

IGCSE subject planner: the groups, the tiers, the grades

The five Cambridge groups (and the ICE award)

Group	Subjects
I. Languages	First Language English; English as a Second Language; Literature in English; French; Spanish; Hindi; Arabic; German; Mandarin
II. Humanities and Social Sciences	History; Geography; Economics; Global Perspectives; Religious Studies; Sociology; Environmental Management (II or III)
III. Sciences	Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award); Combined Science; Environmental Management
IV. Mathematics	Mathematics (0580 / 0980); International Mathematics; Additional Mathematics
V. Creative, technical and vocational	Business Studies; Accounting; Computer Science; ICT; Art and Design; Design and Technology; Physical Education; Music; Drama; Food and Nutrition

Cambridge ICE: seven subjects in one session, two from Group I and one each from II to V plus one more. Distinction: A or above in five and C or above in two. Merit: C or above in five, F or above in two. Pass: G or above in all seven. Edexcel International GCSE: 37 subjects, graded 9 to 1, no group award.

Core and Extended; Foundation and Higher

Board and tier	Grades available	Who it is for
Cambridge Core	C to G (5 to 1)	The common content; a Core entry cannot score above C
Cambridge Extended	A* to E (9 to 1)	Core plus the supplement; anyone who might reach a B or better
Edexcel Foundation (maths)	5 to 1	Mathematics A only
Edexcel Higher (maths)	9 to 4	Mathematics A; needed for A-level or IB maths

The tier is entered per subject in the spring of Year 11 and cannot be changed after the entries deadline; decide from the Year 10 report and the mocks.

The grade scales side by side

9 to 1	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
A* to G	above A*	A*/A	A	B	B/C	C	D/E	E/F	F/G

4 = standard pass, 5 = strong pass, 7 = A. Boundaries are set after each session and move a few marks a year.

My subjects, and the two-year timeline

The planner: seven to ten subjects

Subject	Board	Code	Tier	Group	Target grade	Needed for
English Language				I		
English Literature				I		
Mathematics				IV		
Science 1				III		
Science 2 / Double Award				III		
Science 3				III		
Option 1						
Option 2						
Option 3						
Option 4						
Arabic / Islamic / Moral Education (UAE)	MoE					

The timeline

When	What	Done
Year 9, Jan to Mar	Options evening; the block sheet; the deadline. Pick for the sixth form, not the friends	[]
Year 10, Sept	Courses begin. Print the specification and the formula sheet; past-paper questions from topic one	[]
Year 10, June	End-of-year exams; the tier conversation with every teacher	[]
Year 11, Nov to Jan	Mocks on full past papers; read them against last June's boundaries; tier entries	[]
Year 11, Feb to Apr	Entries confirmed; revision timetable by paper; one past paper a week per subject	[]
Year 11, May to June	Exams over about five weeks (Cambridge and Edexcel June series)	[]
August	Results (Cambridge mid-August; Edexcel late August); sixth-form conditions; November resit entries by September	[]

UAE: the Ministry's equivalency for the British track

[] Year 13 completed; five IGCSE or GCSE subjects passed at A* to E; two AS-level or one A-level subject passed at A* to D; Arabic and Islamic Education not counted. Check the Ministry's current equivalency guide

From

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