



Introducing Cambridge Pre-U in Modern Foreign Languages

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Who am I?

Maureen Landívar

- senior examining experience
- extensive teaching experience





Origins of Cambridge Pre-U

Consultation with schools and universities

- Schools:
 - Re-take culture
 - Loss of teaching time
 - Cognitive fragmentation
- Universities:
 - Lack of readiness for HE
 - Knowledge gap
 - Loss of synoptic understanding
 - Lack of generic skills
 - » Independent work
 - » Research skills





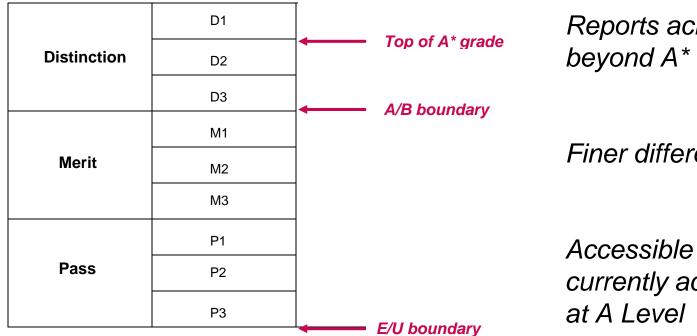
Cambridge Pre-U recognition

- nationally recognised qualification
- QCA 2008 (Ofqual)
- funding for state schools
- HE and UCAS





Grading subjects



Reports achievement

Finer differentiation

Accessible to all who currently achieve pass





UCAS tariff for principal subjects

Band	Pre-U Grade	Pre-U Tariff	A level equivalent grade	A level equivalent tariff
Distinction	D1	tbc	n/a	n/a
	D2	145	(A*)	140
	D3	130	А	120
Merit	M1	115		
	M2	101		
	М3	87		
Pass	P1	73		
	P2	59		
	P3	46	Е	40





Cambridge Pre-U MFL qualification

The Cambridge Pre-U Certificate in Modern Foreign Languages is assessed through four compulsory components. The assessments all take place at the end of the two-year course and a single grade is awarded.

Available in French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish

Accessible to the full range of candidates.





Advantages of assessment after two years

- more time for learning
 - time to 'find voice' in subjects
 - time to make transition into Sixth Form life
 - time to link ideas, concepts, themes
 - less emphasis on examination culture
- freedom for teachers to build exciting, innovative study programmes
- exams designed to assess student progress over two years





Cambridge Pre-U MFL scheme of assessment

Component	Name	Duration	Weighting	Type of Assessment
1	Speaking	16 mins	25%	Externally assessed oral
2	Listening & Reading	2 1/4 hrs	25%	Externally set and marked written paper
3	Writing & Usage	2 1/4 hrs	25%	Externally set and marked written paper
4	Topics & Texts	2 ½ hrs	25%	Externally set and marked written paper





Cambridge Pre-U MFL general topic areas

Teachers are free to explore the topic areas in any way they choose. The following list is a useful guide to planning courses:

- human relationships: family, generation gap, young people
- patterns of daily life; urban and rural life; the media; food and drink; law and order; religion and belief; health and fitness
- work and leisure; equality of opportunity; employment and unemployment; sport; travel and tourism; education; cultural life/heritage
- war and peace; the developing world
- medical advances; scientific and technological innovation
- environment, conservation, pollution
- contemporary aspects of the country and countries where the language is spoken





Examination papers Paper 1 – Speaking (16-20 mins)

- a) Discussion of article & related themes
- b) Personal topic

Conducted and assessed by a visiting examiner





a) Discussion of article and related themes

- choice of discussion
- 20 minutes' preparation time
- overview
- discussion
- extension





b) Discussion of personal topic

- Presentation (1 minute)
- Discussion of 5-8 topic headings
- Candidates should present their introduction 'naturally', even if pre-learnt;
- be ready to lead the discussion and talk freely about their topic;
- show interest in, and personal engagement with, their topic;
- show evidence of research and support opinions with evidence





Paper 2 Reading and listening comprehension

Reading

- Passage 1 answers in TL
- Passage 2 answers in English
- Passage 3 Retranslation exercise (into TL)

Listening

- Passage 1 answers in TL
- Passage 2 answers in English
- Passage 3 Summary exercise (100 words in English)





Paper 3 - Writing and usage

a) Writing:

- Discursive essay of between 350 450 words (1 hour 30 minutes advised)
- 24 marks for accuracy and linguistic range and 16 for development and organisation of ideas
- 5 topics to choose from





b) Usage:

- Exercise 1 tests ability to use correct verb forms (5 marks)
- Exercise 2 tests ability to manipulate language (5 marks)
- Exercise 3 comprehension of current affairs article with a cloze exercise to test comprehension – multiple choice answers

(10 marks)





Paper 4: Topic and texts

- a) Cultural Topics (1 hour 15 mins)
- Candidates prepare TWO texts or films within the same topic
- Answer one question in the TL
- 350-500 words on the texts or films combined
- Choice of two essays on each topic
- Emphasis on broad cultural knowledge of the topic studied rather than on literary or film criticism.





Paper 4: Topic and texts

- b) Literary Texts (1 hour 15 mins)
- Candidates prepare ONE text
- Answer one question in English
- 450-600 words on their chosen text
- Choice between a commentary and two essay titles
- Emphasis on literary appreciation through detailed textual analysis





Short course

Component	Name	Duration	Weighting	Type of Assessment
1	Speaking	8-10 mins	25%	Externally assessed oral
2	Listening Reading Writing	2½ hours	75%	Externally set and marked written paper





- 'The course delivered the challenge and depth for which we had hoped'.
- 'Our students have relished the opportunity to shine and access higher grades than the traditional A Level could offer.'
- One of our big success stories has been those students who are not natural high fliers.'
- 'Having two years to cultivate skills and understanding, and the released extra teaching time available, more than compensates for the challenge of making the leap from Year 11 work.'
- 'Above all, there was a sense that the candidates had enjoyed their set texts.'





Resources available

- specimen papers
- 2010/2011 papers, with Questions papers/ Mark schemes
- subject Reports
- book of example candidate responses in each language
- teachers' guide
- inset programme





Additional resources

- coursebooks
- reference works
- vocabulary lists
- self-help study
- radio
- television
- websites
- cultural stimuli
- literature





Cambridge Pre-U subject community

- Puts teachers in touch with each other to:
 - Discuss teaching ideas and issues
 - Share lesson plans and classroom resources
 - Share recommendations for and experiences of teaching Cambridge Pre-U
- Cambridge can contribute to, edit and monitor posted materials





Any questions?





Contact Cambridge

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