



Key Stage 4 IGCSE Options Guide



**THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF BEIJING, SHUNYI**
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

We believe there is no limit to what our students can achieve and our approach supports every child to succeed academically, socially and personally.

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Key Stage 4 at the British School of Beijing.

We believe there is no limit to what our students can achieve. As such, we encourage them to be ambitious and to reach for their dreams. In Key Stage 4 we will continue to support students to step outside their comfort zones and try something new. We do this through an inquiry based pedagogy that is designed to ignite curiosity. At BSB we believe that encouraging students to be ambitious provides inspiration. Our teachers have high expectations of our student which in turn results in our uncompromising effort to encourage student be the best that they can be. As an international school, we aim to cultivate international mindedness by supporting students to make a difference. Our outstanding teachers nurture these essential skills through personalised learning for each child. We are relentless in our ambition to create challenge in every lesson so that our students continuously grow and learn.

Our family of schools empower our students to achieve beyond what they may have thought possible academically, socially and personally.

This is the Nord Anglia Approach.

In Key Stage 4 students will complete IGCSE courses and The International Award that culminate in formal qualifications at the end of Year 11. The move into Year 10 is a significant step because students will start to make decisions that will have implications for the future. Therefore, students will need to start making well informed choices aligned with their interests, academic ambitions and long-term goals. In some cases, students might have already formulated a clear direction for their future studies which will inform their choices. However, please do not worry if your child is still undecided. What is important is that they remain open-minded and choose a balanced and broad portfolio. Choosing IGCSE subjects is an exciting opportunity to make choices about learning.

At the British school of Beijing, we have always actively aimed to create rich opportunities for learning that extend and challenge engagement beyond the requirements of the IGCSE curriculum. The IGCSE courses will not only consolidate foundational learning but will continue to prepare our students to be global citizens equipped with the important skills required to be life-long learners. Our Key Stage 4 offering will therefore empower our students to become a well-rounded and competent students who will be fully equipped and ready to embrace a range of academic and aspirational challenges with self- belief and determination.

I look forward to working with you and supporting you as you move onto the next exciting phase of your learning journey.

Best wishes,



Mr. Bevan Graham
Head of Secondary

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The International General Certificate of Secondary Education

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is the international version of the GCSE courses taken by students in the United Kingdom. The IGCSE offers a good foundation for future participation in a global society. IGCSE courses are offered in a range of subjects.

IGCSE is important as it is an internationally recognised qualification that will not only strengthen university applications but also ensure that students gain the necessary academic, social and critical skills required for success in the IB Diploma and beyond.

At the British School of Beijing, we use two examination boards, both very well-known and internationally recognised.

- Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), part of the University of Cambridge, is the world's largest provider of international qualifications to school age students.
- Edexcel is the largest examination body in the United Kingdom. Edexcel has a long and rich history and was established one hundred and fifty years ago as part of the University of London.

At the end of the two-year course and after successfully completing all the requirements and examinations, students will be formally awarded a certified qualification in each subject completed. IGCSE courses are graded in two ways depending on the examination board. CIE courses are graded from A* (high) to G (low) whereas Edexcel uses a 9 (high) to 1 (low) system.



The IGCSE Programme at BSB

In Year 10, students are able to make choices about the direction and focus of their learning. These choices often mark the beginning of the journey towards the IB Diploma Programme, university and employment beyond. It is probably the first time students have this degree of choice about their learning. When making the options choices students should consider carefully their interests, their strengths and their ambitions.

In addition to the subject options there are compulsory components that all our students are required to complete. To ensure balance and to maintain a healthy body and mind all our students take core Physical Education. Core Physical Education is offered over and above the IGCSE Physical Education qualification. Furthermore, all our

students take English, a Double or Triple Award Science, a Mathematics and Global Perspectives. Students also engage with Guidance lessons to cover the broader topics of life, health, general well-being, careers and Higher Education.

At BSB we ensure vertical alignment in terms of ideology, quality and progression from the National Curriculum in Key Stage 4 to the IB Diploma in Year 12. At BSB we have well established strategies in Key Stage 4 to ensure that when students complete the programme, they do not have to spend time adjusting to a new approach in Year 12 but can rather proceed with effective learning right from the onset. As such our IGCSE offer in Key Stage 4 includes compulsory components that mirror

the Approaches to Learning in the IB Diploma Programme. In this regard, all our IGCSE students also complete the CIE Global Perspectives course. Global Perspectives includes a formal consideration of international-mindedness by promoting students to reflect on issues of global significance in a critical and thoughtful manner.

In addition, all students are strongly encouraged to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Participating in the Award allows for effective service learning and provides our students personal challenge. It encourages our students to set ambitious goals and formally recognises their achievements.

An Overview of the Compulsory and Recommended Components

Compulsory

The IGCSE is a school leaving qualification completed by students before proceeding onto post sixteen education. Therefore, it is essential that students are provided with a solid foundation upon which to build their ongoing advanced education in the IB Diploma and for life beyond school. In Key Stage 3 all subjects are compulsory except for language choices. In Key Stage 4, students have greater choice. We provide a rigorous core offering of compulsory subjects coupled with the opportunity to study four optional IGCSE courses. The compulsory core examination subjects at BSB are English (or EAL), Mathematics, Science and Global Perspectives.

English

At BSB we expect our students to learn the skills of effective communication. As an English medium school, it is essential that our students develop the capabilities required to access the curriculum at an advanced level. The study of English enables our students to become skilled oral and written communicators through the exploration of rich literary texts.

In some cases, students will choose the English as a Second Language with Literature or the EAL route with literature support. The English and EAL team will work closely with families to ensure that the correct level of English is selected.

Mathematics

The study of Mathematics helps students develop logical reasoning skills that are essential for success in any field. Furthermore, there are many real-world applications of Mathematics.

The IGCSE Mathematics course helps students to develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts. The mathematical techniques they will learn can furthermore be applied to solving real world problems.

Science

At BSB we believe that it is essential that all students are equipped with a high degree of scientific literacy. The study of science enables students to cultivate an inquiring disposition underpinned by rigorous critical thinking. These skills are invaluable and transferable to all other areas of academic endeavour. Therefore, all students study Science in Key Stage 4.

A decision is made by the Science department, in partnership with parents and students, as to whether students should study Double or Triple Award Science.

Double Award Science allows students to study all three sciences in the curriculum time of two. The IGCSE Science Double Award is equivalent to two IGCSEs. The specific units of work to

be addressed will fall into the traditional scientific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The IGCSE Science Triple Award is an extension of the course concepts studied in the Double Award for Science. The extension in material is designed to promote a greater awareness of scientific theory through additional investigation. Students will gain three Single Award qualifications for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Both the Double Award and Triple Award prepare the students for studying IB Science subjects.

Global Perspectives

At BSB we provide a broad curriculum that enables our students to become thoughtful lifelong learners. We are therefore delighted to offer a new IGCSE called Global Perspectives. This course provides a unique learning opportunity and is designed to equip students with reflective and critical thinking skills. The development of these important academic skills will not only strengthen their subject specific learning but will also support the transition from IGCSE to the IB Diploma Programme. In particular, this subject prepares students for Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay, core components of the Diploma Programme.

The Global Perspectives course is a skills based IGCSE programme that provides opportunities for inquiry into, and reflection on, key global issues from personal, national and global perspectives.

By encouraging awareness of global problems students are provided opportunities to critically explore solutions through cooperation and collaboration. The course is not about getting everybody to think identically; rather, it is a matter of opening minds to the complexity of the world and of human thought and encouraging empathy for the

diversity of human experience and feeling.

Core Physical Education

Core Physical Education is a compulsory subject for all students in Years 10 and 11. This course is a non-examination component. It is important that students engage with Physical Education as it helps to maintain a healthy body and mind. We believe that if we cultivate good exercise behaviours as a compulsory aspect of core education, these will become ingrained habits in later life.

Recommended

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

The International Award is the international version of the UK's Duke of Edinburgh Award, which aims to equip young people for both life and work. It comprises 4 elements: Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and the Adventurous Journey. By harnessing students'

existing interests and encouraging them to push themselves beyond their comfort zone, we aim for all students to achieve the Bronze Award by the end of Year 10. This award is excellent preparation for the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) component of the IB Diploma

and also gives those students who wish to, the opportunity to continue with the programme to achieve their Silver and Gold awards during their remaining time at school.

Making the right choices

Your IGCSE choices matter. The subjects that are studied at this stage can make an impact on your future study, university destinations and career choices. Your year team

and subject teachers are ready to offer advice. If you already have a good idea about what you would like to study at university our Higher Education team can give you

guidance to help choose the right path to your chosen destination.

Making smart IGCSE choices

Here are a few pointers on how – and how not – to make the right IGCSE choices:

- Choose your optional subjects because you think you'll be good at them, and because they will interest you.

- If you are not sure what you might want to take at university, ensure you have a good mix of IGCSE subjects.

- If you are already thinking about a particular type of course, take a look at the entry requirements for

specific courses at university and work back from there.

- Make sure you enjoy these subjects and you are not taking them because of your friends, family and teachers.



Core Subject Briefs

Mathematics

This course covers the topics Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics. All students start on the Extended course but students are either entered for the Extended paper, where they can gain grades A*-E, or the Core paper, where they can gain grades C-G. Students build on the foundation of mathematical knowledge and skills developed in the Key Stage 3 curriculum. No additional knowledge is required. Students develop their skills in logical thinking, problem solving and functional computational

skill. All of these are transferable to a wide range of subjects, both at IBDP and in university. The certificate is also helpful for UK and international university applications and evidences a secure level of mathematical ability for job interviews. It can directly support ambitions for studying and working in sciences, engineering, mathematics, medicine, finance and business, as well as providing life-long mathematical confidence.

Assessment:

- 100% external written examinations
- 2 examinations
- Paper 1: Short answer questions 50%
- Paper 2: Structured questions 50%

Additional Mathematics

Students who want to challenge themselves in Mathematics can aim to sit the Extended Mathematics examination at the end of the year. Based on the results for this, they may be eligible to sit the Additional Mathematics IGCSE. This looks at more advanced skills and problems with reasoning and application that broaden and deepen the student's understanding.

Students will be selected for this

programme based on attainment at the Y10 IGCSE Mathematics examinations. They must be high-achieving students with a passion for mathematical thinking.

This certificate directly prepares students for the Higher-Level Mathematics options at IBDP. It is also a prestigious certificate for university and career applications. It can support students who aim to work in scientific research,

engineering, medicine, finance and business.

Assessment:

- 100% external written examinations
- 2 examinations
- Paper 1: Short answer questions 50%
- Paper 2: Structured answers 50%

English Language

In English First Language, students respond to a wide range of types of English texts and develop the ability to write and speak in a variety of different genres and situations. The course focuses on the use and understanding of language in authentic situations and complements the English Literature course.

Students should have a minimum of B1.3 level English (according to the CEFR) and be taught in the English department. No prior learning of the texts covered in the course is required, although students are expected to have some experience of creative writing,

inferring vocabulary, essay writing and reflecting on language choices. Student will gain critical reading skills and the ability to infer meaning from a text, the ability to evaluate the choices of the author and their impact on the reader, as well as an awareness of different forms of writing and how these are suitable for particular contexts or audiences. They also develop their own writing styles in genre writing for different purposes. The transferrable communication skills developed through the course will support all other subjects studied at IGCSE, IBDP and beyond. Students are able to study English Language and Literature A at IBDP.

The certificate is usually evidence of language learning for business and university applications for universities in the UK, although additional evidence may be required for visa applications.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Reading 50%
- Paper 2: Writing 50%

English Literature

This is a thematic exploration of classical and contemporary poetry, fiction and drama, through reading, analysis, discussion and written responses. Students will look not only at the works of literature but compare them, analyse their context and evaluate the impact of choices the authors have made. This course complements the English First Language IGCSE and students will usually study and sit both examinations.

Students should have a minimum of B1.3 level of English (according to the CEFR) and be taught in the English Department. They do not require any prior knowledge of

the texts covered, but should have experience of analysing literature, exploring character and theme, inferring vocabulary, essay writing and reflection, as taught in Key Stage 3.

Students will gain skills in reading comprehension and interpretations, evaluating literary devices, their own personal responses to a range of texts and genres, academic essay writing and creative responses. In addition, they will develop a deeper appreciation of classical and modern literature, poetry and drama in English, adding to their cultural experience and knowledge. The transferable skills they gain

prepare them for all university and career choices by enhancing their formal communication skills and critical thinking and analysis.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Poetry and Prose 50%
- Paper 3: Drama 25%
- Paper 4: Unseen texts 25%

English as a Second Language

This course allows students to develop all 4 areas of their communication skills in English. To meet the needs of their daily lives, they study authentic texts and real-world communication scenarios. Students can be selected for this examination from both the EAL and English Departments. They will be prepared for the examination at the end of the year and awarded a certificate that shows their level of understanding and ability to functionally communicate in English. Students can be selected to sit the Extended examinations, where they can gain grades A*-E, or Core examinations, where they can gain grades C-U. The selection

is based on performance in several rounds of assessments over the course of the IGCSE.

Students are expected to have prior knowledge of English and skills in producing written and verbal communication to suit a variety of every-day scenarios. Students will gain confidence and accuracy in their use and understanding of language. The transferrable communication skills developed through the course will support all other subjects studied at IGCSE, IBDP and beyond. Students are able to study English Language B at IBDP. The certificate is usually evidence of language learning

for business and university applications for universities in the UK, although additional evidence may be required for visa applications.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated
- Paper 1: Listening 25%; external examination
- Paper 2: Reading and Writing 56%; external examination
- Paper 3: Speaking 19%; internally assessed and externally moderated

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Programme:

Cambridge International Education assessment suite

Students who begin Year 10 with a level of English that is between A0-B1.2 are prepared for awards in the Cambridge Main Suite of examinations, run in our in-campus Cambridge Examinations Centre and awarded by Cambridge International Examinations. These include: Preliminary English Test (PET), First Certificate in English (FCE) and Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), according to the level of the student. All students are taught all four language skills in a tailor-made language syllabus which prepares them for the examination content, as well as developing their understanding and use of English for every-day life and

study in the school, through the use of authentic materials and texts. Students are not required to have additional English classes, but a willingness to read and use the language outside of the classroom will benefit their learning.

Students gain not only the practical skills of English language and use, which are transferrable to all their other subjects, but also the confidence to express their thoughts, ideas and opinions in discussions and engage in learning about the wider culture of English-speaking people. Students who complete the EAL course are prepared for the IB

English Language B option. The CAE certificate can also be used as evidence of English language attainment for university, career and visa applications.

Assessment:

- Examinations in Writing, Reading and Listening are externally assessed
- Examinations in Speaking are assessed in our Cambridge Centre by qualified CIE assessors
- Writing 25%
- Reading 25%
- Listening 25%
- Speaking 25%

Science Triple Award

Students will study all three of the sciences as individual subjects, and be awarded three certificates, one in each subject: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will have an equal weighting of each subject in their timetable. Students can be entered for different levels of examination across the three subjects, leading to either the Extended examination, where they can gain an A*-C grade, or the Core examination, where they can gain C-U grades. The decision over which examination series is most suitable will be made by the end of Year 10.

Students will build on the foundational knowledge of scientific skills, reasoning and understanding provided by the Key Stage 3 curriculum. No additional

knowledge or experience is required.

Students will gain an understanding of the scientific method and standards. They can develop an interest in scientific topics and how these apply to everyday life. They will gain an understanding of the principles of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which will support their study at IBDP level. The course is helpful for university choices in the STEAM subjects, as well as medicine and veterinary science but they are useful qualifications for all applications. They also support career choices in engineering, medicine, veterinary science, scientific research, IT and product design.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- One set of examinations for each of the 3 sciences (Chemistry, Physics and Biology); 9 examinations in total
- Core:
 - Paper 1: Multiple Choice Questions 30%
 - Paper 3: Short answer questions: 50%
 - Paper 6: Experimental 20%
- Extended:
 - Paper 2: Multiple Choice Questions 30%
 - Paper 4: Short answer questions: 50%
 - Paper 6: Experimental 20%

Science Double Award

Students will study all three of the sciences as General Science, and be awarded two certificates in Science. They will have an equal weighting of each subject in their timetable. Students will be entered for a uniform level of examination, leading to either the Extended examination, where they can gain an A*-C grade, or the Core examination, where they can gain C-U grades. Students will be selected to study the Double Award based on forecast performance by the end of Year 9.

Students will build on the foundational knowledge of scientific skills, reasoning and understanding as provided by the Key Stage 3 curriculum. No

additional knowledge or experience is required.

Students will gain an understanding of the scientific method and standards. They can develop an interest in scientific topics and how these apply to everyday life. They will gain an understanding of the principles of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which will support their study at IBDP level. The course is helpful for university choices in the STEM subjects, as well as medicine and veterinary science but they are useful qualifications for all applications. They also support career choices in engineering, medicine, veterinary science, scientific research, IT and product design.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Students will sit one examination series in General Science, with 2 certificate grades awarded; 3 examinations in total
- Core:
 - Paper 1: Multiple Choice Questions 30%
 - Paper 3: Short answer questions: 50%
 - Paper 6: Experimental 20%
- Extended:
 - Paper 2: Multiple Choice Questions 30%
 - Paper 4: Short answer questions: 50%
 - Paper 6: Experimental 20%



Global Perspectives

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives encourages awareness of global problems and offers a range of opportunities to explore solutions through cooperation and collaboration. The course is not about getting everybody to think identically; rather it is a matter of opening minds to the complexity of the world and of human thought and encouraging empathy for the diversity of human experience and feeling.

Global Perspectives gives opportunities to students to acquire and apply a range of skills to support them in these challenges, including:

- researching, analysing and evaluating information
- developing and justifying a line of reasoning
- reflecting on processes and outcomes

- communicating information and reasoning
- collaborating to achieve a common outcome.

Students explore stimulating topics that have global significance. They learn to collaborate with others from another culture, community or country. They assess information critically and explore lines of reasoning. They learn to direct their own learning and develop an independence of thought. Global Perspectives emphasises the development and application of skills rather than the acquisition of knowledge. Students develop transferable skills that will be useful for further study and for young people as active citizens of the future.

Global Perspectives has three compulsory components:

Component 1 Written Examination.

Students will answer questions based on a range of unseen sources provided with the paper. Sources will present a global issue from a range of perspectives, personal, local and/or national, global, and will be drawn from a list of eight topics.

Component 2 Individual Report.

Students will research one topic area (from a choice of eight) of personal, local and/or national and global significance and submit one report based on their research.

Component 3 Team Project.

Students devise and develop a collaborative project into an aspect of one topic (from a choice of eight). This choice of project must allow for the exploration of different cultural perspectives.



Language Subject Briefs

Chinese First Language

This course is a Native-level language and literature course covering ancient and modern culture, as well as ancient literature, narrative and critical analysis and direct writing. It is taught entirely in spoken Mandarin and simplified written characters and aims to provide proficiency in culturally appropriate use of the language, as well as developing students' understanding. Students are expected to have

native-level language in all 4 skill areas.

Students gain a deeper appreciation of Chinese culture and history, as well as a formal, academic style of writing, suitable for Chinese university study or business communication. Students are able to study Chinese Language A for IBDP and are ideally placed to study in a Chinese university or work in any Chinese-language

business or industry, or use their language skills to work in international trade, diplomacy, law or business abroad.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Reading 50%
- Paper 2: Writing 50%

Chinese Second Language

This course is for students who are at near-native level; often fluent with speaking and listening but with no prior academic writing training. They will develop their real-world language skills using authentic texts and listening activities. The course covers a variety of topics that relate to modern life in China and will help students to integrate into Chinese society and culture.

Students are required to have a large vocabulary, solid grammar skills and to also have a basis of written character knowledge to access the course. Students who are in Set 2 for Mandarin at Key Stage 3 are often suitable for entry into this examination.

Students will develop conversational fluency and cultural communication skills as well as the ability to communicate using written language at a level that will meet all their daily needs. There is a clear benefit from expanding their meta-cognition and developing their understanding and use of a second language. Although the course does not directly lead to an HSK qualification, it supports students' external study towards these certificates. Students who pass this examination are able to take Mandarin Language B at Higher Level and will also be prepared for university courses in Chinese language at University, or to study other subjects through

the medium of Mandarin Chinese. Students are ideally placed for courses or career options in varied fields, such as business, diplomacy, research, journalism, humanities and literature.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated
- Paper 1: Reading and writing 60%; external examination
- Paper 2: Listening 20%; external examination
- Paper 3: Speaking 20%; internal assessment that is externally moderated

Chinese as a Foreign Language

This course covers all four of the language skills, including writing Chinese characters, to develop the ability and confidence of non-native students to communicate in Mandarin Chinese. It provides a beginning introduction to the culture of China and allows student to build up knowledge of the language that they can relate to their daily lives in the country. This is an ideal course for students who have moved to live in China both short- and longer- term and will help them to settle more easily into life in Beijing.

Students are expected to have some prior knowledge of the language, although it is understood it is unlikely that new students have

studied Mandarin Chinese outside of China. Students who have taken Mandarin in Key Stage 3 are ideally placed to start the course.

Students develop their ability to read and write Chinese simplified characters, and hold basic conversations about aspects of everyday life. There is also a benefit from expanding their vocabulary, developing their meta-cognition from learning a language coherently, plus the added benefit to their well-being from a deeper connection to the country they live in. They will be able to take the Chinese Language B option at IBDP level and can use this as the basis for university applications to study Chinese language, or

careers as varied as business, diplomacy, research or journalism. Although the course does not directly lead to HSK qualifications, the skills and knowledge used will support external study in these examinations.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated Paper 1: Listening 25%; external examination
- Paper 2: Reading 25%; external examination
- Paper 3: Speaking 25%; internal assessment that is externally moderated
- Paper 4: Writing 25%; external examination

French as a Foreign Language

This course covers all four language skills to develop the ability and confidence of non-native students to communicate in French. It provides a beginning introduction to the culture of French-speaking peoples and allows students to build up their knowledge of the language in relation to their daily lives.

Students are expected to have some prior knowledge of the language, although the course is not open to students who speak French as a Native speaker. Students who have taken French as a foreign language for three years during Key Stage 3 are ideally placed to start the course.

Students develop their ability to read, write, speak and listen to French. They are able to enjoy using the language in their daily lives and are prepared for social visits to French-speaking areas of the world. There is also a benefit from expanding their vocabulary and in their meta-cognition, from learning a language coherently. They will be able to take the French Language B option at IBDP level and can then use this as a basis for university applications to study French, as well as developing real-world communication skills that may be useful aspirations as varied as business, diplomacy, research or the world of media and journalism.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated Paper 1: Listening 25%; external examination
- Paper 2: Reading and Writing 50%; external examination
- Speaking examination 25%; internal assessment that is externally moderated



Spanish as a Foreign Language

This course covers all four language skills to develop the ability and confidence of non-native students to communicate in Spanish. It provides a beginning introduction to the culture of Spanish-speaking peoples and allows students to build up their knowledge of the language in relation to their daily lives.

Students are expected to have some prior knowledge of the language and students who have taken Spanish as a foreign language for three years during Key Stage 3 are ideally placed to start the course.

Students develop their ability to read, write, speak and listen to Spanish. They are able to enjoy using the language in their daily lives and are prepared for social visits to Spanish-speaking areas of the world. There is also a benefit from expanding their vocabulary and in their meta-cognition, from learning a language coherently. They will be able to take the Spanish Language B option at IBDP level and can then use this as a basis for university applications to study Spanish, as well as developing real-world communication skills that may be useful aspirations as varied as business, diplomacy, research or the world of media and journalism.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated
- Paper 1: Listening 25%; external examination
- Paper 2: Reading and Writing 50%; external examination
- Speaking examination 25%; internal assessment that is externally moderated

German First Language

This course is a pre-IB Diploma Programme course, specially constructed to meet the needs of our Native German students. As there is no German First language IGCSE, this course has been specially designed for BSB students. It teaches formal and academic styles of writing, creative writing, oral presentation as well as reading comprehension and textual analysis for literary and non-literary texts. Students are able to work on functional skills, as well as developing an understanding of the cultural and historical aspects of German-language literature. The lessons are entirely taught in German and students learn according to objectives that

align with the German national standards.

Students will need to be Native German level in all 4 language areas, with prior experience and knowledge of literature and literary analysis in German. Students gain academic and formal training in the use and understanding of German language and literature. They are able to develop a deeper appreciation of German culture and history and enrich their cultural experience and knowledge. Students are prepared for the German Language and Literature course at IBDP and it prepares them with the skills to study either German language at university,

or any other subject in a German-language university setting. The language knowledge and communication skills prepare our students for careers in varied fields, such as business and finance, STEAM, media and journalism or work in vocational or caring professions.

Assessment:

- 100% internal assessment
- Various formative and summative assessments in language skill and literary analysis

Korean First Language

This course is a pre-IB Diploma Programme course, specially constructed to meet the needs of our Native Korean students. There is no IGCSE course for Korean First Language Speakers. Therefore we have designed a bespoke Korean course for BSB students. It teaches formal and academic styles of writing, creative writing, oral presentation, as well as reading comprehension and textual analysis for literary and non-literary texts. Students are able to work on functional skills, as well as IB-based Approaches to Learning, such as reflection and research, all while developing an understanding of the cultural and historical aspects of, mostly, modern Korean writings. The lessons are taught entirely in Korean.

Students will need to be native Korean speakers who are able to read and writing to an age-appropriate level. Students who are taking the Key Stage 3 Korean classes will be ideally placed to start the course.

Students will be prepared to take the Korean Language and Literature course for the IB Diploma Program. Although the course is not examined externally, it will enhance their communication and thinking skills for university study and career aspirations. It will also foster a richer appreciation of Korean literature, language and culture.

Assessment:

- 100% internal assessment
- Paper 1 style paper at the end of Year 10, plus formative and summative assessment throughout the course



Options Subject Briefs

In alphabetical order

Art and Design

This course aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to refine their ideas in visual and sculptural forms. They also enhance their creative process and learn how to develop their ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. Students will have basic art skills, developed through Key Stage 3 art curriculum. No additional art tutoring is required.

The course allows students to go on to the IBDP Visual Arts course and further study in any of the visual arts, design, fashion or media courses at university. It also helps to develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills that support applications in a wide variety of fields, such as engineering, business and management, project management, marketing and software development. Students are also able to develop a life-long appreciation of Art from around the world, both classical and contemporary, which will enrich their cultural experience and knowledge in life.

Assessment:

- 100% externally assessed (although due to Covid restrictions, currently internally assessed and externally moderated)
- Component 1: Coursework 50%
- Component 2: Final Exam 50%

Business Studies

This course allows students to develop knowledge and understanding of how the main types of businesses are organised, financed and operated, and how their relations with other organisations, consumers, employees, owners and society are regulated. Students develop knowledge and understanding of the major groups and organisations within and outside business, and consider ways in which they are able to influence objectives, decisions and activities. Students do not require any prior knowledge or experience, but English writing skills and a foundation of mathematics, as learned through the Key Stage 3

curriculum, will ensure students have access to the course content. Students are prepared to take the IBDP Business Management or Economics course. It also complements other subjects such as English, Mathematics and Geography, either at IBDP level or at university level.

Given that many students will eventually work for some form of business or indeed own their own, the skills and knowledge gained will be useful in all future careers, especially those related to Marketing, Sales, Finance, and Accounting.

Assessment:

- 100% external examination
- Paper 1: Short answer and data response 50%
- Paper 2: Case study 50%



Computer Science

This course aims to develop students' understanding of computational thinking and consideration of data, the principals of problem-solving using computers, systems thinking as applied to computers and their users, and the ability to use Python programming. This is a vital course for students who look to understand the next horizon of human development in the 21st-century.

Students will have covered basic computer skills through the Key Stage 3 curriculum. No

external tutoring is required but students should have a passion for understanding technology and how it can be used to answer the needs of people in society.

Students will be prepared for the IBDP Computer Science course and to study computer science, artificial intelligence, software engineering or other STEAM subjects. Students can go on to careers such as IT and technological development, manufacturing and trade, scientific research and business. In addition, they will gain transferable skill such as logical problem solving and

an understanding of how to use technology for professions such as finance and banking, politics, medicine and medical research, design and product development and engineering.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Theory 60%
- Paper 2: Problem solving and programming 40%

Design Technology

This course enables learners to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, by working with different media, materials and tools. Students are able to develop their creative thinking and problem solving in relation to technical problems. They are prompted to consider issues of sustainability and explore areas of personal interests, as well as the ability to make aesthetic, economic, moral and technical value judgements. Students do not need any prior knowledge but those who have taken the Key Stage 3 course will be ideally placed to start the course.

Cambridge IGCSE Design and Technology provides an ideal basis for further study and prepares students for their future within a rapidly changing technological society. Students can go on to study IBDP Design and Technology and university subjects and careers such as engineering, product design, IT, graphic design, manufacturing, and marketing. The direct subject knowledge and transferrable skills in collaboration, problem solving, logical and critical thinking and visual and graphic presentation are applicable to a wide range of careers, such as business and marketing, media and graphic design, product research and

development, engineering, IT and project management.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated
- Paper 1: Design 25%
- Paper 2: Theory 25%
- Paper 5: Coursework (product design and manufacture) 50%; internal assessment that is externally moderated



Drama

Through practical and theoretical study, learners develop an understanding and enjoyment of drama, developing group and individual skills and studying ways to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience. They learn how to discover the performance possibilities of a text and other stimuli, and devise dramatic material of their own. Learners also develop their performance skills, the demonstration of which will form part of the final assessment. No prior experience of Drama is required, although students will have been prepared for the course through their Drama lessons in Key Stage 3. They should enjoy performing, have a willingness to

take creative risks and learn new skills.

Students are directly prepared to take the IBDP Theatre course and study Performing Arts at university, as well as careers in the theatre and the media. The transferrable skills in confidence and clarity for public speaking, verbal and non-verbal communication, collaboration and collaborative problem solving, as well as an understanding of dialogue, influencing an audience and presenting ideas are applicable in a vast range of careers, such as politics, diplomacy, law, medicine, business and management, marketing and sales, teaching, social and care work

and technological and product development. Students are also able to develop a life-long love of drama, theatre and performance, both classical and modern, from around the world.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated
- Component 1: Written examination 40%; external examination
- Component 2: Performance coursework 60%; internal assessment that is externally moderated

Economics

This course is a study of how individuals, businesses, governments and nations make judgements about how to make choices in allocating limited resources efficiently. It is the science of decision making and allows students a deeper understanding of the macro- and micro-economic forces that shape our world. Students will develop an understanding of, and ability to use, the tools of economic analysis. They will be able to apply economic models and theories to real-world situations and events.

No prior knowledge or experience is required. Students should have

basic skills in numeracy, written English and interpretation of data and information to access the course material.

As well as learning about economic theories and their application to the world around them, students will develop their critical and complex thinking skills. The course will enhance their written, verbal and diagrammatic communication skills and prepare students for the IBDP Economics course. Students can go on to further study of or careers in a wide variety of fields, such as business, economics and finance, as well as management, law, politics and government,

research and development, NGOs, International trade and relations and diplomacy.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Multiple Choice Questions 30%
- Paper 2: Structured questions 70%

Geography

Studying Geography helps give understanding of our physical and human environments at a local, regional and global scale and gives us the understanding of how communities are affected by our environment. Students are able to develop skills in map reading, enquiry and data presentation, as well as evaluating and discussing issues that affect our lives every day.

Students will have basic geographical skills developed through the Key Stage 3 Geography course. No additional experience or knowledge is required.

Students gain the ability to interpret and analyse maps and graphs, and to be able to formulate and investigate a hypothesis. They are prompted into becoming global-minded citizens who are confident, responsible, reflective and innovative, ideally setting them up to study Geography at IBDP. Students can go onto a range of university and career choices, such as humanities, research and writing, journalism and media, law, politics, business or work in national and international governments or NGOs.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Geographical themes 45%
- Paper 2: Geographical skills 27.5%
- Paper 3: Alternative to course work (Investigation skills) 27.5%

History

IGCSE history is the study of the 20th Century and the events that shaped our world. Not only do students gain an understanding of the past, but they are also able to link this to the modern world. Students will analyse and evaluate a range of authentic texts and sources and develop their ability to research and communicate their ideas, as well as their judgement on the reliability of sources and identifying bias.

No prior knowledge is required by students, they will benefit from the analytical writing and research skills gained through the Key Stage 3 curriculum.

Students gain skills in critical

thinking, understanding world events and debating. This course supports further study in the IBDP History course, as well as university applications for humanities subjects, literature, business, journalism, law and politics. Students can go onto a range of careers, such as politics, law, finance, journalism and media or research and writing.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Core content 40%
- Paper 2: Sources paper 33%
- Paper 4: Alternative to coursework 27%

IGCSE PE

This course provides students with the opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. Students cover Anatomy and Physiology, Health, Fitness and Training, Skill Acquisition and Psychology, Social, Cultural and Ethical Influences. Prior knowledge is not required but students should have a willingness to try new sports and

high level of motivation to improve performance.

Students are ideally placed to study the IBDP Sport Exercise and Health Science course and it supports applications for university courses, such as: sport studies or sports science, sports medicine or physiology, sport media and journalism or sport coaching or physical education teaching and training.

Assessment:

- Combination of external examinations and internal assessments that are externally moderated
- Practical Assessments (across 4 different sports) 50%; internally assessed and externally moderated
- Written exam 50%; external examination





Music

The music course is an excellent choice for students who love performing and composing music, and wish to develop their appreciation as well as directly improve their skills. Students are exposed to musical history, theory and analysis as well as engaging in performance and composition. Through these varied topics, students have the opportunity to build skills and demonstrate academic excellence in music. Students need to perform, write music and analyse music from all eras of music history.

This course is open to all students, although those who can read

musical notation and have experience at playing an instrument will be able to access the content more easily.

Students are prepared for the IBDP Music course and university courses for performing arts. The students also gain transferrable skills in listening, collaboration, non-verbal communication, confidence performing and refining their creative problem-solving skills, which can be applied to a wide range of careers, from law and diplomacy to media and teaching. Students are also encouraged to develop a life-long appreciation for music and enjoyment of musical

styles from around the world and throughout history.

Assessment:

- Combination of externally assessment examinations and coursework that is internally assessed and externally moderated
- Component 1: Performance 30%; internal assessment that is externally moderated
- Component 2: Composition 30%; internal assessment that is externally moderated
- Component 3: Written exam on music appraisal 40%; external examination

Psychology

Psychology is the science of human behaviour. In this course students learn about a range of interesting psychological theories. Some of the topics include: memory, the brain and criminal psychology.

No prior knowledge of experience of the subject is required. Students will need an interest in what makes humans act the way they do and a willingness to explore the nature of humankind.

This course will help students to both better understand themselves as well as the people around them. It will also equip them with

the skills they need to be a more effective communicator, as well as analysis and research skills. It can lead to the IB Psychology course and support applications in varied university and career choices, such as medicine, mental health work, social care, teaching, business and diplomacy.

Assessment:

- 100% external examinations
- Paper 1: Psychological concepts and theories 55%
- Paper 2: Research methods and statistical analysis 45%

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