



AUSTRALIAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

An **inspired** school



# IGCSE CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

(SUBJECT SELECTION GUIDE)

## 2024-2025

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Cambridge Assessment  
International Education







# Australian International School

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# IGCSE Subjects 2024-2025

## Core Subjects

All students will study:

- IGCSE English (World Literature *and/or* 1st Language *or* 2nd Language).
- IGCSE Mathematics (Mathematics *or* Additional Mathematics).
- Physical Education (Non-IGCSE).
- **ONE** of Vietnamese *or* Korean *or* Chinese Language (all IB Foundation) **OR** IGCSE Global Perspectives.
- **THREE** IGCSE subjects of their choice.
- Vietnamese National Curriculum (Literature, Vietnamese History and Geography) is compulsory for Vietnamese students.

## Preferences

### **THREE of:**

- IGCSE Art and Design
- IGCSE Biology
- IGCSE Business Studies
- IGCSE Chemistry
- IGCSE Computer Science
- IGCSE Design Technology
- IGCSE Economics
- IGCSE Geography
- IGCSE Information and Communication Technology
- IGCSE Music
- IGCSE Physics

### **AND:**

#### ***Either, one of:***

- IB Foundation Vietnamese
- IB Foundation Korean
- IB Foundation Chinese

### **Or**

- IGCSE Global Perspectives

## Instructions

ALL students study the core subjects and choose:

- **THREE** IGCSE preferences from the list above.
- **Either** one of the IB foundation Language subjects (Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese) **or** IGCSE Global Perspectives.

## Considerations

Before students make their final choices it is important that they do the following:

- Read or download the IGCSE Curriculum Handbook on the School website.
- Discuss their choices with their parents.
- Discuss their suitability for the course with the appropriate teacher.
- Look at how their option choices may affect their IBDP course choices (refer to the Senior School Curriculum Handbook for detailed information on the IBDP).
- Research university courses to see what specific IGCSEs they might need for entry.

## Note:

- It is strongly recommended that students take a subject at IGCSE if they wish to take it at IBDP.
- Not all subjects offered at IBDP can be taken at IGCSE, see table below:

IBDP SUBJECTS NOT OFFERED AT IGCSE			
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Self-Study Language A	French ab initio (beginners)	Environmental Systems and Societies Psychology	Environmental Systems and Societies Sports, Exercise and Health Science

## IGCSE ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>English First Language - Extended</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0500
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	50% Reading Passages 50% Directed Writing and Composition
<b>Some topics covered</b>	A wide range of topics ranging from current affairs to student interest will be used as a vehicle to develop an understanding of various text types.
<b>Course description</b>	First Language English learners develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in both speech and writing. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed. Students are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. The course also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	This is not a Literature course, but one in which the students will be expected to read widely and analyse both what is written and how it is written. Style and audience are key features of written tasks.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students for whom English is their first language, who wish to pursue English as their Language A option for the IB Diploma Programme.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who gain less than a C grade at Year 10 may struggle with this course.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Reading and analysing a variety of text types. Writing responses to texts and completing narratives in response to a number of stimuli. Taking notes, making summaries, answering questions orally, small group discussion, as well as practice examination exercises for reading and writing.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Research projects.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The students enjoy the opportunity to undertake creative writing, writing and presenting speeches and debating.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Reading for meaning (analyzing texts) is a large component of this course, as is writing for different audiences. This can be challenging at times but will lead to life-long skills.



## IGCSE ENGLISH SECOND LANGUAGE

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE English Second Language – Oral Count-in, Core and Extended Options</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0511
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	25% A 15 minute oral examination is conducted by certified coursework examiners in Vietnam, and moderated internationally by Cambridge.
<b>% Final exam</b>	50% Reading and Writing 25% Listening
<b>Some topics covered</b>	People of the World, The Natural Environment, Social Media, Sports & Games, Endangered Species.
<b>Course description</b>	This course teaches the productive skills of writing and speaking, and the receptive skills of reading and listening for the purpose of communicative English. It is not a Literature course. There is an international perspective and students will become familiar with a range of western conventions which will benefit them in situations where English is the language spoken. A range of social registers from formal to informal will be covered in the course. The styles of communication which are included are appropriate to use in dealings with official and semi-official bodies, in studying for academic or occupational purposes, in places of work, or in using public services.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	From 2022 onwards, there is no longer an option to take IGCSE ESL Core or Extended. Cambridge now offers a single IGCSE ESL, where the full range of grades are available.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students for whom English is their second language, who wish to pursue English as their Language B option (SL or HL) for the IB Diploma Programme. Students need some prior experience speaking, reading and writing English.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who gain less than a C grade at Year 10 may struggle with this course.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Reading Comprehension, writing formal and informal letters, writing articles, writing summaries, taking notes, listening comprehension, oral communication, completing forms. Taking notes, answering questions orally, summary writing, small group discussions, grammar drills, practice examination exercises for reading and writing, listening practice, speaking practice.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Research projects and oral presentations.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The work is divided into skills therefore students can practise and get really good at one skill at a time. This builds students' confidence and they can see their progress. Students enjoy researching topics and issues which interest them and have some flexibility in how they present this information.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Reading skills are needed for writing, listening, and oral skills therefore students must practise reading and vocabulary again and again. This is hard work but very rewarding.
<b>Other information</b>	The course is studied by all students and allows them access to the IBDP English B course in Year 12.

## IGCSE WORLD LITERATURE

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE World Literature</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0408
<b>% Coursework</b>	38.5%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	38.5%
<b>% Final exam</b>	23%
<b>Some topics covered</b>	The course includes the study of selected novels, plays and poetry from around the world. It includes texts originally produced in English as well as texts in translation.
<b>Course description</b>	<p>Skills include in-depth analysis of Literature texts studied in class, planning and developing coherent arguments, understanding reader- response theory and the relationship between literature, society and culture.</p> <p>Oral expression is emphasised as students are required to articulately express their thinking about texts using appropriate language. Students also need to demonstrate an ability to write within strict timed conditions and in response to both studied and unseen texts.</p>
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	<p>This course is demanding. It incorporates 2 Coursework assessment pieces – The Empathic Task (a narrative writing task) and The Critical Essay. Both of which are around 1000 words in length, but are completed in class with teacher support.</p> <p>There are also 2 examinations:</p> <p>Paper 1: Unseen Poetry: 1 hour 15 mins (2 essay style questions)</p> <p>Paper 2: Set Text: 1 hour 30 mins (2 essay style questions)</p>
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students planning to sit IGCSE World Literature should be avid readers, able to engage in debate, be well-informed about their world and be open to ideas that challenge their current position. They must be prepared to source and study extra material and to prepare practice essays on an on-going basis.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course</b>	Students who do not receive C grade or higher for Year 9 English.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Regular activities include: essay writing, internet research, peer and self-assessment, brainstorming, textual annotations, character role-play, group projects and presentations.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Quizzes, drama performances, viewing media performances of texts studied.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	It is thought-provoking and relevant with regard to current world-wide societal, cultural and political issues.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	The course is text oriented and all assessments are in written form.
<b>Other information</b>	Entry for this course is at the recommendation of the English Coordinator. This subject is generally studied over 2 years.



## IGCSE MATHEMATICS

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Mathematics</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0580
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	100%
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Number, Algebra, Measurement, Trigonometry, Statistics & Probability.
<b>Course description</b>	<p>IGCSE Mathematics is a fully examined course which encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build students' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems, presenting and interpreting results.</p> <p>There are two options at this level: Extended and Core. All the material in the Core curriculum is covered within the Extended scheme. The Extended Mathematics course prepares students for both the IBDP Higher Level and Standard Level Mathematics courses; AA and AI. Students completing Core Mathematics usually enter the IBDP AI Standard Level Course.</p>
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	Mathematics is compulsory. Students will be placed into either the Core or Extended class depending on their previous performance in Mathematics.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Logical, hardworking students.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Unmotivated, disorganised students.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Investigations, Mathematics Website challenges and activities, Text book problems, solving mathematics problems, graphing, worksheets, formative assessment.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Quizzes, constructions, outdoor investigations.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The variety of applications that are used to help students grasp mathematics concepts.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	In all mathematics courses, there is daily homework. Students who are not engaged and motivated to do their best will not like this.
<b>Other information</b>	Students wanting to take IBDP Higher level Mathematics must take the Extended Mathematics IGCSE paper and achieve at least a grade A.

## IGCSE ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Additional Mathematics</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0606
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	100%
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Number, Algebra, Exponentials, Logarithms, Binomial theorem and Calculus.
<b>Course description</b>	<p>IGCSE Additional Mathematics is a fully examined course for students who have sat the IGCSE Extended Mathematics examination and gained at least a high B.</p> <p>The course continues on from Extended Mathematics including pre-IB topics such as exponentials, logarithms, binomial theorem and calculus in preparation for the IBDP Higher Level Mathematics courses.</p>
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	Mathematics is compulsory. Students will be placed in this class based on their past performance in Mathematics.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Logical, hardworking students.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Unmotivated, disorganised students.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Investigations, Mathematics Website challenges and activities, Text book problems, solving mathematics problems, graphing, worksheets, formative assessment.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Quizzes, constructions, outdoor investigations.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The variety of applications that are used to help students grasp mathematics concepts.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	In all mathematics courses, there is daily homework. Students who are not engaged and motivated to do their best will not like this.
<b>Other information</b>	It is required that students wanting to take either of the IBDP Higher level Mathematics courses should get at least a B in Additional Mathematics.

## IGCSE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Global Perspectives</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0457
<b>% Coursework</b>	30% Individual Research Project 35% Group Project
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	35%
<b>Some topics covered</b>	For the Group project students choose a topic from a list of prescribed topics such as 'Human Rights' or 'Disease and Health'. Students then choose a topic for the Individual Report. Examples are: 'The Digital World' and 'Changing Communities'. The Examination will be based on one topic such as 'Education for All' or 'Globalisation'. Given the wide range of optional topics, the course emphasises analytical and evaluative skills over content.
<b>Course description</b>	IGCSE Global Perspectives is a ground breaking new course that is cross-curricular, stretching across traditional subject boundaries. It taps into the way today's students enjoy learning – including group work, seminars, projects, and working with other students around the world. The emphasis is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	IGCSE Global Perspectives encourages awareness of global problems and offers opportunities to explore possible solutions through cooperation and collaboration. The course is not about getting everybody to think identically; rather it is a matter of opening minds to the great complexity of the world and of human thought, and opening hearts to the diversity of human experience and feeling.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Open, internationally minded students who enjoy vigorous discussion and debate and learning about other people's perspectives on the world.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course</b>	Students who struggle to appreciate other people's points of view, and who are very set in their ideas of right and wrong.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Discussion, debate, research projects, oral presentations
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Students learn social research skills to collect data. This avoids too narrow a focus on computer based research.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Learning about the world and how they can be a force for good in changing the destiny of our planet and societies.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Writing essays.
<b>Other information</b>	This subject is compulsory for all students in Year 10. Students who do not do a language continue the course to completion in Year 11. It is excellent preparation for IBDP Theory of Knowledge and the IBDP Extended Essay.

## CHINESE LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (IB FOUNDATION)

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IB Foundation Chinese</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	Students may opt to enter IGCSE Chinese: Either: 0509 - Chinese First Language Or 0523 - Chinese as a Second Language
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	0509: Paper 1 – Reading, Directed Writing, Classical Chinese (50%) Paper 2 - Writing (50%) 0523: Paper 1 - Reading and Writing (60%) Paper 2 – Listening (20%) Paper 3 - Speaking (20%)
<b>Some topics covered</b>	0509: Culture and Classical Chinese texts, including fiction and non-fiction, essays, reviews and articles.  0523: Students will be able to use Chinese effectively for the purpose of practical communication and develop on awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills.
<b>Course description</b>	0509: Students will be able to read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding, write accurately and effectively using standard language and deepen understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and classical texts.  0523: Students will be able to express personal meaning by studying about 20 topics. Students will also have better understanding of China at the same time by developing Chinese communication skills. Students will leave with a better understanding of the Chinese language, culture and grammar.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it ?</b>	Students will do better if they have learned Chinese for 2 years previously and therefore have a good foundation. This course is strongly recommended for any student who intends to take Language A or B Chinese at IBDP level next year.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Hard working students who are willing to speak and read different topics in Chinese, even they start at a low level.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who struggle with reading and have too little previous vocabulary
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Discussion, oral presentation and research projects.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Students develop language competence and communication skills as well as intercultural understanding.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Reading analysing and responding to complex literacy and non-literacy texts.
<b>Other information</b>	Chinese speaking students are encouraged to take this course to ensure success in the IBDP Chinese course next year. Students are advised not to take this subject if they have no prior experience with the Chinese language.



## KOREAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (IB FOUNDATION)

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IB Foundation Korean A Language and Literature</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	N/A
<b>Assessment</b>	Summative and Formative Assessment
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Topics are different every year because students discuss current issues. For literary and non-literary texts, they read a variety of works because the exam papers have unseen texts only.
<b>Course description</b>	This course is for first language Korean speakers. The course trains students in formal essay writing and text analysis and provides a qualification for students in their native language.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it?</b>	Students should read a variety of texts and know how to analyse them. This must not be limited to what is taught in class. The course involves lots of writing tasks because the largest part of the exam is writing. This course is strongly recommended for any student who intends to take Language A Korean at IB DP level next year.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who do their best, complete all the work and refer to teacher's feedback and the marking scheme for improvement
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who do not spend sufficient time preparing their assignments.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Analysing texts, written comparisons, argumentative, descriptive, narrative essays, presentation and discussion activities.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Discussions and debates about global issues within the texts.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The atmosphere, relationship with the teacher, speaking Korean.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Writing essays and analysing various texts.
<b>Other information</b>	Korean students are recommended to take this course to ensure success at IB DP Korean A next year.

## VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (IB FOUNDATION)

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IB Foundation Vietnamese Language and Literature</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	N/A
<b>Assessment</b>	Summative and Formative Assessments.
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Vietnamese Language in Literary and Non-Literary works.
<b>Course description</b>	This course is for speakers of Vietnamese as their first language. Students will be studying literary and non-literary texts with the goal to present an analysis of the texts studied in written and spoken forms.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it?</b>	Students should be able to read a wide variety of texts, which can go beyond the classroom, and know how to analyse and evaluate the authors' choices. The course involves 70% writing and 30% oral tasks; therefore, being able to present their knowledge and understanding in written and spoken forms are advantages. This course is strongly recommended for any student who intends to take Language A Vietnamese at IBDP level next year.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who like reading and exploring different kinds of texts. Students who understand that language and literature are creative processes that encourage the development of critical and reflective thinking through self-expression.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who cannot read or write fluently in Vietnamese.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Reading, discussing, presenting and analysing literary and non-literary texts.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Debating
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The atmosphere, relationship with their peers and the teacher, speaking in Vietnamese.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Writing essays regularly.
<b>Other information</b>	Vietnamese students are recommended to take this course to ensure success at IBDP Vietnamese next year.

## VIETNAMESE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDIES

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>Vietnamese National Curriculum Studies</b>
<b>Coursework</b>	Vietnamese Textbooks ( Lich Su & Dia Ly Lop 10 ).
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	N/A
<b>% Final exam</b>	Contributes 10% to the final grade of those studying Vietnamese Language & Literature.
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Vietnamese History and Geographical features.
<b>Course description</b>	This course is compulsory for all students who are registered with the school under a Vietnamese passport. It is available after school.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it?</b>	There are no formal requirements for students undertaking the course. Students who take this course will often have finished the course-books Lich Su & Dia Ly Lop 10 - Chan Troi Sang Tao.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who enjoy learning about their heritage and who value their language and history as part of their identity. Also students who are willing to work hard at the complexities of written Vietnamese.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course</b>	Students who cannot read or write fluently in Vietnamese. Students who don't value their Vietnamese identity.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Reading, discussion, group work, pair work, individual work.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Research projects and presentations.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Learning about their heritage, culture, heroes and history.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	The vocabulary needed for understanding the texts. Learning facts and figures.
<b>Other information</b>	This course is run after school and also forms part of the Vietnamese Language and Literature course.

## CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Games Units, Aquatics, Health & Fitness, Exercise physiology, Fitness components, Anatomy & physiology, Social, cultural & ethical issues in sport, Skill Acquisition and Sport Psychology.
<b>Course description</b>	This course is designed to give students the opportunity to be physically active and develop important theoretical knowledge around sport, exercise, health and well-being.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it?</b>	Core PE is compulsory for all Year 11 students.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students with an open-minded and positive approach to movement and physical activity, work well with others and take a keen interest in the course's theoretical component.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students that do not participate in physical activity to the best of their ability or are not prepared to take risks and/or be open-minded about different sports and exercise.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	The course is mainly practical based with a range of small and large ball team games, invasion, net, striking and fielding sports as well as fitness-based units.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Learning theoretical concepts related to sports, exercise, health and well-being. These are learned in the classroom or during practical lessons.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The opportunity to participate in physically active lessons. Learning more about their body and ways to maintain health. They also have a chance to develop social skills and enjoy a variety of fun physical activities and games.
<b>Other information</b>	Year 11 Core Physical Education classes are compulsory and will consist of two periods each week.



## IGCSE ART AND DESIGN

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Art and Design</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0400
<b>% Coursework</b>	50% (August – December)
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	N/A
<b>% Externally set task</b>	50% (January – April)
<b>Course description</b>	The IGCSE Art and Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal artistic and visual response by stimulating imagination, conceptual and critical thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Students gain confidence as they develop technical skills in variety of two-dimensional processes and media (including digital media) where they are able to identify and solve problems in visual form. Students learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts, through experimentation and visual analysis, to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, IGCSE Art and Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience. Success in this course prepares students for IBDP Art and Design.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	This is a time-consuming and demanding course that requires a lot of studio time outside of regular classes. An emphasis is placed on both the processes involved in art making as well as creating finished pieces. Students are expected to work in their sketchbook throughout the week outside of class.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who have a passion for Art. Also, students who have prior experience and have developed a range of art skills and attitudes. To succeed in this course students need to be independent, motivated and hard working.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course</b>	Students with little background/ experience in Art. Also students who underestimate the demands of the course and chose it for the wrong reasons.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Development of technical skills through sustained practice and experimentation. Development of original responses to themes or starting points. Practicing specific skills and approaches, to include individual study of the work of established artists, research and investigation, developing ideas, composition and technical skills, self-evaluation exercises, and creating resolved and cohesive artworks.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Analysis of artworks (as a class/ group), group critiques.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Students have a lot of choice about the direction they want to pursue for the coursework component. Students learn to enjoy the independent and self-directed learning that IGCSE Art and Design develops.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Not all students are prepared for the amount of time they should be spending in the studio.
<b>Other information</b>	The course is a good foundation for taking IBDP Visual Art. Although there are no entry requirements students should be careful not to take this course as an 'easy option', as the coursework requirements are substantial and a reasonable degree of technical (drawing) skill is required.

## IGCSE BIOLOGY

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>Biology</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0610
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1 or 2 Multiple choice - 30% of total marks Paper 3 or 4 Theory paper - 50% of total marks Paper 6 Alternative to practical paper - 20% of total marks
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Cells and cell processes, animal nutrition, plant nutrition and transport, respiration and transport in humans, coordination and homeostasis, plant reproduction, human reproduction, inheritance and evolution, organisms and the environment, human influences on the environment.
<b>Course description</b>	As well as a focus on Biology, and with an emphasis on human Biology, the IGCSE Biology syllabus enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in Science and scientific developments. Students learn about the basic principles of Biology through a mixture of theoretical and practical studies.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	An understanding of scientific methodology, how experiments are conducted fairly, what variables are and how they affect an experiment. Basic understanding of human body systems and function, such as the circulatory, respiratory, digestive and reproductive systems. How plants produce their own food by photosynthesis and how living things are linked to one another in their environment.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students with a good command of English. Biology is a very descriptive Science. Students need to be able to explain biological processes in great detail using very scientific language. Students with good Maths skills. All of the Sciences require students to record, present and manipulate numerical data.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who lack good reading and writing skills in English will struggle with all of the new vocabulary and the lengthy explanations required to answer exam questions effectively. Students who aren't prepared to spend time learning the definitions and theory well. Students who struggle to apply their knowledge to new situations. Students who think Biology is the easy Science.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Videos and animations to engage students and show biological principles in action. Presentations to deliver key theory and practical experimental work to learn the skills for paper 6. Students regularly use the internet for research and produce presentations and leaflets/posters for display. We play games to reinforce learning and use past papers to develop effective examination skills.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Human Biology, especially the heart, lungs and eye as they dissect these organs.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Learning vocabulary and definitions.
<b>Other information</b>	This course prepares students for IBDP Biology and may help with some parts of IBDP Environmental Systems and Societies.

## IGCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Business Studies</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0450
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1 Written Paper (Short Answer Data Response) - 50% Paper 2 Written Paper (Case Study) - 50%
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Understanding business activity, People in business, Marketing, Operations management, Finance, External influences on business activity.
<b>Course description</b>	The Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organisations are established, financed and run, how their activities are regulated, and the role of people in business. IGCSE Business Studies is accepted by universities and employers as proof of an understanding of business concepts and techniques across a range of different businesses. A foundation for the study of IBDP Business Management, the syllabus also encourages a better understanding of the world in which students live.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	No prior study is required.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who are interested in understanding the basic functions of business and real-world applications of business theory will enjoy this course. The ability to apply theory to actual business organisations is an essential skill. Because assessments and exams are heavily language based, students with strong English language skills perform better on assessments.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students with weak English language skills do not do well on assessments and exams.
<b>What kinds of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Cases studies, research projects, group work, interactive lectures, class discussions, diagrams and charts, extended written responses, quizzes and debates.
<b>What kinds of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Tests, assignments and examinations
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Students enjoy learning about real-world business organisations and applying their knowledge to create their own business plans.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Some students struggle with the technical vocabulary and writing style.
<b>Other information</b>	None

## IGCSE CHEMISTRY

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Chemistry</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0620
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1 or 2 Multiple choice - 30% of total marks Paper 3 or 4 Theory paper - 50% of total marks Paper 6 Alternative to practical paper - 20% of total marks
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Introduction and basic atomic structure, bonding and the periodic table, chemical calculations, physical Chemistry, chemical reactions, nature's materials, organic Chemistry.
<b>Course description</b>	Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry will help students gain knowledge and understanding of the subject, learn how to handle information and solve problems, and learn experimental skills and techniques of investigation. Together, these will help students both develop a deep understanding of Chemistry, and prepare them to become confident citizens of an increasingly technical world.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	This is a demanding and fast paced course which requires a lot of personal study. There is a significant amount of practical work. While Chemistry is an academic subject, it is intrinsically based on laboratory work. Theory is complemented by experiments in which you develop practical skills such as the use of modern laboratory equipment, powers of observation and the ability to communicate results and conclusions.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who have a genuine interest in Science and are willing to work hard in their own time. In addition to having strong mathematical and numerical ability students who would have a good chance at success in the course would have, or want to develop, the following skills: analytical and problem-solving skills, abstract thinking, time management and organisational skills, written and oral communication, monitoring and maintaining records and data, teamwork, IT and technology skills, practical laboratory skills.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course</b>	Students who find it difficult to spot patterns, struggle with analytical or abstract thinking, very weak mathematic or numerical skills and disorganised students would find this course very challenging.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Practical laboratory work, learning games, research, quizzes.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Experiments and investigations.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Calculations
<b>Other information</b>	It is essential to take IGCSE Chemistry if you wish to study IBDP Chemistry. In addition, it is a requirement if you wish to study Medicine in the future and other medically-based degrees such as nursing and bio-medical research.



## IGCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0478
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes Computer Systems 50% Paper 3: 1 hours 45 minutes Algorithms, Programming and Logic 50%
<b>Some topics covered</b>	<p><b>Computer systems</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Data representation</li> <li>2 Data transmission</li> <li>3 Hardware</li> <li>4 Software</li> <li>5 The internet and its uses</li> <li>6 Automated and emerging technologies</li> </ol> <p><b>Algorithms, programming and logic</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Algorithm design and problem-solving</li> <li>8 Programming</li> <li>9 Databases</li> <li>10 Boolean logic</li> </ol>
<b>Course description</b>	<p>Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computational thinking and an understanding of the principles of problem-solving using computers. They apply this understanding to create computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills, and the ability to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions. Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use and recognise their potential risks. It provides an ideal foundation for progression to the International Baccalaureate in Computer Science and is valuable for other areas of study and everyday life.</p>
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	<p>Students need to know that that this course is demanding and that they are required to be proficient in a programming language such as Python. The focus is on the understanding of programming concepts, logic and problem solving rather than the programming language itself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper 1 assesses theoretical knowledge, problem-solving skills, and understanding of algorithms and programming concepts.</li> <li>• Paper 2 is a practical exam where students demonstrate their programming and problem-solving skills by completing a series of tasks.</li> </ul>
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	<p>The course is suitable for Mathematically inclined students with an interest in technology, programming, and problem-solving. It covers principles of computer science, algorithms, data representation, and is accessible to a diverse range of learners.</p>
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	<p>Students may struggle with this course if they lack programming experience, find theoretical concepts challenging, lack practice in coding, struggle with logical reasoning, face language barriers and have difficulty managing time.</p>
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	<p>Students will engage in theory lectures, coding practice, problem-solving, exam preparation, interactive learning, research assignments, hands-on labs, and coding challenges. Regular assessments and feedback contribute to a comprehensive learning experience.</p>
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	<p>Occasionally students may benefit from guest speakers, ethical discussions, group projects and hardware workshops.</p>
<b>What do students like most about this course?</b>	<p>Students typically appreciate the hands-on coding practice, real-world relevance of theoretical concepts, engaging problem-solving sessions, collaborative group projects, and the opportunity to explore ethical considerations. The dynamic and interactive nature of the course fosters a passion for computer science.</p>
<b>What do students like least about this course?</b>	<p>Some students may find the theoretical knowledge that they are asked to acquire to be very extensive and the programming practice too time-consuming.</p>
<b>Other information</b>	<p>The usefulness of this course is significant as it equips students with fundamental knowledge and skills in Computer Science. It provides a strong foundation in programming, algorithms, data representation, and ethical considerations. This prepares students for further studies in Computer Science, IT-related fields, or careers requiring computational skills. The practical focus, including hands-on coding projects, enhances problem-solving abilities and critical thinking. The course is designed to be relevant to the rapidly evolving technology landscape, making it beneficial for students aspiring to pursue careers in technology and innovation.</p>

## IGCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Design and Technology</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0445
<b>% Coursework</b>	50% - Component 2 Project: Individual design project. Internally assessed, externally moderated.
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1 Design: Assesses design ability. 25% of total marks. Paper 3 Resistant Materials elective – Test knowledge of design and materials and their processing. 25% of total marks.
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Observe and identify needs, research, idea generation, health and safety, development of ideas, communicating with others, Design and Technology in society, aesthetics, anthropometrics and ergonomics, energy, control, mechanical control (static and dynamic), permanent fastenings.
<b>Course description</b>	Design and Technology prepares students for their future within a rapidly changing technological society. In the course students identify, consider and solve problems. Students gain technical and design awareness and develop skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity whilst also developing communication skills central to design, making and evaluation.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	This is a demanding course in terms of the assessment requirements through both examinations and project work. Creativity, independent thinking and organisation skills are key elements to success in the written components. Confidence, combined with the ability to work safely and accurately, is key to success in the practical elements.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who have a good command of English and who are able to apply technological terminology correctly and appropriately. Students who are able to think creatively to solve problems through designing and planning and who are confident in working with a range of materials, media and tools. Students who are able to convey ideas graphically.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who have the expectation that the course primarily involves “making things” find it difficult. While there are practical elements to the course, there is also a substantial amount of theory that is covered, culminating in two examinations and a substantial design portfolio requirement. Students who are unable to manage their time and meet deadlines will struggle.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Group discussion, brainstorming, graphical communication, portfolio development, research, practical demonstrations, practical workshop activities.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Students enjoy utilising various forms of technology in the development of solutions to various design situations.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Design Technology is run as a one year course requiring students to be able to manage and schedule their independent study time to include Project Portfolio and practical work.
<b>Other information</b>	Students who do not achieve a C grade or higher at Year 10 level will struggle to achieve at the IGCSE level. In addition, students should be aware that, like Art and Design, this option requires a considerable time commitment.

## IGCSE ECONOMICS

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Economics</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0455
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1 Multiple Choice - 30% Paper 2 Structured Question - 70%
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Scarcity, Opportunity Cost and Choice, Economics Systems and How Markets Work, Money, Finance, and Banking, The Labour Market, Types of Business Organizations, The Role of Government in an Economy, Inflation, Unemployment, and GDP, Economic Development, International Trade.
<b>Course description</b>	The IGCSE Economics syllabus will develop an understanding of economic terminology and principles and of basic economic theory. Students will learn about the economics of developed and developing nations and how these interrelate. They will also learn to handle simple data and undertake economic analysis, evaluate information and discriminate between facts and value judgments in economic issues. A foundation for further study at IBDP, the syllabus also encourages a better understanding of the world in which students live, and helps them play an active part in the decision-making process, whether as consumers, producers or citizens of the local, national and international community.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	No prior study is required.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Literacy and numeracy skills are important in the study of Economics. Students should also be able to read and interpret charts and graphs.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students with poor literacy skills often struggle to understand some areas of the course.
<b>What kinds of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Cases Studies, classroom experiments, class individual response systems, computer simulations, context-rich problems, cooperative learning, documented problem solving, interactive lectures, interactive lecture demonstrations, interdisciplinary approaches to teaching, writing, student research, using media to enhance teaching and learning.
<b>What kinds of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Tests, assignments and examinations.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	This course gives students an increased understanding of real world events.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Some students struggle with the large volume of new content that must be covered and with the level of reading and writing that is required in English.
<b>Other information</b>	None

## IGCSE GEOGRAPHY

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Geography</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0460
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1: 45% of final mark Paper 2: 27.5% of final mark Paper 4: 27.5% of final mark
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Population and settlement, the natural environment, economic development and the use of resources.
<b>Course description</b>	IGCSE Geography is course that teaches about the world in which we live. The study of Geography is unique in that it is a link between the Sciences; History, Business, Economics, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. This course teaches skills that can be used in the Sciences and the course content complements other courses e.g. renewable energy in Physics, weathering in Chemistry, ecosystems in Biology, migration in History and industry, tourism and agriculture in Business and Economics.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	Students need to have basic understanding of map reading skills such a north, south, east and west, lines of latitude and longitude and the name of major countries in each continent. Students considering taking this course should choose this if they enjoy reading and listening to the news. IGCSE Geography looks at both human and physical Geography and their interactions, so there is a wide variety of content to know and learn.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students who have a genuine curiosity of how the world works. A student of this caliber will perform well because their own interests and curiosity will drive them to learn more about our world and our responsibility in preserving it.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course</b>	This course is very English dominated and those with weaker English skills often struggle both with the amount of new vocabulary terms and with understand the course content and words explaining the vocabulary and concepts. There are some 400 terms to learn throughout the year, which can be difficult to remember by the end of the year. Also, students with weak spatial awareness have difficulty with map reading skills and contour lines that are a key component of Paper 2.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Activities range from group/pair work presentations, individual presentations, personal research and investigation.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Essays
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Students like that there is a variety of topics within the content that interest them. There are foreign concepts/ideas, different from other classes because we have to study about faraway places and things.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Given the amount of new content, students least like the amount of reading and independent research required for the course.
<b>Other information</b>	It is recommended that students take IGSCCE Geography if they wish to study it later at IBDP level.

## IGCSE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Information and Communications Technology</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0417
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	<p>Paper 1 - Written paper testing theoretical knowledge, weighted at 40% of available marks</p> <p>Paper 2 - Practical test, weighted at 30% of the available marks</p> <p>Paper 3 - Practical test, weighted at 30% of the available marks</p>
<b>Some topics covered</b>	<p>The theoretical element (40%) include types and components of computer systems, input and output devices, storage devices and media, computer networks, the effects of ICT, the ways in which ICT is used, safety and security and the system life cycle. The practical element (60%) includes word processing, databases, spreadsheets, website authoring and interactive presentations.</p>
<b>Course description</b>	<p>Cambridge IGCSE ICT will show students how to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems. Students will also consider the impact which new technologies will have on ways of working and the social, economic and ethical issues associated with them.</p>
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	<p>This course has a heavy practical element with two 2 hour and 15 minute practical exams alongside the 1 hour 30 minute written paper. Students should consider their technological ability before taking this course.</p> <p>Careers: A qualification in ICT is a good foundation for any career based in the technology world from using applications successfully in business to web design, graphic design, games developers, programming, app builders, 3D modellers, architects, almost any job you can think of uses a computer and specialist kinds of software. Digital literacy is very important in the modern world.</p>
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	<p>There are no pre-requisites for studying this course but an interest in technology is essential. Students who find using a computer straight forward and intuitive should do well in this course.</p>
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	<p>Students with minimal knowledge and understanding of the basic fundamentals of computers.</p>
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	<p>Practical work using various computer software, reflection quizzes, discussions and project work to cover the theory element.</p>
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	<p>Group/paired presentations. Quizzes and exam preparation.</p>
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	<p>Exploring software programs and discussing emerging technology in the modern world.</p>
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	<p>Some practical elements such as databases and spread-sheets.</p>
<b>Other information</b>	<p>Students who wish to study Digital Society at either HL or SL level in Year 12 should have studied ICT at IGCSE level.</p>

## IGCSE MUSIC

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0410
<b>% Coursework</b>	30% Performing 30% Composing
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	N/A
<b>% Final exam</b>	40% Listening Examination
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Western classical music, world music, composition skills and performance skills.
<b>Course description</b>	Music is one of the most enjoyable and creative subjects and provides students with an opportunity for self-expression and creativity. Students are required to push their performance abilities, their composition skills as well as developing their comprehension and listening skills.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	Prior experience in music is necessary. You will need to have a skill in performing an instrument, which can include the voice, and should have an outside instrumental teacher or vocal coach.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Any student with a passion for music. Students that can show dedication and commitment to improving their musical skills. Students who take this course will realise a lot of work happens outside of the classroom as well as inside the classroom.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students who cannot see projects through to the end. Students who are unwilling to try new things and be adventurous.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Individual and group performances, music history and culture. Aural training, music theory exercises, music composition.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Past papers, tests, group presentations.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	Playing and creating music.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Students tend to enjoy most areas of the course, but time demands provide the biggest issues, as time needs to be dedicated to practising. There is also a lot of new musical language that needs to be learned which can be challenging for the students at the beginning.
<b>Other information</b>	Entry requirements include a basic knowledge in music theory and proficient ability in a musical instrument.



## IGCSE PHYSICS

<b>Full subject title</b>	<b>IGCSE Physics</b>
<b>Syllabus number</b>	0625
<b>% Coursework</b>	0%
<b>% Oral assessment</b>	0%
<b>% Final exam</b>	Paper 1 <i>or</i> 2 Multiple choice - 30% of total marks. Paper 3 <i>or</i> 4 Theory paper - 50% of total marks. Paper 6 Alternative to practical paper - 20% of total marks.
<b>Some topics covered</b>	Forces and motion, waves, energy, thermal effects, light and sound, electrical circuits, magnetism, atoms and radioactivity, space physics.
<b>Course description</b>	The IGCSE Physics course consists of an introductory treatment of kinematics, mechanical energy, thermal properties, wave motion, electricity and magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics, and space physics. These topics serve as an excellent foundation for those wishing to continue with Physics beyond Year 11.
<b>What do students need to know about this course before they choose it for IGCSE?</b>	This subject relies on understanding, not memorising. You cannot memorise Physics. A competence in basic Mathematics is required.
<b>What types of students do well in this course?</b>	Students that have a genuine interest in learning and understanding how the world around them works.
<b>What types of students struggle with this course?</b>	Students with low levels of English comprehension and weak Mathematical skills.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class regularly?</b>	Laboratory experimentation and interactive simulations.
<b>What kind of activities are done in class occasionally?</b>	Text book and past paper questions.
<b>What do students like the most about this course?</b>	The logical, sequential nature of Physics along with practical experiments.
<b>What do students like the least about this course?</b>	Memorising formulae for examinations
<b>Other information</b>	It is recommended to take Physics IGCSE if you wish to do Physics at IBDP next year. Physics is essential for students who may wish to study Engineering or the Physical Sciences at University.



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