

IGCSE – International General Certificate of Secondary Education

General Information

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education, or IGCSE, is an international qualification for school students. It is offered in Myanmar by the British Council.

The IGCSE is typically taken by 14 to 16-year-olds, and it prepares students for further academic work, including progression to A Level, AS Level study and the IB Diploma Programme. Cambridge IGCSE is recognised by academic institutions and employers around the world.

Cambridge IGCSE provides a broad study programme and covers subjects from a variety of areas: Languages, Humanities, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Creative, Technical and Vocational. With a choice of Core and Extended papers in most subjects, IGCSE is suitable for students of different ability levels and in some subjects, and can be taken with or without coursework, making it suitable for schools with less specialised staff.

The IGCSE allows teaching to be placed in a localised context, making it relevant in different regions. It is intended to be suitable for students whose first language may not be English and this is acknowledged throughout the examination progress.

In 2004-05, Cambridge IGCSE papers in more than 60 subjects were taken by students in over 120 countries worldwide, including the United Kingdom. The international qualification is becoming increasingly popular due to its academic rigour, and high profile as a reputable examination. The exam is offered as a pre-requisite to higher level study, most usually leading to A levels or IB Qualifications.

Description of the Test

The IGCSE is a balanced international curriculum which is designed to encourage high academic standards through a practical approach to teaching and learning. The exams consist of a variety of tests e.g. oral and listening tests and these are not limited to conventional written papers.

The IGCSE exams are also designed to take account of differing abilities of students; there is a choice between Core and Extended in most subjects. This allows students to be able to choose the most appropriate level papers. The Core in each subject is within the ability range of a large majority of students. It provides a full overview of the subject and is targeted at students expected to achieve grades C to G. The Extended in each subject comprises the Core curriculum and the Supplement. It is targeted at those expected to achieve grades A to C. The Supplement describes the extra topics or depth which must be added to the Core to produce the Extended.

Successful candidates receive a certificate which is internationally recognised as equivalent in standard to the British GCSE and international GCE 'O' level examinations.

Candidates wishing to enter British Universities are normally required to have 2 or 3 "A" level subjects in addition to 5 IGCSE passes. However, it is strongly advised to check the entrance requirements of each university individually.

Scoring

Successful candidates are placed in one of the following categories:

Distinction : Grade A in five subjects and Grade C or above in two subjects.

Merit : Grade C or above in five subjects and Grade F or above in two subjects

Pass: Grade G or above in seven subjects.

Test Fee and Registration

<i>IGCSE Registration Period</i>	<i>Session May/June 07</i>	<i>Session November 07</i>
Normal Entry	1 Dec 2006 - 1 Feb 07	2 July - 1 Aug 07
Late entry*	2 Feb - 28 Feb 07	2 Aug - 6 Sept 07**
Results issued	Sept 07	February 08
Certificates issued	Nov 07	May 08

* Late entry fee (see below) is charged for a subject entry or entries made during this period

** Candidates re-taking subjects from IGCSE May/June 2005 session may register for re-take subjects until 5 September 2005 without late fees. Please note, however, that this only applies to re-takes of subjects sat in the previous June exams at the British Council, Bangkok and the previous Statement of Results must be presented upon registration.

<i>IGCSE Registration Fees</i>	
Subject fee:	3,700 Baht per subject
Late fee:	2,400 Baht per subject
Additional fees:	1,000 Baht for oral test in English as a Second Language 1,500 Baht for Foreign Language French and German 1,500 Baht for Art and Design

Candidates are required to fill in the registration form provided by the Examinations Services.

Documents required for registration:

1. Two recent photographs (2" x 2")

2. A copy of one of the following proofs of identity and the original proof of identity which must be

presented when registering. National Identification Card (Thai candidates), Passport

*** Other forms of identification must be approved by the Examinations Services Officer

Thailand Mathayom 6 Equivalent

In Thailand, students who obtain five passes at IGCSE (grade A, B, C) can apply for an equivalent to the Mathayom 6 certificate from the Ministry of Education. For more information, please contact:

Office of Educational Assessment and Testing Service
Department of Curriculum and Instruction Development
Ministry of Education
Rashadumnuan Nok Road
Bangkok
Tel. 281-7185, 282-9262 ext. 103

For further information please contact: info@britishcouncil.or.th

How to Prepare

The best way to prepare for the exam is to find out information about the exam such as:

- Ask the test center if they have any preparation materials, like books or CDs you can borrow.
- Find out what the the sections on the exam are?
- What is the style of the exam: essay, multiple choice, short answer, true/false, etc?
- How long is the exam?
- Take a preparation course before the exam
- Take practice exams
- Look for information on their website:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/overview>

More Information

Myanmar

American Center Rangoon
14 Tawwin Road
Dagon Township
RANGOON, Burma

Director: Ronald J. Post
Telephone: 95-1-223140/223106/221585
Fax: 95-1-221262
E-mail: nhlrgn@pd.state.gov

The British Council in Rangoon and Mandalay

The British Council
78 Kanna Road
Yangon
Telephone: 254658, 256290, 256291
Fax: 245345

The British Council Resource Centre and Examination Services
Building 6/7, SY Compound
30th Street (between 77th & 78th)
Mandalay
Telephone: (0)2 33904

Bangladesh

The American Center
The American Center
U.S. Embassy, Dhaka
Road 27, House 110
Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Fax: (880) (2) 8813440-4
Telephone: (880) (2) 9881677
E-mail: dhaka@pd.state.gov

The British Council
The British Council Teaching Centre
754B Satmasjid Road
Dhanmondi
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Email: DTO@TheBritishCouncil.net

India

The American Center
New Delhi
The American Center
24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi 110 001
Phone: (11) 331-6841
Fax: (11) 332-7328
Operating Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (except holidays)
E-Mail: newdelhi@usia.gov

Calcutta
38-A Jawaharlal Nehru Road
Calcutta
Phone: (33) 245-1211 to 1219
Fax: (33) 245-1616
Operating Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday (except holidays)

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17, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi 110 001
Telephone: 91 11 371 1401
Fax: 91 11371 0717
Email: delhi.enquiry@in.britishcouncil.org

Singapore

IDP Education Australia Singapore
4th Level, Regional English Language Centre
30 Orange Grove Road
Tel: 65 732 6988
Fax: 65 737 1736
Email: info@singapore.idp.edu.au

The British Council
30 Napier Road
Singapore
Tel: 473 1111
Fax: 472 1010
Email: english@britishcouncil.org.sg

Thailand

American University Alumni Language Center (AUALC)
179 Rajadamri
BANGKOK 10330, Thailand
Director: Captain Adul Pinsuvana
Telephone: (66-2) 252-8170
Fax: (66-2) 255-4632

American University Alumni Language Center
24 Rajdamnern Road
CHIANG MAI 50200, Thailand
Director: John Gunther
Telephone/Fax:(66-53) 211-973

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26th Floor, CP Tower
313 Silom Road
Bangkok, 10500
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Fax: 66 2 2310530
Email: ielts@bangkok.idp.edu.au

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