



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

IGCSE/GCSE Options

Academic Years 2017 - 2019





Be Ambitious

IGCSE/ GCSE Options Booklet

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Message from the Head of Secondary

You are about to enter a very exciting time of your education where you are able to choose, to some extent, which subjects you wish to continue with, and which you don't. Fortunately, you are not alone in this important process. In order to help you make these decisions, you should gather as much information as possible about the subjects, think carefully about your possible future career path and consider which subjects have inspired you so far in school. Your teachers are a most valuable source of information. They understand your strengths in their subject, your potential for success in the subject and also the usefulness of the subject for your future career. Use your teachers' knowledge and experience to help you make a fully informed decision.



The information in this booklet may 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:

- DO choose a subject because you enjoy it
- DO choose a subject because you may need it in the future
- Do choose a subject in which you have already enjoyed success
- DON'T choose a subject because you like a particular teacher- they may not be teaching you next year
- DON'T choose a subject because your friends have chosen it- they won't be living your unique life
- DON'T choose a subject simply because it's new

Now it is down to you to do your research, talk to teachers, talk to your parents and talk to older students and begin formulating what you would like to study next year.

Take an active role in determining your future!

Warm regards,

Mr Irving

Head of Secondary



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IGCSE/ GCSE Options Booklet

What is IGCSE/ GCSE?

The GCSE is a British academic qualification awarded in a specified subject; the international GCSE qualification is available for international students. Both GCSE and IGCSE are qualifications recognised by universities and employers throughout the world.

Some IGCSEs are modular which means that topics are learnt and tested throughout the two years of the course. Other (I)GCSEs may be linear, which means that students are assessed via controlled assessment coursework tasks and 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 independent study and research. However, the writing-up of the assessments will all be completed during lessons under supervised conditions. Some subjects will be solely examination based.

Over the next few years all GCSE subjects taught in the UK will be moving to the linear assessment approach as a result of the Education reforms that have taken place in the UK. The first GCSE subjects that changed for first teaching in September 2015 include English Literature, English Language and Mathematics. Not only are these subjects going to have a different approach to assessment, but they will also be graded differently. The usual grades A* - G will be replaced with a points score from 9-1, with 9 being the highest award, equivalent to the existing A*. Other GCSE subjects will adopt this approach over the course of the next few years.

Current I/GCSE grade	A*	A*/A	A	B	B/C	C	D	E	F/G
New GCSE point equivalent	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

What is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a new qualification. It is a new certificate that will be awarded to any student who secures a GCSE Grade C or higher in English Language, Mathematics, 2 Sciences (2 out of Biology, Chemistry and Physics), 1 Modern Foreign Language and 1 Humanity (History or Geography)

If you are a student who is looking to return to the UK to continue their education in Year 12 or at University level, it may be a factor that you need to take into consideration when selecting your subjects at I/GCSE, as the entry requirements for sixth form and university places in the UK may change in the future.

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How to choose?

IB Diploma

If you are thinking of taking the IB Diploma, you will need to think about the subjects that you choose at I/GCSE to provide the necessary foundation knowledge that will enable a smooth transition into the IB Diploma course.

All IB Diploma students study six subjects and three core components. The six subjects are chosen according to each individual student's academic strengths and interests; three of them are studied at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL). These subject choices fall into six categories: Language and Literature Group 1, Language Acquisition Group 2, Individual and Societies Group 3, Sciences Group 4, Mathematics Group 5, the Arts Group 6. Students choose a subject from each of these groups and can choose to replace an Arts subject with a second experimental Science, a second Social Science or a third Language, depending on their interests, strengths and career aspirations.

Shahadat Al-Thanawiya Al-'Amma

UAE Secondary Equivalency Certificate

The Shahadat Al-Thanawiya Al-'Amma or 'Secondary School Leaving Certificate' is a student's evidence that they have successfully completed Secondary Schooling in the UAE. It is now often referred to as the 'Equivalency Certificate'.

For UAE students it is important that they select subjects that enable them to gain equivalency when they have finished their secondary school education. For such students they will need to select five subjects from the list below and will have to gain at least a grade E in these subjects, in addition to passing their Arabic and Ministry of Education examinations.

Subjects recognised for UAE Equivalency Certificate offered at BISAD

English Language	Information Technology
English Literature	History
Mathematics	Geography
Physics	Business
Biology	Economics
Chemistry	Art & Design
Computing	French

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Advice from Year 11 Students

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 olds 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 have asked some Year 11 students for advice.

- Don't choose a subject because of your friends or teachers.
- Don't let your teachers influence your choices.
- For new subjects (Economics, Business, Media), 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 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 Subject

English Language

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

Edexcel IGCSE

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/English%20Language%20A/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/International GCSE English Language A specification.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/English%20Language%20A/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/International%20GCSE%20English%20Language%20A%20specification.pdf)

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

Core Subject

English Literature

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

Edexcel IGCSE

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/English%20Literature/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/International_GCSE_English_Literature_specification.pdf

Assessment

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

Core Subject

Mathematics

Mathematics encourages students to develop confidence, and 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

Edexcel IGCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Mathematics%20A/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/International-GCSE-in-Mathematics-Spec-A.pdf>

Assessment

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

Core Subject

Science - Biology

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

Edexcel IGCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Biology/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/IGCSE-Biology-2017-specification.pdf>

Assessment

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

Core Subject

Science - Chemistry

Science permeates all aspects of life and the 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

Edexcel IGCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Chemistry/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/IGCSE-Chemistry-2017-specification.pdf>

Assessment

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

Core Subject

Science - Physics

The course is divided into 10 Physics topics that are taught over the duration of the two year course. Material covered in the topics includes work on forces, electricity and magnetism, waves 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

Edexcel IGCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Physics/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/IGCSE-Physics-2017-specification.pdf>

Assessment

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

Core Subject

Arabic

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 Language B is also a core subject and all students must carry on learning Arabic in Years 10 and Y11. 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 have the option 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.

Possible career paths

Career opportunities for interaction with other Arabic speakers.
Political science, International Studies, Translation, Government and Non-Government Relations, Travel and Tourism and Real Estate.

Qualification

Edexcel GCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/arabic-2017.html>

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

Core Subject

Islamic Studies

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



The Edexcel International GCSE in Islamiyat enables students to:

- study the basic tenets of Islam and, in particular, to elaborate those specific areas apposite to the approach of their own religious grouping, sect or school of thought
- enhance their acquaintance with Islam by referring them to its traditions, laws, writings and practices
- respond to contemporary issues from a Muslim perspective.

Qualification

Edexcel IGCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Islamiyat/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/IG-Islamiyat-Qualification-Overview.pdf>

Assessment

- Islamiyat Paper 1 - 100% of the final mark

Options

English 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

Edexcel IGCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/international-gcse-english-as-2nd-language-2017.html>

Assessment

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

Options

French

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 aural 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

Cambridge IGCSE

<http://www.cie.org.uk/images/203241-2017-2019-syllabus.pdf>

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

Options

Spanish

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 offer 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

Cambridge IGCSE

<http://www.cie.org.uk/images/203297-2017-2019-syllabus.pdf>

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

Options

History

What did people think caused illness? How did they treat and prevent them? Who cared for the sick? What factors have affected changes in Medicine? These are some of the key questions we explore in Edexcel GCSE History.



You will investigate the explanations of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, the fascinating medical practices of the time of the Black Death and the transformation of surgery from Victorian times to the end of World War I to name a few. You will use historical sources in your enquiries and you will learn how to cross-reference information and use it to debate and make judgments on key historical questions.

The Edexcel GCSE in 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 reaching conclusions
- organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history
- draw conclusions and make historical judgements.

Possible career paths

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

Qualification

Edexcel GCSE

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446925867_GCSE2016_L12_History_Web.pdf

Assessment

- Paper 1 Thematic study and historic environment– 30% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Period study and British depth study– 40% of the final mark
- Paper 3 Modern depth study – 30% of the final mark

Options

Geography

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

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

Qualification

Cambridge IGCSE

<http://www.cie.org.uk/images/203934-2017-2019-syllabus.pdf>

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

Options

Business

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, and equips them with skills for future employment. Edexcel IGCSE is recognised by universities and employers worldwide.



The main aim of the course is to develop an understanding of the environment within which business activity takes place, and knowledge of how the main types of business and commercial institutions are organised, financed and operated. Students are encouraged to view business from the roles of the consumer, shareholder, employee and manager, and to learn to make informed judgments on various aspects of business activities from a range of perspectives.

Possible career paths

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

Qualification

Edexcel IGCSE

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Business%20Studies/2017/specification-and-sample-assessment/9781446942765_International_GCSE_Business_Specification.pdf

Assessment and Coursework

- Paper 1: Investigating small businesses – 50% of the final mark
- Paper 2: Investigating large businesses – 50% of the final mark

Options

Economics

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, 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 are encouraged to use basic numeracy and literacy skills in order to develop an understanding of economies.



Possible career paths

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

Qualification

Edexcel IGCSE

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Economics/2017/Specification%20and%20SAMS/IGCSE-Econ-Spec-9781446942789.pdf>

Assessment and Coursework

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

Options

Music

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

Cambridge IGCSE

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-music-0410/>

Assessment and Coursework

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

Options

Drama

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 problem-solving skills required in a range of careers such as Journalism, Law, Medicine and Business / Management.

Qualification

Edexcel GCSE

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Drama/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/gcse_drama_spec_L1_L2.pdf

Assessment and Coursework

- Component 1 Devising - 40% coursework
- Component 2 Performance from text - 20% Coursework
- Component 3 Theatre Makers in practice - 40% Written Exam

Options

Art & Design

You will enjoy this course if you enjoy creating. Art is a discipline that demands personal involvement and responsibility. You will need to be prepared to spend time outside school taking photos, collecting information, going to galleries, and reflecting on ideas. Within each unit of work you will learn different techniques and processes. You will explore the materials available in a creative way and look at other artists' work.



Some of the areas you will be experimenting with include 3D sculptural techniques and computer manipulation. It is a demanding but rewarding course.

You will need to:

- Have an ability and flair for artwork
- Use your imagination, in creating your own ideas for development
- Have the ability to work independently at your own pace and adhere to the deadlines given
- Complete a substantial amount of work and research at home in your own time.

Possible career paths

Architect, Art Gallery Curator, Costume designer, Fashion Designer, Fine Artist, Furniture Designer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Museum Curator, Web Designer.

Qualification

Edexcel GCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Art%20and%20Design/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/art-design-spec-updated.pdf>

Assessment and Coursework

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

Options

GCSE Physical Education

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.

It 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

Edexcel IGCSE

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Physical%20Education/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/GCSE-physical-education-2016-specification.pdf>

Assessment and Coursework

- 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

Options

ICT

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

Edexcel IGCSE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Information%20and%20Communication%20Technology/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/International-GCSE-in-ICT-spec.pdf>

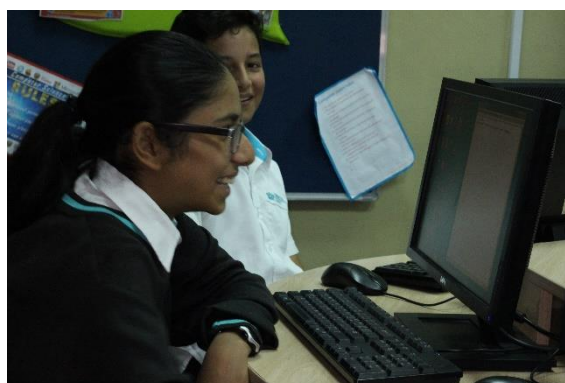
Assessment

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

Options

Computer Science

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 Cambridge International AS and A 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

Cambridge IGCSE

<http://www.cie.org.uk/images/203951-2017-2019-syllabus.pdf>

Assessment

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

Options

Media Studies

GCSE Media Studies offers rigorous but accessible study of a subject of increasing importance for young peoples' understanding of the world they experience. It encourages critical appreciation of the impact of the proliferation of mass media forms and technologies within contemporary society, while making learning challenging, creative and thought provoking.



The course is based around key media concepts such as media language, audience, media institutions and representation. Underpinning these key concepts, subject content is classified according to the following media forms/ platforms:

- Print and Electronic Publishing;
- Moving Image, including Television, Film and Video;
- Radio;
- Web-based Technologies/New Media;
- Advertising and Marketing;
- News – including television, newspapers, internet, radio etc.

Possible career paths

Advertising, Communications Officer, Graphic Design, Journalism, Market Research, Media Analyst, Multimedia Specialist, Film Producer, PR Officer.

Qualification

AQA GCSE

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/media-studies/gcse/media-studies-8572>

Assessment

- Paper 1 Theory: Industries, Audiences and Representation - 35% of the final mark
- Paper 2 Media Language and Context - 35% of the final mark
- Coursework: Creating a Media Product – 30% of the final mark

IGCSE/ GCSE Options Booklet

Key Contacts



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

Mr Darren Sennit	Y9A Tutor	darren.sennit@bisad.ae
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IGCSE/ GCSE Options Booklet

Notes



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