



Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Factsheet

What is the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education?

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) is an advanced academic pre-university curriculum for students who are working towards Advanced (A) and Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level qualifications. The AICE Diploma requires you to study at least three subjects drawn from the different curriculum areas: Mathematics and Sciences; Languages; Arts and Humanities.

An AICE Diploma is a prestigious award that is recognised and valued by colleges and universities, many of which are now offering advanced standing and academic credit for AICE examinations passed.

What do you need to do to qualify for the AICE Diploma?

The AICE Diploma programme requires passes in at least six credits. Each Cambridge AS Level counts as one full credit. A Cambridge A Level counts as a double credit qualification. There are also some subjects available as half credits. So, for example, you could offer three A Levels, or two A Levels with two AS Levels, or one A Level with three AS Levels and two half credits.

There are lots more valid combinations of examinations but at least one AS, A Level or half credit pass must come from each of the three curriculum areas (see overleaf for subjects available).

You can also substitute two research projects – each around 3000 words in length – for a full credit course. Your research projects would normally be based on topics relating to two of your examination subjects. Opting for the research project route encourages you to develop independent research skills, initiative, creativity and the ability to apply skills and knowledge in a topic in which you are interested.

Your performance in each examination earns you points towards the AICE Diploma. The points correspond to the scoring system used by the UK Universities and Colleges Admissions Service and so will be familiar to admissions officers in the UK and internationally.

The Diploma is offered at three different levels:

- Distinction is awarded if you achieve 320 points and above
- Merit is awarded if you achieve 220 to 315 points
- Pass is awarded if you achieve 120 to 215 points

Grade	A Level	AS Level	Half Credit	Research Project
A	120	60	30	30
B	100	50	25	25
C	80	40	20	20
D	60	30	15	15
E	40	20	10	10

More information overleaf ▶



Where is AICE accepted and recognised?

The qualifications within the AICE Diploma framework have a currency with strong levels of international recognition. Applicants for university are able to refer to their levels of achievement both in terms of the constituent parts and to demonstrate the breadth of their studies across three subject areas. Students following an AICE programme therefore score a double advantage – admissions tutors recognise the International A and AS Level gold standard but also value a student’s breadth of study.

Universities and other higher education institutes may have specific admission requirements for some courses and vary in the amount of credit given to AICE students so it is advisable to contact them directly for their advice.

Who can benefit from AICE?

Anyone planning to attend university or enter the world of business will benefit from studying this broad and balanced curriculum and the skills that they will gain from it.

If you have already taken IGCSEs or O Levels, then you will find that the skills you have already acquired are relevant and beneficial to A Level and AICE study.

Examination information

A Level courses usually take two years to complete and examinations are taken at the end of that period. AS Level examinations are usually taken after a year either as part of the A Level course, or as a qualification in their own right. Alternatively the AS Level qualifications can be taken at the end of a two year course.

Examinations are held in June and November* each year with results issued in August and February respectively. You may use up to three examination sessions to take the examinations leading to the AICE Diploma providing they are all taken within a 13 month period. You are able to re-take examinations if you fail or you want to improve your AICE score.

NOTE: CIE only accepts entries through recognised examination centres.

*Some subjects are only available in June or November.

Subjects on offer

Group A: Mathematics and Sciences

Biology	Physics
Chemistry	Psychology
Computing	Technology
Environmental Science	Thinking Skills
Higher Mathematics	Mathematics: Statistics (half credit)
Mathematics (Pure Mathematics, Mathematics with Mechanics or Mathematics with Statistics)	

Group B: Languages

English Language	Foreign Portuguese
English Language and Literature	Foreign Language Spanish
First Language Spanish	Foreign Language French
First Language Portuguese	Foreign Language German
Foreign Language Afrikaans	Foreign Language Urdu
Foreign Language Chinese	English (half credit)

Group C: Arts and Humanities

Accounting	Literature in English
Art and Design	Literature in French
Business Studies	Literature in German
Economics	Literature in Portuguese
General Paper	Literature in Spanish
Geography	Music
History	Psychology
Literature in Arabic	Sociology
Literature in Chinese	Thinking Skills

About CIE

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) qualifications are taken in over 150 different countries and are recognised by universities, education providers and employers across the globe. CIE offers a wide range of academic and professional qualifications for people of all ages and abilities.

How to find out more

