

# Cambridge AICE Diploma

A passport to success in education,  
university and work

Cambridge  
**AICE**



Revised for first award in June 2017



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

*Excellence in education*

The Cambridge approach supports schools to develop learners who are:

- **confident** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- **responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- **reflective** as learners, developing their ability to learn
- **innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
- **engaged** intellectually and socially, and ready to make a difference.



## About us

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the University of Cambridge. We prepare school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning.

Our international qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career. As a not-for-profit organisation, we devote our resources to delivering high-quality educational programmes that can unlock learners' potential.

# Welcome to the Cambridge AICE Diploma

The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma is an international curriculum and examination system that emphasises the value of broad and balanced study. It is part of our Cambridge Advanced stage, which is typically for learners aged 16 to 19 years who need advanced study for university.

Providing a structured approach to building skills critical to success in further education, the Cambridge AICE Diploma demands mastery of a variety of subjects from three different groups: Mathematics and Sciences, Languages, Arts and Humanities, plus a compulsory core subject, Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research. Learners can also gain credit from a fourth group: Interdisciplinary and skills-based subjects.

The Cambridge AICE Diploma was first awarded in 1997 and has since become popular with a range of schools in different parts of the world. It includes the 'gold standard' Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications, and offers students the opportunity to tailor their studies to

their individual interests, abilities and future plans within an international curriculum framework.

## Preparing students for higher education success

Alongside in-depth understanding of their subjects, students also need to master a broader range of skills critical for success in university study and employment. The Cambridge AICE Diploma emphasises essential skills, such as the ability to:

- think critically
- carry out independent research
- evaluate arguments
- work independently and in teams
- communicate clear and well-reasoned arguments
- understand global issues from multiple perspectives.



## What's changing about the Cambridge AICE Diploma?

To ensure the Diploma develops breadth as well as depth and to provide learners with a robust, rigorous and challenging programme, we are introducing some changes effective for first award from June 2017.

- Learners will have to achieve a minimum of seven credits, rather than six credits, to achieve the Diploma.
- A compulsory core of Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research is awarded one credit.
- Group 4 is now called 'Interdisciplinary and skills-based subjects'. A maximum of two credits from this group can count towards the Diploma.
- Cambridge International AS & A Level Thinking Skills and Cambridge International AS Level General Paper are only available in Group 4.
- Our new Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research (9239) will count towards the Diploma.
- Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives & Research (9766 and 9777) will not count towards the revised Diploma.

Please go to [www.cie.org.uk/aice](http://www.cie.org.uk/aice) for information about the structure for the current Cambridge AICE Diploma. November 2016 will be the last exam series for Cambridge AICE Diploma entries under the current award rules.

# Benefits of the Cambridge AICE Diploma

## International recognition

The Cambridge AICE Diploma is made up of individual Cambridge International AS & A Levels, which have widespread international standing as educational qualifications. This recognition is based on:

- their high profile among international schools around the world
- their reputation as rigorous and relevant programmes that encourage high academic standards
- their acceptance by universities and colleges around the world for admissions
- their acceptance as college credit by examination or advanced standing purposes by many universities in the US and Canada
- their comparability with UK AS & A Level examinations.



## Flexible, broad and balanced

By demanding knowledge from three different subject groups, plus the core compulsory subject, Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research, the Cambridge AICE Diploma provides a broad curriculum with a balance of maths and science, languages, arts and humanities, and skills-based subjects. It maintains flexibility and choice by allowing students to choose subjects at different levels.

Cambridge Global Perspectives®, the core or 'heart' of the Diploma, develops the skills of critical reasoning, research, teamwork and argumentative skills, which are so vital to further education and our working lives.

### For learners:

- Provides experiences recommended and valued by higher education institutions.
- Develops in-depth understanding of subject matter alongside skills critical to success, such as the ability to:
  - think critically
  - carry out independent research
  - evaluate arguments
  - work independently and in teams
  - communicate clear and well-reasoned arguments
  - understand global issues from multiple perspectives.
- The chance to stand out from the crowd with a Diploma made up of curricula valued by leading universities around the world.

### For schools:

- Offers a curriculum and assessment programme that ensures depth and breadth.
- The opportunity to take a fresh approach to teaching – using skills to deepen learners' understanding of content.
- A rigorous programme to challenge, stimulate and engage learners.

### For school administrators:

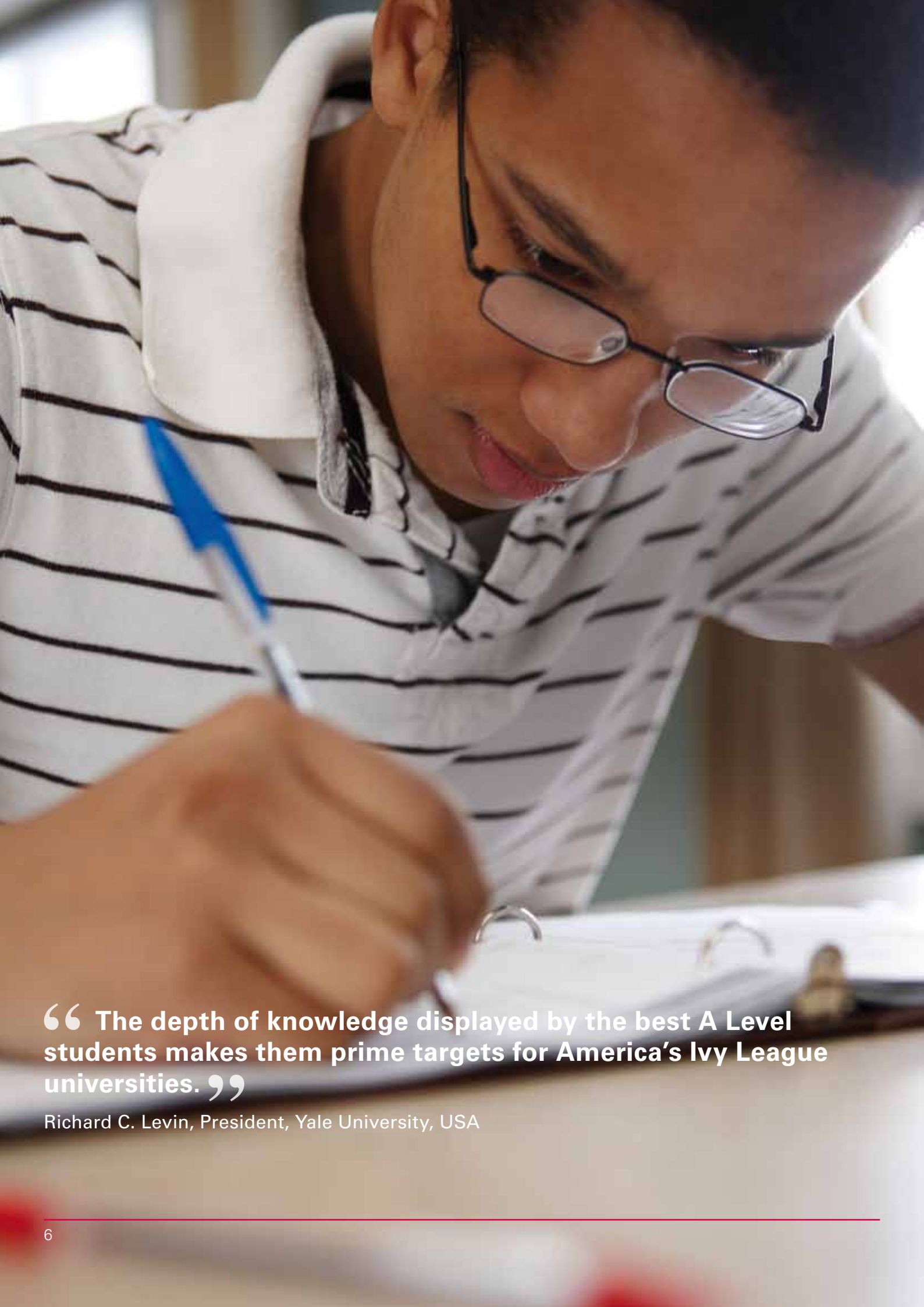
- Demonstrates an outstanding commitment to preparing learners for success at university and beyond.
- Provides access to forward-thinking and innovative approaches to cultivating higher-order skills.
- The opportunity to work with Cambridge International Examinations, a world leader in assessment and a department of the University of Cambridge, committed to developing learners who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged.

### For higher education:

- A Diploma to help identify the learners who are prepared with the skills and research experience sought out by higher education faculties.
- A Diploma designed to develop learners' in-depth understanding of subject matter alongside skills critical to success at university and post-graduation.

**“ We welcome students who have taken the new curriculum from Cambridge. Cambridge Global Perspectives puts an emphasis on a number of the skills that students need in order to be successful in their university education. We particularly value the independence of thought, critical thinking and research & inquiry skills that Global Perspectives develops. ”**

Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University, USA



**“ The depth of knowledge displayed by the best A Level students makes them prime targets for America’s Ivy League universities. ”**

Richard C. Levin, President, Yale University, USA

# The Cambridge AICE Diploma curriculum

The Cambridge AICE Diploma draws on the extensive range of Cambridge International AS & A Level subjects.

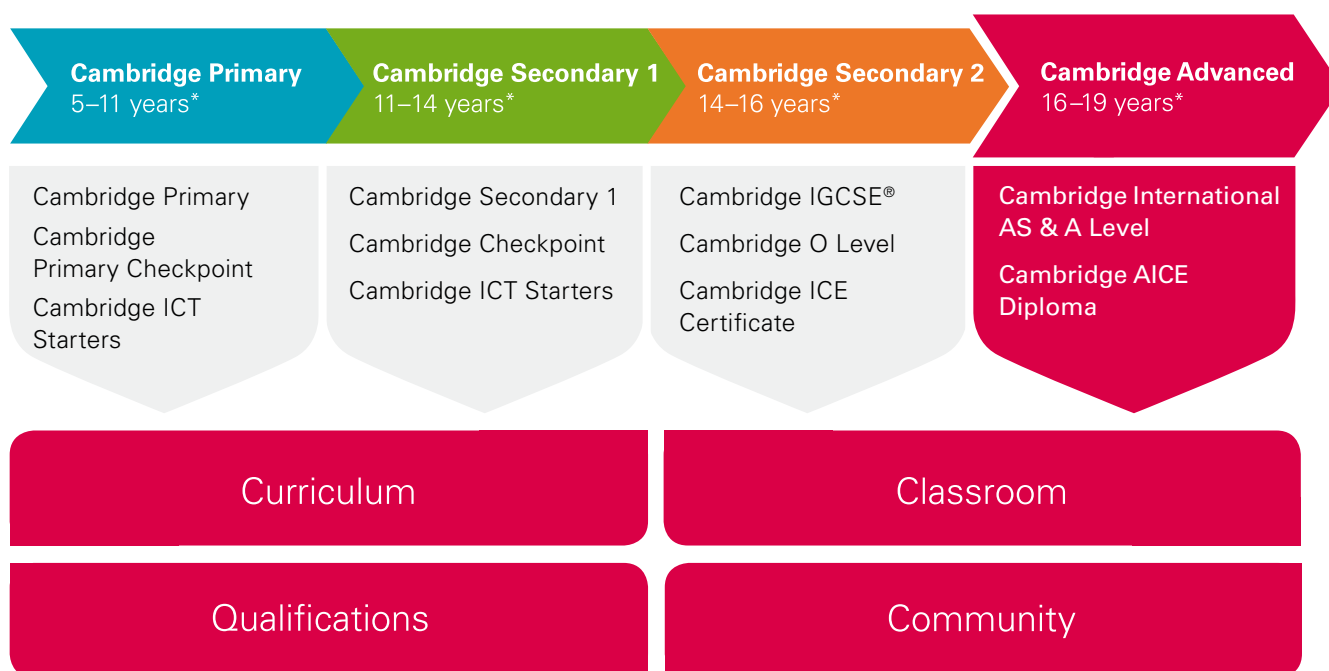
## Cambridge International AS & A Level

Cambridge International A Level has been offered by Cambridge International Examinations for over 50 years and is widely recognised for entry into higher education. Cambridge International A Levels are also important to employers as an indication of the quality of potential recruits into the workplace.

Cambridge International AS Level was introduced to provide greater flexibility through an optional staged assessment taken at the midpoint of a Cambridge International A Level programme (typically after one year). Cambridge International AS Level can also be taken as a qualification in its own right to complement other subjects being studied to increase breadth in the curriculum.

Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications are recognised by universities as being equivalent in value to UK AS & A Levels.

In countries such as the United States and Canada, good grades in carefully chosen Cambridge International A Level subjects can result in up to one year of university course credit.



*\*Age ranges are for guidance only*

# Cambridge Global Perspectives at the heart of the Diploma (first award in 2017)

To achieve the Diploma, all learners will need to study and pass the revised Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research (9239).

This skills-based course challenges learners to think critically, analyse evidence and compare perspectives. The learning is assessed through a team project and presentation as well as a written examination.

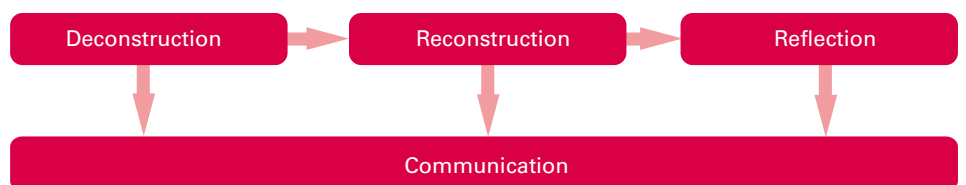
Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research is built around an innovative teaching and learning process called the critical path. This supports learners to think critically and objectively, leading to a deeper understanding of their chosen topic.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) praises the educational values of Cambridge Global Perspectives, saying that its values are similar to those of MIT, which are:

- deep understanding with depth and rigour
- problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, independent learning and effective communication
- promoting an international outlook and cross-cultural awareness.

## The critical path



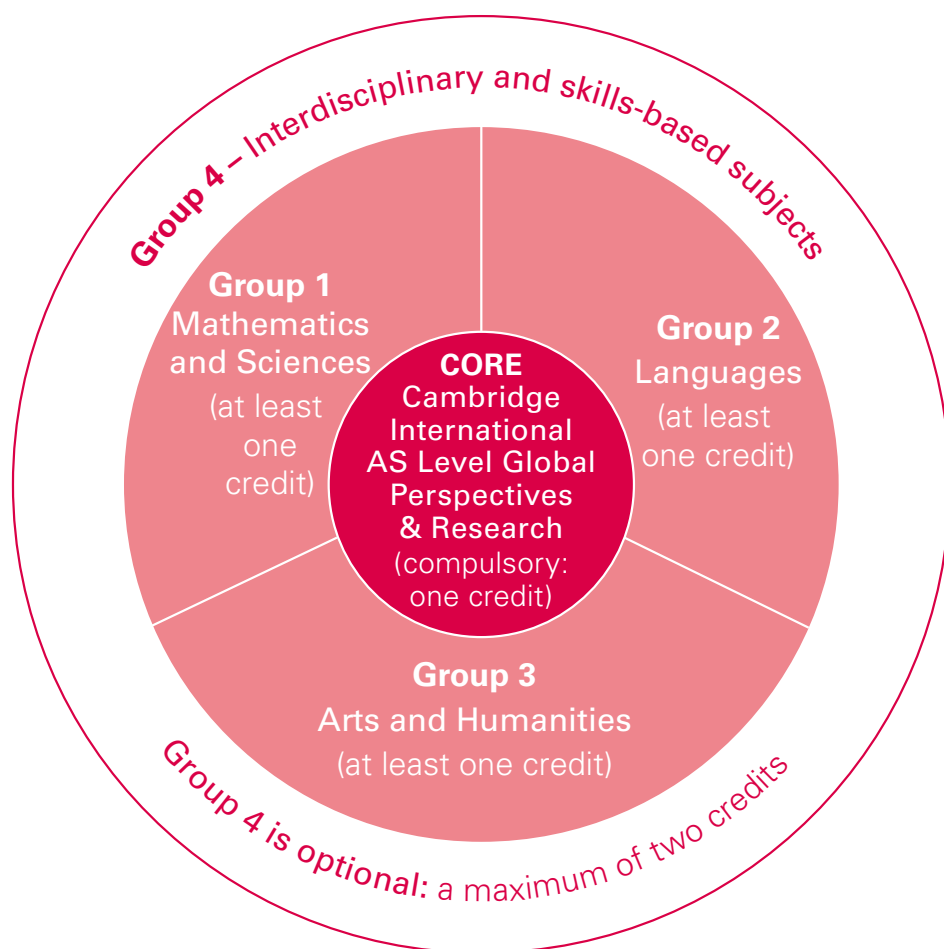
“ One of the things we find with students who have studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels is that they have a real depth of understanding of the subject matter that they have had classes in, and a real engagement with it. ”

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA



# Cambridge AICE Diploma credits

The Cambridge AICE Diploma offers breadth across the curriculum and depth in selected subjects.



**Total of seven credits required for Diploma**



Cambridge International AS Level = one credit



Cambridge International A Level = two credits

Learners can accumulate credits for the Diploma over a 25-month period.

Learners will now have to achieve a minimum of seven credits (including Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research) from subject groups 1, 2 and 3 (and optionally Group 4) to be awarded the Diploma. Learners must achieve at least one credit from each of Groups 1, 2 and 3.

The remaining credits can come from any of the groups. A maximum of two credits can count from Group 4. A Cambridge International AS Level is awarded one credit, and a Cambridge International A Level is awarded two credits. The following combinations of credits are valid for the Diploma:

A Levels (2 credits each)	AS Levels (1 credit each)	Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research (9239)	Total
3	0	1	7 credits
2	2	1	7 credits
1	4	1	7 credits
0	6	1	7 credits

# Cambridge AICE Diploma subject groups

Unless otherwise indicated, the subjects listed are available as one credit and two credit courses.

This is not a definitive list of subjects. For the full list, please visit our website at [www.cie.org.uk/aice](http://www.cie.org.uk/aice)

Group 1: Mathematics and Sciences	
Applied Information & Communication Technology	Further Mathematics (A Level two credits only)
Biology	Marine Science
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computing	Physical Education
Design & Technology	Physics
Environmental Management (AS Level one credit only)	Psychology

Group 2: Languages	
Arabic	Portuguese
Chinese Mandarin	Spanish
English Language	Spanish – First Language (AS Level one credit only)
French	Tamil
German	Urdu
Hindi	

**“ Students who have challenged themselves with a rigorous curriculum, developed strong critical thinking skills, and experienced interdisciplinary learning in a global context will be poised to make the most of their college experience. The Cambridge Global Perspectives & Research (GPR) curriculum provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop those skills. ”**

Higher Education Advisory Council, USA

<b>Group 3: Arts and Humanities</b>		
Accounting	French Literature (AS Level one credit only)	Literature in English
Art & Design	Geography	Music
Business Studies	Hindi Literature (AS Level one credit only)	Portuguese Literature (AS Level one credit only)
Classical Studies	Hinduism	Psychology
Design & Textiles	History	Sociology
Divinity	Islamic Studies	Spanish Literature (AS Level one credit only)
Economics	Language & Literature in English (AS Level one credit only)	Travel & Tourism
Food Studies (A Level two credits only)	Law	

<b>Group 4: Interdisciplinary and skills-based subjects (optional)</b>
General Paper (AS Level one credit only)
Global Perspectives & Research
Thinking Skills

<b>Core: Cambridge Global Perspectives (compulsory)</b>
Global Perspectives & Research (AS Level one credit only)



Because Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research is a compulsory core subject, we have changed Group 4 to become an optional Interdisciplinary and skills-based subjects group. Learners can use a maximum of two credits for subjects from this group towards the Diploma.

Learners who pass the Cambridge International AS & A Level in Global Perspectives & Research meet the compulsory requirement of the core and also have one credit from Group 4 to contribute to the overall requirement of seven credits.

As we have introduced a full Cambridge International A Level for Global Perspectives & Research, the Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives & Research (9766) qualification will not count towards the revised Diploma.

# Assessment

Cambridge International AS & A Level examination series occur twice a year, in June and November, with results issued in August and at the end of January respectively. In India only, we offer a March exam series with results issued in late May.

Cambridge International A Level uses a wide range of assessment processes and techniques to supplement formal written examinations – orals, practicals, projects and coursework of various types are all used in various subjects where they are the most effective and appropriate means of measuring attainment.

Cambridge International A Level subjects are graded from A\* to E. Cambridge International AS Level subjects are graded a to e. There is no A\* grade awarded at Cambridge International AS Level. The Cambridge AICE Diploma is awarded on a points system, so each grade is converted to a number of points as shown in the table below.

Grade A\* is awarded 140 points, however the maximum number of Cambridge AICE Diploma points is capped at 420.

Learners who meet the requirements of the group award will receive a Cambridge AICE Diploma at one of three levels: Pass, Merit or Distinction. The level awarded is based on the overall Cambridge AICE Diploma score.

**Cambridge AICE Diploma with Distinction:** awarded to students with a score of 360 points or above. The maximum Diploma score is 420 points.

**Cambridge AICE Diploma with Merit:** awarded to students with between 250 and 359 points.

**Cambridge AICE Diploma at Pass level:** awarded to students with between 140 and 249 points.

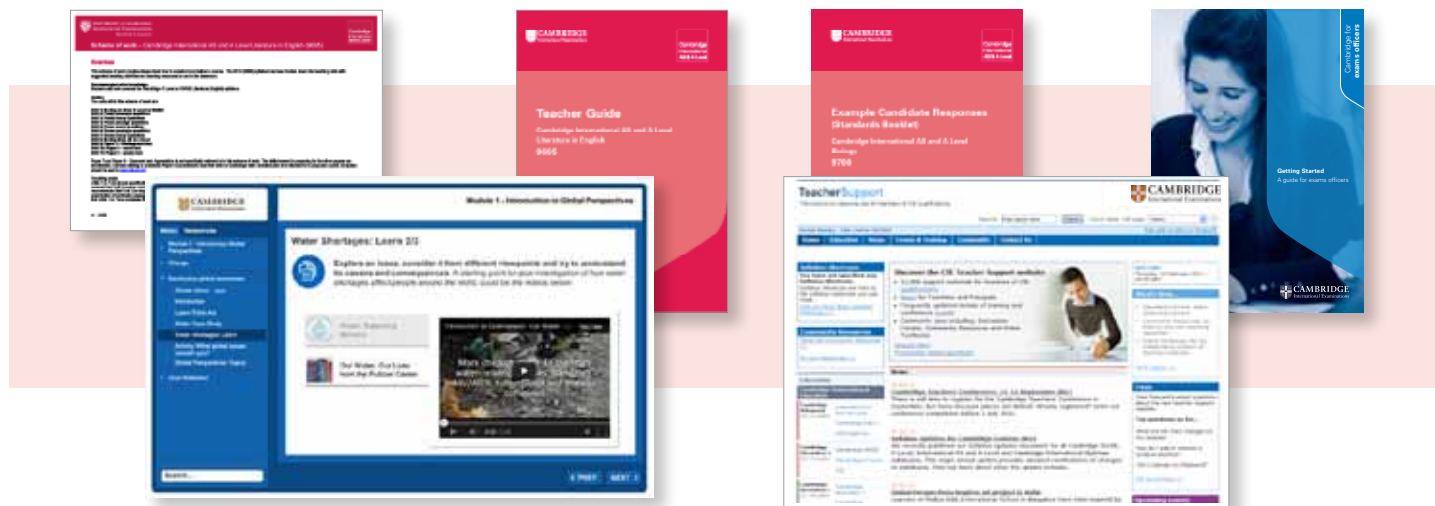
Learners who do not meet the requirements of the group award will receive certificates for their individual subjects.

Two credits study (A Levels)		One credit study (AS Levels)	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A*	140	–	–
A	120	A	60
B	100	B	50
C	80	C	40
D	60	D	30
E	40	E	20



# Support for the Cambridge AICE Diploma

Our ethos of excellence in education extends to support and services, to help you deliver engaging and effective courses, and develop as a professional.



## Teaching materials

We have a wealth of subject-based teaching and learning materials to help you plan and deliver the Cambridge AICE Diploma programme. They suit a wide range of teaching methods and different international contexts, and include:

- teaching schemes of work (unit lesson plans)
- textbooks and publisher resources
- example candidate responses (standards booklets)
- mapping documents to explain how the resources support learning
- exam preparation materials.

## Online learning area for students and teachers

Our learning area supports Cambridge Global Perspectives courses. Teachers can log into the area to access resources and course content. It also allows learners around the world to collaborate between schools, nations and cultures, helping to foster genuine global perspectives.

To create a teacher account for the learning area complete our form at [www.cie.org.uk/registergp](http://www.cie.org.uk/registergp)

## Teacher Support

We offer a secure Teacher Support site for Cambridge teachers. Here you will find all the materials you need to teach our syllabuses, including past question papers,

mark schemes, examiner reports and schemes of work. You can also talk to our subject experts and other Cambridge teachers in the discussion forums.

## Cambridge Professional Development

We hold regular training workshops for Cambridge International AS & A Level syllabuses, and online training is available for teachers to learn at their own pace. Training builds the knowledge and skills needed to help learners succeed with Cambridge. We also provide professional development qualifications and services for schools. They help develop teachers' thinking and practice.

## Administrative support

We are proud of our efficient administration of assessments, and aim to provide clear and concise information on all aspects of the examination process. On application for registration, you will receive a comprehensive handbook which covers all regulations for our schools, together with an administrative guide to all the processes involved in offering our examinations.

Once registered, you are well supported by comprehensive assistance from our Customer Services team, online training, our local representatives, our operational staff and our secure administration site, CIE Direct.



## Join the Cambridge community

Join our community and be part of a global network of more than 10 000 schools in over 160 countries.

When you become a Cambridge school, you join a worldwide education community. Our range of activities includes community events for Cambridge school leaders and heads of department, professional development events including our annual Cambridge Schools Conference, workshops with

Cambridge experts where you can learn at your own pace, and online 'Ask the Examiner' question and answer sessions. You have free and unlimited access to Teacher Support, our secure online support for Cambridge teachers where you can share resources and ideas, get access to Cambridge experts and explore

discussion forums. You can also use our LinkedIn group to network with Cambridge teachers.

Learners have access to online resources such as revision guides and sample questions. We also have a Facebook page where learners can take part in debate, with Cambridge and with each other.

**“ Cambridge gives clear guidelines and progressive objectives to help teachers optimise student learning at each stage. This makes coordination amongst staff members easier and the gap between stages no longer exists. ”**

Jean Gerardi, Teacher, St. Gregory's College, Argentina

# What next?

Assessments and services from Cambridge International Examinations are renowned for their quality and international recognition. Organisations that wish to offer any Cambridge award must formally register with us and become a Cambridge school.

## There are four steps to becoming a Cambridge school



### Step one: Express your interest

We aim to contact you within two working days of submitting your expression of interest.



### Step two: Complete our *Application Form*

We aim to contact you within five working days of submitting your *Application Form*.



### Step three: We carry out an approval visit

We will arrange a time that is convenient to you.



### Step four: You become a Cambridge school

If you are approved to become a Cambridge school we will send your contract letter within 30 working days of the approval visit.

You can find further information at [www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge](http://www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge)

## Start working with us

On completing the registration process, we will send you a *Welcome to Cambridge* pack. This contains a wide range of support materials to get you started.

## Classroom support

You will receive a range of excellent support for teachers and learners, to help deliver Cambridge education programmes and qualifications in every classroom.

## Implementing the Cambridge curriculum

We have produced a guide to help school leaders implement the curriculum with Cambridge. Find it at [www.cie.org.uk/curriculumguide](http://www.cie.org.uk/curriculumguide)

## Fees

We charge each school an annual programme fee, plus fees for each examination entry.

## Marketing support

To help you make the most of your association with Cambridge, we will provide your school with marketing materials as part of the *Welcome to Cambridge* pack. We will also give you access to Marketing Resources, a secure area of our website, where you can download posters, logos and factsheets to help you talk to parents about Cambridge.

## Administration support

You will be able to use CIE Direct, our online tool for exams officers, which allows you to communicate securely with us and exchange all administrative information, including exam entries and results, entry instruction booklets and other documentation.

You can always contact us if you need help, or simply have a question that's on your mind. We're pleased to say that our customer service is rated as the best in its class.

## Already a Cambridge school?



If you teach Cambridge International AS & A Level you can automatically offer the Cambridge AICE Diploma. If you don't, contact our Customer Services team at [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk)

## Learn more!

Getting in touch with Cambridge is easy:  
Email: [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) Call: +44 (0)1223 553554  
Visit: [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

**“ Cambridge provides students with the edge when it comes to university acceptance. It broadens skill sets, provides deeper knowledge and understanding, as well as critical thinking skills. ”**

Cambridge principal, South Africa

Cambridge International Examinations  
1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, United Kingdom  
t: +44 1223 553554 f: +44 1223 553558  
e: [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

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