compatible with their own resources and goals for their students.

Studies have concluded that AICE is equally rigorous to the International Baccalaureate programme and that students graduating from an AICE programme of study have, on average, obtained a higher end of university freshman year GPA than those coming from other acceleration programmes.

