Times Edu

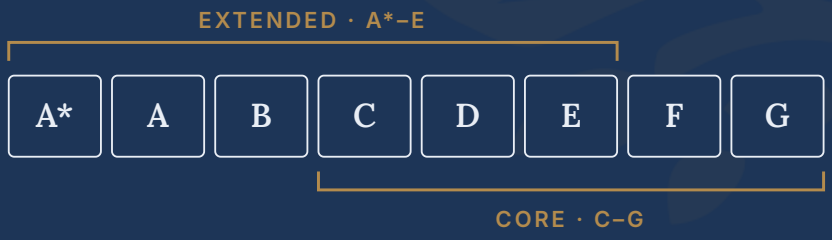
Learn today · Lead tomorrow

INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY PROGRAMME · AGES 14–16

Cambridge IGCSE

Two years that lay the foundation for A Level, IB and university abroad.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment · Programme brochure



AGES	DURATION	GRADES
14–16	2 years	A* – G

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01

The programme on one page

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most widely taken international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. Students usually study for two years (Year 10–11) and sit exams subject by subject, earning a separate certificate for each.

For families in Vietnam, IGCSE is often the first step into international education: IGCSE results are used for entry to A Level, the IB Diploma or university foundation programmes, and they build the academic English every later stage relies on.

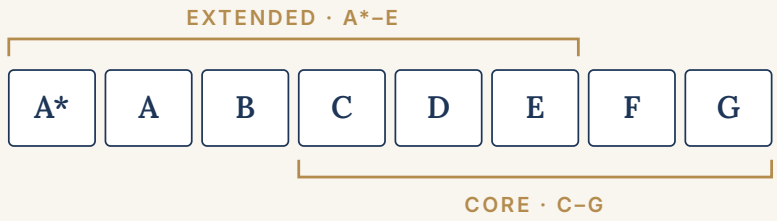
AWARDING BODY	Cambridge University Press & Assessment (Cambridge International)
AGE · YEAR	14–16 · Year 10–11
DURATION	Usually two school years
NUMBER OF SUBJECTS	Set by each school; 7–9 is common
GRADES	A* to G; below G is U (ungraded). Candidates in Vietnam receive results on the A*–G scale
EXAM SESSIONS	May–June and October–November each year; results in August and January
FORMAT	Written exams at the end of the course; some subjects add speaking, listening, practical or coursework
AFTER IGCSE	Cambridge AS & A Level, the IB Diploma, AP or a university foundation programme

> HOW TIMES EDU READS THIS PROGRAMME
>
> *IGCSE is rarely hard because of the content — much of it overlaps with what Vietnamese students meet in Grades 8–9. It is hard because of the language of the paper: reading the command word correctly, answering at the depth asked and presenting the answer the way examiners award marks.*

02

Structure & assessment

Every IGCSE subject has its own syllabus with a four-digit code (0580 is Mathematics, for example). The syllabus sets the content, the papers and their weightings. Two ideas matter most for parents:



*IGCSE grades: Core reaches C, Extended reaches A**

A Core and Extended

Many subjects — Mathematics and the sciences in particular — are tiered. Core targets grades C–G; Extended opens the way to A* (on an A*–E range). Choosing the tier is a strategic decision best made early, using diagnostic evidence rather than waiting until just before the exam.

B Papers and components

Each subject has two to four papers: multiple choice, short answer, structured questions, a practical or Alternative to Practical, listening, speaking or coursework. The final grade combines the papers using the syllabus weightings.

C Grade thresholds

Cambridge publishes grade thresholds for each session after marking. There is no fixed answer to "how many marks is an A*" — we prepare students to master content and skills, not to aim at a threshold.

03

The journey, term by term

GRADE 8 → EARLY GRADE 9

Bridging (Pre-IGCSE)

Strengthen academic English, exam command words and core Maths and Science. Especially important for students moving from the Vietnamese system.

YEAR 10

First year

Cover most of the content, settle the subject combination and the Core/Extended tier. End-of-term progress test.

YEAR 11 · TERM 1

Complete the content

Finish the syllabus, begin topic-based past-paper practice and close remaining gaps.

YEAR 11 · TERM 2

Mocks & rehearsal

Timed mock exams, corrections against the mark scheme and focused revision. Final exams in May–June.

AFTER THE EXAMS

Choose the next stage

Results arrive in August. We advise on A Level, the IB Diploma or AP based on results and university goals.

04

Who this programme suits

A GOOD FIT WHEN

- Students in Grades 8–10 studying, or about to study, a Cambridge programme at an international or bilingual school.
- Students moving from the Vietnamese system who need academic English and Cambridge exam technique.
- Families aiming for A Level or the IB Diploma who want strong foundations first.

WORTH A SECOND LOOK WHEN

- The student cannot yet read a short academic text in English — begin with a bridging plan.
- The goal is a few weeks of cramming across many subjects at once — a short course cannot replace a two-year foundation.

05

Alongside other programmes

Many families weigh several international pathways at once. The table sets the four programmes Times Edu supports side by side so the structural differences are clear — the shaded column is the programme in this brochure.

	THIS PROGRAMME IGCSE	A Level	IBDP	AP
AWARDING BODY	**Cambridge**	Cambridge · Pearson Edexcel	International Baccalaureate	College Board
AGES	**14–16**	16–19	16–19	High school, usually Grades 10–12
DURATION	**2 years**	2 years (AS + A2)	2 years (DP1 + DP2)	About 1 year per course
SUBJECT CHOICE	**Usually 7–9, set by school**	3 in depth, sometimes 4	6 across groups + TOK, EE, CAS	Course by course, no set number
GRADES	**A*–G**	A*–E · AS: a–e	1–7 per subject · maximum 45	1–5
EXAM SESSIONS	**May–June and Oct–Nov**	Cambridge: May–June, Oct–Nov · IAL: Jan, May–June, Oct	May or November	First two weeks of May
ASSESSED COURSEWORK	**Practical, speaking or coursework in some subjects**	Practical papers or coursework in some subjects	Internal Assessment in every subject, plus EE and TOK	Mostly final exams; a few courses include projects or portfolios
STRENGTH	**Broad foundation before pre-university study**	Depth in the student's strongest subjects	Breadth, interdisciplinary thinking and research	Flexibility; supports US university applications

Three questions for choosing the right programme

1

Where, and what, does your child want to study?

The target country and course decide required subjects, grade levels and when results are needed.

2

Depth or breadth?

Students who are strong across many subjects and enjoy writing often suit the IB; students with clear strengths in a few subjects often thrive with A Level.

3

What does the current school teach?

Following the school's own programme avoids running two curricula at once — Times Edu supports rather than replaces it.

06

Subjects we support

Times Edu supports the Cambridge IGCSE subjects most often taken by students in Vietnam. The syllabus codes below help parents match each subject to the school timetable.

CODE	SUBJECT	NOTE
0580	**Mathematics**	Core / Extended
0606	**Additional Mathematics**	For strong mathematicians heading to A Level
0625	**Physics**	Core / Extended
0620	**Chemistry**	Core / Extended
0610	**Biology**	Core / Extended
0653	**Combined Science**	One certificate, three sciences
0654	**Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award)**	Two grades, three sciences
0510 · 0511	**English as a Second Language**	Speaking reported separately (0510) or counted in the grade (0511)
0500	**First Language English**	For students with several years in international or bilingual schooling
0695	**Vietnamese – First Language**	Vietnamese language and literature, Cambridge standard
0455	**Economics**	
0450	**Business Studies**	
0452	**Accounting**	
0478	**Computer Science**	
0417	**Information & Communication Technology**	Includes computer-based practical papers
0457	**Global Perspectives**	Includes submitted assessed work
0400	**Art & Design**	Includes a portfolio

> Class schedules and teachers for each subject are confirmed during consultation. For subjects with coursework or a portfolio, Times Edu guides method and gives practice marking; we never produce the work.

07

Gaps we see most often

01
Reading the command word

"State", "describe", "explain" and "suggest" each demand a different answer. Students who know the content still lose marks by answering too little or too much.

WHAT WE DO

We teach command words as a skill in their own right, using real questions marked against the scheme from the first month.

02
Academic English

For students moving from the Vietnamese system, the biggest barrier is often reading long questions and writing explanations in English.

WHAT WE DO

A bridging stage builds subject vocabulary and explanation patterns before IGCSE content begins.

03
Choosing Core or Extended too late

Deciding the tier close to the entry deadline leaves students either missing Extended content or under needless pressure.

WHAT WE DO

Diagnostic and progress-test evidence lets us advise on the tier early and on solid ground.

04
Practical skills

Questions on experiments — choosing apparatus, processing data, commenting on error — carry real weight in the sciences.

WHAT WE DO

Dedicated practice on practical and Alternative to Practical questions using real data.

08

How a learning plan is tailored

There is no "standard" number of sessions for every student. A Times Edu plan is built from three variables and can be adjusted at every progress checkpoint.

01
Starting point

The diagnostic shows what must be re-taught from the foundations and what only needs exam-technique practice.

02
Time to the exam

Two years or three months decides the weekly rhythm, the order of topics and when past-paper practice begins.

03
Independent study

Work with answer keys can be practised independently on a weekly plan. Work marked against criteria — essays, explanations, practical write-ups — always involves a teacher.

Four things we never cut

1. Teacher-marked components (coursework, Internal Assessment, the Extended Essay) always receive full guidance.
2. Speaking and criteria-based writing are always practised with a teacher, never replaced by self-study.
3. Practical work and experimental data handling always include direct guidance.
4. Students below Grade 9 always follow a full plan, never a shortened one.

09

How Times Edu works with your child

Every student enters a programme from a different starting point. So Times Edu does not begin with a textbook — we begin by understanding the student, and only then decide what to teach, for how long, and how progress will be measured.

1

Orientation conversation

An advisor learns about the student's school, university goals, planned exam session and the time they realistically have each week. This is not a sales call — if the programme is not the right fit, we will say so.

2

Subject diagnostic

The student sits a diagnostic written by Times Edu for each subject. The result shows which topics are secure, which have gaps and which skills are pulling marks down. It is not converted into an official grade.

3

Personal learning plan

From the diagnostic, the lead teacher proposes the number of sessions, the weekly rhythm and the progress checkpoints. A quotation accompanies the plan and lists every fee clearly.

4

Learn and practise

One-to-one or small-group lessons; in-person or online is confirmed when the timetable is set. Every session includes independent work, homework and an error log so the same mistake is not repeated.

5

Measure progress & rehearse

Regular progress tests and timed mock exams, marked against the mark scheme. Results are used to adjust the plan, never to rank students.

10

What parents receive

Diagnostic read-out

A topic-by-topic and skill-by-skill reading of the result: strengths, gaps and what to work on first.

Learning plan

Number of sessions, weekly rhythm, progress checkpoints and when exam practice begins.

Checkpoint reports

Progress reports to parents at the checkpoints set out in the contract, with teacher comments.

Mock exam results

Timed mock results on our internal scale, with an error analysis and adjustments for the next stage.

11

The lines we hold

No grade guarantees	We do not promise or predict official exam results. What we commit to is the process: an accurate diagnosis, a clear plan and honest progress measurement.
No ghost-writing	For coursework, Internal Assessment, the Extended Essay or school essays, teachers guide method and give practice marking — they do not write, choose topics for, or submit work on behalf of students.
No exam registration on your behalf	Exam entries are made by the school or an authorised exam centre. Times Edu reminds families of key deadlines and documents.
Internal scales stay internal	Diagnostic, progress test and mock scores use Times Edu's internal scale; they are not official marks or grades.

12

Frequently asked questions

Q · Can a student from the Vietnamese system keep up with IGCSE?

Yes, if they start in the right place. Maths and Science content is rarely the obstacle; academic English and answering to the command word are. The diagnostic shows how much bridging is needed.

Q · Are IGCSE exams taken once or several times?

Each subject is taken in one session (May–June or October–November). Students may resit in a later session to improve; entries are made by the school or exam centre.

Q · How many subjects should my child take?

Most schools require 7–9. More important than the number is a combination that matches A Level/IB plans and the intended university course.

Q · What is the difference between A*–G and 9–1?

Cambridge offers both scales, but 9–1 is only available in certain regions. Candidates sitting exams in Vietnam receive A*–G grades.

Q · Does Times Edu teach Pearson Edexcel International GCSE?

Please ask during consultation. This brochure describes the Cambridge IGCSE.

Times Edu

NEXT STEPS

Start with a conversation

We listen to your family's goals first, then propose a plan.

1 **Contact Times Edu**

Message us on Zalo or leave your details on our website to book an orientation conversation.

2 **Take the diagnostic**

The student sits a subject diagnostic; any fee is stated clearly beforehand.

3 **Receive the plan & quotation**

Your family receives the read-out, a proposed plan and a quotation to consider — with no obligation.

WEBSITE

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Programme information is compiled from the awarding bodies' public documents as of October 2026 and may change. Syllabuses, subject guides and official notices from the awarding body are the final reference. Times Edu is an independent education provider and does not represent any awarding body. Fees are not included in this brochure; they are quoted with each student's learning plan.