



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

(I)GCSE Options Evening November 2019

(I)GCSE Options Evening 12th November 2019

*Mr. Darren Mumford
Assistant Head of Secondary*

Aims for this evening

1. To understand what the next two years of your child's education entails, including the UK grading systems
2. To be aware of important factors in making GCSE subject choices
3. To understand the steps in the process of selecting your options

Phase of Education


Key Stage	Year Groups	Curriculum
1	Yr 1 - 2	Common
2	Yr 3 - 6	Common
3	Yr 7 - 9	Common + choice of Languages
4	Yr 10 – 11	Choice of 6 Subjects
5	Yr 12 and 13	Choice + Core

Understanding the Technical Terms

- What is the difference between a GCSE and an IGCSE?
- What is meant by Key Stage 4 (KS4)?
- Who are Cambridge and Edexcel?

Grading proportions

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	A
7	B
6	C
5	D
4	E
3	F
2	G
1	U
U	U



3 : 2 Grades

GOOD PASS (DfE)
 5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
 4 and above = bottom of C and above

Grade 9 – 3%

Grade 8 – 4%

Grade 7 - 14 %

Grade 5 - 26 %

Examination Boards at BSB

Subjects		Exam Board	Grading
Fine Art	IGCSE	Edexcel	9 to 1
Music GCSE	GCSE	Edexcel	9 to 1
Spanish IGCSE	IGCSE	Edexcel	9 to 1
German IGCSE	IGCSE	Edexcel	9 to 1
French IGCSE	IGCSE	Edexcel	9 to 1
Psychology GCSE	GCSE	Edexcel	9 to 1
All other Exams – Cambridge IGCSE			A* - G

Structure of (I)GCSE Courses

- 2 year course
- Coursework / controlled assessment in some subjects
- Coursework varies from 0 - 60% of final grade
- Final examinations in May and June 2022
- Teacher/student/parent partnership
- Importance of meeting deadlines and excellent attendance

What will my child's GCSE timetable look like?

Everyone will study:

	Lessons per week
English Language and English Literature or EAL	5
Mathematics	4
A Science	3
A Language	3
4 Further options of their choice (3 lessons for each choice)	12
PE - not examined	2
PSHE - not examined	1
Total	30

How should my child make their choices?

- **Not sure, then go for broad and balanced:** Sciences (1-2), Humanities(1-2) Languages (1) Arts/Creative/Physical(1)
- Choose subjects that you enjoy
- Choose subjects that you are good at
- Consider university/employment plans
- Don't take a subject because of your friends' choices
- Don't pick a subject because you get on well with a particular teacher
- Leading into IB?

Universities

- (I)GCSE: Require C/4 and above
- Consider Country pre-requisites
- Consider faculty pre-requisites
- Recommended that you contact universities directly

How it works

**Mathematics & English are compulsory examination subjects.
Students must choose ONE subject from the Language and Science blocks.
Students then select a further four subjects from the list below.**

Choose a Language	√	Choose a Science	√
German 1 st Language		Biology	
Korean 1 st Language		Chemistry	
Mandarin 1 st Language		Physics	
French 2 nd Language			
Mandarin 2 nd Language			
Spanish 2 nd Language			

Please select a further four subjects (including if you wish to make additional Science or Language choices) from the list below.

Please rank 1-4 your preferences (1 being most important, 4 being least important).

Art		EAL (By invitation only)		Music	
Biology		Economics		Physical Education	
Chemistry		French 2 nd Language		Physics	
Computer Science		Geography		Psychology	
Drama		History		Spanish 2 nd Language	
Design and Technology		Mandarin 2 nd Language			

Key dates

- 29th November Subject choices form returned
- December Staffing requirements reviewed
- January Options blocks created
- Mid March Final choices made by students who did not get all their first choices
- April/May Timetabling

Who can help you and your child?

- Tutor
- Subject teachers or Head of Department
- Friends and family
- Head of Year 9 – Ms Jade Sinton
- Careers officer – Mr Brian Chesher
- Assistant Head of Secondary IB Coordinator - Ms Sarah Donnelly
- Assistant Head of Secondary Curriculum and Operations – Mr Darren Mumford

What do I do now?

- Read the options information carefully with your son/daughter
- Speak to subject teachers or Heads of Department
- Talk to your child about their choices and possible future career plans
- Consider/research potential universities and course requirements
- Complete the options form and return it to school by 29th November



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*MDR Room
Thank you*