



BRITISH VIETNAMESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HO CHI MINH CITY
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

HOW TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT

IGCSEs



2026 - 2027

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Introduction to IGCSE

Welcome to IGCSE: the gateway to your future!

IGCSE stands for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education. It is the world's most popular international qualification for 14- to 16-year-olds and the examinations are taken by students in more than 4800 schools, in over 150 countries, each year. The courses prepare students perfectly for further study at A level and are globally transferable to other educational systems, for example in the USA or Australia.

Our IGCSE examination papers are written and marked in the UK by Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) and Pearson Edexcel. Most assessment is done through written examinations at the end of year 11 but in certain subjects assessment also involves practical examinations and/or coursework.

IGCSE Examinations in all subjects (except for IGCSE Vietnamese) are taken in English. At BVIS, we therefore ensure that all our students have the best possible opportunities to develop their English proficiency before taking these examinations.

The IGCSE program is undertaken in years 10 and 11. Certain IGCSE subjects are compulsory (specifically English, Maths and Science) and for these subjects there is the option to take either a core or extended (CAIE) or foundation or higher (Pearson Edexcel) paper. Grades available in the extended or higher papers are A*-E and 'U' (ungraded) for exams administered by CAIE and 9-4 in exams administered by Pearson Edexcel. Candidates sitting the core or foundation papers are eligible for grades C-G and 'U' (CAIE) and 5-1 (Pearson Edexcel). The decision on which exams a student take is made by subject teachers in Year 11 based on academic evidence.

	Grades available	BVIS Subjects
Cambridge (CAIE) Extended Paper	A*-E / U (ungraded)	English, Science
Cambridge (CAIE) Core Paper	C- G / U (ungraded)	
Pearson Edexcel Higher Paper	9-3 / U (ungraded)	Mathematics
Pearson Edexcel Foundation Paper	5-1 / U (ungraded)	

In addition to the compulsory subjects, students also do three optional subjects. All students should aim to get, as a minimum, 5 IGCSE passes at grades A-C including English Language and Mathematics.

Compulsory IGCSE subjects

- English (First or Second Language)
- English Literature (for higher set students only)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Vietnamese*

Compulsory non-IGCSE subjects

- Vietnamese Studies
- Core Physical Education (PE)
- Life Skills and Wellbeing (previously 'PSHE')

Optional IGCSE subjects

- Art & Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)

* While all students not studying Vietnamese as an additional language (VAL) are required to study IGCSE First Language Vietnamese, the choice as to whether to enrol for and sit the examination is taken by the students themselves, with guidance from their teachers.



Options Advice & Recommendations

The following information is to help you make informed decisions about your choice of IGCSE subjects.

Your compulsory subjects

Everyone at BVIS in year 10 and 11 studies the following:

- IGCSE English Language (1st or 2nd language)
- IGCSE English Literature (for higher set students only)
- IGCSE Mathematics
- IGCSE Science
- IGCSE Vietnamese**
- Personal, Health and Social Education (PHSE)*
- Core Physical Education* (PE is also offered as an IGCSE option subject)
- Vietnamese Studies*

**These subjects enable a broad and balanced curriculum but do not lead to IGCSE qualifications.*

*** While all students not studying Vietnamese as an additional language (VAL) are required to study IGCSE First Language Vietnamese, the choice as to whether to enroll for and sit the examination is taken by the students themselves, with guidance from their teachers.*

Your Options

Students also take three options subjects. Our advice for making good choices is:

- Do choose subjects you enjoy.
- Do choose subjects you are already doing well in.
- Don't choose subjects just because your friends are doing them.
- Don't choose subjects because you like your current teacher. You may not have the same teacher next school year.
- Do talk to your Form Tutor, subject teachers and parents before making your final decision.
- Do talk to the University and Careers Guidance Counsellor if think you might want to go to university in California as this state has specific subject requirements.
- Do consider trying a new subject which you might not have studied before.



Progression from IGCSE to A Levels

Students and parents often ask if you need to study a particular subject at IGCSE to study it at A Level. The answer depends on the subject.

The first group of subjects normally require an IGCSE in the same subject before starting A Level. This is because A Level study builds upon the knowledge, skills and understanding gained through IGCSE study. Our experience suggests that students who do well in these subjects have normally secured a grade at IGCSE of 'B' (CAIE) or '6' (Pearson Edexcel)

- **Art**
- **Maths**
- **Music**
- **English Literature.**

Similarly, for the following subjects, a good IGCSE pass ('C' or above) in either coordinated or triple science is a good starting point for starting the A Level course.

- **Biology**
- **Physics**
- **Chemistry.**

Students who have grades below this in coordinated or triple science at IGCSE often find A Level sciences very difficult to access.

The next group of subjects are offered at IGCSE and this is a good preparation for A level study. However, the A level syllabuses are designed to allow students to start A level study without having done the subject at IGCSE and many students do this successfully each year:

Business	Drama
Economics	History
Geography	Physical Education

Finally, BVIS also offers a few new subjects at A level which are not taught at IGCSE and you do not need prior knowledge to study these courses. They often make good choices if you are interested in that subject and have not had the opportunity to study it in the past.

- **Media Studies**
- **Psychology**

Business and Economics

Finally, it is worth noting that we do not allow students to take both IGCSE Business and IGCSE Economics. To help students decide between the two subjects, the following distinction is worth bearing in mind: economics is about understanding how money, resources, and choices work in the world — it looks at big ideas like how countries trade, why prices go up or down, how governments make economic decisions, and how these things affect people's lives. It focuses more on theory and how the whole economy works. IGCSE Business, on the other hand, is about how individual companies are run — it looks at things like marketing, production, managing people, finance, and how businesses make decisions to be successful. Linguistically, economics can be more challenging than business because the subject matter often relates to abstract concepts that are require a higher level of vocabulary to describe and explain



Art and Design

IGCSE Art and Design offers students the opportunity to develop their technical skills and ideas through a range of different media and materials. In the course, students are encouraged to develop their own personal response to themes, whilst also critically engaging in artwork made by artists from different cultures and times in history. Examples of previous projects are Natural Form; Identity; Looking Through; Expression.

Throughout the course, students will be given the opportunity to work with a variety of 2D and 3D materials including drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles, collage, sculpture, photography and digital art.

Sketchbooks are supplied by the school, and students are expected to complete their homework tasks in these. They are also encouraged to use the sketchbook to evidence their development, through both primary and secondary research. Students must show engagement with their surroundings through first-hand recording and drawing from observation. Marks are awarded for the quality and depth of this preparatory work and it is essential that it supports and informs the final piece.



IGCSE Art and Design course consists of two components:

- Component 1 (72 marks - 50% of iGCSE) - Personal Portfolio
- For the coursework component, candidates produce a supporting portfolio of work and a final outcome in a chosen medium.
- Component 2 (72 marks - 50% of iGCSE) – Externally Set Assignment
- Students respond to a given theme, provided by the exam board. There is a limited preparatory period during which time candidates produce supporting studies, leading up to a ten-hour controlled examination where students produce a final artwork.

The world of Art and Design encompasses a multitude of areas including Fine Art, Sculpture, Graphic Design, Fashion and Textile Design, Interior Design, Product Design, Architecture, Photography, Advertising, Handicraft, Film, Animation, Theatre Design as well as Philosophy; Media Studies; Cultural Theory and Art History. iGCSE Art & Design gives students the opportunity to develop a visual and critical language, to help understand the world around them and to communicate their thoughts and ideas. Art & Design offers many transferable skills for any chosen progression route or career path, including creative problem solving, critical thinking, self-regulation, independence and time management.



Business

Why study Business ?

The Business course is a practical course for students who expect to see themselves in the roles of the various people involved in business. They are given basic data about a situation or problem and are expected to respond in the same way as a responsible person would in business. Students should have a strong interest in business and want to learn how a business is organised, operates, plans and makes its decisions.

Course Description

Below is a selection of the areas studied and what is covered:

- **People in business** - Looks at people in organisations with a focus on their roles, relationships and management in business.
- **Financial information and financial decisions** - Focuses on the use of accounting and financial information as an aid to decision-making.
- **Marketing** - Looks at identifying and satisfying customer needs in a changing and competitive environment.
- **Operations management** - Considers the way organisations use and manage resources to produce goods and services.
- **External influences on business issues** – Considers and examines the external factors that affect business activity.

Assessment

At the end of the two-year course students will be required to take two external examination papers:

Paper	Description	Weighting
Paper 1 (1 hour 30 mins)	Short answers and data response	50%
Paper 2 (1 hour 30 mins)	Case study paper	50%



What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Have an interest in how a business operates
- Enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- Would like to do a subject that offers opportunities for a career in business
- Would like to learn how to make business decisions and solve business problems
- Want to keep their options open – Business can be a useful choice for a wide range of careers and can be combined with a wide range of subjects.

Computer Science

Computer Science is about understanding how computers work and how we can use them to solve problems. Students learn how software is designed, how data is stored and transmitted, and how programs are written to make technology work effectively.

A key part of the course is computational thinking - learning how to break problems down, spot patterns, design step-by-step solutions (algorithms), and turn these ideas into working programs using Pseudocode and Python.

This course is ideal for students who:

- Enjoy problem-solving and logical thinking
- Are curious about how technology works
- Want practical skills that support future careers and further study
- Are interested in AI, robotics, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies

Computer Science develops transferable skills such as precision, resilience, creativity, and independent thinking, which are valued across all subjects and careers.

Topics Taught

Computer Systems (Paper 1)	Algorithms, Programming & Logic (Paper 2)
1. How data is represented (binary, images, sound)	1. Algorithm design and problem-solving
2. Data transmission and networks	2. Programming using Pseudocode and Python
3. Computer hardware and architecture	3. Databases and basic SQL
4. Software and operating systems	4. Boolean logic and logic gates
5. The internet and its uses, including cybersecurity	
6. Automated and emerging technologies (AI, robotics)	

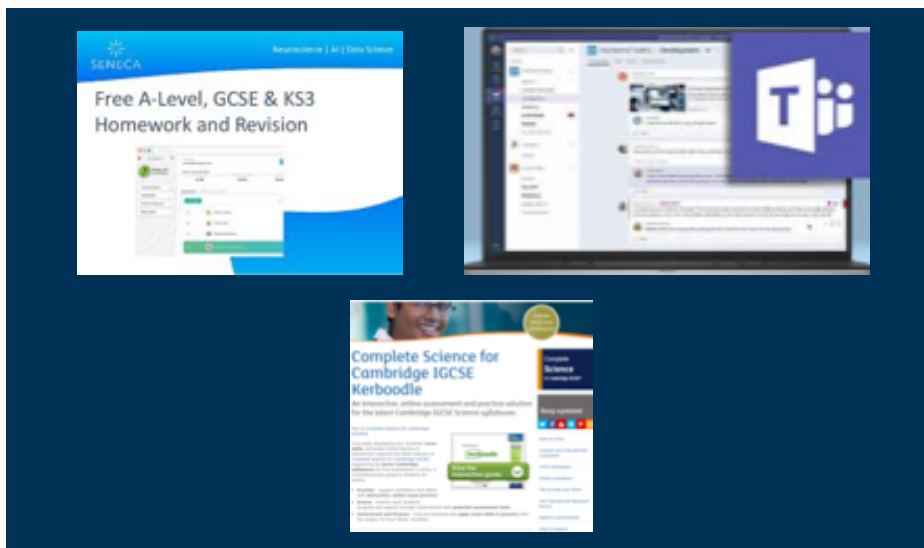
Paper	Description	Weighting
Paper 1 Written exam	This contains mostly multiple choice or short answer questions, but also some requiring longer responses.	50%
Paper 2 Written exam	This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. The students will be expected to have practical experience in programming and creating their own applications.	50%



Co-ordinated Science (Double Award)



Co-ordinated textbooks are available in print to all students



Free-to-use online resources to support learning at home and in school. All students will have a Kerboodle account (institution code hfz5), access to Seneca Learning and can communicate with their classmates and teacher via Microsoft Teams.

All year 9 students have already started studying for their IGCSE science qualifications and will continue to have the opportunity to work towards their Biology (0610), Chemistry (0620) and Physics (0625) Separate Science or the Co-ordinated (0654) exams.

At the end of year 9 we select the course that best suits the students i.e. the Separate Sciences – gaining 3 qualifications or the Co-ordinated Sciences – gaining 2 qualifications (0654).

This is only the third time all students have been given this opportunity so if you have had other children come through the school it will be a different structure.

Assessment

There is a **Core** curriculum and an **Extended** curriculum (for the more able students). Students sitting the Core exams can achieve an award of grades C to G. Students sitting the Extended exams can achieve an award of grade A* to G. It will be decided in Year 11 whether students will sit the Core or Extended Curriculum exams. This will be dependent on student's ability as demonstrated over the course.

Students will take three types of exams: a multiple-choice paper, a short answer and structured question paper, and a practical or alternative to practical assessment.

Comparison between Co-ordinated and Separate Science

Co-ordinated Science	Separate Sciences
2x IGCSEs	3x IGCSEs
2/3 of the Biology iGCSE	3/3 of the Biology iGCSE
2/3 of the Chemistry iGCSE	3/3 of the Chemistry iGCSE
2/3 of the Physics iGCSE	3/3 of the Physics iGCSE
Three exams	Nine exams

Please note: The study of Science is compulsory in Y10-11 and both courses will fully prepare students for the A-level sciences offered at BVIS.



Design and Technology

Why study Design and Technology?

Design and Technology empowers students to creatively solve real-life design challenges. By integrating skills and knowledge from STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), students craft solutions that enhance and enrich the lives of others. This interdisciplinary approach nurtures their understanding of the world and encourages them to make positive impacts through innovative design.



Course Description

In Design and Technology, students cultivate high-order thinking skills through analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. They explore opportunities for design and development, conducting detailed research and mastering techniques in drawing and modeling. Utilizing a wide array of manufacturing techniques, including Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/CAM), students learn to create products with precision and skill. They delve into industrial applications such as printing techniques, plastic forming, and automation while considering the social, ethical, and environmental implications of their designs.

Students acquire proficiency in various drawing techniques, including geometry, orthographic and isometric projection, perspective, annotated freehand sketching, and color rendering. They utilize industry-standard software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to enhance their design capabilities.

Central to the course is a self-directed coursework project, guided by teachers, where students select their area of study and develop a design brief promoting creativity, innovation, and real-life problem-solving. Throughout this process, they tackle technical challenges, striving for design excellence.

Assessment in Design and Technology encompasses both coursework evaluation (50%) and two examinations (2x25%), ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of students' skills and knowledge.



Drama

Why study Drama?

All the world's a stage and drama will teach you the most fundamental and transferable skills you need to succeed in it. From being able to lead others persuasively, give inspiring presentations, conduct research, take risks and solve problems creatively, drama will support you no matter what direction you take in the future.

The course also develops your ability to analyse and interpret texts, historical events and cultural/ social issues alongside strengthening your essay writing ability which will make you a well-rounded learner.

Alongside creative industries, the study of drama can support those looking to work in business, law, marketing, public relations- in fact any industry which involves creativity, teamwork and the ability to speak in front of others!

This course will:

- **Develop your academic writing skills**- You will learn how to write analytical essays based on your understanding of the social/ cultural and historical context of play texts and authors.
- **Develop communication skills** – You will learn how to use your body and voice to engage an audience and communicate meaning in a way that holds people's attention.
- **Improve your research and analytical skills**– You will conduct independent research into a diverse range of cultures, historical events and time periods and use this knowledge to analyse texts through a modern lens.
- **Develop performance skills**: You will learn the main tools of an actor such as vocal projection, expression and stage presence.
- **Develop your leadership skills**- You will direct your peers using self-written directorial concepts in order to demonstrate your creative decision making. You will plan and teach warm up activities and work in groups to self-stage extracts.

Course Description

Assessment

Component 1= 40%

You will complete a 2 hour 30 minute exam in Year 11. This exam is based on analysis of 2 separate plays, as well as evaluation of your practical choices during the course.

Component 2= 60%

You will complete three pieces of practical coursework.

- **One individual performance of a monologue**
- **One scene from a play in a group**
- **One devised play in a group**

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Drama IGCSE is absolutely for you if:

- You have an interest in performing
- You want to develop your confidence and oration skills
- You enjoy practical work
- You are interested in human behaviour
- You like exploring historical and social events

Economics

Why study Economics?

The Economics course is designed to develop an understanding of economic principles in relation to the world in which we live. Economics provides students with an analytical challenge since it seeks answers to difficult questions. Examples include:

- What can we do about poverty?
- What is the best way to allocate resources in society?
- Should governments tax businesses that pollute?
- Is the free market the best way to produce goods and services?



The subject will help students to participate more fully in decision-making processes, as consumers and producers and as citizens of the local, national and international community. Students will also develop an understanding of the economies of developed and developing nations and of the relationships between them.

Course Description

Below is a selection on the areas studied and what is covered:

1. Basic economic problem
2. The allocation of resources
3. Microeconomic decision makers
4. Government and the macro economy
5. Economic development
6. International trade and globalisation

Assessment

At the end of the two-year course students will be required to take two external examination papers:

Paper	Description	Weighting
Paper 1 (1 hour)	40 multiple choice questions	30%
Paper 2 (2 hours)	Structured questions (80 marks)	70%

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

- Students, who have an interest in why and how economies exist and how they can be managed and developed.
- Those students, who have an interest in economic numeracy and literacy and have the ability to handle simple data including graphs and diagrams.



English: First Language, Second Language, Literature

Why study English Language and Literature?

The study of English and Literature is your passport to the social, professional and business world. English is a world language which is essential for anyone who wants to become a doctor, engineer, architect, lawyer or a business executive and can support entry to universities and colleges worldwide. English Literature develops your cultural capital and enriches your life in a meaningful and profound way.

What courses do we offer?

We offer the University of Cambridge IGCSE First Language, Second Language, and Literature courses. Students take the course which is most suitable for them and their future ambitions, based on the advice and guidance of their English teacher and their record of work at KS3.

What will you learn as part of your English language course?

Both First and Second Language courses develop each student's ability to:

- Write fluently in a variety of styles for different audiences and purposes
- Read and respond to a wide range of literature and non-fiction texts
- Engage in oral work, including discussions, role plays and presentations
- Summarise accurately
- Compare texts and draw conclusions based on inference as well as on what is clearly stated
- Study sections of the media, including newspapers, film and advertising
- Consolidate knowledge and understanding of grammar, spelling and punctuation
- To write fluently and creatively

The study of English First or Second language is compulsory at KS4. Student pathways will depend on assessment results and progress and development at KS3, as well as teacher-based judgement.

The First Language pathway is appropriate for our highest attaining learners and will support your application to top universities and courses. The Second Language pathway is a respected pathway and is accredited by most universities across the world.

First Language Pathway

Assessment	Weighting	Timing
Reading and writing	50%	2 hours
Coursework portfolio	50%	Students will complete 3 pieces of work

The Second Language Pathway (count-in speaking)

Assessment	Weighting	Timing
Reading and writing	50%	2 hours
Listening	25%	50 minutes
Speaking	25%	15 minutes

The Second Language Pathway (speaking endorsement*)

Assessment	Weighting	Timing
Reading and writing	70%	2 hours
Listening	30%	50 minutes
Speaking	N.A	15 minutes

**With this pathway, marks for the Speaking component do not contribute to the overall grade candidates receive. Students will, however, still complete a speaking assessment.*

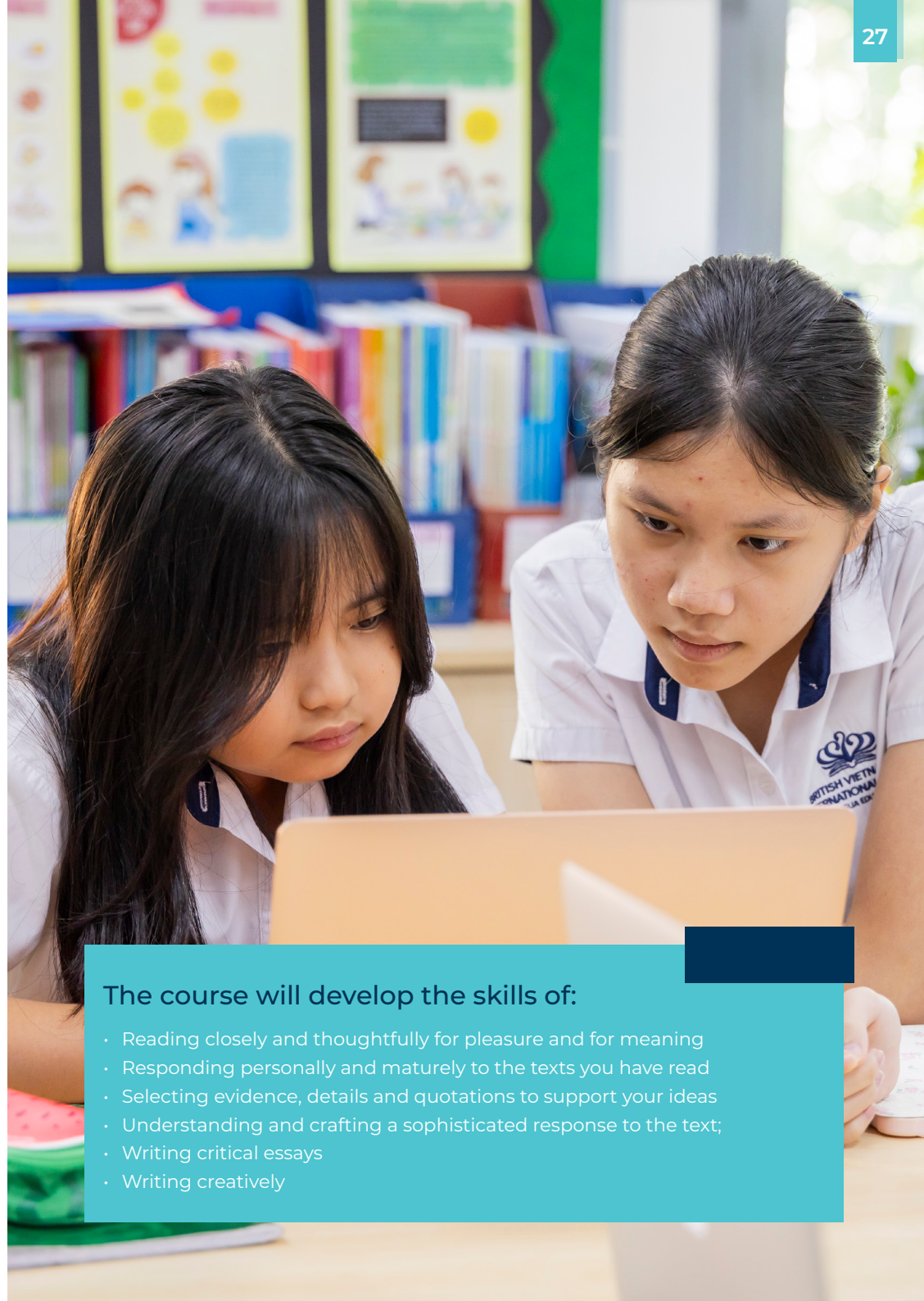
English Literature

Students need to have a high proficiency of English Language to succeed in the Literature course. A challenging and mature course, Literature is immensely satisfying, enjoyable and valuable.

This course is particularly suitable for students who enjoy reading and sharing their ideas with others in class discussions. The emphasis of the course is on personal response, supported by solid understanding of the texts and an awareness of the use of language, structure, characterisation and other literary devices.

English Literature pathway

Assessment	Weighting	Timing
Paper 1: Poetry and Prose (open text)	50%	1 hour 30 minutes
and		
Paper 2 – Drama and unseen	50%	2 hours
or		
Component 3: Coursework portfolio	50%	Candidates submit two essays: 1. Comparing texts: write an essay comparing two complete texts. One text must be drama, the second text may be drama or prose. 2. Comparing poems: write an essay comparing two poems. These may be poems studied for Paper 1.



The course will develop the skills of:

- Reading closely and thoughtfully for pleasure and for meaning
- Responding personally and maturely to the texts you have read
- Selecting evidence, details and quotations to support your ideas
- Understanding and crafting a sophisticated response to the text;
- Writing critical essays
- Writing creatively



Geography



Geography is more than maps and mountains—it's about understanding people, places, and the planet. It's a subject that shapes leaders

- Prince William -



Geography helps you make sense of the world around you. It's hands-on, relevant, and fun. IGCSE Geography is designed to develop your understanding of the world, sharpen your geographical skills, and shape your attitudes toward global challenges.

Through the study of places and the natural and human processes that shape them, you'll explore patterns and pressing issues that matter—especially those impacting the future of Vietnam and our interconnected world. From climate change to urbanization, migration to sustainability, you'll learn how to analyze, evaluate, and make informed decisions.

As international connections grow stronger and faster, understanding geography is more important than ever. Many top CEOs and global leaders have backgrounds in the humanities—because understanding people, places, and global systems is key to leading in the 21st century.

At the end of the two-year course three exams will be undertaken, assessing knowledge & understanding, skills & analysis, evaluation & decision-making, and field work techniques. A residential field trip to Mui Ne and a day trip within HCMC will prepare you for the field work techniques paper.

The following topics will be covered:

Paper 1 Physical Geography	Paper 2 Human Geography	Paper 4
- Changing river environments - Changing coastal environments - Changing ecosystems - Tectonic hazards - Climate change	- Changing populations - Changing towns and cities - Development - Changing economies (Including globalisation & tourism) - Resource provision (Food and energy)	- Geography Fieldwork covering: - River environments - Coastal environments - Tourism - Changing populations - Changing cities - Tourism



Geography is the perfect subject for curious minds who want to understand the world around them — and how they can shape its future:

- Are fascinated by how places — from tiny villages to massive cities — are changing and why
- Want to explore how people impact the environment and how we can protect it
- Are intrigued by the natural forces that create our landscapes, from mountains to coastlines
- Enjoy learning about real-world issues that affect people and places — locally and globally
- Like the idea of learning outside the classroom through exciting fieldwork opportunities
- Want to develop a wide range of useful skills -from data analysis to decision-making - that are highly valued by top universities and in many future careers.

Paper	Description	Weighting
Paper 1	Physical Geography: Structured questions with short answer & extended responses items, with some based-on resources given.	36%
Paper 2	Human Geography: Structured questions with short answer & extended responses items, with some based-on resources given.	36%
Paper 3	Geographical Investigations: About fieldwork you practice in Mui Ne & HCMC	28%

History

To understand political, social and economic issues in the present day, it is essential to understand and learn about History. If you have an inquisitive mind and want to understand the world around you more, then History is an excellent option to choose. Not only will the course help you to make sense of significant social and political events, but it will also give you the opportunity to discuss what happened and why it happened, whilst encouraging you to develop your own opinions.

IGCSE History will also help you to develop many new and valuable skills that will benefit you in whatever you do in life. It will help you to write and argue more coherently, organise your work so that your ideas are clearly explained and evaluate source material more critically. The transferable nature of these skills means it is highly regarded in universities across the world and is a great choice for a wide range of careers such as; journalism, law, politics, business, the public sector, broadcasting, NGO's, archaeology and anthropology.

History students need to be able to do the following:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of selected periods and/or aspects of history, exploring the significance of historical events, people, changes and issues.
- Use historical sources critically, in context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions
- Develop an awareness that different interpretations have been constructed about people, events and developments.
- Organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history.
- Draw conclusions and make historical judgements.

The course is split into two parts:

Paper 1 – Depth Studies:

1. Germany: development of dictatorship, 1918–45
 - The establishment of the Weimar Republic and its early problems
 - The recovery of Germany, 1924–29
 - The rise of Hitler and the Nazis to January 1933
 - Nazi Germany 1933–39
 - Germany and the occupied territories during the Second World War

2. A world divided: superpower relations, 1943–72
 - Reasons for the Cold War
 - Early developments in the Cold War, 1945–49
 - The Cold War in the 1950s
 - Three crises: Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia
 - The Thaw and moves towards Détente, 1963–72

Paper 2 – Investigation and Breadth Studies:

1. The USA, 1918–41 (Investigation)
 - The Roaring Twenties
 - Increased social tensions in the 1920s
 - The USA in Depression, 1929–33
 - Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1933–41
 - The Opposition to the New Deal
2. Changes in medicine, c1848–c1948 (Breadth)
 - Progress in the mid19th century; Nightingale, Chadwick, Snow and Simpson
 - Discovery and development, 1860–75; Lister and Pasteur
 - Accelerating change, 1875–1905; Ehrlich, Koch and chemistry
 - Government action and war, 1905–20
 - Advances in medicine, surgery and public health 1920–48; the NHS.

At the end of the course the students will be graded on the international IGCSE 9-1 scale, with 9 being the highest grade achievable, and 1 the lowest. The course is examined in two parts and all candidates are entered for the same two papers at the end of the two-year course.:

Paper 1 (50%) 1 hour and 30-minute examination comprising a mixture of extended writing and essay-based questions, based on two selected depth studies. Marks will be split equally between both depth studies, for a total of 60 marks.

Paper 2 (50%) 1 hour and 30-minute examination comprised of two sections, with a mixture of extended writing and essay-based questions. Section A is based on a selected historical investigation and Section B on a breadth study in change. Students answer two question sets, one for each section. The total mark for the paper is 60.

Mathematics

'Number rules the universe' -
Pythagoras.

The study of Mathematics is as ancient as civilisation. It has been developed in all cultures throughout history and is at the root of all technological developments.

The aim of the IGCSE Mathematics syllabus is to enable students to:

- Develop their mathematical knowledge and skills;
- Apply Mathematics in everyday situations and recognise Mathematical connections with other subjects, particularly science and technology;
- Interpret a situation which may be presented mathematically, construct a mathematical model and solve the problem.

At BVIS, your child will study Pearson Edexcel iGCSE Mathematics (4MA1). This course is graded from 1-9, with 9 being the highest grade possible. The content covered builds on the foundational knowledge developed in Years 7-9. The areas of focus are:

- Number and Algebra, including everyday number work;
- Shape, Space and Geometry which includes trigonometry, area and volume and transformations;
- Statistics, which includes handling data and probability;
- Problem solving to develop skills for tackling difficult Mathematical problems



CHOOSING YOUR IGCSES

There are two curriculum pathways: **Foundation** and **Higher**.

At BVIS, our ambition is for all students to access the Higher curriculum where appropriate.

For some students, the Foundation curriculum may be the most suitable pathway to support progress and success.

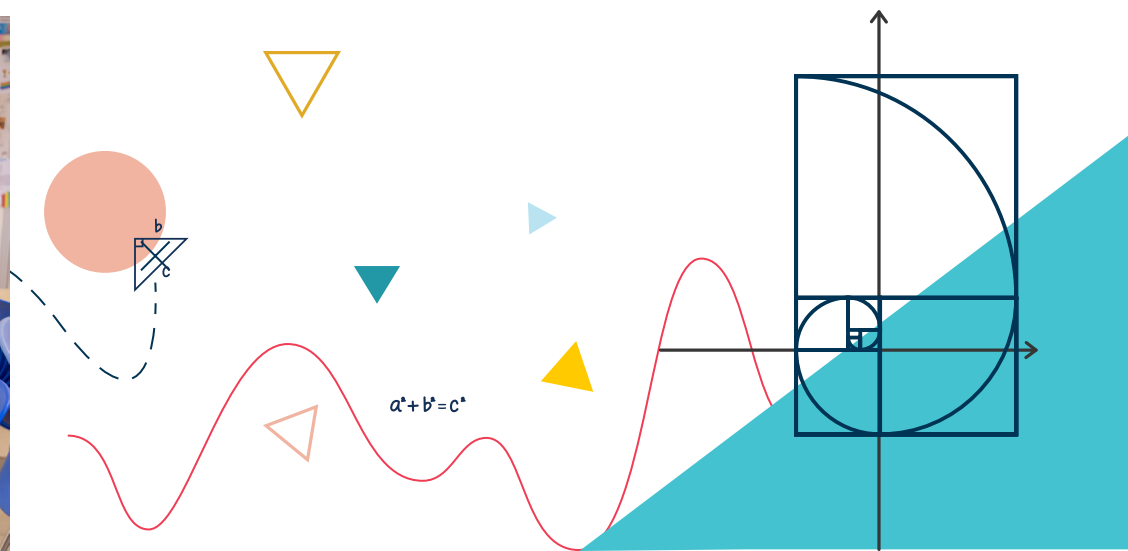
Students following the Foundation curriculum are eligible for grades **1 to 5**, while students following the Higher curriculum are eligible for grades **3 to 9**.

All students will take 2 written papers as follows:

Foundation Curriculum (Grades 1 – 5)	Higher Curriculum (Grades 3 – 9)
Paper 1F (2 hours) Structured and Unstructured Questions Calculator REQUIRED	Paper 1H (2 hours) Structured and Unstructured Questions Calculator REQUIRED
Paper 3F (2 hours) Structured and Unstructured Questions Calculator REQUIRED	Paper 2H (2 hours) Structured and Unstructured Questions Calculator REQUIRED

During Year 11, teachers will determine whether the Foundation or Higher curriculum is the most appropriate pathway for each student, based on their performance and progress over the duration of the course.

The study of Mathematics is compulsory in Y10-11.



Music

Why study Music?

Music as an academic subject provides a unique set of skills which are acknowledged to be excellent preparation for a range of careers and vocations. Music enhances creativity, communication, and self-expression and as a result learners have a deeper appreciation for Music in a global context. Music combines Arts, Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages and Sociology which creates a well-rounded education admired by universities and employers.



Course Description

Cambridge IGCSE Music is accepted by universities and employers worldwide as providing proof of musical skills, knowledge and understanding. This syllabus offers students the opportunity to develop their practical musical skills through performing and composing. They further develop their listening skills by studying music from a diverse range of world cultures and from historical periods to the present day. The emphasis of the syllabus is on enabling students to take part in an active musical life, whether as a performer, composer or listener.

The IGCSE Music course encourages learners to be:

- **Confident**, in performing music, both individually and with other musicians
- **Responsible**, in developing effective time management skills through coursework, and a sense of shared responsibility when working collaboratively with others.
- **Reflective**, in evaluating their own compositions and performances and in understanding music from diverse traditions, time and places.
- **Innovative**, in creating original music in a style of their own choice.
- **Engaged**, by participating in a variety of musical activities.

Assessment Overview

All students complete the following components:

- **Component 1:** Listening (examination) – 1 hour 15 minutes listening exam organised into seven areas of study: Western Classical Music; Vocal Music; Music for Dance; World Music for Ensembles; and Music for Stage and Screen. (40% of the IGCSE)
- **Component 2:** Performing (coursework) – Two prepared performances, one individual and one performing with others. (30% of the IGCSE)
- **Component 3:** Composing (coursework) – Two contrasting compositions, using Western notation. (30% of the IGCSE)

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

All students are welcome to apply for IGCSE Music as long as they can play at least one instrument to a good standard (equivalent to ABRSM Grade 1 and above) or are a competent and confident singer. Students should have a passion and interest in the subject and should have enjoyed studying Music at Key Stage 3.

Cambridge IGCSE Music can prepare you for further Music study as well as developing transferable skills such as self-confidence, teamwork, problem solving and creative thinking.

Physical Education



Why study Physical Education?

For sports lovers or future physiotherapists, sports and leisure managers, sports-scientists, strength and conditioning coaches, professional athletes or simply someone who is passionate about health and fitness, this is the course for you! The PE GCSE offers a range of sports such as swimming, basketball, football and badminton; all of which promote an active and healthy lifestyle. This course is designed not only for those students who have a strong personal interest in sport and physical education, but who want a deeper understanding of how PE and sport is organised. Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science through the combination of physical performance and academic challenges.

Aims and Objectives

Candidates develop a deeper understanding of sport and PE theory topics and students will improve their ability to physically perform in a range of sports. Students will learn how to analyse their own and others performance effectively.

Course Content

- Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology
- Topic 2: Movement analysis
- Topic 3: Physical training
- Topic 4: Use of data Assessment



Assessment Overview	
Component 1: 36% of the qualification Written Examination: Fitness and Body Systems	Component 2: 24% of the qualification Written Examination: Health and Performance
Component 3: 30% of the qualification Practical Performance 3 sports (1 team, 1 individual, 1 choice)	Component 4: 10% of the qualification Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students who have an interest in Physical Education and sport and who are currently involved in playing sport regularly and are willing to push themselves to improve.

Students should already be playing in BVIS squads or taking the necessary steps to joining a sports squad during Year 10.

This course is suitable for Students who want to further develop their interest and understanding in PE and Sport.

Future pathways

IGCSE PE is the ideal preparation for the A-level in PE. The course not only develops your physical skill level in a range of sports, but also offers you transferable life skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership, all of which employers look for during recruitment. Typical careers chosen by people who study the PE GCSE are physiotherapy, coaching, fitness instruction and personal training, PE teaching as well as being a professional athlete or for people who want to be involved with sports and the leisure industry at management level.



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