



STONYHURST
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
PENANG

IGCSE OPTIONS AND CURRICULUM GUIDE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/27



(Examinations May/June 2028)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Lower Grammar (Year 9) Pupils,

Welcome to the options process for Lower Grammar pupils and parents. Choosing your options for IGCSE is an important stage in your education. This is the process that allows you to think about your future goals and supports you to choose some of the subjects that you will study over the next two years. We know that it can be a difficult time and can cause anxiety because there are a lot of questions that you might have: which subject is right for me? What if I don't know what I want to do at all? Rest assured that we will help you to make choices about your future learning that are right for you.

This booklet and the options process are designed to make this time less worrying for you and your parents. They 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. All of these people know you and may be able to suggest whether they think a subject would suit you as a learner. You will also explore some career choices and subjects throughout our IGCSE Options Evening, during guidance lessons with your class teacher, or through discussions with the university counsellor. Wherever possible we do our best to ensure you are able to study your first choice in each of the option subjects.

Rather than considering individual subjects, it can help to consider your strengths and the things you enjoy doing in life. Do you like researching ideas or gathering facts? Learning a new skill or finding out about the world around you? Do you enjoy reading, being active, or both? Why not try making a list of what you don't want to do and this may narrow things down to start!

This is a wonderful moment in your life and should be embraced rather than approached with trepidation. Good luck everyone and remember there are countless staff here at Stonyhurst Penang to help guide and support you through this process!



Mr. Richard Moore
Principal

IGCSE GRADES

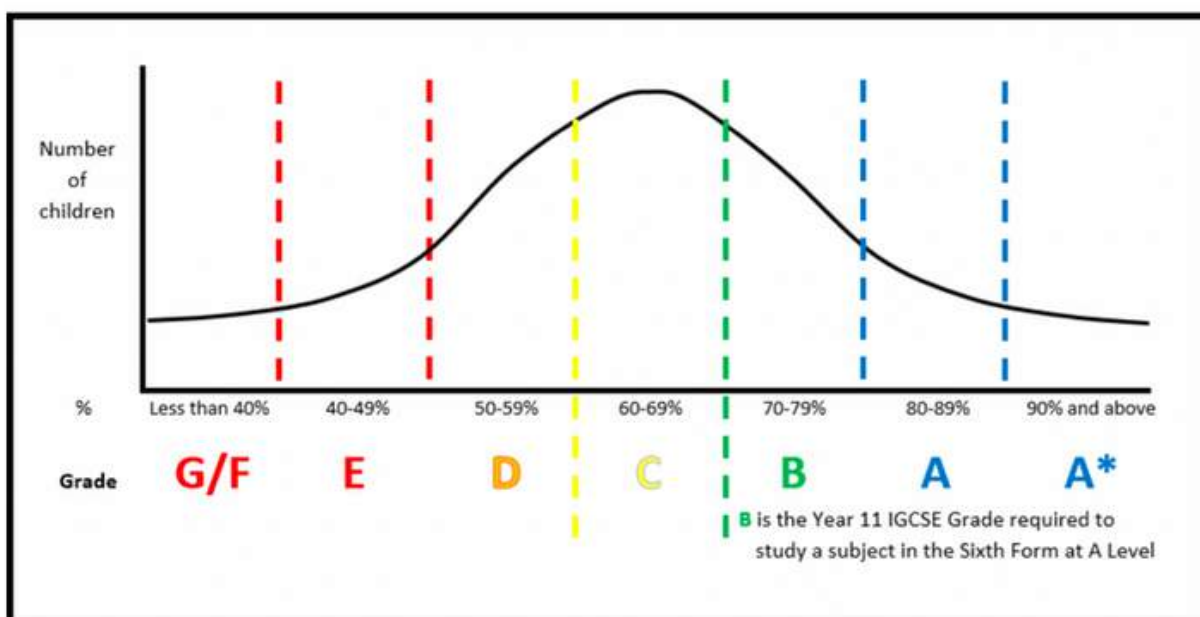
Cambridge IGCSEs have been reported on an A*– G grading scale for almost 30 years and offer a good level of differentiation between pupils' performance. The grading scale is understood and accepted by universities and employers around the world.

Grade Thresholds Explained

Cambridge publish grade thresholds after each exam series. A grade threshold is the minimum number of marks that a candidate needs to obtain a particular grade in a paper or in a subject. These thresholds are decided after each examination has been taken and marked. The aim in each year (or examination series) is to set each threshold in just the right place to ensure that it is no more difficult and no less difficult to obtain that grade than it was in the previous year.

To fulfil that aim Cambridge has to lower the thresholds from one examination to another if they find that the questions in a paper have been more difficult than last time (or raise the thresholds if the questions have been easier). This is to be fair to candidates from one series to another.

The graph below shows a black curve representing the number of children worldwide who take IGCSE each year. It shows that some children excel and get the highest Grades of A* and A, with a similar number of children struggling with their academic study and scoring G or F. Most children score between D and B.



CAMBRIDGE IGCSE UPPER SECONDARY CURRICULUM

The purpose of this guide is to inform pupils and parents about the Cambridge Upper Secondary IGCSE Curriculum offered at Stonyhurst Penang. Our curriculum is designed to provide pupils with a breadth of study that enables them to pursue every pathway in the future (even if, for many, that pathway is not decided). To meet this aim, pupils in Grammar (Year 10) and Syntax (Year 11) undertake IGCSE courses in a variety of subjects, some of which are optional and some of which are compulsory.

Compulsory IGCSE subjects that all pupils complete are:

- English Language and Literature or English Second Language
- Mathematics
- Coordinated Science or 3 single Sciences
- A Modern Foreign Language

We also require that you choose a reserve subject in case your opted course does not run. Malaysian Passport/IC holders must also study Malay Language, Culture and History



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE UPPER SECONDARY CURRICULUM

IGCSEs are assessed through examinations and in some subjects through coursework. This means that some of the school work done from an early stage in Grammar (Year 10) is directly assessed by your teacher and forms an important part of your final grade.

Despite training in the lower senior school, it is a fact that many pupils find the organisation and pressures of Year 10 and Year 11 to be extremely demanding and self-directed study in your own time will become increasingly necessary. It is important that study facilities are available at home and that support and encouragement are given from the very beginning of the course. If you have concerns about this, please contact us so we can direct pupils to revision classes and homework clubs, which will be in place to ensure all pupils succeed.

Please take the time to read the information on 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 the progression routes for this subject. All of these will be helpful and informative when considering which subjects to choose next year.

How to select the right IGCSE options for you

Do

Choose subjects which you like or enjoy.

Choose subjects at which you are successful.

Choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education.

Find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to follow it for the full two years.

Talk to the people who know you best and listen to the advice your subject teachers give you.

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.

Choose a subject just because you like or dislike a particular teacher. They may not even end up teaching you!

QUANT JE PUIS
As Much As I can

IGCSE - FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English enables pupils to respond to and analyse diverse forms of texts, fostering their ability to produce a variety of written work tailored for different purposes and audiences.

Through comprehensive practice in writing, reading, speaking, and listening, students will develop strong critical thinking and communication skills. The course emphasises the importance of clear, effective expression and the ability to engage critically with texts, preparing students to become insightful and articulate readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.

What will lead to success in this course?

Both exam papers are unseen and require pupils to be able to understand and comprehend and write a range of challenging texts. Newspapers, novels, short stories, letters and magazines all count. Pupils just need to start reading! Not only will this help develop literacy skills but also means they will be learning new vocabulary, understanding sentence types and their effects and appreciating the role of punctuation.

How is it assessed?

Paper 1: Reading

2 hours

80 marks (50%)

Structured and extended writing questions

Questions will be based on three reading texts

Externally assessed

Paper 2: Directed Writing and Composition

80 Marks (50%)

Extended writing question and a composition task

Externally assessed

What will this qualification lead to?

Every career pathway requires literacy and verbal communication skills so you will use English for the rest of your life. This is a gateway to journalism, media industries, teaching, communications and HR amongst many other careers.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course code 0500

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/718783-2027-2029-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

What will be studied?

Studying IGCSE English Literature offers pupils the chance to explore a diverse range of texts. The course is designed to enhance analytical, evaluative and comprehension skills, fostering a deeper appreciation of English literature and its evolution over time. Throughout the two-year course, pupils will study a poetry anthology, a prose text and a play. Additionally, pupils will learn how to analyse and interpret unseen poetry and prose. The course also emphasises understanding the social and historical contexts of these texts, helping pupils to develop their critical thinking skills.

How is it assessed?

Paper 1 Poetry and Prose (Open Text)

1.5 hours

50 marks (50%)

Two questions: One from Section A Poetry (choice of 2 on each set text) & one from Section B Prose (choice of 2 essay questions on each set text)

Externally assessed

Paper 2 Drama & Unseen (Open Text)

2 hours

50 marks (50%)

Two questions: One from Section A Drama (choice of 2 on each set text - one passage-based & one essay question) & one from Section B Unseen (choice of 2, one based on a poem and one on a prose extract)

What will lead to success in this course?

Reading a range of similar challenging texts to those studied in class will help support the progress made in this course. Similarly, engaging with the online revision material available for each unit will support home learning. Researching the times and historical importance for the settings of the texts will also lead to success. Finally, practising the analytical writing skills we use will also benefit learners.

What will this qualification lead to?

A wide range of opportunities in a variety of fields. Skills developed teach pupils to think critically, research, apply analytical models and communicate. This could lead to careers in: writing, teaching, law, librarianship, research, editing, PR, creative directing and civil service amongst others

Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course code 0475

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/743282-2028-2030-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers pupils the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Pupils 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 practice writing for different purposes and audiences. Pupils will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills. Pupils 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.

How is it assessed?

Paper 1 Reading and Writing

2 hours

60 marks (70%)

Structured and essay style questions

Six exercises : Four reading questions and two writing questions

Externally assessed

Paper 2 Listening

50 minutes

40 marks (30%)

Listen to 5 exercises - short and longer texts (multiple choice questions)

Externally assessed

Paper 3 Speaking

10 - 15 minutes

40 marks (separately endorsed)

Interview format, short talk, and discussion

Internally assessed and externally moderated

What will lead to success in this course?

Pupils taking English as a Second Language will need a strong commitment to consistently practise and develop their English skills. Regular reading and writing in English, as well as actively engaging with the language, can significantly improve proficiency. Additionally, frequent and persistent exposure to diverse English-language materials, such as books, movies, and news, can enhance language comprehension and cultural awareness.

What will this qualification lead to?

Gaining a good IGCSE English as a Second Language qualification opens the door to a wide range of academic and career opportunities. In addition, this qualification can serve as a stepping stone to further education and can be particularly valuable for those interested in studying or working in English-speaking countries.



Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0510

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/721337-2027-2029-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - MATHEMATICS

What will be studied?

An essential subject for all pupils, 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 pupils' 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. Pupils also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

How is it assessed?

The qualification consists of two equally weighted written exam papers. At extended tier the pupils will sit:

Paper 2: A non-calculator assessment
2 hours
100 marks (50%)
Structured and unstructured questions

Paper 4: A calculator assessment
2 hours
100 marks (50%)
Structured and unstructured questions

Each paper has a range of question types set in both mathematical and non-mathematical context.

What will lead to success in this course?

Mathematics requires a great deal of hard work and effort by pupils in order to be successful. Regular attendance and full involvement in all the tasks and activities provided are essential. Independent learning must be completed to a high standard and submitted on time. It must be accurate and well-organised. Support will always be available when required. Mistakes are inevitable, but good mathematicians will learn from their mistakes and be prepared to 'have a go' until they get it right.

What will this qualification lead to?

Gaining a good IGCSE Mathematics qualification is essential in order for pupils to take their place in the 21st-century workplace. Almost every single job or career will involve some element of Mathematics to a greater or lesser extent.

Pupils that gain a strong pass in their IGCSE Mathematics qualification would be suitable candidates to consider studying Mathematics at A-level. Beyond this, pupils can study for a Mathematics or related degree at university or secure well-respected careers in engineering, accountancy, insurance, statistics, marketing, banking, retail, education and many other fields.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course Code 0580

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/662466-2025-2027-syllabus.pdf>

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/745681-2028-2030-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - BIOLOGY

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE Biology helps pupils 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 fundamental to the subject, some current applications of biology, and a strong emphasis on practical skills.

How is it assessed?

Paper 2: Multiple Choice

45 minutes

40 marks (30%)

Paper 4: Theory (Short-answer and structured questions)

1 hour 15 minutes

80 marks (50%)

Paper 5: Practical Test

1 hour 15 minutes

40 marks (20%)

Questions will be based on the experimental skills in Section 4

Externally assessed

Or (to be decided)

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical

1 hour

40 marks (20%)

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who are:

- interested in learning about science, questioning ideas and using scientific language to communicate their views and opinions;
- good at working methodically and safely when working alone or collaboratively with others;
- reflective, learning from their experiences and interested in scientific issues that affect the individual, the community and the environment;
- innovative when solving unfamiliar problems and curious about scientific principles and their application in the world.

What will this qualification lead to?

In Biology, pupils study major concepts of Biology including organic molecules, cells, organ systems, genetics as well as a variety of life processes and learn how different organisms meet the challenges of living in their environment. Pupils learn to use laboratory equipment and materials to collect data and then use a variety of data analysis skills to interpret the data. For pupils who want to learn more and build on the skills gained this course allows pupils to move onto A Level Biology, which is a gateway to medicine, dentistry, and genetic engineering amongst many other careers.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course code 0610

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/697203-2026-2028-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - CHEMISTRY

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry develops a set of transferable skills including handling data, practical problem-solving and applying the scientific method. Pupils develop relevant attitudes, such as concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness. They acquire the essential scientific skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

How is it assessed?

Paper 2: Multiple Choice
45 minutes
40 marks (30%)

Paper 4: Theory (Short-answer and structured questions)
1 hour 15 minutes
80 marks (50%)

Paper 5: Practical Test
1 hour 15 minutes
40 marks (20%)
Questions will be based on the experimental skills in Section 4
Externally assessed

Or (to be decided)

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical
1 hour
40 marks (20%)

Who would this course suit?

Pupils who are:

- interested in learning about science, questioning ideas and using scientific language to communicate their views and opinions;
- good at working methodically and safely when working alone or collaboratively with others reflective, learning from their experiences and interested in scientific issues that affect the individual, the community and the environment innovative;
- interested in solving unfamiliar problems confidently and creatively;
- keen to develop scientific skills and curious about scientific principles and their application in the world.

What will this qualification lead to?

As well as providing a sound foundation for A Level study, IGCSE Chemistry can lead to a range of careers. These include; dentist, doctor, forensic scientist, astronaut, astronomer, audiologist, clinical psychologist, ecologist, engineer, laboratory technician, meteorologist, microbiologist, teacher, nanotechnologist, electrician, paleontology, pharmacologist, psychiatrist, psychologist, sport and exercise scientist, nutritionist, vet, zoologist and many more!

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course code 0620

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/697205-2026-2028-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - PHYSICS

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE Physics helps pupils 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.

How is it assessed?

Paper 2:
Multiple Choice
45 minutes
40 marks (30%)

Paper 4: Theory (Short-answer and structured questions)
1 hour 15 minutes
80 marks (50%)

Paper 5: Practical Test
1 hour 15 minutes
40 marks (20%)
Questions will be based on the experimental skills in Section 4
Externally assessed

Or (to be decided)

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical
1 hour
40 marks (20%)

Who will this course suit?

Pupils who are:

- interested in learning about science, questioning ideas and using scientific language to communicate their views and opinions;
- good at working methodically and safely when working alone or collaboratively with others;
- reflective, learning from their experiences and interested in scientific issues that affect the individual, the community and the environment;
- interested in solving unfamiliar problems confidently and creatively;
- keen to develop scientific skills and curious about scientific principles and their application in the world.

What will this qualification lead to?

Cambridge IGCSE Physics helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live. Pupils also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for progression to Cambridge International AS & A Level, further education or a career related to science. With further qualifications or training, job roles open to physics graduates in science, business and other areas include the following: Astronomy, Robotics, Renewable Energies, Computer Science, Communications, Space Exploration, Science Writing, Sports and Games Technology, Research and Nanotechnology, Banking and Finance, Accountancy, Law, Transport, Data Analyst, Design Engineer, Lab Technician, Laser Engineer, Optical Engineer and more.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course code 0625

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/697209-2026-2028-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - COORDINATED SCIENCES (DOUBLE AWARD)

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award) gives pupils the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each covered in separate syllabus sections. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades. The syllabus helps pupils to understand the biological and technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments, including the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to science, some current applications of biology, chemistry and physics, and a strong emphasis on practical skills. It also helps pupils also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for progression to Cambridge International AS & A Levels, further education or a career related to science.

How is it assessed?

Paper 2: Multiple Choice

45 minutes

40 marks (30%)

Paper 4: Theory (Short-answer and structured questions)

2 hours

120 marks (50%)

Paper 5: Practical Test

2 hours

60 marks (20%)

Questions will be based on experimental skills in Section 4

Or (to be decided)

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical

1 hour 30 minutes

60 marks (20%)

What will lead to success in this course?

Making revision part of everyday routines can be an extremely beneficial part of your study process and help you cut time off your exam revision. Firstly, the process of taking notes by itself serves to provide a learning opportunity – by writing out the material, you focus more on areas that are new, unclear and confusing to you. This way you clarify the confusing topics and parts of the syllabus, essentially by teaching yourself! You can add diagrams, small drawings, or anything that helps you understand the problems at hand.

What will this qualification lead to?

Gaining a good IGCSE Science qualification is essential in order for pupils to take their place in the 21st-century workplace. Almost every single job or career will involve some element of science to a greater or lesser extent. Coordinated science can help in careers within the fields of scientific research, Health, Agriculture, sport and fitness, engineering etc.

Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0654

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/745689-2028-2029-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - HISTORY

What will be studied?

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. Pupils 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 pupil already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

How is it assessed?

This course is assessed by three exam papers:

Paper 1 Core Content and Depth Study

2 hours

60 marks (40%)

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 (30%)

Candidates answer one question on one prescribed topic taken from the Core Content. There is a range of source material relating to each prescribed topic.

Paper 4 Alternative to Coursework

1 hour

40 marks (30%)

Candidates answer two structured questions on a depth study.

Who will this course suit?

We will be learning about a broad range of factors that have promoted change or restricted change across the time periods so this course will suit anyone who has an interest in studying the past and seeing how it affects the future. If pupils like to read, analyse source material and delve into debates and explanations, then this is the course for them!

What will this qualification lead to?

There are many careers that you can go into after studying History. Some of these include civil service, politics, media, financial sector, military, law, and education.



Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course code 0470

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/721327-2027-2028-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - GEOGRAPHY

What will be studied?

Throughout the IGCSE Geography course, pupils have the opportunity to consider a variety of geographical issues and, in doing so, become knowledgeable and critical citizens and geographers. There is a strong emphasis on the understanding of physical processes in the environment, as well as the management and mismanagement of resources by humans. Furthermore, pupils will also study population issues, migration, economic development and a range of contemporary global issues.

How is it assessed?

Paper 1 Physical Geography | hour 45 minutes
75 marks (36%)

Structured questions containing short answer & extended response items. Some items are based on source materials.

Externally assessed

Paper 2 Human Geography | hour 30 minutes
75 marks (36%)

Structured questions containing short answer & extended response items. Some items are based on source materials.

Externally assessed

Paper 4 Geographical Investigations | hour 30 minutes
60 marks (28%)

Two compulsory questions containing short answer & extended response items. Some items are based on source materials.

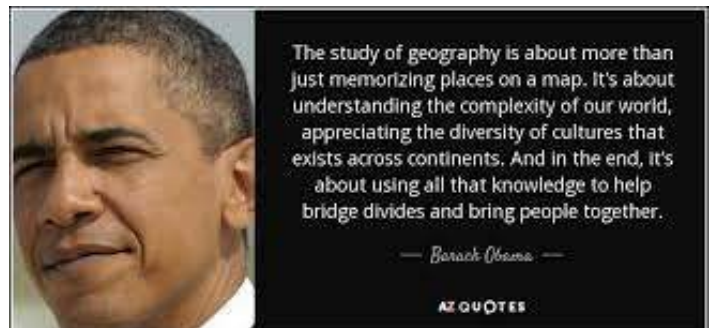
Externally assessed

Who will this course suit?

This course is well suited to all pupils who are interested in learning about current events, politics and earth sciences. Pupils will use their literacy skills as some exam questions require extended writing. Numeracy skills are also needed as some questions require pupils to read graphs and make basic calculations. All of these will be developed during the course.

What will this qualification lead to?

On completion of this two-year course, pupils will have the skills and experience to progress onto A-level and beyond. Geography is a fascinating subject which opens doors to many different careers. Geography could help you on your way to becoming an architect, environmental lawyer, engineer, town planner, weather forecaster, cartographer, flood protection manager, travel writer, TV researcher, aid worker or diplomat.



Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course code 0460

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/718150-2027-2029-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - BUSINESS

What will be studied?

During the course, pupils will gain an understanding of how the world of business works. They will apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in both the local and national contexts. Pupils will look at a range of topics including:

- Business Activity: This will involve looking at the purpose of businesses, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.
- Influences on business: Looking at the different external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences.
- Business operations: The study of production, human resources, finance and marketing

How is it assessed?

Cambridge IGCSE Business is assessed through two written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 Short Answer and Data Response,
1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks (50%)
Externally assessed

Paper 2 Case Study
1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks (50%)
Four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper. Candidates answer all questions.
Externally assessed.

Who will this course suit?

Everything around us is shaped by the world of business, whether it is a favourite football team, fashion brand or computer game. This course is especially suited to those who are interested in how ideas become a business, how to promote and market a business and how to run and manage a business.

What will this qualification lead to?

IGCSE Business will allow pupils to move on to a range of courses, including Business and Economics offered at A level.

The skills acquired will support pupils into further education and beyond into the world of work. Studying Business IGCSE provides a fantastic base which can be used to excel in the workplace.

Exam board and specification:

Cambridge Course Code 0264

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/718123-2027-2029-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - ART AND DESIGN

What will be studied?

Art and Design promotes learning across a wide variety of experiences. This is done using a range of processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to generate evidence of working and outcomes.

Over the two years, two projects will be completed to develop skills through different forms of art, craft and design. This enables pupils to meet the requirements of the assessment objectives and provide evidence of drawing and written annotation of their ideas and outcomes. Portfolio projects may cover topics such as architecture, portraiture, close-ups, natural form, disguise/identity and a choice from past papers to ensure pupils are practicing for their externally set assignment.

How is it assessed?

Component 1: Coursework
100 marks (50%)

Candidates research, develop and realise a project from one or more of the areas of study and should explore a theme. There are two parts to the coursework: a portfolio and a final outcome. Externally assessed by Cambridge.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment: 8 hours
100 marks (50%)

Candidates respond to one starting point set by Cambridge International. Candidates produce work that is different to Component 1, the theme should not overlap.

Who will this course suit?

This IGCSE course suits pupils who are independent learners. They will need to be self-motivated and have excellent time management skills.

Pupils will need to be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Creative thinking
- Resilience
- Willingness to explore ideas
- Resourcefulness
- Time management
- Literacy

What will this qualification lead to?

By choosing the Art & Design path you are opening many possible future doors for yourself. Future career pathways are Architecture, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Textile Design, Exhibition Curator, Digital Creator, Advertising & Marketing, Web Design, Game Design, Illustration, Film and Animation. The practical skills and creative possibilities of art and design can be very rewarding. Being creative is a reward in itself.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course code 0400

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/743279-2028-2030-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - FRENCH



What will be studied?

This syllabus is designed for pupils 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 pupils 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.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Paper 1 Listening

40 marks (25%)

Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions.

Externally assessed

Paper 2 Reading

1 hour, 40 marks (25%)

Candidates read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice and matching questions as well as questions requiring short answers.

Externally assessed.

Paper 3 Speaking

40 marks (25%)

Candidates complete one role play and conversations on two topics.

Internally assessed and externally moderated

Paper 4 Writing

1 hour, 40 marks (25%)

Candidates complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email/letter or article/blog. Externally assessed.

What will lead to success in this course?

Pupils studying French need to be:

- confident in using, use new and familiar structures and vocabulary to communicate with others in everyday situations;
- responsible in seeking opportunities to use and develop their language skills;
- reflective by considering how to communicate different ideas and attitudes;
- innovative in applying language to a variety of situations engaged and developing learning strategies .

What will this qualification lead to?

Language careers are varied and include, interpreters, translators, modern language jobs in education, and international development workers - this is a diverse sector, as you could work in anything from education, environment, human rights and disaster relief. You could be involved in administration, research, fundraising, relief work and more, diplomacy, broadcast journalism, business, logistics and finance careers, Logistics and distribution management, marketing, advertising and public relations (PR) careers.

Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0520

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/743340-2028-2030-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - CHINESE (MANDARIN) FOREIGN LANGUAGE

What will be studied?

Mandarin Chinese 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.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Paper 1 Listening

Approximately 40 minutes

30 marks (25%)

Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions. Externally assessed

Paper 2 Reading

1 hour 15 minutes

40 marks (25%)

Candidates read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice and matching questions as well as questions requiring short answers.

Externally assessed

Paper 3 Speaking

Approximately 10 minutes

40 marks (25%)

Candidates complete one role play and conversations on two topics.

Internally assessed and externally moderated

Paper 4 Writing

1 hour 15 minutes

25% 40 marks (25%)

Candidates complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email/letter or article/blog.

Externally assessed

What will lead to success in this course?

Pupils who are:

- confident in using new and familiar structures and vocabulary to communicate with others in everyday situations;
- responsible in seeking opportunities to use and develop their language skills;
- reflective by considering how to communicate different ideas and attitudes;
- innovative in applying language to a variety of situations.

What will this qualification lead

Language careers are varied and include interpreters, translators, modern language teachers, and international business or development officers. With Mandarin Chinese, you gain valuable skills for roles in trade, diplomacy, tourism, and global communication. This qualification equips you with linguistic competence and cultural awareness essential for success in today's interconnected world.



Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0547

Web link to specification

[:https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/743359-2028-2030-syllabus.pdf](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/743359-2028-2030-syllabus.pdf)

IGCSE CHINESE SECOND LANGUAGE

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese Second Language offers pupils the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Pupils 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. Pupils will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills. In both written and spoken Chinese, pupils will be able to respond to factual information as well as abstract ideas. Pupils 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 Second Language will enable pupils to become independent users of Chinese and to use Chinese to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts.

Who is this course suited to?

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese Second Language is designed for pupils who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding to progress their education or career. Through their studies, pupils achieve a thorough understanding of a wide range of registers and styles and learn to communicate appropriately in different situations.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Paper 1 Reading and Writing

2 hours

60 marks (60%)

Questions will be based on syllabus content

Externally assessed

Paper 2 Listening

Approx. 35–45 minutes

30 marks (20%)

Questions will be based on syllabus content

Externally assessed

Component 3 Speaking

Approx. 10–13 minutes

60 marks (20%)

Questions will be based on syllabus content

Internally assessed and externally moderated

What will this qualification lead to?

Studying Chinese as a Second Language enables you to communicate effectively and appreciate Chinese culture and society. It builds a strong foundation for further studies and future opportunities in international communication, business, education, and global relations, where cross-cultural skills are highly valued.



Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course Code 0523

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/744807-2028-2029-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - CHINESE FIRST LANGUAGE

What will be studied?

We recommend that pupils who are beginning this course should have a level in Chinese equivalent to First Language competence.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese offers pupils the opportunity to respond knowledgeably to a range of reading passages. Pupils 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. Pupils will have the opportunity to read Classical Chinese prose texts to help deepen their knowledge of Chinese culture. We encourage pupils to become appreciative and critical readers and writers of Chinese.

How is it assessed?

Paper 1 Reading, Directed Writing and Classical Chinese

2 hours 15 minutes

60 marks (50%)

Questions will be based on syllabus content
Externally assessed

Paper 2 Writing

2 hours

50 marks (50%)

Questions will be based on syllabus content
Externally assessed

Who is this course suited to?

The Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese syllabus is designed for pupils 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.

What will this qualification lead to?

Chinese as a First Language enhances your ability to think critically and communicate with precision. It deepens your appreciation of literature and culture, preparing you for future studies and careers such as translator, journalist, educator, writer, or diplomat, where advanced language and analytical skills are highly valued.



Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0509

Web link to specification

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/744811-2028-2029-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - MALAY FOREIGN LANGUAGE

All Malaysian passport and/or Identity Card holders must study Malay language, culture, history as part of the curriculum.

What will be studied?

This syllabus is designed for pupils 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 pupils 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.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Paper 1 Listening

50 minutes

40 marks (25%)

Paper 2 Reading

1 hour

40 marks (25%)

Paper 3 Speaking

40 marks (25%)

Paper 4 Writing

1 hour

40 marks (25%)

What will lead to success in this course?

Pupils studying this need to be:

- confident in using new and familiar structures and vocabulary to communicate with others in everyday situations;
- responsible in seeking opportunities to use and develop their language skills;
- reflective in considering how to communicate different ideas and attitudes to a variety of situations;
- engaged in developing learning strategies which help them to express their ideas and their understanding of other cultures.

What will this qualification lead to?

Pupils who invest in a language during their Senior School years, boost their prospects for success whether they aspire to pursue higher education or to enter the workforce upon graduation. Foreign language study enhances one's opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry, marketing, etc.

Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0546

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/743358-2028-2030-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - COMPUTER SCIENCE

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps pupils 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. Pupils also develop a range of technical skills, and the ability to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Paper 1 Computer Systems

1 hour 45 minutes

75 marks (50%)

Short-answer and structured questions Questions will be based on Topics 1–6 of the subject content

All questions are compulsory

No calculators are permitted

Externally assessed

Paper 2 Algorithms, Programming and Logic

1 hour 45 minutes

75 marks (50%)

Short-answer and structured questions and a scenario-based question

No calculators are permitted

Externally assessed

Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0478

Web link to specification

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/697167-2026-2028-syllabus.pdf>

What will lead to success in this course?

Computer Science pupils must be:

- confident and interested in learning about Computer Science and using technical language to communicate their knowledge and understanding;
- responsible by working systematically, safely and securely when using technology;
- reflective by learning from their experiences when creating programs and using technology;
- innovative by solving unfamiliar problems and designing computer programs creatively and independently;
- engaged and keen to develop computer science skills and further their understanding of developments in the use of technology.

What will this qualification lead to?

Studying Computer Science empowers you to solve complex, challenging problems, enabling you to make a positive difference in the world. Computing skills are essential in a wide range of professions, from astronomy to financial analysis – not just in IT-related jobs.

As a result computing jobs often come with high salaries and those who can show computer proficiency are more attractive to employers. There are many opportunities for travel and/or remote working for people with high-level computing skills. The future possibilities for people with Computer Science skills are unlimited, and these skills are only going to become more important. This has never been more the case than seen over the past year during the covid pandemic during which time the CEO of Microsoft, said, “We’ve seen two years’ worth of digital transformation in two months.”

IGCSE - INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

What will be studied?

Pupils 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, pupils solve problems using a variety of common software such as word processors and interactive presentation software.

How is it assessed?

Theory 40%

80 marks

Questions will be based on sections 1–21 of the subject content

All questions are compulsory

Externally assessed

Paper 2 Document Production, Databases & Presentations

2 hours 15 minutes

70 marks (30%)

This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 17, 18 and 19 of the subject content

Externally Assessed

Paper 3 Spreadsheets and Website Authoring

2 hours 15 minutes

70 marks (30%)

This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 20 and 21 of the subject content

Candidates must demonstrate the practical skills relevant to sections 11–16

Externally assessed

What will lead to success in this course?

ICT pupils must be:

- confident in applying knowledge and understanding of ICT technologies and using skills to solve ICT problems;
- responsive to and respectful of others with particular consideration to physical safety and eSafety;
- reflective in their ability to learn and develop ICT skills;
- innovative in the way that they use ICT-based solutions to solve problems and identify alternative solutions to solve problems;
- engaged socially in the work that they undertake and to interrogate unfamiliar situations to provide ICT-based solutions.

What will this qualification lead to?

The IGCSE ICT programme is recognised by many universities and employers all over the world. Candidates will be able to develop the skills needed for a variety of applications such as: word processing, graphics, database, spreadsheets, internet, email, presentations as well as website programming. These are all vital for success in the 21st Century world.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course Code 0417

Web link to specification

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/697139-2026-2028-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - DRAMA

What will be studied?

Cambridge IGCSE Drama provides opportunities for pupils to develop practical skills in performance, both as an individual and within a group. Pupils will understand the artistic choices made by actors, directors and designers. They will also learn about theatrical styles and genres. Pupils will explore how to develop their own ideas in creating original drama.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Component 1 Written examination
2 hours 30 minutes
80 marks (40%)



Component 2 Coursework
120 marks (60%)

Candidates submit three pieces of practical work:

- individual performance based on an extract from a play
- group performance based on an extract from a play
- group performance based on an original devised piece. Internally assessed and externally moderated



What will lead to success in this course?

Drama pupils should be:

- Confident in using practical skills to deliver engaging dramatic performances to an audience.
- Able to collaborate effectively when working with others.
- Capable of working independently on individual projects.
- Inspired by the power of drama to entertain, influence, and persuade.
- Passionate and curious about performance processes, theatre, and the wider arts.
- Creative and enthusiastic about developing original dramatic work.
- Excited by the opportunity to use Drama to support their practical, intellectual, and artistic growth.

What will this qualification lead to?

You will learn how drama is created, including all the acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama onto the stage. You will learn how to create a character and play this character in a performance. The course develops not only your subject knowledge but life skills, encouraging you to work confidently with others, be an independent and responsible learner, be a reflective and creative thinker and be innovative in your approach to problem-solving.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course Code 0411

Web link to specification

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/744756-2028-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - MUSIC

What will be studied?

When studying the Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus, pupils listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity.

As a result, pupils enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment.

Pupils 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. Although the majority of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is always represented.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Component 1 Listening

70 marks (40%)

1 hour 15 min listening exam

Externally assessed

Component 2 Performance

50 marks (30%)

Two prepared performances, one individual and one ensemble

Internally marked and externally moderated

Component 3 Composing

50 marks (30%)

Two contrasting compositions

Internally marked and externally moderated

What will lead to success in this course?

Pupils choosing IGCSE Music must be able to play an instrument to a minimum grade 3 standard, and be able to read music. If pupils have taken ABRSM examinations, this is of an additional benefit. In addition to being able to read standard Western notation, pupils need to have rudimentary music theory skills.



What will this qualification lead to?

IGCSE Music is accepted by universities and colleges as a sound academic qualification.

It is suitable for pupils intending to become teachers, lecturers, pursue a career in the musical profession, fields such as film scoring, music production, and performers, as well as pupils who wish to follow a broad curriculum regardless of their future plans.

Exam board and specification:

Cambridge, Course Code 0410

Web link to specification:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/images/664596-2026-2028-syllabus.pdf>

IGCSE - PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What will be studied?

The IGCSE Physical Education course combines both practical performance and theoretical study, enabling pupils to become more skilful, knowledgeable, and confident participants in a wide range of physical activities. A key part of the course involves pupils performing competently in four different sports, selected from at least two activity areas (for example, games, athletics, swimming, or outdoor activities).

Alongside practical performance, pupils study a variety of theory components that explain how and why the body performs as it does in physical activity. These include topics such as: Anatomy and physiology, Health, fitness and training, Skill acquisition and psychology of sport, and Social, cultural, and ethical influences.

Together, the practical and theoretical elements of the course help pupils to improve their own performance, understand how to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, and appreciate the value of sport in everyday life.

How is it assessed?

All candidates take:

Paper 1 Theory

1 hour 45 minutes

100 marks (50%)

Short and structured questions.

Externally assessed

Paper/Component 2 Coursework

100 marks (50%)

Candidates undertake four physical activities from at least two different categories. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

What will lead to success in this course?

Physical Education pupils must:

- train and develop fitness;
- enjoy the challenge of sport;
- work cooperatively with others;
- give and receive constructive feedback;
- 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.

What will this qualification lead to?

Pupils should choose IGCSE PE if they have a passion for sports and physical education and an interest in understanding of performance. It is also important to be a competent sports performer, both as an individual and part of a team. IGCSE PE prepares learners for a variety of educational pathways and careers in sports and the expanding health and fitness industry.

Exam board and specification: Cambridge, Course Code 0413

Web link to specification

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/721298-2027-2028-syllabus.pdf>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What should I consider when making my choices?

At the IGCSE level, interest in the subject is arguably the most important consideration. For the vast majority of pupils who wish to keep their options open, it is suggested that option choices are not kept too narrow. If you are already clear about your preferred A level courses or studies at university, it makes sense to choose related IGCSE courses. Please note that different colleges have different requirements all over the world.

2. Are all combinations of subjects possible?

Most subject combinations are possible. If it is impossible to timetable a student's chosen combination, we will discuss alternative options with those pupils. For this reason, pupils should think carefully about their reserve choice. In some cases where the take up of a subject is low, this may not run.

3. Can I change my option choices later during Years 10 and 11?

Once you have, after careful thought and consideration, chosen and submitted your subjects, we do not encourage you to change subject choices. You should discuss any changes you wish to make with the Assistant Head of Senior School (Academic).

A change may be possible at the start of the IGCSE programme, provided that:

- Your new choice of options fits with existing option selections.
- Your new choice does not cause an unacceptably large class.
- Your teacher advisors think that the request to change is sensible for you.
- All catch-up work in a new subject is completed within a given time frame.

4. Can I drop a subject if I am not achieving good grades?

No, we expect pupils to continue with all their IGCSE subject choices until the end of the course. Many universities require pupils to have taken a minimum number of IGCSEs whilst all universities want to see that pupils can manage a busy workload and will succeed when faced with challenges.

5. Is it compulsory for a student to sit the IGCSE examination in a subject?

Yes, for the reasons above, pupils are expected to sit the IGCSE examination in the subjects chosen. If a pupil's grade is low, they should discuss strategies for improving their performance with the subject teacher.

6. Do I need to achieve particular grades to take the subject at A Level?

Yes, the minimum requirement for progressing to A Level in most subjects is a 'C' or 'B' grade.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

7. How will I know I'm doing well?

We monitor your progress very closely during your IGCSE studies and keep your parents informed of your progress regularly. If you are experiencing difficulties in your studies, we will inform your parents and discuss intervention strategies and options with them.

8. Are my A-level choices affected by my IGCSE choices?

Some A-level options don't require you to have studied them at IGCSE first – for example, Psychology. For other subjects you will most likely need the IGCSE, but you can check with a teacher to make sure.

9. Do I need to select my English Language or Literature options on the form?

No you do not need to indicate English choices on the form. The English Department determines placement in the First or Second Language pathway and makes all decisions regarding IGCSE Literature based on pupil performance and suitability.

10. Do I need to study IGCSE Malay if I want to go to a Malaysian university?

- State/Public Universities - these universities do not accept IGCSE or A-Level Malay, only SPM/STPM.
- Semi-State Universities - accept IGCSE/A Level Malay. These universities do not insist on IGCSE Malay but pupils must have at least 5 credits.
- Private universities accept IGCSE and A Level. There is no obligation to do Malay but they have their own entry requirements for a chosen course.

Please note that if a pupil will want to enter a profession in Malaysia in the future, they will need to check what language requirements are required by the professional body Eg: law, engineering and architecture. If a student wishes to do SPM, they will require private tutoring and be entered as private candidates.

11. Do my IGCSE choices affect my choice of subject at University?

Yes, in as much as IGCSE choices can affect A-level choices, this can have an impact on choices at university. If, for example, you chose to study Physics and Chemistry at IGCSE, you wouldn't be able to pick up Biology at A-level. Consequently, if you decided you wanted to study Medicine at University, you would struggle to get on a course without Biology, which is a requirement for most universities. The key is to start doing your research now.

You may find the following sites useful in determining what subjects you will need at A-level for entry into relevant courses at University in the UK.

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/> - This site was developed by the Russell Group Universities (which include the University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, University College London etc) and helps you understand what you need to choose at A-level for a variety of University courses.

<https://www.ucas.com> - This is the site where applications to UK universities are made and it has a lot of useful information regarding courses with both subject and grade requirements.



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Compulsory IGCSE subjects

All pupils will study English, Mathematics, Science (either Co-ordinated Science or three separate sciences) and a Language. In English most pupils will study both Language and Literature courses and some pupils who receive EAL support in school will take English as a Second Language.

Pupils who are Malaysian passport and/or Identity Card (I/C) holders will study Bahasa Malay as part of their Block A option, whichever language they opt for.

Pupils will also have lessons in several non-examined subjects each week, including PSHE, PE, and Malaysian history and culture (Malaysian passport/IC holders only).

Pupils are expected to select one subject from each of the four option blocks.

IGCSE Core - English (Group 1) and Maths (Group 2)

Group 1 English	Group 2 Maths
English Language English Literature	Mathematics (Additional Mathematics by invitation)
English as a Second Language (to be determined by the EAL and the English Department)	

IGCSE Core - Sciences (Group 3)

Co-ordinated Science (Double Award)	3 Single Sciences (one of which is in Block D)
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IGCSE Options

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Malay French Mandarin (FL) Mandarin (SL) Mandarin (For. L) French	Geography *Economics Computer Science ICT	History *Business Art French Malay	PE Art Music Drama Science 3

*Pupils cannot choose both Economics and Business together

Please be aware that not all subject combinations are possible within the constraints of the timetable. We will work hard to timetable your chosen subjects but it is probable that not all pupils' options will be achievable and flexibility will be needed.

Optional Choices.

Please list your four subject options below and select your science options.

Are you a Malaysian Passport and/or IC holder? (Circle one answer)	Yes	No
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Pupil Name & Form:		
Group 1	English *	✓	
Group 2	Mathematics	✓	
Group 3**	Coordinated Science or		
	3 Single Sciences		**Remember to include science 3 as your option in block D if you want to study all three sciences, rather than coordinated science.
Options	First Choice	Second Choice	
Block A			
Block B			
Block C			
Block D			

Parent signature: _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____