



IGCSE

Factsheet

What is IGCSE?

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is one of the most recognised qualifications around the world. IGCSE courses are renowned for developing vital educational skills, including recall of knowledge, oral skills, problem solving, initiative, team work and investigative skills. The resulting qualification provides a foundation for higher level courses, such as A and AS Levels, the Advanced International Certificate of Education, the North American Advanced Placement programme and the International Baccalaureate.

IGCSE caters for different levels of ability with a choice between core and extended papers in many subjects. The core curriculum is based on an overview of the subject and is suitable for students expected to achieve grades C to G. The extended curriculum is more challenging and designed for students who are expected to achieve grades A* to C. Grades achieved through either route have the same value.

IGCSE offers a flexible course of study that gives candidates the freedom to choose subjects that are right for them, whilst providing them with a broad knowledge base and lifelong skills.

Where is IGCSE accepted and recognised?

IGCSE is a high profile qualification. It has exactly the same value in admitting students to institutes of further education and employment as the UK equivalent – GCSE.

- IGCSE is comparable with GCE O Level and the UK GCSE
- IGCSE has an excellent reputation amongst international schools worldwide
- IGCSEs are recognised as a reliable record of attainment which counts towards entry to universities and colleges around the world
- A good grade (i.e. C or above) in IGCSE English as a Second Language is accepted for entry by almost all universities in the UK and many in the USA, Canada and Australia as evidence of adequate competence in the English language.

Who can take IGCSE?

IGCSE is designed to be taught as a two year course for students aged 14 to 17 years. In some countries IGCSE courses last just one year and there are no formal age regulations.

In most subjects there is a choice between core and extended curricula, making IGCSE suitable for a wide range of abilities. Students can enter for the level that is most appropriate for them and this need not be the same across all subjects.

How is IGCSE taught?

At school, students are encouraged to study a wide range of subjects at IGCSE level, at the same time. In order to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, many students take courses from each of the IGCSE groups (see subjects listed overleaf), particularly if they're aiming to go on to further education. This can lead to the award of the International Certificate of Education – an additional qualification that recognises students who pass exams in seven or more subjects, including two languages and one subject from each of the other groups. However it is also possible to study a free choice of IGCSE subjects.

The syllabus is set by Cambridge, but the exact way it is taught will depend on your school or college.

The course differs for each subject, but throughout there will be a mix of assessment methods, including coursework, practical exercises, oral and listening tests, projects and written examinations.

Examination Information

IGCSE courses usually take two years to complete and exams are taken at the end of that period.

Examinations are held in June and November each year with results issued in August and February respectively.

Students must enter for IGCSE through a registered CIE Centre.

More information overleaf ▶



Subjects on offer

Languages* – First Language

Afrikaans	Japanese
Arabic	Korean
Chinese	Portuguese
Czech	Russian
Dutch	Spanish
English	Thai
French	Turkish
German	

Languages* – Second Language

Afrikaans	English
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Languages* – Foreign Language

Arabic	Japanese
Dutch	Malay
French	Mandarin Chinese
German	Portuguese
Greek	Spanish
Indonesian	

Mathematics

Mathematics	Mathematics - Additional
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Sciences

Agriculture	Physical Science
Biology	Physics
Chemistry	Science - Combined
Environmental Management	Sciences - Co-ordinated

* Local language qualifications are also available in many regions.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Development Studies	Latin
Economics	Literature (available in English and Spanish)
Environmental Management	Religious Studies
Geography	Sociology
History	

Business, Creative, Technical and Vocational

Accounting	Drama
Art and Design	Food and Nutrition
Business Studies	Information and Communication Technology
Child Development	Music
Computer Studies	Physical Education
Design and Technology	Travel and Tourism

New Subjects

Cambridge International Mathematics	Global Perspectives Twenty-First Century Science
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About CIE

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) qualifications are taken in over 150 different countries and are recognised by universities, education providers and employers across the globe. CIE offers a wide range of academic and professional qualifications for people of all ages and abilities.

