



Syllabus

Cambridge International AS & A Level For centres in Mauritius

German Language 8683

German 9717

For examination in November 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Spanish Language 8685

Spanish 9719

For examination in June and November 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Changes to the syllabus for 2020, 2021 and 2022

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

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

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Why choose Cambridge Assessment International Education?

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.

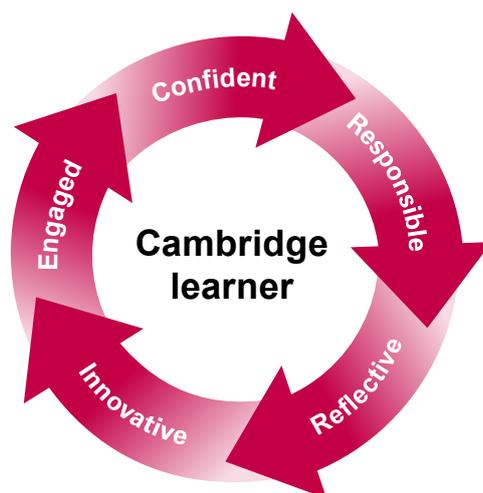
Our programmes and qualifications set the global standard for international education. They are created by subject experts, rooted in academic rigour and reflect the latest educational research. They provide a strong platform for students to progress from one stage to the next, and are well supported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

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

Cambridge learners

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** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- **responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- **reflective** as learners, developing their ability to learn
- **innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
- **engaged** intellectually and socially ready to make a difference.



Learn more about the Cambridge learner attributes in Chapter 2 of our *Implementing the curriculum with Cambridge* guide at www.cambridgeinternational.org/curriculumguide

Why Cambridge International AS & A Levels?

Cambridge International AS & A Levels are international in outlook, but retain a local relevance. The syllabuses provide opportunities for contextualised learning and the content has been created to suit a wide variety of schools, avoid cultural bias and develop essential lifelong skills, including creative thinking and problem-solving.

Our aim is to balance knowledge, understanding and skills in our qualifications to enable students to become effective learners and to provide a solid foundation for their continuing educational journey. Cambridge International AS & A Levels give learners building blocks for an individualised curriculum that develops their knowledge, understanding and skills.

Cambridge International AS & A Level curricula are flexible. It is possible to offer almost any combination from a wide range of subjects.

Every year thousands of learners with Cambridge International AS & A Levels gain places at leading universities worldwide. Cambridge International AS & A Levels are accepted and valued by top universities around the world including those in the UK, US (including Ivy League universities), European nations, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Learners should check the university website for specific entry requirements before applying.

Did you know?

In some countries universities accept Cambridge International AS Levels in their own right as qualifications counting towards entry to courses in the same or other related subjects.

Learn more

For more details go to www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition

Why Cambridge International AS & A Level German and Spanish?

About the syllabus

Cambridge International AS and A Levels in languages other than English are accepted by universities and employers as proof of linguistic ability and understanding. Successful language students gain lifelong skills, including:

- the ability to communicate confidently and clearly in the target language
- a sound understanding of the nature of language and language study, and of the skills and abilities required for further study, work and leisure
- insight into the culture and contemporary society of countries where the language is spoken
- better integration into communities where the language is spoken
- positive attitudes towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and societies
- skills which can be used in other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills.

Guided learning hours

Guided learning hours give an indication of the amount of contact time teachers need to have with learners to deliver a particular course. Our syllabuses are designed around 180 guided learning hours for Cambridge International AS Level, and around 360 guided learning hours for Cambridge International A Level.

These figures are for guidance only. The number of hours needed to gain the qualification may vary depending on local practice and the learners' previous experience of the subject.

Prior learning

We recommend that learners who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge O Level or Cambridge IGCSE® assessment/course or equivalent in German/Spanish.

Progression

A Cambridge International A Level in a language provides a suitable foundation for the study of languages or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in languages, or as part of a course of general education.

We recommend learners check the Cambridge International recognitions database and the university websites to find the most up-to-date entry requirements for courses they wish to study.

Teacher support

We offer a wide range of practical and innovative support to help teachers plan and deliver our programmes and qualifications confidently.

Please see the syllabus materials DVD for more information.

1 Assessment at a glance

Centres and candidates can choose to take an assessment at either

- Advanced (A) Level or
- Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level.

Candidates wishing to take a Cambridge International A Level must take **all components** of the assessment in the **same** examination series. It is not possible for candidates to follow a staged assessment of these qualifications. Centres can offer an AS qualification either as a stand-alone assessment, or as a means of testing candidates' skills and competence before they enter for the Cambridge International A Level exam. See section 4 for an outline of the components.

Note: The use of dictionaries is not permitted in any assessment.

Availability

	A Level	AS Language	Examined in
German	9717	8683	June and November
Spanish	9719	8685	June and November

These syllabuses are available to private candidates.

Scheme of assessment summary

Where a component is common to two or more qualifications, grading of each qualification is carried out separately.

	Component 1 Speaking Test		Component 2 Reading and Writing		Component 3 Essay		Component 4 Texts	
	duration	weighting	duration	weighting	duration	weighting	duration	weighting
A Level (compulsory Speaking Test*)	20 mins	20%	1 hour 45 mins	35%	1 hour 30 mins	15%	2 hours 30 mins	30%
AS Language (compulsory Speaking Test*)	20 mins	29%	1 hour 45 mins	50%	1 hour 30 mins	21%	—	—

* The compulsory Speaking Test contributes to candidates' overall grade. Where candidates perform to the appropriate standard, certificates will record whether a Distinction, Merit or Pass was achieved in the Speaking Test.

Combining this with other syllabuses

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination series with any other Cambridge International syllabus, except:

- syllabuses with the same title at the same level.

In addition, where a component contributes to different awards, candidates may not take more than one of those awards in the same examination series:

- Cambridge International A Level candidates may **not** take the Cambridge International AS Level qualification in the same language in the same series
- Cambridge International AS Level candidates may **not** take the Cambridge International A Level qualification in the same language in the same series..

2 Syllabus aims and assessment objectives

2.1 Syllabus aims

Cambridge International AS & A Level syllabuses in languages other than English aim to:

- develop the ability to understand a language from a variety of registers
- enable students to communicate confidently and clearly in the target language
- form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- develop insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where the language is spoken, including the study of literary texts where appropriate (this does not apply to AS Language qualifications)
- encourage positive attitudes to language learning and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- support intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills.

2.2 Assessment objectives

The examinations are designed to assess candidates' linguistic competence and their knowledge of contemporary society. In the exams, candidates will be expected to:

- understand and respond to texts written in the target language, drawn from a variety of sources such as magazines, newspapers, reports, books and other forms of extended writing
- manipulate the target language accurately in spoken and written forms, choosing appropriate examples of lexis and structures
- select information and present it in the target language
- organise arguments and ideas logically.

3 Topic areas

All textual material used in the examinations will be drawn from the topic areas below, with reference to the country or countries where the language is spoken. More guidance on the topic areas is given in section 5.

- Human relationships
- Family
- Generation gap
- Young people
- Patterns of daily life
- Urban and rural life
- The media
- Food and drink
- Law and order
- Philosophy and belief
- Health and fitness
- Work and leisure
- Equality of opportunity
- Employment and unemployment
- Sport
- Free time activities
- Travel and tourism
- Education
- Cultural life/heritage
- War and peace
- Social and economic development
- Scientific and medical advances
- Technological innovation
- Environment
- Conservation
- Pollution
- Contemporary aspects of the country or countries where the language is spoken

4 Description of components

4.1 Component 1: Speaking Test

20 minutes, 100 marks

There is no question paper for the Speaking Test.

This component description should be read in conjunction with section 6 (Mark Schemes), and section 7 (Administrative guidance on the Speaking Test). It is important that the timings listed for the individual parts of the test are adhered to, within the tolerances given.

Centres/Ministries must appoint a local examiner to conduct the Speaking Test.

Section 1: Presentation

No more than 3½ minutes, 20 marks

The candidate gives a presentation, which they will have prepared in advance, lasting about three minutes, on a specific topic taken from one of the topic areas listed in section 3.

The presentation **must** demonstrate the candidate's knowledge of the contemporary society or cultural heritage of a country where the target language is spoken. Candidates who do not do this will have their mark for Content/Presentation halved (see section 6, Mark Schemes). There must not be a close relationship between the subject matter of the presentation and the texts studied for Component 4. Centres wanting further advice on acceptable subject matter should contact the Cambridge International Languages Group.

The candidate should be able to present relevant facts, express opinions and hypotheses, and put forward points for discussion.

Ideally, the candidate should prepare a topic in which they have a personal interest, aiming to give a lively and interesting presentation. Candidates may prepare a 'cue card' (such as a postcard) in the target language to remind them of the main points they wish to make, to bring into the examination room. Candidates may also bring in a limited quantity of illustrative material, such as maps, diagrams, statistics, pictures or short articles.

A script of the presentation is not allowed.

Examiners will only interrupt candidates to ask questions if the presentation shows no sign of finishing after 3½ minutes, or to prompt a candidate having obvious difficulty in continuing with their presentation.

Section 2: Topic conversation

7–8 minutes, 40 marks

The presentation will lead into a conversation about the chosen topic. During the presentation, the examiner can make notes in order to help them ask appropriate questions. Candidates must be prepared to supply additional factual material where appropriate and to express and defend a point of view. In order to give the candidate every opportunity to do this, examiners will use open-ended questions (such as ‘tell me more about...’, ‘why...?’, ‘how...?’), rather than closed questions which may be answered by ‘yes/no’. When choosing a topic, candidates should consider how the subsequent conversation might develop: if they cannot think of six or more possible questions that the examiner could ask, the topic is unlikely to be a fruitful source of discussion.

The examiner will encourage the candidate to contribute as much as possible to the conversation. As part of this, the candidate is required to seek information from and the opinions of the examiner, and must be given every opportunity to do so (see section 6, Mark Schemes).

Section 3: General conversation

8–9 minutes, 40 marks

At the end of the Topic conversation the examiner will announce the transition to the General conversation.

This section begins with fairly straightforward questions about the candidate’s background and interests, and moves quickly on to a more mature conversation discussing more abstract and/or current issues within the general topic areas.

The subjects covered in this section will depend on the candidate’s interests and the subject of the presentation: for example, it would not be appropriate to continue talking about the environment if the candidate has already chosen to discuss ecology for the topic.

Candidates should be able to discuss some matters of current interest, though examiners should not expect candidates to be well informed on all matters of serious contemporary concern. If the candidate seems unresponsive, the examiner will try a change of topic.

For example, the examiner might begin this section with questions such as ‘How do you spend your spare time?’, leading rapidly to matters of contemporary interest/current affairs. The type of question is important: closed questions may, of course, be used to gain some information on the candidate’s interests, but open-ended questions beginning with ‘why...?’, ‘how...?’, or ‘what do you think about...?’ will give the candidate more scope in their responses.

Each ‘starter’ question could, depending on the reaction of the candidate, lead away from factual matters towards more abstract areas, for example:

- ‘How long have you lived here?’ could lead on to ‘What do you think of the area?’ → ‘What would attract people to the area/make them leave it?’ → ‘What would be your ideal place to live and why?’
- ‘What subjects are you studying?’ → ‘What do you think of the way you’ve been taught?’ → ‘How could it be improved?’ → discussion of school/education system, comparison with other countries.

The General Conversation section might develop as follows:

• 'What do you do in your spare time?'	
<p>Answer: 'Sport'</p> <p>Supplementary questions – taking part?/ watching?/team/individual?</p> <p>→ Why?</p> <p>This could develop along sport/health lines, necessity for sport in schools, success/failure of national teams.</p> <p>→ Feelings of nationalism/nationality; drugs in sport etc, all according to the responses of the candidate. Any of these areas of discussion could lead to violence in sport → society, the need for government intervention/control → politics etc.</p>	<p>Answer: 'Watch TV'</p> <p>Supplementary questions – what sort of programmes/news?</p> <p>This might develop along the lines of whether the news is unbiased/censorship in general.</p> <p>→ Films? what makes a film successful, importance of stars and why; national or international film industries, subsidies for the Arts, etc.</p> <p>Documentaries? → are they merely entertainment, or a genuine educational experience? are they sensationalised? → power of the media, etc.</p>

Reference may be made to a candidate's reading but candidates must not be examined in detail on the content of any set books. Questions will act as stepping-stones to the discussion of wider issues.

Candidates must seek information and opinions from the examiner, and should be given every opportunity to do so (see section 6, Mark Schemes).

The General Conversation section might only cover two or three topic areas, possibly more if the examiner has difficulty finding something the candidate is interested in, or can talk about. Candidates who cannot sustain the conversation at a level appropriate to a 17/18+ examination (when given every opportunity to do so) cannot expect a high mark.

Important note:

It is intended that both conversation elements will be lively and spontaneous. Teachers should warn their candidates not to produce chunks of pre-learned material since Cambridge International's moderators are advised to penalise candidates who do so. Equally, teachers who may also be conducting the final examination should guard against over-rehearsing the tests in advance. Any suspicion of collusion in the conduct of speaking tests (e.g. pre-prepared questions, candidates or teachers using pre-determined scripts) will be dealt with in accordance with Cambridge International's Malpractice procedures.

4.2 Component 2: Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minutes, 70 marks

Two passages in the target language are set which deal with related themes.

Candidates answer specific and general comprehension questions on the two passages, and respond to a task requiring a summary or comparison of issues raised. The target language will be used for all questions and answers.

The passages will have been written during the last twenty years, and will reflect the international scene. In addition:

- the two passages, taken together, will not exceed 750 words
- on the first passage, two tests (5 marks each) will cover vocabulary recognition and grammatical manipulation. These will be followed by a series of comprehension questions (15 marks for Content and 5 marks for Quality of Language)
- on the second passage, there will be a series of comprehension questions (15 marks for Content and 5 marks for Quality of Language)
- the last question will require candidates to write about 140 words, drawing information from both passages and adding their own opinions, (10 marks for information drawn from the passages, 5 marks for personal response to the material, and 5 marks for Quality of Language).

4.3 Component 3: Essay

1 hour 30 minutes, 40 marks

A list of five topics, selected from the topic areas in section 4, is published below for each year of examination. The list changes every year. A question will be set on each of the five topics corresponding to the year of examination; candidates choose **one** question and write an essay in the target language of 250–400 words. Of the 40 marks available, 24 are for the Quality of the Language and 16 for the Content (see section 6, Mark Schemes).

Set topics for examination in 2020:	Set topics for examination in 2021:	Set topics for examination in 2022:
1 Generation gap	1 Patterns of daily life	1 Young people
2 Health and fitness	2 Food and drink	2 The media
3 Education	3 Employment and unemployment	3 Equality of opportunity
4 Technological innovation	4 Social and economic development	4 Free time activities
5 Conservation	5 Environment	5 Scientific and medical advances

For information regarding the set topics for examination in **2023**, please go to the Cambridge International website www.cambridgeinternational.org

4.4 Component 4: Texts

2 hours 30 minutes, 75 marks

Candidates answer **three** questions in the target language. Each question must be on a different text, taken from the list corresponding to the year of examination in section 4.5. The list for each year is divided into two sections: candidates must choose at least one text from each section.

Each question is marked out of 25. Candidates are advised to write between 500 and 600 words. Candidates who write more than 600 words will not be placed higher than the 16–17 category for that answer (see section 6, Mark Schemes).

Set texts may **not** be taken into the examination room.

Section 1

Candidates are given a choice of two questions for each text.

For each text in this section there will be an extended passage taken from the text followed by either a single question or a number of short questions. This will not be a context passage (the location of the passage is given) but a stimulus to allow candidates to bring a focus to their answer. Candidates are asked to comment on particular aspects of the passage and/or to indicate how the passage reflects the book as a whole.

The alternative question will be an essay question, similar to those in section 2.

Section 2

For each text there is a choice of two questions focusing on issues central to the text. Candidates are expected to display detailed knowledge of the text and to show some awareness of how the author conveys the message of the work.

4.5 Set texts for Component 4

4.5.1 Set texts for German

Note that the list of set texts is different for each year. Please ensure that you refer to the table corresponding to the year in which candidates will sit the examination.

Set texts for examination in 2020

Section 1

- 1 **Die Physiker*, Friedrich Dürrenmatt
- 2 **Tschick*, Wolfgang Herrndorf
- 3 **Homo faber*, Max Frisch

Section 2

- 4 **Als Hitler das rosa Kaninchen stahl*, Judith Kerr
- 5 *Weiter leben: Eine Jugend*, Ruth Klüger
- 6 **Liebesfluchten*, Bernhard Schlink

* To be examined again in 2021

Set texts for examination in 2021

Section 1

- 1 **Die Physiker*, Friedrich Dürrenmatt
- 2 **Tschick*, Wolfgang Herrndorf
- 3 **Homo faber*, Max Frisch

Section 2

- 4 **Als Hitler das rosa Kaninchen stahl*, Judith Kerr
- 5 **Demian*, Herrmann Hesse
- 6 *Liebesfluchten*, Bernhard Schlink

* To be examined again in 2022

Set texts for examination in 2022

Section 1

- 1 *Die Physiker*, Friedrich Dürrenmatt
- 2 *Tschick*, Wolfgang Herrndorf
- 3 *Homo faber*, Max Frisch

Section 2

- 4 *Als Hitler das rosa Kaninchen stahl*, Judith Kerr
- 5 *Demian*, Herrmann Hesse
- 6 *Professor Unrat*, Heinrich Mann

For information regarding the examination in 2023, please go to the Cambridge International website www.cambridgeinternational.org

4.5.2 Set texts for Spanish

Note that the list of set texts is different for each year. Please ensure that you refer to the table corresponding to the year in which candidates will sit the examination.

Set texts for examination in 2020	
<p>Section 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>Los pazos de Ulloa</i>, Emilia Pardo Bazán* 2 <i>El caballero de Olmedo</i>, Lope de Vega 3 <i>Sab</i>, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda (ed. Hispanic Texts, MUP)* 4 <i>El amor en los tiempos del cólera</i>, Gabriel García Márquez* 	<p>Section 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5 <i>Las ataduras</i>, Carmen Martín Gaité* 6 <i>Yerma</i>, Federico García Lorca* 7 <i>Cuentos Escogidos</i>, Horacio Quiroga (ed. Jean Franco) (Nuestro primer cigarro / La insolación / El alambre de púa / Yaguai / Anaconda / Los fabricantes de carbón / En la noche / Los pescadores de vigas / La voluntad / El simún / A la deriva / El hombre muerto / El yaciyateré / Tacuara-Mansión) 8 <i>Tala : Lagar</i> Gabriela Mistral (Cátedra, Letras Hispánicas)* The following poems are to be studied. Tala Muerte de mi madre: <i>La fuga</i> Alucinación: <i>Riqueza</i> Gestos: <i>La copa / La medianoche / Dos ángeles / Paraíso / La gracia / La rosa</i> Historias de loca: <i>I La muerte-niña / II La flor del aire / III La sombra / El fantasma</i> Materias: <i>I Pan / II Sal / III Agua / V El Aire</i> América: <i>Dos himnos – I Sol del Trópico / II Cordillera / El maíz</i> Saudade: <i>País de la ausencia / La extranjera / Beber / Todos íbamos a ser reinas / Cosas</i> <i>La ola muerta: Muro / Viejo león</i> Criatureas: <i>Canción de las muchachas muertas / Deshecha / Confesión / Vieja / Palomas</i> Lagar Locas mujeres: <i>La otra / Las abandonada / La ansiosa / La bailarina / La desadisa / La desvelada / La dichosa / La ferverosa / La fugitiva / La granjera / La que camina / Una mujer / Una piadosa</i> Naturaleza: <i>Amapola de California / Hallazgo del Palmar / La peidra de Parahibuna / Muerte del mar / Ocotillo / Palmas de Cuba</i> Desvarío: <i>El reparto / Encargo a Blanca</i> Guerra: <i>Caída de Europa / La huella</i> Jugarretas: <i>Doña Venenos / Ocho perritos</i> Lutos: <i>Aniversario / Luto / Una palabra</i> Nocturnos: <i>Canto que amabas</i>

Set texts for examination in 2020 cont.

Oficios: *Herramientas*
Religiosas: *El regreso*
Vagabundaje: *Puertas / Emigrada Judía*
Tiempo: *Amanecer / Mañana / Atardecer / Noche*
Epílogo: *Último árbol*

* to be set in 2021

Set texts for examination in 2021

Section 1

- 1 *Los pazos de Ulloa*, Emilia Pardo Bazán
- 2 *Sab*, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda (ed. Hispanic Texts, MUP)*
- 3 *El amor en los tiempos del cólera*, Gabriel García Márquez*
- 4 *Lazarillo de Tormes*, Anonymous (Cátedra, Letras Hispánicas)*

Section 2

- 5 *Las ataduras*, Carmen Martín Gaité*
- 6 *Yerma*, Federico García Lorca
- 7 *Tala : Lagar*, Gabriela Mistral (Cátedra, Letras Hispánicas)*
- 8 *La casa de los espíritus*, Isabel Allende*

* to be set in 2022

Set texts for examination in 2022

Section 1

- 1 *Sab*, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda (ed. Hispanic Texts, MUP)
- 2 *El amor en los tiempos del cólera*, Gabriel García Márquez
- 3 *Lazarillo de Tormes*, Anonymous (Cátedra, Letras Hispánicas)
- 4 *El alcalde de Zalamea*, Calderón de la Barca

Section 2

- 5 *Las ataduras*, Carmen Martín Gaité
- 6 *Boda de sangre*, Federico García Lorca
- 7 *Tala : Lagar*, Gabriela Mistral (Cátedra, Letras Hispánicas)
- 8 *La casa de los espíritus*, Isabel Allende

For information regarding the examination in 2023, please go to the Cambridge International website www.cambridgeinternational.org

5 Topic areas: further guidance

Teachers can explore the topic areas **in any way they choose**. The following examples (which are not prescriptive) are a useful guide to planning courses. All these suggestions, and other themes chosen by the teacher from within the topic areas, should be studied with reference to countries/communities where the language is spoken.

Human relationships – family – generation gap – young people

- family activities; new patterns of family relationships; the status of the elderly and responsibility for their care
- generation gap; conflicts in the family circle; young people and the older generation; attitudes of young people to the family environment
- young people; young people and their peer group; young people as a target group for advertisers and politicians

Patterns of daily life – urban and rural life – the media – food and drink – law and order – philosophy and belief – health and fitness

- daily routine; school; the individual's way of life; living conditions
- advantages and disadvantages of urban and rural life; transport and communications; shopping; housing
- the role and influence of the media; the power of advertising
- healthy eating; fast-food; national traditions of eating and drinking
- violence and crime; drug-related crime; the role of the police; law-enforcement
- the role of philosophy and belief in a local, national and an international context; attitudes towards different beliefs and philosophical issues; philosophical and religious practices/groups; values and morality
- healthy living; exercise; dieting; drugs; health care provision; stress; AIDS

Work and leisure – equality of opportunity – employment and unemployment – sport – free time activities – travel and tourism – education – cultural life/heritage

- women in society and in the workforce; equality of opportunity for minority groups
- preparation for work and job opportunities; career plans; qualifications and job routines; plight of the unemployed, areas of high unemployment; demise of traditional industries; possible solutions, immigrant workers
- individual and team sports; amateur and professional sport
- value of leisure; balance between leisure and work; planning leisure time
- tourism as a modern phenomenon; friction between tourists and local inhabitants; holidays and foreign travel
- education systems and types of school; patterns of curriculum; relationship between education and training; further and higher education provision; examinations
- the world of the arts; significant figures and trends in the arts; the place of culture and the arts in the life of the nation

War and peace – social and economic development

- conflicts in the world: ethnic, religious, ideological
- positive and negative aspects of social and economic development; recent and predicted trends

Medical advances – scientific and technological innovation

- advances in the treatment of disease; ethical issues of medical and other technologies
- cloning; genetic modifications; modern communications systems

Environment – pollution – conservation

- the individual in his/her surroundings; effect of environment on individuals; protest action to protect one's locality; ways of contributing to environmental awareness
- global warming; acid rain; air pollution; water pollution; noise pollution; destruction of rain forests; damage to animal world; solutions and cost implications
- saving endangered species and landscapes

Contemporary aspects of the country/ies where the language is spoken

- e.g. political, regional, social issues

6 Mark schemes

6.1 Component 1: Speaking Test

Section 1: Presentation (20 marks)

- Content and Presentation – 10 marks
- Pronunciation and Intonation – 5 marks
- Language – 5 marks

Candidates who make no specific reference to the contemporary society or cultural heritage of a country where the language is spoken will have their mark for Content and Presentation halved.

Content and Presentation <i>Knowledge of facts; ability to express opinions and raise issues for discussion.</i>		Pronunciation and Intonation		Language	
9/10	Full and well organised coverage of the topic; ideas and opinions included as well as factual points; lively presentation; examiner's interest sustained.	5	Outstanding pronunciation and intonation; an occasional slight mistake or hesitation. Not necessarily a native speaker.	5	Has a very good feeling for the language; speaks fluently and accurately; shows good use of relevant idiom and uses a wide range of structures and vocabulary.
7/8	Good exposition and sound organisation of the topic; makes relevant factual points though may be less good in ideas and opinions; presentation somewhat stilted though keeps examiner's interest.	4	Good pronunciation, makes a fair attempt at correct intonation and expression; some mistakes and/or hesitation.	4	Speaks fairly fluently and accurately; uses idiom with a reasonable range of structures and vocabulary.
5/6	Adequate exposition of the topic; few ideas or opinions; evidence of preparation but presentation pedestrian.	3	A fair degree of accuracy in pronunciation; quite a number of errors; some attempt at intonation and expression.	3	May speak with hesitation; adequate range of structures and vocabulary; no ambiguity of meaning.
3/4	Material thin; rambling, repetitious; hardly any ideas or opinions; in danger of losing the examiner's interest.	2	Intelligible but shows marked influence of mother tongue and very many errors of pronunciation.	2	Marked hesitation; limited range of structures and vocabulary; leading to some ambiguity of meaning.
0/1/2	Very little factual information; material irrelevant; vague, arguments incoherent; little effort at presentation.	0/1	Very poor; many gross errors; frequently incomprehensible.	0/1	Very marked hesitation; severe limitations of structures and vocabulary; thought processes basically influenced by mother tongue.

Section 2: Topic Conversation (40 marks) and Section 3: General Conversation (40 marks)

- Comprehension and Responsiveness – 10 marks
- Accuracy – 10 marks
- Feel for the Language – 10 marks
- Range of vocabulary and structures
- Providing Information and Opinions – 5 marks
- Seeking Information and Opinions – 5 marks

Comprehension & Responsiveness	Accuracy	Feel for the Language
9–10 Very good No problems of comprehension. Responses are natural and spontaneous even to unexpected questions. Able to present and defend a point of view in discussion.	9–10 Very good Consistently accurate. Only occasional minor slips.	9–10 Very good Has a very good feeling for the language and is able to express concepts fluently in appropriate idiom. Negligible influence from the mother tongue.
7–8 Good Few problems of comprehension. Responds thoughtfully, and copes fairly well with unexpected questions. Reasonably forthcoming but tends to follow Examiner's lead.	7–8 Good Accuracy generally good, with more frequent errors than in the very best candidates. Shows a sound basic understanding of grammatical usage.	7–8 Good Has a very good feeling for the language. Shows competent use of relevant idiom. Avoids significant influence from mother tongue.
5–6 Satisfactory Understands questions on basic situations and concepts, but has difficulty with more complicated ideas. Some delay in response. Needs encouragement to develop topics. OR Relies heavily on prepared responses.	5–6 Satisfactory Accuracy indicates a measure of competence but with some obvious and significant gaps in grammatical usage.	5–6 Satisfactory Feeling for the language evident with some occasional use of relevant idiom. Thought processes and expression are influenced by mother tongue.
3–4 Weak Has general difficulty in understanding. Limited response to questions on the majority of topics raised.	3–4 Weak Generally inaccurate use of the language.	3–4 Weak Has scant feeling for the idiom. Generally translates literally from the mother tongue.
0–2 Poor Severe problems of comprehension. Very marked hesitation. Limited responsiveness.	0–2 Poor No grasp of grammatical accuracy. Errors constant and repeated.	0–2 Poor Has no feeling for the foreign target language.

Range of vocabulary and structures	
Providing Information and Opinions	Seeking Information and Opinions*
5 Very good Extensive range of appropriate vocabulary. Able to use a wide range of structures with confidence.	5 Very good More than one question asked with confidence. Spontaneous or prompted, but arising out of conversation and relevant to topic under discussion. High level of accuracy, using a range of question forms.
4 Good Has sufficient range of vocabulary and structures to handle reasonably mature subjects.	4 Good Asks more than one question confidently. Spontaneous or prompted, but arising out of conversation and relevant to topic under discussion. Questions largely accurate, but forms may be limited.
3 Satisfactory Limited expression of ideas (but not ambiguity) caused by limitations in range of vocabulary and some structures.	3 Satisfactory Capable of asking a minimum of one question. Spontaneous or prompted, but arising out of conversation and relevant to topic under discussion. Has difficulty in formulating questions, but questions comprehensible.
2 Weak Severe limitations of vocabulary and structures restrict discussion to a very basic level.	2 Weak Severe limitations in asking questions – possibly one question only. Question(s) will probably not arise naturally or be relevant to the topic under discussion. Question(s) difficult to understand.
0–1 Poor Very restricted vocabulary. Only simple sentences and no variety of structure.	0–1 Poor Questions attempted, but incomprehensible. (1) No questions, even when prompted. (0)

* In the case of candidates who do not ask any questions by the end of the Topic Conversation, Examiners must prompt by asking *Do you have any questions to ask of me?* in the appropriate language. The same prompt should be used at the end of the General Conversation. Candidates will not be penalised for being prompted.

6.2 Component 2: Reading and Writing

Quality of Language – Accuracy (Questions 3, 4 and 5)

5	Very good
Consistently accurate. Only very few errors of minor significance. Accurate use of more complex structures (verb forms, tenses, prepositions, word order).	
4	Good
Higher incidence of error than above, but clearly has a sound grasp of the grammatical elements in spite of lapses. Some capacity to use accurately more complex structures.	
3	Sound
Fair level of accuracy. Common tenses and regular verbs mostly correctly formed. Some problems in forming correct agreement of adjectives. Difficulty with irregular verbs, use of prepositions.	
2	Below average
Persistent errors in tense and verb forms. Prepositions frequently incorrect. Recurrent errors in agreement of adjectives.	
0–1	Poor
Little or no evidence of grammatical awareness. Most constructions incomplete or incorrect. Consistent and repeated error.	

Additional marking guidance for Quality of Language – questions 3 and 4

The five marks available for Quality of Language are awarded globally for the whole performance on each set of answers.

A concise answer, containing all mark-bearing components for Content is scored on the full range of marks for language, i.e. length does not determine the Quality of Language mark.

Answers scoring 0 for Content cannot contribute to the overall Quality of Language mark.

Identify the answer(s) scoring 0 for Content in the whole set of answers. Then add together the number of Content marks available for each of these questions and reduce the Quality of Language mark according to the following table:

Total Content marks available on questions where a candidate scores 0	Reduce Quality of Language mark by:
2–3	1
4–5	2
6–7	3
8–14	4
15	5

Note: A minimum of one mark for Quality of Language should be awarded if there are any Content marks at all (i.e. 0 Quality of Language marks only if 0 Content marks).

Response to the passage (Question 5)

This should be marked as a mini-essay according to the variety and interest of the opinions and views expressed, the candidate's response to the original text stimulus, and their ability to express a personal point of view. Additional guidance on marking specific questions will be given to examiners.

5 Very good

Varied and interesting ideas, showing an element of flair and imagination, a capacity to express a personal point of view.

4 Good

Not the flair and imagination of the best candidates, but work still shows an ability to express a range of ideas, maintain interest and respond to the issues raised.

3 Sound

A fair level of interest and ideas. May concentrate on a single issue, but there is still a response to ideas in the text.

2 Below average

Limited range of ideas; rather humdrum. May disregard the element of response to the text, and write a largely unrelated free-composition.

0–1 Poor

Few ideas to offer on the theme. Banal and pedestrian. No element of personal response to the text. Repeated error.

6.3 Component 3: Essay

Language (24 marks)	Content (16 marks)
<p>21–24 Very good Confident use of complex sentence patterns, generally accurate, extensive vocabulary, good sense of idiom.</p>	<p>14–16 Very good Detailed, clearly relevant and well illustrated; coherently argued and structured.</p>
<p>16–20 Good Generally sound grasp of grammar in spite of quite a few lapses; reads reasonably; some attempt at varied vocabulary.</p>	<p>11–13 Good Sound knowledge and generally relevant; some ability to develop argument and draw conclusions.</p>
<p>10–15 Adequate A tendency to be simple, clumsy or laboured; some degree of accuracy; inappropriate use of idiom.</p>	<p>7–10 Adequate Some knowledge, but not always relevant; a more limited capacity to argue.</p>
<p>5–9 Poor Consistently simple or pedestrian sentence patterns with persistent errors; limited vocabulary.</p>	<p>3–6 Poor Some attempt at argument, tends to be sketchy or unspecific; little attempt to structure an argument; major misunderstanding of question.</p>
<p>0–4 Very poor Only the simplest sentence patterns, little evidence of grammatical awareness, very limited vocabulary.</p>	<p>0–2 Very poor Vague and general, ideas presented at random.</p>

6.4 Component 4: Texts

Candidates must write their answers in the target language. Examiners will look for a candidate's ability to communicate effectively and will ignore linguistic errors which do not impede communication.

Passage-based questions

Examiners should consider the extent to which candidates have been able to identify the significant issues raised in the passage and, where appropriate, have applied these to the text as a whole. The passage is a stimulus passage, to be used as a springboard to give candidates a starting point for their answer. Examiners should allow candidates to use the passage as they choose, and ask themselves how successfully the candidates have manipulated their material and to what extent they have shown depth of awareness and knowledge of the workings of the text under discussion. This is not an exercise in literary criticism: Examiners should reward candidates whose answers show good understanding of how a text works and how an author has conveyed the key issues.

Essay questions

A prime consideration is that candidates show detailed knowledge and understanding of the text.

Extracts from Examiners' Notes

This paper is intended to test candidates' knowledge of a text and their ability to use this knowledge to answer questions in a clear and focused manner. A sophisticated literary approach is not expected (though at the highest levels it is sometimes seen), but great value is placed on evidence of a firsthand response and thoughtful, personal evaluation of what candidates have read. Candidates may have been encouraged to depend closely on prepared notes and quotations: quotation for its own sake is not useful, though it will not be undervalued if used appropriately to illustrate a point in the answer.

Candidates do not tend to show all the qualities or faults described in any one mark-band. Examiners attempt to weigh all these up at every borderline, in order to see whether the work can be considered for the category above. At the lower levels, the answer may mention a few 'facts' but these may be so poorly understood, badly organised and irrelevant that it falls into category 10–11; or there may be just enough sense of understanding and focus for the examiner to consider the 12–13 band. Again, at a higher level, an answer may be clear, solid and conscientious (perhaps 18–19), without showing quite the control and attention to perceptively chosen detail which would justify 20 or more.

Examiners take a positive and flexible approach and, even when there are obvious flaws in an answer, reward evidence of knowledge and especially any signs of understanding and careful organisation.

Candidates are expected to write 500–600 words for each of their answers. Candidates who write more than 600 words cannot be placed higher than the 16–17 category in the Mark scheme.

Marks	Description
22–25	Exceptional work. Excellent ability to organise material, thorough knowledge, considerable sensitivity to language and to author’s intentions, understanding of some literary techniques. Really articulate and intelligent answers should be considered in this band even if there are still flaws and omissions.
20–21	Very good. Close attention to detail of passages, controlled structure, perceptive use of illustration, good insight when discussing characters. Ability to look beyond the immediate material and to show some understanding of author’s intentions and of underlying themes.
18–19	Thoroughly solid and relevant work. Candidate does not simply reproduce information: can discuss and evaluate material and come to clear conclusion. Good focus on passages. Some limitations of insight but coherent, detailed approach and aptly chosen illustrations.
16–17	Painstaking. Sound knowledge of texts; mainly relevant. Some attempt to analyse and compare, some sense of understanding. Possibly not in full control of material; solid but indiscriminate. Many very conscientious candidates fall into this category: they tend to write far too much as they are reluctant to leave out anything they have learnt. Focused, coherent essays which lack really solid detail but convey a good understanding of the text should also be considered for this band.
14–15	Fair relevance and knowledge. Better organised than work in the 12–13 band: the candidate probably understands the demands of the question without being able to develop a very thorough response. Still a fairly simple, black and white approach. Some narrative and ‘learnt’ material but better control and focus than work in the 12–13 band. Many candidates probably fall into this category.
12–13	Sound, if simple and superficial, knowledge of plot and characters. Makes assertions without being able to illustrate or develop points. Probably still too dependent on narrative and memorised oddments but there may be a visible attempt to relate these to the question. Can extract one or two relevant points from a set passage.
10–11	Some very basic material but not much sense of understanding or ability to answer the question. The candidate rarely reads the set passage but uses it as a springboard for storytelling and memorised bits and pieces about characters. Very general, unspecific approach. Random, bitty structure. Signs of organisation and relevance should be looked for in case the answer can be considered for a mark in the 12–13 band.
6–9	Marginally more knowledge here than in the 0–5 band. The candidate may have read the text but is probably unable to see beyond the barest bones of the plot or half-remembered notes. Insubstantial; very little relevance. The candidate may have problems with the language and will be unable to express ideas comprehensibly.
0–5	No discernible material. Often very inadequate language. Marks in this section are awarded almost on the basis of quantity: up to 3 for a sentence or two showing a glimpse of knowledge, 4 or 5 where there is also a hint of relevance to the question. It is possible for a candidate to write a whole page demonstrating no knowledge at all (have they read the book?), or only misunderstood background facts or very vague general remarks unrelated to either text or question.

7 Administrative guidance on the Speaking Test

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Component 1 description (section 4) and the Mark Schemes (section 6). There is no question paper for Component 1, the Speaking Test. Information on how to conduct and assess the Speaking Test, and the website links to the forms required for assessment, are provided in this syllabus.

7.1 Conducting the Speaking Test

Candidates must be examined singly and face-to-face. Only one examiner may conduct the test. No other person should normally be present during the examination.

Examination conditions must prevail in the area where the examination takes place. Supervision should be provided to ensure candidates leaving the interview room do not communicate with those waiting to enter.

In order to put candidates at their ease when they enter the room, the examiner should smile and indicate where the candidate should sit. A good examiner will usually send a candidate out of the interview smiling, no matter how good or bad their performance.

Other instructions for examiners:

- no smoking in the examination room
- do not walk about or distract the candidate in any way, for example by doodling or fiddling with papers
- always appear interested, even in mundane matters
- never show undue surprise, impatience or mockery
- never correct a candidate.

7.2 Administrative arrangements

7.2.1 Timing

Speaking Tests take place in the period before the main examination series as notified on the timetable. Each centre decides on a convenient period within these dates to conduct the Speaking Tests.

7.2.2 Appointment of examiners

(a) For Ministries:

For Ministry centres, the Ministry will appoint the examiner and make arrangements for testing candidates.

(b) For non-Ministry centres:

To maintain a consistent standard only one examiner per centre is recommended. Each centre selects its own examiner. This is normally a teacher from within the centre's Languages Department, but could be a suitably qualified person from outside the centre. A group of centres can choose the same examiner. Cambridge International is not responsible for any fees agreed. If a centre wishes to use more than one examiner, because it has a large number of candidates, it must gain the permission of the Cambridge International Languages Group before the start of each examination period.

7.2.3 The Working Mark Sheet

Each candidate's test should be marked according to the Mark Scheme provided in section 6. Candidates must be marked as they are being examined and not afterwards from a recording.

All candidates' marks must be recorded on the *Working Mark Sheet*. The *Working Mark Sheet*, and instructions for completing it, may be downloaded from www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples. The database will ask for the syllabus code (e.g. 9717) and your centre number, after which it will take you to the correct form. Follow the instructions when completing the form.

7.2.4 Selecting a sample to send to Cambridge International

Centres must record the Speaking Test for **all** candidates. Centres will then select the sample to send to Cambridge International for external moderation according to the instructions provided at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples. Examiners who examine at more than one centre should provide a separate sample for each centre.

Only the recordings chosen as part of the sample for external moderation must be sent to Cambridge International. A copy of the sample submitted to Cambridge International as well as all other recordings must be retained at the centre until the result enquiry period has elapsed as they may be requested by Cambridge International at a later stage.

See also section 7.3, 'Arrangements for external moderation'.

7.2.5 Recording of candidates

Centres should ensure, well in advance of the test, that a suitably quiet room is available and that the recording equipment is in good order. Rooms which are too close to a playground, recreation room or noisy classroom should be avoided; unnecessary background noise must be excluded.

It is preferable for the tests to be recorded in .mp3 format using a suitable digital voice recorder or sound recording program on a computer. Each candidate's file must be saved individually. The Speaking tests selected to be part of the sample to send to Cambridge International for external moderation should then be transferred to a standard-format CD. **Mini CDs or USB sticks must not be used.** (Note that it is permissible to use audio cassettes, but the use of CDs and digital recording equipment is strongly preferred.) **The centre is responsible for supplying CDs for the recording of its sample for external moderation: these will not be supplied by Cambridge International.** Centres wishing to submit recordings as digital files to Cambridge International for external moderation will find more detailed guidance in the Exams Officer area of the website www.cambridgeinternational.org

All recording equipment and CDs must be of as high a standard as possible and care should be taken to ensure that recording quality is good. The recording equipment must be tested in advance, and new, unrecorded CDs used. The recording level should be tested before the start of the tests. Where possible, the recording equipment should have external microphones so that separate microphones can be used for the candidate and the examiner. If only one microphone is being used, it should be placed facing the candidate. If the candidate is softly-spoken, the microphone should be placed nearer to the candidate before the start of the test.

Each candidate should be introduced by their candidate number and their name.

For example:

'Candidate number 047, Candidate name Jane Williams'

Recording should be done as unobtrusively as possible and it should be emphasised that the recording is to check the examiner not the candidate.

Examiners should take care to avoid long gaps and extraneous noise on the recordings.

Once a test has begun, the recording should run without interruption. On no account should the examiner stop and re-start the recording during a test.

Centres must spot-check recordings at the end of each half day session of examining.

7.2.6 Presentation of the sample for external moderation

The examiner should introduce each CD with the following information:

- Centre Number
- Centre Name
- Syllabus Number
- Syllabus Name
- Name of examiner
- Date

At the end of the sample, the examiner should say: 'End of sample'.

The contents of each CD sent to Cambridge International for external moderation should be clearly labelled.

If a centre discovers that a candidate, whose recording should be sent as part of the moderation sample, has not been recorded or is inaudible, an email must be sent immediately to Cambridge International.

The email must include:

- the breakdown of the marks of the candidates who have been recorded (as required on the *Working Mark Sheet*), as well as the candidate whose recording is unsatisfactory
- detailed notes describing the unrecorded candidate's performance, mentioning specific features which led to the award of particular marks, made as soon as possible after discovery of the problem
- comparisons for each section of the test with other candidates included in the sample.

Cambridge International will then advise on the appropriate course of action. In some cases, it will be necessary to redo the test.

7.3 Arrangements for external moderation

External moderation of internal assessment is carried out by Cambridge International.

- Centres must submit the internally assessed **total marks** of **all** candidates to Cambridge International.
- Centres must also submit the internally assessed **Speaking tests** of a **sample** of candidates to Cambridge International. Go to www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples for details of which candidates are to be included in the sample.

The deadlines and methods for submitting internally assessed marks and work are in the *Cambridge Handbook*, available on our website.

Centres must send the following to Cambridge International in the envelope provided:

- a copy of the completed Working Mark Sheet(s) listing the marks for **all** candidates
- a signed printout of the candidates' total marks as submitted to Cambridge International
- the recorded sample of candidates according to the instructions at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples
- if there are two or more examiners: a copy of the permission from Cambridge International to use more than one examiner together with the details of the internal moderation procedures implemented by the centre.

Do not wait until the end of the Speaking Test period before despatching these items.

Copies of the recordings and the *Working Mark Sheet(s)* should be kept by the centre in case of postal loss or delay.

8 Other information

Equality and inclusion

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

The standard assessment arrangements may present unnecessary barriers for candidates with disabilities or learning difficulties. Arrangements can be put in place for these candidates to enable them to access the assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. Access arrangements will not be agreed if they give candidates an unfair advantage over others or if they compromise the standards being assessed. Candidates who are unable to access the assessment of any component may be eligible to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have taken.

Information on access arrangements is found in the *Cambridge Handbook*, which can be downloaded from the website www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsOfficers

Language

This syllabus is available in English only. The associated assessment materials are in the target language.

Grading and reporting

Cambridge International A Level results are shown by one of the grades A*, A, B, C, D or E, indicating the standard achieved, A* being the highest and E the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for grade E. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. The letters Q (result pending), X (no result) and Y (to be issued) may also appear on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

Cambridge International AS Level results are shown by one of the grades a, b, c, d or e, indicating the standard achieved, 'a' being the highest and 'e' the lowest. 'Ungraded' indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for grade 'e'. 'Ungraded' will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. The letters Q (result pending), X (no result) and Y (to be issued) may also appear on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

If a candidate takes a Cambridge International A Level and fails to achieve grade E or higher, a Cambridge International AS Level grade will be awarded if both of the following apply:

- the components taken for the Cambridge International A Level by the candidate in that series included all the components making up a Cambridge International AS Level
- the candidate's performance on the AS Level components was sufficient to merit the award of a Cambridge International AS Level grade.

For the assessment of languages other than English, Cambridge International also reports separate speaking endorsement grades (Distinction, Merit and Pass), for candidates who satisfy the conditions stated in the syllabus.

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.

'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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