

# Literature in English

Syllabus outline

For examination from 2012–2015

Cambridge  
**Pre-U**



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE  
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Cambridge Pre-U is available in 28 subjects:

Art and Design	History
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Drama and Theatre	Physics
Economics	Psychology
French*	Russian*
Further Mathematics*	Spanish*
Geography	Sports Science
German*	
Global Perspectives and Research	

*\*a one-year certified Short Course is also available.*

### 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 overview

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16–19 year olds who want to go to university. It equips students with the knowledge and 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

Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects and Short Courses are stand-alone qualifications, recognised by universities and attracting a rewarding UCAS tariff. They are compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

For Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects, students take all examination components at the end of a two-year programme of study, and we assess them at the full Cambridge Pre-U standard.

For Cambridge Pre-U Short Courses, students take all examination components at the end of a one-year programme of study. A Short Course grade does not contribute to a Principal Subject result. In this sense, a distinctive feature of Cambridge Pre-U is linearity.

### 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.



# Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English

Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English encourages students to read both closely and widely, to enjoy their reading and to be able to develop a critical and informed response to it.

The intention is to create a balance of set texts and to encourage teachers and students to develop and pursue their own interests and enthusiasms.

Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English encourages students to:

- Develop a critical and informed response to writing in a range of forms, styles and contexts
- Use knowledge and understanding of individual texts to explore comparisons and connections between texts, informed by an appreciation of the traditions of English literature
- Understand and appreciate how writers use form, structure and language to shape meaning and effect
- Engage in a confident, independent and reflective way with a range of texts, leading to effective expression of responses to texts in speech and writing
- Use critical concepts and terminology with understanding and discrimination
- Reflect on their own responses to texts, informed by other readers' interpretations, with an awareness of the contexts in which texts were written and the significance of cultural and historical influences upon readers and writers
- Develop a habit of critical thinking

“ The courses students undertake have a wonderful energy that we'd been missing. Our first cohort has been an enormous success. The students have had a great time with it, and the teachers here have engaged with the course brilliantly well. I would absolutely recommend Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English. It's a much more enjoyable course. Our students have reacted fantastically to it. ”

Jane Bathard-Smith, Head of English, Epsom College

## Syllabus

There are four components to the Cambridge Pre-U Literature in English course:

### Paper 1: Poetry and prose set texts

#### Poetry

Geoffrey Chaucer – *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*\*  
 Alexander Pope – *The Rape of the Lock*\*  
 John Donne – a selection\*\*\*  
 John Keats – a selection\*\*\*  
 Elizabeth Bishop – a selection\*  
 T. S. Eliot – a selection\*\*  
 Sylvia Plath – *Ariel*\*\*  
 Philip Larkin – a selection\*\*\*

#### Prose

George Eliot – *The Mill on the Floss*\*  
 Jane Austen – *Persuasion*\*\*  
 Jonathan Swift – *Gulliver's Travels*\*\*\*  
 Charles Dickens – *Bleak House*\*\*\*  
 Virginia Woolf – *Mrs Dalloway*\*  
 J.M.Coetzee – *Disgrace*\*  
 Edith Wharton – *The Age of Innocence*\*\*  
 Evelyn Waugh – *A Handful of Dust*\*\*\*

### Paper 2: Drama set texts

William Shakespeare – *The Tempest*\*  
 William Shakespeare – *King Lear*\*\*  
 William Shakespeare – *King Henry IV, Part I*\*\*\*  
 William Wycherley – *The Country Wife*\*

John Webster – *The White Devil*\*\*  
 Brian Friel – *Dancing at Lughnasa*\*\*  
 Harold Pinter – *The Homecoming*\*\*\*

\* Texts are set for examination in 2013 only. \*\* Texts are set for examination in 2013, 2014.

\*\*\* Texts are set for examination in 2013, 2014, 2015.

### Paper 3: Comment and analysis (unseen)

Candidates will need to be introduced to a wide range of literature from different periods, forms, genre and styles in preparation for this paper. They will need to undertake wide and

varied reading beyond the set texts studied for the other papers. Suggested reading lists are provided. Questions will require close analysis of the language and style of the passages.

### Personal investigation

- Proposals for areas of study, set texts and titles for each student are submitted to University of Cambridge International Examinations for approval.
- Wholly independent personal investigation involving significant comparisons between at least two authors.
- Sample topic for personal investigation:

**The Gothic Novel.** Main texts – two from:  
 Horace Walpole – *The Castle of Otranto*;  
 Ann Radcliffe – *The Mysteries of Udolpho*;  
 Matthew Lewis – *The Monk*; Jane Austen –  
*Northanger Abbey*; Bram Stoker – *Dracula*;  
 Angela Carter – *Nights at the Circus*;  
 Iain Banks – *The Crow Road*

#### Suggested questions:

- 'Gothic novels are either too sentimental or too dependent on superstition to appeal to modern readers.' How far does your own reading of Gothic fiction lead you to agree or disagree with this view?
- Radcliffe suggested that the presence of terror in literature 'expands the soul and awakens the faculties to a high degree of life'. With close reference to at least two Gothic novels, explain what you think she meant by this and how far it reflects your view of the purpose of terror in the Gothic novel.

## Scheme of assessment

Students take all four components in the same session:

Component	Component title	Duration	Weighting	Type of assessment
Paper 1	Poetry and prose	2 hours	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 2	Drama	2 hours	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 3	Comment and analysis (unseen)	2 hours 15 mins	25%	Written paper, externally set and marked
Paper 4	Personal investigation		25%	Externally marked project

Examinations take place at the end of the two-year course. A single grade is awarded.

Individual components cannot be retaken.



## 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 Cambridge Pre-U standard).

Universities which normally ask for three A grades at A Level typically make 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 UCAS tariff	Equivalent A Level UCAS tariff	Short Course UCAS tariff
Distinction	D1	tbc	n/a	tbc
	D2	145	(A*) 140	tbc
	D3	130	(A) 120	60
Merit	M1	115		53
	M2	101	(B) 100	46
	M3	87		39
Pass	P1	73		32
	P2	59		26
	P3	46	(E) 40	20

Cambridge Pre-U is recognised by all UK universities and many universities abroad, including all US Ivy League universities. For more details, please go to [www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/recognition).

## Support and resources for teachers

We offer a programme of free Cambridge Pre-U INSET training for teachers accompanied by online support materials including syllabuses, specimen/past papers, mark schemes and example candidate responses.

A free Teacher Guide expands on each syllabus, to help teachers understand what students are expected to know.

It is written by a teacher for teachers and suggests for each topic:

- a checklist of what to cover with students
- resources, both paper and web based
- additional extension/'stretch and challenge' areas
- further teaching and learning opportunities.

**Learn more!** For more information on Cambridge Pre-U visit [www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgepreu) or contact Customer Services on +44 (0)1223 553554 or email [international@cie.org.uk](mailto:international@cie.org.uk)

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