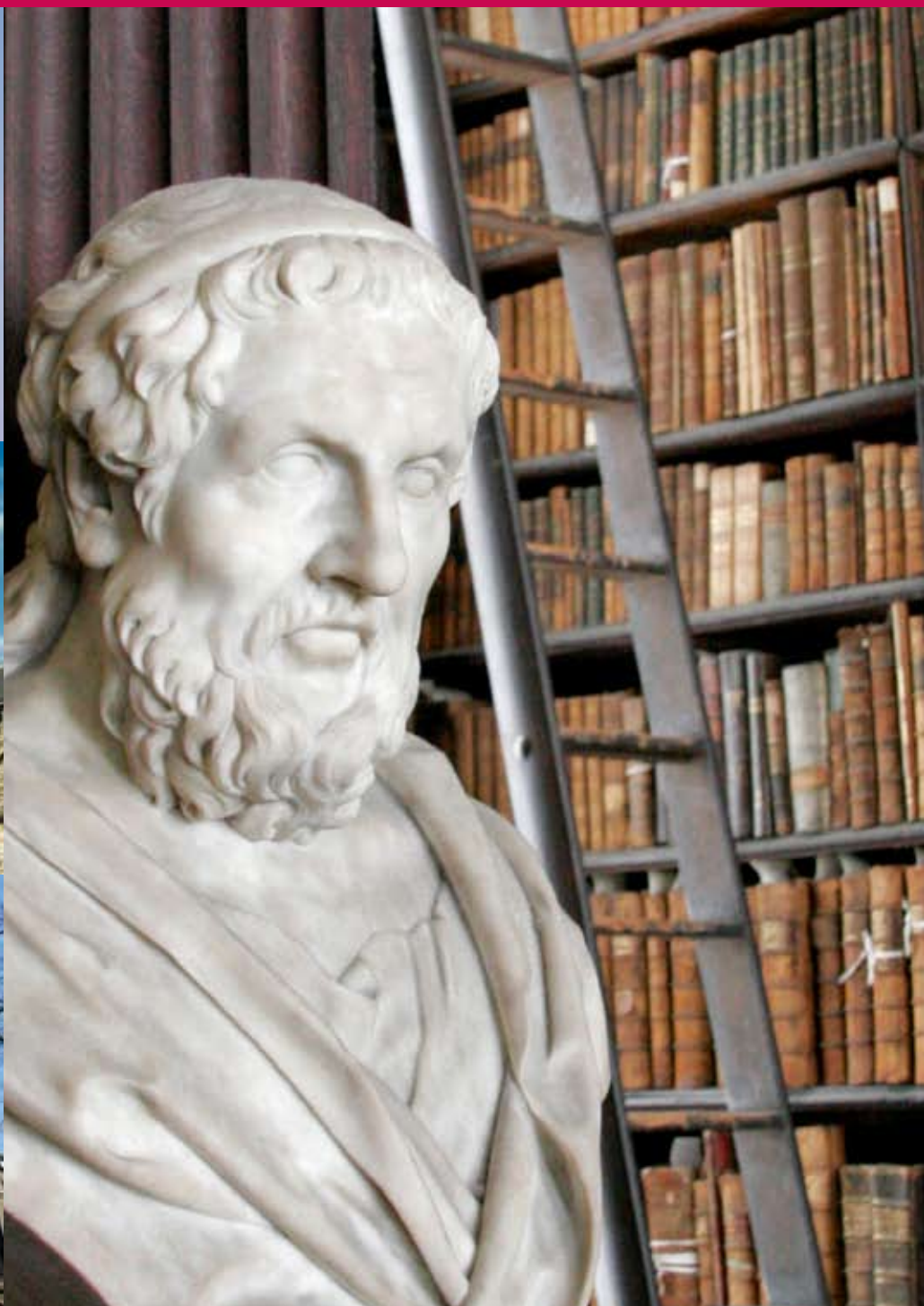
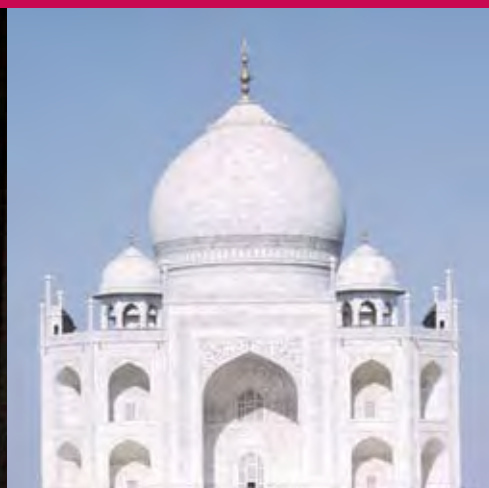


# Syllabus Outline

## Cambridge Pre-U **PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY**

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 Philosophy and Theology 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 Philosophy and Theology Scheme of Assessment

The Cambridge pre-U Certificate in Philosophy and Theology is an introduction to the fundamental questions of truth and understanding, and is assessed through three compulsory components.

- Paper 1. Introduction to Philosophy and Theology, written examination externally set and marked.
- Paper 2. Topics and Key Texts in Philosophy and Theology, written examination externally set and marked.
- Paper 3. Topics and Key Texts in Philosophy and Theology, written examination externally set and marked.

Examinations take place at the end of the two-year course and a single grade is awarded. Individual components cannot be retaken.

## Curriculum content

### Paper 1 Introduction to Philosophy and Theology

Foundational debates in Philosophy

Ethics

The nature of belief

Arguments for the existence of God

Conscience, free will and determinism

This paper covers compulsory content and is designed as an introduction to the key aspects of the course, covering a range of themes which are central to the study of both Philosophy and Theology.

### Paper 2 Topics in Theology and Philosophy

<b>Epistemology</b> Scepticism The relationship between knowledge, belief and justification Knowledge of the external world: theories of perception	<b>New Testament: the Four Gospels</b> Historical, social and religious background Aspects of Jesus' teaching Passion, resurrection and the christological debate	<b>Old Testament Prophecy</b> Historical background and development Prophetic phenomena The 'writing prophets' and their message
<b>Philosophy of Mind</b> The mind-body problem and attempts to solve it Other solutions to the mind-body problem The problem of other minds; the problem of personal identity; the problem of consciousness	<b>Philosophy of Religion</b> Religion and science Religious experience Ultimate questions	<b>Ethics</b> Christian ethics Other ethical theories Applied ethics
<b>Philosophy and Language</b> Language, meaning and truth Understanding ethical language Understanding of God		

### Paper 3 Key Texts in Theology and Philosophy

This paper focuses on the critical study of selected passages from two key texts for each of the two topics chosen for Paper 2. Critical engagement with the text will involve the ability to analyse and evaluate the arguments used, including the identification of assumptions and the evaluation of evidence.

Epistemology: Descartes – *Discourse on Method and The Meditations*, Berkeley – *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous in Opposition to Sceptics and Atheists*

Religious and Ethical Language: Ayer – *Language, Truth and Logic*, Phillips – *Religious Beliefs and Language-Games*

Philosophy of Mind: Parfit – *Reasons and Persons*, Searle – *Minds, Brains and Science*

Philosophy of Religion: Polkinghorne – *Science and Creation: The Search for Understanding*, Hick – *Evil and the God of Love*

Ethics: J S Mill – *Utilitarianism*, Sartre – *Existentialism and Humanism*

Old Testament: Prophecy – Klaus Koch: *The Prophets: Volume One: The Assyrian Period – two key passage*

New Testament: the Four Gospels: Sanders – *Studying the Synoptic Gospels*, Stanton – *The Gospels and Jesus*

## 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)



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