



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge International School

We are proud to be part of the world's largest international community of schools.

Rockledge Cambridge Program NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Important Upcoming Dates

- **ACT Test** - April 15, June 10
- **SAT Test** - May 6, June 3
- **Grad Bash** - April 22, 2023
- **Prom** - April 29, 2023
- **Academic Awards Night** - May 4, 2023 at 6 p.m.
- **RHS Graduation** - May 25, 2023 at 6 p.m.



Punting along River Cam

Let The Testing Season Begin

The last two months of the school year can sometimes seem like the longest - and not just because summer is so close. For many students, especially those in the Cambridge program, April means the beginning of testing. All the work that you've been doing all year long in your classes has been preparing you for the exams you are about to take.

Over the next few weeks, it is important you take the time to make sure you know what to expect for each of the end-of-year tests you are scheduled to take. Familiarize yourself with the structure of the exams, know how you should be responding to each question, and set up a study schedule so that you can review the material you will be tested on.

One of the best ways to prepare for your upcoming exams is to practice. That practice for Cambridge exams should include reviewing past tests, studying example candidate responses that are available, and going back through the tests and assignments you've completed in class to make sure you understand what you know and what you don't. For the content you don't feel comfortable with, now is the time to review your notes and ask questions.

In addition to practicing for your exams, it is also important that you mentally prepare for your exams. You don't want to start your exams feeling stressed and anxious. Placing too much pressure on yourself and letting worries about how you will perform on your exams consume you can impact your health negatively. So remember that taking breaks from studying, relaxing, and thinking about something completely unrelated to the exams you're going to be taking is essential.



Cambridge Testing Policies & Frequently Asked Questions

Just as the state of Florida and the College Board have specific testing procedures and regulations, Cambridge International has its own policies that Rockledge High must adhere to when students test. With the testing session for the spring about to start, this article is meant to share what you most need to know about testing.

When, Where, and What's Most Important

A lot of the testing for Cambridge will take place in the gym, but there will also be some testing locations in classrooms. In early April, each of you who are testing will receive a personalized Cambridge testing schedule that will list the exact times when you will need to report to testing and the room in which you will be testing.

When you report to the Cambridge testing room, you cannot bring any bags or electronics with you. Backpacks and purses must be stored in a locker, a teacher's classroom, or a car while you are testing. Phones, smartwatches, fitness trackers, and earbuds must also be stored in a secure location outside the testing room.

What Should You Bring?

Cambridge requires that all writing for Cambridge exams be done in ink, with the exception of diagrams and graphs (if required on the test you are taking), so a blue or black ink pen is something you want to bring with you. Pens, though, will be provided if you forget to bring one. If you are taking a math, science, or business test, you should plan to bring a calculator with you in case you need it.

You can bring colored pencils with you for annotating your question paper. Just remember that if you bring colored pencils and extra pens and pencils, they must be stored in a transparent bag or pencil pouch.

You can also bring a drink with you. If you bring one, it needs to be in a transparent container that has no labels or stickers on it.

For students who have more than one test in an AM or PM testing session, you should bring a snack with you. The snack must be in a transparent container with no labels or stickers on it and stored under your desk until it is time for a break between your tests.

If the test you are taking requires a ruler, it will be provided for you.

What To Do When You Report For Testing

Cambridge requires that students are seated according to their candidate number. Before entering your testing room, you need to know your 4-digit Cambridge candidate number. Once you are assigned a candidate number for Cambridge, that number will be the one you use on every Cambridge test you take. Outside the testing room, there will be a list of all students testing; this list will have your candidate number beside your name.

Each desk will have an index card on it with the information for the student who will be testing at that desk. Once you enter the testing room, you will see find your seat. If you are testing in the gym, there might be more than one subject testing at a time. If that happens, you will find the section for your syllabus using the whiteboards that will be at the front of the room and then find your seat in that section.

Because there is usually both morning and afternoon testing, exams will start on time. Please make sure you arrive at the testing room in plenty of time to find your seat and get settled. Try to use the restroom before testing as only one student of each gender is allowed to use the restroom at a time during the test.

Key Times

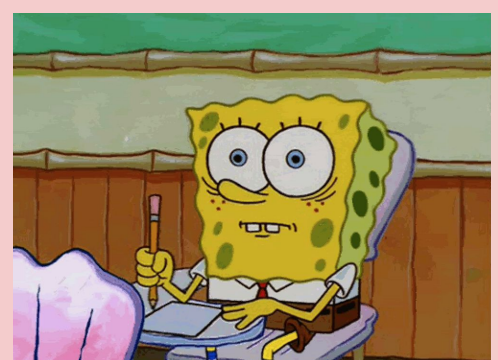
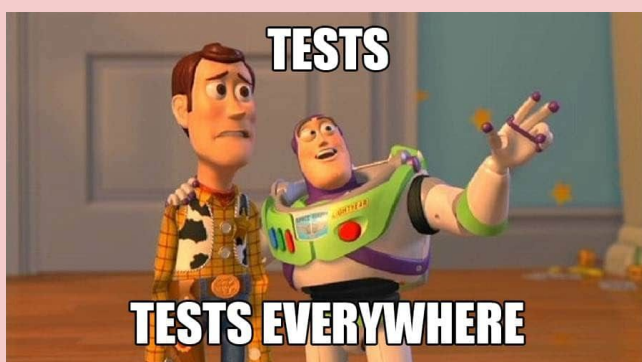
Cambridge assigns RHS a key time for morning testing and a key time for afternoon testing. In the morning, all students must be in their testing room at 9:00 a.m. In the afternoon, all students must be in their testing room at 1:00 p.m. Students who are late to testing will have to fill out an incident report for Cambridge. Once that report is submitted, Cambridge will decide whether to issue the student's score or not. **For students who ride a bus that is often late, it is recommended that you find alternate transportation (if possible) on the days that you test in the AM session.**

What Happens If You Have Two Cambridge Tests on the Same Day at the Same Time?

If you have two tests that are scheduled on the same day at the same time, you will have to take both tests on that day. Cambridge will not allow RHS to change the dates or times for conflicts. On that day, you will decide which test you want to take first. You will take that exam and will then have a 15-minute restroom/stretch/snack break. After your break, you will return to your seat and take your second exam. If you have 2 afternoon exams on the same day, this may mean that you will have to stay after school to complete your testing.

Are there make-ups for Cambridge exams?

No, Cambridge does not offer make-up exams. If you are absent on the day of a Cambridge exam, there is no make-up test date allowed. This is why it is so important that you know when you are testing so that any appointments can be rescheduled.



What Happens If I Miss a Cambridge Exam?

If you are absent from a Cambridge exam, you will be issued a monies owed for the cost of the test (unless you have an emergency or medical excuse given to and approved by Mrs. Matthews). If you are ill on the day of an exam and are unable to come to school, you or a parent needs to contact Mrs. Matthews via email to notify her of the absence. When you return to school, you will need to bring Mrs. Matthews a copy of your doctor's note.

If you miss a Cambridge exam due to illness or an emergency for which you can provide documentation, there is a possibility that you can still earn a score on your Cambridge exam. This can only happen if you take all the other parts of the exam on the other test dates.

If you miss a Cambridge exam and do not have documentation to support your absence, Cambridge will not issue a score for you in that subject. When results come in, your score will be listed as "No Result" since you did not take all the required parts of the exam.

What Happens If I Have an EFSC Class or Exam at the Same Time as a Cambridge Exam?

Because Cambridge exams cannot be rescheduled, you should plan on attending all your Cambridge exams when you have a conflict with an EFSC class or exam. **Please note, however,** that you need to inform your professor of the absence in advance. Some professors may require that you submit a letter from Mrs. Matthews to them about the absence. **YOU SHOULD INFORM YOUR EFSC PROFESSORS OF ANY CLASS OR EXAM CONFLICTS NOW.** Do not simply miss an EFSC class or exam without first discussing the absence and reason with the professor.

If you have any issues with this, please contact Mrs. Matthews so that she can help you get it resolved.

When Do Results Come In?

The results from the spring Cambridge exams will be in on August 10, the first day of the 2023-2024 school year. For current students, a time to pick up your scores will be available on August 10 during the school day. For 2023 graduates, a time to pick up your scores will be available after school. 2023 graduates who are unable to pick up their scores after school on August 10 can pick them up on a later date or can email Mrs. Matthews to have them sent electronically.



Looking for Registered Volunteers to Help with AICE Test Proctoring

Are you are registered volunteer with Brevard Public Schools? Do you have some time to spare on any of the dates below? If you answered yes to both of these questions, Mrs. Matthews would love to have your help with AICE testing. She is looking for volunteers who want to come in and help proctor AICE exams. No experience necessary. You will be one of several proctors in the testing room, and your primary responsibility will be monitoring students as they test. You can volunteer for one date or multiple dates. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Matthews as soon as possible at matthews.katie@brevardschools.org

Dates:

Tuesday, April 25 from 8 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 26 from 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

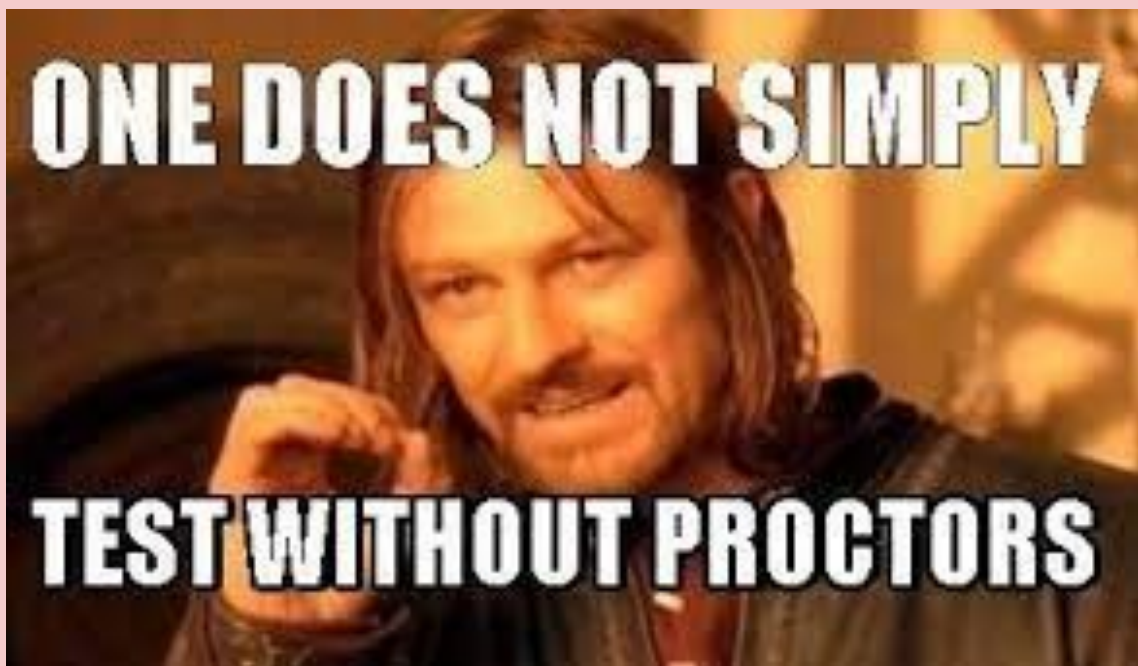
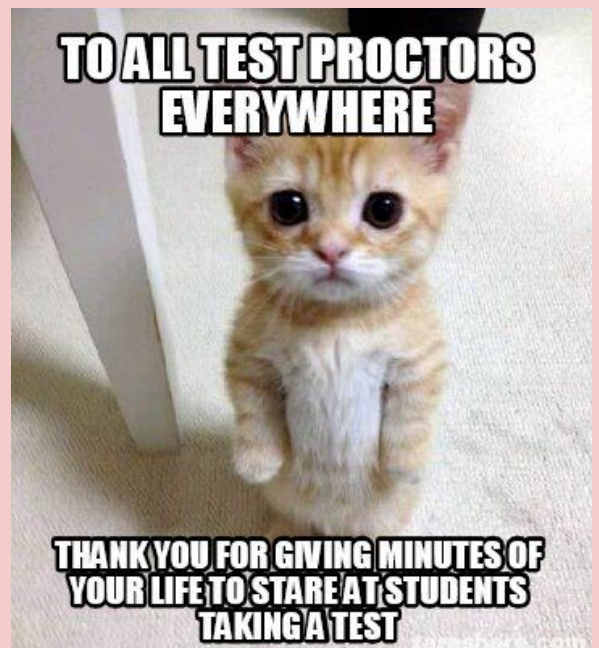
Thursday, April 27 from 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Friday, April 28 from 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 2 from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 4 from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday, May 5 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Stay Ahead This Summer..And Have Fun Doing It

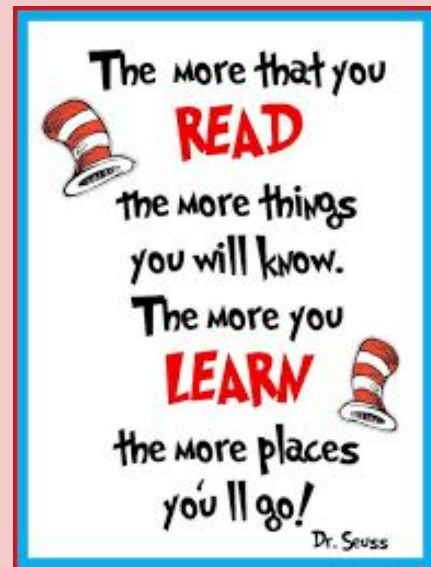


Summer vacation is one of the most anticipated times of the school year. It's a time to relax and let go of the stress that often comes with the projects, homework, and tests that are required for your high school classes. Summer is a time to recuperate and rejuvenate so you are ready to start new classes in August when the new school year begins.

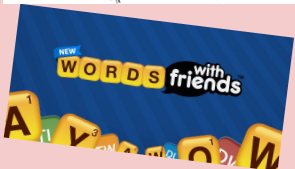
You should enjoy the time you have off from school during the summer months. But...you knew there was a "but" coming, right? But, as you enjoy your time off from school, remember that school does indeed start again in August. And the classes you start in August will be at least a little more (if not a lot more) difficult than the ones you took last year.

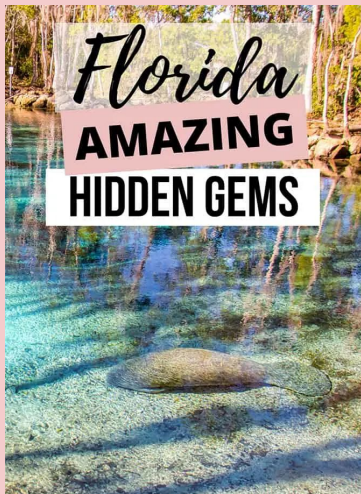
So, what can you do this summer that will help you stay prepared for the upcoming school year while still having fun? Here are some suggestions on activities you can build into your summer plans to help you stay on track this summer academically that you might actually enjoy.

1. READ. I know the first reaction for some of those looking at this article is "Do you really think reading + summer = fun?" And my answer is, "YES!" Summer is the time for you to read what YOU WANT to read. It is the perfect time to read a graphic novel or read a few articles from your favorite magazine or read that book you've heard people talking about but haven't had the time to read. The key to staying on track for the next school year, though, is to read something...several somethings over the course of the summer. Reading keeps your mind active, helps you with vocabulary and writing development, and increases your knowledge. So, as Dr. Seuss would probably say read a blog or a short story about a dog or peruse a recipe or a travel brochure about the Chesapeake. You get the idea...just READ.



2. Play Games. How can playing games help prepare you for the next school year? Most games you play require you to use a variety of skills including critical thinking and problem solving. It makes sense then that you should add playing games to your summer to-do list. Challenge yourself, though. Don't simply play the same video games or board games or apps you've always played; try some new ones. Play the Wordle puzzle of the day, complete a Sudoku puzzle, outwit friends in a game of Clue or Risk, beat an opponent at Dice with Friends, or complete a NBA 2K23 My Team Skills Challenge. Use your brain and, of course, earn some bragging rights along the way





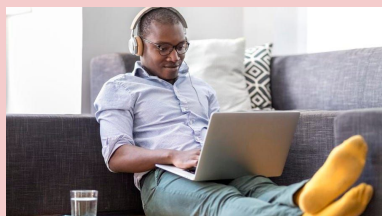
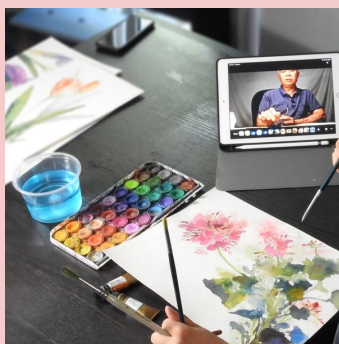
3. Plan A Day Trip or Activities for Your Family Vacation.

A great way to develop research skills is to help your family plan your vacation this summer or put together a day trip for you and your friends. Take the initiative and figure out some activities for your family to try out while on vacation. Or, be bold and become the tour guide for your group, sharing historical information and other interesting facts about your vacation destination. Think of all the lesser known but cool places that exist...all of them waiting for you to discover them. Travel magazines and guides as well as simple internet searches can help you make your summer a memorable one that also keeps you ready for the new school year.

4. Keep a Summer Log or Journal. One of the activities you are least likely to do over the summer (unless you are taking a summer class at EFSC or on FLVS) is write during the summer. We text our friends and family and post some quick messages on Instagram, but for the most part, that is the extent of the writing we do during the summer. Writing regularly in a summer log or journal can keep you from forgetting those pesky grammar rules that are essential to clear communication and can help with your reading comprehension. And keeping a journal doesn't have to be a boring summary of every day that you dread writing. Since it is **your** journal or log, there are no rules. Be creative. Write a poem about your shift at work. Create a short story about the hazards of using a toaster in the morning. Make a bucket list of summer activities you want to complete. Doodle beside your writing. Make it colorful. Paste in concert tickets and movie ticket stubs. As I said earlier in the reading section...it's not about what you write, it's that you are writing. Try to add a little each day to your journal or log.



5. Take a Class. I know, I know...the tips in this article are supposed to be fun ways to stay engaged with learning this summer. I promise this option is as well. Taking a class over the summer does not mean you have to take one at EFSC or through FLVS to earn credit. There are many options available online where you can take a virtual class to simply learn about a topic that interests you. This can be done with a college professor (see Carnegie Mellon's Open Learning Initiative or Harvard's Free Courses or coursera.org) or by professionals with experience in an area like the free art lessons offered on ArtyFactory.com or free music lessons on makingmusicfun.net. Since you aren't trying to earn a grade, you are simply taking the class for your enjoyment and can hit the pause button on them whenever you want.



These are just a few ideas of how you can make sure you are ready for the upcoming school year and still savor the time off you have in the summer. You deserve a break and summer is a perfect time to let go of the rigid schedule of a school day for a while. As you enjoy the freedom of summer, though, don't forget that each passing day is one day closer to a new school year. You want to be ready, so use the time you have this summer to your advantage and stay on track for accomplishing all your academic goals...while having fun.



RHS Thespian Troupe 5244 Shines at the Florida State Thespian Festival

The RHS Thespian Troupe 5244 members dedicated a portion of their Spring Break to participating in the Florida State Thespian Festival. From March 15 - March 18, members of the troupe visited Tampa, Florida, performing their one-act play, "Three Hundred and One" as well as competing in musical, playwriting, costume construction, and acting competitions at the Tampa Convention Center, the David A Stratz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, and the Tampa Theatre. Over the course of their 3 days in Tampa, our RHS performers earned 3 top honors awards, a superior rating, and 3 excellent distinctions.

Macy Urso and Alaya Byrd earned top honors with their solo musical performances while Erk Narvaez and Macy Urso dazzled the judges by earning a perfect score and taking top honors for their musical duet. Samantha Mason received a superior rating in playwriting while Lauryn Steele earned an excellent rating in costume construction. In the duet acting category, Mary Panitz and Jane Sweeney were also recognized with an excellent rating.

The cast and crew of the one act play, Macy Urso, Erik Narvaez, Sami Mason, Raphael Agee, Wesley Reed, Jane Sweeney, Justin Kracht, Zoe Fogle, Kaelynn Clark, Mary Panitz, Alexandra Boveil, Ysabel Alexander, Robert Shaw, Terrick William, Victoria Praino, Taylor Carlton, Sophia Guignardi, Kendrick Westbrook, Link Heaslet, Travelle Hawkins, Lauryn Steele, Jasmine Cook, Anthony Leib, and MJ Guignardi, were awarded an excellent rating for their play about a character whose quest for the perfect game at the bowling alley is pitted against her desire for the perfect marriage.

A special congratulations goes out to Macy Urso and Jane Sweeney who were 2 of only 8 students in the entire state to receive prestigious senior scholarships with their superior performances during the festival.



The PINK Team Does It Again!!!

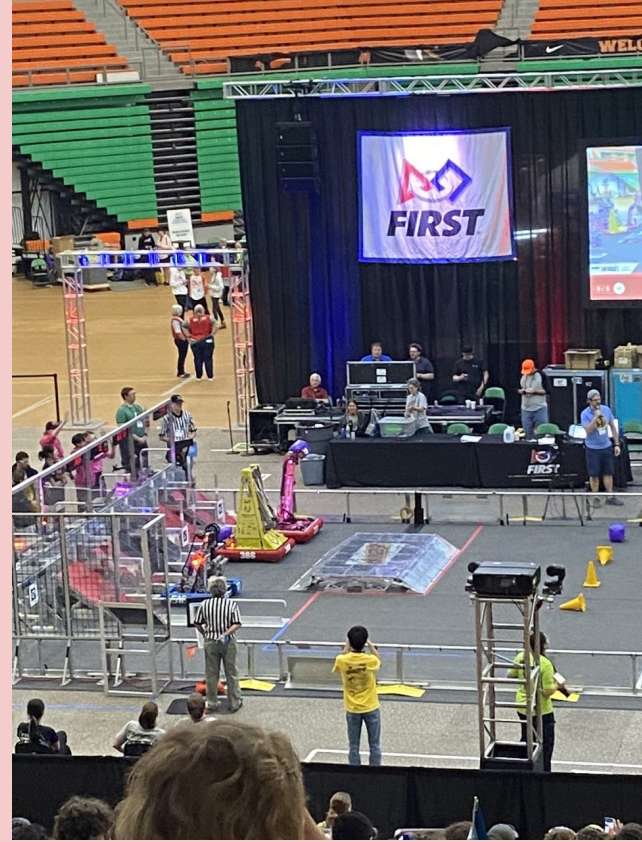
The PINK robotics team, which combines the talents of students from Rockledge High, Space Coast Jr./Sr. High, and Coach Beach High, took Tallahassee by storm in regional competition from March 24 - March 27 and walked away as the Regional Runner-up.

Finishing as the 10th overall seed after the initial rounds, the PINK team was selected by the 4th alliance and won their first two matches in the double elimination bracket to put the team in the finals. In the finals, the team lost to the overall number 1 seed.

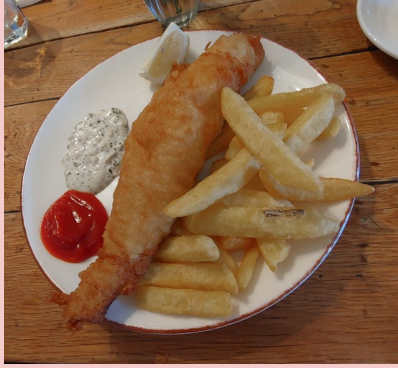
The PINK team won the Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors. This award celebrates the team that demonstrates industrial design principles, striking a balance between form, function, and aesthetics.

In addition to their success in match play, the PINK team has also been mentoring a rookie robotics team from Pakistan. The PINK team taught their mentees more about FIRST and helped them to win the Rookie All-Star team award at the Orlando Regional and the highest rookie seed award at the Tallahassee Regional.

Congratulations to our RHS PINK team members Reilly Fitzsimmons, Nicholas Morrison, Kyla Woo!



Visiting England in Summer 2025 Opportunity



In the Summer of 2025, Mrs. Matthews is very excited to be taking a group of students on an 8-day tour of England. The tour will include visiting London, Windsor, Stonehenge, Bath, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Cambridge.

This tour is a great opportunity for our Cambridge students to experience England and also see the colleges that make up the University of Cambridge. Students (and parents who are interested in going as well) will walk through London, seeing iconic sites such as Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Buckingham Palace. They will also tour Windsor Castle, visit Stonehenge and the Roman Baths, and visit William Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon. Then, students will go to Cambridge where they will go sightseeing with a local guide, tour King's College, and go punting on the River Cam. On the last day of the tour, students will visit the Tower of London and attend a theater performance at one of the theaters in London's West End.

If you are interested in getting more information about trip, you can visit www.eftours.com/2622901KH or email Mrs. Matthews at matthews.katie@brevardschools.org to get more information.

This tour is not school-affiliated and is organized by EF Tour company. It is truly a wonderful opportunity for students to see a part of the world they may not have visited before and to experience the British culture.





**That Might
Be A Good
Fit For You**

Brevard Federated Republican Women Scholarships

The Brevard Federated Republican Women organization strives to insure the most qualified and ethical individuals are elected to public office.

The scholarships the organization offers are open to high school seniors who are residents of Brevard County. There are 4 different available scholarships for which students can apply. The application deadline is April 28, 2023.

For more information visit <http://www.brevardfederatedrepublicanwomen.org/scholarships-1.html>

2023 Also-Known-As Adoptee Excellence Scholarship

Also Known As, Inc. is a New York based national nonprofit adoptee organization that serves international adoptees and their families. Their mission is to build a community that empowers the voices of adult international adoptees.

This \$1,000 scholarship is meant to acknowledge, celebrate, and support outstanding students who were born in and adopted from another country to the United States. The deadline for applications is April 28, 2023.

For more information visit <https://www.alsoknownas.org/scholarships>

Society of Women Engineers Space Coast Scholarship

The Society of Women Engineers Space Coast Scholarship program supports women from Brevard, Indian River, and Volusia County who will be pursuing an ABET-accredited bachelor program in preparation for careers in engineering, engineering technology, and computer science. Applicants must identify as female, reside in Brevard, Indian River, or Volusia County, and plan to major in an ABET-accredited engineering, computing, or engineering technology program.

The deadline for applications is April 30, 2023. For more information, visit <https://spacecoast.swe.org/scholarships.html>

Victoria Soto Memorial Scholarship

The Vicki Soto Memorial Scholarship is a four-year renewable scholarship for \$12,000 that honors the memory of Victoria Soto, a teacher who was killed in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. This scholarship is for applicants who plan to pursue a degree in the field of education and who demonstrate the spirit to Live, Laugh, and Love both life and education as Vicki Soto did. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2023.

For more information visit <https://www.teamvickisoto.com/scholarships>

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2muv8x3r> to access a Google Doc of MANY other scholarship opportunities you might be interested in.

AICE Global Perspectives Paper 1 Written Examination Study Session(s) with Mrs. Matthews

Purpose of session: to practice and get some strategies for Paper 1 of the Global Perspectives test (sit down paper)

When: 4 available sessions - pick the one that best fits for you if you are interested

- **Saturday, April 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in 34-312**
- **Tuesday, April 18 before school at 8:00 a.m. in 22-050A**
- **Tuesday, April 18 after school at 3:40 p.m. in 22-050A**
- **Thursday, April 20 before school at 8:00 a.m. in 22-050A**

How to Sign Up: Fill out the Google Form Using this QR code:



AICE English Language Study Session(s) with Mrs. Matthews

Purpose of session: to practice and get some strategies for AICE English Language exam papers

When: 5 available sessions - pick the one that best fits for you if you are interested

- **Friday, April 14 before school at 8:00 a.m. in 22-050A**
- **Friday, April 14 after school at 2:25 p.m. in 22-050A**
- **Friday, April 21 before school at 8:00 a.m. in 22-050A**
- **Friday, April 21 after school at 2:25 p.m. in 22-050A**
- **Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in 34-312**

How to Sign Up: Fill out the Google Form Using this QR code:



CAMBRIDGE STUDENT SHOWCASE

10TH GRADE STUDENT

Janelis Hernandez



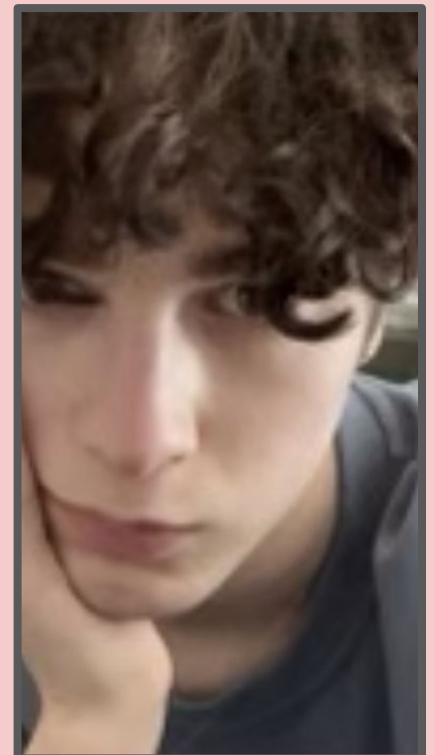
My name is Janelis Hernandez.

As someone who has taken multiple AICE classes I can say the Cambridge program has definitely developed me into a more well-rounded student. The classes allow me to get more in depth knowledge of the topics while elevating my critical thinking skills. I was not a strong writer before entering Rockledge High but after taking a few AICE classes and interacting with dedicated teachers I have been able to elevate my essays and responses. My favorite part of the program is being able to surround myself with like-minded individuals who also strive for academic success. Even with the course rigor, I stay involved with a few school clubs such as Chinese, Key, and Ethics team. I am also in both Mu Alpha Theta and Spanish Honor Society, and have participated in Varsity Golf for both years and Varsity Tennis for one.

Tyler George

12TH GRADE STUDENT

When I first started high school, I thought it was one huge joke and that it did not matter how I performed or which classes I took. Luckily, I had a good teacher that saw right through me and helped me realize that I had the potential to be successful in higher-level courses. Mrs. Jordan noticed my writing level and recommended I take my first AICE course in my high school career. She really did an excellent job of encouraging me to try them out. Out of pure curiosity, I took that first Cambridge class, and I ended up really enjoying it. However, the class that caused me to become invested in the Cambridge program was AICE Thinking Skills, which challenged me to think in new ways that I was not previously required to do. This caused me to delve further into the AICE program and try out all sorts of classes. My favorite class that I have taken so far is AICE Math 1 with Mrs. Hall. I enjoy this class because it shows me new applications for math that I was not learning in my regular math classes. For example, the word problems and terminology used in the papers require a deeper understanding of math, and I am excited to find out what else I have to learn from this course.



9TH GRADE STUDENT

Delaney Bonnat

My name is Delaney Bonnat, I am a freshman at Rockledge High School. This year I am currently involved with the Spanish Club, JV Soccer team, and being on Honor Roll. I also have the privilege to be a part of the Cambridge program. I choose this program as it would advance my education to the next level. Taking college courses starting my freshman year and having the ability to advance my college education early on is extremely important for me. Since entering into the Cambridge program has challenged me and made me a more responsible student. This year I'm taking 3 AICE classes, along with several pre-AICE classes. To balance my workload, I take any opportunity for free time to get ahead of my due dates or study for my tests. It also means getting up early or staying up late to get my assignments completed. This gives me the freedom to have time for extracurricular activities outside of school with friends and family.



11TH GRADE STUDENT

Jace Currier

Hello! My name is Jace Currier and I am currently a junior at Rockledge High School. I had transferred to the Rock my 10th grade year. I was introduced to AICE classes when I sat with the counselor, and they had gone through all of them and explained them to me. I was a little afraid, so I had decided to just do just one AICE course. I think for me it was a good introduction to the program but I would recommend two, maybe three. As I went into 11th grade I chose 3 AICE and one pre-AICE class. AICE is quite different from the normal and even honors classes to take. AICE has a lot more thinking about how to approach and answer questions. These classes really improve that thinking and really prepare you for college. These classes can be really difficult if you do not study or ask for help when needed. The teachers though make it really easy to ask for help and encourage you to do so. I am on my way to getting my AICE Diploma by the end of next year and I would encourage others to go for it as well.



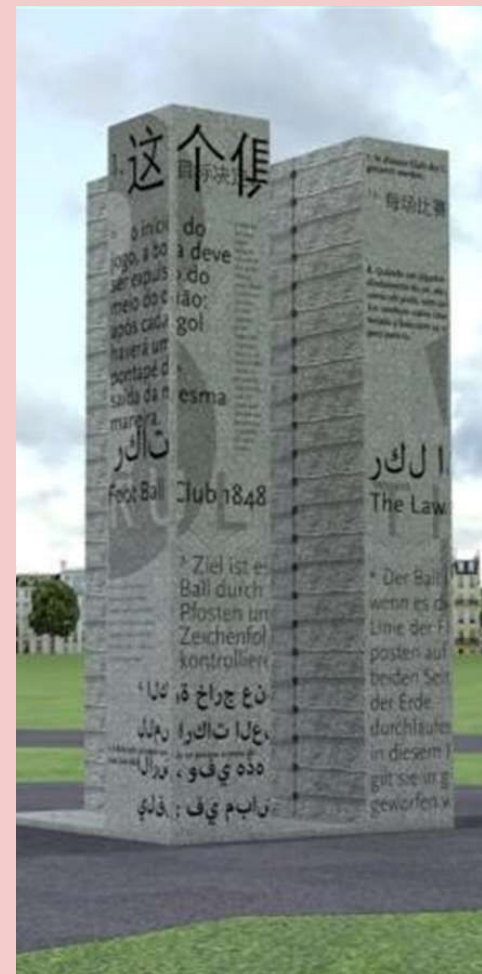
DID YOU KNOW?



One of the most popular sports in the world is football (or as we in the U.S. like to call it, soccer). While the earliest known game to involve kicking a ball as a part of its gameplay dates back to China in the 3rd century BC, the formalization of rules for the sport we now know as soccer started with a group of students from Cambridge University in 1848. At that time, a group of students wrote 11 rules which everyone who played football with them at the time could agree on, and they nailed the rules to trees in a recreational area known as Parker's Piece.

In 1863, the Football Association of England adopted most of the rules created by the group of Cambridge students. Some of the original rules of 1848 included rules that are still used the game today:

- At the commencement of the play, the ball shall be kicked off from the middle of the ground: after every goal there shall be a kick-off in the same way.
- Goal is when the ball is kicked through the flag-posts and under the string.
- When a player catches the ball directly from the foot, he may kick it as he can without running with it. In no other case may the ball be touched with the hands, except to stop it.
- In no case is holding a player, pushing with the hands, or tripping up allowed. Any player may prevent another from getting to the ball by any means consistent with the above rules.
- Every match shall be decided by a majority of goals



In 2017, the Cambridge City Council unveiled a stone marker in Parker's Piece to commemorate the 1848 Cambridge Rules. To create the markers, one single large stone was cut into nine equal pieces, each engraved with the laws of the game in numerous languages and fonts. 4 pieces stand in Parker's Piece today. The others are placed in other prominent locations around the world including Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Shanghai, China; Chennai, India; Cairo, Egypt; and Mombasa, Kenya

TEST YOUR AICE KNOWLEDGE

The following questions appeared on the AICE Global Perspectives exam in November 2022. Can you figure out the answers?

Study Document 1

1. Explain three different ways in which China is not a superpower yet, as given by the author in Document 1. [6]

2 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence presented by the author in Document 1 to support his argument. [10]

Document 1: adapted from China at 70 still isn't a superpower written by Cary Huang in 2019. The article was published on Inkstone News, a daily digest of China-focused stories, Hong Kong. Cary Huang is a China affairs columnist, having written on the topic since the early 1990s. He was previously Beijing bureau chief for the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong.

China's rulers have much to celebrate on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. The country looks stronger than it has for centuries. This is a consequence of a four-decade economic boom helped by the late leader Deng Xiaoping's free market reforms and opening-up policy. In those 40 years, China has witnessed something of an economic miracle.

Nevertheless, China is still not a developed country, nor a rich nation. It is a developing giant on the world stage. Just look at per capita income (PCI), the best measure of personal wealth and standard of living. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) figures show the worldwide average PCI was USD11,570 last year. China's PCI was USD10,000, far behind the advanced economies, which average USD 48,610.

Though China has become a globally influential power in the past 10 years, it is still not a true superpower. To be a true superpower, a country must have global influence in many varied spheres: in economics, in science and technology, in military matters and in soft power.

China is the world's second-largest economy, the largest manufacturing hub and a leading exporter of mechanized goods. It has the world's largest army.

In science and technology, China is less impressive. It has developed telecommunications, new energy and artificial intelligence over the past decade. However, it has much to learn in the traditional sciences, academic research and education. All these weaknesses must be addressed if China is to reach the status of developed country, or advanced economy.

Another of China's struggles is soft power. Japan, a soft power giant, is the most respected Asian country. While traditional power and influence can come through force, soft power is about how countries use their international image to earn the respect and support of other countries. China has yet to fully accept this fact. Consequently, it suffers a relative lack of popularity abroad. Pew Research surveys show that although African countries have generally positive views of China, perceptions of China in the US and across Europe are generally negative.

The country's biggest internal and external challenges lie ahead. The economic growth rate has steadily dropped over the past decade, a trend likely to continue. China has one of the world's biggest wealth gaps and the country has become more divided than at any time in recent memory. Mass protests in Hong Kong and the increasing rivalry and trade war between China and the US threaten China's development.

China's economic successes of the past 40 years cannot be ignored. But, unlike China, all 36 members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are not only market economies, but also free democracies. China's achievement of superpower status will also depend on its willingness to embrace modernity in governance: democracy, freedom and the rule of law. Doing so would not only accomplish what China calls its "national rejuvenation", but it would also achieve exactly what the rest of the world is hoping for: a peaceful rise for the Chinese nation.

Question 1 Responses Allowed:

Accept any logical explanation given by the candidate. An explanation does not require the answer to develop the text from the candidate's own understanding. However, it does require using the text rather than just quoting it. This might involve correct paraphrase, correct precis, or correct synthesis of parts of the text.

- To be a superpower a country must have global influence in science and technology. Although China has made technological advances, it has made much less progress in the traditional sciences/academic research/education.
- To be a superpower a country must have soft power. China does not have this as it has a relative lack of popularity abroad / perceptions of China are negative in US and Europe / China has not accepted the need for an image that will earn respect and support of other countries.
- China is not a free democracy (unlike all 36 OECD members which are free democracies). China will need to modernise its governance by including democracy/freedom/rule of law, to achieve superpower status.

Question 2 Responses Allowed:

Strengths:

- **Author's experience:** Huang has been writing on the topic for 30 years giving him the ability to source and select reliable and relevant evidence. His experience provides confidence that some unsourced evidence is likely to be valid.
- **Historical background:** evidence puts the argument in context (40-year boom due to Deng Xiaoping's reforms).
- **Reputable sources:** IMF (a globally respected organisation which will keep accurate financial records) and PEW Research who have undertaken global surveys in Africa, US and Europe.
- **Accurate statistics:** Details from the IMF are specific and (apart from China) not rounded, e.g. Worldwide average PCI of USD 11,570.
- **Evidence is explained:** data on PCI is put into global context showing varying attitudes towards China. Both show China has some way to go to increase its influence.
- **Global evidence:** considers evidence from a variety of global locations: US, Europe, Africa and Japan as well as China.

Weaknesses:

- **Much unsourced material:** For example, in paragraph 7: the economic growth rate has dropped..., China has one of the biggest wealth gaps, mass protests...trade war...threaten China's development.
- **Author's evidence:** Much of the evidence is provided by the author who may have a narrow perspective despite his experience. He is based in Hong Kong so he may have a particular viewpoint relating to China as a whole.
- **Vague or unsupported assertions:** China has the largest army. China has the world's second largest economy. Inexact wording: 'A leading exporter of mechanized goods'.
- **Unexplained information:** '...China has witnessed something of an economic miracle'.
- **Author's background:** His 30 years' experience of writing about China could cause him to be too focussed on the evidence from China rather than from a more global perspective.