

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Cambridge IGCSE® (9–1) First Language English (0990)
For examination from 2019

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FAQs – Support and resources

When are the examinations taken?

Information about when the examinations can be taken can be found in the syllabus, which you can download from Teacher Support or our public website.

Examination dates are listed in the exam timetable which you can download from our public website, or speak to the Examinations Officer at your centre.

Reference: [Syllabus / Exam timetable](#)

Location: [Teacher Support / Public Website](#)

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What resources are available to support Cambridge syllabuses?

Teaching resources can be found on the Teacher Support page for your syllabus.

For syllabuses, specimen papers, past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports look under the *Syllabus Materials* tab.

For support materials, including Schemes of Work* and Example Candidate Responses*, look under the *Teaching Materials* tab.

The *Resource List* tab directs you to endorsed and suggested resources including textbooks and websites. You can also access these from the Resource Centre on our public website.

For more details about the support types available, and how to use them for planning, preparing, teaching, assessing and revision, see our guide *Cambridge teacher support*, which can be downloaded from the Teacher Support homepage.

You can also visit our **Discussion Forums***, where teachers discuss resources and teaching methods, and you can ask questions and receive a response from our subject expert moderator or from other Cambridge teachers in our Community.

*where available

Reference: [Teacher Support Resources](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

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What textbooks are available for my subject?

From the *Resource List* tab on the Teacher Support page for your syllabus you can search for textbooks for your subject. No particular book is necessary for a course and teachers are advised to choose the textbook that best suits their needs. Many of our syllabuses are supported by a range of different endorsed textbooks to ensure that schools have choice. There is information on the back of endorsed textbooks about which examination series it was first produced for.

Endorsed resources go through a rigorous quality-assurance process to make sure they closely reflect the syllabus and are appropriate for Cambridge schools worldwide. Resources may be 'endorsed for full syllabus coverage' or endorsed to cover specific sections, topics or approaches. Look for the specific 'endorsed for...' logo on the resource.

Reference: [Teacher Support Resources](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

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What training and professional development is available for my subject?

Cambridge online and face-to-face training courses are designed to support you by providing you with the knowledge and skills required to deliver our syllabuses. These can be booked through the Events and training calendar on our public website.

Reference: [Events and training calendar](#)

Location: [Public Website](#)

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FAQs – Support and resources

How can I find out about any changes to the syllabus?

This information can be found on the inside cover of the syllabus, which can be downloaded from Teacher Support. Changes are described in detail within this section. Throughout the syllabus, any significant changes are indicated by black vertical lines either side of the text.

If a syllabus update document is listed next to a syllabus this is notification that the syllabus has been updated to reflect a change. The changes that have been made will be clearly indicated in the syllabus update.

Reference: [Syllabus](#)

Location: [Teacher Support](#)

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What can students take into their exams?

Guidance for use of equipment in examinations, including use of dictionaries and calculators, is provided in the Cambridge Handbook from our public website. A list of unauthorised materials is also included.

Dictionaries are not permitted in Language examinations.

For help or information about administering qualifications it is often useful to speak to the Examinations Officer at your centre.

Reference: [Cambridge Handbook](#)

Location: [Public Website](#)

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How can I find more information about the IGCSE (9–1) grading system?

The grading process for 9–1 IGCSEs will be the same process we use to grade all our syllabuses.

- The standards at the thresholds of grades 7, 4 and 1 are the same as the standards at the thresholds of grades A, C and G.
- Grade boundaries for grades 8, 6, 5, 3 and 2 are set using arithmetic rules that space the grade boundaries at regular intervals between the boundaries for grades 9, 7, 4 and 1. The use of arithmetic grade boundaries is common to Cambridge and all other UK exam boards.

Reference: [Grading information](#)

Location: [Public Website](#)

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FAQs – Subject Content and Assessment

What set texts are there for this syllabus?

There aren't any set texts for this syllabus as IGCSE First Language does not have questions on set texts. However, literary material may be used in classroom preparation for the Reading paper as candidates will benefit from exposure to a variety of types of writing.

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I have a very strong foreign language candidate. Can I enter them for a First Language examination?

You can, but the level of sophistication, accuracy and fluency required in a First Language examination is that of a native speaker. The assessment objectives for Foreign Language examinations are quite different, rewarding communication and giving opportunities for Listening and Speaking.

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If you have a syllabus or teaching related question which has not been answered here, and you've read the syllabus and supporting resources on **Teacher Support**, have a look at the information on our **Help** pages.

For individual assessment queries or centre-specific enquiries, contact our Customer Services team either by email at info@cambridgeinternational.org, by **web form** or by calling us on +44 1223 553554.