

# Syllabus Outline

## Cambridge Pre-U **ART HISTORY**

Cambridge  
**Pre-U**

For examination in 2010, 2011, 2012



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

## Cambridge Pre-U Overview

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16-19 year olds who want to go to university. It equips students with the skills they need to make a success of their undergraduate studies:

- a solid and coherent grounding in specialist subjects at an appropriate level;
- the ability to undertake independent and self directed learning;
- the ability to think laterally, critically and creatively and communicate effectively.

The Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject in Art History is a stand-alone qualification, with all components assessed at the full Cambridge Pre-U standard at the end of a two-year programme of study. There are no unit retakes. Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects are certificated separately. They are fully compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

## Reporting of Achievement

Achievement is reported on a scale of nine grades: Distinction 1, 2 and 3, Merit 1, 2 and 3 and Pass 1, 2 and 3. The Distinction 3 standard is aligned to that of Grade A and the Pass 3 is aligned to that of Grade E at A Level. Distinction 1 reports achievement above the new A\* grade. The intention is to differentiate more finely and extend reporting at the top end, while keeping the grading scale accessible to the full range of ability currently achieving passes at A Level.

## UCAS Tariff Points

The table shows the UCAS tariff awarded to each Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject Grade and how this compares with the tariff for A Level.

The tariff reflects the additional content within each syllabus and the linear assessment (terminal examinations at full Pre-U standard).

Universities which normally ask for three A grades at A Level might therefore consider Cambridge Pre-U offers involving a combination of Distinction 3 and Merit 1. Other offers may include asking for a Merit 2 in place of a B, Merit 3 or Pass 1 for a C, Pass 2 for a D and Pass 3 for an E.

Cambridge Pre-U Band	Cambridge Pre-U Grade	Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject Tariff	Equivalent A Level Tariff
Distinction	1	tbc	n/a
	2	145	(A*) 140
	3	130	(A) 120
Merit	1	115	
	2	101	(B) 100
	3	87	
Pass	1	73	
	2	59	
	3	46	(E) 40

For more details, please go to [www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition).

## Common characteristics of Cambridge Pre-U syllabuses

- **Design:** focused on the development of high level knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare for university and beyond, through extensive consultation with teachers/students and universities.
- **Stretch:** built into syllabus content (380 guided learning hours and challenging concepts), assessment (open ended questions) and grading outcomes (finer differentiation at the top end).
- **Innovation:** new approaches to subjects, greater freedom in subject combination, new topics, new methods of delivery and new forms of assessment.
- **Progression in learning:** Cambridge Pre-U builds on prior knowledge gained at 14-16, where appropriate and develops broad generic skills (independent study and research skills). Students are better prepared for undergraduate study.
- **Linearity:** assessment at the end of the course makes for greater coherence in teaching and learning.

## Feedback from Schools

Increased focus and motivation in year 12 pupils

Richer, more coherent educational experience

Encourages wider reading

More independent inquiry and learning

Opportunity to develop and pursue own academic interests

Greater scope for upper ability pupils to distinguish themselves

More time and support available for lower ability pupils

Greater maturity at examination time

## Cambridge Pre-U Art History Scheme of Assessment

Four compulsory components. Examinations take place at the end of the two-year course and a single grade is awarded.

- Paper 1. Analytical Studies in Western and Non-Western art: six questions from a choice of eight. Externally set and marked.
- Paper 2. Historical Topics: three questions from at least two different topics. Externally set and marked.
- Paper 3. Thematic Topics: eight questions are set on each topic, candidates must answer three questions on one of the five topics. Externally set and marked.
- Paper 4. Personal Investigation, 3,000 words. Externally marked with viva.

## Curriculum content

The study of Art History fosters a high level of visual and/or other forms of awareness and develops the critical understanding of works of art, placing them firmly in the context in which they are found. The subject content is chronologically wide ranging, extending from the art of classical antiquity to that of the present day, covering of a wide variety of media including painting, sculpture, architecture, printing, photography, installations, film and video art.

### **Paper 1 Analytical Studies in Western and non-Western Art**

Candidates are expected to study the 48 works specified by the syllabus. The works are split into the following sections:

Painting  
Sculpture  
Architecture  
Drawing, printing, photography, collage and film.

### **Paper 2 Historical Topics**

Topics range from Classical Antiquity to 20th Century Modernism and Post Modernism. The syllabus gives a suggested bibliography and key texts where relevant for each topic. Each historical topic is designed to be taught over one term although teachers can be flexible in their ways of teaching.

Candidates must study at least two of the following topics:

1. The Art and Architecture of Classical Antiquity
2. Art, Religion and Society in Romanesque Europe c. 1000-1200
3. A New Heaven and New Earth: Gothic Art and Architecture c. 1140-1540
4. Man, the measure of all things: the Early Italian Renaissance 1400-1500
5. The Renaissance in Northern Europe 1420-1570
6. Faith Triumphant: Seventeenth Century Art and Architecture

7. Defining the Nation: Art and Architecture in Britain c. 1700-1860s
8. Art, Society and Politics 1790-1900
9. The Shock of the New: Art and Architecture in Europe and the United States in the 20th and 21st Centuries

### **Paper 3 Thematic Topics**

Each thematic topic is broken down into aspects, listed in the syllabus. The syllabus also gives suggested topic areas with each theme, which may help when creating a course.

Thematic Topic 1: Art and Architecture in the City  
Thematic Topic 2: Landscape  
Thematic Topic 3: Portraiture  
Thematic Topic 4: The Nude  
Thematic Topic 5: Still Life

### **Paper 4 Personal Investigation**

The Personal Investigation of 3,000 words, provides candidates with the opportunity to apply skills and knowledge acquired to a new issue, area or body of work of their own choosing. Candidates are free to choose their topic from within and beyond the Western tradition. Following submission of the essay, an examiner will visit the school to conduct a viva of not more than 20 minutes long with each candidate, consisting of a 5 minute long presentation of the work followed by 15 minutes of discussion.

## Support and Resources

CIE offers a programme of Cambridge Pre-U INSET training for teachers accompanied by support materials on a dedicated Cambridge Pre-U website.

Full syllabus details are at [www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu)

Specimen assessment materials are available from: [international@cie.org.uk](mailto:international@cie.org.uk)

