

## University of Cambridge International Examinations at ACG High Schools *An introduction*

### **What are the University of Cambridge International qualifications?**

The University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is part of Cambridge University, England. CIE provides international courses, examinations and qualifications to over 170 different countries. In New Zealand, over 40 schools are members of the Association of Cambridge Schools in New Zealand.

The qualifications offered are:

### **IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education)**

- The qualification is usually taken at Year 11 (Form 5)
- At ACG high schools, subjects are normally arranged in 5 groups: Maths, English Language, Literature (English), plus three options e.g. Pure Science, languages, drama, music, art
- Year 11 students would normally gain between three and six IGCSE certificates at the end of the year, depending on their academic background and English language ability
- Extension classes at ACG Parnell College sit IGCSE in Science and Mathematics at Year 10 and prepare for the Spanish examination in June the following year
- Extension classes at ACG Senior College sit AS Mathematics in Year 11.
- Students at ACG Senior College may also elect to write Research Projects or Thinking Skills, or attend some University of Auckland (eg Mathematics, Classical Studies, and Spanish) courses during year 13.

### **AS (Advanced subsidiary)**

- The examinations are normally sat at Year 12 or Year 13 (Forms 6 or 7)
- Recommended teaching time is 170 hours per subject per year.
- Students may do a mixture of IGCSE, AS and full A levels to suit
- In Year 13, most students take a mixture of AS and A2 courses

### **A level (A2)**

Good students may take three (or exceptionally four) x A2 courses in Year 13

### **Why CIE?**

- **FLEXIBILITY:** Students may choose the level of their study to suit their ability (core/extension, or AS/A2). Hence they can achieve BREADTH (eg eight AS subjects) or DEPTH (three or four A levels) or a combination of the two (eg two A levels and four AS levels) over the two years of Year 12 and Year 13
- **RIGOUR:** demanding courses that stretch able students
- **INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKING:** International qualifications that benchmark students' results against the best in the world



- **PORTABILITY:** It is a qualification recognised for entry to tertiary study at universities around the world

### Examinations and Grading

CIE exams usually consist of two or three papers. Exam duration can vary between 45 minutes and three hours. Results are expressed as grades and percentages. An eight point scale of grades is used: A to G for IGCSE.

For AS and A level there are five passing grades. Grades with approximate percentages are as follows: A (80% plus), B (70-79%), C (60-69%), D (50-59%) and E (40-49%). Moderation is rigorous. Results are internationally benchmarked.

### Teacher Professional Development

Professional development opportunities for teachers are provided by CIE. Each year expert teachers (usually examiners/chief examiners from CIE) from around the world run workshops in New Zealand for teachers. These workshops are usually held at ACG Senior College.

### What do students need for Entrance to University?

CIE qualifications are recognised by all universities in New Zealand:

- Numeracy: grade D or better at IGCSE Maths; Literacy: grade E or better at AS level English Language or Literature (English)
- General requirement: A minimum of 3 grade Ds and 120 points on the UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service) tariff. (eg four Ds, or three Cs, or BCD at AS level)

Good grades at AS level can gain immediate entry to university.

Good grades at A level can result in credits at universities, e.g. Yale University and other universities in the United States award credit for Grades A and B.

### UCAS Points Tariff:

Grades	%	AS	A level
A	80% +	60 points	120 points
B	70-79%	50 points	100 points
C	60-69%	40 points	80 points
D	50-59%	30 points	60 points
E	40-49%	20 points	40 points

### What results have been achieved by ACG high schools so far?

**In 2002**, ACG students\* took the **Top Three Prizes nationally** in the IGCSE examinations.

**In 2003**, two ACG students\* were ranked **Top in the World** in their subjects in IGCSE examinations.

Over 50% of the Year 12 students at ACG Senior College satisfied the NZ university entry requirements of 120 points, three AS grade Ds and AS English E or better.

All four ACG high schools were awarded recognition as **Top Cambridge Centres**:



- ACG New Zealand International College
- ACG Parnell College
- ACG Senior College
- ACG Strathallan College

This means that ACG high schools had students that were ranked in the “top five” in one or more IGCSE or A/AS Level subjects in New Zealand.

**In 2004**, two ACG students\* were ranked **Top in the World** in their subjects in A/AS examinations.

Nineteen ACG students\* were **Top in New Zealand** in their subjects in IGCSE and A/AS examinations.

Four New Zealand teachers have been invited to Cambridge to take part in the marking process in November, including a Chemistry teacher from ACG.

**In 2005**, ACG students have excelled in the latest CIE results. Eleven **Top in the World** awards were given to ten ACG Senior College students\*, whereas twenty-eight **Top in New Zealand** awards were given to ACG Senior College and ACG Strathallan College students\* in their subjects in IGCSE and A/AS examinations.

**In 2006**, Five ACG students\* were awarded **Top in the World** and ten were awarded **Top in New Zealand** in their subjects in A/AS examinations. This was the third time of ACG Senior College student to be awarded **Top in the World** in A Level Painting.

In the past three years, the College has gained numerous such awards. Sue Haywood was pleased to note that a student in AS Classics, Frances Clark, was her third student in a row to come Top in New Zealand.

### **How do ACG Parnell College courses lead into ACG Senior College courses?**

Top extension Mathematics students at ACG Parnell College have been accepted straight into AS level Mathematics at ACG Senior College.

ACG Parnell College students taking Combined Science have specialised in the Pure Sciences at ACG Senior College.

### **What are the costs of examination entry for 2008?**

Subject to the exchange rate:

- IGCSE: NZ \$87 per syllabus , except for Art and Design \$157
- O-level: Candidate fee NZ \$38 plus NZ \$42 per subject
- AS or A2: Candidate fee NZ \$38 plus NZ \$57 per syllabus, except for Art and Design \$127 (4 subjects = NZ \$266 in Year 12 and NZ \$266 in Year 13)

\* Appendix

<b>Top in New Zealand - 2002</b>		
<b>IGCSE</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> prize	Tui Peters	ACG Senior College
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Sarah Loh	ACG Strathallan College
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Pia Andreassen	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in the World - 2003</b>		
<b>IGCSE</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design	Rebecca Hay	ACG Senior College
Co-ordinated Sciences	Patrick Kenny	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in the World - 2004</b>		
<b>AS/A Levels</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design	Zahra Zaiton	ACG Senior College
Psychology	Timothy John Williams	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in New Zealand - 2004</b>		
<b>O Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Music	Isla Crystal Mawera Karetai	ACG Senior College
Spanish Language	Allyse Davies	ACG Strathallan College
<b>IGCSE</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Drama	Kristina Letetia Francis Cavit	ACG Senior College
Business Studies	Allyse Davies	ACG Strathallan College
Design & Technology	Chanel Hargrave	ACG Strathallan College
First Language English	Allyse Davies	ACG Strathallan College
<b>AS/A Levels</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design: Painting	Zahra Zaiton	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Photography	Kelly Anne Geddes	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Printmaking	Hsui Chi Joy Chang	ACG Senior College
Business Studies	Charles Gillard	ACG Strathallan College
Classical Studies	Mark Andrew Taylor	ACG Senior College
Geography	Thomas Hugh Wright	ACG Senior College
History	Thomas Hugh Wright	ACG Senior College
History of Art	Veronica Crockford-Pound	ACG Senior College
Law	Sandra Shu Kwa Chau	ACG Senior College
Literature (English)	Thomas Hugh Wright	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in the World - 2005</b>		
<b>IGCSE</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Accounting	Lee Myong Ro	ACG Senior College
Chemistry	Nicholas Geoffrey Willis Simmons	ACG Senior College
Literature (English)	Frances Ann Clark and Du Jia	ACG Senior College
First Language English	Frances Ann Clark	ACG Senior College
<b>AS Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
First Language English	Jessica Anne O'Connell	ACG Senior College
Literature (English)	Ksenia Kovaleva	ACG Senior College
Music	Emma Joyce King	ACG Senior College

<b>AS Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Psychology	Phoebe Isabel Roberston Molloy	ACG Senior College
<b>A Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design: Painting	Guan Wei	ACG Senior College
Psychology	Nicola Jane Ring	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in New Zealand - 2005</b>		
<b>O Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Spanish Language	Nicholas Geoffrey Willis Simmons	ACG Senior College
<b>IGCSE</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Accounting	Lee Myong Ro	ACG Senior College
Art & Design	Lu Shi Yun	ACG Senior College
Chemistry	Nicholas Geoffrey Willis Simmons	ACG Senior College
Literature (English)	Frances Ann Clark <b>and</b> Du Jia	ACG Senior College
First Language English	Frances Ann Clark	ACG Senior College
Physics	Nicholas Geoffrey Willis Simmons	ACG Senior College
<b>AS Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design: Graphic Design	Chen, Qinxin <b>and</b> Alex Popham	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Painting	Agnes So	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Photography	Nathan Charles Fenney	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Printmaking	Jasper Jack Cooper	ACG Senior College
Classical Studies	Grace Josephine Maria Couper	ACG Senior College
English Language	Jessica Anne O'Connell	ACG Senior College
Literature (English)	Ksenia Kovaleva	ACG Senior College
Music	Emma Joyce King	ACG Senior College
Psychology	Phoebe Isabel Roberston Molloy	ACG Senior College
Spanish Language	Allyse Davies	ACG Strathallan College
Thinking Skills	Robin William Kelly	ACG Senior College
<b>A Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design: Graphic Design	Sophie Louise Joyce	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Painting	Guan Wei	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Photography	Isobel Rose Scheltmann Dryburgh	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Printmaking	Asia Nepia	ACG Senior College
Business Studies	Charlotte Yutong Yan	ACG Senior College
Literature (English)	Jasper Jack Cooper	ACG Senior College
Mathematics	Hong Jae Beom	ACG Senior College
Psychology	Nicola Jane Ring	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in the World - 2006</b>		
<b>AS Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Business Studies	Christopher Stephen Dunlop	ACG Senior College
Classical Studies	Frances Ann Clark	ACG Senior College
Design & Technology	Melissa Brinsden	ACG Strathallan
Mathematics	Na-Ryung Stella Lee	ACG Senior College
Mathematics	Sally Zhu	ACG Senior College
<b>A Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>

Art & Design	Alex Popham	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in New Zealand - 2006</b>		
<b>AS Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design: Photography	Leigh Elizabeth Van Duyn	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Printmaking	Alexandra Grace Van Der Loos	ACG Senior College
Biology	Bonnia Liu	ACG Senior College
Chemistry	Nicholas Geoffrey Willis Simmons	ACG Senior College
Psychology	Monica Ashley Davis	ACG Senior College
Thinking Skills	Martin Boulanger	ACG Senior College
Thinking Skills	Daniel Baruch Bar-On	ACG Senior College
<b>A Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Accounting	Kevin Lee	ACG Senior College
Art & Design: Graphic Design	Alex Popham	ACG Senior College
Mathematics	Jonathan Edward Conder	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in the World -2007</b>		
<b>IGCSE</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Design & Technology	Silpa Rup	ACG Strathallan
<b>AS Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design	Yu- Cheng Jeffery Lu	ACG Senior College
English Language	Antony Vlug	ACG Strathallan
Mathematics	Jun Seop Han	ACG Senior College
Mathematics	Mark Burrell	ACG Senior College
Mathematics	Hsin- I Angel Chang	ACG Senior College
Mathematics	Hye- Jung Flora Kwon	ACG Senior College
Mathematics	Chih-Han Tseng	ACG Senior College
<b>A Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design	Kezia Milne	ACG Senior College
History	Frances Ann Clark	ACG Senior College
Thinking Skills	Christopher Church	ACG Senior College
<b>Top in New Zealand -2007</b>		
<b>IGCSE</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design	Sophie Chan-Andreassend	ACG Senior College
<b>AS Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design: Photography	Robin Murphy	ACG Senior College
Geography	Alexander J.C. Smith	ACG Strathallan
Psychology	Laura Kranz	ACG Senior College
<b>A Level</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>ACG Colleges</b>
Art & Design: Photography	Miranda Davidson	ACG Senior College
Economics	Cecily Liu	ACG Senior College
Literature in English	Frances Ann Clack	ACG Senior College
Physics	Nicholas Geoffrey Willis Simmons	ACG Senior College
Psychology	David Perl	ACG Senior College