

**D.Y.PATIL GROUP'S**

**Sharad Pawar International School**

**Pune, India.**



**DYP - SPIS**

**Cambridge  
IGCSE**

**HAND BOOK**



## Cambridge IGCSE



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE **CENTRE NO. IN580**

### What is Cambridge IGCSE?

The Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is one of the most recognised qualifications around the world. Cambridge 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 Cambridge A and AS Levels, the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education, the North American Advanced Placement programme and the International Baccalaureate.

Cambridge 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.

Cambridge 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 Cambridge IGCSE accepted and recognised?

Cambridge 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.

- Cambridge IGCSE is comparable with GCE O Level and the UK GCSE
- Cambridge IGCSE has an excellent reputation amongst international schools worldwide
- Cambridge 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 Cambridge 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 Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE is designed to be taught as a two year course for students aged 14 to 16 years. In some countries Cambridge 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 Cambridge 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 Cambridge IGCSE taught?

At school, students are encouraged to study a wide range of subjects at Cambridge IGCSE level, at the same time. In order to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, many students take courses from each of the Cambridge 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 Cambridge IGCSE subjects.

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

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

### Examination information

Cambridge IGCSE courses 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 Cambridge IGCSE through a registered CIE Centre.



## 1.1 Why choose Cambridge?

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications. Around 1.5 million students from 150 countries enter Cambridge examinations every year. What makes educators around the world choose Cambridge?

### Recognition

Cambridge IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE. Cambridge IGCSE is excellent preparation for A/AS Level, the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), US Advanced Placement Programme and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognition).

### Support

CIE provides a world-class support service for teachers and exams officers. We offer a wide range of teacher materials to Centres, plus teacher training (online and face-to-face) and student support materials. Exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exams entry and excellent, personal support from CIE Customer Services. Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/teachers](http://www.cie.org.uk/teachers).

### Excellence in education

Cambridge qualifications develop successful students. They not only build understanding and knowledge required for progression, but also learning and thinking skills that help students become independent learners and equip them for life.

### **IGCSE IN SPIS**

The IGCSE curriculum in SPIS starts in grade 9 and continues over the next two years. If a student takes admission in class 9 in August 2010, he/she then will be eligible to sit for his/her IGCSE examination in May-June 2012, and will be able to get their results in August 2012.

We envisage covering about 60% of the course in class 9 itself and the remaining 40% is covered in grade 10 leaving as much time as possible for a thorough revision before the students sit for the actual examination. These two years are very intensive and both teachers and students work extensively to prepare themselves for the challenge ahead.

In SPIS the entire school term has been divided into two semesters and each semester has been divided into two terms. At the end of each term students are assessed and a report on their academic progress is given to the parents. In the first and the third terms students are usually assessed internally; their projects, class tests, class participation, practical work etc are marked and the report reflects their performance in those fields. Besides this a small written test is also conducted for all subjects. At the end of term two and term four, all students sit for a written examination in all subjects. These examinations are held to expose students to the real IGCSE examination conditions. Moreover, students of class 10 sit for two mock examinations in the month of March/ April and are then given a report on their performance.

For any further information about the IGCSE Curriculum kindly log onto the official website of Cambridge: [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)



## Criteria for ICE Award

### What is the Cambridge International Certificate of Education (ICE)?

- The Cambridge International Certificate of Education (ICE) is a group award designed for Cambridge schools that want to offer a broad curriculum
- To obtain a Cambridge ICE, students must take a minimum of seven subjects selected from the five Cambridge IGCSE subject groups.

### How is Cambridge ICE achieved?

Students must pass two different languages from Group One, and one subject from each of the remaining subject groups. The seventh subject can come from any of the five groups:-

- Group One: Languages
- Group Two: Humanities and Social Sciences
- Group Three: Sciences
- Group Four: Mathematics
- Group Five: Creative, Technical and Vocational

Combination of Subjects offered in SPIS for ICE

#### **Group I (Languages)**

English as First Language / English as Second Language/ Hindi as Second Language/ French as Foreign Language/ Korean as first Language (Self-Taught)

#### **Group II (Humanities & Social Sciences)**

Environmental Management, Economics, Geography, History, Literature (English)

#### **Group III (Sciences)**

Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Management, Physics

#### **Group IV (Mathematics)**

Mathematics

#### **Group V (Creative, Technical and Vocational)**

Accounting, Business Studies, Information & Communication Technology (ICT)





Students must opt for one subject from each of the optional blocks. It is not possible to opt for two subjects from the same block, the classes for each optional block subject are held simultaneously.

## **Individual Subject Description**

### **English as First Language**

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is designed for students whose mother tongue is English. The course allows students to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- learn how to use a wide-range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Students are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

### **Mathematics**

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of mathematical knowledge and understanding. Successful IGCSE Mathematics candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- the development of their mathematical knowledge;
- confidence by developing a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships;
- an ability to consider and solve problems and present and interpret results;
- communication and reason using mathematical concepts;
- a solid foundation for further study.

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics is structured with a Coursework option and is ideal for candidates of all abilities. There are number of mathematics syllabuses at both IGCSE and A & AS Level offered by CIE – further information is available on the CIE website at [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk).

### **English as Second language (ESL)**

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is accepted by universities and employers as proof of ability to understand and communicate in English. It is aimed at students whose first language is not English, but who use it as a lingua franca or language of study. Successful English as a Second Language candidates have better educational or employment prospects and gain lifelong skills, including:

- better communicative ability in English
- improved ability to understand a range of social registers and styles
- a greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills
- a greater international perspective
- a sound foundation for progression to employment or further study at Levels 2 and 3 including AS and A Level GCE, and Cambridge Pre-U qualifications.



## **Accounting**

Cambridge IGCSE Accounting is accepted by universities and employers as proof of an understanding of the theory and concepts of accounting, and the ways in which accounting is used in a variety of modern economic and business contexts.

Candidates focus on the skills of recording, reporting, presenting and interpreting financial information, form an ideal foundation for further study, and for a future career within the profession.

## **Biology**

Cambridge IGCSE Biology is accepted by universities and employers as proof of real ability and knowledge. As well as a subject focus, the Biology syllabus enables students to:

- better understand the technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life
- develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- further interest in, and care for, the environment
- better understand the influence and limitations placed on scientific study by society, economy, technology, ethics, the community and the environment
- develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study at A Level and in everyday life.

## **Business Studies**

Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies is accepted by universities and employers as proof of an understanding of business concepts and techniques across a range of different types of businesses. Successful IGCSE Business Studies students gain lifelong skills, including:

- Understanding different forms of business organisations, the environments in which businesses operate and business functions such as marketing, operations and finance;
- An appreciation of the critical role of people in business success;
- Confidence to calculate and interpret business data;
- Communication skills including the need to support arguments with reasons;
- Ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements.

The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study at A Level and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

## **Information and Communication Technology**

Cambridge IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE. The IGCSE Information and Communication Technology syllabus encourages students to develop lifelong skills including:

- the ability to understand and implement new and emerging technologies within a business environment
- how to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems
- considering the impact which new technologies will have on ways of working and the social, economic and ethical issues associated with them
- awareness of the ways ICT can help in practical and work-related scenarios.



## **Chemistry**

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry is accepted by universities and employers as proof of essential chemistry knowledge and ability. As well as a subject focus, the Chemistry syllabus enables students to:

- better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments
- learn about the basic principles of Chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies
- develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life
- learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

## **Physics**

Cambridge IGCSE Physics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of physics. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- confidence in a technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- an understanding of how scientific theories and methods have developed, and continue to develop, as a result of groups and individuals working together
- an understanding that the study and practice of science are affected and limited by social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural factors
- an awareness that the application of science in everyday life may be both helpful and harmful to the individual, the community and the environment
- knowledge that science overcomes national boundaries and that the language of science, used correctly and thoroughly, is universal
- an understanding of the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and its application in other subjects and in everyday life
- a concern for accuracy and precision
- an understanding of the importance of safe practice
- improved awareness of the importance of objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- an interest in, and care for, the environment
- an excellent foundation for advanced study in pure sciences, in applied science or in science-dependent vocational courses

## **Economics**

Cambridge IGCSE Economics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of economics. Successful IGCSE Economics candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- an understanding of economic theory, terminology and principles
- the ability to apply the tools of economic analysis
- the ability to distinguish between facts and value judgements in economic issues
- an understanding of, and an ability to use basic economic numeracy and literacy
- the ability to take a greater part in decision-making processes in everyday life
- an understanding of the economies of developed and developing nations
- an excellent foundation for advanced study in economics



## **Environmental management**

Cambridge IGCSE Environmental Management is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of issues concerning sustainable development and how the earth's resources are used. Students studying this syllabus:

- draw upon disciplines such as biology, earth science, geography, economics and anthropology;
- consider the interdependence of the earth's natural systems, and how people use natural resources;
- examine the impact of development on the environment considering issues such as environmental pollution and resource depletion;
- explore ways in which we may change the nature of future development to make it more sustainable.

Environmental Management is concerned not only with the impact of humankind on the planet but also with the patterns of human behaviour necessary to preserve and manage the environment in a self-sustaining way. Study is linked to the areas of new thinking in environmental management, environmental economics and the quest for alternative technologies. Classroom studies and optional coursework allow candidates to obtain a local as well as a global perspective.

Environmental Management recognises that human behaviour towards the environment is guided by the survival needs, perceptions and values of people. Underlying the syllabus there is a recognition that cultural, social and political attitudes directly influence the economy of nature. A core principle of the syllabus is that sustainability will only be achieved by changes in the ways in which people think and make decisions. A course in Environmental Management therefore calls upon young people to be participants in defining the future of their world.

## **English Literature**

Cambridge IGCSE Literature (English) is accepted by universities and employers as proof of real knowledge and understanding. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including the ability to:

- Read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English;
- Develop an understanding of literal and implicit meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed;
- Recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects;
- Present an informed, personal response to materials they have studied;
- Explore wider and universal issues, promoting students' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

## **History**

Cambridge IGCSE is accepted by universities and employers worldwide as providing proof of historical knowledge and understanding.

This History syllabus offers students the opportunity to study some of the major international issues of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as looking in greater depth at the history of a particular region or regions. The emphasis within the syllabus is as much on developing lifelong historical skills as on acquiring knowledge.

Successful candidates gain valuable skills including:

- an interest in and enthusiasm for learning and understanding about the past
- an understanding of historical concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change, and similarity and difference
- an appreciation of historical evidence and how to use it
- a greater understanding of international issues and inter-relationships
- how to present clear, logical arguments



## **Geography**

Successful Cambridge IGCSE Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including:

- An understanding of the impacts which both physical and human geography can have and the processes which affect their development;
- A sense of place and an understanding of relative location on a local, regional and global scale;
- The ability to use and understand geographical data and information;
- An understanding of how communities and cultures around the world and how they are impacted and constrained by different environments.

## **French as a Foreign Language**

Cambridge foreign language IGCSEs are accepted by universities and employers as proof of linguistic ability and understanding. The IGCSE foreign language syllabus encourages students to develop lifelong skills, including:

- the ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication
- insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken
- a positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and civilisations
- techniques which can be applied to other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills
- a sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

This is one of a number of Cambridge IGCSE foreign language syllabuses – for a full list, visit the CIE website at [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk).

## **Hindi**

Cambridge IGCSE Hindi as a Second Language is recognised by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of the language. Candidates studying the syllabus are often studying the language in order to promote their educational or employment prospects. They gain an understanding of a wide range of social registers and styles, and learn to communicate appropriately.

The topics selected relate to the interests and needs of the candidates in using Hindi as a Second Language, e.g. education, the world of work, current affairs, health and welfare, travel, school affairs.



## Art & Design

Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design is accepted by universities, art colleges and employers as evidence of experiences and skills in developing and producing a range of artefacts and designs showing visual knowledge and understanding along with critical and cultural awareness.

Art and Design complements literary, mathematical, scientific and factual subjects. It is especially concerned with the development of visual perception and aesthetics. The subject encourages visual communication and is a means of expressing ideas and feelings.

Successful Art and Design candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition
- the ability to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms
- how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions.

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If you want to learn more about the subjects mentioned please visit [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

