



Year 9-10 Options and Information Evening

Tuesday 14 January 2020



GCSEs and IGCSEs

- GCSEs and IGCSEs are two-year programmes of study.
- Courses are provided by UK based exam boards and we offer those from Cambridge and Edexcel.
- At the end of the course, in Year 11, students will sit GCSE and IGCSE exams. Some subjects also have coursework components.
- Students choose their options from within option blocks.
- All students sit mock examinations in January of Year 11.
- Final examinations take place in May/June of Year 11.



How are option blocks designed?

- Option blocks are necessary to design a timetable where every student is occupied all the time.
- Year 9 have already completed a survey to establish which combinations of subjects they would like to study.
- The school has worked very hard to accommodate all our students when putting option blocks together.
- Although it is impossible to accommodate all requests, the vast majority of students will be able to take most, if not all of the subject combinations they wish to study at I/GCSE.



Availability of Options

- English, Maths, Biology and Chemistry are compulsory

In addition

- Muslim Kuwaitis must take Arabic, Islam, Physics + 2 choices
- Non-Muslim Kuwaitis must take Arabic, Physics + 3 choices
- Muslim Arabs must take Arabic, Islam + 3 choices
- Non-Muslim Arabs must take Arabic + 4 choices
- Muslim Non-Arabs must take Islam for Non Arabs + 4 choices
- Non-Muslim Non-Arabs make 5 free choices.



Options List

- Islamic Subjects – Gov. Islam, Gov. Islam for NA
- Arabic Subjects – Gov. Arabic 1st, IGCSE Arabic 1st, GCSE Arabic 2nd
- Physics
- Photography
- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Design & Technology
- Music
- Drama
- Physical Education
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Computer Science
- Business Studies
- Economics
- French
- German
- Astronomy



Curriculum Overview



IGCSE



**THE BRITISH
SCHOOL OF
KUWAIT**

Curriculum Overview
Year 10 - 2019-2021
Year 11 - 2018-2020

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Overview

Year 10 2019-2021
Year 11 2018-2020

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SIA Options

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- French
- History (from History or Geography)
- German (Option A)
- Music (Option B)



Options Interviews

- From Thursday 16 January, Year 9 students will receive a letter telling them when their options interview will be.
- During Week 17, Year 9 students will select their Year 10 subject options during scheduled interviews/meetings. These will be held during the school day during Week 17.
- Interviews are held with a member of our Higher Phase Leadership Team who will give advice and support regarding your child's future intentions.
- Parents are very welcome to attend options interviews.
- If you have any further questions or queries about this process, please contact me, Mr Simon Amura on sia@bsk.edu.kw or speak to me this evening.



Selecting GCSEs and IGCSEs

- Students should choose a good range of subjects which they enjoy and are good at.
- When choosing options, care should be taken to read the small print at the bottom of each block, as well as the information regarding Arabic and Islamic Studies; some subjects/courses are compulsory depending on a student's nationality or religion.
- Arab students with special permission from the Private Education Department may choose Arabic as a second language.
- If your child is Kuwaiti and has a special exemption to study Arabic as a second language, please seek the Private Education Department's advice regarding scholarships.



What if my child realizes they have chosen the wrong option?

If your child thinks that they have made the wrong decision regarding a subject option, they should tell the Assistant Head Teacher (Higher Phase) as soon as possible. If this happens before the new academic year, a change is more likely to be possible.

In the event that a student wishes to switch courses once the academic year has begun, they must speak to the AHT (Higher Phase) as a matter of urgency as changes can be more problematic at this late stage. All changes should be made within the first two weeks of the academic year.



Why is attendance, punctuality and attitude to learning so important, especially in Year 10 and Year 11?

All school reports now include data about your child's attendance, punctuality and attitude to learning. This information will be relevant when your child applies to the Sixth Form or to higher educational institutions. Reputable universities require more than grades – they are looking for students with the skills and qualities they know they will need to succeed at undergraduate level.

Studies have also shown that students who regularly attend school, achieving 95% attendance, perform better in their I/GCSEs.

Only students who demonstrate strong attendance, punctuality and attitudinal traits will achieve their full potential at I/GCSE and develop the types of skills they will need to succeed at AS/A Level and beyond.



Attendance	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Attendance	93.3%	87.2%	66.5%
Authorised absences	5	10	1
Unauthorised absences	17	32	80
Punctuality			
Number of days late	2	9	4
Behaviour			
Positive points	116	71	69
Negative points	150	151	152

Code	Name of Subject	Board	Level	Y10	Y10 A2L	Y11 Mock	Y11 A2L	Y11 Prd	Final Grade
4EAO	English 1 st Language	Edexcel	IGCSE						
0510	English 2 nd Language	CIE	IGCSE	C	Dependent	X	Dependent	C	C
0486	English Literature	CIE	IGCSE						
4MA0	Mathematics	Edexcel	IGCSE	U	Dependent	E	Engaged	B	C
0610	Biology	CIE	IGCSE	F	Supported	F	Engaged	D	E
0620	Chemistry	CIE	IGCSE	G	Supported	F	Supported	E	C
0625	Physics	CIE	IGCSE	G	Dependent	X	Supported	F	C
0417	ICT	CIE	IGCSE	F	Supported	X	Dependent		
0478	Computer Science	CIE	IGCSE						
0508	Arabic 1 st Language	CIE	IGCSE	F	Supported	X	Dependent	F	
2AR0	Arabic 2 nd Language	Edexcel	GCSE						A*
0450	Business Studies	CIE	IGCSE						
0455	Economics	CIE	IGCSE						
0470	History	CIE	IGCSE						
0460	Geography	CIE	IGCSE						
2FR0	French	Edexcel	GCSE						
2GN0	German	Edexcel	GCSE						



BSKs current Sixth Form Entry Requirements

- Grade 9-4 or A*-C on the final Year 10 report in any subject to be studied at AS Level
- Grade 9-4 or A*-C on the Year 11 winter report in any subject to be studied at AS Level
- Grade 9-6 or A*-B in the final Year 11 examination in any subject to be studied at AS Level
- Grade 9-6 or A*-B passes in at least six GCSE or IGCSE subjects
- An equal or greater number of positive points than negative points in Year 11
- Fewer than five days (or half-day equivalents) of unauthorised absence in Year 11



English Subjects: Introduction

The English Team at BSK delivers a suite of three English subject qualifications at Key Stage 4:

- **E1:** Edexcel IGCSE English Language A (4EA1)
- **E2:** CAIE IGCSE English as a Second Language (0993)
- **Li:** CAIE IGCSE English Literature (0992)



English Subjects: Options

Students at BSK take different combinations of the English subjects on offer, depending upon their background and abilities.

During the options interview process students and parents are invited to express their view as to the preferred pathway. This is then reviewed by the English Team for suitability before being ratified.

It is important that families heed the advice of the English Team, who have a wealth of experience in this area.



E1: Overview

This qualification is in English as a first language.

The overwhelming majority of current Year 9 students should be capable of achieving at least a Grade 4 in this qualification.

An E1 qualification is widely expected by universities of international students applying from British curriculum schools.



E1: Aims and Objectives

- read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding
- read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- listen to and understand spoken language, and use spoken Standard English effectively. Spoken language will be reported as a separate grade on the student's certificate.



E1: Content / Structure

Paper 1: Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing (60%)

- Study of non-fiction texts from the anthology, including analysis of linguistic and structural devices and exploration of links and connections between writers' ideas and perspectives.
- Development of transactional writing skills for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately.

Paper 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing (40%)

- Study of prose and poetry texts from the anthology, including analysis of linguistic and structural devices and exploration of links and connections between writers' ideas and perspectives.
- Development of imaginative writing skills to engage the reader.
- Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately.



E2: Overview

This qualification is in English as a second language.

In most circumstances, BSK students who are eligible to enter for E2 will be advised to do so by the English Team.

This course offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing and to become independent users of English, and to be able to use English to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts.

In the majority of cases BSK students are taking this qualification in conjunction with either E1 or E1 and Li.



E2: Aims and Objectives

- develop learners' ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication
- form a solid foundation for the skills required for further study or employment using English as the medium
- develop learners' awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills
- promote learners' personal development.



E2: Content / Structure

Paper 1: Reading and Writing (70%)

- Candidates complete six exercises testing a range of reading and writing skills. These include comprehension, notetaking and summary tasks, as well as short continue prose and report writing.

Paper 4: Listening (30%)

- 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 notemaking.

Paper 5: Speaking (Separate Endorsement)

- Following a 2–3 minute warm-up conversation, candidates engage in a 6–9 minute discussion with the examiner on a given topic.



Li: Overview

This qualification is in English Literature.

In the UK, the majority of students take E1 and Li qualifications.

Students are already studying literature as part of their Year 9 curriculum.

This course enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts as they develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed.

Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.



Li: Aims and Objectives

- enjoy the experience of reading literature
- understand and respond to literary texts in different forms and from different periods and cultures
- communicate an informed personal response appropriately and effectively
- appreciate different ways in which writers achieve their effects
- experience literature's contribution to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth
- explore the contribution of literature to an understanding of areas of human concern



Li: Content / Structure

Paper 1: Poetry and Prose (50%)

- Candidates answer two questions about poetry and prose they have already studied:
 - Poetry Text: A selection of poems by Carol Ann Duffy
 - Prose Text: A selection of short stories from *Songs of Ourselves*

Paper 3: Drama (25%)

- Candidates answer one question about a play they have already studied:
 - Drama Text: *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

Paper 4: Unseen (25%)

- Candidates write a critical commentary on a previously unseen poem or prose extract,



English Subjects: Pathways

The English Team at BSK delivers a suite of three English subject qualifications at Key Stage 4:

At the end of Year 11 students will enter for IGCSE examinations in one, two or three of these subjects. The following pathways are possible:

Option 1: Join an E1/Li group

This involves two E1 classes and 2 Li classes per week.

- **E1 and Li:** The norm in the UK. Most nationals of English speaking countries should take this option.

- **E1, Li and E2:** As for E1 and Li option but includes additional E2 qualification for eligible non-native students. This is studied in class periodically as per the scheme of work and through independent study.



English Subjects: Pathways

Option 2: Apply for an E1/E2 group

This involves three E1 classes and 1 E2 class per week.

- **E1 only:** Unusual but can be appropriate on some occasions for native speakers who nevertheless find English difficult.
- **E1 and E2:** Can be a good option for a significant number of non-native students at BSK.

Option 3: Apply for an E2 only group

This involves four E2 classes per week.

- **E2 only:** Only appropriate for non-native speakers who are less able in or lack experience with English.



Arabic Subjects: Introduction

The Arabic Team at BSK delivers a suite of three Arabic subject qualifications at Key Stage 4:

- **A1:** CAIE IGCSE Arabic First Language (7184)
- **A2:** Edexcel GCSE Arabic (1AA0)
- **A1:** Kuwait Government Arabic Examination



Arabic Subjects: Options

Students at BSK take different combinations of the Arabic subjects on offer, depending upon their background and abilities.

During the options interview process students and parents are invited to express their view as to the preferred pathway. This is then reviewed by the Arabic Team for suitability before being ratified.

It is important that families heed the advice of the Arabic Team, who have a wealth of experience in this area.



Arabic Subjects: Pathways

The Arabic Team at BSK delivers a suite of three Arabic subject courses at Key Stage 4:

At the end of Year 11 students will enter for IGCSE examinations in one or two of these subjects. Kuwaiti students will likely enter for Government Arabic and One of the (I)GCSE options depending on ability. The following pathways are possible:

Option 1: Join a Government Arabic Class

This option will be relevant for all Kuwaitis who are in first language Arabic in Year 9. It is also relevant for students from countries where their Ministry of Education accepts the Kuwait Government examination as a qualification.

Please note it is your responsibility to confirm this with your home ministry.



Arabic Subjects: Pathways

Option 2: Join an A1 IGCSE Class

This option is for first language speakers who are not Kuwaiti. Many Ministries of Education in Arab countries expect their citizens to take IG First Language Arabic. For example, this is true for Egyptian students.

Please note it is your responsibility to confirm this with your home ministry.

Option 3: Join an A2 GCSE Class

Two types of student will be suitable for this class.

non-Arabs who began Arabic as a new subject when joining BSK.

Arabs who have been given permission by their ministry to be exempted from 1st language Arabic but must study an Arabic course.



Arabic Subjects: Pathways

Summary

Choices of class:

- A1 Government Arabic
- A1 IGCSE Arabic First Language
- A2 GCSE Arabic (Second Language)

It is very common for A1 Government Arabic students to enter A2 GCSE Arabic (Second Language) in Year 11. This GCSE counts towards the ministry scholarship.

A1 IGCSE students sometimes enter for A2 GCSE Arabic (Second Language) in order to pick up an additional GCSE.

In these cases, tuition is not offered or necessary for A2 GCSE. Entries for this will be made following the mock exams in Year 11.



What to do this evening?

- Speak to your son or daughter to find out which subjects they are interested in studying.
- Speak to the subject leaders of those subjects to learn more about the requirements of GCSE.
- Ask questions. Read the information on the display boards while you are waiting to speak to a teacher. The information you need may well be on the board for you.



What to do before the options interview?

- Download this presentation from the website and re-read.
- Download the curriculum overview and read.
- Look closely at the option block sheet which will be on the reverse of the interview invitation letter.
- Don't worry!



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF KUWAIT

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