

Cambridge Pre-U

Cambridge
Pre-U

Preparing students for success



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

A
PART OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT
GROUP

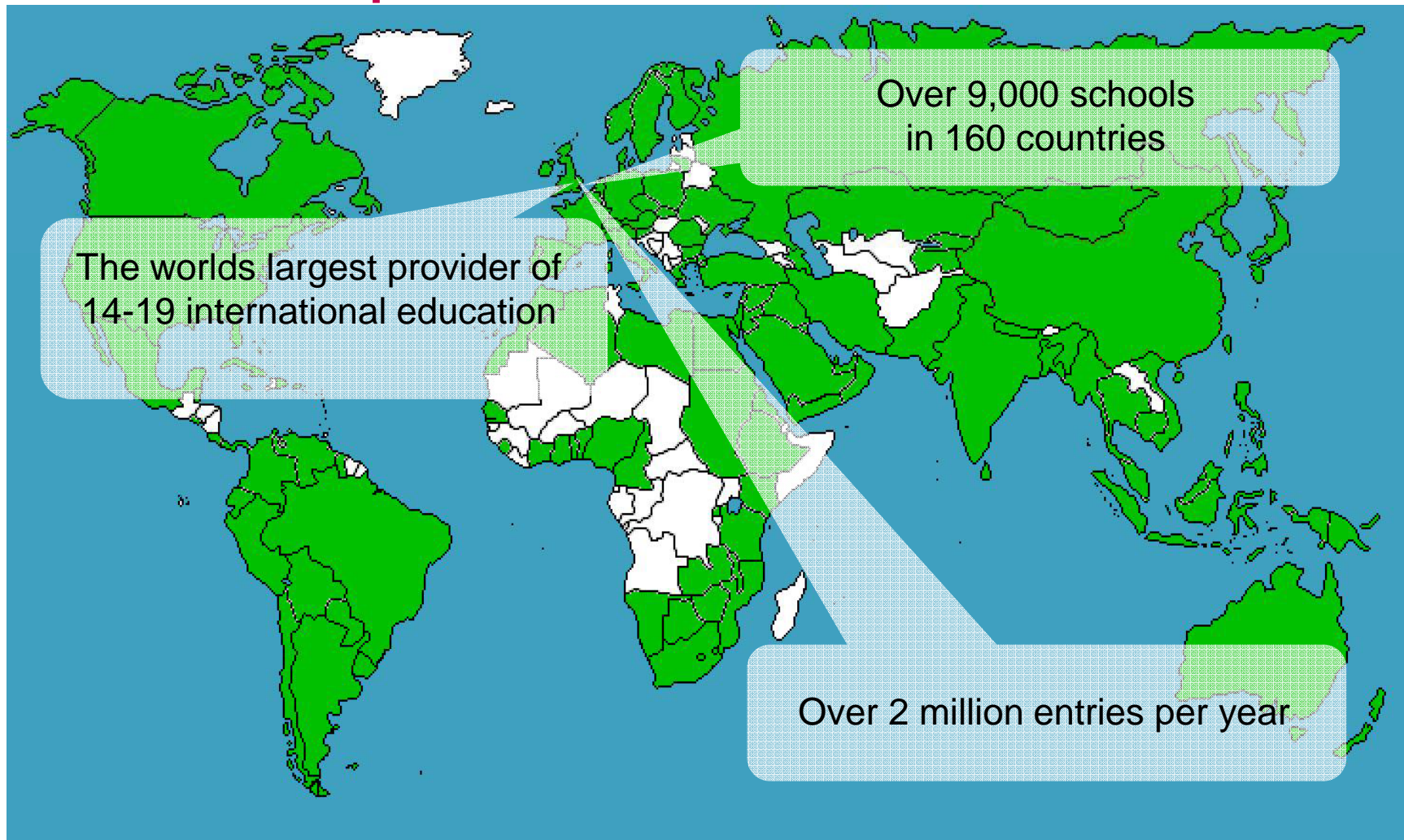
University of Cambridge International Examinations



- A non-teaching department of the University of Cambridge
- Examining secondary education since 1858
- Examining internationally since 1863

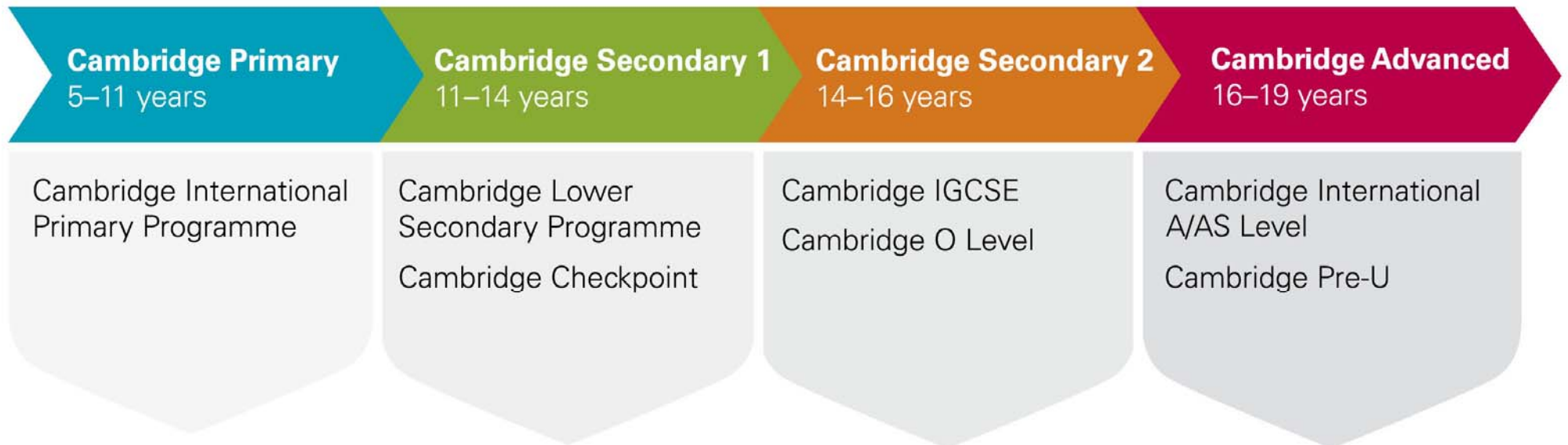


Where we operate



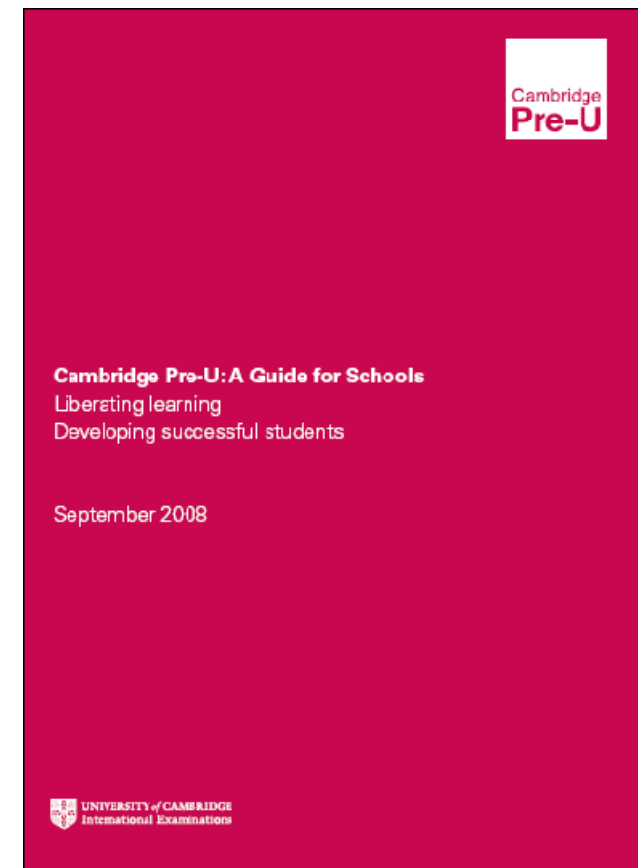


Cambridge International Education



Why develop Cambridge Pre-U?

- Approach from school Principals:
 - Modularisation caused
 - Loss of teaching time
 - Cognitive fragmentation
- Higher Education concerns:
 - Problems in selection
 - How to identify the very best?
 - Opacity of outcomes
 - Lack of readiness for HE
 - Knowledge gap
 - Loss of holistic understanding
 - Lack of generic skills
 - » Independent work
 - » Research skills



Cambridge Pre-U: Extensive consultation

- Teachers, schools and students
- Subject Associations
- Universities




‘The Cambridge Pre-U is a wonderful opportunity. We have been impressed by CIE’s openness, its willingness to listen, its desire to re-establish standards.’ Andrew Reekes, Sub-Warden, Radley College

‘It is very impressive – and, sadly, unusual – to see this valuable level of consultation and discussion with Higher Education. I very much hope that this will continue when the Pre-U becomes established.’

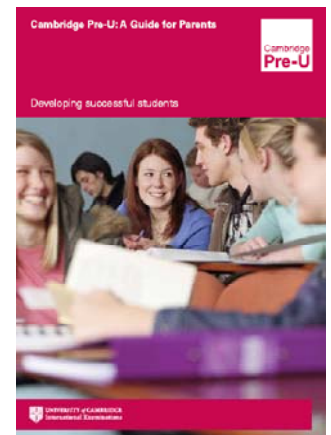
Leslie Curry, Admissions Director, Bath University

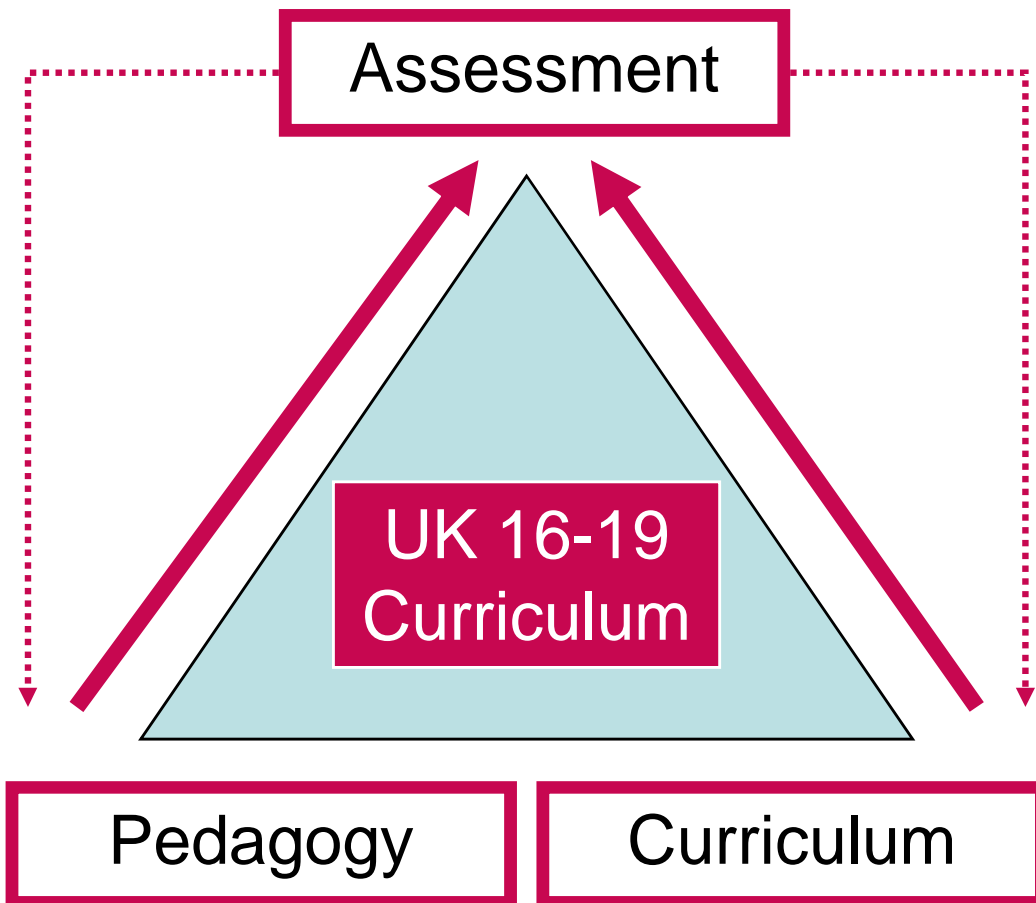
Cambridge Pre-U design principles

- With a balanced portfolio of GCSEs/IGCSEs students have earned the right to specialise
- Achievement reported beyond the A Level/IB reporting scale
- Possibilities for curriculum extension and enhancement
- Academic subjects retain their integrity
- **Linearity** 
- Examinations shouldn't dominate

Linearity:

- *More teaching time*
- *Coherence in assessment*
- *Joined up understanding*
- *Teachers in control*
- *Risk-taking*
- *Better preparation for HE*





*‘We continue to believe that a spacious formation of young minds and hearts, **and an examination structure which supports it**, offers the best future for our students and for the society in which they will take their place.’*

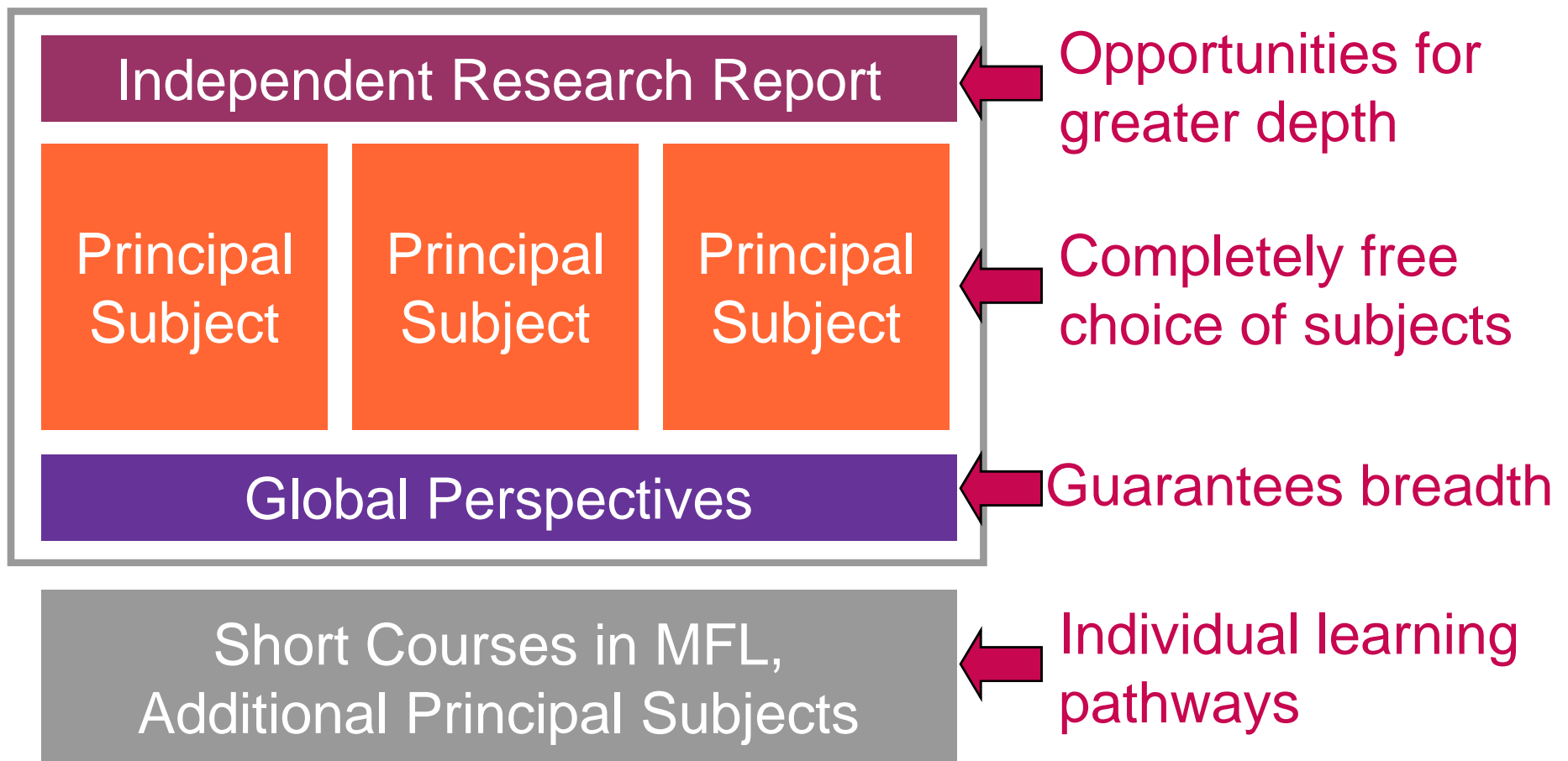
*Ralph Townsend,
Headmaster, Winchester
College, 2008*

Introducing a flexible qualification

- Cambridge Pre-U Certificate
 - 26 Principal Subject syllabuses
 - Short Courses in Modern Languages
 - Certificated separately
- Cambridge Pre-U Diploma
 - Builds on subject strength
 - Freedom of subject choice
- Cambridge Pre-U GPR
 - Global Perspectives Portfolio
 - Individual Research Report



Cambridge Pre-U Diploma



An articulated two year programme

Global Perspectives

Critical thinking and research skills taught through an exploration of a broad range of global issues

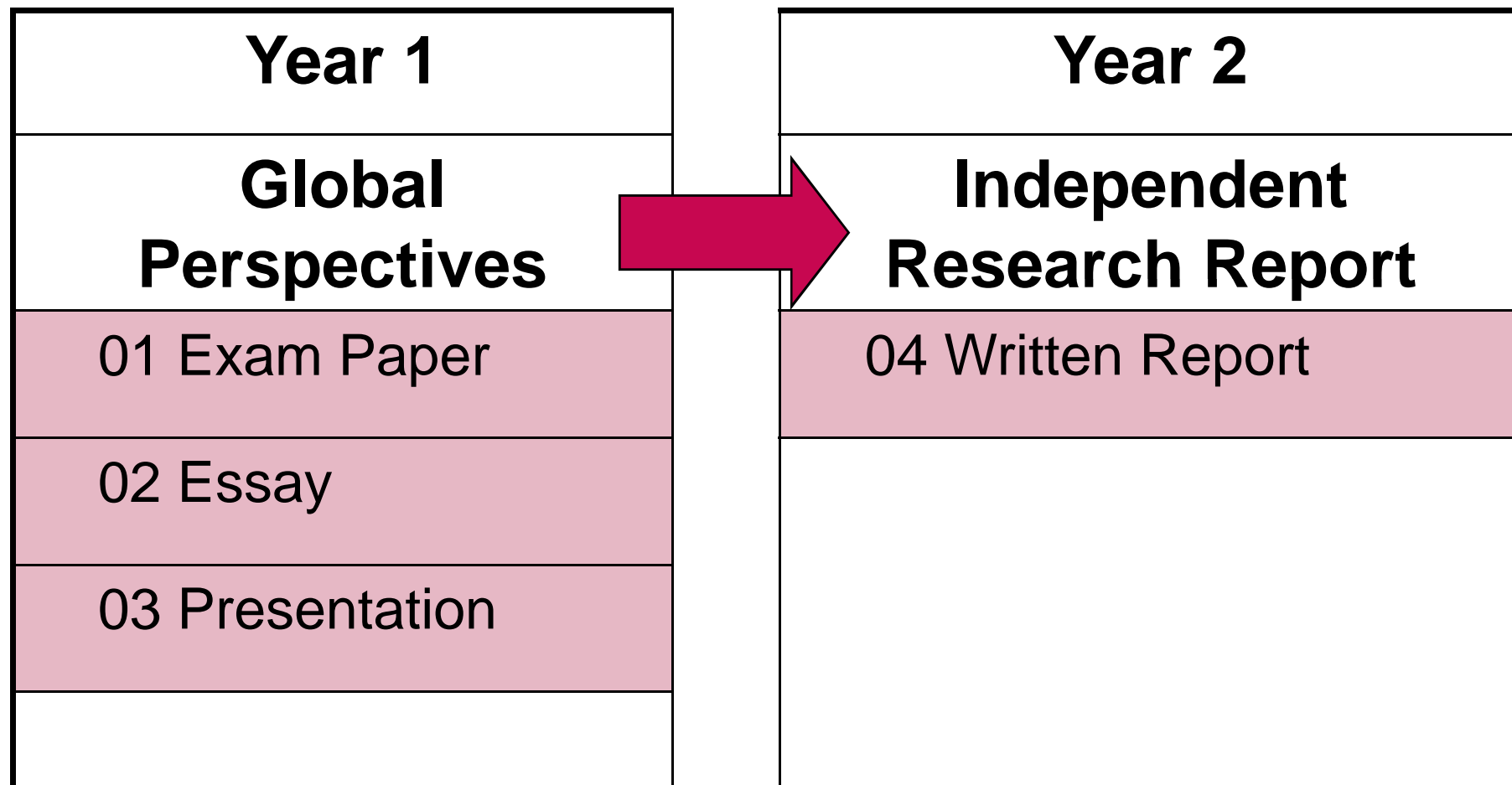
Acquired skills, emerging personal perspective



Independent Research Project

Critical thinking and research skills used for an in-depth exploration of an independently formulated research question

GPR Assessment



Cambridge Pre-U

- Specifically focused on preparation for University
- 380 class contact hours
- 9 pass grades D1-P3
- Linear examinations
- Retakes only permitted for whole subjects
- Links in subject matter across all papers

UK A Level

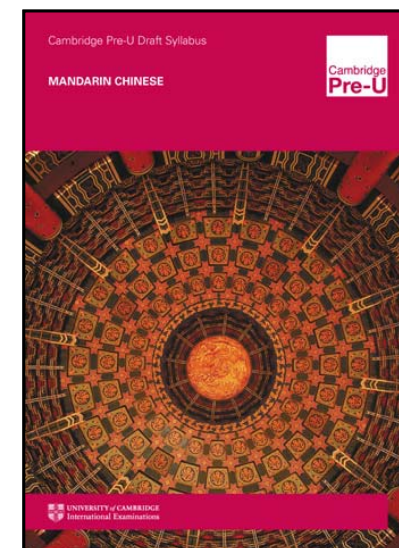
- Original purpose broadened
- 360 class contact hours
- 6 pass grades A*-E
- Modular examinations
- Retakes of modules permitted
- Unitised, with some synoptic material at A2

26 Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subjects

- New approaches:
 - Physics
 - Historical and philosophical perspectives
 - Modern Foreign Languages
 - Dual emphasis on culture and language
 - Mathematics
 - Stress on the interconnection between different branches
 - Philosophy and Theology
 - Detailed study of text and context
- New topics:
 - Classical Heritage
 - Reception and reinterpretation of the past in the present
 - Economics
 - Game theory
 - Implications of ageing
 - Business and Management
 - Corporate social responsibility
 - Chemistry:
 - Van Arkel diagrams
 - Functional group level
 - Carbon-13 NMR
 - Antibonding molecular orbitals

Grading

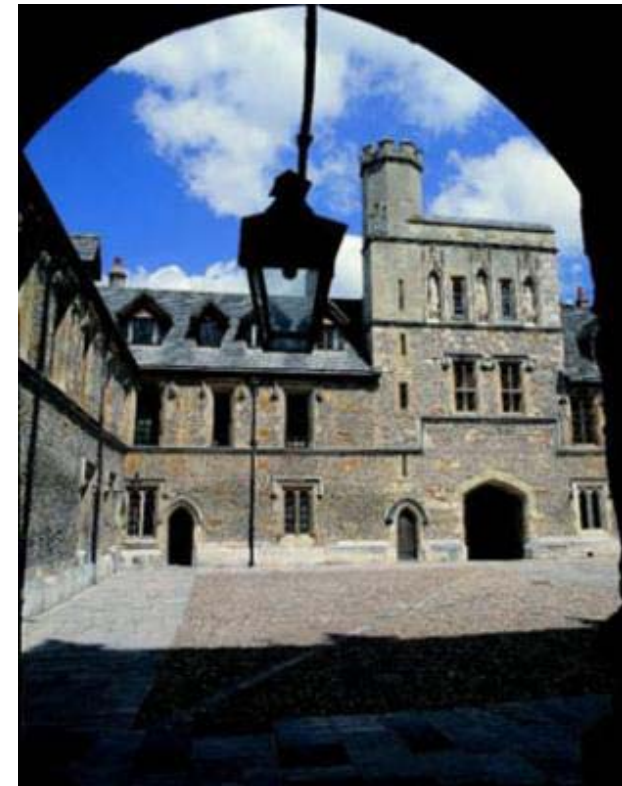
Distinction	D1	
	D2	← <i>Putative A* grade</i>
	D3	← <i>A/B boundary</i>
Merit	M1	
	M2	
	M3	
Pass	P1	
	P2	
	P3	← <i>E/U boundary</i>



Cambridge Pre-U exists in a defined relationship to A Level
It is accessible to all who currently achieve pass at A Level

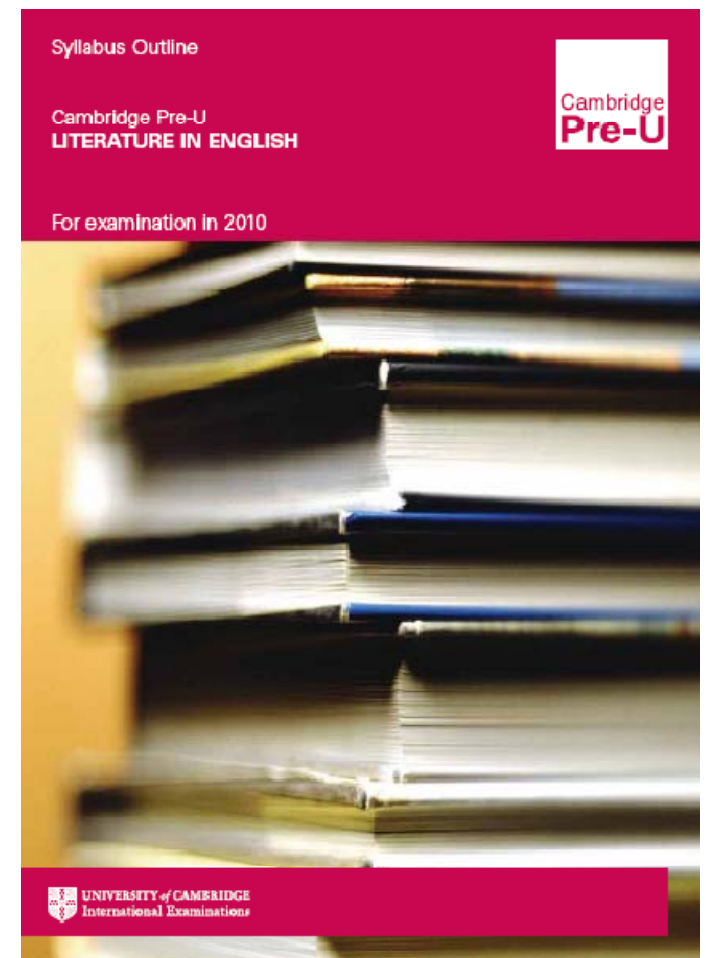
Who's taking Cambridge Pre-U?

- 87 UK schools formally registered
- 52 from independent sector & 35 from state maintained
- International launch for GPR
- A great deal of overseas interest including consortia from Spain & Denmark



Entries and subjects

- Approx 1800 UK students taking GPR or Principal Subject/s in 2010
- Top 5 subjects:
 - GPR
 - English
 - Maths
 - History
 - French





Interest in USA

- Hub in Westchester County plus other NY school districts
- Taking GPR from Sept 2010/11
- Training in March so can access funding
- Discussing Principal Subjects



Timeline

- First teaching UK Sept 2008
- First Short Course Exams June 2009
- First GPR and Principal Subject exams June 2010
- First international GPR exams June 2011
- First International Principal Subjects June 2012?



University feedback

Cambridge

‘We welcome applications from students who are studying towards the full Cambridge Pre-U Diploma or certain Principal Subjects within the qualification alongside A levels. Conditional offers will be set on an individual basis but are likely to include achieving Distinction level grades.’

‘Durham University notes the academic rigour of the linear approach, the retention of subject specialism and the expanded reporting scale at the top end of achievement.’



CIEonline
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Recognition Search Home ▾

Recognition Overview

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UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Search Results

Your results are displayed below. Where recognition data has been provided by institutions, it can be sorted by organisation name, type or location. To do this, click the corresponding list header. The results displayed represent only written statements or recognition received but these qualifications are also accepted by many other organisations which have not provided us with a statement.

If you would like to see information about your institution included in our Recognition Search results, please [register your recognition details here \(open new window\)](#).

You searched on:

Organisation Type: All

Organisation Name:

Country: United Kingdom

State:

Qualification Group: Cambridge Pre-U

Print

Search Again

Recognitions that match your search criteria:

☐ Cambridge Pre-U

140 results

Organisation Name ▾	Type	Location	Recognition Details
Anglia Ruskin University	HE	United Kingdom	Anglia Ruskin University will accept the Cambridge International Pre-U Certificates as an alternative to A-levels and will accept the Cambridge International Pre-U Diploma as meeting the general entry requirements. Details
Aston University	HE	United Kingdom	Aston University will accept the Cambridge International Pre-U Certificates as an alternative to A-levels and will accept the Cambridge International Pre-U Diploma as meeting the general entry requirements. Details
Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry	HE	United Kingdom	Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry confirm they will accept the Pre-U. Details
Bath Spa University	HE	United Kingdom	Bath Spa University will accept the Cambridge International Pre-U Certificates as an alternative to A-levels and will accept the Cambridge International Pre-U Diploma as meeting the general entry requirements.

UK University admissions requirements

Oxford

A, A, A or D3, D3, D3

Mixed portfolio A, A, D3

Cambridge

A*, A, A or D2, D3, D3

Warwick (Law)

AAA : D3, D3, M1

AAB: D3, D3, M2

ABB: D3, M2, M2

BBB: M2, M2, M2

Sound-bites from the UCAS conference:

Manchester

...prefers applicants who have not re-sat modules

Lancaster

'Cambridge Pre-U is quite clearly a high-quality qualification'



Search Results

Your results are displayed below. Where recognition data has been provided by institutions, it can be sorted by organisation name, type or location. To do this, click the corresponding list header. The results displayed represent only written statements or recognition received but these qualifications are also accepted by many other organisations which have not provided us with a statement.

If you would like to see information about your institution included in our Recognition Search results, please [register your recognition details here \(open new window\)](#).

You searched on:

Organisation Type: All
Organisation Name:
Country: United States
State: All
Qualification Group: Cambridge Pre-U

Print

Search Again

Recognitions that match your search criteria:



Cambridge Pre-U

51 results

Organisation Name ▾	Type	Location	Recognition Details
Amherst College	HE	United States Massachusetts	<p>Amherst College welcomes applications from students who have pursued the Cambridge Pre-U Program. We look forward to evaluating Cambridge Pre-U results according to their merits, as we do for A Level and IB diploma results.</p> <p>All candidates must submit complete applications to be considered for admission to Amherst. On the basis of high scores in the Principal Subjects, students may be placed in advanced courses in some subjects during their first year. Amherst College does not grant credits to any entering first-year students.</p> <p>Details</p>
Augusta State University	HE	United States Georgia	<p>Students will be allowed to use satisfactory results from Cambridge Pre-U examinations to enter Augusta State University.</p> <p>For advanced credit, students will have to obtain evaluation from a credential evaluation agency that is a member of NACES.</p> <p>Details</p>

Yale

Yale University would be pleased to consider applications from students with Cambridge Pre-U examination results according to their merits, as is the case with A Level applicants. All candidates must submit complete applications to be considered for admission to Yale. On the basis of high scores in the Principal Subjects, students may be placed in advanced courses in some subjects in the freshmen year. Such students may be granted acceleration



credits at the end of the freshman year if during the year they successfully complete appropriate advanced courses. These acceleration credits are in addition to course credits earned.

Duke

‘**Duke University** accepts Cambridge Pre-U for entry to Undergraduate courses. In order to qualify for and receive Duke International Placement Credit (IPC), students must present with grades of A or B (or the equivalent). Accordingly, a student presenting with grades of M3 or higher (M2, M1, D3, D2, or D1) in acceptable subjects in the Cambridge Pre-U program would be eligible to receive IPA credit, up to our defined limit of 2 such IPC credits.’



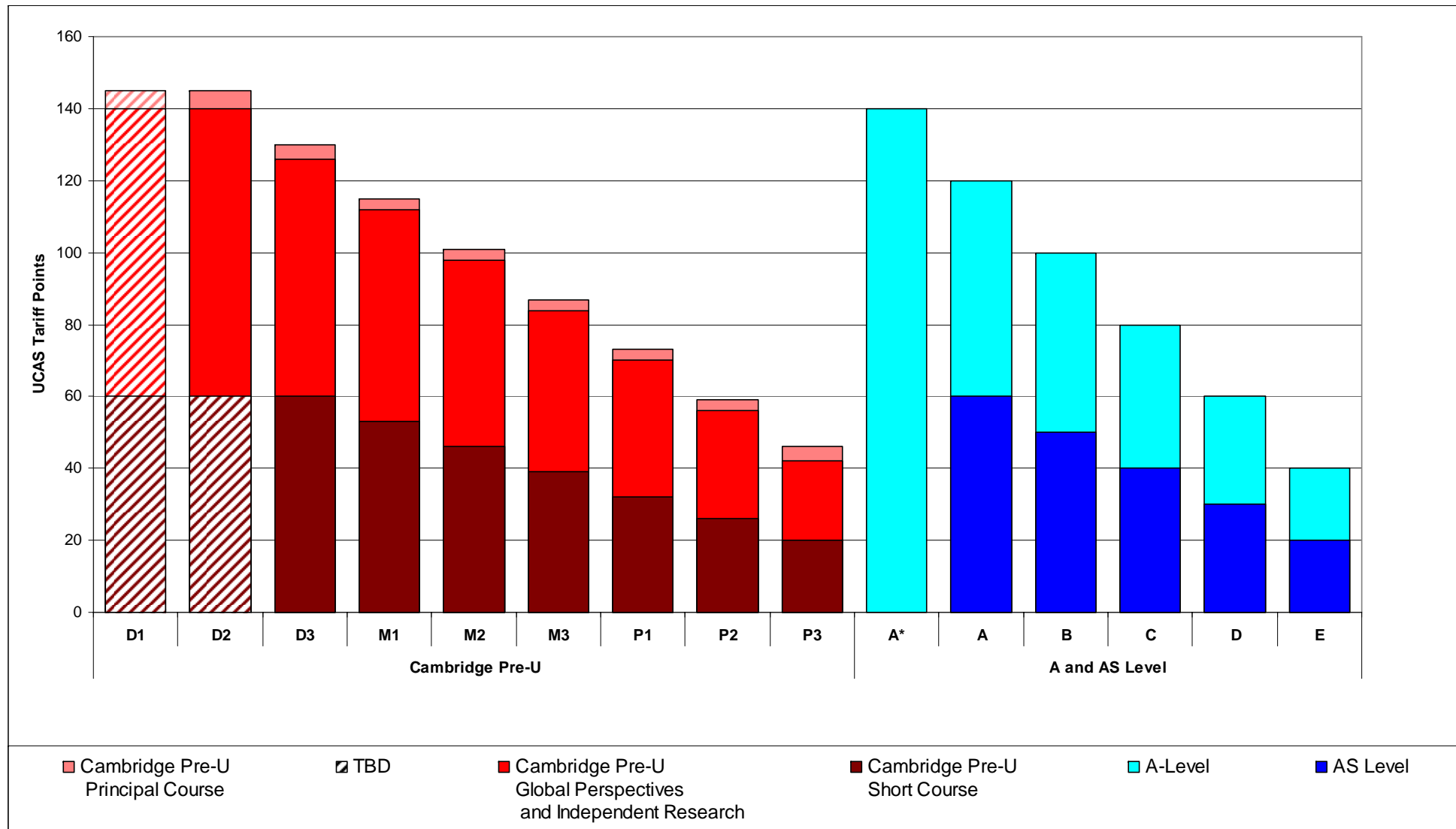
UCAS Tariff Points

	D1	D2	D3	M1	M2	M3	P1	P2	P3
Principal Subject	TBD*	145	130	115	101	87	73	59	46
GPR	TBD*	140	126	112	98	84	70	56	42
Short Course	TBD*	TBD*	60	53	46	39	32	26	20

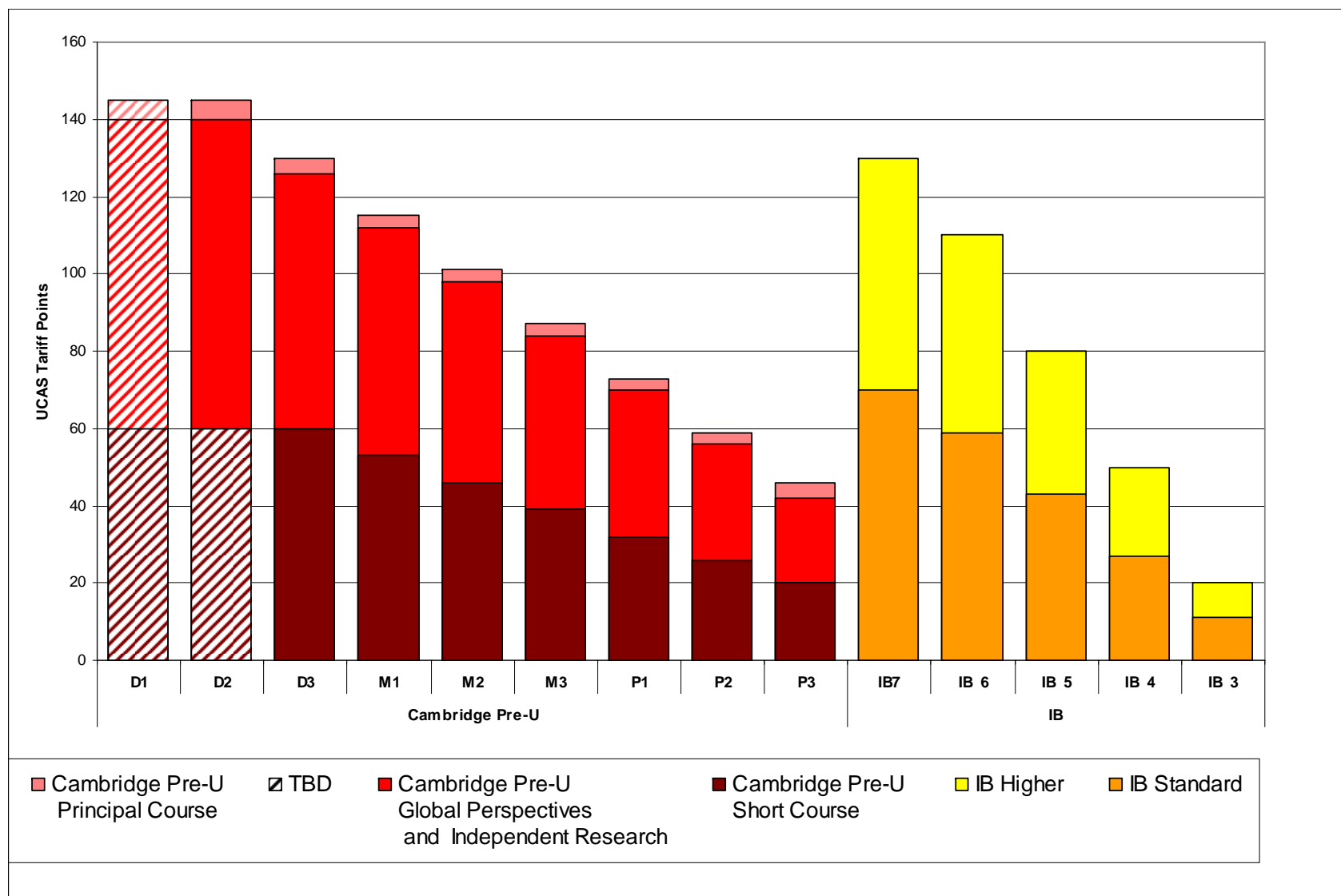
*TBD = To Be Determined



Cambridge Pre-U and A and AS level tariff points

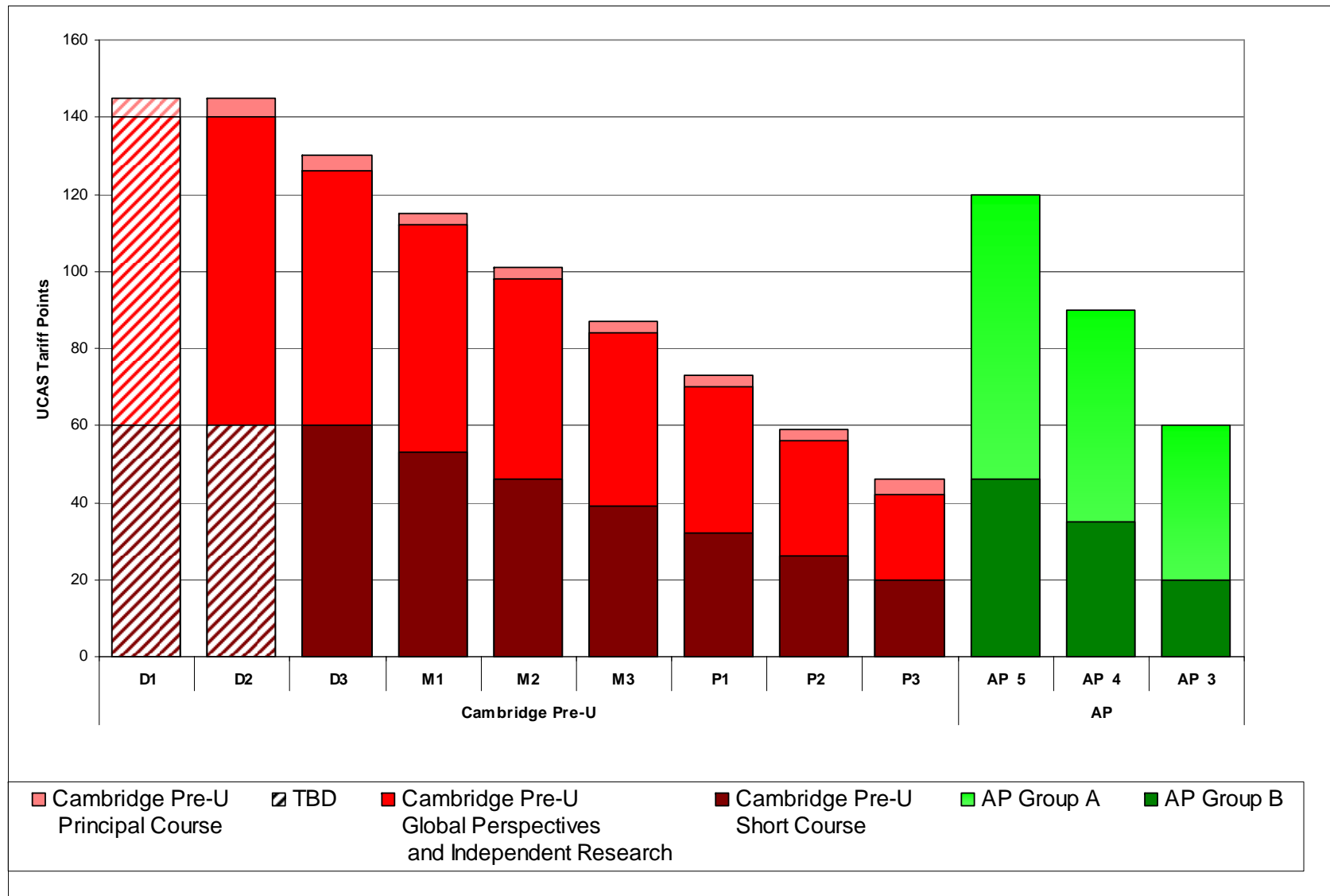


Cambridge Pre-U and IB tariff points





Cambridge Pre-U and AP tariff points





Articulation with USA

- UK 3 year and USA 4 year degree programmes
- In the US there is a variety of acceleration mechanisms that attract academic credit

Typical US policy for A & AS Levels

A Levels

6-8 credits awarded for grades C or better

AS Levels

3-4 credits for grades C or better

Typical US policy for Cambridge Pre-U?

Principal Subjects

6-8 credits for Grades M3 or higher?

GPR (Global Perspectives and Independent Research Report)

6-8 credits for Grades M3 or higher?

Short Courses

3-4 credits for Grades M3 or higher?

Contact us

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