



Introduction to the Cambridge IGCSE at Sainte Victoire International School, France



Introduction to the Cambridge International General Certificate of Education (IGCSE)

Since its introduction over 25 years ago, Cambridge IGCSE has grown to be the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds.

The qualification was developed over 25 years ago. It now attracts over 900 000 entries every year from over 140 different countries.

With its 70 subjects, available in any combination and including more than 30 languages, the Cambridge IGCSE curriculum offers a variety of routes for learners with a wide range of abilities, including those whose first language is not English. It develops learner knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- subject content
- applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- intellectual enquiry
- flexibility and responsiveness to change
- working and communicating in English
- influencing outcomes
- cultural awareness.

Assessment takes place at the end of the course and offers students a range of ways to demonstrate their learning, including written, oral, coursework and practical assessments. There are also options to suit learners of different abilities. The grades awarded at Cambridge IGCSE are A*–G, with A* being the highest.

This means that Cambridge IGCSE is a great foundation for further study, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

A Cambridge IGCSE qualification is recognised by leading universities around the world and employers view it as a valuable certificate of achievement. In the UK, Cambridge IGCSE is accepted as equivalent to the GCSE. A good grade (grade C or above) in Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is accepted for entry by a number of universities in the UK as evidence of competence in the English language.

Success in Cambridge qualifications often give students admission to the world's best universities – in the US, Australia, Canada, Germany and beyond. Cambridge qualifications are accepted and valued by universities around the world, including MIT, Harvard and Cambridge. They are recognised as qualifications that prepare and equip students with the skills they need to succeed both at university and beyond. Universities tell us that they value the independent research and critical thinking skills, as well as the deep subject knowledge that our qualifications bring.

Cambridge ICE

Cambridge ICE is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE. It allows schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum by recognising the achievements of learners who pass examinations in at least seven Cambridge IGCSE subjects from five different subject groups, including two different languages.

The Cambridge IGCSE subjects are grouped into five curriculum areas:

- Group I: Languages
- Group II: Humanities and Social Sciences
- Group III: Sciences
- Group IV: Mathematics
- Group V: Creative and Professional

Learners must take two different languages from Group I, and one subject from each of Groups II, III, IV and V. The seventh subject can be taken from any of the five subject groups.

The IGCSE programme at SVIS

In 2016 SVIS underwent a full inspection by the Cambridge International Schools board. We were seen to be following good educational practice, and granted permission to become an official Cambridge school for the IGCSE programme.

The key difference between these exams and the French system of exams is that students gain qualifications for each individual subject rather than a group of subjects, so pupils may be entered for an exam in one subject or several and will receive a mark for each subject they take. This allows us to work in liaison with parents, students and subject teachers to chose bespoke examination programmes for each student.

These exams are usually administered at the end of Year 11 (2nde) after following a two-year course in the chosen subjects but Cambridge schools are also authorised to enter pupils at any appropriate point in their school career and exams can be taken in either the May/June or November exam session. We have had students in 1ere choosing to take the English Language exam for university applications and have run a November session for one student who wished to take an extra History exam.

In the case of certain skill-based subjects (most notably the language subjects), it is possible to take an exam without having followed the full IGCSE two-year programme, provided that equivalent skills have been covered in class. Students who have joined us in the second year of the programme have been successfully entered in the exam series for English, Spanish, French, Maths and Global Perspectives.

IGCSE subjects offered at SVIS

GROUP I: LANGUAGES

English First Language
English Second Language
French First Language
French Foreign Language
German First Language
German Foreign Language
Italian Foreign Language
Spanish Foreign Language

GROUP II: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

English Literature
Geography
Global Perspectives
History

GROUP III: SCIENCES

Co-ordinated Science
(This counts for the equivalent of two IGCSEs)

GROUP IV: MATHEMATICS

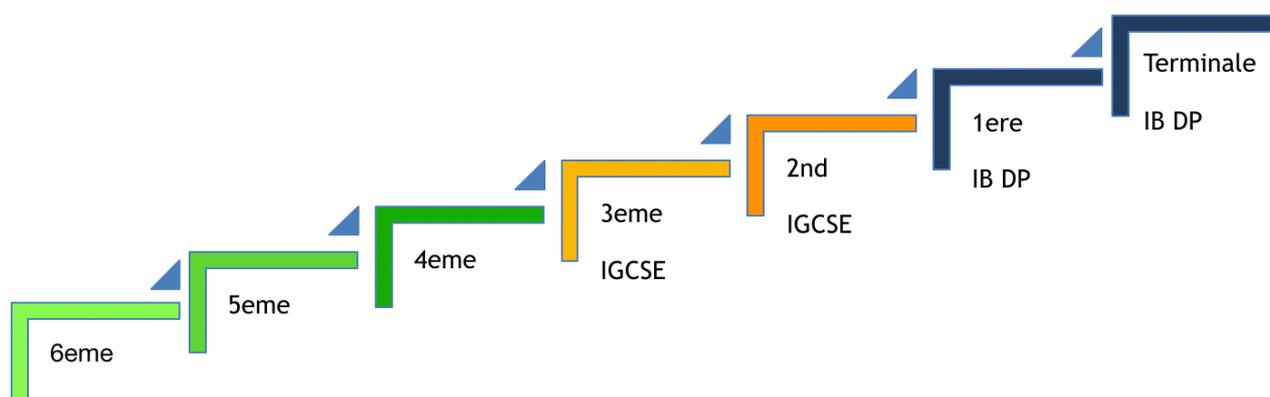
Cambridge International Mathematics

GROUP V: CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL

Art and Design
Global Perspectives
Drama

SVIS Curriculum and the IGCSE programme

The school curriculum is aligned to ensure that students are well prepared for the IGCSE and IB Diploma Programs.



Content - Skills - Attributes



In the lower secondary years at SVIS we have adopted the Cambridge Lower Secondary programme for English First and Second language, Maths and Science. This helps to prepare the students for the IGCSE teaching and enables us to monitor closely the student's progress through these formative years.

Value of the IGCSE Programme

Each student's needs as a learner are at the heart of our approach to education. The Cambridge and IB Diploma Pathway gives our students a love of learning that will stay with them through school, university and beyond. Our approach aims to develop learners who are:

- confident in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- responsible for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- reflective and developing their ability to learn
- innovative and equipped for new and future challenges
- engaged intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference.

SVIS IGCSE Results

| School Year | Number of exam entries | Number of A*, A and B grades |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| June 2017 | 17 | 13 |
| June 2018 | 44 | 37 |
| Nov 2018 | 1 | 1 |

Universities attended by SVIS alumni

United Kingdom

Kings College London, Loughborough University, Manchester University, Nottingham University, UAL London, HULT University London.

Europe

Erasmus University Rotterdam, Ecole Hotellier Laussane, Cor Florent Montpellier, INSA Lyon, University des Science Luminy Marseille, IDRAC Lyon, ESMODE Paris, European Business School Barcelona.

United States of America

University of Pennsylvania.

*In 2018 one SVIS student reached the final stages of interviews for Cambridge.