

Classics

Syllabus outlines

For examination from 2012–2015

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Cambridge
Pre-U

Classical Greek
Latin
Classical Heritage



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Excellence in education

Cambridge Pre-U is available in 28 subjects:

Art and Design	History
Art History	Italian*
Biology	Latin
Business and Management	Literature in English
Chemistry	Mandarin Chinese*
Classical Greek	Mathematics*
Classical Heritage	Music
Comparative Government and Politics	Philosophy and Theology
Drama and Theatre	Physics
Economics	Psychology
French*	Russian*
Further Mathematics*	Spanish*
Geography	Sports Science
German*	
Global Perspectives and Research*	

**a Short Course is also available.*

Feedback from schools



- Increased focus and motivation in year 12 pupils
- Richer, more coherent educational experience
- Encourages wider reading
- More independent inquiry and learning
- Opportunity to develop and pursue own academic interests
- Greater scope for upper ability pupils to distinguish themselves
- More time and support available for lower ability pupils
- Greater maturity at examination time



Cambridge Pre-U overview

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16–19 year olds who want to go to university. It equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to make a success of their undergraduate studies:

- a solid and coherent grounding in specialist subjects at an appropriate level
- the ability to undertake independent and self-directed learning
- the ability to think laterally, critically and creatively and communicate effectively

Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and Short Courses are stand-alone qualifications, recognised by universities and attracting a rewarding UCAS tariff. They are compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

For Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, students take all examination components at the end of a two-year programme of study, and we assess them at the full Cambridge Pre-U standard.

For Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses, students take all examination components at the end of a one-year programme of study. A Short Course grade does not contribute to a Principal Subject result. In this sense, a distinctive feature of Cambridge Pre-U is linearity.

Common characteristics of Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses

- **Design:** focused on the development of high-level knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare for university and beyond, through extensive consultation with teachers, students and universities.
- **Stretch:** built into syllabus content (380 guided learning hours and challenging concepts), assessment (open-ended questions) and grading outcomes (finer differentiation at the top end).
- **Innovation:** new approaches to subjects, greater freedom in subject combination, new topics, new methods of delivery and new forms of assessment.
- **Progression in learning:** Cambridge Pre-U builds on prior knowledge gained at 14–16, where appropriate, and develops broad generic skills (independent study and research skills). Students are better prepared for undergraduate study.
- **Linearity:** assessment at the end of the course makes for greater coherence in teaching and learning.



Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects Classical Greek, Classical Heritage, Latin

The Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects in Classical Greek, Classical Heritage and Latin have been developed to equip students with the skills required for university study.

Cambridge Pre-U Classical Heritage is an interdisciplinary course, integrating different types of study – such as art, history, literature, religion, society, philosophy and politics. This breadth develops students' understanding of relationships and tensions between different intellectual disciplines. The course includes a personal investigation on a topic chosen by the student, researched independently, and written up under exam conditions.

Cambridge Pre-U Classical Greek and Latin have been developed to bridge the gap between school and university. The syllabuses encourage students to read more widely, by studying Roman and classical Greek writers in both the original and in translation, and by reading modern works of critical scholarship.

Syllabuses

Classical Greek texts

Paper 1: Verse literature

Prescribed texts

- Homer *Iliad* I
or
- Sophocles *Philoctetes*: 50–134; 319–390; 453–506; 542–675; 867–1080.

Students will be expected to be familiar with the rest of *Philoctetes* in translation.

Theme texts

Theme: Homer *Iliad* I: Fate and the Gods

Homer *Iliad* VIII, IX, XVI, XVIII, XXIV

Homer *Odyssey* I, XXIV

or

Theme: Sophocles *Philoctetes*: 50–134; 319–90; 453–506; 542–675; 867–1 080:

The Tragic Hero

Sophocles *Ajax*, *Oedipus Tyrannus*

Euripides *Medea*

Paper 2: Prose literature

Prescribed texts

- Thucydides VII: 59.2–87
Students will be expected to be familiar with the rest of Book VII in translation.
or
- Plato *Phaedo*: 60c8–77a5, 115b1–118a17.
Students will be expected to be familiar with the rest of *Phaedo* in translation.

Paper 3: Unseen translation

This allows students to demonstrate sensitivity to context and stylistic devices.

Paper 4: Prose composition or comprehension

Students can choose the exercise – prose composition or comprehension – that plays best to their strengths.

For examination in 2014 onwards, please visit www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu as changes may occur.

Latin texts

Paper 1: Verse literature

Prescribed texts

- Virgil *Aeneid* IV: 1–521.
Students will be expected to be familiar with the rest of *Aeneid* IV in translation.
or
- Juvenal *Satires*: 2, 3

Theme texts

Theme: Virgil *Aeneid* IV: 1–521: **Men and women**

Ovid *Amores* I: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Ovid *Heroides*: 1, 7, 10

Propertius I

or

Theme: Juvenal *Satires*: 2, 3: **Roman satire**

Juvenal *Satires*: 1, 6

Horace *Satires*: 1.4, 5, 9; 2.1, 4, 7

Persius *Satires*: 1, 3, 5

Paper 2: Prose literature

Prescribed texts

- Cicero *Pro Milone*: Sections 24–56; 72–78; 83–90.
Students will be expected to be familiar with the rest of *Pro Milone* in translation.
or
- Tacitus *Annals* XV: Sections 38–74.
Students should also read the following in translation: *Annals* XIV, Sections 1–22 and 47–65; *Annals* XV, Sections 32–37.

Paper 3: Unseen translation

This allows students to demonstrate sensitivity to context and stylistic devices.

Paper 4: Prose composition or comprehension

Students can choose the exercise – prose composition or comprehension – that plays best to their strengths.

For examination in 2014 onwards, please visit www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu as changes may occur.

Classical Heritage

Paper 1:

Foundations of history and culture (Greek)

Students answer two of the following topics:

Historical: Alexander the Great

Literary: Foundations of comedy – Aristophanes and Menander

Viewpoint: Socrates as seen through the eyes of Plato

Artistic: Greek architecture

Political: The rise of democracy in fifth-century Athens

Archaeological: The archaeology of Minoan Crete

Paper 2:

Foundations of history and culture (Roman)

Students answer two of the following topics:

Historical: Augustus and the creation of the principate

Literary: Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

Viewpoint: Nero as seen through the eyes of Suetonius and Tacitus

Artistic: Roman architecture and building

Political: Cicero and the fall of the republic

Archaeological: Urban archaeology in the Roman Near East

Paper 3:

Classical literature (sources and evidence)

Students answer one of the following topics:

The changing world of Athens: its friends and enemies

The Roman empire: civilisation or submission?

Drama: the idea of tragedy

Gods and heroes: the importance of epic

Paper 4:

The Classical heritage

Each student chooses and undertakes their own research project (written up in an examination). There are no prescribed topics, but each student must investigate ways in which their chosen aspect of the classical world has been interpreted by a later time or times (including the present). A student might look at:

- Rome and Egypt: Cleopatra in history, literature and/or art
- Ancient and modern: the legacies of Greek science or Roman technology
- Attic attitudes: versions of pastoral
- The idea of Troy
- The transmission of mythology or epic
- Sport, spectacle and the cult of celebrity
- Cinema and the classical world
- Reactions to the classical world by modern novelists or travel writers
- The influence of classical philosophy
- *Imperium* and imperialism.

Scheme of assessment

Classical Greek

Students take all four examination papers in the same session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
Paper 1	Verse literature	2 hours 30 minutes	30%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 2	Prose literature	2 hours	20%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 3	Unseen translation	2 hours	30%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 4	Prose composition or comprehension	1 hour 30 minutes	20%	Written examination, externally set and marked

Latin

Students take all four examination papers in the same session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
Paper 1	Verse literature	2 hours 30 minutes	30%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 2	Prose literature	2 hours	20%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 3	Unseen translation	2 hours	30%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 4	Prose composition or comprehension	1 hour 30 minutes	20%	Written examination, externally set and marked

Classical Heritage

Students take all four examination papers in the same session.

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
Paper 1	Foundations of history and culture (Greek)	1 hour 30 minutes	25%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 2	Foundations of history and culture (Roman)	1 hour 30 minutes	25%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 3	Classical literature – sources and evidence	1 hour 30 minutes	25%	Written examination, externally set and marked
Paper 4	The Classical heritage	2 hours	25%	Personal investigation chosen by each student, written up under exam conditions, externally marked

Reporting of achievement

Achievement is reported on a scale of nine grades: Distinction 1, 2 and 3, Merit 1, 2 and 3 and Pass 1, 2 and 3. The Distinction 3 standard is aligned to that of Grade A and the Pass 3 is aligned to that of Grade E at A Level. Distinction 1 reports achievement above the new A* grade. The intention is to differentiate more finely and extend reporting at the top end, while keeping the grading scale accessible to the full range of ability currently achieving passes at A Level.

UCAS tariff points

The table shows the UCAS tariff awarded to each Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject grade and how this compares with the tariff for A Level.

The tariff reflects the additional content within each syllabus and the linear assessment (terminal examinations at full Cambridge Pre-U standard).

Universities which normally ask for three A grades at A Level typically make Cambridge Pre-U offers involving a combination of Distinction 3 and Merit 1. Other offers may include asking for a Merit 2 in place of a B, Merit 3 or Pass 1 for a C, Pass 2 for a D and Pass 3 for an E.

Cambridge Pre-U band	Cambridge Pre-U grade	Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject UCAS tariff	Equivalent A Level UCAS tariff	Short Course UCAS tariff
Distinction	D1	tbc	n/a	tbc
	D2	145	(A*) 140	tbc
	D3	130	(A) 120	60
Merit	M1	115		53
	M2	101	(B) 100	46
	M3	87		39
Pass	P1	73		32
	P2	59		26
	P3	46	(E) 40	20

Cambridge Pre-U is recognised by all UK universities and many universities abroad, including all US Ivy League universities. For more details, please go to www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition

Support and resources for teachers

We offer a programme of free Cambridge Pre-U INSET training for teachers, accompanied by online support materials including syllabuses, specimen/past papers, mark schemes and example student responses.

A free Teacher Guide expands on each syllabus, to help teachers understand what students are expected to know.

It is written by a teacher for teachers and suggests for each topic:

- a checklist of what to cover with students
- resources, both paper and web based
- additional extension/'stretch and challenge' areas
- further teaching and learning opportunities.

Learn more! For more information on Cambridge Pre-U visit www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu or contact Customer Services on +44 (0)1223 553554 or email international@cie.org.uk

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