

Syllabus Outline

Cambridge Pre-U
**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH**

Cambridge
Pre-U



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives and Independent Research

Universities tell us that Global Perspectives and Independent Research (GPR) is an excellent preparation for undergraduate study as it gives real evidence of independent, critical thinking.

GPR will be taught as two successive one-year courses, with the Independent Research Report growing seamlessly out of the skills introduced and developed as part of the Global Perspectives course. The course is an excellent alternative to Critical Thinking, General Studies and the Extended Project, and is very attractive for schools looking for curriculum enrichment programmes. It enthruses students by offering the opportunity for open debate and research on their own topic.

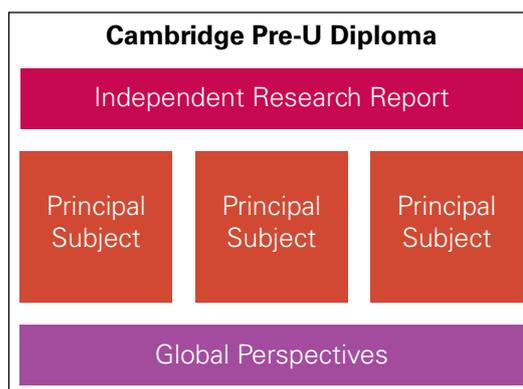
Global Perspectives guarantees breadth of study. It takes key themes of global relevance and intrinsic interest to young people, and encourages students to explore them in an open, critical, and disciplined way. Global Perspectives will help to develop critical thinking and research skills that are valued in higher education.

The Independent Research Report gives a student the chance to dig deeper into a particular subject, to cross boundaries by doing interdisciplinary work, or to make a new departure by investigating a subject not covered by traditional school syllabuses.

GPR — a stand-alone qualification

Global Perspectives and Independent Research is certificated separately with no unit re-takes. While it remains a core component of the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma, the course is now available for students who wish to take GPR in combination with A Levels, and is equivalent in value to a full A Level.

This gives students access to the benefits of Cambridge Pre-U — excitement, stretch and challenge — without requiring a commitment to the full Diploma.



UCAS Tariff Points

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

Cambridge Pre-U Band	Cambridge Pre-U Grade	Cambridge Pre-U GPR Tariff	Equivalent A Level Tariff
Distinction	1	tbc	n/a
	2	140	(A*) 140
	3	126	(A) 120
Merit	1	112	
	2	98	(B) 100
	3	84	
Pass	1	70	
	2	56	
	3	42	(E) 40

Global Perspectives

Today's students live in a rapidly changing world, confronted by a multiplicity of competing ideas, arguments and information. They need to be able to deal with information and ideas critically and constructively if they are to be successful.

Global Perspectives encourages the ability to follow and deconstruct arguments and assertions, to separate fact from opinion, and to assess and evaluate the truth of claims. Related skills involve knowing where to look for information, how to construct arguments, and how to assemble and handle evidence.

This seminar-based course takes key themes of global relevance that are of interest to young people, and encourages students to explore them in an open, critical, disciplined way. Schools will build their own programme by choosing topics from the different thematic groups.

Ethics	Genetic engineering, Medical ethics and priorities, Standards of living vs. quality of life, Ethical foreign policies, Religious-secular divide
Economics	Globalisation of economic activity, Migration and work, Impact of the internet, Global trade, Ethics and economics of food, Economic role of women
Environment	Science and politics of climate change, Industry and pollution, Biodiversity, Challenge of genetic modification, Urbanisation and the countryside
Technology	Alternatives to oil, Artificial intelligence, Futures, Technology and intelligent buildings, Online and interactive communities
Politics and culture	China as an emerging superpower, Endangered cultures, International law, Supra-national organisations (UN, etc), New nationalities, Integration and multiculturalism

Students are encouraged to explore each chosen topic by following the critical path.

Global Perspectives: the critical path

Deconstruction	Detailed analysis of a point of view
Reconstruction	Identification and evaluation of evidence for and against competing points of view
Reflection	How have the student's own views been affected by the enquiry?
Presentation	An opportunity to address an issue holistically and in detail

Assessment Objectives

A01	Critical analysis and evaluation of argument structure
A02	Critical analysis and interpretation of the context of an argument
A03	Presentation, communication and collaboration
A04	Dispositions: judgement, reason, self-reflection, empathy

Assessment

Component	Task	Assessment	Weighting
01	Deconstruction	Written Paper 1h 30m	25%
02	Reconstruction and Reflection	Externally assessed 1500 word essay	30%
03	Presentation	Multi-media presentation based on pre-release material (max 15 minutes). Externally assessed	45%

The Independent Research Report

Universities put great value on a student's ability to engage in independent research because it demonstrates the direct skills of collecting, handling and evaluating information of various kinds, and also wider study skills involving planning, time-management, prioritisation, self-motivation, sustained concentration and communication.

The Independent Research Report focuses on the ability to design, plan and manage a research project; to collect and analyse information; to evaluate and make reasoned judgements; and to communicate findings and conclusions. Thus the student moves on to Higher Education with study skills, enhanced subject knowledge and a more general self-discipline in independent, self-directed study.

Assessment Objectives

AO1	Design, plan, manage and conduct own research project
AO2	Select, assess and synthesise information, concepts, arguments and evidence
AO3	Evaluate alternative perspectives and interpretations and make independent reasoned judgements
AO4	Communicate clearly research, interpretations and judgements
AO5	Intellectual engagement with the subject matter of the research

Assessment

Candidates submit a single report of 4,500 - 5,000 words. The precise nature and format of the report, and the research and reporting conventions adopted, will depend on the subject of the enquiry. The subject is chosen by the candidate in consultation with a tutor.

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.

Support and Resources

CIE offers a programme of Cambridge Pre-U INSET training for teachers accompanied by support materials on a dedicated Cambridge Pre-U website.

Full syllabus details and registration for the Cambridge Pre-U online community are at www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu

Specimen assessment materials are available from:



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