

Drama and Theatre

Syllabus outline

For examination from 2014–2016

Cambridge
Pre-U



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 Drama and Theatre

Cambridge Pre-U Drama and Theatre is a new course for students planning to apply for university. It combines theoretical, practical and creative elements to stimulate independent thinking and encourage a long-lasting love of the theatre and performance arts.

Curriculum

The Cambridge Pre-U Drama and Theatre curriculum aims to:

- provide opportunities for students to develop a range of skills, knowledge and understanding in drama and theatre, embracing creative, interpretative, historical and analytical aspects of the subject
- contribute to students' personal development and wider social and cultural awareness through serious study of drama and theatre
- encourage students to develop a lasting appreciation and enjoyment of drama and theatre, either as participants or informed audience members
- provide a strong foundation for higher education by promoting independent learning

Scheme of assessment

Students take all four components in the same session together. Examinations take place at the end of the two-year course and a single grade is awarded.

Component	Component name	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
1	World Drama and Theatre	3 hours	40%	Written paper, externally set and marked
2	Repertoire	n/a	20%	Internally assessed and externally moderated
3	Devised Drama	n/a	20%	Externally assessed at the school by visit
4	Performance Investigation	n/a	20%	Internally assessed and externally moderated



Syllabus

There are four components to the Cambridge Pre-U Drama and Theatre course.

1: World Drama and Theatre

Students answer questions on an unseen drama extract to demonstrate their awareness of historical and theoretical contexts of theatre and drama. They also study two of the four areas of world drama and theatre listed below, choosing two plays for each area of study.

The areas of study and set plays for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are:

Foundations of Modern Drama

Anton Chekhov – *The Seagull*

Henrik Ibsen – *Hedda Gabler*

George Bernard Shaw – *Saint Joan*

Oscar Wilde – *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Political Theatre

Bertolt Brecht – *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*

Caryl Churchill – *Cloud Nine*

Kee Thuan Chye – *1984 Here and Now*

Tony Kushner – *Angels in America*

African Drama

Ama Ata Aidoo – *The Dilemma of a Ghost*

Athol Fugard – *My Children! My Africa!*

Percy Mtwa, Mbongeni Ngema and Barney Simon – *Woza Albert!*

Wole Soyinka – *The Lion and the Jewel*

Jacobean Tragedy

Thomas Heywood – *A Woman Killed with Kindness*

Cyril Tourneur (Thomas Middleton) – *The Revenger's Tragedy*

John Webster – *The Duchess of Malfi*

Thomas Middleton and William Rowley – *The Changeling*

2: Repertoire

Students perform a duologue from a published play for a live audience and will be assessed on their acting and production skills. Students also choose one other activity from: a monologue, set design, costume design or mask design.

3: Devised Drama

Groups of between three and six students devise and perform in a piece of drama for a live audience based on one of the pre-release stimuli issued by Cambridge at the start of the course. Students will take collective responsibility for the directorial concept, script, and costume and set design.

4: Performance Investigation

Students produce a 3000 to 3500 word essay on a subject of their choice approved by Cambridge in advance. The resulting essay is a wholly independent investigation and should be a direct engagement with drama and/or theatre that demonstrates critical thinking.

Examples

- a playwright's style and influence (e.g. Brecht's Epic theatre)
- dramatic techniques in a non-western tradition (e.g. Asian shadow-puppetry)
- a portfolio of theatre reviews focusing on the stylistic intentions of the productions and the audience reactions
- a particular period/movement and its impact (e.g. European Theatre of the Absurd)
- theatre history and historical performance conditions (e.g. Restoration theatre).

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 candidate 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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