

CAMBRIDGE UPPER SECONDARY (IGCSE) LEVEL

FAQs

1. What is CAIE?

Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) is a part of University of Cambridge that provides educational benefits through provision of international programmes and qualifications for the school education to be world leader in the field. Together with school, Cambridge helps learners to become confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged- equipped for success in the modern world.

2. What is IGCSE?

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) administered by University of Cambridge is the world's most popular international qualification for 14-16 years old. Cambridge IGCSE provides a diverse curriculum catering to 21st century learning. It offers a variety of routes for learners with a wide range of abilities, including those whose first language is not English. IGCSE is well recognized in India as equivalent to Grade X and used as a preparatory level for AS/A level, International Baccalaureate (IBDP) or any other higher secondary examinations. It is also equivalent to the Grade X examinations of CBSE, ICSE or Middle Year Programme of the IB.

3. What are the key features of IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible and stimulating curriculum, supported with excellent resources and training. Cambridge IGCSE develops learner to apply knowledge and understand new as well as unfamiliar situations.

Cambridge IGCSE has worldwide recognition and is equivalent to the Certificate of Secondary Education from Indian Education Boards, General Certificate of Secondary Education, and O level. The IGCSE programme is more practical and application based, challenging students on the quality of assignment and not on the quantity of assignment.

Cambridge IGCSE develops key learning, problem solving and investigative skills by encouraging an active, critical and questioning approach to the study.

4. What are the grading criteria at IGCSE?

Grades are benchmarked using eight internationally recognized grades A* to G. To take into account differing abilities, there is a choice between Core and Extended curriculum papers in some subjects. Based on the different curriculum, grading criteria differs. The Core curriculum is within the ability range of a large majority of students. It provides a full overview of a subject and is targeted at students expected to achieve grades C to G. The Extended curriculum has been designed for the more academically able. It is targeted at those expected to achieve grades A* to E. Students do not need to enter for the same level of curriculum in all the subjects.

Students who fail to meet the minimum satisfactory standard for either the Core curriculum (Grade G) or the Extended curriculum (Grade E) will be ungraded.

5. Who will decide the selection of core and extended options for the student?

The selection of the core and extended options for the student is decided by the subject teacher considering the previous performances of the student, in consultation with the parents. The account of different abilities allows a teacher to decide on the most appropriate level of papers for their students.

6. Will the selection of core and extended paper be mentioned in the final result?

No, the selection of core and extended papers will not be mentioned in the final result. The grades will determine whether the subject taken up by the student is core or extended. The three overlapped grades (C, D and E) are designed to accommodate students who perform either better or worse than expected. Grades F and G determine that student opted for Core and grades A*, A and B determine the subject opted is extended.

7. What is the curriculum offered by VGS at IGCSE level?

Vidya Global School offers IGCSE curriculum for grades 9 and 10. With Science and Commerce streams, we offer a combination of subjects from the 5 groups-Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences, Mathematics & Creative and Professionals. Each subject is certified separately, offering a variety of routes for learners of different abilities, with a choice of Core and Extended papers.

8. What are the subject options available at IGCSE level and offered by VGS?

There are over 70 subjects available at Cambridge IGCSE, including 30 languages. Schools can offer these subjects in any combination. Cambridge provides a wide range of teaching support and resource materials for each Cambridge IGCSE subjects.

VidyaGobal School is offering following subjects:

Science Stream: English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Information and Communication Technology, French, Hindi, Global Perspective

Commerce Stream: English, Mathematics, Accounts, Business Studies, Economics, Information and Communication Technology, French, Hindi, Global Perspective

9. Why isn't VGS offering other subject options?

The Cambridge IGCSE offers subjects into five curriculum areas. VGS is also offering main subjects according to the five curriculum areas wherein learners must take two different languages for Group I (Languages), and one subject from each of Groups II (Humanities and Social), Group III (Sciences), Group IV (Mathematics) and Group V (Creative and Professionals). The seventh subject can be taken from any of the five subject groups. These subject options are provided to the students keeping in mind Cambridge ICE that is an asset to the students.

10. How will the subjects offered by VGS be helpful for a student in future?

VGS has selected the most popular subjects for IGCSE that meet the eligibility for higher studies in India.

11. What is ICE?

Cambridge International Certificate of Examination (ICE) is a group of awards for Cambridge IGCSE and is very popular in the USA and South America. It allows school to offer a broad and balanced curriculum by recognizing the achievements of learners who pass examinations in at least seven Cambridge IGCSE subjects from five different subject groups, including two different languages.

12. What are the requirements of getting ICE?

For ICE, a student must to take two different languages from Group I and one subject from each of the other Group II, III, IV and V. the seventh subject can be taken from any of the five subject groups.

13. When will the student give IGCSE examinations?

Cambridge IGCSE assessments takes place at the end of the course and can include written, oral, coursework and practical assessment. Cambridge allows students to appear for examinations in March, June and November series.

VGS offers students to appear in November and March series, with specific subjects taken up in the respective series.

14. Is the IGCSE programme recognized by other boards and universities of India?

Yes, Cambridge IGCSE is recognized by CBSE, CISCE and state education boards in India, as a qualification to enter in grades XI or for any other higher secondary educational courses. It is also recognized as grade X qualification.

15. How is IGCSE different from other boards of India?

IGCSE helps the students to develop key learning, problem solving and investigative skills by encouraging an active, critical and questioning approach to study. With a choice of core and extended papers in most of the subjects, IGCSE is suitable for students with different levels of ability. The focus of IGCSE is on 'how to learn' rather than 'what to learn'.

16. What options are open for a student after completing IGCSE?

After completing IGCSE, a student gets qualified for to take admission in any +2 board. We feel pride to take students in AS and A level qualification programme after completing IGCSE. They can also opt for A level programmes in any other international school that offer the same.

Students can also pursue IB Diploma programme after completing IGCSE.

17. Is the transition of a child from other board to IGCSE smooth?

Yes. A child is encouraged to have proper aptitude that makes the transition from any local board to IGCSE easy. Prior learning of the topics is provided to the students so that they may not feel demotivated and discouraged in going through IGCSE curriculum.

18. Is the “Best of Five” Policy applicable in IGCSE results?

No, the best of five policy is not applicable in IGCSE results as of now.

19. Where can I find the list of other schools offering Cambridge curriculum?

You can visit the following website to find which other schools in India are offering Cambridge curriculum.

www.cambridgeinternational.org