



**CAMBRIDGE**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

**Assessment Handbook  
2020/2021**

**KS5 (Year 12 – Year 14)**

## Introduction

This Handbook provides an overview of our assessment philosophy and practice at Cambridge International School. We are an international school offering Cambridge qualifications, namely IGCSEs and A-Levels. In addition, we are also licensed by the Slovak government, which enables our students to graduate with a Maturita, the Slovak secondary school leaving certificate. This unique set of circumstances influences our assessment practice as we are bound by local requirements in terms of grading and grade boundaries.

## Assessment

Assessment instruments may include tests, examinations, extended practical work, projects, portfolios and oral work, some carried out over a prolonged period. Teachers have their own assessment styles linked to the demands of their subject and will award grades based on Cambridge grade boundaries rather than the Slovak Ministry boundaries. As a school, we believe that assessment is a key part of the learning process as it allows students and teachers to identify areas for development. At CIS, we are less concerned with grades than we are with students developing the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in their official examinations.

## Grading

As an international school that is bound by Slovak law we must grade and report to parents using the Slovak system. Grades are given 1 to 5:

- 1 – Excellent
- 2 – Very Good
- 3 – Good/Satisfactory
- 4 – Pass
- 5 – Unsatisfactory/Fail

According to the laws of the Slovak Ministry, we have been asked to grade tests on the following grade boundaries:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>85% +</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>84% - 75%</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>74% - 65%</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>64% - 55%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>54% - 0%</b>

*Table 1:KS5 General grade boundaries*

When students move into Year 10 and above, they are working towards being assessed in external exams delivered by the Cambridge International Examinations board in the UK. Consequently, we are required to review and adjust our grade boundaries to fit with these requirements. Please note that grade boundaries often change both annually and between separate subjects. Students taking AS and A-Levels will not be graded using the Slovak Ministry boundaries.

## **Recording**

As a minimum, every subject teacher will record at least one IZK grade per student per month. Various assessments styles can be used, including but not limited to:

- End of unit test
- Presentation
- Quiz
- Essay
- Speaking test – in languages
- Any other subject relevant assessment styles

In many cases, students will be assessed using past paper questions to prepare them for exams.

## **Reporting**

We report as follows in 20/21:

### ***Year 12***

CIS Progress Report in October/November

CIS Full Report in December, ahead of mock examinations in January

Half Year Report (one IZK grade per subject) in January. (Vypis)

CIS Mock Exam Report in February

CIS Progress Report in April

Final external AS exams taken in May/June.

End of Year Report in June (one IZK grade per subject) (Vysvedčenie)

CIS Full Report in June

### ***Year 13/14***

CIS Progress Report in October/November

CIS Full Report in December, ahead of mock examinations in January

Half Year Report (one IZK grade per subject) in January. (Vypis)

CIS Mock Exam Report in February

CIS Progress Report in April

Final external A-Level exams taken in May/June.













End of Year Report in June (one IZK grade per subject) (Vysvedčenie)

Y14 - Final Slovak 'Maturita' - Students officially graduate from Slovak High School. (Vysvedčenie o maturitnej skúške)

This year, we are introducing more regular reporting to parents to help keep you informed about your child's progress. The Progress Report is a snapshot of how your child is progressing whilst the Full Report will give you a detailed overview of progress and next steps, as well as providing you with grades.

## List of subjects

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## Art

### Teacher: Ms Melanie Radoja

There are three assessed components in the A-Level Art and Design course:

AS:

- Coursework (externally assessed) 50% of the AS course
- Externally Set Assignment (externally assessed) 50% of the AS course

A-Level:

- Personal Investigation (externally assessed) 50% of the A-Level

There are four Assessment Objectives for the AS and A-Level Art and Design course

- AO1 Record  
*Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses*
- AO2 Explore  
*Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes*
- AO3 Develop  
*Develop ideas through investigation, demonstrating critical understanding*
- AO4 Present  
*Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and demonstrates an understanding of visual language*

Each of the Assessment Objectives has equal weighting (25%)

During the course the students are expected to, and will be assessed loosely on the following:

- Develop an inquisitive, creative approach to research and problem-solving
- Develop the ability to record from first-hand observation, personal experience and other sources

- Effectively communicate their personal response by improving technical skills in a range of processes and media
- Develop independent expression by analyzing, evaluating and applying concepts and techniques
- Articulate ideas and responses to their work and the work of others using a relevant vocabulary
- Develop a clear contextual framework that aids critical reflection of their work
- Develop a critical understanding of important concepts and formal elements of art and design
- Develop the skills needed to study art and design at higher education

The grading system can be **approximately** measured by the following:

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 90 %	A*	1 (Excellent)
≥ 84 %	A	
≥ 64 %	B	2 (Confident)
≥ 44 %	C	3 (Competent)
≥ 24 %	D	3 (Satisfactory)
≥ 4 %	E	4 (Limited)
< 4 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## Biology

**Teacher: Mr David Roberts**

Types of assessments: Tests, homework, class participation

Frequency:

1<sup>st</sup> half year (approximately) - 5 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, homework assessments, and 1 grade for class participation

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: (approximately) - 2 formal written tests at the end of each chapter (weight 0.1), mock exam grade with a triple weight, homework assessments, and 1 grade for class participation

Grade boundaries:

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 85 %	A*	1
≥ 75 %	A	
≥ 65 %	B	2
≥ 55 %	C	3
≥ 50 %	D	
≥ 40 %	E	4
< 40 %	U/ Ungraded	5

## Chemistry

**Teacher: Mr John Williamson**

Types of assessments: Topic tests, homework, practical work, class participation.

Frequency:

1<sup>st</sup> half year: (approximately) - approximately 6 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, homework assessments, graded practical works, and 1 grade for class participation

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: (approximately) - approximately 4 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, mock exam grade with a triple weight, homework assessments, graded practical works, and 1 grade for class participation

Grade boundaries:

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 85 %	A*	1
≥ 75 %	A	
≥ 65 %	B	2
≥ 55 %	C	3
≥ 50 %	D	
≥ 40 %	E	4
< 40 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## Computer Science

**Teacher: Ms Eva Fendekova**

Types of assessments: Tests, homework, programming tasks, class participation

Frequency:

1<sup>st</sup> half year: (approximately) - 7 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, 1 or 2 homework assessments per week, and 1 grade for class participation

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: (approximately) - 5 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, mock exam grade with a triple weight, 1 or 2 homework assessments per week, 2 graded programming tasks, and 1 grade for class participation

Grade boundaries:

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 85 %	A*	1
≥ 75 %	A	
≥ 65 %	B	2
≥ 55 %	C	3
≥ 50 %	D	
≥ 40 %	E	4
< 40 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## English Language

**Teacher: Mr John Lowe**

Types of assessments: Writing and reading tasks will be based upon the assessment style of the final exams. This will include analysis of a variety of fiction and non/fiction text and a series of writing tasks based upon descriptive and narrative writing and writing for a purpose and audience

Grade boundaries:

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 85 %	A*	1
≥ 75 %	A	
≥ 65 %	B	2
≥ 55 %	C	3
≥ 50 %	D	
≥ 40 %	E	4
< 40 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## Geography

**Teacher: Ms Alison Phaup**

Types of assessments: Tests and past paper questions (essays and data response questions)

Frequency:

1st half year: (approximately) - 2 formal written tests and several past paper questions. Past paper questions may be completed in class or for homework. The weighting for work completed at home will be lower than for work completed in class under supervision.

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: (approximately): Past paper questions (essays and data response questions) on a regular basis and the mock exam. Past paper questions may be completed in class or for homework.

Weightings: Tests – 60% and Past paper questions – 40%

Grade boundaries:

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 75 %	A*	1
≥ 65 %	A	
≥ 55 %	B	2
≥ 47 %	C	3
≥ 40 %	D	
≥ 32 %	E	4
< 32 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## German Language

**Teacher: Ms Jana Mosatova**

Types of assessment: Students will receive several assessments, including tests, past papers, essays, and short presentations and projects followed by discussion about specific topics.

Frequency:

1st half year: (approximately) - 6 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, 8-10 written assessments (essays), homework assessments (past papers), 3-5 graded speaking assessments, and 3 grades for class participation

2nd half year: (approximately) - 4 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, mock exam grade with a triple weight, 6-8 written assessments (essays), homework assessments (past papers), 3 graded speaking assessments, and 1 grade for class participation

Grade boundaries:

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 90 %	A*	1
≥ 75 %	A	
≥ 65 %	B	2
≥ 55 %	C	3
≥ 45 %	D	
≥ 40 %	E	4
< 40 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## History

**Teacher: Ms Nichola Giddings**

Types of assessments: In class timed assessments, and homework past paper questions

Frequency:

1<sup>st</sup> half year: (approximately) - Mid and end of topic formal assessments, homework past paper questions, and 1 grade for class participation

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: (approximately) - Mid and end of topic formal assessments, mock exam grade, homework past paper questions, and 1 grade for class participation

Grade boundaries:

Year 12			Year 13		
%	AS Grade	IZK Grade	%	A2 Grade	IZK Grade
80	A*	1	85	A*	1
65	A	1	75	A	1
55	B	2	65	B	2
45	C	3	55	C	3
40	D	3	50	D	3
35	E	4	40	E	4
0	U	5	0	U	5

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## Mathematics

**Year 12** Teacher: **Ms Eva Fendekova**

**Year 13** Teacher: **Mr Mike Sanderson**

Frequency:

1<sup>st</sup> half year: Grades will be calculated using an average score from all completed end of unit tests and an attitude to learning mark.

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: Grades will be calculated using an average score from all end of unit tests, all completed past papers, an attitude to learning mark plus the mock examination for Pure 1 (Year 12), Pure 2/3 (Year 13).

End of unit testing frequency: once per month

Weighting:

- all formal tests (weight x 1)
- all past papers (weight x 1)
- mock exam written (weight x 3)
- attitude to learning mark (weight x 1)

Grade boundaries

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 90 %	A*	1
≥ 80 %	A	
≥ 70 %	B	2
≥ 58 %	C	3
≥ 46 %	D	
≥ 34 %	E	4
< 34 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## Physics

**Teacher: Ms Simona Stesnakova**

Types of assessments: Tests, homework, practical tasks

Frequency:

1<sup>st</sup> half year: (approximately) - 6 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, homework assessments, 5x graded practical works or planning/data analysis questions

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: (approximately) – 4 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, mock exam grade with a triple weight, homework assessments, 5x graded practical works or planning/data analysis questions

Grade boundaries

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 85 %	A*	1
≥ 75 %	A	
≥ 65 %	B	2
≥ 55 %	C	3
≥ 50 %	D	
≥ 40 %	E	4
< 40 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## Psychology

**Teacher: Ms Marina Brankovicova**

Types of assessments: Tests, class participation, presentations, and homework

Frequency:

1<sup>st</sup> half year: (approximately) - 5 formal written tests (one at the end of each chapter), 4 grades for class participation (1 every month), 1 presentation, and 2 grades for homework

2<sup>nd</sup> half year: (approximately) - 4 formal written tests at the end of each chapter, 1 mock exam with a triple weight, 4 grades for class participation (1 every month), and 2 grades for homework

Grade boundaries

Percentage	A-Level grade	IZK equivalent
≥ 85 %	A*	1
≥ 75 %	B	2
≥ 65 %	C	3
≥ 55 %	E	4
< 55 %	U/ Ungraded	5

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## Slovak Language and Literature

Teachers: **Y12G, Y14P (Ms Gabriela Jurikova)**

**Y13S (Mr Viktor Poncak)**

Types and frequency of assessments: Vstupný test na začiatku školského roka s učivom z predchádzajúceho šk. roka, polročný test na polroku s polročným učivom, výstupný test na konci školského roka s celoročným učivom, kontrolné diktátoy, 2 kontrolné slohové práce, vopred neohlásené desaťminútovky a dopĺňovačky, domáce úlohy, Beseda a písomka o prečítanom, povinne zadanom diele a vypracovanie pracovného listu, Ústna beseda.

Grade boundaries:

Grade	Percentage
1	85% +
2	84% - 70%
3	69% - 55%
4	54% - 45%
5	44% - 0%

Stupnica hodnotenia kontrolného diktátu

0 chýb – 100%	9 chýb – 52%
1 chyba – 94%	10 chýb – 45%
2 chyby – 88%	11 chýb – 44%
3 chyby – 87%	12 chýb – 37%
4 chyby – 75%	13 chýb – 27%
5 chýb – 74%	14 chýb – 17%
6 chýb – 67%	15 chýb – 7%
7 chýb – 60%	16 chýb – 0%
8 chýb – 59%	

Weighting: (Y13)

Test - after unit test - 45%

Domáca úloha – Homework – 15%

Sloh – Essay - 20%

Samostatná práca - Individual work – 20%

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