

Cambridge
IGCSE

Cambridge IGCSE

The world's most popular international curriculum for 14–16 year olds

Global Perspectives



Syllabus code 0457



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Developing skills through connecting learning with real-world issues

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives develops independent thinking, learning and communication skills. It focuses on issues relevant to today's learners and helps them shape their world perspective by connecting learning with real-world issues.

The course is built around a series of topics, each containing issues of global importance. The topics provide a meaningful and stimulating context in which learners can begin to develop the skills they need as active, global citizens and for practical application in further study.

This could mean considering issues as wide-ranging as how the role of the family is changing, what national identity means in a global world and how education can contribute to a higher life expectancy.

Recognising that life is not always about the 'right' answer, Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is about encouraging and challenging learners to present their points of view clearly and explaining their position on things that matter to them.

Developing thinking and communication skills

Through their study of Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives, learners consider a range of global issues, and develop personal, national and global perspectives. They do this through investigation, dialogue and collaboration with others. The emphasis is on developing the skills and ability to think critically about issues where there is always more than one point of view. This means communicating with students next to them, in the same class and across the globe as they interact and exchange information and ideas with learners from other cultures.

Outcomes of study could be as diverse as writing to the United Nations about climate change, organising a school workshop on the importance of water to different societies, introducing a school-wide Fair Trade policy or even meeting government ministers.



“ It really gives us the feeling we are all part of this global community and we are all global citizens. ”

Student,
MacLeans College,
New Zealand

Freedom to explore

Teachers and learners can explore a range of different global topics:

- Belief systems
- Biodiversity and ecosystem loss
- Climate change
- Conflict and peace
- Disease and health
- Education for all
- Employment
- Family and demographic change
- Fuel and energy
- Humans and other species
- Language and communication
- Law and criminality
- Poverty and inequality
- Sport and leisure
- Technology and the economic divide
- Trade and aid
- Tradition, culture and identity
- Transport and infrastructure
- Urbanisation
- Water, food and agriculture

Teachers and learners have the freedom to explore relevant issues and structure their study around their own interests using information from different sources – newspapers, books, TV programmes, films, guest speakers and websites. That means the course remains exciting and varied and enables students to develop skills to become active, self-directed learners.

Drawing on links across the curriculum

Our experience is that teachers from a variety of disciplines teach the syllabus. They are all linked by a broad interest in global issues. The role of the teacher is a key part of Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives. The emphasis is on the learner's skills rather than on specific knowledge. Teachers will be managing this skills development and facilitating their students' work, helping them on their journey through the learning process. We suggest resources and guidance on introducing Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives in our teacher support package.



“ Students have become massively more independent as learners. They ask some of the questions they wouldn't have considered in the past. ”

Head teacher, Caistor
Yarborough School, UK

Assessment at a glance

The assessment has three components.

Individual research study: students choose from **the topics of study** and submit individual research reports for the topics they have chosen.

Group project: working in groups, students choose **one further topic** of study and prepare a group report. Each student also produces an individual evaluation of the group project.

Written exam: testing the skills the students have learned during their study.

The assessment objectives cover how well the learner has:

- Researched, understood and presented global issues from different perspectives.
- Analysed and evaluated issues, exploring causes, current conditions and suggesting possible consequences and courses of action.
- Explored and reflected on their personal perspective and the perspectives of others.
- Participated in group discussions and cross-cultural collaboration, including planning, creating and evaluating an outcome.

Cambridge uses an eight-point grade scale: A*, A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Grade A* is awarded for the highest level of achievement, and grade G indicates minimum satisfactory performance.

Taking steps on your Cambridge Global Perspectives journey

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives can be the first step on an exciting and rewarding journey. We are developing a new Cambridge International AS Level in Global Perspectives and learners wishing to develop their knowledge and skills further can take Cambridge Pre-U in Global Perspectives and Independent Research.

This prepares students with the knowledge, skills and in-depth understanding they need to make a success of their later studies at university. Learn more about Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu



“ It’s about real life. You can relate to that everywhere. It’s not about reading a textbook and studying that. It’s about how you see the world and how it’s constantly changing. ”

Student, Bangalore
International School, India

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives around the world

Cambridge teachers and learners give their insight into what they have gained through their study.

Singapore International School, Hong Kong

Students at the school follow a modified Singapore curriculum which prepares them for Cambridge IGCSEs and the International Baccalaureate.

The school chose Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives because the subject allows students to study global issues in a 'real life' context through engagement with other schools in other countries.

"Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is totally in line with our school's mission to develop lifelong learners." Noel Ong, Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives Co-ordinator.

"The Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives course has honed my writing and research skills. It has also been an enriching and eye-opening experience for me, allowing me to understand current global issues in depth." Oliver Jiang, student at Singapore International School.

Caistor Yarborough School, UK

Caistor Yarborough School is a state school in north-east England. The inclusion of Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives – taught alongside the UK national curriculum – allowed the school to add an exciting dimension to its portfolio of subjects. The school chose Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives as the syllabus offers the learning pathways that support its teaching across other subjects – including critical thinking, independent learning and understanding and respecting global issues and cultures. The students' learning has been enriched in various ways including a visit to China and contact with schools in France, Italy and Finland.

"Our Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives students have risen brilliantly to the challenge of exchanging ideas and understanding research themes and topic issues that affect our global community." Jackie Burton, CIE Co-ordinator at the school.

Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of Southern Africa, Swaziland

Waterford Kamhlaba is part of the United World Colleges (UWC) group of schools. The school chose to include Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives as the subject reinforces its value and fits well with the ethos of the school and the UWC movement. The school feels that it brings a more active, thinking-based course to its students. As part of their study, the students had a visit from a BBC journalist, were interviewed and had their views broadcast on the BBC World Service.

"Waterford Kamhlaba nurtures in its students the ability and desire to be socially responsible citizens of the world. Our decision to include Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives in our curriculum supports this vision 100 per cent." Dominique Cave, Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives teacher.

Churchill College, Mexico

Churchill College is an independent day school in Mexico City. The college teaches Cambridge IGCSEs, the IB Diploma and the Mexican national curriculum. The school decided to teach Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives because it felt it offered excellent preparation for the IB Diploma by encouraging development of group work, student-centred learning and critical thinking skills. Developing students' critical thinking skills with particular emphasis on critical reading is an important part of teaching at Churchill College. Students are encouraged to develop responsibility for their learning through the timetable created by the Global Perspectives teachers.

"A focus of Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is critical analysis and we have tried to teach this across everything we do." Cristina Camacho, teacher for the first cohort of Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives students.

Cambridge IGCSE – foundation for success

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14–16 year olds. Cambridge IGCSE is an international curriculum that develops learners' skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, and gives them excellent preparation for the next stage in their education.

Schools can offer any combination of subjects. Each subject is certificated separately. Over 70 subjects are available, offering a variety of routes for learners of different abilities. Schools can build a core curriculum, extend it to suit their students and introduce cross-curricular perspectives.

Schools worldwide have helped develop Cambridge IGCSE. It incorporates the best in international education for learners at this level. It develops in line with changing needs, and is regularly updated and extended. Cambridge IGCSE teachers can draw on excellent resources, training and advice from subject experts.

Cambridge IGCSE has wide recognition from higher education institutions and employers around the world as evidence of academic ability.

Resources to support your teaching of Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives

Teaching Pack

A comprehensive guide for those who are teaching Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives. As well as a general introduction for teaching the syllabus, the guide also includes sections on the Project, the Portfolio and the Written Examination.

Discussion Forum

A dedicated discussion area on www.cie.org.uk for teachers to exchange ideas and information. The forum also allows teachers to post resources that they have developed and which have worked well in class. To access the forum, you need a password which you can get from the CIE co-ordinator within your school.

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives – an overview

A DVD giving an overview of Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives with views from teachers and students who have been teaching and studying for the qualification. Ideal as an introduction for parents or students to explain the basics of the syllabus.



From left to right; Teacher Support website, Teaching Pack and overview DVD.