

# CAMBRIDGE GCE ADVANCED-LEVEL (A-LEVEL)

**STUDENT GUIDE 2023** 

# **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Welcome to the Cambridge GCE A-Level Programme at Sunway College. Pre-University is an important crossroad, so choose well. A Sunway College A-Level qualification not only brings you a step closer to attaining your goals but also opens up a world of possibilities. Here in the Sunway A-Level programme, we work with you to realise your goals.

Our consistent track record and excellent results are testimony to what you will experience here. This is in recognition of our excellent delivery system, consistent academic performance and attainment of Cambridge Top in the World awards.

Pursuing the Cambridge A-Level gualification will be exciting and rewarding as you prepare for admission to universities worldwide, including top-tiered institutions. Students before you have successfully entered premier universities in the world like Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial, the London School of Economics, Harvard and MIT. Your lecturers and academic mentors will guide you in your academic work and advise you on how you can benefit from the wide range of learning facilities and support services available at Sunway College. Experienced counsellors from our university placement centre further support you in your university application journey.

In addition to an intellectually stimulating academic environment, we provide you with ample opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. In the Sunway College



A-Level Programme, we encourage your holistic development.

We are extremely proud of our students and their individual success stories. We are also very proud of what they go on to achieve. I look forward to welcoming you to the programme and to working with you to ensure you too leave as successful individuals fully prepared for university and able to meet future challenges with confidence.

**Ruth Cheah Director of Programme Cambridge GCE A-Level** 

# **CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

We are delighted to welcome you to the Cambridge International A-Level programme at Sunway College and congratulate you on deciding to pursue this qualification, an international passport to success for university education and beyond.

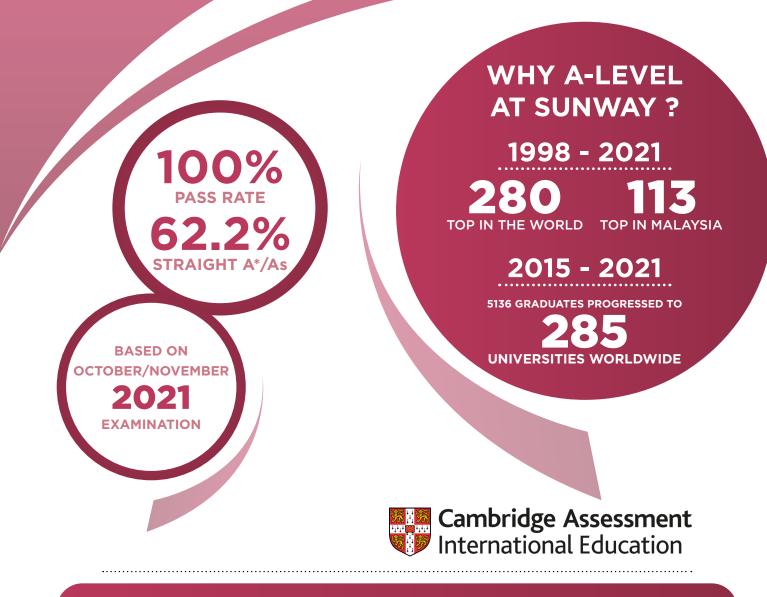
Cambridge Assessment International Education is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. We are part of the University of Cambridge, one of the world's top universities and trusted for excellence in education. Our qualifications are recognised by the world's universities and employers.

Cambridge International A-Level is an internationally benchmarked qualification, which is taken in over 160 countries by over 175,000 students and widely recognised by universities and employers around the world. It is accepted for entry into world class universities in countries such as the UK, Germany, USA, Canada, Singapore and New Zealand.

It is also accepted for tertiary studies in Malaysia, which means that through studying this qualification, you will develop essential skills that will prepare you for higher studies in Malaysia or anywhere in the world.

Cambridge International A-Level, like all of our programmes and qualifications, helps Cambridge learners to be confident, responsible, innovative and engaged. We wish all Cambridge learners at Sunway College every success in their studies and hope this preparation will bring lifelong success and a love of learning which will stay with you through school, university and beyond.

## **Cambridge Assessment International Education**



# CAMBRIDGE GCE A-LEVEL PROGRAMME

Sunway College has been preparing students since 1994 for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced-Level qualification through examinations set and assessed by the Cambridge International Examinations.

Cambridge is the world's largest provider of international educational qualifications with more than 1,100 examination centres across the globe. More than 50 such centres are currently operating in Malaysia alone.

The GCE A-Level qualification places emphasis on in-depth knowledge, deep understanding, strong reasoning abilities and critical thinking. It is arguably the most widely recognised pre-university qualification in the world, readily accepted as proof of superior academic ability for entry into world-class universities around the world.

In the November 2021 examination, 62.2% of our students achieved Straight A\*/As. Our students have consistently topped the nation and the world, winning Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Economics, Accounting, Law, Thinking Skills, Literature in English, and History.

#### SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS APPLYING TO UNIVERSITIES

- Personal statement writing Workshops, guidance by mentor, consultation with MABECS
- University application Briefings, admissions test, mock interviews, IELTS test centre, ISAT workshop
  2 dedicated programme guidance advisors
- Course talks i.e. Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Engineering, Pharmacy, BioSciences, Accounting & Finance, Actuarial Science, Law, Psychology, Architecture, Economics

# MOVING ON TO UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE

Our A-Level graduates have gained entry into universities worldwide, including reputable top-notch universities in the UK & Ireland, Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore & USA.





## International Office University Placement (IOUP)

IOUP supports students in their application to universities abroad

- Advice on which universities fit best
- Workshops on writing personal statements, interview skills, universities' entrance tests
- Processing of university applicatons
- Assistance in accepting offers
- Guidance on visa applications

# AUSTRALIA

Australian National University Macquarie University Monash University RMIT University University of Adelaide University of Melbourne University of New South Wales University of Queensland University of South Australia University of Sydney University of Tasmania University of Western Australia

# CANADA

McMaster University University of Alberta University of British Columbia University of Calgary University of Toronto

# CHINA

Fudan University Peking University Shanghai Jiao Tong Unversity Tsinghua University

# **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Charles University** 

# GERMANY

Leibniz University Hannover Technical University of Berlin Technical University of Freiberg University of Duisburg-Essen

# INDIA

Government Siddha Medical College Vinayaka Missions University

# INDONESIA

Kementerian RISET, Teknologi dan Pendidikan Tinggi Universitas Airlangga

# ITALY

Polimoda Fashion School

## JAPAN

Kyoto University Kyushu University Nagoya University Waseda University

# KOREA

Sungkyunkwan University Yonsei University

# MALAYSIA

Monash University Malaysia Sunway University Victoria University, Sunway College Public and private universities in Malaysia

# NETHERLANDS

University of Amsterdam University of Groningen Utrecht University

# **NEW ZEALAND**

Massey University University of Auckland University of Canterbury University of Otago

## **RUSSIA**

Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University

# SINGAPORE

Nanyang Technological University National University of Singapore Singapore Management University

# **UK & IRELAND**

Cardiff Unversity Heriot-Watt University Imperial College London King's College London Lancaster University London School of Economics and **Political Science** National University of Ireland, Galway Newcastle University The University of Edinburgh **Trinity College Dublin** University of Bath University of Cambridge University College Cork University College Dublin University of Glasgow University of Leeds University of London University of Manchester University of Nottingham University of Oxford University of Reading University of Sheffield University of Southampton University of Strathclyde University of the West of England, Bristol University of Warwick

# USA

Carnegie Mellon University Cornell University Georgetown University Georgia Institute of Technology Harvard University New York University Princeton University University of California, Los Angeles University of California, San Diego University of Pennsylvania University of Southern California

# INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL AND ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY QUALIFICATIONS

The Cambridge A-Level curriculum provides a firm bedrock of fundamental knowledge by guaranteeing comprehensive coverage in the breadth and depth of each subject offered. Students are assessed on their mastery of subject matter, their application of knowledge and understanding to everyday scenarios and their ability to think critically in unfamiliar situations. In the Sciences, a fair part of the assessment involves the demonstration of laboratory-based skills.

The programme of A-Level studies at Sunway involves a two-tiered structure of examinations leading to the award of a certificate. The staged assessment relieves the pressure associated with sitting for one set of final examination papers. The AS (Advanced Subsidiary) examinations test fundamental skills while the A2 (Advanced Level) examinations are a more wide-ranging assessment. Our 1.5-year programme comprises three semesters, each about six months long, with the AS examinations at the end of Semester 2 and the A2 examinations at the end of Semester 3.

## **OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The Cambridge International AS and A-Level develop learners' knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- In-depth subject content
- Independent thinking
- Applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- Handling and evaluating different types of information sources
- Thinking logically and presenting ordered and coherent arguments
- Making judgements, recommendations and decisions
- Presenting reasoned explanations, understanding
- implications and communicating them clearly and logically
- Working and communicating in English

#### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Passed SPM, O-Level or equivalent with minimum five (5) credits.

Students who intend to take A-Level science subjects must have at least credits in the same SPM/O-Level pure science subjects; Combined Science does not provide a sufficient foundation.

Additional Mathematics is required for A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

# ASSESSMENTS

The A-Level subject syllabi are divided into the AS Level, which is the first half of the programme and forms the foundation of A-Level (A2), and the A2 Level, which is the second part of the syllabi and covers more challenging topics, with each level contributing 50% towards the final A-Level grade.

The examination papers at both the AS and A2 Levels are set and marked by examiners from Cambridge Assessment International Education.



# **CHOICE OF SUBJECTS**

SUBJECT CODE & SUBJECTS OFFERED	JANUARY (Standard)	AUGUST (Standard)	SEPTEMBER (Extended)
9700 BIOLOGY	●	•	•
9701 CHEMISTRY	●	•	•
9702 PHYSICS	•	•	•
9709 MATHEMATICS	•	٠	•
9231 FURTHER MATHEMATICS	•	•	•
9706 ACCOUNTING	•	٠	
9708 ECONOMICS	•	٠	•
9990 PSYCHOLOGY	•	•	•
9084 LAW	•	٠	•
9695 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH	•	•	•
9489 HISTORY	•	•	
9694 THINKING SKILLS (AS ONLY)	•	٠	•

The syllabus of each subjects are available at



https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/ programmes-and-qualifications/ cambridge-advanced/cambridgeinternational-as-and-a-levels/subjects/

The following is a guide to the most popular combinations students choose as pathways to various university courses. Please note that these combinations are not compulsory or absolute; for further information and/or advice, please consult a qualified member of staff.

Pre-Medicine & Pre-Science
Biology
Chemistry
Literature in English
Mathematics
Physics
Psychology

Pre-Engineering & Pre-Science	
Chemistry	
Economics	
Literature in English	
Further Mathematics	
Mathematics	
Physics	

Pre-Business & Pre-Law		
Accounting		
Economics		
Literature in English		
History		
Law		
Mathematics		
Psychology		

Students shall be required to choose no less than three subjects and no more than four A-level subjects. Thinking Skills is offered up to AS Level only. An English (IELTS) class is offered in the first semester for the January and August intakes. For September intake, English (IELTS) and Thinking Skills are offered in the second semester. Students are given advice, counselling and guidance while preparing for university application. However, we strongly encourage that students should also do their research on any requirements that may change over time based on the university's standards or preferences.

# **INTAKES & EXAMINATIONS**

INTAKE	DURATION	AS EXAMINATIONS	A-LEVEL (A2) EXAMINATIONS
JANUARY 2023	18 months	Oct / Nov 2023	May / Jun 2024
AUGUST 2023	17 months	May / Jun 2024	Oct / Nov 2024
SEPTEMBER 2023	21 months	Oct / Nov 2024	May / Jun 2025

# A-LEVEL STUDENT COUNCIL (ALSCO)



ALSCO comprises a team of committed, dedicated and creative young people who are the leaders of the A-Level student body. ALSCO serves as a platform for students to organise activities, share ideas, participate in community service work, and most importantly to develop leadership and interpersonal skills. Members of ALSCO also learn to come out of their comfort zone and achieve their full potential to be leaders. ALSCO members become role models and set good examples for their coursemates. Examples of events ALSCO has organised include charity events to raise funds for the less fortunate and needy, field trips, leadership and teambuilding camps, and many social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

# ACADEMIC COUNSELLING

If a student is found to be too far behind in the syllabus and unable to catch up due to lack of attitude/aptitude then he/she will be counselled to drop a subject. If two or more lecturers agree he/she lacks the ability to cope, after the mid-semester report, he/she will be counselled and further action will be recommended accordingly.



Community service - Orphanage visit

# **COURSEWORK & EXAMINATIONS**

Coursework and internal examinations prepare students for the final external examinations and, to a certain extent, university itself. In accordance with internal programme policy, it is mandatory that all students maintain a minimum of 80% attendance and record a minimum of a pass grade in the overall internal assessments to be permitted to register for the external examinations. In addition, to be permitted to register for the Advanced Level examinations, students must obtain at least a pass for each of their subjects at Advanced Subsidiary Level.

# **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

There are many extracurricular activities available to all students in the institution. These activities are usually held during the weekdays, but may occasionally be scheduled over weekends and public holidays. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activity as it provides a more wholesome development. It may also enhance a reference or testimonial.



**Community service - Recycling** 

## **HELP & SUPPORT**

Staff from the A-Level programme and the Student Services Department offer assistance to students in the areas of academic and personal counselling. At the programme level, each student is assigned an academic staff member as mentor.

#### MENTOR-MENTEE SYSTEM

Each student in our A-Level programme is assigned an academic mentor who will provide pastoral care throughout the student's studies. At the outset, this system fosters the forging of a meaningful relationship between lecturer and student, and promotes the close monitoring of the student's overall progress. The system also identifies each mentor as a capable and ready resource person for counsel pertaining to choice of career and placement in appropriate universities. Mentors assist their mentees in their university applications, including the writing of references and testimonials. On a broader level, the mentor-mentee system helps guide the overall social, emotional and mental development of the student body.

# STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

There has been a strong correlation between consistent attendance and the results obtained by students. Failure to meet the minimum requirement of 80% not only affects the final outcome but students run the risk of being excluded from registering for the A-Level Examination. The department takes strict measures to monitor attendance and we will alert the Director of Programme and parents/guardians if there is an issue regarding poor attendance. Punctuality is also viewed as important by the Department. This stands to reason because it is not only disruptive to the to other course mates, but affects good class participation. Subject lecturers are given the prerogative either to allow or deny access to a student who is perpetually late. He/she will be marked absent, unless they provide a letter from parents stating the reasons.

# PARENTS' DAY

Parents' Day is held to enable parents and guardians to meet with lecturers and discuss the academic and personal development of each student. This will enable parents/ guardians and lecturers to work together to help students develop their full potential.

#### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports are evaluative reports provided to parents/ guardians. These reports are an important means of letting parents know about the student's progress. The programme regards parental involvement and home support as critical factors in helping students improve.

# TEACHING FACULTY



The academic staff of the A-Level Programme are highly qualified, experienced, and truly committed. They are highly competent in the task of imparting knowledge and understanding to their young charges.

#### FEE SETTLEMENT AND REFUND

The Management reserves the right to exclude student from attending classes and using campus facilities until the fees are settled. Any assessment or examination result(s), and academic transcripts shall be withheld if payment remains outstanding, and the students concerned will not be able to enrol in the subsequent semester or to graduate.

Enrolment and General fees are NOT refundable. The proportion of tuition fee refund, upon official withdrawal, is as shown below:

- 75% refund (by the 5<sup>th</sup> working day from the commencement of semester)
- 50% refund (by the 6-8<sup>th</sup> working day from the commencement of semester)
- No refund (after the 8<sup>th</sup> working day from the commencement of semester)

# WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY



JARELL CHEONG TZE WEN Former student of SMK Seri Bintang Utara 4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level Mathematics, Harvard College

"I particularly appreciate my Math teacher who inspired me to learn math in a deeper way. I am also indebted to my Physics teacher and mentor for his incredible insight on the many different activities I was doing. My mentor was especially helpful with my application to Harvard since he also once applied to US universities and knows the ins and outs of the application process."



## VANNESS LAI WYE JUNN

Former student of SMJK Hua Lian, Taiping **4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level** Natural Sciences (Physical), University of Cambridge, UK

"Comprehensive, supportive and well-equipped are the three best words to describe Sunway College and the A-Level programme. The lecturers are experienced and provided teaching in a detailed manner. They always keep students motivated and provide help whenever needed."



#### **MELANIE YOON WENG MUN** Former student of Prince of

Wales Island International School, Georgetown

**3A\*, 1A Cambridge GCE A-Level** Psychology and Linguistics, University of California, Davis, U.S. Provost Award Recipient

"Someone once said, there is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so. It's true that A-Level programme is demanding, be that as it may, I would do it again and choose Sunway once more. A-Level at Sunway is student-oriented with a dedicated programme director and facilitators who emphasise on providing students the highest quality of education. A-Level at Sunway is truly above the rest."



#### MUHAMMAD SHAFEEQ BIN ABDUL REEZAL

Former student of Asia Pacific Smart School **4A\*Cambridge GCE A-Level** Accounting and Finance, London School of Economics

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my A-Level experience at Sunway College. I've made amazing friends and had excellent lecturers who have guided and mentored me to become the person I am today."



# LONG YU XUAN

Former student of Sekolah Sri KDU, Selangor **1A\*, 3A Cambridge GCE A-Level** Economics & Computer Science, minor in Data Analysis, Wesleyan University, USA Freeman Asian Scholarship

"During the programme, I learned to communicate and work well with peers, developing soft skills which would be important for my university applications. The guidance counselors and mentors at Sunway were friendly and extremely helpful during my application process. They also ensured that I received the assistance I needed to file a comprehensive application that increases my chances of success."



#### JONI TAN ERN LING Former student of SMK USJ 4 4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level Medicine, University of Sheffield, UK Sunway Special Scholar

"My journey at Sunway has been a wonderful one with incredible friends and dedicated lecturers who supported me in every way they could. My lecturers were very helpful by answering all my questions and easing my doubts. While studying the A-Level, I grew as an individual learning how to be more organised and versatile and I regard studying at Sunway as one of my best decisions ever."



KER YIU WAYN Former student of SMK Damansara Jaya 4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level Medicine, University of Birmingham, UK

"Choosing Sunway College is one of the best decisions I have made - the professional lecturers, the state-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, as well as the full scholarship which covered my tuition fees. Although the pandemic has made the A-Level learning experience very different, I would like to express my gratitude to all my lecturers who really tried their best to switch to new teaching methods, ensuring we are wellprepared for our papers."



## LIM YI HENG

Former student of SMJK Jit Sin, Bukit Mertajam **4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level** Engineering, University of Cambridge, UK KPM Bursary Scholar

"I am very grateful to have decided to read A-Level at Sunway College and it proved to be an invaluable experience. I believe the competitive atmosphere and the dedicated lecturers in Sunway College are the main contributing factors to my success in A-Level. Studying at Sunway College had been an amazing and fruitful journey, and it wouldn't have been the same without my affable lecturers and supportive friends."



#### MUHAMMAD SHAHMI BIN ABDUL REEZAL

Former student of Asia Pacific Smart School **4A\*Cambridge GCE A-Level** Accounting and Finance, London School of Economics

"A-Level has allowed me to hone the skills I require for university life and has moulded my personality for that of success, not to mention exposing me to a wide array of skill sets and ideas."



## ONG JING XIAN

Former student of SMK Sultanah Asma **4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level** Mathematics & Operational Research & Statistics & Economics (MORSE), University of Warwick, UK Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship Recipient

"Sunway College has played an essential role in helping me obtain outstanding A-Level results and a full scholarship by the University of Warwick. Apart from achieving academic excellence, the college has also provided me the opportunity to engage in leadership roles, community involvement and encouraged me to thrive as an all-rounder. The teaching faculty in Sunway College often went above and beyond to prepare us for our tertiary education and gave us the opportunity to learn beyond the textbook. Every lecturer is of high quality, experienced and capable of bestowing upon their students a desire to learn, a passion to enquire and the ability to think without the box. Sunway College is the best choice for A-Level, always has been, always will be."



#### **ROHAN KUMAR**

Former student of SMK ST Francis, Melaka **4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level** Natural Sciences (Physcial), University of Cambridge, UK KPM Bursary Scholar

"I'm grateful to my teacher and mentor who went out of his way to help me through the application process and write recommendation letters for the schools and scholarships I have applied to."



#### NG JIE YI

Former student of SMK Puteri Titiwangsa, Kuala Lumpur **4A\* Cambridge GCE A-Level** Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, UK KPM Bursary Scholar

"Studying the A-Level at Sunway College was a great learning and growing experience for me. I am incredibly honoured and grateful to have been taught by such experienced and dedicated lecturers who provided so much help and support."

## QUALITY POLICY

Sunway College (KL) is committed to providing quality education through efficient and effective practices in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements including the requirements of our external partners.

We are committed to continual improvement of our Quality Management System byfocusing on the competency of our academic and administration staff; continually reviewing our key processes, and responding to our stakeholders in a timely manner.

#### QUALITY OBJECTIVES

1. Promote and establish a culture of quality at all levels of the college community.

2. Continuously improve our Quality Management System in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements including the requirements of external partners.

3. Enhance customer satisfaction by providing a learning environment conducive for quality teaching and learning.

#### SUNWAY COLLEGE DK265-01 (W) Owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Registration no: 200701042913 (800946-T)

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Nurturing the Seeds of Wisdom

This brochure is valid for our 2023 intakes. All information is correct at the time of printing (December 2022).

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