

Cambridge International Pathway at CRDL



CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International School



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CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Forms 9 & 10 | Ages 14–16



What is the CAMBRIDGE IGCSE?

The **Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)** is an internationally recognised qualification designed for students aged **14 to 16**.

It is a **two-year programme**, with each subject corresponding to approximately **130 hours of teaching**. The Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most widely recognised international qualification for this age group and is taken by students in over **140 countries worldwide**.

The IGCSE provides a strong academic foundation for further study, including **Cambridge International AS & A Levels**, the **International Baccalaureate (IB)**, or other post-16 pathways, in Portugal and internationally.

The IGCSE at CRDL

At CRDL, the IGCSE programme combines academic rigour with personalised guidance, ensuring a **broad, balanced and coherent curriculum**.

Students typically study **around eight IGCSE subjects**, combining mandatory and optional disciplines.



Mandatory Subjects

- **Portuguese First Language** (*native speakers*)

or

Portuguese Second Language & Traditions

(*non-native speakers – subject with its own curriculum and no external Cambridge exam*)

- **English**

- 0511 – non-native speakers
- 0500 – native speakers

- **Mathematics**

- **Physical Education** (*no Cambridge external assessment*)

Optional Subjects

- **Portuguese native speakers choose 4 subjects**
- **Portuguese non-native speakers choose 5 subjects**

Optional subjects may include:

- Global Perspectives
- Environmental Management
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- History
- Business
- Spanish
- Art & Design
- Drama





Teaching, Learning and Digital Integration

Teaching and learning at CRDL are supported by the **purposeful use of iPads in the classroom**.

iPads are used as learning tools to:

- support research and inquiry
- organise learning materials and assignments
- enhance annotation, visualisation and independent study
- provide access to Cambridge learning resources and other learning materials.

Technology is integrated in a **balanced and intentional way**, complementing traditional teaching methods and promoting responsible digital citizenship.

Assessment

Cambridge IGCSE assessment takes place at the end of the programme and may include:

- written examinations
- oral and practical assessments
- coursework (depending on the subject)

In many subjects, students may follow either **Core** or **Extended** pathways, allowing the level of challenge to be adapted to each learner.

Mock Examinations

Throughout the two years, students sit **Mock Examinations** under exam conditions. These assessments help students:

- become familiar with Cambridge examination formats
- develop effective revision strategies
- monitor academic progress and set learning targets

Official IGCSE Examinations

Cambridge IGCSE examination sessions take place **twice a year**, in **June** and **November**.

Results are released in **August** and **January**.

Grades are awarded on the **A*–G scale**, with **A*** being the highest grade.

Recognition and Equivalence in Portugal

The Cambridge IGCSE is **recognised by the Portuguese Ministry of Education**.

Students may obtain equivalence to the **10th grade of the Portuguese education system** when they achieve a grade of **C or higher in at least six subjects**, in accordance with national regulations.

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVELS

Forms 11 & 12 | Ages 16–19



The **Cambridge International Advanced Level (A Level)** qualification is a **two-year programme** designed for students aged **16 to 19**.

It provides a rigorous and specialised academic curriculum and is widely recognised by universities worldwide as strong preparation for higher education.

Subject Selection

Students choose four subjects, following a progressive structure:

- **Year 1:** 3 A Levels + 1 AS Level
- **Year 2:** 3 or 4 A Levels

Subjects Offered

- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Portuguese
- English Language
- Spanish Language
- Business
- History
- Geography
- Psychology
- Global Perspectives
- Computer Science

Optional

- **Physical Education** (*Portuguese National Curriculum – no additional cost*)

Progression and University Access

At CRDL, the Cambridge IGCSE leads naturally into **Cambridge International AS & A Levels**, ensuring academic continuity and progression.

Students applying to Portuguese universities through the A Level pathway must complete **three full A Levels**, which is also the recommended option for students applying to international universities. Applicants should verify whether specific A Level subjects are required for their chosen degree or institution.





Rua Luís Caldas • 2500-817 Caldas da Rainha

Tel +351 262 889 410 *(Chamada para a rede fixa nacional)*

E-mail geral@crdl.pt

www.crdl.pt



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