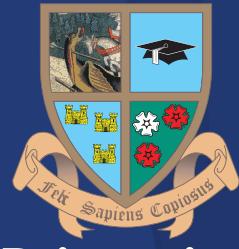




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**Britannica
International
School Shanghai**

IGCSE Option Booklet

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Introduction

Welcome to the IGCSE options process for Year 9 students at Britannica. Choosing your IGCSE subjects is an important stage in your education. We know that it can be a difficult time and can cause anxiety because there are many questions that you might have. This booklet and the options process are designed to make this time less worrying for you and your parents. The process will help you to start making decisions about your learning and to choose subjects that suit your aspirations, skills and needs. Please use all the information available to you: this booklet; advice from subject teachers; your class teachers and your parents. These people know you and may offer advice as to whether they think a subject would suit you as a learner.

Choosing IGCSE Options

Students are advised to choose subjects which they are good at, they enjoy, and which will open doors for them in the future. Students are advised about course content from the teaching staff at Britannica and meetings are held to discuss the options process in order to provide informed choices for our students. IGCSE options should be confirmed before the end of April, whilst every effort is made to accommodate students' first choices, this may not always be possible as class sizes need to be viable in order for classes to be timetabled.

You should remember the following when selecting options:

Do

- Do choose subjects which you like or enjoy.
- Do choose subjects at which you are successful.
- Do choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education.
- Do find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to stick with it for the full two years.
- Do talk to the people who know you best.
- Do listen to the advice your subject teachers give you.

Do not

- Do not choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it; friendships may change with time but your IGCSE grades will remain with you forever.
- Do not choose a subject just because you like, or dislike a particular teacher. They may not end up teaching you!

Changing an Option Subject:

A change of subject is always possible. A change can still be made in Year 10 when the course has started, however, the later a subject change is made the more difficult it can be to catch up on any missed work. Any subject changes must be requested in writing and confirmed by the Head of Secondary.

Please take the time to read the information in the following pages. You will find an outline of all the courses offered next year. Each course will give information about the type of qualification awarded, the assessment process and progression routes for this subject. All of these will be helpful and informative when considering which subjects to choose next year.

Art and Design/ Fine Art

Course Code: 4FA1

Exam Board: Edexcel

Aims

Students are expected to select appropriate visual forms and conduct research, gathering, selecting, and organising visual and other relevant information.

They develop their creative, imaginative, and intuitive capabilities while exploring and creating images, artifacts, and products. The course encourages students to take risks and learn from experiences, they gain confidence in experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials, and techniques.

They will explore pertinent resources, analyse, discuss, and evaluate images, objects, and artifacts, making independent judgments. By using their knowledge and understanding of the work of others, students will develop and extend their own thinking to inform their artistic practice.

They will generate and explore potential lines of inquiry through appropriate media and techniques, showcasing their work. Additionally, students will apply their knowledge in creating images and artifacts, reviewing and modifying their work based on their own evaluations and those of others. They will organise, select, and communicate ideas, solutions, and responses, presenting them in a variety of visual, tactile, and sensory forms.

Students actively engage in the creative process of

art, craft, and design to become effective and independent learners, fostering critical and reflective thinking with enquiring minds.

Content Overview

The IGCSE in Art and Design is a broad and flexible course that encourages students to appreciate the creative process through practical responses using a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, materials, techniques, and processes.

Students critically explore how artists, craftspeople, and designers from diverse cultures, times, and societies have arrived at solutions and communicated meaning through the formal elements of art. This knowledge informs them of new ideas, observations, and outcomes that reflect their personal intentions or conceptual ideas, rather than serving a practical or commercial function. They are encouraged to work from personal experiences, thoughts, and feelings, aiming to observe and record people, places, and things in innovative ways.

Portfolios will showcase an understanding of formal elements and creative skills, including mark-making, while students will use visual communication thoughtfully to document their artistic journeys and support their intentions. Additionally, students will learn that fine art practitioners may work on client commissions or self-directed projects, requiring strong communication skills to liaise with clients and effectively promote and exhibit their work.

Assessment

Component 1
Internal set assignment
Externally marked and digitally submitted with component 2
50% of the total qualification

Component 2
External set assignment
Externally marked and digitally submitted with component 1
50% of the total qualification

Content Overview

Characteristics and classification of living organisms
Organisation of the organism
Movement into and out of cells
Biological molecules
Enzymes
Plant nutrition
Human nutrition
Transport in plants
Transport in animals
Diseases and immunity
Gas exchange in humans
Respiration
Excretion in humans
Coordination and response
Drugs
Reproduction
Inheritance
Variation and selection
Organisms and their environment
Human influences on ecosystems
Biotechnology and genetic modification

Biology

Course Code: 0610

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

- Acquire scientific knowledge and understanding of scientific theories and practice.
- Develop a range of experimental skills, including handling variables and working safely.
- Use scientific data and evidence to solve problems and discuss the limitations of scientific methods.
- Communicate effectively and clearly, using scientific terminology, notation and conventions.
- Understand that the application of scientific knowledge can benefit people and the environment.
- Enjoy science and develop an informed interest in scientific matters which support further study.

Assessment

All students take three papers.

Core assessment
Core students take Paper 1 and Paper 3.
Paper 1: Multiple Choice (Core)
45 minutes
40 marks
30% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 3: Theory (Core)
1 hour 15 minutes

80 marks
50% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Extended assessment
Extended students take Paper 2 and Paper 4.

Paper 2: Multiple Choice (Extended)

45 minutes

40 marks
30% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 4: Theory (Extended)

1 hour 15 minutes

80 marks
50% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

All students take Paper 6

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical:

1 hour

40 marks

20% of IGCSE

Externally assessed

- Apply their knowledge and critical understanding to current issues and problems in a wide range of business contexts.
- Make effective use of relevant terminology, concepts and methods, and recognise the strengths and limitations of the ideas used in business.
- Distinguish between facts and opinions and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data to help build arguments and make informed judgements.
- Appreciate the perspectives of a range of stakeholders in relation to the business environment, individuals, society, government and enterprise.
- 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.
- 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.
- Develop skills of numeracy, literacy, enquiry, selection and use of relevant sources of information, presentation and interpretation.
- Develop an awareness of the nature and significance of innovation and change within the context of business activities.
- Acquire a foundation for further study of business or other subjects.

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.
- Appreciate the role of people in business success.

Business Studies Course Code: 0450 Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims are to enable students to:

They will also gain lifelong skills, including:

- The ability to calculate and interpret business data.
- Communication skills needed to support arguments with reasons.
- The ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements.

Content Overview

- Understanding business activity
This section introduces the underlying ideas and concepts of business and includes the purpose and nature of business activity and how businesses can be classified.
- People in business
The focus is the functional area of human resources and includes the importance and methods of motivating a workforce.
- Marketing
This section includes the role of marketing, the distinctions between niche and mass markets and the techniques of market segmentation.
- Operations management
The focus is the functional area of production and includes the meaning and methods of production and how productivity can be increased.
- Financial information and decisions
This finance and accounting section covers the need for and sources of business finance, cash-flow forecasting and working cap.

▪ External influences on business activity
This section focuses on different external influences on business activity and how these impact on business. It includes government influences on economic, environmental and ethical issues and how they impact on the functional areas of businesses.

Assessment

All students will take two papers.
Paper 1
1 hour 30 minutes
Short Answer and Data Response
50%
80 marks
Externally assessed

Paper 2
1 hour 30 minutes
Case Study
50%
80 marks
Externally assessed

Chemistry Course Code: 0620 Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims are to enable students to:

- Acquire scientific knowledge and understanding of scientific theories and practice.
- Develop a range of experimental skills, including handling variables and working safely.

- Use scientific data and evidence to solve problems and discuss the limitations of scientific methods.
- Communicate effectively and clearly, using scientific terminology, notation and conventions.
- Understand that the application of scientific knowledge can benefit people and the environment.
- Enjoy science and develop an informed interest in scientific matters which support further study.

Content Overview

Students study the following topics:

1. States of matter
2. Atoms, elements and compounds
3. Stoichiometry
4. Electrochemistry
5. Chemical energetics
6. Chemical reactions
7. Acids, bases and salts
8. The Periodic Table
9. Metals
10. Chemistry of the environment
11. Organic chemistry
12. Experimental techniques and chemical analysis

Assessment

Students on the CORE pathway will take the following papers.

Paper 1: Multiple Choice (Core)

45 minutes
40 marks,
30% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 3: Theory (core)
1 hour 15 minutes
80 marks,

50% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical
1 hour
40 marks,
20% of IGCSE
Questions will be based on the experimental skills
Externally assessed

Students on the EXTENDED pathway will take the following papers.

Paper 2: Multiple Choice (Extended)
45 minutes
40 marks,
30% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 4: Theory (Extended)
1 hour 15 minutes
80 marks
50% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical

1 hour
40 marks
20% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Aims

The aims are to enable students to:

- Develop the ability to use Chinese effectively for the purpose of practical communication.
- Form a sound foundation for the skills required for further study or employment using Chinese as the medium.
- Develop an awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills.
- Promote learners' personal development.

Content overview

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Learners will be presented with a variety of stimuli that will build up their skills in reading and writing. They will learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practise writing for different purposes and audiences.

Learners will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills.

In both written and spoken Chinese, learners will be able to respond to factual information as well as abstract ideas. Learners will engage in conversations on a variety of topics and develop their skills in expressing their viewpoints with a degree of accuracy and clarity.

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language will

enable learners to become independent users of Chinese and to use Chinese to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts.

Texts and questions are printed in both traditional and simplified characters on the question papers. Candidates choose the form they prefer in the examination and may write their answers in either traditional or simplified characters. The Speaking test is assessed in Mandarin Chinese only.

Assessment

It is compulsory for all candidates to take both components.

Component 1

Paper 1: Reading and Writing
2 hours
60 marks
60% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Component 2

Paper 2
Listening
30 marks
25–45 minutes
20% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Component 3.

Speaking
10–13 minutes
60 marks
20% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

The Speaking test is conducted in Mandarin Chinese. Internally assessed and externally moderate

Chinese as a Second Language

Course Code: 0523

Exam Board: Cambridge

Computer Science

Course Code: 0478

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims are to enable students to develop:

- Computational thinking skills.
- An understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers.
- The skills necessary to solve computer-based problems using a high-level programming language.
- An understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate.
- An understanding of the internet as a means of communication and its associated risks.
- An understanding of the development and use of automated and emerging technologies.

Content Overview

Over the course of Year 10 and 11, students will study a combination of theory and practical skills.

Computer systems

- Data representation
- Data transmission
- Hardware
- Software
- The internet and its uses
- Automated and emerging technologies

Algorithms, programming and logic

- Algorithm design and problem-solving
- Programming

- Databases
- Boolean logic

Assessment

Paper 1

1 hour 45 minutes

Computer Systems

50% of the IGCSE

75 marks

Externally assessed

Paper 2

1 hour 45 minutes

Algorithms, Programming and Logic

50% of the IGCSE

75 marks

Externally assessed

Content Overview

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers students the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Students will be presented with a variety of texts that will build up their skills in reading and writing. They will learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practise writing for different purposes and audiences.

Students will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, to develop listening skills. Students will engage in conversations on a variety of topics and develop their skills in responding to different situations and audiences with a degree of accuracy and clarity.

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language will enable students to become independent users of English both to support further study and to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts.

Assessment

All students take three components.

Paper 1

Reading and Writing

2 hours

60 marks

Externally assessed

50% of the

Paper 2

Listening

Approximately 50 minutes

40 marks

Externally assessed

25% of the IGCSE

Paper 3

Speaking

Approximately 10-15 minutes

40 marks

Internally assessed and externally moderated

25% of the IGCSE

First Language Chinese

Course Code: 0509

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus. The aims are to enable students to:

- Read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding, enjoying and appreciating a variety of language.
- Read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.
- Write accurately and effectively using appropriate standard language.
- Work with information and ideas in Chinese by developing skills of critical evaluation, analysis, synthesis and inference.
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions.

English as a Second Language

Course Code: 0511

(Count-in Speaking)

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims are to enable students to develop:

- Develop learners' ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication.
- Develop learners' awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills.
- Develop transferable skills to complement other areas of the curriculum.
- Promote learners' personal development and enjoyment.

- Deepen understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and classical texts.

Content Overview

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese offers candidates the opportunity to respond knowledgeably to a range of reading passages. Candidates will use some of these passages to inform and inspire their own writing and write in a range of text types for different audiences.

The passages cover a range of genres and types, including fiction and non-fiction, and may also include other forms of writing, such as essays, reviews and articles.

Learners will have the opportunity to read Classical Chinese prose texts to help to deepen their knowledge of Chinese culture.

We encourage learners to become appreciative and critical readers and writers of Chinese

Assessment

It is compulsory for all candidates to take both components.

Component 1
Paper 1: Reading, Directed Writing and Classical Chinese

2 hours 15 minutes

60 marks

50% of IGCSE

Externally assessed

2 hours
50 marks
50% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

First Language English

Course Code: 0500

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is for learners whose first language is English or for those who are capable enough of meeting the standards required of that of a native speaker.

The aims of the course will enable students to:

- Develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing.
- Use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.
- Develop more general analysis and communication skills such as inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used.

Content Overview

The subject is divided into two papers, Paper 1 and Paper 2. The aims are to enable students to:

Reading

- Demonstrate understanding of written texts, and of the words and phrases within them.

- Summarise and use material for a specific context.
- Develop, analyse and evaluate facts, ideas and opinions.
- Demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve their effects and influence readers.
- Select appropriate information for specific purposes.
- Recognise and respond to linguistic devices, figurative language and imagery. In developing reading skills, candidates should engage with a range of genres and text types from the twentieth and/or twenty-first centuries, including literature, fiction and non-fiction, and other forms of writing, such as discursive essays, reviews and articles.

Students should focus on writers' use of language and style and the ways in which writers achieve effects and influence readers.

Writing

- Express what is thought, felt and imagined.
- Organise and convey facts, ideas and opinions effectively.
- Demonstrate a varied vocabulary appropriate to the context.
- Demonstrate an effective use of sentence structures.
- Demonstrate an understanding of audience, purpose and form.
- Demonstrate accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

As developing writers themselves, the students will be introduced to a range of writing skills, including the ability to create and compose texts with a variety of forms and purposes, e.g. descriptive, narrative,

discursive, argumentative and persuasive. This includes focus on the following text types: letter, report, article, journal, speech, interview and summary.

Assessments

Paper 1: Reading
2 hours
50% of the IGCSE
80 marks
Externally assessed

Paper 2: Directed Writing and Composition
2 hours
50% of the IGCSE
80 marks
Externally assessed

Further Pure Mathematics

Course Code: 4PM1

Exam Board: Edexcel

Aims

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Further Pure Mathematics qualification enables students to:

- Study knowledge of mathematical techniques beyond International GCSE Mathematics content Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Further Pure Mathematics.
- Provide a course of study for those whose mathematical competence may have developed early.
- Develop an understanding of mathematical.

- Reasoning and processes, and the ability to relate different areas of mathematics.
- Enable students to acquire knowledge and skills with confidence, satisfaction and enjoyment.
- Develop mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas.

Content Overview

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Further Pure Mathematics requires students to demonstrate application and understanding of the following:

Number

- Use numerical skills in a purely mathematical way and in real-life situations.

Algebra and calculus

- Use algebra and calculus to set up and solve problems.
- Develop competence and confidence when manipulating mathematical expressions.
- Construct and use graphs in a range of situations.

Geometry and trigonometry

- Understand the properties of shapes, angles and transformations.
- Use vectors and rates of change to model situations.
- Use coordinate geometry.
- Use trigonometry.

Assessment

Paper 1

2 hours

100 marks

Externally Assessed

50% of IGCSE

Paper 2

2 hours

100 marks

Externally Assessed

50% of IGCSE

Geography

Course Code: 0460

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus. The aims are to enable students to:

The aims are to enable students to:

- An understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale.
- An awareness of the characteristics, distribution and processes affecting contrasting physical and human environments.
- An understanding of the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environment.
- An awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints presented by different environments.
- An appreciation of and concern for the environment.
- An appreciation of the earth including its people, places, landscapes, natural processes and phenomena.

Content Overview

The syllabus is divided into three themes:

Theme 1: Population and settlement

Theme 2: The natural environment
Theme 3: Economic development.

The themes are designed to develop an understanding of natural and human environments.

Assessment

Paper 1

1 hour 45 minutes

Geographical Themes

45% of the IGCSE

75 marks, weighted to 100 marks

Students answer three questions, each worth 25 marks.

Students must answer one question from each section.

Externally assessed

Paper 2

1 hour 30 minutes

Geographical Skills

27.5% of the IGCSE

60 marks

Students answer all the questions

Externally assessed

Paper 4

1 hour 30 minutes

Alternative to Coursework

27.5% of the IGCSE

60 marks

Students answer two compulsory questions, completing a series of written tasks

Externally assessed

Global Perspectives

Course Code: 0457

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus. The aims are to enable students to:

The aims are to enable students to:

- Become independent and confident about taking their place in a changing, information rich and connected world.
- Develop an analytical and evaluative grasp of global issues and their causes and consequences, leading to the suggestion of possible evidence-based courses of action.
- Consider the concept of sustainability when analysing issues and proposing courses of action.
- Engage with and reflect on issues, both independently and in collaboration with others and from a variety of different perspectives.
- Work independently as well as part of a team, showing responsibility for much of their own learning including using diverse and varied sources to support reasoning.
- Consider important issues from a variety of perspectives and reflect on the links between these.
- Critically assess information available to them and support judgements with lines of reasoning in order to communicate to others effectively and appropriately.

Content Overview

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is interdisciplinary in nature. The syllabus gives learners the opportunity to develop the skills they need to face global

challenges in a connected and information-rich world and to think about how best to live in a sustainable way. These challenges include how to cope with changes that will have an impact on their life chances and choices and how to gain a sense of their own active place in the world.

To support learners in facing these challenges, Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives develops a range of skills, including:

- researching, analysing and evaluating information
- developing and justifying a line of reasoning
- reflecting on processes and on own learning
- communicating information and reasoning
- collaborating to achieve a common outcome

These skills are transferable and useful for future study. They will help learners become active citizens of the future.

Learners are encouraged to explore ideas from others' communities, countries and cultures. Through stimulating topics, they will explore issues of global significance. They will learn to direct their own study and develop independent thought.

Assessment

All students take:

Component 1

Written Exam

1 hour 25 minutes

35% of the IGCSE

70 marks

Externally assessed

Component 2

Individual Report

30% of the IGCSE

60 marks

Students research a significant global issue of their choice from the topic list. They research a range of different perspectives – local and/or national and global – on the global issue and reflect on their own personal perspective.

Students devise their own title and write a report. The report must be 1500–2000 words and be written in continuous text.

Internally set and externally marked

Component 3

Team Project

35% of the IGCSE

70 marks

Students work in teams to choose from the topic list and identify a local issue. They devise and develop a collaborative project on an aspect of the issue considered from a range of perspectives.

The Team Project has two elements:

Team Element (25 marks)

Each team produces one Explanation of Research and Planning and one Evidence of Action. The Explanation of Research and Planning must be 300–400 words.

Personal Element (45 marks)

Each student writes a Reflective Paper on their research, their contribution to the Team Element and their personal learning. The Reflective Paper must be 750–1000 words.

Internally assessed and externally moderated

History

Course Code: 0470

Exam Board: Cambridge

- Depth Study: Germany, 1918–45
- Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?
- Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?
- How effectively did the Nazis control Germany, 1933–45?
- What was it like to live in Nazi Germany?

Aims

The aims of IGCSE History are to enable students to develop:

- An interest in and enthusiasm for learning about the past.
- Knowledge and understanding of individuals, people and societies in the past.
- Knowledge that is rooted in an understanding of the nature and use of historical evidence.
- An understanding of key historical concepts: cause and consequence, change and continuity, and similarity and difference.
- An understanding of international issues in history
- Historical skills, including investigation, analysis, evaluation and communication skills.
- A sound basis for further study and the pursuit of personal interest.

Content Overview

Core Content: The Twentieth Century, International Relations since 1919

- Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?
- To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
- How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939?
- Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- How effectively did the United States contain the spread of communism?
- How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?

Assessment

Paper 1

Structured Questions

2 hours,

60 marks

Students answer two questions from Core content and one question from Depth study.

All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into three parts: (a), (b) and (c).

Paper 2

Document Questions

1 hour 45 minutes,

40 marks

Candidates answer one question on one prescribed topic taken from Core content.

Candidates are presented with a range of source materials relating to each prescribed topic.

Paper 4

Alternative to Coursework

1 hour,

40 marks

Candidates answer one question on Depth study.

All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into two parts: (a) and (b).

Literature in English

Course Code: 0475

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims of Literature in English are to enable students to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Students develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, students learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

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

Students will have to demonstrate the following:

- Knowledge of the content of the text – through reference to detail and use of quotations from the text (AO1).
- Understanding of characters, relationships, situations and themes (AO2).
- Understanding of the writer's intentions and methods – response to the writer's use of language (AO3).
- Personal response – sometimes directly (answering questions such as 'What do you think?', 'What are your feelings about...?') and sometimes by implication (answering questions such as 'Explore the ways in which...') (AO4).

Content Overview

Students will study four units.

1. Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
2. A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare
3. A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
4. 15 poems by Ted Hughes

The Thought-Fox

The Harvest Moon

The Jaguar

Football at Slack

The Horses

Roe-Deer

Wind

A Memory

Relic

Telegraph Wires

Hawk Roosting

Anniversary

Cat and Mouse

The Other

Snowdrop

Assessments

Paper 1: Poetry & Prose

1 hour 30 minutes

50 marks

50% of the IGCSE

Students answer two questions: one from Section A (Poetry) and one from Section B (Prose).

All questions carry equal marks (25 marks each).

There is a choice of two questions on each text. Relevant passages/poems are printed on the question paper.

Students are not allowed to take the text into the exam.

Externally assessed

Paper 2: Drama

1 hour 30 minutes

50 marks

50% of the IGCSE

Students answer two questions on two texts. All questions carry equal marks (25 marks each). There is a choice of two questions on each text: either (a) a passage-based question or (b) an essay question.

Students must answer one passage-based question and one essay question.

Relevant passages are printed on the question paper.

Externally assessed.

drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum.

- Form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for progression to work or further study, either in Chinese or another subject area.

Content Overview

The subject content is organised in five broad topic areas (A–E below). These provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. The study of these topic areas enables students to gain an insight into countries and communities where Chinese is spoken. The five topic areas listed below:

- A. Everyday activities
- B. Personal and social life
- C. The world around us
- D. The world of work
- E. The international world

Mandarin Chinese

Course Code: 0547

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus. The aims are to enable students to:

- Develop the language proficiency required to communicate effectively in Mandarin Chinese at level A2(CEFR Basic User).
- Offer insights into the culture and society of countries and communities where Chinese is spoken.
- Develop awareness of the nature of language and language learning.
- Encourage positive attitudes towards speakers of other languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures.
- Provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.

Develop transferable skills (e.g. memorising,

The syllabus gives students opportunities to develop and apply a wide range of foreign language skills.

Candidates will be expected to read and understand a variety of written and spoken texts on familiar topics. Candidates will be required to demonstrate understanding of the main ideas, opinions and attitudes, as well as select and extract relevant details and deduce the meaning of occasional unknown words from context.

They will also have opportunities to write in Chinese on familiar, everyday topics, and to speak the language by taking part in everyday conversations.

Assessment

All candidates take all four papers.

Component 1
Paper 1: Listening
40 minutes
30 marks
25% of IGCSE
Externally assessed.

Component 2
Paper 2: Reading
1 hour 15 minutes
40 marks
25% of IGCSE
Externally assessed.

Component 3
Paper 1: Speaking
10 minutes
40 marks
25% of IGCSE
Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 4
Paper 1: Writing
1 hour 15 minutes
45 marks
25% of IGCSE
Externally assessed.

Mathematics

Course Code: 4MA1

Exam Board: Edexcel

Aims
The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics 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.

Content Overview

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics requires students to demonstrate application and understanding of the following.

Number

- Use numerical skills in a purely mathematical way and in real-life situations.

Algebra

- Use letters as equivalent to numbers and as variables.
- Understand the distinction between expressions, equations and formulae.
- Use algebra to set up and solve problems.
- Demonstrate manipulative skills.
- Construct and use graphs.

Geometry

- Use properties of angles.
- Understand a range of transformations.
- Work within the metric system.
- Understand ideas of space and shape.
- Use ruler, compasses and protractor appropriately.

Assessment
Foundation Tier
Paper 1F
2 hours
100 marks
Externally Assessed
50% of IGCSE

Paper 2F
2 hours
100 marks
Externally Assessed
50% of IGCSE

Higher Tier
Paper 1H
2 hours
100 marks
Externally Assessed
50% of IGCSE

Paper 2H
2 hours
100 marks
Externally Assessed
50% of IGCSE

- Acquire and consolidate a range of musical skills, knowledge and understanding through listening, performing and composing.
- Develop an understanding of diverse musical traditions.
- Develop a perceptive and critical response to music.
- Develop creative and interpretative skills through composing and performing.
- Develop enthusiasm for exploring musical styles and genres.
- Develop a secure basis for further musical study.

Content Overview

The IGCSE Music course covers seven key areas of study:

1. Baroque Music
2. Classical Music
3. Romantic Music
4. Music and Words
5. Music for Dance
6. Music for Small Ensemble
7. Music for Stage and Screen

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening
40% of IGCSE
70 marks
1 hour 15 minutes written examination

Component 2: Performing
30% of IGCSE
50 marks

Component 3: Composing
30% of IGCSE
50 marks

Music

Course Code: 0410

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims are to enable students to:

Physical Education

Course Code: 0413

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus. The aims are to enable students to:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the theory underpinning physical performance in a modern world.
- Use and apply this knowledge and understanding to improve their performance.
- Perform in a range of physical activities, developing skills and techniques, and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas.
- Understand and appreciate safe practice in physical activity and sport.
- Understand and appreciate the benefit of physical activity and sport for health, fitness and well-being.
- Gain a sound basis for further study in the field of Physical Education.

Content Overview

The syllabus provides students with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education. It is also designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity.

The knowledge gained should enable students to develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. Students will study all the following topics:

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Health, fitness and training
3. Skill acquisition and psychology
4. Social, cultural and ethical influences

Students will also undertake four different physical activities chosen from at least two of seven categories. Physical activities make a significant contribution to syllabus aims and objectives, serving as a source of material to facilitate learning.

Assessment

It is compulsory for all students to take both components.

Paper 1: Theory

1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks

50% of IGCSE

Externally assessed

Component 2: Coursework

Students undertake four physical activities from at least two different categories.

50% of IGCSE

Internally assessed and externally moderated

- Acquire scientific knowledge and understanding of scientific theories and practice.
- Develop a range of experimental skills, including handling variables and working safely.
- Use scientific data and evidence to solve problems and discuss the limitations of scientific methods.
- Communicate effectively and clearly, using scientific terminology, notation and conventions.
- Understand that the application of scientific knowledge can benefit people and the environment.
- Enjoy science and develop an informed interest in scientific matters which support further study.

Content Overview

Students study the following topics:

Motion, forces and energy

Thermal physics

Waves

Electricity and magnetism

Nuclear physics

Space physics

Assessment

Students on the CORE pathway will take the following papers.

Paper 1: Multiple Choice (Core)

45 minutes

40 marks

30% of IGCSE

Externally assessed

Paper 3: Theory (Core)

1 hour 15 minutes

80 marks

50% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical
1 hour
40 marks
20% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Students on the EXTENDED pathway will take the following papers.
Paper 2: Multiple Choice (Extended)
45 minutes
40 marks
30% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 4: Theory (Extended)
1 hour 15 minutes
80 marks
50% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical
1 hour
40 marks
20% of IGCSE
Externally assessed

Physics

Course Code: 0625

Exam Board: Cambridge

Aims

The aims are to enable students to:

Spanish

Course Code: 4SP1

Exam Board: Edexcel

IGCSE Spanish is designed to give students a comprehensive foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course covers a wide range of practical topics, from everyday situations like shopping and travel, to more complex issues related to society, media, and the environment. Throughout the programme, students will build their confidence in using Spanish both in and outside the classroom, with a focus on real-world communication.

Course Overview:

The Spanish IGCSE is a rigorous and rewarding programme designed to help students communicate effectively in Spanish across a variety of contexts. It focuses on four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course encourages students to explore both the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries, providing a well-rounded educational experience.

Topics Covered:

The curriculum is structured around the following key themes:

Home and abroad
Life in the town and rural life
Holidays, tourist information and directions
Services (e.g. bank, post office)
Customs
Everyday life, traditions and communities

Education and employment
School life and routine
School rules and pressures
School trips, events and exchanges
Work, careers, and volunteering
Future plans

Personal life and relationships
House and home
Daily routines and helping at home
Role models
Relationships with family and friends
Childhood

The world around us
Environmental issues
Weather and climate
Travel and transport
The media
Information and communication technology

Social activities, fitness, and health
Special occasions
Hobbies, interests, sports and exercise
Shopping and money matters
Accidents, injuries, common ailments and health issues
Food and drink

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening
Externally assessed Written examination:
40 marks
25% of IGCSE

Paper 2: Reading and writing

Externally assessed Written examination:

80 marks
50% of IGCSE

Paper 3: Speaking

Internally conducted, externally assessed spoken examination:
40 marks
25% of IGCSE