

Update for schools

Issue 5, 2012

International edition

UK government highlights IGCSE as a model qualification

Schools in the UK are being encouraged to consider IGCSE® as preparation for changes to the education system in England.

The education system in England for 14 to 16 year olds is facing a new future following UK government calls for reform. Early signs indicate a system that is international and linear – both features of Cambridge IGCSE.

Outlining the proposals in the House of Commons in September 2012, the UK Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, encouraged all schools “to consider how the IGCSE might be an appropriate preparation for the changes that we [the Government] hope to introduce.”

Many UK schools have already started the shift to Cambridge IGCSE. Growth in entries for our November 2012 series is unprecedented, and Cambridge IGCSE is now taught in more than 1000 UK schools.

“ We have found Cambridge IGCSE to be an excellent preparation for advanced level study. ”

Rob Johnson, Head of English, St Helen's School, UK

Schools worldwide have been teaching Cambridge IGCSE for 25 years. It is tried, tested and trusted – and we are committed to its future.

We will continue to offer Cambridge IGCSE as long as we, and the schools we work with internationally, find that it serves the best educational interests of young people.



At a glance – November 2012 series

- Worldwide Cambridge IGCSE entries up 19 per cent on last year.
- Most popular subjects: First Language English, Mathematics (without coursework), English as a Second Language, Biology, Literature (English).



Make your mark with Cambridge

Have you considered becoming a Cambridge examiner? We want to expand our team and are looking for Cambridge teachers to join us. The roles are flexible and offer a chance to join a global community of education experts. You will work for us from home, on a freelance basis, so you can fit marking around your existing work commitments. You do not need to be based in the UK to apply. Find out more at www.cie.org.uk/makeyourmark

New qualifications update

You can find all our Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses at www.cie.org.uk/igcse – or learn more by talking to our subject experts and other teachers in the discussion forums on Teacher Support at <http://teachers.cie.org.uk>

Cambridge IGCSE World Literature

First exam 2014 (pilot exams in 2012 and 2013)

Engaging learners with literature from different countries and cultures is the aim of this new qualification. Outside the set texts there is great potential for teachers to design the course around the interests of their learners. Assessment is made up of a coursework portfolio (50 per cent of the total marks) and two written papers on unseen and set texts. The coursework element includes a short recorded conversation with a teacher about a text.

What's new?

- Set texts for examination in 2014 include: *The Sound of Waves* by Yukio Mishima (translated from Japanese), *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen (translated from Norwegian) and *Antigone* by Jean Anouilh (translated from French).



Cambridge IGCSE Italian Foreign Language

First exam 2014

As well as developing core language skills, this course encourages learners to engage with the culture of Italian-speaking countries.

What's new?

- Ofqual, the exams regulator in England, has approved this qualification for teaching in state schools in England.

Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise

First examined 2012

This qualification brings the world of business into the classroom by asking learners to set up and run their own enterprise. The enterprise project and a portfolio of evidence is worth 50 per cent of the total marks. We have seen some creative ideas from students who enjoy taking a hands-on approach to learning.

What's new?

- Following feedback from our pilot schools, we've revised and streamlined the coursework tasks for examination in 2014.

There are new Cambridge International AS and A Level subjects too, including English Language (first examination in 2014) and Media Studies (first examination in 2015).

Check www.cie.org.uk/newquals for details.

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives

First examined 2010

A cross-curricular qualification that encourages learners to think critically about a range of global issues and develop their research skills. Global Perspectives creates opportunities for learners to work together in groups and with learners in Cambridge schools around the world.

What's new?

More teaching materials to help teachers deliver the course, including:

- A scheme of work – gives ideas and suggestions for planning and teaching, including learning activities and resources, and ideas for the group project.
- Lesson activities – we have developed a new online resource to help teachers plan lessons. The lesson activities are aimed at Cambridge Advanced Global Perspectives students, but can be adapted for younger learners. Take a look and tell us what you think.



You can access all these resources from the Global Perspectives pages on Teacher Support at <http://teachers.cie.org.uk>

Calling Global Perspectives teachers

We are developing an exciting online learning platform to support Cambridge Global Perspectives – and we need your help. We need a group of Global Perspectives teachers to help trial the site and give us feedback. If you are interested in joining the trial, please email info@cie.org.uk and put 'For the attention of eStrategy team' in the subject line.

More US schools join Cambridge IGCSE trial in its second year

Thirty US high schools will offer Cambridge IGCSE from September 2012 as part of a pilot programme designed to raise standards in education. It's almost double the number who started the pilot in 2011.



The 'Excellence for All' programme, developed by the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE), is designed to better prepare students for college and careers. As part of the initiative, schools enter students for externally assessed and certified examinations.

The Cambridge IGCSE English and mathematics syllabuses taught in the pilot schools are compatible with the Common Core State Standards – a set of standards designed to bring consistency to education across the US. Find out more about the programme at www.ncee.org

Want to check progress before Cambridge IGCSE?



Cambridge Checkpoint is a useful way of measuring learners' development before Cambridge IGCSE. The tests – available in English, mathematics and science – are typically taken at age 14 (the end of Cambridge Secondary 1 stage) and are marked by Cambridge.

Each learner receives a statement of achievement and a report showing areas of strength and weakness. Schools also receive detailed feedback on the performance of the whole year group, and are able to compare their results with those of similar learners in other schools around the world. The reports help schools give feedback to parents, and identify where learners need more support.

To find out more about Cambridge Checkpoint, go to www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecondary1

My experience of Cambridge IGCSE



Antonio Vagnerini is a former student at Liceo Luigi Galvani in Italy, a state school with a Cambridge IGCSE bilingual education programme. He took up a place at the University of Cambridge in October 2012.

Q: You studied Cambridge IGCSE in a bilingual programme. Tell us more.

A. I studied seven Cambridge IGCSE subjects over four years. The bilingual programme at Liceo Luigi Galvani allows students to cover the national and Cambridge IGCSE curriculum at the same time. The Cambridge IGCSE lessons are usually taught separately (from the national curriculum lessons) and led by an English mother tongue teacher. However, sometimes the subject content overlaps, and so an Italian and English teacher teach the lesson together – providing different viewpoints of the same topic.

Q. How did you benefit from Cambridge IGCSE?

A. Cambridge IGCSE gave me an opportunity to experience field trips and practical sessions, which go beyond the theoretical approach of the Italian national curriculum. I remember vividly the trips to Bell School (UK) as part of our Cambridge IGCSE Geography, Physics and Biology studies. We had several enjoyable lab sessions.

Q. How did Cambridge IGCSE prepare you for your next studies?

A. Cambridge IGCSE counts towards the final assessment of the Esame di Stato (the national exam in Italy). The Cambridge IGCSE programme contributed significantly to my revision for the national exam. I had to report all my Cambridge IGCSE qualifications when I applied to the University of Cambridge. I believe that my A* grades in Cambridge IGCSE Physics, Biology and Mathematics might have made a difference in my application.

Q. What are you studying now?

A. I am studying Natural Sciences (physics, biology of cells, chemistry and mathematics) at Homerton College, University of Cambridge. I am really excited at the idea of attending lectures and practicals in the world-renowned Cavendish Laboratory and having small group supervisions with prestigious professors.

Learn more about integrating Cambridge IGCSE into bilingual programmes at www.cie.org.uk/bilingual

Professional development for teachers

Cambridge IGCSE online courses – intermediate level

Tutor-led courses run from 21 January to 10 March 2013 for a wide range of Cambridge IGCSE subjects. The courses involve around 21 to 28 hours of participation, and are aimed at experienced teachers who want to develop new skills.

Teaching skills courses – online

Language Awareness in Teaching – 21 January to 11 March 2013

This new course helps teachers plan language support into lessons. It is primarily aimed at those teaching subjects (such as geography or science) through the medium of English to learners for whom English is a second or additional language.

Teaching and Assessing Skills in Mathematics – 21 January to 11 March 2013

For secondary school maths teachers who want to develop their skills and reflect on their practice alongside other teachers.

Teaching and Assessing Skills in Science – 21 January to 11 March 2013

For secondary school science teachers who want to develop their skills and reflect on their practice alongside other teachers.

For a full list of our online and face-to-face professional development training courses, and to register, go to www.cie.org.uk/events

Cambridge expands support in Asia Pacific



Schools in Asia Pacific can look forward to a wider range of Cambridge education events in the region next year. Our enhanced programme is in partnership with Cambridge Assessment Singapore, a new charitable educational organisation that we have set up with our parent body, Cambridge Assessment.

Cambridge Assessment Singapore

will contribute to the development of effective teaching and successful learning in the Asia Pacific region by providing high-quality education events and services for schools, policy makers and assessment professionals. For Cambridge schools, this includes professional development training and networking events.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, opened Cambridge Assessment Singapore officially on 9 November 2012. He is pictured above (right) with our Chief Executive, Ann Puntis and Regional Director Asia Pacific, Ben Schmidt (left). Find out more at www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/singapore

Link in to our global network



Join our LinkedIn group to make connections with Cambridge teachers and our wider education community. It's a good way to share experiences, tips and ideas – and complements our discussion forums on Teacher Support. Join the group at <http://linkd.in/cambridgeteacher>

Key numbers

Cambridge IGCSE is taken in over **140** countries

A choice of over **70** subjects

500 000 Cambridge IGCSE entries each year

Worldwide entries for Cambridge IGCSE in November 2012 up **19%** on November 2011

2013 marks **25** years of Cambridge IGCSE

Over **2900** schools worldwide now teach Cambridge IGCSE

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