



BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
OF HOUSTON

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# Welcome to High School - IGCSEs

22 September 2016

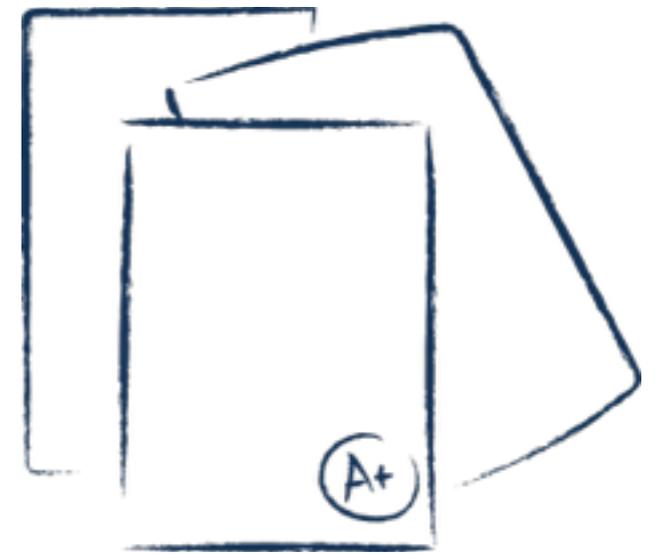




- **To find out more about IGCSEs.**
- **Support with exams and starting to revise.**

# What is an IGCSE?

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## International General Certificate of Secondary Education

We use 3 exam boards, the Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. They are all recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success.

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# What is the difference between an IGCSE and GCSE?



They are both worth the same in terms of qualification  
(Both Level 2)

Content will be different/ more international

*“Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses have been developed to support modern curriculum development, and to encourage good teaching practice. They set internationally recognised standards (equivalent to British GCSE and to GCE O levels).”*

# How are students assessed during the course?

IGCSEs are mostly assessed by **written exams**, although there's also some **coursework** in most subjects.

In subjects like Art, Computer Science your child's **practical skills** can be assessed.



# What are the grades they get? What do they mean?

Grades are benchmarked using eight internationally recognised grades, A\* to G, which have clear guidelines to explain the standard of achievement for each grade.

$$2x + \frac{1}{4} - 8x^2$$
$$= 79x + 4\frac{1}{x} - x^2$$
$$y^3 + 9x + 2 - \frac{7}{x}$$

# Future changes

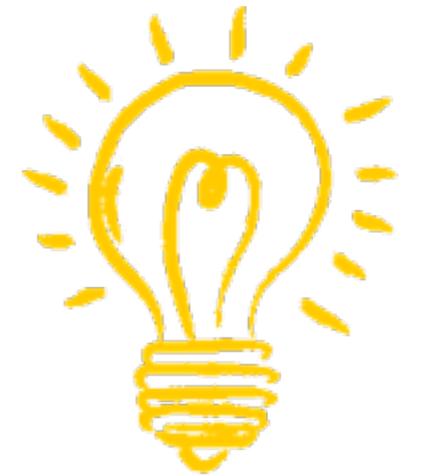
New IGCSEs will be graded 9–1, rather than A\*–G, with grade 5 considered a good pass and grade 9 being the highest and set above the current A\*.

The new system is intended to help provide more differentiation, especially among higher achieving students.

By 2019, all GCSE results will be using the new system.

$$\begin{aligned} &2x + \frac{1}{4} - 8x^2 \\ &= 79x + 4\frac{1}{x} - x^2 \\ &y^3 + 9x + 2 - \frac{7}{x} \end{aligned}$$

# Where do I find more information?



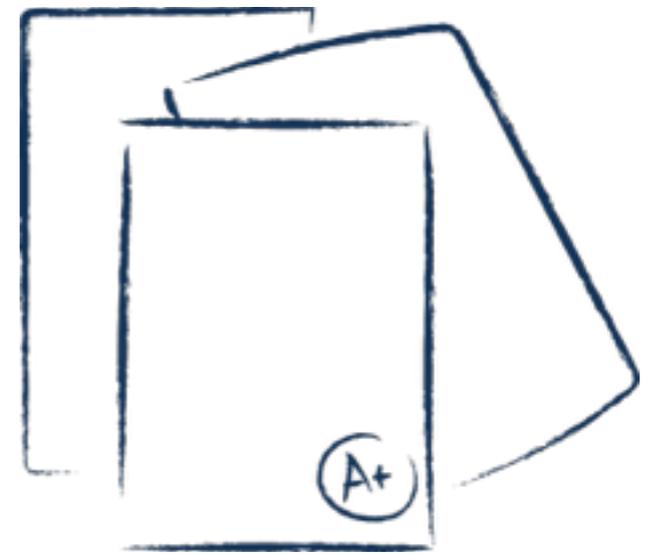
<http://www.cie.org.uk/>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk>

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

# Where do I get past papers?

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<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-secondary-2/cambridge-igcse/subjects/>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects>

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html>

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# How can I help them revise?

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Using Active Exam strategies.

Planning early.

Connecting with the teachers.



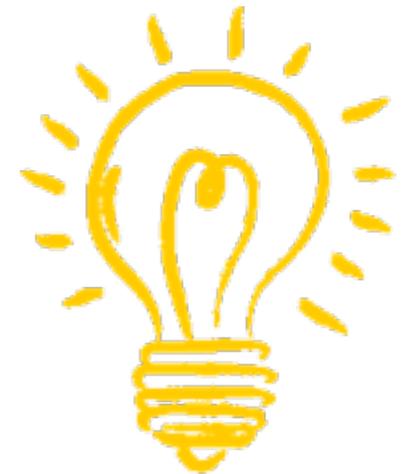
# When are the exams?

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The exams occur normally in Year 11 of the course in the summer term during May and June.

$$2x + \frac{1}{4} - 8x^2$$
$$= 79x + 4\frac{1}{x} - x^2$$
$$y^3 + 9x + 2 - \frac{7}{x}$$

# How many exams do they have?



Find out how many papers each subject has and how the subjects are assessed.

For example there are 2 exam papers in Maths.

This could be a great way to gain an overview of the courses.

# What equipment do I need to buy?

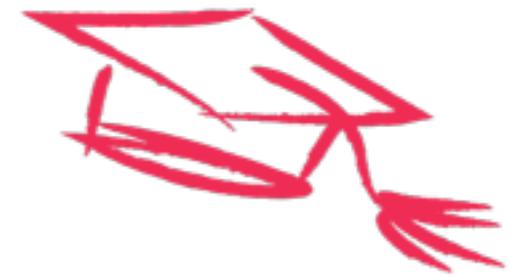
None, for the actual exams.

I would recommend revision equipment such as:

- Folders
- Postit notes
- Highlighters

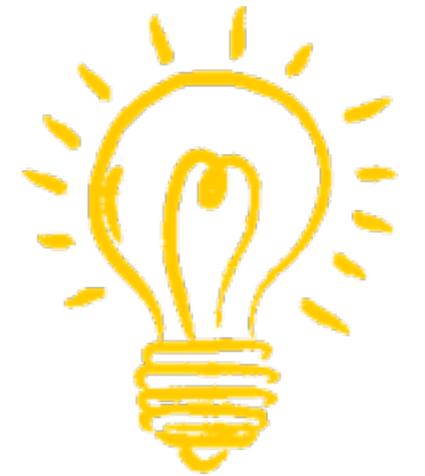


# What do the IGCSEs lead on to?



At BISH the IGCSEs lead on to the IB course. We will have an evening to introduce this.

# How do they catch up in a subject?



To catch up:

- Speak to your teacher
- Download exam papers
- Read through the syllabus (Course overview)
- Create 'active revision' techniques

# Does the school provide tutoring to aid students in catching up?

No. Students should use the time in class to learn, active learning outside of the class and then to ask any questions to the teacher.

Students could list questions that they are unsure of.

Good communication with the teacher is essential.

$$\begin{aligned} & 2x + \frac{1}{4} - 8x^2 \\ & = 79x + 4\frac{1}{x} - x^2 \\ & y^3 + 9x + 2 - \frac{7}{x} \end{aligned}$$



**Exam Revision Tips.**



# How to get started?

Now is the time to think seriously about your revision timetable. You should:

1. Check the **most up-to-date syllabus** for every subject
2. Find out about the exam (for example, are questions multiple choice or essay-based?)
3. Prepare a **revision timetable/online option?**

Open up a search engine

Type in Cambridge IGCSE exams for example, click on your subject:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridgesecondary-2/cambridge-igcse/subjects/>



# Exam Preparation - Oxford University

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*“The best way to increase confidence and reduce anxiety is to be **well prepared**, so **start your revision in good time**. Many tutors will build it into your course but you will need to make your **own plans** as well to make sure you have covered all the topics you think you need to know.”*

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/revision>

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# Exam Preparation - Further Research

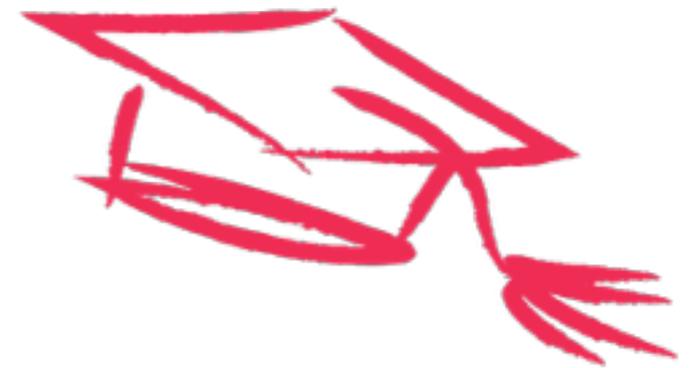
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“Revising for your IGCSE exams”

“10 Study Tips”

“Looking through exam papers”

“Example of Exam Revision Calendar” - Paper/electronic?



# Revision Timetable

Start filling in your revision timetable and think about:

- Holidays/commitments you may already have
- Start of exams
- Leaving time for breaks
- Where will you revise?
- Where will you organise your exam notes?
- Gathering all revision materials
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, etc.

Active revision?



# Active Revision (not reading notes/ copying materials/websites)

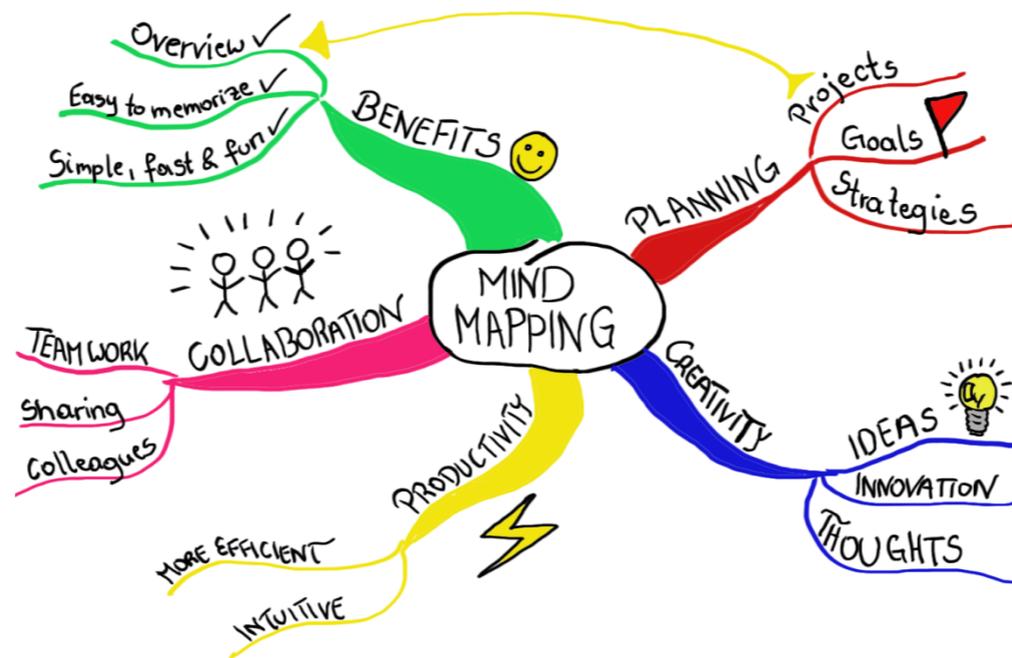
Examples of active revision can be found online or here are a few below:

- Diagrams/Mind maps
- Similarities/differences
- Looking for points for and against an argument.
- Flash cards then discussing topics with a friend
- Linking one problem to another
- Identifying themes or principles
- Creating questions and answers/true and false
- Rhythm, speech,
- Pictures, drawings, colour code work

# Mind Maps

## Diagrams/Mind maps

Helps you start with a central idea, write down the main topics and gather your thoughts quickly on paper. It helps you visually organise information and generate more ideas.



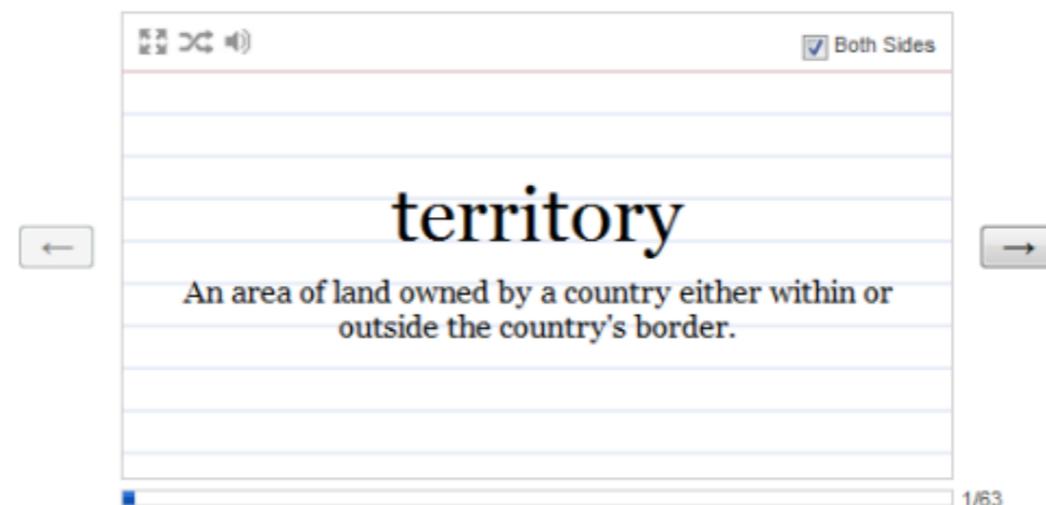
## Why not try?

<https://padlet.com/> - This can be used to create mind maps online and share with others

# Flashcards

Use flashcards to learn anything and share them.

## Flashcards: Unit 3 Study Guide



## Why not try?

<https://quizlet.com> - This can be used to create flash cards online to use to recall facts, learn new material and test your self on the subjects you are revising.

# Interviews

**Have students move to work with a partner to interview each other about the topic under study.**

If they have already completed the day's work, they can ask questions about the material they just studied. If they are just beginning the lesson, the interview questions can be designed to determine what they already know about the topic.

The questions can be generated by their teacher or by students themselves write down the questions before you start.

Choose 1 topic and decide on how many questions you will start with, example:

**IGCSE Chemistry, Chapter 1 and 5 Questions each.**

**Each student should take it in turn to ask.**

# Linking Problems

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## **Select a topic/chapter**

Which areas are similar?

Why are they similar?

Explain the connections, list them down

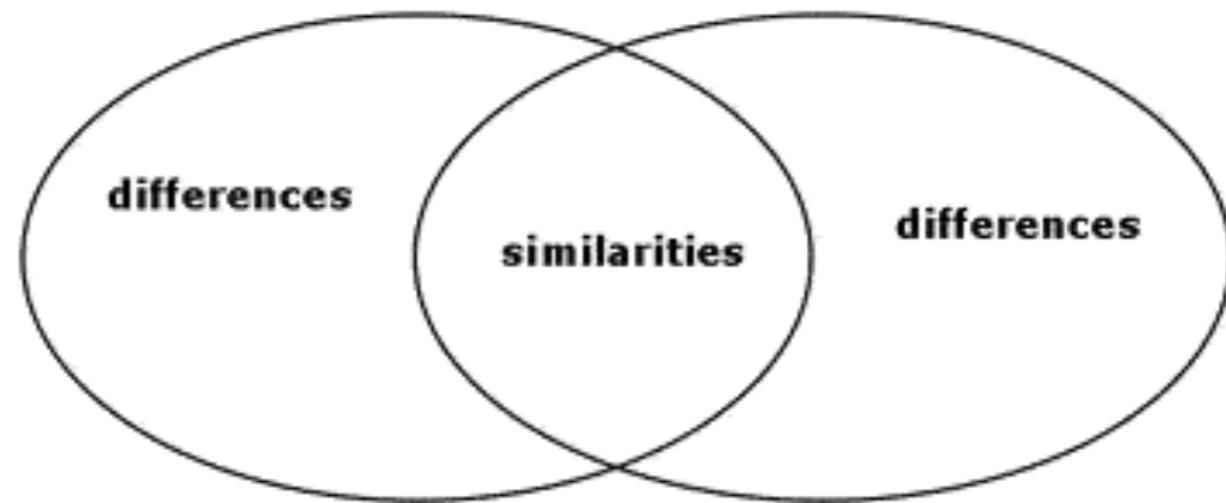
Can any others be linked?

Which further examples can you think of?

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# Similarities and Differences

**Select an area of study**  
Either:



**Then pick a topic to list these:**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES

# Online Resources

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Use the handouts as a starting point, or visit:

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/4-strategies-teaching-kids-how-revise-rebecca-alber>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/apr/24/revision-advice-students>

<http://www.studentworldonline.com/article/7-best-exam-revision-strategies-for-your-learning-/470/>

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**Documents to share.**



# Documents

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“Revising for your IGCSE exams”

“10 Study Tips”

“Looking through exam papers”

“Example of Exam Revision Calendar” - Paper/electronic?

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## Secondary Staff.



# Secondary Leadership Team

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Paul Walton	Head of Secondary School
Gemma Averette	Assistant Head Teacher/Student Support Services
Hayley Byrne	Assistant Head Teacher/ Head of Post 16 + IB Coordinator
Neil Green	Assistant Head Teacher/ School Systems

# Heads of Year

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Head of Department</b>
Year 10	T.Bennett
Year 11	D.Bartlett

# Heads of Departments

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Head of Department</b>
Maths	N. Morgan
Science	R.Potepa
English	J. Cooper
Humanities	A.Bennett
Languages	S.Currie
Design Thinking	A.Hannan
Music and Performing Arts	P.Wright
PE	T.Wain

# Exams and Revision Overview

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- What is an IGCSE?
- Exam Boards
- What to do next?
- Resources
- Active Revision

I will include exam revision examples, videos and resources via a link in the newsletter.

If you have any other questions, please email me.

[paul.walton@houston.nae.school](mailto:paul.walton@houston.nae.school)

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Have a good evening