



IGCSE / GCSE Options

Year 10 2021-22 and Year 11 2022-23



**THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

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Dear Student,

This is a very exciting time in your education as you begin a four-year journey towards the IB Diploma, University life and the 'big world out there'! Choosing some of your GCSE subjects is important because it is at this time that you start to really explore who you are and who you would like to become. It is important to note though, that whatever choices you make, all sorts of pathways remain open to you and changing direction later on is always possible.

For now, you will receive a lot of support as you make your choices and you should spend the next few weeks gathering as much information as possible about the subjects, thinking carefully about your possible future university and career path and considering which subjects have inspired you so far in school. Your teachers are the most valuable source of information. They understand your strengths in their subject, your potential for success in the subject and also how the subject might feature in your future plans. Use your teachers' knowledge and experience to help you make a fully informed decision.

The information in this booklet should be the starting point for a number of conversations.

The following pages contain subject outlines, assessment models and other useful details.

At this point, you should note the following advice:

- Choose subjects which you enjoy or think you will enjoy. Learning is easier if you enjoy it!
- Think about how the subject might help with your future plans.
- Subject content is more important than who is teaching the subject – don't choose based on teachers, they might not be teaching you next year!
- Make the decisions that are best for you – don't be swayed by what your friends are up to.
- Look closely at the 'new' subjects available. They might just be perfect for you.

Now it is down to you to do your research, talk to teachers, talk to your parents and talk to older students so that you can make the right choices.

Good luck!

With warm regards,

Mr Lowe
Head of Secondary



What is a GCSE / IGCSE?

The **General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)** is a British Academic Qualification awarded in a specified subject; the International GCSE qualification is available for international students. These are the formal qualifications at the end of Key Stage 4. Both GCSE and IGCSE are qualifications recognised by universities and employers throughout the world.

All (I)GCSEs are linear courses. This means that students are assessed via controlled assessment coursework tasks and/ or a terminal examination at the end of the course.

The way that controlled assessments are carried out will vary from subject to subject. In most cases students will have the opportunity to carry out preparation, independent study and research.

The writing-up of the assessments will all be completed during lessons under supervised conditions. In some cases, this will be a practical assessment. Some subjects are solely examination based.

In recent years the grade system of the (I)GCSEs has changed. Most (I)GCSEs subjects are now assessed using grades 9-1, where previously they were assessed A*-G. Some (I)GCSEs have not yet changed and still use the A*-G grades. The table below indicates the equivalence between the two grade systems:

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Above A*	A*	A	B	B/C	C	D	E	F/G



The Options Process

All students are required to study a set of Core Subjects at Key Stage 4. The Core Subjects are a mixture of (I)GCSE and non-(I)GCSE subjects.

In addition to the Core Subjects, all students must select up to 3 options to study at (I)GCSE level. Each subject will be taught for 3 hours per week. After the students have made their choices, including reserve choices, students will be advised of their final list of subjects.

Core (I)GCSE Subjects

All students must study these subjects, unless stated. At the end of the course they will be awarded a (I)GCSE qualification in that subject.

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science

Science is taught as Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately. All students have a choice to study 2 or 3 Science subjects. If a student studies only 2 Science subjects, they will be taught each of their choices for 3 hours per week.

If a student studies all 3 Science subjects, they will be taught each of the 3 Sciences for 2 hours per week.

- Double Science (2 of Biology, Chemistry or Physics)
- Triple Science (all of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Core non-(I)GCSE Subjects

All students must study these subjects.

- Arabic*
- Islamic* (Muslim students only)
- PE

In addition to studying the Ministry of Education Curriculum in Arabic and Islamic, most students will also be given the opportunity to gain an (I)GCSE qualification in these subjects. 'Core' PE is a non-(I)GCSE subject.

(I)GCSE Option Choices

All students must select 3 option choices from the list below. Each subject will be taught for 3 hours per week. We may also advise some students to select English B as an option, where this is the case, we will contact parents separately. When making your choices please select your first 3 choices in order of preference and select an additional 2 reserve choices. No subject can be selected twice.

Humanities

- Business Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Psychology

Computing

- Computer Science
- ICT

Modern Foreign Languages

- French
- German*
- Spanish*

Creative Arts

- Art
- Drama*
- Music*
- PE

English B

*These subjects are not recognised by ADEK for equivalency (Equivalency is explained on page 9)

Things to Consider

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

When choosing (I)GCSE options students should consider the options that they will need to choose from for the IBDP (year 12 and 13). Every student must select one subject from each group 1-5 and a 6th option from group 3, 4 or 6 for the IBDP.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
English	Spanish	Business Management	Physics	Mathematics	Visual Arts
	French	Economics	Chemistry		Music
	German	Geography	Biology		Theatre Studies
	Arabic	History	Computer Science		Or one subject from group 3 or 4
		Psychology	Sports, Exercise & Health Science		
		Information Technology in a Global Society			

The Shahadat Al-Thanawiya Al-'Amma (UAE Equivalency)

'The Shahadat Al-Thanawiya Al-'Amma' or 'Secondary School Leaving Certificate', also known as 'UAE Equivalency' is a student's evidence that they have successfully completed Secondary Schooling in the UAE.

The Abu Dhabi Department for Education and Knowledge (ADEK) have advised all schools in Abu Dhabi of the requirements to gain Equivalency. Equivalency is required for those students that will be studying or working in the UAE beyond their time at BISAD. Currently at (I)GCSE students are required to gain a grade 3 or higher in at least 5 subjects (the subjects marked * are not recognised by ADEK for equivalency). The 5 subjects must include:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. History or Geography
4. Physics
5. Biology or Chemistry

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is a group of (I)GCSE qualifications that support any student wishing to return to the UK to continue their education in Year 12 or at University. Schools and Universities in the UK may look favorably on those who achieve EBacc.

Students need to study the following subjects for the EBacc:

1. English Language and Literature
2. Mathematics
3. 3 single Sciences, from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science
4. A Modern Foreign Language
5. History or Geography

Some do's and don'ts

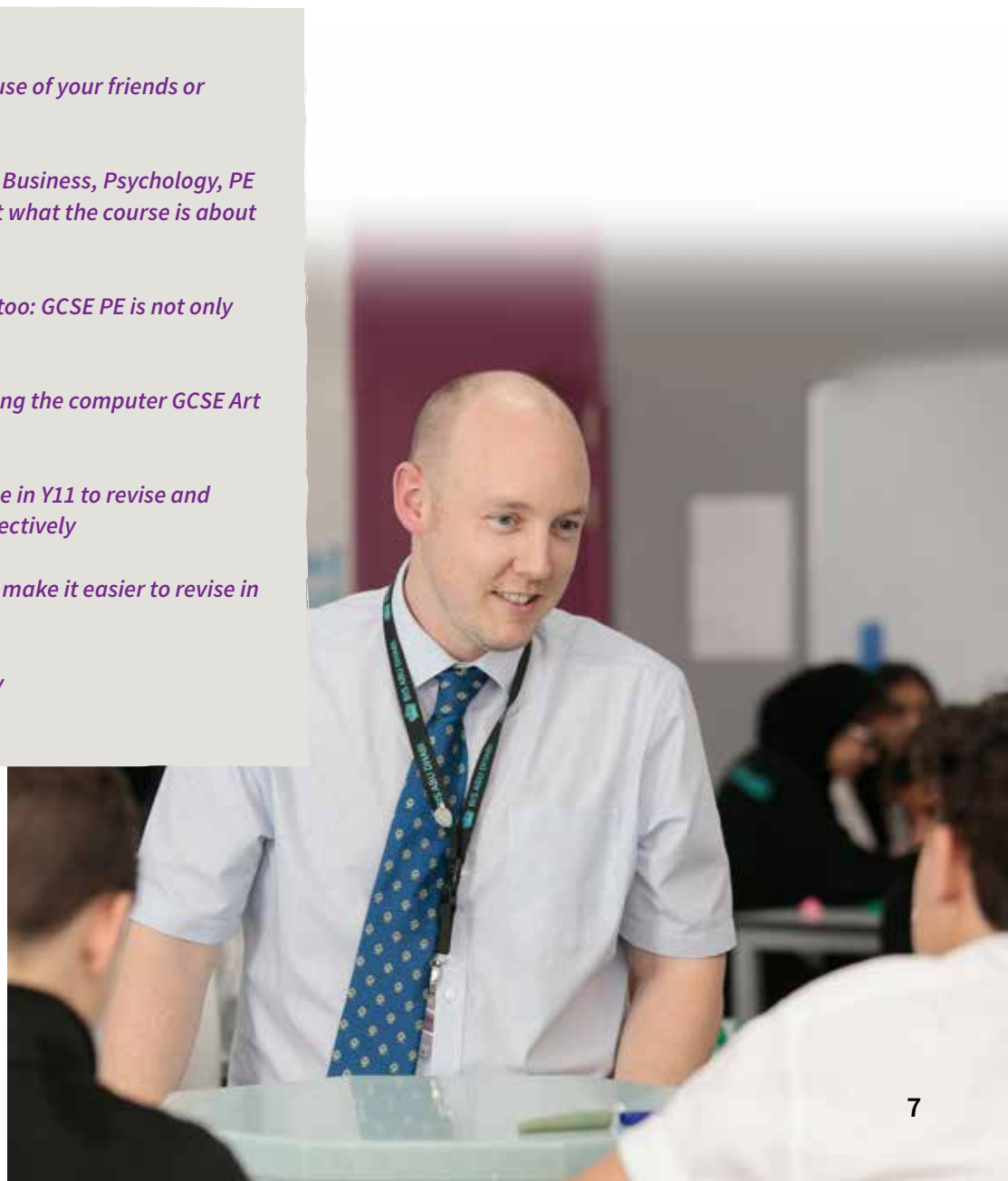
In the world of education making the step up from Year 9 to Year 10 is a key transition point.

Very few 13 or 14 year old students have a clear idea about what they would like to do by way of a career in later life. That is perfectly normal and not in any way a cause for concern. In Year 9 you tend to be just at the beginning of the process of thinking about your futures.

Nevertheless, the choice of courses or subjects you make in Year 9 can have an effect on the decisions you are able to make later on. To help you make this choice, we asked some Year 11 students for advice – this is what they told us.....

- *DON'T choose a subject because of your friends or teachers.*
- *For new subjects (Economics, Business, Psychology, PE GCSE), make sure you find out what the course is about first.*
- *Find out about other courses too: GCSE PE is not only about doing sports*
- *GCSE ICT is not only about using the computer GCSE Art is not only about painting*
- *DON'T think you will have time in Y11 to revise and learn, use your time in Y10 effectively*
- *Make effective notes in Y10 to make it easier to revise in Y11*
- *Choose the subjects you enjoy*

Do speak to the Y10 and Y11 students but also your teachers, tutors and parents so that you make informed choices. But, remember that these are your choices about your future and this should form the basis of your decision-making for a challenging and rewarding time in Years 10 and 11.



Core Subjects

All students will start Year 10 studying IGCSEs in English Language and English Literature. These are two separate qualifications and will count as two IGCSEs if you complete both courses by the end of Year 11.

English Language is a course designed to challenge students, whether it is in actual fact your first language or not. Central to your studies will be the understanding that English can be shaped and manipulated for specific audiences and purposes.

You'll learn how to inquire into the nature of spoken and written material, develop reading strategies that allow you to explore language for meanings and effects and investigate the impact, intended or otherwise, that language can have on a reader.

You'll be encouraged to craft a written style that can be suitably shaped for different reasons. A major feature of this course is the completion of coursework.

Possible Career Paths

Writing, Poetry, Media, Advertising, Journalism, Teaching, Sales, Marketing and Communications.

Qualification

<https://tinyurl.com/y3ewtqtv>



Assessment

- Paper 1: Non-fiction text and Transactional Writing- 60% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing- 40% of the final mark



Literature offers a window into other worlds. The English Literature IGCSE is an immersive, exciting course which will allow you to see back in time, forward into the future and travel to far-flung exotic places – all through the power of the spoken and written word.

The course begins with a study of a classic English Literature text in three different genres (we like to remember them as ‘the three Ps’): prose, poetry and plays.

These three texts are set by the exam board, but don’t worry – your teachers will help you read them, understand them and explore points of view not only of the different characters, but the authors and even the readership for which they were first written.

Over the previous few years students have enjoyed studying novels such as ‘Of Mice and Men’ and ‘Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry’. We have also explored plays such as ‘An Inspector Calls’ and poetry from a wide range of authors, from Edgar Allen Poe to DH Lawrence.

At the end of the two years you’ll sit an exam on the novel and the play you have studied. Before this, you’ll have the opportunity to submit a piece of coursework based on the poetry you have encountered throughout the course.

Possible Career Paths

Writing, Poetry, Media, Advertising, Journalism, Teaching, Sales, Marketing and Communications.

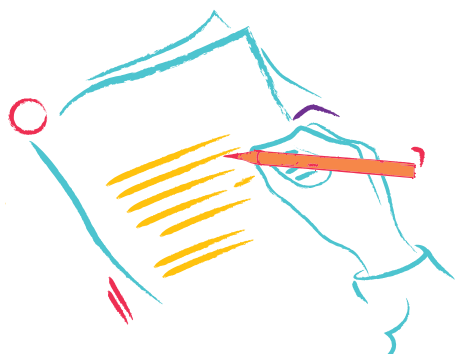
Qualification

<https://tinyurl.com/yylhzgp2>



Assessment

- Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose - 60% of final mark
- Paper 2: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts - 40% of final mark



Mathematics encourages students to develop confidence, a positive attitude and to recognise the importance of the subject in their own lives and to society.

The Edexcel IGCSE in Mathematics (Specification A) qualification enables students to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques
- acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas

- enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident
- in using mathematics to solve problems
- appreciate the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

Possible Career Paths

Software engineer, Actuary, Computer systems analyst, Computer programmer, Mathematician, Education, Banking, Business, Marketing, Accountancy and Architecture.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/68x0iz>



Assessment

- Two written papers
- Each paper contributes 50% of the GCSE
- Two Tiers: Higher or Foundation



The IGCSE Biology syllabus enables pupils to better understand the technological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Pupils learn about the basic principles of biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies.

Pupils also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at IB level, which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, pupils learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

Topics studied include: cell structure and organisation, movement in and out of cells, biological molecules, enzymes, plant and animal nutrition, transportation in plants and animals, respiration and gas exchange, excretion in humans, coordination and response, reproduction in plants and animals, inheritance, energy flow, food chains and food webs, nutrient cycles and human influence on the environment, genetic modification, cloning, selective breeding and food production.

Possible Career Paths

Marine Biologist, Medicine, Physiotherapist, Forensic scientist, Vet , Psychologist, Nurse.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/zby0iz>



Assessment

- Biology Paper 1- 61.1 % of the final mark
- Biology Paper 2 - 38.9% of the final mark



Science permeates all aspects of life and this course attempts to demonstrate the role that Chemistry plays in everyday life, and to offer an explanation of some of the properties and interactions of materials.

Throughout the course, the establishment of safe laboratory practice is encouraged through interesting experiments and demonstrations. Apparatus and techniques normally available to the pupil Chemist for obtaining and handling both pure chemicals, and those found in the home, are introduced.

The pupils, as Chemists, learn how to become aware and responsible for the environment around them, and they develop an understanding of both the positive and negative aspects of the chemical industry. Pupils' knowledge and understanding are developed contextually, with a variety of different teaching and learning styles, including working in groups, use of ICT, role play, games, designing investigations, collecting and analysing data, and molecular modelling. The topics studied are principles of chemistry, chemistry of the elements, organic chemistry, physical chemistry and chemistry in industry.

Possible Career Paths

Chemical engineer, Medicine, Physiotherapist, Analytical chemist, Forensic scientist, Psychologist, Nurse.

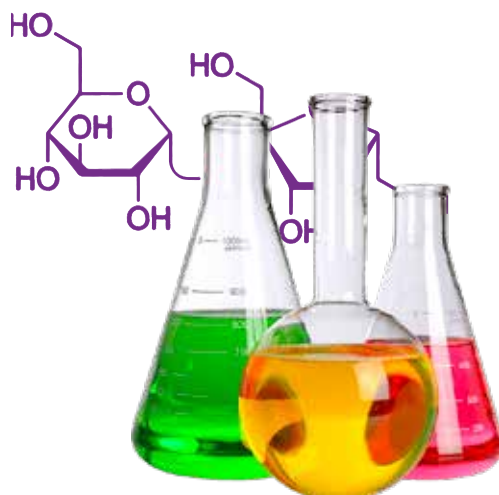
Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/0ay0iz>



Assessment

- Chemistry Paper 1 - 61.1 % of the final mark
- Chemistry Paper 2 - 38.9% of the final mark



This course is divided into 8 Physics topics that are taught over the duration of the two years. Material covered in the topics includes work on forces, electricity and magnetism, waves, astrophysics and atomic physics.

The Edexcel International GCSE in Physics enables pupils to learn about the unifying patterns and themes of physics; acquire knowledge and understanding of physical facts, concepts and principles; appreciate the practical nature of physics, developing experimental and investigative skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques; appreciate the importance of accurate experimental work

and reporting as scientific methods; develop a logical approach to problem solving in a wider context; evaluate, in terms of their scientific knowledge and understanding, the benefits and drawbacks of real-life applications of science, including their everyday, industrial and environmental aspects; select, organise and present information clearly and logically, using appropriate scientific terms and conventions; prepare for more advanced courses in physics and for other courses which require them to have a knowledge of physics.

Possible Career Paths

Medicine, Physiotherapist, Forensic scientist, Nuclear scientist, Aeronautical, Engineer.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/bay0iz>



Assessment

- Physics Paper 1- 61.1 % of the final mark
- Physics Paper 2 - 38.9% of the final mark



Arabic Language A is a core subject in the Curriculum of the Ministry of Education for students in Years 10 and 11. In this subject, students will be studying Arabic Grammar, Literature, Rhetoric and Composition. It is an extension of their Arabic language studies in Year 9.

Arabic A students will be able to enter the IGCSE Arabic language. All students who take the IGCSE Arabic as a first language course should have studied Arabic A from primary to Year 9.

Arabic Language B is also a core subject and all students

will carry on learning Arabic in Years 10 and 11. This course encourages students to develop the ability to communicate in Arabic, both orally and in writing. Students are exposed to both spoken colloquial everyday usage and basic writing.

Arabic B students will be able to enter the GCSE Arabic Language. All students who take the GCSE Arabic as a second language course should have studied Arabic for at least 3 years. Arabic A students will be able to enter the IGCSE Arabic Language.

Possible Career Paths

Career opportunities for interaction with other Arabic speakers.

Political science, International Studies, Translation, Government and NonGovernment, Relations, Travel and Tourism and Real Estate.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/ugy0iz>



Arabic B Assessment

- Arabic Paper 1 Listening- 25% of the final mark
- Arabic Paper 2 Speaking - 25% of the final mark
- Arabic Paper 3 Reading - 25% of the final mark
- Arabic Paper 4 Writing- 25% of the final mark

Arabic A Assessment

- Arabic Paper 1 Reading & Grammar - 60% of the final mark
- Arabic Paper 2 Writing - 40% of the final mark



Islamic Studies A & B

Islamic: Islamic pupils must follow the Islamic Studies course as prescribed by the Ministry of Education. In addition to the ministry requirements, Muslim pupils studying Islamic A will also cover the curriculum has been designed by the Islamic Education Department.

Islamic: Islamic pupils will complete the IGCSE Religious Studies: Islamiyat.

The Edexcel International GCSE in Islamiyat enables students to:

The International GCSE in Islamic Studies is designed to develop students' knowledge and understanding of Islam in historical and contemporary contexts, through a range of key topics and the texts of both the Qur'an and Hadith. It will enable students to develop their skills of analysis and interpretation, in the context of questions and issues that affect Islam and the lives of Muslims today.

Possible Career Paths

Journalism, Law, Education, Politics, Business Tourism, Architecture, Advertising

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/5iy0iz>



Assessment

- Islamiyat Paper 1 - 100% of the final mark



English B (as a second language)

English as a Second Language is designed for students who have spoken English for only a short period of time or have not studied in a completely English-speaking environment before. Following this course as an international student will offer better educational and employment prospects and life-long skills. The course is accepted by universities and employers as proof of your ability to understand and communicate well in English.

Students will gain a better communicative capability in English and they will also improve their ability to understand a range of social registers and styles. Students will develop a greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills with an international perspective.

Possible Career Paths

Writing, Poetry, Media, Advertising, Journalism, Teaching, Sales, Marketing and Communications.

Qualification

<https://tinyurl.com/y32g38em>



Assessment

- Paper 1: Reading and Writing - 66.7% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Listening - 33.3% of the final mark



The course will centre upon the language required to deal with practical real-life situations which a person visiting a French speaking country would be likely to encounter. The reading, writing and listening materials used will be 'authentic', i.e., actual documents currently in use and oral situations. You will be taught and expected to participate in conversations and to express opinions in a range of situations within your experience.

The aims of the syllabus describe the educational purposes of a course in a foreign language for the IGCSE examination:

- to have the ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication.
- to gain an insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken.
- to cultivate a positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and civilisations.
- to develop techniques which can be applied to other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills.
- to build a sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

Possible Career Paths

Travel and tourism, Teaching, Translator and Interpreter, Business, Engineering, Marketing and Sales, Trade and Industry, Public Relations, Law, Property.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/pfy0iz>



Assessment

- Paper 1 Listening - 25% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Reading - 25% of the final mark
- Paper 3 Speaking - 25 % of the final mark
- Paper 4 Writing - 25% of the final mark



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 offers 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.

The aims of the syllabus describe the educational purposes of a course in a foreign language for the IGCSE examination:

- to have the ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication.
- to gain an insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken.
- to cultivate a positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and civilisations.
- to develop techniques which can be applied to other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills.
- to build a sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

Possible Career Paths

Travel and tourism, Teaching, Translator and Interpreter, Business, Engineering, Marketing and Sales, Trade and Industry, Public Relations, Law, Property.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/lgy0iz>



Assessment

- Paper 1 Listening - 25% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Reading - 25% of the final mark
- Paper 3 Speaking - 25 % of the final mark
- Paper 4 Writing - 25% of the final mark



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 offers insights into German culture and society, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

The aims of the syllabus describe the educational purposes of a course in a foreign language for the IGCSE examination:

- to have the ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication.
- to gain an insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken.
- to cultivate a positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and civilisations.
- to develop techniques which can be applied to other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills.
- to build a sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

Possible Career Paths

Travel and tourism, Teaching, Translator and Interpreter, Business, Engineering, Marketing and Sales, Trade and Industry, Public Relations, Law, Property.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/4fy0iz>



Assessment

- Paper 1 Listening - 25% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Reading - 25% of the final mark
- Paper 3 Speaking - 25 % of the final mark
- Paper 4 Writing - 25% of the final mark



How do you rebuild Europe after a catastrophic event like the first World War? How did nations that wanted peace confront tyrants that thirsted for war? How did two of history's greatest ever enemies form an alliance that ushered in a second, even more destructive war? Why did the Cold War never become a hot war? These are just some of the fascinating issues and controversies that we study for GCSE History.

You will study the Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus where we look at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of the Middle East in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

The Cambridge IGCSE History qualification will enable students to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of selected periods and/or aspects of history, exploring the significance of historical events, people, changes and issues
- use historical sources critically, in context, recording significant information and reach conclusions
- organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history
- make inferences from a range of sources in order to make historical judgements.

Possible Career Paths

Journalism, Law, Education, Politics, Medicine, Business Tourism, Architecture, Advertising, Archaeology.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/6812iz>



Assessment

- Paper 1 The twentieth century: international relations since 1919, 2 hours Written paper- 40% of the final mark
- Paper 2 The twentieth century: international relations since 1919, 2 hours Written paper- 33% of the final mark
- Paper 3 The United States, 1919–41, Coursework- 27% of the final mark



The course we take for Years 10 and 11 is IGCSE from Cambridge. Geography is a fascinating study of the science of the earth and its inhabitants: the features or the arrangement of a place. As a geographer, you will learn to ask real life questions about where things are located on the surface of the earth, why they are located there, how places and people interact.

By studying Geography you will develop lifelong skills, including understanding the impacts which both physical and human geography can have and the processes which affect their development, and the places you live in.

You'll learn a sense of place, understand location on a local, regional and global scale, and understand how communities and cultures around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.

Throughout the course, you'll develop a sense of environmental responsibility and learn many useful and interesting facts; for example, the causes of volcanoes and earthquakes. You'll learn how to read and use different maps and how to discuss and evaluate large scale issues like global warming and poverty.

Possible Career Paths

Environmentalist, Civil Engineer, Cartographer, Air Traffic Controller, Geophysicist, Meteorologist, Hydrologist, Town Planner, Surveyor, Financial Adviser, Teacher, GIS Specialist, Writer/Researcher, Disaster Management and Marketing.

Qualification

<https://tinyurl.com/y9avbmk1>



Assessment

- Paper 1 Geographical Themes - 45% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Geographical Skills - 27.5% of the final mark
- Paper 3 Coursework - 27.5% of the final mark



Students in years 10 and 11 students follow the two-year Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies. This syllabus will develop successful students, giving them excellent preparation for their next steps in education, and equips them with skills for future employment. 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.

Learners will be able to understand different forms of business organisations, the environments in which businesses operate and business functions such as marketing, operations and finance and appreciate the role of people in business success.

They will also gain lifelong skills such as the ability to calculate and interpret business data, communication skills needed to support arguments with reasons and the ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements.

Possible Career Paths

Business, Business Management, MBA studies, Marketing, Accounting, Human Resources, Banking Risk Management, Sales, Operations Management, Hospitality, Retail, and Sales.

Qualification

<https://tinyurl.com/ya9b2vdo>



Assessment

- Paper 1: Short answer and data response- 50% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Case study- 50% of the final mark



Students in Years 10 and 11 follow the two-year IGCSE curriculum from Edexcel. It develops successful students, giving them excellent preparation for their next steps in education.

The main aim of the course is to develop an understanding of economic theory- how markets work, why they may fail. Students gain an understanding of government policies and objectives and look at issues facing economies today. They learn terminology and principles which will allow students the apply tools of economic analysis.

Students will be able to take a greater part in decision making and distinguish between facts and value judgments in economic issues. Students develop higher order thinking skills and must be comfortable with calculation and drawing diagrams to model economic theory.

Possible Career Paths

Finance, Financial Advisor, Banking, Accounting, Management, Business, Law, and Politics.

Qualification

<https://tinyurl.com/y7fhsr33>



Assessment

- Paper 1: Microeconomics and Business Economics - 50% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Macroeconomics and the Global Economy - 50% of the final mark



Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour, thoughts and emotions. Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact.

Students in Years 10 and 11 follow the two-year GCSE curriculum from Edexcel. GCSE Psychology enables students to develop excellent analytical and research skills. Furthermore, learning about human behaviour can also help to build communication skills and improve teamwork and leadership skills.

The main aim of the course is to develop an understanding of the different areas of Psychology together with how scientific research is conducted to investigate human behaviour. Year one focuses on the following areas: how we develop from childhood through to old age, how the memory works, diagnosing and treating mental health problems, how others affect you and the biology of brain.

Year two examines the area of criminal psychology, specifically examining reasons into criminal behaviour and the effects of rehabilitation and punishment. Year two also covers sleep and dreaming, analysing the reasons why we sleep and dream together with the biology of both.

Possible Career Paths

Clinical Psychology, Criminology, Educational Psychology, Healthcare, Human Resources, Management, Marketing, Medicine, Scientific Research, Social Work, Teaching.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/rcy0iz>



Assessment

- Paper 1: Compulsory topics - 55% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Optional topics and research methods - 45% of the final mark



Music at IGCSE is a direct extension of the work covered in Key Stage 3. Any student who has successfully completed the music course in Years 7 to 9 (or followed a similar course elsewhere) can opt for IGCSE music confidently and achieve a strong passing grade. So Music IGCSE is not just for superstar violinists and pianists!

Cambridge IGCSE Music offers students the opportunity to develop their own practical musical skills through performing and composing. They also develop their listening skills by studying music from the main historical periods and styles of Western music as well as selected non-Western traditions.

The emphasis within this syllabus is as much on developing lifelong musical skills as on acquiring knowledge. Besides, IGCSE Music gives the opportunity to listen to and learn about music from a wide range of historical periods and major world cultures; to develop skills in performing music, both individually and in a group with other musicians; and to develop skills in composing music in a style of the student's choice.

Possible Career Paths

Record Label/Artist Management, Music Therapist, Arranging/Composer, Audio Engineer, Chamber Musician, Film Composer, Orchestral Musician, Lyricist/Song Writing, Musical Theatre Artist/Pit, Radio DJ, Video Game Composer.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/iey0iz>



Assessment

- Component 1: Listening - 40% Exam
- Component 2: Performing - 30% Coursework
- Component 3: Composing: - 30% Coursework



GCSE Drama offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of plays from different periods of time in a theoretical and practical way, as well as working with others to create short performances. In addition to acting, students can choose to specialise in directing, set / costume design or technical design.

In order to succeed in Drama, you will need to:

- collaborate and communicate well with others, and enjoy sharing ideas
- take responsibility for some aspects of planning and preparation, for example by writing part of a script or leading rehearsal warm-ups, working to deadlines

- spend time at home learning lines and researching information about plays
- perform live in front of audiences, get involved in extra-curricular Drama performances and be willing to watch performances at local theatres
- work independently to collect evidence for your performance portfolio and reflect regularly on your progress and next steps.

Possible Career Paths

Acting, Directing, Set / Costume design, Lighting / Sound Design and Stage Management. However, it also develops the strong interpersonal and problemsolving skills required in a range of careers such as Journalism, Law, Medicine and Business/ Management.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/5dy0iz>



Assessment

- Component 1: Written examination – worth 40% of total mark. Based on a text and devised work
- Component 2: One individual performance of an extract from a play, one group performance of an extract from a play, one group performance based on an original devised piece



Art and Design GCSE offers an exciting opportunity to explore creative design processes, that lead to a broad scope of careers that the world of art, craft and design has to offer.

It will involve investigation research through gallery visits, photography and sketching of ideas, enabling you to develop your own original creative outcomes. Within each component you will learn new and develop existing practical skills in different art media techniques and processes. This may also include 3D sculptural techniques and computer manipulation.

To succeed in Art and Design you should:

- like using your imagination to develop ideas and work with different art medias and techniques
- enjoy investigating and researching artists and makers from different cultures and time periods
- have the ability to work at your own pace and adhere to the deadlines given
- be passionate about completing practical work to the best of your ability

Possible Career Paths

Fine Artist, Architect, Interior Designer, Product Designer, Digital Designer, Computer Games Animator, Special Effects Designer, Film/Theatre Set Designer, Landscape Architect, Web and App Designer, Fashion Designer, Graphic Designer.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/lDy0iz>



Assessment

- Component 1 60% Coursework
- Component 2 40% Final Exam



The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will offer students exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.

The course has a large practical element which involves participating in a range of activities. These include invasion games, racquet sports, striking and fielding activities as well as dance, gymnastics, athletics and swimming.

The theory element of the course includes topics such as factors affecting participation, health and diet, anatomy and physiology and how training and fitness affects the body. This aspect of the course helps students to gain a deeper understanding of how the body works while exercising and gain greater knowledge of training programmes and how to improve performance.

Possible Career Paths

Sports science, PE teacher, Physiotherapist, Sports coach/consultant, Sports policy at local and national level, Diet and fitness instructor, Personal trainer.

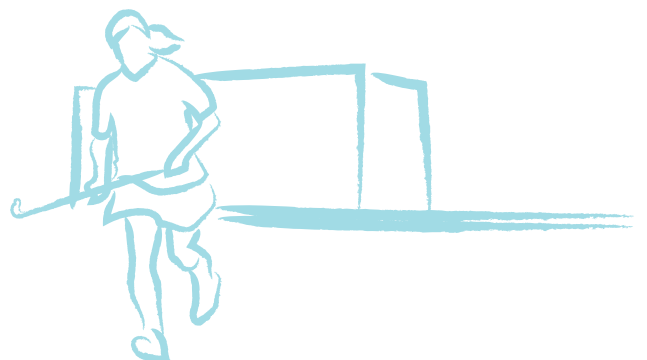
Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/4750iz>



Assessment

- Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems - 36% Written exam
- Component 2: Health and Performance - 24% Written exam
- Component 3: Practical Performance - 30% Internal assessment
- Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme - 10% Coursework



The Edexcel International GCSE in ICT is designed as a two-year course. It aims to encourage the exploration and study of ICT in a variety of contexts: home, community, business, industry, recreation and education. In any given situation students will have the opportunity to acquire competence, ability and critical skills through the implementation, use and evaluation of a range of ICT systems. Students can develop their interests in, enjoyment of and critical reflections on ICT as an integral part of modern society.

The Edexcel International GCSE in ICT enables students to:

- acquire and apply ICT skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts
- develop ICT-based solutions to address challenges and solve problems
- develop an understanding of ICT systems
- develop an understanding and awareness of current and emerging technologies
- develop an awareness of the legal, social, ethical and environmental consequences of the use of ICT systems for individuals, organisations and society
- recognise potential risks when using ICT and develop safe, secure and responsible practice.

Possible Career Paths

Excellent ICT skills complement any career including Business, Creative Media, Education, Finance, Communications, Engineering and eCommerce amongst others.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/9ey0iz>



Assessment

- Paper 1 Written Paper - 50% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Practical Paper - 50% of the final mark



Learners following the Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science syllabus develop their understanding of the main principles of problem solving using computers. They can apply their understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills, as well as being able to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions. Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science will help learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use and recognise their potential risks.

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computing and gain confidence in computational thinking. It is an ideal foundation for further study at IB Level, and the skills learnt can also be used in other areas of study and in everyday life.

Possible Career Paths

Application Analyst, Data Analyst, Games Developer, Information Systems, IT, consultant, Multimedia Programmer, Systems Developer, Web designer.

Qualification

<http://tiny.cc/vey0iz>



Assessment

- Paper 1 Theory - 60% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Problem Solving and Programming - 40% of the final mark



Key contacts

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak with the relevant staff members in the secondary school. We are here to help ensure that our students make the right choices for their future.

Department	Tutor	Email
Head of Secondary	Christopher Lowe	christopher.lowe@bisad.ae
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