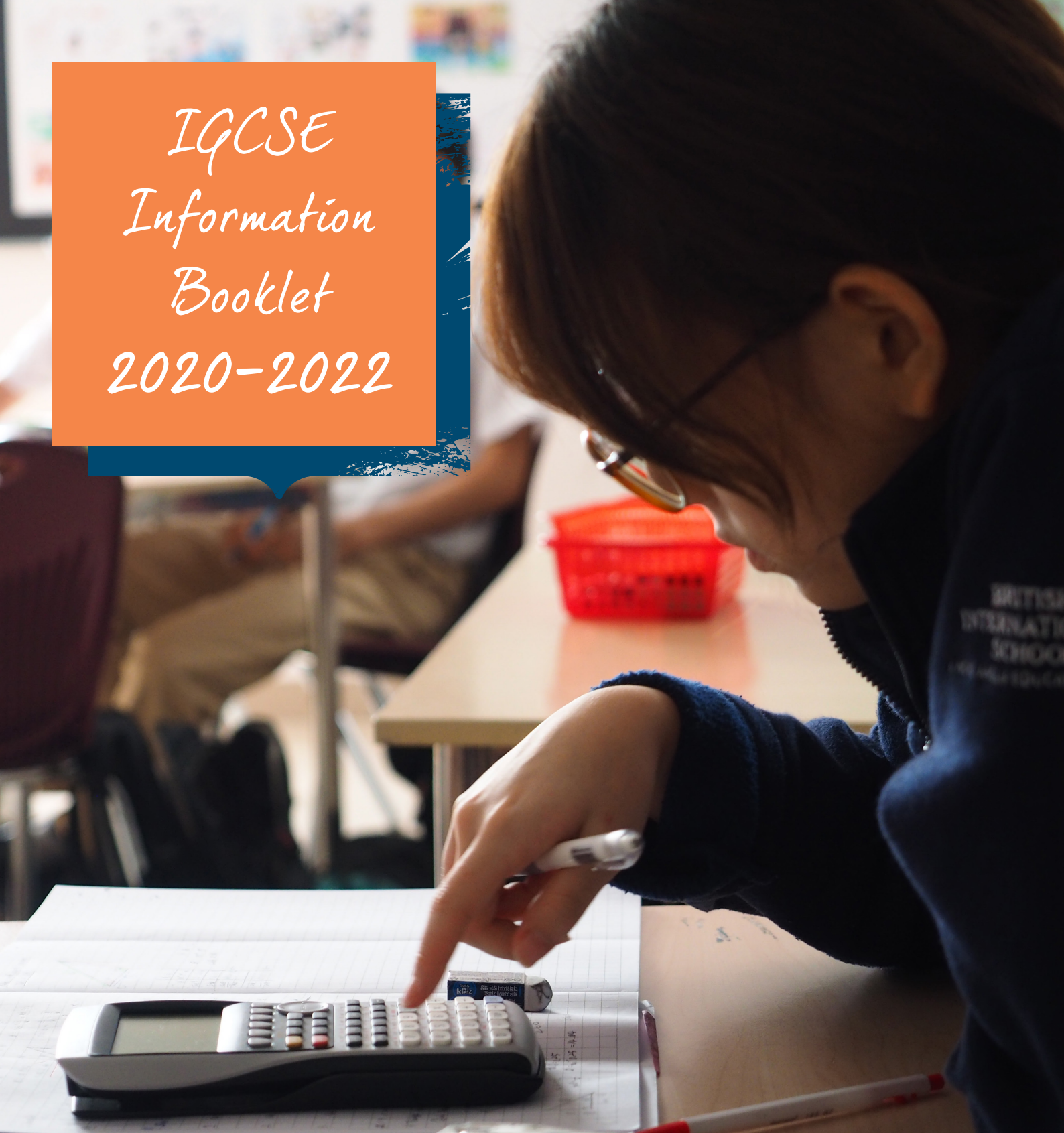


*IGCSE
Information
Booklet
2020-2022*



**BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HANOI**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

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Assistant Head of Academic's Welcome

Dear Parents,

We are excited to share with you our reviewed IGCSE offer for option choices to commence in 2020. At BIS we are committed to supporting students to become reflective and responsible global citizens, whom possess the skills to thrive in a 21st century global context.

Our curriculum is built on the British tradition of academic excellence with a clear focus on international-mindedness and developing the whole student. Globally, we are in a period where technological development is moving forward at such a pace, that we are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems, we don't even know are problems yet.

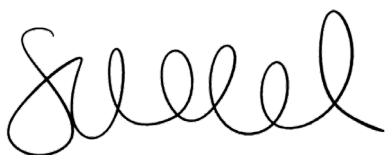
In order to fully prepare our Key Stage 4 students and ensure they leave BIS with appropriate skills for the future, that will set them apart, we are committed to provide a Key Stage 4 curriculum, which is built to offer our students a balanced, broad subject offer. One that enables rich opportunities to learn languages, deepen knowledge of the world, experience a vibrant sporting programme, expand student creativity through the arts and provides a strong foundation on which to commence the next phase of their education. It is our belief that all students should have the chance of participating in opportunities that allow them to flourish and expand their potential, both in and out of the classroom.

Alongside our formal curriculum, we offer a rich, vibrant extra-curricular activity programme. This allows our students to explore their abilities in activities such as Model United Nations, international sporting competitions and the visual arts. Our Duke of Edinburgh International Award is delivered each year with huge success and BIS Hanoi is the only school in Vietnam to offer the gold award level.

In order to fully prepare students for academic excellence we take the preparation of formal examinations seriously. We build into our curriculum assessment opportunities that are timely, rigorous and prepare each student for their final exams at the end of Year 11 and embed skills which transfer into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. With successful completion of the DP, the majority of our students will continue their studies in universities all over the world, including North America, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Korea and Hong Kong.

We wish your child an excellent journey through BIS Hanoi and should you have any queries regarding the academic aspect of your son/daughter's school-life please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Ms Stephanie Miller - Assistant Head – Academic

Your Option Choices

This booklet contains information about the course choices available to Year 10 students from August 2020 at BIS Hanoi and many of which of these choices will result in an official IGCSE qualification.

After the Year 9 Parents' Evening, your son/daughter will be asked to make their final choices for their IGCSE options.

In choosing students should think carefully about the following points:

- What do I enjoy?
- What am I good at?
- What do I need for future IB Diploma Programme choices?
- Do I have a balance of subjects?

BIS Hanoi has created a flexible programme of study for its Key Stage 4 students. All students are required to study Mathematics, Science, English, Physical Education and Life Skills.

Your Learning Foundation

You will study Mathematics, English, Science and Asian language course. These courses will form your learning foundation.

- Core Mathematics or Extended Mathematics or Extended Mathematics plus Additional Mathematics
- English First Language and English Literature or English Second Language and English Literature
- Combined Science (single award), Combined Science (Double Award) or Triple Science
- Vietnamese First Language or Korean First Language or Vietnamese Studies (non-examined subjects)

Selecting a pathway that is right for you

Students can follow a variety of pathways in addition to their learning foundation. These pathways provide varying points of focus. For some students that focus is an academic one, for others it is a creative or balanced one. Other students can follow a path of 21st century skill development, whilst others can build a programme that combines elements of all of the above. Your pathway should be based on your interests, abilities and planned future career or study aspirations.

Your Learning Pathway

To build your learning pathway, select one subject from each of the following 3 option blocks.

BLOCK 1	BLOCK 2	BLOCK 3
IBDP Knowledge Foundation	Problem-Solving and Communication Skills	Creativity and Critical Thinking Skills
IGCSE History	IGCSE Computer Science	IGCSE Art
IGCSE Geography	IGCSE Spanish/French	IGCSE Music
IGCSE Business Studies	IGCSE Drama	IGCSE Economics
	IGCSE PE	
	21st Century- Problem-solving and Communication skills (non-examined)	21st Century- Creativity and Thinking skills (non-examined)

(Please note that all options subjects are subject to numbers and timetable constraints)

You will notice that this year we are offering two new courses which can be selected by students in order to fully prepare them for IB study alongside their IGCSE courses. This could support your son/daughter with focusing their academic skills in a group of core subjects whilst also preparing for 21st century learning.

In addition to the above students will study Core PE and Life Skills. Life Skills helps the overall development of students. Topics covered include careers education, sex education, drugs education, citizenship, study skills and examination revision skills.

Advice on Choosing

Address	Content
www.cie.org.uk	Examination Board
www.ucas.com	UK University Applications
www.careers-portal.co.uk	General Careers Site
www.isco.org.uk	Careers Service

First Language English

Examination Board and Syllabus Code: CIE 0500

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is designed for students whose mother tongue is English.

The course allows students to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- 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. Cambridge IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Assessment

All candidates take:

Paper 1 2 hours
Reading 50%
80 marks
Structured and extended writing questions
Questions will be based on three reading texts
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 2 hours
Directed Writing and Composition 50%
80 marks
Extended writing question and a composition task
Externally assessed

Careers

Achieving a good standard of speaking and writing in English can only enhance your value in the job market.

Second Language English

Examination Board and Syllabus Code: CIE 0510

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is accepted by universities and employers as proof of ability to understand and communicate in English. It is aimed at students whose first language is not English, but who use it as a lingua franca or language of study. Successful English as a Second Language candidates have better educational or employment prospects and gain lifelong skills, including:

- Better communicative ability in English
- Improved ability to understand a range of social registers and styles
- A greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills
- A greater international perspective
- A sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

Assessment

Core candidates take:

Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes
Reading and Writing 70%
60 marks
Six exercises testing a range of reading and writing skills
Externally assessed

and Core candidates take:

Paper 3 Approximately 40 minutes
Listening 30%
30 marks
Candidates listen to several short extracts and longer texts, and complete a range of task types, including short-answer questions, gap filling, matching, multiple choice and note-making.
Externally assessed

and all Core and Extended candidates take:

Component 5 Speaking Approximately 10–15 minutes
30 marks Separately endorsed
Following a 2–3 minute warm-up conversation, candidates engage in a 6–9 minute discussion with the examiner on a given topic.
Internally assessed/externally moderated

Extended candidates take:

Paper 2 2 hours
Reading and Writing 70%
80 marks
Six exercises testing a range of reading and writing skills
Externally assessed

and Extended candidates take:

Paper 4 Approximately 50 minutes
Listening 30%
40 marks
Candidates listen to several short extracts and longer texts, and complete a range of task types, including short-answer questions, gap filling, matching, multiple choice and note-making.
Externally assessed

Careers

Achieving a good standard of speaking and writing in English can only enhance your value in the job market.

English Literature

Examination Board and Syllabus number: 0486

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE Literature (English) is accepted by universities and employers as proof of real knowledge and understanding. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including the ability to:

- Read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English
- Develop an understanding of literal and implicit meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed
- Recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects
- Present an informed, personal response to materials they have studied
- Explore wider and universal issues, promoting students' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

Assessment

All candidates take:

Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes
Poetry and Prose 50%
50 marks
Two questions on two texts: one poetry and one prose
Externally assessed

and either:

Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes
Drama 50%
50 marks
Two questions on two texts
Externally assessed

or:

Paper 3 45 minutes
Drama (Open Text) 25%
25 marks
One question on one text
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 4 1 hour 15 minutes
Unseen 25%
25 marks
One question requiring critical commentary
Externally assessed

or:

Paper 3 45 minutes
Drama (Open Text) 25%
25 marks
One question on one text
Externally assessed

and:

Component 5 25%
Coursework 25 marks
Portfolio of two assignments, each on a different text
Internally assessed and externally moderated

Careers

English Literature is an excellent way to demonstrate a deep interest and skill in the use of the English language, regardless of the type of English Language course followed (First Language or Second Language).

Mathematics

Examination Board and syllabus Number: 0580

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of mathematical knowledge and understanding. It supports learners in building competency, confidence and fluency in their use of techniques and mathematical understanding. Successful Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- the development of their mathematical knowledge
- confidence by developing a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships
- an ability to consider and solve problems and present and interpret results
- communication and reason using mathematical concepts
- a solid foundation for further study.

Assessment

Core candidates take:

Paper 1 (Core) 1 hour
35%

56 marks

Short-answer questions

Questions will be based on the Core curriculum

Externally assessed

and:

Paper 3 (Core) 2 hours
65%

104 marks

Structured questions

Questions will be based on the Core curriculum

Externally assessed

Extended candidates take:

Paper 2 (Extended) 1 hour 30 minutes
35%

70 marks

Short-answer questions

Questions will be based on the Extended curriculum

Externally assessed

and:

Paper 4 (Extended) 2 hours 30 minutes
65%

130 marks

Structured questions

Questions will be based on the Extended curriculum

Externally assessed

Careers

A good grade at Mathematics IGCSE or equivalent qualification is essential for many careers including Engineering, Teaching and Architecture. It is recommended for others (e.g. Medicine, Accountancy, Telecoms, Computing and the Environment) and is desirable for all careers.

Co-ordinated Sciences

Examination Board and syllabus Number: 0654

Introduction

Double award Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences is taught by subject specialists, candidates learn how science is studied and practised plus they become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus enables candidates to better understand the technological world they live in and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus is aimed at candidates across a very wide range of attainments, and will allow them to show success over the full range of grades from A*A* to GG.

Assessment

Extended candidates take:

Paper 2 **45 minutes**

A multiple-choice paper consisting of 40 items of the four-choice type.

(This paper will test assessment objectives AO1 and AO2.) Questions will be based on the Extended syllabus content (Core and Supplement).

40 marks

This paper will be weighted at 30% of the final total mark.

Externally assessed.

and:

Paper 4 **2 hours**

A written paper consisting of short-answer and structured questions.

(This paper will test assessment objectives AO1 and AO2.) Questions will be based on the Extended syllabus content (Core and Supplement).

120 marks

This paper will be weighted at 50% of the final total mark.

Externally assessed.

and:

Paper 6 **1 hour 30 minutes**

Alternative to Practical

This paper will test assessment objective AO3.

Questions will be based on the experimental skills in Section 6.

60 marks

This paper will be weighted at 20% of the final total mark.

Externally assessed.

Students receive 2 IGCSE grades for Co-ordinated Science. Students are able to be entered for a Single Award should this prove to be beneficial to them.

Careers

Students studying the Double award will find that it is an essential award for almost all career types. It provides a solid background for critical thinking, analysis and reflection which are skills required by all employers. Science graduates are one of the most sought after groups for their abilities, transferable skills and academic abilities.

Triple Sciences

Triple award Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences are taught by subject specialists, candidates learn how science is studied and practised plus they become very aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus enables candidates to better understand the technological world they live in and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus is more demanding than the Double award and requires students academically able to access this course.

The three individual sciences are studied separately but suitability for this will be determined by the Head of Department at the end of Year 9.

- Biology: CIE 0610
- Chemistry: CIE 0620
- Physics: CIE 0625

Assessment

The Assessment model is the same in all three courses and each subject will sit these assessments.

Extended candidates take:

Paper 2	45 minutes
Multiple Choice	30%
40 marks	
40 four-choice multiple-choice questions	
Questions will be based on the Extended subject content (Core and Supplement)	
Externally assessed	

and Extended candidates take:

Paper 4	1 hour 15 minutes
Theory	50%
80 marks	
Short-answer and structured questions	
Questions will be based on the Extended subject content (Core and Supplement)	
Externally assessed	

and Extended candidates take:

Paper 6	1 hour
Alternative to Practical	20%
40 marks	
Questions will be based on the experimental skills in Section 4	
Externally assessed	

Students receive three individual grades after their examinations.

Careers

Students who study the separate sciences will find that career pathways for jobs such as Biochemist, Dentist, Doctor, Engineering (all disciplines), Forensic Scientist, Marine Biologist, Nuclear Engineer, Pharmacist, Software Developer, Surgeon and Veterinary Surgeon as examples. Science graduates are one of the most sought after groups for their abilities, transferable skills and academic abilities.

Art & Design

Examination Board and syllabus Number: 0400

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design is accepted by universities, art colleges and employers as evidence of experiences and skills in developing and producing a range of artefacts and designs showing visual knowledge and understanding along with critical and cultural awareness.

Art and Design complements literary, mathematical, scientific and factual subjects. It is especially concerned with the development of visual perception and aesthetics. The subject encourages visual communication and is a means of expressing ideas and feelings. A personal and independent perspective is encouraged at all times.

Successful Art and Design candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- Confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition
- The ability to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms
- How to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions.

Assessment

Students must take two components:

Component 1 is based on a theme from an area of study where students develop a portfolio and a final piece; Component 2 is an externally set assignment and requires students to explore and develop supporting studies in preparation for a final piece.

All candidates take:

Component 1

Coursework 50%
100 marks

Candidates research, develop and realise a project from one area of study in the subject content from a theme set by the teacher.

There are **two** parts to the coursework:

- a portfolio **and**
- a final outcome.

Externally assessed

and:

Component 2

Externally Set Assignment 8 hours
50%
100 marks

Candidates respond to one starting point set by Cambridge International. Candidates may produce work from the same area of study as Component 1, but they do not have to.

There are two parts to the assignment:

- supporting studies **and**
- a final outcome, produced during a supervised test of 8 hours' total duration.

Externally assessed

Careers

Art is a useful qualification either for progression to IB DP and Higher Education in an Art or Design subject or as a general background to creative course and careers. Taking Art & Design as an option can lead to many exciting opportunities for the future. With Art you may become an interior designer or the next big animator. You could go into illustration, architecture, fashion or graphic design. There are literally thousands of options. Even if you are not planning on a future career in the creative arts, it looks great on college and university applications. This is because being an artist requires passion, imagination, risk taking and shows commitment, individuality and creativity. Qualities and skills used in every career.

Business Studies

Examination Board and syllabus Number: 0450

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies is accepted by universities and employers as proof of an understanding of business concepts and techniques across a range of different types of businesses. Successful Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies students gain lifelong skills, including:

- Understanding different forms of business organisations, the environments in which businesses operate and business functions such as marketing, operations and finance
- An appreciation of the critical role of people in business success
- Confidence to calculate and interpret business data
- Communication skills including the need to support arguments with reasons
- Ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements.

The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study at Cambridge International A Level and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

Assessment

All candidates take two components, Paper 1 and Paper 2.

All candidates take:

Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes
Short Answer and Data Response 50%
80 marks
Four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses
Candidates answer all questions
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes
Case Study 50%
80 marks
Four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper
Candidates answer all questions
Externally assessed

Careers

Business Studies provides an excellent general introduction into the world of Business and is a useful stepping stone to business courses at IB and beyond.

Computer Science

Examination Board and syllabus Number: 0478

Introduction

The Cambridge Computer Science syllabus encourages students to develop computational thinking and logical reasoning. Students will be presented with a variety of problems which require a computer to form the solution. Students will learn how to problem solve through algorithmic thinking and computer programming. The course will provide students with lifelong skills including:

- the ability to think logically and present solutions to a problem with the aid of computers
- an understanding of how computers can solve problems
- an understanding of the functions of computer systems and the role they play in organisations
- the ability to plan, design and implement a solution and accepting feedback from others

Assessment

All candidates take two papers

All candidates take:

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes
Theory 60%
75 marks
Short answer and structured questions
Questions will be based on section 1 of the Subject content
All questions are compulsory
No calculators are permitted
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 1 hour 45 minutes
Problem-solving and Programming 40%
50 marks
Short answer and structured questions
Questions will be based on section 2 of the Subject content
All questions are compulsory
20 marks are from questions set on the pre-release material¹
No calculators are permitted
Externally assessed

Careers

IGCSE Computer Science provides students with an understanding of programming as well as the use of hardware and software in organisations. These skills are appreciated by employers across the globe. There is a huge shortage of people who can 'code' and as such, employees with a good coding ability are highly sought after; the demand is extremely high.

Games, websites and mobile apps aren't developed by simply clicking a button. They are developed by people who can work collaboratively, problem solve, persevere, strive to develop the best, take on feedback and constantly evaluate one's own work. It is these skills and attributes which are very attractive to any employer in any industry.

Drama

Examination Board and Syllabus Number: 0411

Introduction

The Cambridge IGCSE Drama Syllabus is designed as a two-year course for examination at age 16-plus. Through practical and theoretical study, the Cambridge IGCSE Drama syllabus encourages students to understand and enjoy drama by:

- developing their performance skills, both individually and in groups
- understanding the role of actor, director and designer in creating a piece of theatre
- considering ways in which ideas and feelings can be communicated to an audience
- discovering the performance possibilities of plays and other dramatic stimuli
- devising dramatic material of their own.

For Cambridge IGCSE Drama, candidates take two compulsory components:

Component 1 (Written examination) and Component 2 (Coursework), and are eligible for the award of grades A* to G.

Components Weighting

Component 1 Written examination 2 hours 30 minutes

The questions on this paper relate to pre-release material which is sent to Centres in advance of the examination. This material consists of three stimuli and an extended extract from a play (or an abridged version of an entire play).

Candidates devise a piece of drama based on one of the three stimuli and study the extract from the play. The questions on the paper will require candidates to have engaged with the pre-release material from the perspective of actor, director and designer. The question paper is structured as follows:

- Section A (30 marks) Candidates answer 6–8 short-answer questions on the extract from the play (20 marks) and 2–4 questions on the drama devised from their chosen stimulus (10 marks).
- Section B (25 marks) Candidates answer one longer-answer question from a choice of three on the extract from the play.
- Section C (25 marks) Candidates answer one longer-answer question from a choice of three on the drama devised from their chosen stimulus.

Externally assessed. 40%

Component 2 Coursework

Candidates submit three pieces of practical work.

One individual piece (3–5 minutes): one performance of an extract from a play.

Two group pieces (maximum 15 minutes each): one performance of an extract from a play and one original devised piece.

Note: the stimuli on the pre-release material for Component 1 may not be used as a basis for the devised piece on Component 2.

Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Careers

The careers that directly use a drama qualification are wide and far ranging including careers in the television, theatre, directing and production. It is also a good background for someone looking at any creative career.

Economics

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE Economics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of economics. Successful Cambridge IGCSE Economics candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- An understanding of economic theory, terminology and principles
- The ability to apply the tools of economic analysis
- The ability to distinguish between facts and value judgements in economic issues
- An understanding of, and an ability to use, basic economic numeracy and literacy
- The ability to take a greater part in decision-making processes in everyday life
- An understanding of the economies of developed and developing nations
- An excellent foundation for advanced study in economics.

Prior learning Candidates beginning this course are not expected to have studied economics previously. Progression Cambridge IGCSE Certificates are general qualifications that enable candidates to progress either directly to employment, or to proceed to further qualifications.

Candidates who are awarded grades C to A* in Cambridge IGCSE Economics are well prepared to follow courses leading to Cambridge International AS and A Level Economics, or the equivalent (i.e. IB Diploma Programme).

Assessment

All candidates take:

Paper 1 45 minutes
Multiple Choice 30%
30 marks
Candidates answer all 30 questions
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 2 hours 15 minutes
Structured Questions 70%
90 marks
Candidates answer one compulsory question and three questions from a choice of four.
Externally assessed

Careers

With a background in economics, it seems, anything is possible. Common economics careers and roles include auditor, stockbroker, insurer, business manager, retail merchandiser, pricing analyst, statistician, financial consultant and salesperson.

Geography

Examination Board and Syllabus Number: 0460

Introduction

Geography is a subject that combines very well with others in the curriculum and that aims to develop a range of transferable skills as well as breadth of knowledge. The Geography IGCSE course brings in current geographical concerns as well as a sound grounding in key ideas. Studying Geography at IGCSE will allow you to deepen your knowledge of a range of topics drawing from physical, human and environmental aspects of the discipline.

Course Outline

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. We follow the Cambridge IGCSE Geography course which includes an interesting mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, resources and sustainability, extreme environments, rivers, and hazards to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world. There are many ways of learning in Geography. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

Assessment (note - we take Paper 3 which involves a compulsory field trip)

All candidates take three components. All candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 2, and either Component 3 or Paper 4

All candidates take:

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes
Geographical Themes 45%
75 marks, weighted to 100 marks
Candidates answer three questions, each worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer one question from each section
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes
Geographical Skills 27.5%
60 marks
Candidates answer all the questions
Externally assessed

and either:

Component 3
Coursework 27.5%
60 marks
Teachers set one centre-based assignment of up to 2000 words
Centre-based assessment*

or:

Paper 4 1 hour 30 minutes
Alternative to Coursework 27.5%
60 marks
Candidates answer two compulsory questions, completing a series of written tasks
Externally assessed

A Place for Geography

This course is designed to equip you with many skills that are useful in other subjects and in the workplace. You will become confident at handling a variety of data sources and develop competent decision making skills through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). You will also understand the complexities of managing the environment and use your problem-solving skills to suggest and evaluate solutions to many problems facing our planet today.

Careers

Looking further into the future, the course provides an excellent basis for moving towards our new and exciting IB Diploma course and then onwards towards university. Geography students will be well rounded and well prepared for the challenge of The IB. The skills learnt in Geography are extremely transferable and link and support other academic subjects such as Mathematics and the core and applied Sciences. Here is a short list of careers that see Geography as an important qualification to have in the job market: Accountant, Business Owner, Architect, Fashion Designer, Doctor, Lawyer, Urban Planner, Teacher, Geochemist. In short, every job needs a good Geographer!

History

Examination Board and Syllabus Number: 0470

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE is accepted by universities and employers worldwide as providing proof of historical knowledge and understanding as well as analysis and evaluation skills.

The History syllabus offers students the opportunity to study some of the major international issues of the 20th century, by exploring seven key historical questions:

1. Were the peace treaties of 1919–23 fair?
2. To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
3. Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?
4. Who was to blame for the Cold War?
5. How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?
6. How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

Students also complete an **in-depth study** on Germany looking in greater detail at the demise of democracy in the Weimar Republic and the rise of Hitler and the Third Reich.

The emphasis within the syllabus is as much on developing lifelong historical skills as on acquiring knowledge. Successful candidates gain valuable skills including:

- an interest in and enthusiasm for learning and understanding about the past
- an understanding of historical concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change, and similarity and difference
- an appreciation of historical evidence and how to use it
- a greater understanding of international issues and inter-relationships
- how to present clear, logical arguments.

Assessment

Students sit three examinations: Papers 1, 2 and 4.

All candidates take:

Paper 1 2 hours
Written paper 40%
60 marks
Candidates answer **two** questions from Section A (Core Content) and **one** question from Section B (Depth Studies)
All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into three parts: (a), (b) and (c)
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 2 hours
Written paper 33%
50 marks
Candidates answer **six** questions on **one** prescribed topic taken from the Core Content. There is a range of source material relating to each prescribed topic. The prescribed topic changes in each examination session – see Section 4
Externally assessed

or:

Paper 4 1 hour
Alternative to Coursework – 27%
Written paper
40 marks
Candidates answer **one** question on a Depth Study
Externally assessed

Careers

The skills taught in History are very transferable to a number of different areas. History is seen as a good background for lawyers, politicians, diplomats, journalists, writers, and historians and is directly useful for those who want to go into media, education, tourism and conservation. This is in addition to being an excellent introduction to the study of History at IB and University.

Music

Examination Board and Syllabus Number: 0410

Introduction

The Cambridge IGCSE Music Syllabus is designed as a two-year course for examination at age 16-plus.

The aims of the syllabus are to:

- enable candidates to acquire and consolidate a range of basic musical skills, knowledge and understanding, through the activities of listening, performing and composing
- help candidates develop a perceptive, sensitive and critical response to the main historical periods and styles of Western music
- help candidates to recognise and understand the music of various non-Western traditions, and thus to form an appreciation of cultural similarities and differences
- provide a foundation for the development of an informed appreciation of music
- provide a foundation for further study in music at a higher level.

With grades C to A*, candidates are well prepared to follow courses leading to Level 3 qualifications such as GCE AS and A Level Music, IB Music or the Cambridge International AS and A Level Music.

Assessment

All candidates take:

Component 1 c.1 hour 15 minutes
Listening 40%
70 marks
Written examination based on CD recordings
supplied by Cambridge International
Externally assessed

and:

Component 2 Coursework
Performing 30%
50 marks
Two prepared performances, one individual
and one ensemble
Internally marked/externally moderated

and:

Component 3 Coursework
Composing 30%
100 marks scaled to 50 marks
Two contrasting compositions
Internally marked/externally moderated

Careers

The careers that directly use a music qualification are wide and far ranging including careers in the television, theatre, music technology and production. It is also a good background for someone looking at any creative career.

Physical Education

Examination Board and Syllabus Number: 0413

Introduction

Universities and employers accept Cambridge IGCSE Physical Education as proof that candidates have knowledge, skills and an understanding of a range of relevant physical activities. Candidates' knowledge, skills and understanding come from studying both practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education.

Successful Cambridge IGCSE Physical Education students gain lifelong skills, including:

- an ability to plan, perform, analyse and improve, and evaluate physical activities
- knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of relevant physical activities
- an understanding of effective and safe performance
- an understanding of the role of sport and physical activity in society and in the wider world
- an excellent foundation for advanced study
- an enjoyment of physical activity.

Assessment

Component	Weighting
Paper 1: Theory Candidates answer all questions. 100 marks Externally assessed.	50%
Component 2: Coursework Candidates undertake four physical activities from at least two of the seven categories listed. Internally assessed / externally moderated.	50%

Careers

As well as promoting the lifelong skills of fitness, a PE IGCSE is a useful entry point for A Level, IB and Higher Level courses in PE. A number of careers involve elements of the skills taught in PE including Sports Science, Sports Psychology, Fitness Management and Performance Management.

Spanish/French

Examination Board and Syllabus Number: Spanish 0530
French 0520

Curriculum aims

The Cambridge IGCSE Foreign Language syllabus is designed for students who are learning Spanish or French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners' progress through their studies.

It also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

Assessment

All candidates take:

Paper 1 approximately 45 minutes
Listening 25%
45 marks
Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer questions testing comprehension
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 1 hour
Reading 25%
45 marks
Candidates read a number of texts and answer questions testing comprehension
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 3 approximately 15 minutes
Speaking* 25%
100 marks
Candidates complete two role plays, a topic presentation/conversation and a general conversation
Internally assessed/externally moderated

and:

Paper 4 1 hour
Writing 25%
50 marks
Candidates respond in the target language to three tasks
Externally assessed

Careers

Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally. Job options include; Interpreter, School Teacher, Translator, Broadcast Journalist, Diplomatic Service, International Aid Worker.

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