

STONYHURST
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
PENANG

IGCSE Subject Handbook

Academic Year 2023/24





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Introduction

As a school in the Jesuit tradition, a Stonyhurst Penang education aims to assist in the fullest possible development of each individual's talents. We aim for breadth in every student's academic programme, believing that intellectual formation includes the study of both basic human and scientific disciplines, based on competent and motivated teaching, and includes developing the ability to reason reflectively, logically and critically. We emphasise an appreciation of literature, music and fine arts as well as the beauty all around us at Stonyhurst Penang, and encourage good communication skills through essays, drama, speeches and debates. Our UK counterpart, Stonyhurst College has a proud history of excellence in games and offers well developed programmes of sport and physical education, which we will strive to emulate at Stonyhurst Penang.

The criterion of excellence is applied to all areas of school life. The pursuit of academic excellence is therefore essential, but within the larger context of human excellence. We are ultimately concerned with how students make the most of their talents, passions and privilege as they strive to become men and women for others.

In Year 10 you begin two year courses leading to IGCSE examinations (International General Certificate of Secondary Education), which take place in May and June of Year 11. These examinations are very important; your success in them will determine what you can do in the future. Year 9, therefore, is very important for you. You have to look ahead and decide which subjects you wish to study in Years 10 and 11.

The purpose of this booklet is to:

- Give you important information about all the subjects it is possible to study for the next two years, both the compulsory subjects and the optional ones
- Offer advice to help you choose wisely so you choose those subjects that are best suited to your abilities, thereby giving you the best chance to do well

Please read through the booklet carefully, (discuss what you want to do in the future with your parents) and, if you have any questions and you are not sure what to choose, ask your teachers for advice.

Having listened to advice, the FINAL CHOICE IS YOURS!

A Note to Parents and Students

Duration of the Course

The IGCSE course is a two year course, i.e. Years 10 and 11. Students cannot change at the end of Year 10. In a few instances where a serious mistake has been made in choosing a subject, students may make a change in the first few weeks of their first term in Year 10.

Motivation

All IGCSE subjects demand an equal amount of time and effort; there are no easy courses. On the whole it is better for a student to choose a subject that they like rather than one that they do not like.

Be realistic about your son or daughter's abilities and help them to make the best possible choice. If your son or daughter has a talent for a creative subject it is better for them to do this than to struggle with a subject they do not like because you feel it is a good thing to do.

Limitations of Choice

While our aim is always to give each student exactly the programme of subjects they would like to choose, this is not always possible, because in the end, all the subjects have to fit into a timetable which will fit the whole school. The final option choices will be designed to accommodate the first choices of the majority of students in the year group.



The IGCSE Curriculum at Stonyhurst Penang

All Year 10-11 students at Stonyhurst Penang will take a core curriculum of subjects together with various options. The curriculum is made up of the subjects listed below with their weekly allocation of time in 45 minute periods.

Students will select up to a maximum of 10 IGCSE subjects. All students must select the two core subjects, at least 1 language and either 3 separate sciences or the Co-ordinated Science course. They can then choose up to 5 other options from the table below.

Core Subjects

English Language (First or Second)
Mathematics

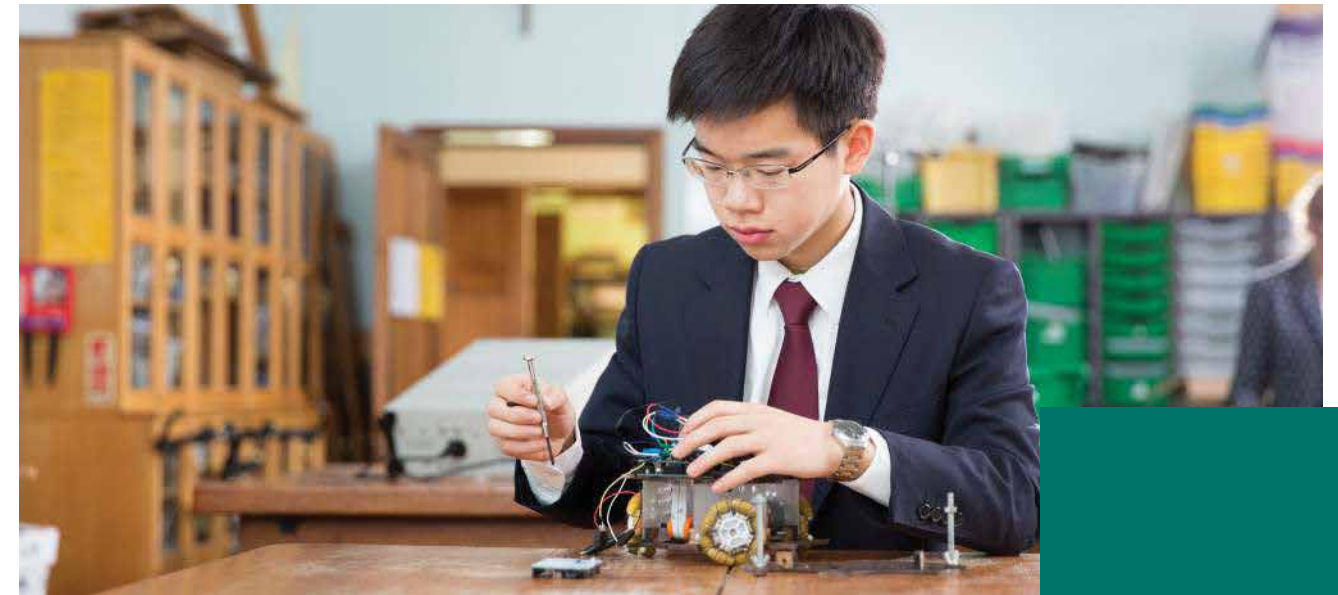
Option Subjects

Languages

Malay First Language*
Malay Foreign Language
French
Chinese First Language
Chinese Foreign Language

Science

Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Co-ordinated Science**
Additional Mathematics



Humanities

History
Geography
Physical Education
Computer Science ***
ICT ***
English Literature
Economics ***
Business Studies ***
Global Perspectives

Creatives

Art & Design
Music
Drama

** Must be studied by Malaysian students*

*** Co-ordinated Science counts as 2 options (6 periods per week)*

**** Students are not able to choose Economics and Business Studies together or Computer Science and ICT together*

Sometimes courses become oversubscribed; in which case students will be admitted to the course concerned according to their priorities and on a first come basis. All of the courses are subject to change based on student numbers and demand. If you have any questions, please make contact with the Head of Senior School.

How do I choose my Subjects?

Having read through all the information, you must now decide which subjects to choose. You know what type of work each subject will involve. Consider the following:

- Does the subject interest you? Does it involve a lot of writing? Is it a more practical subject? How is it assessed – on both coursework and an examination or just an examination? Weigh these factors up against your strengths and weaknesses.
- Look at your latest school report; look at the attainment grades and effort grades in each subject. In which subjects have you been most successful and motivated?
- What career are you looking to pursue? Will your subject choice limit or help you career aspirations?



It is important that you choose your subjects wisely. At the end of the day, we want you to enjoy your studies, we want you to succeed and get the best examination results you possibly can. It is therefore very important that you seek guidance from your teachers who can help to point out what you are good at, and tell you what kind of work and skills you will need, if you select their subjects.

Reasons for Choosing a Subject

When you finally choose, please bear the following in mind:

DO CHOOSE A SUBJECT because:

- you will enjoy it
- you are good at it
- it will help you in your future career aspirations
- your teacher thinks you will succeed in it

DO NOT CHOOSE A SUBJECT because:

- your friends have chosen it
- you think it will be easy
- you like the teacher
- your parents tell you to do it
- it is something new

Subject Descriptions

Core Subjects

English First Language

CIE0500

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is designed for learners whose first language is English. The course enables learners 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.

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. Cambridge IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.



English as a Second Language

CIE0510

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their education or career. Through their studies, learners will improve their ability to understand and use English in a range of situations.

The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.



Mathematics

CIE0580

An essential subject for all learners, Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a strong basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop competence and fluency with mathematical concepts, methods and skills, as well as a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships. The syllabus also places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

Subject Descriptions

Option Subjects

Malay First Language

CIE0696

The Cambridge IGCSE First Language Malay syllabus is for learners whose first language is Malay. This First Language syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.



Malay Foreign Language

CIE0546

This syllabus is designed for students who are learning Malay as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. 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.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where Malay is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

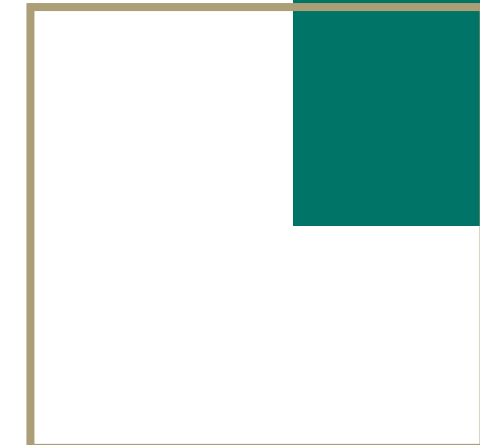


French

CIE0520

This syllabus is designed for students who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. 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.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where French is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.



Chinese First Language

CIE0509

The Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese syllabus is designed for learners whose first language is Chinese. The syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and in order to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.

Chinese Foreign Language

CIE0547

This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. 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.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where Mandarin Chinese is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.



Biology

CIE0610

Cambridge IGCSE Biology helps learners to understand the biological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamentals to the subject, some current applications of biology, and a strong emphasis on practical skills.

Chemistry

CIE0620

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of chemistry, and a strong emphasis on practical skills.

Physics

CIE0625

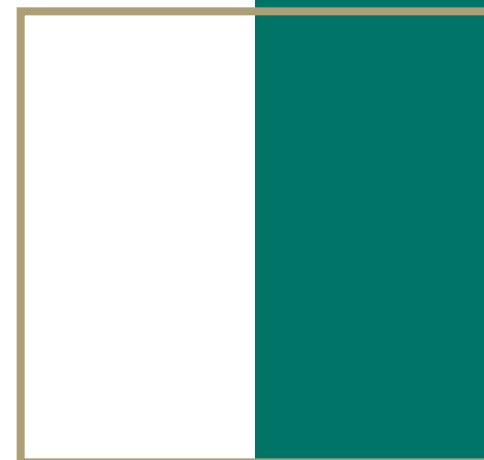
Cambridge IGCSE Physics helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of physics, and a strong emphasis on practical skills.

Co-Ordinated Science (Double)

CIE0654

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

They 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. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.



History

CIE0470

The Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

Geography

CIE0460

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, learners will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. They will also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world.



Physical Education

CIE0413

The syllabus provides learners with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. This helps learners to develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.



Information & Communication Technology

CIE0417

Students develop an understanding of the implications of technology in society and the ways Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can help at home, work and the wider world. Through practical and theoretical studies, students solve problems using a variety of common software such as word processors and interactive presentation software.

Learners will analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems, making sure that they are fit for purpose. There is an emphasis on developing lifelong skills, which are essential across the curriculum and their future career.

Computer Science

CIE0478

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computational thinking and an understanding of the principles of problem-solving using computers. They apply this understanding to create computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills, and the ability to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions.

Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use and recognise their potential risks.

English Literature

CIE0475

The syllabus enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Learners develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they 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 learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

Economics

CIE0455

The Cambridge IGCSE Economics syllabus develops an understanding of economic theory, terminology and principles. Learners study the economics of different countries and how these interrelate. They also learn to work with simple economics data and to use the tools of economic analysis. Learners apply understanding of economics to current economic issues.



Business Studies

CIE0450

The Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organisation are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence.

Learners not only study business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry.

Global Perspectives

CIE0457

Meeting government ministers, organising a local river clean-up project and writing to the United Nations about climate change, are just some of the activities learners are pursuing through the Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives course.

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is a ground breaking and stimulating course that stretches across traditional subject boundaries and develops transferable skills. It is both cross-curricular and skills-based and taps into the way learners of today enjoy learning, including team work, presentations, projects, and working with other learners around the world. The emphasis is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view.

Art & Design

CIE0400

The Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.



Music

CIE0410

When studying the Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus, learners listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, learners enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment.

Learners study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and they are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive and critical when listening.



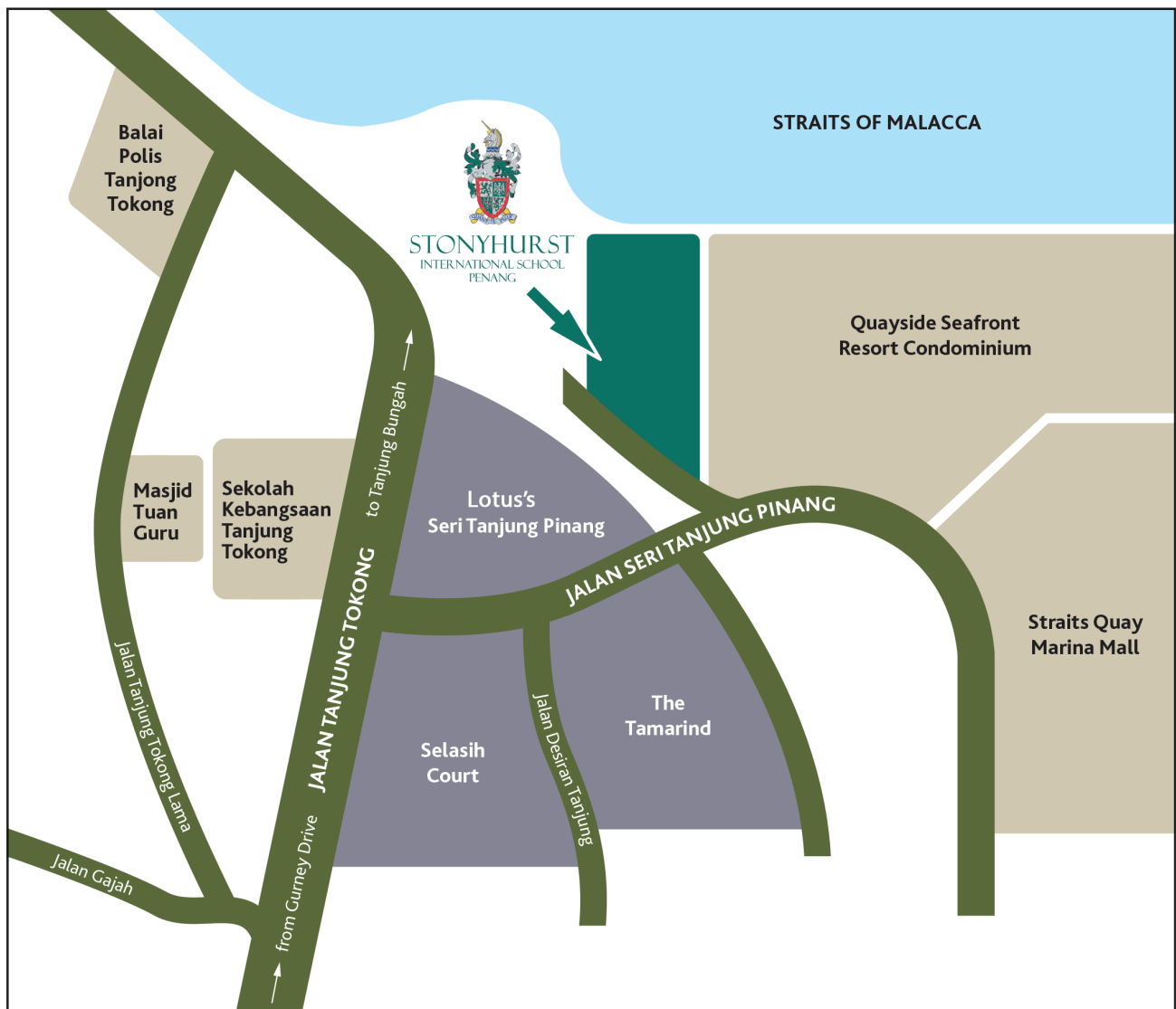
Drama

CIE0411

Through practical and theoretical study, learners develop an understanding and enjoyment of drama, developing group and individual skills and studying ways to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience. They learn how to discover the performance possibilities of a text and other stimuli, and devise dramatic material of their own. Learners also develop their performance skills, the demonstration of which will form part of the final assessment.



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For further information please contact us at admissions@stonyhurstpenang.edu.my



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INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
PENANG

STONYHURST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PENANG
Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang, Bandar Tanjung Pinang, Pulau Pinang.

www.stonyhurstpenang.edu.my