

# Welcome to Cambridge Secondary 1 and Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint

Cambridge Secondary 1 is an education programme which combines a world-class curriculum, high-quality support for teachers and integrated assessment. The programme has been developed by Cambridge International Examinations and is used in secondary schools around the world. Cambridge Secondary 1 helps schools develop learners who are **confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged**.

**Cambridge Secondary 1** covers English, English as a Second Language, Mathematics and Science for learners aged 11 to 14. It provides curriculum frameworks and assessment for each subject.

**Cambridge Secondary 1 provides a solid foundation for later stages of education.** It starts learners on an educational journey for their first years of secondary education, focusing on what they should be able to do at each stage of a lower secondary education. It develops skills, knowledge and understanding that will prepare them for a smooth transition to Cambridge Secondary 2 and beyond.

**Cambridge Secondary 1 offers optional, integrated assessment.** The assessment structure tracks learner progression through the first years of secondary education. Learners taking Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint receive a Statement of Achievement and detailed feedback on strengths and weaknesses.

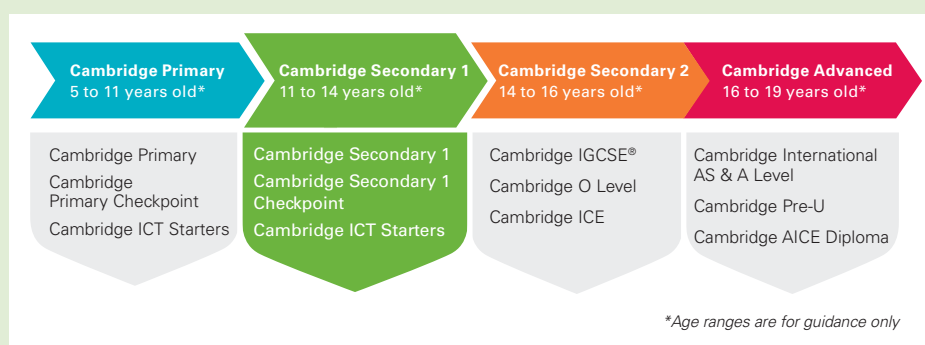
**Cambridge Secondary 1 supports teachers in providing the best teaching and learning.** Schools adopting Cambridge Secondary 1 gain access to first-class support for teachers through publications, online resources, training and professional development.

**Cambridge Secondary 1 is practical and flexible.**

No part of the Cambridge Secondary 1 curriculum is compulsory, giving schools the flexibility to choose the elements that are right for their learners. This means that they can use Cambridge Secondary 1 while following their school or national curriculum, or offer the entire programme.



## Cambridge programmes and qualifications



**Cambridge Secondary 1** has been developed by Cambridge International Examinations, who prepare school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. Cambridge International Examinations are part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

# A world-class curriculum for 21st century learners

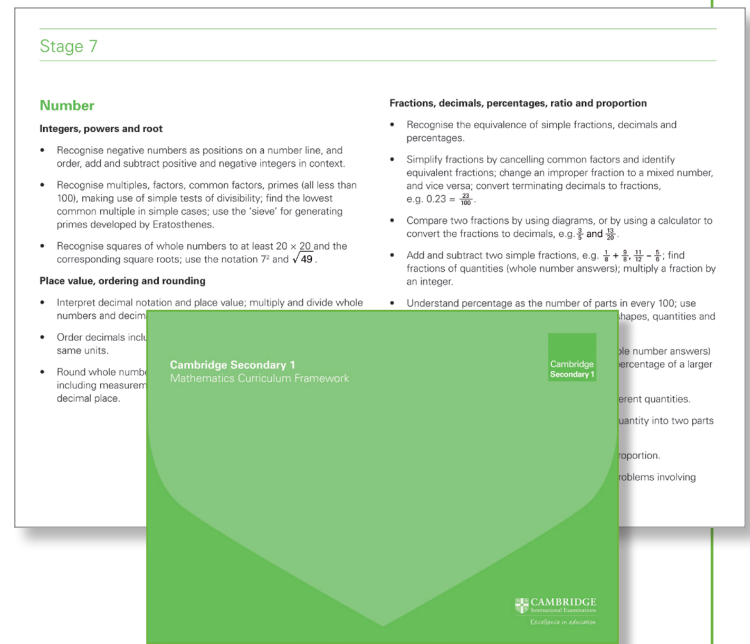
**Cambridge Secondary 1 engages learners in an active and creative learning journey. It is structured through curriculum frameworks for each subject. Organised into three stages, the curriculum frameworks reflect the teaching targets for each year group and provide comprehensive learning objectives. The curriculum frameworks have been designed to be successful in any culture.**

**Cambridge Secondary 1 English:** Successful learners following this curriculum develop a competency in English comparable to first language speakers. The curriculum helps develop confident, creative and intellectually engaged learners, capable of applying their skills to respond to a range of information, media and texts with enjoyment and understanding. It provides an enquiry-based approach to learning to develop thinking skills and encourage intellectual engagement.

**Cambridge Secondary 1 English as a Second Language:** This curriculum develops learners' competences in speaking, listening, reading, writing and use of English – the language skills that they need in the international secondary school classroom, where some subjects are taught in English. It is a new curriculum framework that has been developed in conjunction with Cambridge English Language Assessment and is based on the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)*, which is used across the world to map learners' progress in English.

**Cambridge Secondary 1 Mathematics:** The curriculum framework is presented in six content areas – number, algebra, geometry, measure, handling data and problem solving. The first five content areas are all underpinned by problem solving, which provides a structure for the application of mathematical skills.

For full copies of the curriculum frameworks, visit [www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecondary1](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecondary1)



Mental strategies are also a key part of the number content. The curriculum focuses on principles, patterns, systems, functions and relationships, so that learners can apply their mathematical knowledge and develop a holistic understanding of the subject.

**Cambridge Secondary 1 Science:** This curriculum framework covers four content areas – scientific enquiry, biology, chemistry and physics. Scientific enquiry is about considering ideas, evaluating evidence, planning investigative work and recording and analysing data. The scientific enquiry objectives underpin biology, chemistry and physics, which are focused on developing confidence and interest in scientific knowledge. Environmental awareness and some history of science are also part of the curriculum.

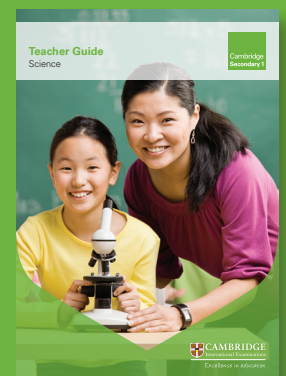
## High-quality support for teachers

**Cambridge Secondary 1** teachers have access to a range of support material to help them plan and deliver the programme. This includes teacher guides, online and face-to-face training, resources and textbooks prepared by leading educational publishers. There is also a dedicated website for Cambridge Secondary 1 teachers.

**Teacher guides:** Each curriculum framework has a teacher guide. These bring together schemes of work, sample lesson plans, planning and implementation guidance.

**Training:** Cambridge Secondary 1 schools receive access to an online introductory training course for their teachers. There are also additional tutor-led online training modules and face-to-face training courses. In addition, we offer Professional Development Qualifications for Cambridge teachers, enabling them to develop their skills further.

**Analysis of your learners' results:** Results of Cambridge Secondary 1 Progression Tests can be analysed using the Cambridge Progress Checker.



# Integrated assessment within Cambridge Secondary 1

Cambridge Secondary 1 offers an optional testing structure to assess learner performance and report progress to both learners and parents. The assessments provide an international benchmark that enables teachers to:

- identify learner strengths and weaknesses within individuals and class groups
- develop further teaching and learning support using the information from the test results
- provide learners with a Statement of Achievement (if they chose Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint) at the end of their lower secondary schooling.

There are two types of assessment within the Cambridge Secondary 1 stage.

## Cambridge Secondary 1 Progression Tests

There are Cambridge Secondary 1 Progression Tests for each stage of the curriculum frameworks. They are available to download from the Cambridge Secondary 1 website, so they can be given at any time. Marked by the teachers in school, all tests come with full mark schemes and marking guidance.

**Cambridge Progress Checker:** Cambridge Secondary 1 provides a unique analysis tool for the Cambridge Progression Tests – the *Cambridge Progress Checker*. Using a spreadsheet, teachers upload learners' test results and can then analyse results and create and print reports, including:

- comparisons of a learner's results against their class, school or other schools around the world teaching Cambridge Secondary 1
- a year-on-year report comparing the performance of a class to results achieved in the previous year
- a conversion of raw marks into Bronze, Silver and Gold bands to help you evaluate learners' development.



## Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint

This innovative diagnostic testing service is designed to help students learn by providing comprehensive feedback on their strengths and weaknesses in the key curriculum areas – English, English as a Second Language, Mathematics and Science.

Generally taken at the end of stage 9, Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint tests are offered twice a year. The tests are marked in Cambridge and each learner receives a Statement of Achievement and a diagnostic report.

The reports consider the performance of the individual learner, the performance of the learner within a teaching group and also the performance within the school as a whole. They help teachers to:

- tailor programmes of learning
- monitor group and individual performance
- provide information for reporting to parents
- compare the performance of all the learners taking the test in that session
- manage learning programmes within schools and as learners move between schools.

Student name:	Centre:	Subject: Science
Student number:	Centre number:	Date: October 2012

**Your overall results are as follows:**

Science (overall)	Cambridge Checkpoint score = 3.5
Biology	Cambridge Checkpoint score = 3.0
Chemistry	Cambridge Checkpoint score = 3.6
Physics	Cambridge Checkpoint score = 4.5
Scientific enquiry	Cambridge Checkpoint score = 3.5

**This is what the scores mean:**

6.0	Excellent
5.0	Very good
4.0	Good (about average for Cambridge Checkpoint students)
3.0	OK, but below average for Cambridge Checkpoint students
2.0	OK
1.0	Poor
0.0	Very poor

**What you got right and what you got wrong**

Most of your answers were as expected for a student with your Cambridge Checkpoint score. However, some of your answers were surprising: the most surprising ones are listed below. They may give you information about what parts of the subject you are good at and what parts you need to work harder at.

Question and part	Strand	Sub-strand
1a	Physics	Electricity and magnetism
10a	Physics	Light
8c	Physics	Forces and motion
9b	Physics	The Earth and beyond

**Questions you answered incorrectly that we expected you to find easy**

Question and part	Strand	Sub-strand
2d	Biology	Plants
5b	Chemistry	Material properties
1a	Biology	Variation and classification
8b	Scientific enquiry	Planning from ideas and evidence



# Your questions answered



## **Q: Our school is not currently a Cambridge school. How do we get started teaching Cambridge Secondary 1?**

**A:** Contact our Customer Services team at [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) or you can call them on +44 1223 553554 and they will talk you through the registration process for becoming a Cambridge school. Alternatively, visit our website and complete the enquiry form at the 'Join us' section on the home page. If your school meets the criteria, you'll become an approved school to offer Cambridge Secondary 1 and our other qualifications such as Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge O Level and Cambridge International AS and A Level. If you are an existing Cambridge school, contact our Customer Services team as above, giving your school details and explaining that you wish to register for Cambridge Secondary 1.

## **Q: What does my Cambridge Secondary 1 registration include?**

**A:** The Cambridge Secondary 1 registration is free if you are already an existing Cambridge school. It includes access to the curriculum frameworks, the Progression Tests and access to the support website. Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint has a separate candidate fee. Details are published in the Cambridge fees list.

## **Q: What's the difference between what is tested in the Progression Tests and what is tested in Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint?**

**A:** Progression Tests are available for stages 7, 8 and 9 of Cambridge Secondary 1. For each stage, Progression Tests assess how well the student has learned the skills and knowledge within that particular stage. Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint tests skills and knowledge from all stages for each of the curriculum frameworks for Cambridge Secondary 1.

## **Q: Are there any endorsed or recommended textbooks to accompany Cambridge Secondary 1 and Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint?**

**A:** We work with a number of leading educational publishers around the world. Information on endorsed textbooks and recommended resources is included in the teacher guides and on our website.

## **Q: Where can I find out about training for the curriculum and Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint?**

**A:** We offer both online and face-to-face training at both an introductory and more advanced level. There is an introductory online course for your teachers. Details of upcoming training are published on our website [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk) in the events and training section.

**Learn more!** To find out more about Cambridge Secondary 1 and Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint please contact your local Cambridge representative, visit [www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecundary1](http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecundary1) or if you have a specific question, please contact our Customer Services team at [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) or on +44 1223 553554.

