



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Syllabus

Cambridge IGCSE®

First Language Arabic 0508

For examination in June and November 2020 and 2021.



Version 1

Please check the syllabus page at www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse to see if this syllabus is available in your administrative zone.

Cambridge
Pathway

Why choose Cambridge?

Cambridge Assessment International Education prepares school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. We are part of the University of Cambridge.

Our international qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career. As a not-for-profit organisation, we devote our resources to delivering high-quality educational programmes that can unlock learners' potential.

Our programmes and qualifications set the global standard for international education. They are created by subject experts, rooted in academic rigour and reflect the latest educational research. They provide a strong platform for learners to progress from one stage to the next, and are well supported by teaching and learning resources.

Our mission is to provide educational benefit through provision of international programmes and qualifications for school education and to be the world leader in this field. Together with schools, we develop Cambridge learners who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged – equipped for success in the modern world.

Every year, nearly a million Cambridge students from 10 000 schools in 160 countries prepare for their future with an international education from Cambridge International.

'We think the Cambridge curriculum is superb preparation for university.'

Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University, USA

Quality management

Our systems for managing the provision of international qualifications and education programmes for students aged 5 to 19 are certified as meeting the internationally recognised standard for quality management, ISO 9001:2008. Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/ISO9001



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Changes to this syllabus

For information about changes to this syllabus for 2020 and 2021, go to page 13.

The latest syllabus is version 1, published September 2017. There are no significant changes which affect teaching.



1 Why choose this syllabus?

Key benefits

Cambridge IGCSE® syllabuses are created especially for international students. For over 25 years, we have worked with schools and teachers worldwide to develop syllabuses that are suitable for different countries, different types of schools and for learners with a wide range of abilities.

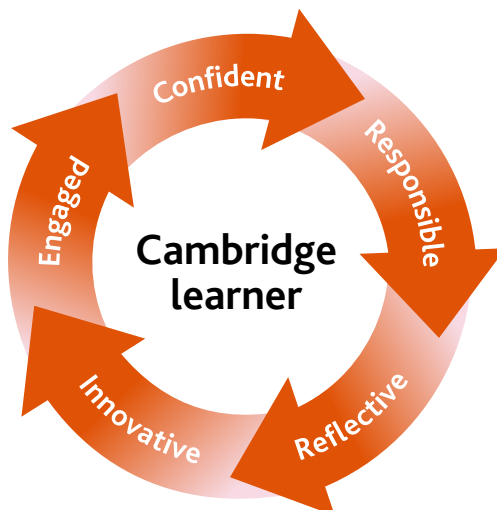
Cambridge IGCSE First Language Arabic is designed for learners whose mother tongue is Arabic. The course allows learners to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when writing
- learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, and correct spelling, punctuation and grammar
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which Arabic can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language Arabic also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Our programmes balance a thorough knowledge and understanding of a subject and help to develop the skills learners need for their next steps in education or employment.

Our approach encourages learners to be:



'The strength of Cambridge IGCSE qualifications is internationally recognised and has provided an international pathway for our students to continue their studies around the world.'

Gary Tan, Head of Schools and CEO, Raffles International Group of Schools, Indonesia

Recognition and progression

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE First Language Arabic gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including Cambridge International AS & A Level Arabic.

Cambridge IGCSEs are accepted and valued by leading universities and employers around the world as evidence of academic achievement. Many universities require a combination of Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs or equivalent to meet their entry requirements.

UK NARIC, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has carried out an independent benchmarking study of Cambridge IGCSE and found it to be comparable to the standard of GCSE in the UK. This means students can be confident that their Cambridge IGCSE qualifications are accepted as equivalent to UK GCSEs by leading universities worldwide.

Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition

Supporting teachers

We provide a wide range of practical resources, detailed guidance, and innovative training and professional development so that you can give your learners the best possible preparation for Cambridge IGCSE.



'Cambridge IGCSE is one of the most sought-after and recognised qualifications in the world. It is very popular in Egypt because it provides the perfect preparation for success at advanced level programmes.'

Mrs Omnia Kassabgy, Managing Director of British School in Egypt BSE

2 Syllabus overview

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

The aims are to enable students to:

- communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in writing
- understand and respond appropriately to what they read
- enjoy and appreciate the variety of language
- complement their other areas of study by developing skills of a more general application (e.g. analysis, synthesis, drawing of inferences).

Content overview

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Arabic offers candidates the opportunity to respond knowledgeably to a rich array of reading passages. Candidates will use some of these passages to inform and inspire their own writing, and write in a range of text types for different audiences.

The passages cover a range of genres and types, including fiction and non-fiction, and may also include other forms of writing, such as essays, reviews and articles.

Candidates are encouraged to become appreciative and critical readers and writers in Arabic.

Assessment overview

All candidates take two papers.

All candidates take:		and:	
Paper 1	2 hours	Paper 2	2 hours
Reading	50%	Writing	50%
50 marks		50 marks	
Structured and extended writing questions		Two composition tasks	
Questions will be based on Arabic passages		Externally assessed	
Externally assessed			



Support for Cambridge IGCSE First Language Arabic

Our School Support Hub www.cambridgeinternational.org/support provides Cambridge schools with a secure site for downloading specimen and past question papers, mark schemes, grade thresholds and other curriculum resources specific to this syllabus. The School Support Hub community offers teachers the opportunity to connect with each other and to ask questions related to the syllabus.

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives (AOs) are:

AO1 Reading

Candidates are assessed on their ability to:

- R1 understand and collate explicit meanings
- R2 understand, explain and collate implicit meanings and attitudes
- R3 select, analyse and evaluate what is relevant to specific purposes
- R4 understand how writers achieve effects.

AO2 Writing

Candidates are assessed on their ability to:

- W1 articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined
- W2 order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- W3 understand and use a range of appropriate vocabulary
- W4 use language and register appropriate to audience and context
- W5 make accurate and effective use of paragraphs, grammatical structures, sentences, punctuation and spelling.

Weighting for assessment objectives

The approximate weightings allocated to each of the assessment objectives (AOs) are summarised below.

Assessment objectives as a percentage of the qualification

Assessment objective	Weighting in IGCSE %
AO1 Reading	35
AO2 Writing	65

Assessment objectives as a percentage of each component

Assessment objective	Weighting in components %	
	Paper 1	Paper 2
AO1 Reading	70	–
AO2 Writing	30	100

3 Subject content

All candidates follow the same curriculum.

1 Reading

All candidates should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of words within extended texts
- scan for and extract specific information
- identify main and subordinate topics, summarise, paraphrase, re-express
- show some sense of how writers achieve their effects
- recognise and respond to simple linguistic devices including figurative language.

Candidates aiming for grades A* to C should, in addition, be able to:

- show a more precise understanding of extended texts
- recognise the relationship of ideas
- evaluate effectiveness, draw inferences, compare, analyse, synthesise
- show understanding of how writers achieve their effects
- recognise and respond to more sophisticated linguistic devices.

2 Writing

All candidates should be able to:

- express thoughts, feelings and opinions in order to interest, inform or convince the reader
- show some sense of audience
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar
- exercise care over punctuation and spelling
- write accurate simple sentences
- attempt a variety of sentence structures
- recognise the need for paragraphing
- use appropriate vocabulary.

Candidates aiming for grades A* to C should, in addition, be able to:

- show a wider and more varied sense of different styles to interest, inform or convince the reader
- show a clear sense of audience
- demonstrate a sophisticated use of vocabulary and structures
- demonstrate accuracy in punctuation and spelling
- write accurate complex sentences
- employ varied sentence structures
- write in well-constructed paragraphs
- use imaginative and varied vocabulary.

4 Details of the assessment

The question papers are set entirely in Arabic.

Paper 1 – Reading

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

Dictionaries may not be used in the examination.

Questions relate to two passages of approximately 600–700 words each, linked by a common theme. These passages are printed on the question paper.

Question 1 (25 marks)

This question is divided into a series of sub-questions requiring answers of different lengths.

The sub-questions are based on Passage 1 and test the following reading objectives (20 marks):

- R1 understand and collate explicit meanings
- R2 understand, explain and collate implicit meanings and attitudes
- R3 select, analyse and evaluate what is relevant to specific purposes
- R4 understand how writers achieve effects.

In addition, 5 marks are available for the accuracy of the language in which answers are expressed.

Question 2 (25 marks)

Candidates write a summary of 200–250 words based on Passage 1 and Passage 2.

The question tests the following reading objectives (15 marks):

- R1 understand and collate explicit meanings
- R2 understand, explain and collate implicit meanings and attitudes
- R3 select, analyse and evaluate what is relevant to specific purposes.

In addition, 10 marks are available for Writing (5 marks for Style and Organisation and 5 marks for Accuracy of Language).

Paper 2 – Writing

Written paper, 2 hours, 50 marks

Dictionaries may not be used in the examination.

This paper is divided into two sections, as detailed below. Candidates are required to write **two** compositions, one from each section.

Section 1 – Discussion and Argument (25 marks)

Four argumentative/discursive titles are set, from which candidates choose one.

Section 2 – Description and Narration (25 marks)

Four titles are set (two descriptive and two narrative), from which candidates choose one.

Candidates are required to write between 350 and 500 words for each of their answers. The questions test the following writing objectives:

- W1 articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined
- W2 order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- W3 understand and use a range of appropriate vocabulary
- W4 use language and register appropriate to audience and context
- W5 make accurate and effective use of paragraphs, grammatical structures, sentences, punctuation and spelling.

5 What else you need to know

This section is an overview of other information you need to know about this syllabus. It will help to share the administrative information with your exams officer so they know when you will need their support. Find more information about our administrative processes at www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsofficers

Before you start

Previous study

We recommend that learners who are beginning this course have a level in Arabic equivalent to first language competence.

Guided learning hours

We design Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses based on learners having about 130 guided learning hours for each subject during the course but this is for guidance only. The number of hours a learner needs to achieve the qualification may vary according to local practice and their previous experience of the subject.

Availability and timetables

You can enter candidates in the June and November exam series. You can view the timetable for your administrative zone at www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables

All Cambridge schools are allocated to one of six administrative zones. Each zone has a specific timetable. From 2020 this syllabus is not available in all administrative zones. To find out about the availability visit the syllabus page at www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse

Private candidates can enter for this syllabus.

Combining with other syllabuses

Candidates can take this syllabus alongside other Cambridge International syllabuses in a single exam series. The only exceptions are:

- Cambridge IGCSE Arabic (0544)
- syllabuses with the same title at the same level.

Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) and Cambridge O Level syllabuses are at the same level.

Group awards: Cambridge ICE

Cambridge ICE (International Certificate of Education) 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 a range of different subjects.

Learn more about Cambridge ICE at www.cambridgeinternational.org/cambridgeice

Making entries

Exams officers are responsible for submitting entries to Cambridge International. We encourage them to work closely with you to make sure they enter the right number of candidates for the right combination of syllabus components. Entry option codes and instructions for submitting entries are in the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*. Your exams officer has a copy of this guide.

Exam administration

To keep our exams secure, we produce question papers for different areas of the world, known as 'administrative zones'. We allocate all Cambridge schools to one administrative zone determined by their location. Each zone has a specific timetable. Some of our syllabuses offer candidates different assessment options. An entry option code is used to identify the components the candidate will take relevant to the administrative zone and the available assessment options.

Support for exams officers

We know how important exams officers are to the successful running of exams. We provide them with the support they need to make your entries on time. Your exams officer will find this support, and guidance for all other phases of the Cambridge Exams Cycle, at www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsofficers

Retakes

Candidates can retake the whole qualification as many times as they want to. This is a linear qualification so candidates cannot re-sit individual components.

Equality and inclusion

We have taken great care to avoid bias of any kind in the preparation of this syllabus and related assessment materials. In compliance with the UK Equality Act (2010) we have designed this qualification to avoid any direct and indirect discrimination.

The standard assessment arrangements may present unnecessary barriers for candidates with disabilities or learning difficulties. We can put arrangements in place for these candidates to enable them to access the assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. We do not agree access arrangements if they give candidates an unfair advantage over others or if they compromise the standards being assessed.

Candidates who cannot access the assessment of any component may be able to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have completed.

Information on access arrangements is in the *Cambridge Handbook* at www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsofficers

Language

This syllabus is available in English only. The associated assessment materials are available in Arabic only.

After the exam

Grading and reporting

Grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, F or G indicate the standard a candidate achieved at Cambridge IGCSE.

A* is the highest and G is the lowest. 'Ungraded' means that the candidate's performance did not meet the standard required for grade G. 'Ungraded' is reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. In specific circumstances your candidates may see one of the following letters on their statement of results:

- Q (result pending)
- X (no result)
- Y (to be issued)

These letters do not appear on the certificate.

How students and teachers can use the grades

Assessment at Cambridge IGCSE has two purposes.

- To measure learning and achievement.

The assessment:

- confirms achievement and performance in relation to the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the syllabus, to the levels described in the grade descriptions.

- To show likely future success.

The outcomes:

- help predict which students are well prepared for a particular course or career and/or which students are more likely to be successful
- help students choose the most suitable course or career.

Grade descriptions

Grade descriptions are provided to give an indication of the standards of achievement candidates awarded particular grades are likely to show. Weakness in one aspect of the examination may be balanced by a better performance in some other aspect.

Grade A

- Candidates understand and communicate information at both a straightforward and a complex level.
- Candidates understand facts, ideas and opinions, and order and present in detail what is relevant for specific purposes.
- Candidates describe and reflect upon experience and detail, analysing effectively what is felt and what is imagined.
- Candidates recognise implicit meanings and attitudes of a writer.
- Candidates show a clear sense of audience and an understanding of appropriate uses of language.
- Candidates write in well-constructed paragraphs, using a full range of appropriate sentence structures and showing accuracy in spelling and punctuation.

Grade C

- Candidates understand and convey information both at a straightforward level and at a more complex level.
- Candidates understand basic facts, ideas and opinions, presenting them with a degree of clarity and accuracy.
- Candidates evaluate material from texts and select what is relevant for specific purposes.
- Candidates describe and reflect upon experience and express effectively what is felt and what is imagined.
- Candidates recognise the more obvious implicit meanings and attitudes of a writer.
- Candidates show a sense of audience and an awareness of appropriate uses of language.
- Candidates write in paragraphs, using sentences of varied kinds and exercising care over spelling and punctuation.

Grade F

- Candidates understand and convey information at a straightforward level.
- Candidates understand basic facts, ideas and opinions, presenting them with a degree of coherence.
- Candidates select material from texts and comment upon it at a literal level.
- Candidates describe experience in concrete terms and express intelligibly what is felt and what is imagined.
- Candidates recognise clear meanings and explicit attitudes of a writer.
- Candidates show awareness that language is used in different ways in different circumstances.
- Candidates write at least in simple sentences – weaknesses in spelling and punctuation and the construction of complex sentences will be apparent, but will not seriously impair communication.

Changes to this syllabus for 2020 and 2021

The syllabus has been updated. This is version 1, published September 2017

This document has been refreshed and rebranded. The subject content remains the same.

Minor changes to the wording of some sections have been made to improve clarity.

You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.

'While studying Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Levels, students broaden their horizons through a global perspective and develop a lasting passion for learning.'

Zhai Xiaoning, Deputy Principal, The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China

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