

Music

Syllabus outline

For examination from 2012 – 2015



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 Music

Cambridge Pre-U Music provides the basis for an informed and lasting love of music and gives students an opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and an understanding in music.

Cambridge Pre-U Music:

- develops a range of skills, embracing creative, interpretative and analytical aspects of the subject
- contributes to students' personal development and wider social and cultural awareness through serious study in music
- encourages students to develop an informed and lasting love of music, either in a musical career or as a leisure activity
- provides an excellent foundation for higher education by promoting academic independence.

Scheme of Assessment

Component	Name	Duration	Weighting (%)	Type of assessment
11/12	Listening, Analysis and Historical Study	3 hours [1 hour 30 minutes + 1 hour 30 minutes with break]	30	Written paper, externally set and marked
2	Performing	25–30 minutes	22.5	Performances marked by visiting examiner
3	Composing	2 hours + coursework + commissioned composition	22.5	Externally marked
ONE OF 41 42 43 44	Dissertation Advanced Recital Free Composition Music Technology	Various	25	Internally marked and externally moderated

“ I’ve loved teaching Cambridge Pre-U Music. The dissertation gives students an opportunity to pick an area of music that they are interested in and go much deeper into it. It informs everything else they do. ”

Lawrence Tubb, Director of music, Leweston School, UK

Syllabus

1. Listening, analysis and historical study

Section A: Students listen to two performances from Topic A (The Concerto in the late Baroque and Classical periods). They compare the performances and comment on performance practice issues.

Section B: Students listen to one extract from Topic B (B1 Instrumental or B2 Vocal Music in the Romantic period). They answer varied questions, e.g. writing down missing sections of melody, rhythmical figures or articulation; identifying chords, harmonic/cadential progressions, errors in the printed score. Further questions require comment on, for example, texture, instrumentation, phrase structure, form or style. Candidates are to relate the piece of music to the wider repertoire of the topic and comment on that relationship.

Section C: Students choose a topic for close study and analysis. This allows historical understanding to extend beyond the periods of Topic A and Topic B, either backwards to a Renaissance or earlier Baroque work, or forwards into the twentieth century. Two questions are set on each topic and candidates answer both. The first asks for specific analytical detail of the Prescribed Work, e.g. matters of harmony, texture, orchestration. The second is more general, relating the work to its cultural context, the composer's musical output or dealing with the repertoire of the topic as a whole.

Section D: Students choose one question from five. Candidates are invited to form connecting links between the topics studied in this component or any music studied for the examination as a whole.

2. Performing

Section A: Recital: Students present a 20 minute recital (instrument or voice). They may perform as a soloist, an accompanist, in a duet or as a member of a small ensemble.

Section B: Extended performing. Students present one further skill in a programme lasting not longer than 10 minutes.

3. Composing

Section A: Stylistic exercises (examination): Students complete one exercise in one genre. They may use a keyboard.

Section B: Stylistic exercises (coursework): Students submit five exercises in each of two genres.

Section C: Commissioned composition (coursework): Students submit one composition, based on a commission, which may be in any style of their choice.

4. Personal Study (coursework)

Students extend their musical skills through a challenging project of personal interest: dissertation, advanced recital, a free composition or music technology project.



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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