

# Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research

Syllabus outline

Cambridge  
International  
AS & A Level



Syllabus code 9239



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

*Excellence in education*

### Thinking critically, independently and globally

One of the best things we can offer learners in the twenty-first century is a set of skills that helps them to sift through the mass of information that is available digitally. This is critical for success in university study and in employment. Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research encourage learners to think critically, evaluate arguments and understand global issues from multiple perspectives.

Cambridge International AS & A Level is an education programme that brings together a stimulating curriculum with a range of assessment options resulting in a qualification recognised and valued by leading universities worldwide.

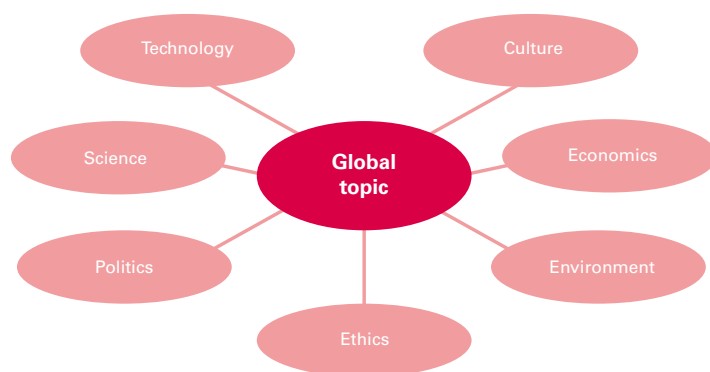
Cambridge Global Perspectives® allows learners to research issues and arrive at well-reasoned, evidence-based conclusions. They work in collaboration with others and communicate their findings effectively using several formats.

#### Accessible topics

Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research feature engaging and accessible global topics. These topics are viewed through themes or prisms, such as science or culture, that offer different and often opposing perspectives for learners to explore. This encourages them to develop their research and critical reasoning skills, and to think independently, creatively and reflectively.

Sample topics include:

- The rise of global superpowers
- Endangered cultures
- Biodiversity
- Medical ethics and priorities
- Arts in an international culture.

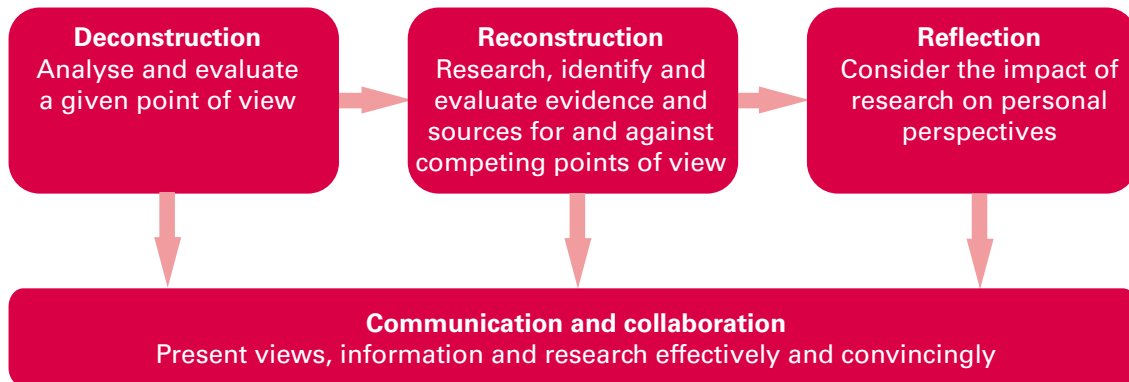


“ In other courses I use content to build skills. In Cambridge Global Perspectives, I use skills to deepen a student’s understanding of content. ”

Teacher, Suffern High School, New York, USA



## The critical path



## The critical path

The course is built around an innovative teaching and learning process called the critical path. The critical path supports learners to think critically and objectively, leading to a deeper understanding of their chosen topic.

Learners analyse the structure and context of arguments, assess the impact and limitations of evidence, and make well-reasoned judgements. They then organise and communicate their findings using appropriate multimedia formats.

## Extended research

A key part of Cambridge International A Level Global Perspectives & Research is the Cambridge Research Report. The Cambridge Research Report focuses on the ability to design, plan and manage an extended research project helping students develop skills essential for success at college. These skills include the ability to:

- plan, prioritise and manage time
- understand and apply research methodologies
- use critical and analytical research skills to conduct sustained research projects
- synthesise multiple sources on the subject
- evaluate and make reasoned judgements
- communicate findings and conclusions.

“ Cambridge Global Perspectives is rigorous, it’s academic, it’s challenging and stimulating, and because Cambridge is very self-driven, I think those students are going to be at a distinct advantage when they go to university. ”

Teacher, Macleans College, Auckland, New Zealand



### Cambridge International AS & A Levels – international recognition

Cambridge International AS & A Levels are internationally recognised qualifications providing excellent preparation for university education.

Taken in more than 125 countries and offering a choice of more than 60 subjects, Cambridge International AS and A Level qualifications are widely recognised by universities and employers alike. Every year, thousands of Cambridge International A Level students gain places at the world's top universities.

Schools and learners find Cambridge International AS and A Levels very flexible. Schools can offer almost any combination of the wide choice of subjects available. Learners have the freedom to select the subjects that are right for them – they either follow a broad course of study, or specialise in a particular area.

Together with schools, we aim to develop Cambridge learners who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged – equipped for success in the fast-changing modern world.



### Cambridge AICE Diploma

The Cambridge AICE Diploma is a group award for Cambridge International AS and A Level learners who pass examinations in subjects drawn from across the curriculum. It offers learners the opportunity to tailor their studies to their individual interests, abilities and future plans within an international curriculum framework.

Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research contribute to the Cambridge AICE Diploma. From June 2017, the Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research becomes a compulsory part of the Cambridge AICE Diploma.

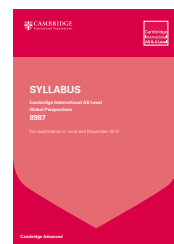
Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/aice](http://www.cie.org.uk/aice)

“ One of the things we find with students who have studied Cambridge International AS & A Levels is that they have a real depth of understanding and engagement with the subject. This is something we find helps students succeed once they get to our campus. ”

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

## Syllabus and assessment – a summary

Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives & Research is available as a stand-alone one-year course. Alternatively, learners who complete the full two-year course receive the Cambridge International A Level Global Perspectives & Research. For Cambridge International AS Level, learners study Components 1, 2 and 3. For the Cambridge International A Level, learners also study Component 4 in the second year.



<b>Year 1</b> First examination June 2015	<b>Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives &amp; Research (9239)</b>
<b>Component 1:</b> Written Examination	Candidates analyse and evaluate arguments, interrogate evidence and compare perspectives from two source documents on a global issue.
<b>Component 2:</b> Essay	Candidates explore different perspectives on issues of global significance during their studies. They write a 1750–2000-word essay based on their research and explore the impact of this on their own personal views.  Example research questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is tourism beneficial to indigenous cultures?</li> <li>• Is a ban on the Muslim burqa ever justified?</li> </ul>
<b>Component 3:</b> Team Project	Candidates work in teams to identify a local problem which has global relevance. Individual members research the issue and suggest solutions to the problem based on their research findings.  Example local problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we tackle the objectification of women in the media and its impact on local sub-cultures?</li> <li>• What is the best solution to the environmental impacts of urban sprawl?</li> <li>• How can we educate the public to prevent gang violence in the community?</li> </ul>
<b>Year 2</b> First examination June 2016	<b>Cambridge International A Level Global Perspectives &amp; Research (9239)</b>
<b>Component 4:</b> Research Report	Learners develop a broad-based understanding of research methodology and carry out their own research on an issue of their choice, which culminates in a 5000-word report.  The Research Report provides learners with the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delve deeper into a chosen topic</li> <li>• cross subject boundaries with an inter-disciplinary enquiry</li> <li>• make a new departure with a non-school subject, perhaps one that they intend to study at university.</li> </ul> Having completed their reports learners must then defend their argument and method through an interview or viva (oral examination).  Example titles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can Imperialism ever be justified?</li> <li>• Does culture drive music or does music drive culture?</li> </ul>

## The Cambridge Global Perspectives® programme

Many schools choose to start their Global Perspectives Programme with Cambridge IGCSE® Global Perspectives, for learners aged around 14–16. This ground-breaking course taps into the way learners of today enjoy learning, including group work, seminars, projects, and working with other learners around the world. The emphasis is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view. Find out more at [www.cie.org.uk/igcse](http://www.cie.org.uk/igcse)

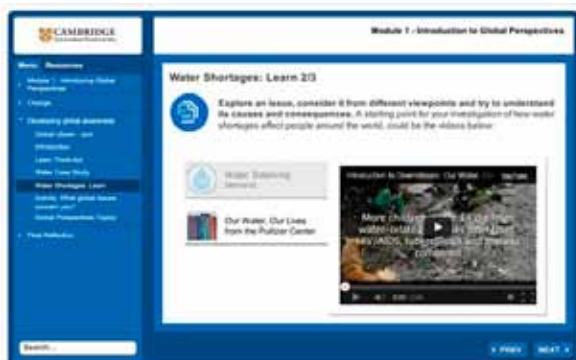
## Support for teachers

### Support online

Cambridge schools can access all the materials they need to teach Cambridge syllabuses (curriculum frameworks) including specimen question papers (examination forms), mark schemes (rubrics), examiner reports, schemes of work (syllabuses), lesson plans and discussion forums. Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/teachers](http://www.cie.org.uk/teachers)

### Online learning area for students and teachers

Our password-protected learning area supports Cambridge Global Perspectives courses. Teachers apply for a password at [www.cie.org.uk/registergp](http://www.cie.org.uk/registergp) and can then ask for passwords for their students. They can all log into the area to access resources and course content. It also allows learners around the world to collaborate between schools, nations, continents and cultures, helping to foster genuine global perspectives.



### Training and professional development

We provide a structured training programme to support schools offering Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research.

The programme is made up of two parts. The first focuses on Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives. It includes:

- a course overview
- an introduction to the Cambridge Critical Path methodology
- an assessment overview
- guidance on delivering the Cambridge Critical Path
- tips on organising the course: timetabling and delivery models.

The second part prepares teachers for the Cambridge International A Level Global Perspectives & Research. It focuses on the following areas of the independent Cambridge Research Report:

- developing a researchable question
- Cambridge Research Report objectives and assessment criteria.

**Learn more!** Getting in touch with Cambridge is easy. For more information on [Cambridge International AS & A Level Global Perspectives & Research](http://www.cie.org.uk/alevel) go to [www.cie.org.uk/alevel](http://www.cie.org.uk/alevel), email us at [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) or telephone +44 (0)1223 553554.