

KEY STAGE 4 GCSE OPTIONS



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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INTRODUCTION TO THE OPTIONS PROCESS

Welcome

The first steps towards the next phase of your educational journey, as you move into Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11), are particularly exciting ones. For the first time you will have the opportunity to make meaningful decisions about the subjects that you wish to study, and you will set out on a two-year pathway which culminates in the completion of your first major set of academic qualifications (IGCSEs).

The purpose of this booklet is to provide support and guidance to help you make informed choices about this crucial phase of your education and journey towards becoming a young adult.



KS4 at HIS

Here at Horizon International School, we offer a wide range of curricular choices in addition to the core curriculum (including subjects mandated by the UAE Ministry of Education), as well as a diverse range of extra-curricular activities.

These subjects are delivered by highly qualified, knowledgeable and passionate professionals, whose aim is to help you develop your understanding and enthusiasm for your chosen subjects, whilst ensuring that you achieve the highest possible academic outcomes.

In recent years, the results achieved by HIS students at International GCSE (IGCSE) level have been highly competitive, routinely outperforming counterparts in both public and private education systems in the UK and British curriculum schools in Dubai. Furthermore, students at HIS consistently exceed measures of academic potential, highlighting the exceptional progress that they make in course of their time in KS4 at HIS. You can be assured that HIS is the school of choice to not only support and challenge you to exceed your potential, but to provide a community, student-centred and inclusive environment in which to grow and flourish.

In the coming weeks, students will be supported with their decision-making process by their teachers, tutors, progress leaders and our career-guidance counsellor. This booklet provides the starting point for students and parents; to provide the context for the core and optional elements of the curriculum as well as an overview of the key subject specific information.

The guiding principles of our options process are:

- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum with a strong academic core
- To ensure that everyone has access to the appropriate curriculum areas in order to challenge and meet the learning needs of all students
- High expectations for all, in order to ensure that all students maximise their progress through KS4
- Clear and unambiguous communication and guidance for students and parents
- To equip students with meeting future expectations of further education and employers, to embrace the diverse challenges of tomorrow

Points for consideration

- Further to the core curriculum, students will have the opportunity to choose three additional subjects from a set of 3 fixed option blocks, each containing a variety of subjects designed to cater to the needs of all students.
- Option blocks are fixed. The structure is based on a wide range of factors including student voice, timetable compatibility, further education pathways and inclusivity for all students. The option blocks impact staffing and recruitment for the following academic year.
- Choices should be made based on interests of students and must be compatible with the set option blocks.
- Whilst we will endeavour to ensure that all students are able to study their first-choice options, subjects will have a minimum number required to run and maximum capacity.

Curriculum Choices and Opportunities

All students at Horizon International School will undertake the core curriculum and will then have the opportunity to choose three additional subjects from three fixed option blocks.



Core Curriculum

Subject	Lessons per week	Notes
GCSE English (Language & Literature)	5	Examination + Coursework
GCSE Mathematics	4/5	Examination
GCSE Science (Combined or Triple Award)	6	Examination
Physical Education (PE)	2	Not examined
Moral Education/UAE Social Studies	1	Not examined
Islamic Studies/PSHE	2	Not examined
GCSE Arabic A (Arabs)	3	Examination
Arabic B (Non-Arabs)	3 (Y10), 1 (Y11)	Not examined

Note: Arabic B students will have one lesson per week of Arabic in Year 11. The additional 2 lessons will become supplementary Maths and Community Service.

GCSE Optional Curriculum

Subject	Lessons per week	Notes
Option 1	3	Examined
Option 2	3	Examined
Option 3	3	Examined

Note: Option blocks will be published each year at the beginning of Spring Term (Year 9).

Extra-curricular opportunities at HIS

Beyond academics, we offer a comprehensive range of free of charge extra-curricular activities to students, in addition to the sporting, music and performing arts clubs offered by EnrichME. We aim to ensure that our students have the opportunity to develop more than just their academic skills, but also to develop holistically as they become well-rounded young adults.

Students have the chance to participate in an array of opportunities that will allow them to interact and compete with students in other schools whilst developing their skills of leadership, communication, problem solving and many others. These include Formula 1 in Schools, Model United Nations, Dubai Maths Super League, DASSA sports leagues, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Desert Dance Elite, Musical and Theatrical productions, Islamic recitation competitions, School documentary development, educational visits as well as a variety of in-school leadership roles and opportunities.



This is supplemented by our bespoke Evolv3 Enrichment programme which is designed to target our gifted and talented students to develop their promise within the subjects they enjoy and excel in. It operates on a monthly rolling programme with a diverse offering of awe inspiring enrichment, opportunities and competitions. It is currently an invitation only programme with subject teachers nominating students who demonstrate excellent ability within their subject area. This unique initiative offers them the unparalleled opportunity to collaborate with like-minded peers in innovative workshops that transcend the boundaries of our weekly curriculum.

We provide a significant number of competitive sport opportunities, with representative teams, groups, and developmental squads across a wide spectrum of sports, with a significant number of students engaging and competing in matches, meets, tournaments, and galas up to under-18 level. Some examples of squads that we offer are football, netball, basketball, swimming, aquathlon, cross-country and athletics to name a few. This is not an exhaustive list and is ever expanding. Our school is a proud member of the Dubai Affiliated School Sport Association (DASSA) at both Primary and Secondary levels (www.dassasport.org). Sports continue to evolve within our curriculum lessons, inter-house, and inter-school competitive events. We actively participate in DASSA leagues and Cognita schools tournaments and events. For access to our exclusive school sports content, and to find out some more information, please visit <https://www.horizontintschoolsports.com/>.



Scholarships

At HIS we offer a comprehensive scholarship mentoring programme, which underscores our commitment to recognising and rewarding outstanding talent and high performing students. Scholars are supported with mentoring and encouraged to make considerable contributions to school life and specifically within their scholarship field. They are provided with many opportunities to develop and master new skills, represent the school and take on student leadership roles. We empower our scholars to become change makers, making a difference for the benefit of others within and outside of our school community.



Partial scholarship offers are available for students who are able to demonstrate exceptional levels of achievement in academia, sports or creative arts.

Core Physical Education

Physical Education remains a compulsory subject in Years 10 and 11 and all students have two lessons of curriculum time dedicated to the subject per week. The emphasis in KS4 is on participation and enjoyment to promote a prolonged interest in sport and physical activity. Students undertake a different unit of work each half term and then are given choices between different activities within that unit of work on a rotational basis. This allows for a breadth of activities and for students to have more autonomy when it comes to their learning.

Terms	Activities
Term 1A	Fitness, Health and Wellbeing
Term 1B	Invasion Games
Term 2A	Athletics
Term 2B	Sports Education
Term 3A	Striking and Fielding
Term 3B	Alternative activities

The course aims to encourage students to pursue active and healthy lifestyles as well as develop leadership, organisation and collaboration skills, amongst others, that they can transfer to many other areas of their lives. This course does not involve an external examination.

In Core PE, students are assessed on their effort levels only.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE)

UAE Social Studies

UAE Social Studies follows a diverse and engaging curriculum set by the Ministry of Education that gives schools flexibility in the subject's delivery. All students in Year 10 and 11 are timetabled one weekly lesson with a focus on promoting a holistic knowledge of the UAE, Asia and Africa. Students cover four key topic areas in a year: History, Geography, National Education and Economics.

At HIS, our vision is to get to the heart of the question 'Where have we come from and where are we going to?' We view the subject as a vehicle for developing real depth of understanding in the past, present and future of the Arabian Peninsula and neighbouring countries and continents. We believe it to be crucial that students, as future leaders and shapers of our country's future, are able to appreciate the extraordinary circumstances that have taken place in and around the UAE for them, and their family, to be here today.

The assessments have been designed to accelerate the development of skills required in other Humanities subjects with students taught to write clearly, concisely and critically.

All examinations are internal and skills-based with students needing to demonstrate competence in evaluation, as well as in using key terminology and facts and figures. Assessments focus on addressing UAE Social Studies Learning Outcomes within the following Learning Domains:

- **Domain 1:** Knowledge of Social Studies Components
- **Domain 2:** Literacy in Social Studies
- **Domain 3:** Communication and Presentation

Moral Education

Moral Education is an innovative, engaging curriculum designed to develop people of all nationalities and ages in the UAE with universal principles and values that reflect the shared experiences of humanity. In Year 10 and 11, students are timetabled one weekly lesson.



The character and morality curriculum is centred around developing each student as honest, tolerant, resilient and persevering individuals.



A true citizen is one that takes care of themselves in addition to caring about the good of society and participating actively to make things better.



Whether a student was born in the UAE or moved here with their family, it is essential to understand the fundamentals of how the UAE was formed and how it is governed today.



Culture is an inherent part of a society and the program wants to highlight UAE's shared human culture that encapsulates the traditions and symbols that help define who we are.





Compulsory Arabic

At KS4 all students must study Arabic A/B from the MOE syllabus, which is based on age related expectations for each year group.

During KS4, students will learn and develop their Arabic language such as;

- Analysis of the interaction between several topics, central ideas, the linguistic options and the different meanings in a literary text.
- Developing their knowledge in Arabic and international literature. Students will accurately analyse several ideas included in informative text, and to identify the extent of their interaction and inconsistency.
- Developing their writing skills by writing a variety of texts such as stories, articles, speech and will demonstrate the ability to use different language meanings with regard to the purpose and recipient.
- Producing a research paper in various topics and application of research strategies.
- Developing functioning of grammatical, and rhetorical related concepts accurately in speaking and writing.

They will be assessed internally at the end of each year in the 4 skills (Reading-Writing-Listening-Speaking)

Compulsory Islamic (Muslim students)

In Islamic Education, we follow the MOE/KHDA framework. Islamic Education is compulsory for all Muslim students. Students have to sit an exam and achieve 60% in order to progress onto the next level. There are two books which consist of six units, two per term. The six units are; Al Quran and Hadeeth, Islamic laws and Ethics, Islamic values and principles, Islamic Faith, Biography of the prophets and Contemporary issues and identify. Furthermore, students must be led to discover the larger connections between the knowledge and skills they are learning, rather than memorising isolated bits of information. Students must be challenged to thoughtfully examine the topics they are studying, to participate assertively in group discussion, to work productively in cooperative learning activities, and to come to grips controversial issues. Such activities and experiences will help foster the skills needed to produce competent Muslims who are capable of presenting and defending their beliefs and principles effectively. Students' appreciation of the role and values of Islam in the society of Dubai, respect for the heritage and culture within the UAE and understanding and appreciation of the wider world cultures.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SYSTEM OF EQUIVALENCY OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS CERTIFICATES

What is Equivalency?

Equivalency (Secondary School Leaving Certificate) is a student's evidence that they have successfully completed Secondary Schooling in the UAE. Originally developed for Arabic Curriculum Schools, it is often referred to as the 'Equivalence Certificate' because students following an alternative curriculum (such as the British Curriculum on offer at Horizon International School) can now gain the certificate having attended an international school.

How does a student achieve Equivalency?

In order to achieve the Equivalence Certificate, the Ministry of Education specify that the following criteria are met:

- Within the British Curriculum students are expected to complete Year 13.
- Students have to achieve 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/5 or above from the list of subjects shown in the table below.
- Students have to pass 2 AS Levels at Grade D or above from the subjects shown in the table below.
- Students must pass both the Ministry of Education Arabic (Native for passport holders of Arabic countries or Non-Native for passport holders of Non-Arabic countries) and Islamic Studies (if applicable) examinations.

Why does a student need to achieve Equivalency?

Any student who has studied in the UAE for his/her final secondary school years (Year 10 onwards) is advised to make all appropriate efforts to achieve Equivalency, unless that can answer "No" to all of the following questions:

1. Do you intend to study in the UAE after the age of 18?
2. Do you intend to study in another Arabic country after the age of 18?
3. Do you intend to work in the UAE at any point after the age of 18?

For some students, it will be their intention to study at University in a non-Arabic country. It is clear that for these students, points 1 & 2 (above) do not apply, and some students may have already decided that they intend to work overseas after finishing University. However, a student who has studied beyond Year 10 in the UAE may still be asked to produce their Equivalency certificate many years later if they choose to apply for employment in the UAE or another Arabic country.

Students who do not have the Equivalency Certificate will be at a distinct disadvantage in future years when applying for employment in the UAE. Federal Law dictates that all Federal employees (ie those working in the armed forces or Ministry Departments such as Labour, Interior or Education) must have the Equivalency Certificate.

Subjects Accepted for the Purposes of Equivalency

• English Language	• English Literature	• Maths	• Science	• History
• Geography	• Spanish	• Art & Design	• Business Studies	• Psychology

In addition, Media is accepted at AS/A2 level.

Under our current GCSE options, all students will meet the GCSE requirements for Equivalency as they will take English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science (2 GCSEs). However, as explained at the beginning of this section, the system (and the subjects accepted) are under review. We will update students and parents once the review is complete and we are made aware of the new requirements by the Ministry of Education.



SUBJECT GUIDANCE

ARABIC

(9-1)

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel GCSE in Arabic (1AA0)

Year 10 Arabic Non-Native speakers' good opportunity

The Ministry of Education and KHDA realigned the year/grade system with the correct curriculum standards. Arabic Language became compulsory for all Non-Native Year 10 students from the academic year 2021-2022. GCSE Arabic is a continuation of work covered in Key Stage 3 and students are already familiar with some of the areas of study; it is a good opportunity for them to take the course as one of their GCSE examinations. GCSE level, students will revise, extend their language proficiency and cover these topics in more depth. It is therefore vital that students take the opportunity to gain a good knowledge of the work covered in Year 9.

The Edexcel GCSE in Arabic qualification requires students to:

- Develop the ability to listen to and understand spoken Arabic in a range of contexts and a variety of styles
- Communicate in speech and writing for a variety of purposes
- Read and respond to different types of written language
- Understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures
- Develop language learning and communication skills which can be applied broadly

What will I learn?

GCSE Arabic is a great course to take for students who want to extend their knowledge of the subject. As with any language the opportunities available after further study are numerous. With the Arabic world becoming more high profile in the tourist and economic industries Arabic is becoming more desired language by employers.

How will students learn?

- Students are given a variety of tasks and activities to help them learn the language. There is some individual work, but much of your time is spent in group work, using a range of extracts in Arabic to improve your reading and listening skills.
- Students are encouraged to read widely throughout the course in order to improve your vocabulary.
- ICT is widely used through using online materials and computer software to develop speaking, reading, listening and writing skills in the lessons.

Assessment Structure

Assessment will be in all four language skills: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing, with an emphasis on developing grammar, vocabulary and free expression (verbal and written). The final examinations include listening and responding, reading and responding, speaking and writing. This is the component and the assessment details.

Component	Details of Assessment	Duration/Lessons	Weighting %
Unit 1: Listening & Understanding in Arabic	The examination consists of a number of passages or interactions in Arabic with a variety of question types.	Foundation tier: 35 minutes Higher tier: 45 minutes	25%
Unit 2: Speaking in Arabic	Internally conducted and externally assessed Students are assessed on their ability to communicate and interact effectively through speaking in Arabic for different purposes and in different settings, involving three tasks.	Foundation tier: 7–9 minutes Higher tier: 10–12 minutes	25%
Unit 3: Reading and Understanding in Arabic	Students are assessed on their understanding of written Arabic across a range of different types of texts, including advertisements, emails, letters, articles and literary texts. Students are required to respond to multiple-response and short answer questions based on these texts.	Foundation tier: 50 minutes Higher tier: 65 minutes	25%
Unit 4: Writing in Arabic	Students are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in Arabic. The instructions to students are in Arabic. Word counts are specified for each question.	Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes Higher tier: 1 hour 25 minutes	25%

ART & DESIGN

QUALIFICATION

Art Craft and Design GCSE

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Art is vibrant and dynamic at Horizon International school. Art and Design gives students the freedom to explore Art and Design in ways that inspire across a wide range of art genres. GCSE Art and Design equips students with the skills to continue the subject with confidence at A-level and beyond. The qualification features a wide range of titles including Art, Craft and Design, Fine art, Graphic communication, Textile design, Three-dimensional design and Photography. The flexibility of the course allows students to explore the medium which they feel best suits them.

EXAMPLES OF UNITS

Year 10 skills workshops building independence, critical thinking and independence of Art choice.

Year 11 includes an internally set exam and an externally set exam.

PROGRESSION

Students can continue Art and Design at A-level or it could lead to a foundation course at University if they wanted to continue a creative journey after A level.

ASSESSMENT

Coursework and sketchbooks/journals are submitted to the exam board.

Students sit a 10 Hour Art exam informed by their creative journey in their sketchbooks (over 2 school days).

PROGRESSION & ASSESSMENT

Year 10	% of course
<p>Skills building and workshops</p> <p>Students build a portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives.</p> <p>Students will develop a project over a term where they can experiment with a wide range of media discovering what there strong points are whether that be painting, textiles or 3D ready for component 1.</p>	n/a
Component 1 (Internally set exam)	60%
Year 11	% of course
Component 1 (Internally set exam)	60%
Component 2 (Externally set exam)	40%

BUSINESS

QUALIFICATION

IGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The International GCSE in Business will look at how Businesses operate and function in a modern economy. The IGCSE will examine business concerns in a variety of countries across the globe and how they effectively manage in both the short and long term. There will be analysis of the creative side of business – how firms can create a successful brand image and align this against their corporate objectives. Plus we will look at the softer skills of people management and motivation. There is also a numerical element of the course as the performance of businesses is assessed by analysis of their financial results. The course will equip students with the basic skills in Business and act as the perfect foundation for study at a higher level.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Unit 1: Business activity and influences on business

Unit 2: People in business

Unit 3: Business finance

Unit 4: Marketing

Unit 5: Business operations

PROGRESSION

The Edexcel IGCSE gives the best preparation for the study of Business at A-level. It is significant in that it develops the students numerical and analytical skills and these are transferable across a number of academic areas. As a subject, Business has an almost limitless array of applications and industries. Therefore, the IGCSE gives a realistic impression of the real world and prepares the student for what they might face in any career choice.

EXTRA - CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Trips and visits to marketing agencies and factories.

ASSESSMENT

IGCSE	Assessment	% of course
Paper 1: Investigating Small Businesses	1 hour and 30 minute exam	50%
Paper 2: Investigating Large Businesses	1 hour and 30 minute exam	50%

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Business is relevant to the real world, easily applicable to every type of organisation. It also shapes you as a person to become a more independent learner."

COMPUTER SCIENCE

QUALIFICATION

iGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The International GCSE Computer Science has been designed to meet the needs of students in a 21st century, rapidly changing, technological environment.

Our digital natives (students) will obtain:

- Understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to interpret, amend and create algorithms
- Understanding the requirements for writing program code
- Understanding how to develop program code and constructs, data types, structures, input/output, operators and subprograms
- Understanding of binary representation, data representation, data storage and compression, and encryption
- Understanding of components of computer systems; ability to construct truth tables, produce logic statements and read and interpret pseudocode
- Understanding of computer networks, the internet and the world wide web
- Awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues
- Developing and testing program code and constructs, data types, structures, input/output, operators and subprograms
- Connecting and using data sources when developing program code

EXAMPLES OF UNITS

Topic 1: Problem solving - Develop a set of computational thinking skills that enable them to understand how computer systems work, and design, implement and analyse algorithms for solving problems

Topic 2: Programming – To be competent at designing, reading, writing and debugging programs. They must be able to apply their skills to solve real problems and produce robust programs

Topic 3: Data - Computers are able to store and manipulate large quantities of data. They use binary to represent different types of data. Students are expected to learn how different types of data are represented in a computer

Topic 4: Computers - Be familiar with the hardware and software components that make up a computer system and recognise that computers take many forms, from embedded microprocessors to distributed clouds

Topic 5: Communication and the internet - Many computer applications in use today would not be possible without networks. Students should understand the key principles behind the organisation of computer networks. Ideally, they should be able to experiment by setting up a simple network. Our increasing reliance on computer networks makes us vulnerable to a range of attacks from cyber criminals. As IT system security defences become more robust, attack methods become more sophisticated. Students should have a good understanding of the current IT security threats and how to apply appropriate protection methods

Topic 6: The bigger picture - Be aware of the influence of computing technology and recognise that computing has an impact on nearly every aspect of the world in which they live

PROGRESSION

An iGCSE in Computer Science can lead to a wide range of opportunities at Post 16 and Post 18 further study. Many students choose to study for a degree in cyber security, artificial intelligence, data science, engineering and robotics, which allows them to specialise in an area that they enjoy. Many degrees offer the exploration of combining subjects to study, opening the door to overseas study. Furthermore, students are able to go into the world of employment, better prepared and future ready, using 21st century transferable skills across a multitude of avenues.

Assessment Structure

Component	Details of Assessment	Duration/Lessons	Weighting %
Paper 1	Written Paper	2 Hours	50% of course
Paper 2	Practical Paper	3 Hours	50% of course

DANCE

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

AQA GCSE Dance is divided into choreography and performance. The GCSE enables students to learn set works produced by 6 different professional dance companies in variety of genres which they will then sit a written exam on at the end of Year 11. Alongside this they will also learn the elements of dance and about how dancers develop and function. They will learn how to choreograph both solo and group works and how to develop their performance skills to become more versatile dancers. The course is mainly focused on a contemporary style of dance but those with experience in other genres can find ways to incorporate this into their work.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Performance

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration)
- Duet/trio performance (three minutes in a dance which is a maximum of five minutes in duration)

Choreography

- Solo / group choreography- a solo (two to two and a half minutes) / a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)

How it's assessed : Internally marked & externally moderated

Performance : 30% of GCSE- 40 marks

Choreography : 30% of GCSE- 40 marks

Total component : 60%

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

HOW IT'S ASSESSED

40% of GCSE: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes: 80 marks

PROGRESSION

A GCSE in Dance can lead on to A-Level Dance or options with vocational qualifications such as BTEC Dance or Performing Arts. GCSE dance can also lead onto continuing dance at professional training centers such as Rambert dance, The Place: London Contemporary Dance School, Julliard (NYC), The Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Urdang, The Alvin Ailey School (NYC) amongst many others. Dancers often branch into other areas of the arts such as choreography, education, critics for performances and work off the stage.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Trips and visits to dance studios and theatres. Working with professional dancers. Competitive and showcase style performances. Leading groups of dancers as Dance leaders.

ASSESSMENT

Performance and Choreography : (Practical tasks) 80 marks

Dance Appreciation : (Written Paper) 80 Marks

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Dance gives you opportunities to express yourself, be creative and take risks. It teaches you not only how to dance but to work with a team, develop your confidence and problem solve to get the best outcomes!"

DRAMA

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

GCSE Drama allows students to study theatre practically as actors, directors and designers. Students will devise their own work, bring texts to life and explore the technical aspects of theatre.

EXAMPLES OF UNITS

Component 1

Devising Theatre Students study a range of theatre practitioners and styles before devising their own piece of theatre for a live audience.

Component 2

Performance from a Text Students study how to bring a text from page to stage as directors, actors and designers.

Component 3

Theatre makers in practice Students will respond to live theatre & answer questions on how to stage a full play text in a written examination.

PROGRESSION

Drama contains many of the skill sets required to work within industries such as:

Advertising and marketing , Education, Nursing, Social Services, Publishing, Law, Film, TV, video, radio and photography.

Music and performing arts students who take GCSE Drama go on to study Level 3 courses, A level, BTEC and IB diploma. They journey onto university or drama schools to take up a number of courses in all elements of the Performing Arts.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1

Non-examination assessment (Devised piece of theatre & portfolio) 40% of the qualification – 60 marks

Component 2

Performance of two scripted extracts (monologues, duologues or a group piece) 20% of the exam

Component 3

Written Exam Paper based on a studied text and live theatre. 40% of the exam

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Studying the GCSE has given me a greater understanding of the Quran, Hadeeth, teaching of Islam and has allowed me to consider the issues that affect the lives of Muslims"

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(Compulsory)

QUALIFICATION

IGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English Language (Specification A) comprises of one mandatory component and an additional non-examined assessment. It is a linear qualification and all components must be taken at the end of the course of study. This specification includes the following key features:

Structure: the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English Language (Specification A) is a linear qualification. All components must be taken at the end of the course of study.

Content: features a relevant, updated and engaging selection of texts ranging from British heritage to modern international.

Assessment: a 60% external examination and 40% internal non-examined assessment.

Approach: building a foundation for students wishing to progress to AS and Advanced Level in English.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Paper 1: Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing

The contemporary non-fiction texts from Part 1 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology. Students will develop skills to analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects. Student will explore links and connections between writers' ideas and perspectives. Students will also develop their transactional writing skills for a variety of purposes and audiences. As well as this students will develop their ability to use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately.

Component 3: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing Coursework

This unit comprises of an in depth study of the poetry and prose texts from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology. Students will develop skills to analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects. They will also develop their imaginative writing skills to engage the reader. As well as this student will develop their ability to use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately.

PROGRESSION

Studying the English Language GCSE will develop students' reading and analytical skills. These skills will aid students in a variety of challenging subjects and will equip them with the skills needed to access A-Level English. Proficiency in English is one of the main qualities sought after by employers. As a result, a good grade in this subject will make students much more employable.

ASSESSMENT

IGCSE	Assessment	% of course
Paper 1	2 hours 15 minutes exam	60%
Paper 3	Coursework (2 pieces)	40%

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Studying English Language made me view language in a completely different way. I can now recognise a variety of methods used by writers to make their work more engaging. As a result of this, my creative writing has also improved as I now can use these methods successfully in my own writing".

ENGLISH LITERATURE

(Compulsory)

QUALIFICATION

IGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English Literature comprises one mandatory component and a choice of an additional examined component or coursework option. It is a linear qualification and all papers must be taken at the end of the course of study. The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Engage with and develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world
- Develop an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve their literary effects
- To develop the skills needed for literary study
- Explore, through literature, the cultures of their own and other societies
- Find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose

This is the study of the poetry collection from Part 3 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology. One modern prose text from the list of set texts. This will develop skills of analysis in unseen poetry as well as students' ability to analyse how language, form, structure and contextual factors can be used to create meanings and effects. It will also develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response. Students will also enhance their comparison skills.

Paper 3: Coursework - Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts

This is the study of one modern drama text: 'An Inspector Calls' as well as the study of one literary heritage text; 'Macbeth'. In this unit, students will develop skills to analyse how language, form, structure and contextual factors are used to create meaning and effect. Students will also develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response.

PROGRESSION

Studying the English Literature GCSE will develop students' reading and analytical skills. These skills will aid students in a variety of challenging subjects and will equip them with the skills needed to access A-Level English. Proficiency in English is one of the main qualities sought after by employers. As a result, a good grade in this subject will make students much more employable.

ASSESSMENT

IGCSE	Assessment	% of course
Paper 1	2 hours exam	60%
Paper 3	Coursework (2 pieces)	40%

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"I absolutely loved the iGCSE English Literature course. I really enjoyed the texts that we studied as well as analysing the deeper meanings hidden with them. The course really helped me to develop my essay writing skills and to organise my thoughts in a clear and logical way".

FRENCH + SPANISH

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students will be tested in listening, reading, speaking and writing and will develop transferable skills, relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in French culture and French speaking countries.

PROGRESSION

To facilitate the transition from KS3, GCSE languages focuses on developing key grammar, vocabulary, listening, reading, speaking, translation, & writing skills, as well as deepening cultural awareness further explaining authentic material in the target language

ASSESSMENT

Listening

What's assessed

- Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

(Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)

Speaking

What's assessed

- Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

Reading

What's assessed

- Understanding and responding to different types of written language

Writing

What's assessed

- Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- **Theme 1:** Identity and culture
- **Theme 2:** Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- **Theme 3:** Current and Future Study and Employment

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Involvement in cultural events, such as European Day of Languages, Languages Week, Competitions, ECA Clubs offered, collaboration with other educational establishments, cultural exposure.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier
- 25% of GCSE

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Although it is not an easy subject, we feel like we make very good progress, and continually develop our understanding; we practise all 4 skills and past exam questions from the very beginning of the course which increases our confidence in language."

GEOGRAPHY

QUALIFICATION

IGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The IGCSE Geography is an engaging course where students will learn a balance of physical geography processes such as understanding coastal environments and explaining how humans can live in hazardous environments. This will be tested in paper 1. As well as human geography, appreciating the views, populations, and attitudes of this world, which is tested within paper 2. The IGCSE consists of two externally assessed papers which will be completed at the end of year 11. Additionally, pupils will carry out two sets of fieldwork and will share their findings in both paper 1 and paper 2.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Section A: Physical Environments

Hazardous Environments

- Distribution of hazards, the causes of hazards, the impacts across the world of tropical storms, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

Coastal Environments

- Coastal processes, coastal ecosystems, coastal conflicts, and coastal management.

Section B: Human Environments

Rural Environments

- Biomes, rural population changes across the world, farming diversification and managing challenges sustainably.

Urban Environments

- Urbanisation, the challenges of living in developing and emerging worlds, land-use patterns.

Section C: Global issues

Globalisation and Migration

- The process of globalisation, the role of TNC's in global development, push and pull factors and tourism.

PROGRESSION

IGCSE Geography can lead to a wide range of options at post 16. Many students choose to study Geography at A-level and continue to broaden their understanding of humanities subjects. Geography remains a popular subject at university, as it opens doors across the world, allows you to develop transferable skills that can be applied to many jobs, and often includes fieldtrip opportunities overseas. With sustainability gaining importance across the globe, more opportunities are opening within humanities making geography an excellent choice for further education.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Overnight fieldwork trip to Ras Al Kheimah, Umm al Quwain and Al Fahidi district of Dubai.

ASSESSMENT

IGCSE Level	Assessment	% of course
Paper 1	1 hour and 10 minute exam	40%
Paper 2	1 hour and 45 minute exam	60%

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Geography helps build an awareness of what is going on in the world, it brings in concepts of history and business and applies it to a modern-day context. Geography allows you to debate and justify opinions whilst gaining knowledge of the world."

HISTORY

QUALIFICATION

IGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The IGCSE in History consists of two externally-examined papers. Both papers will be examined at the end of the course, summer of Year 11. Paper 1 is a Depth Study consisting of two units of study – Germany and United States of America. Paper 2 is an Investigation and Breadth Study of two units – Medicine and Russia / The Soviet Union.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Paper 1 : Depth Study

Germany: Development of Dictatorship, 1918 - 1945

- The Weimar Republic, The recovery of Germany, The rise of Hitler and the Nazis, Nazi Germany, The Second World War

A divided union: civil rights in the USA, 1945-1974

- McCarthyism, Civil Rights, Impact of protests, Students, Vietnam, Nixon and Watergate

Paper 2 : Investigation and Breadth Study

The origins and course of the first world war, 1905 - 1918

Changes in Medicine, 1848 - 1948

- Nightingale and 19th Century, Discoveries of Lister and Pasteur, Koch and chemistry, Surgery, Public Health and the NHS

PROGRESSION

A GCSE in History can lead to a wide range of options post 16. Students can progress from this qualification to AS and A Levels in History and other subjects. There are many transferable skills that pupils develop from studying History at GCSE. Pupils use many problem solving skills, selecting and deploying relevant material in order to construct a response to a historical problem or issue posed as a matter for judgement. Additionally, there are other valuable skills that are learnt, from independence and research to taking initiative and decision making. History students have a range of different career paths open to them in future.

ASSESSMENT

IGCSE Level	Assessment	% of course
Paper 1	1 hour and 30 minute exam	50%
Paper 2	1 hour and 30 minute exam	50%

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"History is such an interesting subject and I now understand so much more about our world. We learn a lot of European history but that has had an impact on the politics of the Middle East so it is very interesting."

Islamic Studies

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

Islamic international GCSE aims to extend students' knowledge and understanding by broadening and deepening their skills, for example students will:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the religion, history and culture of Islam and engage with questions in relation to contemporary and historical issues within Islam
- construct well-argued, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating depth and breadth of understanding of Islamic studies
- challenge students to reflect on and develop their own understanding of what they have learned, and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a global community

EXAMPLES OF UNITS

A: Passages from the Qur'an and Hadith

B: The life, teachings and achievements of the Prophet Muhammad

C: The key beliefs, practices and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet

D: Living the Muslim life today

PROGRESSION

International GCSEs enable successful progression to A Level and beyond in subjects such as Islamic Studies, religious studies and other humanities subjects

PROGRESSION

GCSE	Duration
Paper 1: Islamic Studies	2 hours and 30 minutes

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Studying the GCSE has given me a greater understanding of the Quran, Hadeeth, teaching of Islam and has allowed me to consider the issues that affect the lives of Muslims"

MATHEMATICS

(Compulsory)

QUALIFICATION

IGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics (Specification A) requires students to demonstrate application and understanding of the following:

Number

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

Algebra

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

Statistics

- Understand basic ideas of statistical averages.
- Use a range of statistical techniques.
- Use basic ideas of probability.

Geometry

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

Students should also be able to demonstrate problem-solving skills by translating problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts into a process or a series of mathematical processes. Students should be able to demonstrate mathematical reasoning skills by:

- Making deductions and drawing conclusions from mathematical information.
- Constructing chains of reasoning.
- Presenting arguments and proofs.
- Interpreting and communicating information accurately.

PROGRESSION

A-Level Mathematics (at least grade 8 at IGCSE/GCSE required).

Regardless of whether you think you'll do a job that requires algebra or you'll need trigonometry in your everyday life, employers, colleges and other interested parties look closely at your grade in GCSE Maths as it is a very good indicator of your ability to think logically and critically and to solve problems.

ASSESSMENT

- Two exam papers in May/June of Year 11, each paper is 2-hours. A calculator is allowed in both exam papers. The total number of marks for each paper is 100.
- Each paper will assess the full range of targeted grades at Higher Tier (9–4).
- Each paper will have approximately 40% of the marks distributed evenly over grades 4 and 5 and approximately 60% of the marks distributed evenly over grades 6, 7, 8 and 9.
- A Higher Tier formulae sheet will be included in the written examinations.

Selected students will have the opportunity to gain an additional qualification, AQA Level 2 Further Maths, which consists of 2 additional exam papers sat at the end of Year 11. Further Maths content is taught alongside IGCSE Maths content where appropriate. Entries for FM are made in Year 11 by invitation only. For more information, see overleaf.

Further Mathematics

(Invitation only)

QUALIFICATION

GCSE (Level 2 – Grades 4-9)

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

This qualification offers the opportunity for further stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to the IGCSE Mathematics, rather than a replacement. Further Maths assesses students' higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth and places an emphasis on technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem solving skills. The content assumes strong prior knowledge of the Key Stage 4 programme of study and covers the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. It is important to note that this is not an "option" available to students in Year 10. Suitable candidates will be invited to study AQA Further Maths alongside their IGCSE Mathematics qualification by the Maths Department.

UNITS

- Number
- Algebra
- Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)
- Calculus
- Matrix Transformations
- Geometry

PROGRESSION

The AQA Level 2 qualification in Further Mathematics is perfect for students who:

- Either already have, or are expected to achieve grades 8 and 9 in GCSE Mathematics
- Are likely to progress to A-Level Mathematics

Studying Further Maths is the perfect accompaniment to IGCSE Maths for strong mathematical candidates and offers an ideal pathway for students who are looking to continue to study Maths at A-Level. The depth of understanding that the course offers ensures that students are able to fully maximise their potential in A-Level Maths.

This course develops skills not only for understanding higher order Mathematical methods, but for modelling a range of problems in all walks of life. Universities and employers regard this additional qualification highly and see a candidate who has been able to go above and beyond in terms of their preparation, dedication and understanding.

ASSESSMENT

This GCSE will be assessed across two papers in June of Year 11. Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes, worth 80 marks and is equally weighted (50%/50%). Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper, paper 2 is calculator allowed. A formula sheet will be provided in both papers.

Both papers contain a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Studying Further Maths in Year 11 challenged me and helped me build on my knowledge of IGCSE Maths. I developed new ways of looking at questions and saw them from a different perspective. On reflection, it created a very strong foundation for my journey into A-level Maths."

MEDIA

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

GCSE Media Studies is an engaging and dynamic course that delves into the world of media, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to critically analyse, understand, and create media products. The course explores the diverse range of media forms, including television, film, radio, newspapers, magazines, advertising, online media, and video games. Not only will students develop critical thinking and analytical skills to examine media messages and their impact on society, they will also have the opportunity to learn and build on technical skills through the use of different software and equipment.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

- **Media Language:** Students explore the technical and creative elements used to construct media messages, such as camera angles, editing, framing, sound design, and narrative structure.
- **Media Representation:** Students investigate how media products represent different groups of people, identities, and social issues, examining the impact of these representations on society.
- **Media Industries:** Students gain insights into the structure, production, and distribution of media products, understanding the economic and social factors that influence media content.
- **Media Audiences:** Students analyse the characteristics, behaviors, and engagement patterns of media audiences, considering how media products are consumed and interpreted.
- **Non-Examined Assessment (NEA):** Students create an original media product out of 5 options which often include: a music video, magazine, advertisement campaign or podcast

PROGRESSION

GCSE Media Studies can serve as a solid foundation for a variety of exciting and rewarding career paths in the media industry. While specific entry requirements may vary depending on the chosen field, a strong understanding of media principles, analytical skills, and creative expression gained through GCSE Media Studies can open doors to various opportunities. In addition, it also prepares students wishing to study A Level Media where all of the topics and knowledge gained at GCSE is furthered and elaborated.

ASSESSMENT

GCSE	Written Exam	% of course
Media Paper 1	1 hour 30 minutes	35%
Media Paper 2	1 hour 30 minutes	35%
NEA practical (coursework)	-	30%

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"It has been so interesting to find out why media producers make the decisions they do and get to create our own products. It is my favourite subject this year."

"Studying media has really allowed me creative freedom to explore a range of technical skills through the practical coursework unit."

"I have loved how experimental we can be in Media."

MUSIC

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

This GCSE qualification will inspire the next generation of students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills.

Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

EXAMPLES OF UNITS

Component 1: Performing (30%) Students have to perform at least two pieces, one of which must be part of an ensemble, and the minimum time for both pieces must be at least 4 minutes.

Component 2: Composing (30%) Students need to compose at least two pieces, one must be in response to a brief set by the exam board and one must be a piece of free composition, the minimum time for both pieces must be at least 3 minutes.

Component 3: Appraising (40%) Using musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. Students must study at least four Areas of Study, one based in Western Classical Music (WCM) composed between 1650 and 1910, and one that is not based in WCM. There is a requirement for students to read and write staff notation and respond to unfamiliar music in the exam.

PROGRESSION

This GCSE has been designed to give all students the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills of music whatever their previous experience. The ambition is to support and encourage students coming from KS3 to want to progress from GCSE onto AS and A level Music and beyond.

It Builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at KS3, whilst avoiding unnecessary repetition.

We Assume that no private music lessons, ensuring accessibility and progression for all.

It gives equal weighting to performance and composition allowing students to develop and progress in both skills.

We Support the development of musical fluency and provide access to further study of music at AS and A level.

Assessment Structure

Component	Details of Assessment	Duration/Lessons	Weighting %
Component 1	Coursework	-	30% of course
Component 2	Coursework	-	30% of course
Component 3	Exam	1 hour 45 mins	40% of course

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Physical Education

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

This GCSE in Physical Education will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Students will also gain an understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and wellbeing. Students will develop their theoretical knowledge and understanding of applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis and physical training. Students will explore factors of health, fitness and wellbeing and how these can impact our own and others' performance, as well as elements of sports psychology and how the mind can affect the body. We will focus on skill development, guidance and feedback, as well as knowledge that learners can then apply to their own learning in practical situations in order to improve their performance.

EXAMPLE OF UNITS

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4
Fitness and Body Systems	Health and Performance	Practical Performance	Personal Exercise Programme
applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training and Use of data.	Health, fitness and wellbeing, Sport psychology, Socio-cultural influences and Use of data.	Skills during individual and team activities, general performance skills.	Aim and planning analysis, Carrying out and monitoring the PEP, Evaluation of the PEP. (PEP)
Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 36% of the qualification 90 marks	Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes 24% of the qualification 70 marks	Non-examined assessment Internally marked and externally moderated 30% of the qualification 105 marks (35 marks per activity)	Non-examined assessment Internally marked and externally moderated 10% of the qualification 20 marks

PROGRESSION

Opportunities after completing this course include A-Level PE, BTEC Level 3 in Sport, and a deeper understanding of Human Biology and Body Systems. Further education can offer qualifications such as; Sports management, Sports Development, Sports Science and Sports Coaching, as well as Physical Education teaching and Physiotherapy, to name a few. Career paths in advertising, diet and nutrition and Sports Analysis could also be an option.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed 30% through practical performance, with the other 70% being theoretical based assessment in the form of a written examination. Students will be required to perform in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer, one team activity, one individual activity and one activity of their choice, either a team or individual activity. Within these activities they will have to demonstrate their skills in isolation/unopposed situations and demonstrate their skills in a formal/competitive situation while under pressure.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"My view of GCSE PE this year is fun as I get to learn new sports and a lot of what I learnt in my previous years in science, mainly biology is also included in the theory side of GCSE PE which gives me a deeper understanding of how the body works."

"GCSE PE is one of the best options I have picked and will assist with my career path. I have learned more in depth about the human body in the first month than I ever thought that I would. It also helps me with an insight into bodily recovery and how the body's systems function, which I have used to my benefit when playing sport."

PSYCHOLOGY

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The GCSE Psychology course consists of two externally-examined units which are taken at the end of the two-year course. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of key features of core areas of psychology through the study of topics such as development, memory psychological problems the brain and social influence. Optional topics in the second year of study add an understanding of how psychology is applied in the real world. Students are expected to understand theories, models, concepts and key studies within psychology which they will examine and evaluate.

The role of the scientific method and data analysis runs throughout the course.

EXAMINATIONS & TOPICS

Paper 1 – 1 hour and 45 minutes (55% of total GCSE)

- Topic 1: Development – how did you develop?
- Topic 2: Memory – how does your memory work?
- Topic 3: Psychological problems – how would psychological problems affect you?
- Topic 4: The brain and neuropsychology – how does your brain affect you?
- Topic 5: Social influence – how do others affect you?

Students are examined through a range of multiple choice, short open response, open response and extended open response questions.

Paper 2 – 1 hour and 20 minutes (45% of the total GCSE)

2 topics from the following will be studied in year 11:

- Criminal Psychology
- The Self
- Perception
- Sleep and dreaming
- Language, thought and communication

The following topic is compulsory and is taught throughout the course:

- Research Methods - How do you carry out Psychological research?

Students are examined through a range of multiple choice, short open response, open response and extended open response questions and questions which require calculations to be made.

PROGRESSION

GCSE Psychology develops a range of transferable skills so is, therefore, good preparation for both A Level Psychology and a range of other subjects which require independence, analytical thinking, problem-solving and resilience.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"GCSE Psychology is hard work but gives us a fascinating understanding of how and why people behave in the way they do."

SCIENCE (Double Award) (Compulsory)

QUALIFICATION

IGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Oxford International AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Our GCSE Double Science course offers a dynamic and integrated approach to the scientific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, presenting them not merely as bodies of knowledge but as living, evolving practices. Students will immerse themselves in the scientific method, developing critical skills such as observation, inquiry, and evidence-based reasoning. This syllabus goes beyond traditional learning; it is about embracing the role of a scientist—formulating hypotheses, conducting varied scientific enquiries, and utilizing models and arguments to underpin explanations and inform decisions.

In this course, students will learn the importance of rigorous procedures to authenticate new scientific findings, appreciating the value of scientific development as a collaborative and cumulative process. The curriculum is crafted to ensure that understanding is not siloed but interwoven with practical skills, preparing students not just for further education, but to become the informed, scientifically literate citizens of tomorrow. Concluding in Year 11 with a comprehensive examination of all three scientific branches, students will emerge with a combined qualification, testament to their comprehensive understanding of science and its applications.

UNITS

Biology

- Organisation of the cell Bioenergetics
- Ecology
- Organisms interactions with the environment Inheritance
- Variation and evolution

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Structure and bonding and the properties of matter
- Chemical changes, Chemical analysis
- Acids, bases and salts, Quantitative chemistry
- Trends in the periodic table
- Rate of chemical change
- Energy changes
- Organic Chemistry

Physics

- Forces and their effects
- Energy
- Waves
- Particle model of matter
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Electricity and household use
- Nuclear physics
- Space physics.

PROGRESSION

The iGCSE Combined Science is a compulsory course is because it develops critical skills within students. As a result, it can lead to a wide range of post 16 courses as well as a wide range of degrees and careers. Careers including engineering, medicine and forensics are obvious pathways. However, skills learnt at iGCSE Science would also be applied in non-science careers like accountancy, Computing and Airline Pilots to name a few.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Investigations that are not related to the specification, Trips and visits to science museums and festivals.

ASSESSMENT

Biology Paper 1	Chemistry Paper 1	Physics Paper 1
What is assessed Content from any part of the biology section of the specification may be assessed.	What is assessed Content from any part of the biology section of the specification may be assessed.	What is assessed Content from any part of the biology section of the specification may be assessed.
How it assessed Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes 100 marks	How it assessed Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes 100 marks	How it assessed Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes 100 marks
Questions Structured and open questions.	Questions Structured and open questions.	Questions Structured and open questions.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"Science is really important because it teaches you how to solve problems and provides you with knowledge about how the world works. I think understanding science is a life skill that everybody should have"

Triple Science (Selected students)

QUALIFICATION

iGCSE

EXAM BOARD

Oxford International AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

The iGCSE Triple Science qualification is a robust educational framework that allows students following a British curriculum to experience a program paralleling the esteemed standards of England's most sought-after science specifications. Recognized globally for their rigor and exemplary quality, these International GCSEs are tailored to resonate with students from diverse backgrounds, offering relevance and excitement in scientific exploration. This comprehensive course covers an extensive array of topics, fostering student engagement and laying a strong foundation for advanced post-16 studies.

Triple Science is inherently an inquiry-led field, emphasizing practical experimentation and investigative skills alongside a thorough grounding in scientific theory. The curriculum underscores the importance of scientific knowledge, its real-world applications, and the methodologies that

UNITS

Biology

- Organisation Of A Cell
- Bioenergetics
- Ecology
- Organisms' Interaction With The Environment
- Inheritance
- Variation And Evolution

Chemistry

- Atomic Structure And The Periodic Table
- Structure, Bonding And The Properties Of Matter
- Chemical Changes
- Chemical Analysis
- Acids, Bases And Salts
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Trends Within The Periodic Table
- The Rate And Extent Of Chemical Change
- Energy Changes
- Organic Chemistry

Physics

- Forces And Their Effects
- Energy
- Waves
- Particle Model Of Matter
- Electricity And Magnetism
- Generating And Distributing Electricity And Household Use
- Nuclear Physics
- Space Physics

PROGRESSION

Achieving an iGCSE in Triple Science opens a gateway to a plethora of academic and professional opportunities for Post-16 and Post-18 education. This qualification serves as an ideal launchpad into esteemed disciplines such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, and various branches of Engineering. Crucially, the course is designed to cultivate a repertoire of transferable skills, preparing students to excel in diverse fields beyond the sciences. Graduates of this program are well-equipped to venture into Finance, Computer Science, Data Science, and even Aviation, with a

ASSESSMENT

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Paper 1 Written Paper – 1.5 Hours - 50% of course	Paper 1 Written Paper – 1.5 Hours - 50% of course	Paper 1 Written Paper – 1.5 Hours - 50% of course
Paper 2 Written Paper – 1.5 Hours – 50% of course	Paper 2 Written Paper – 1.5 Hours – 50% of course	Paper 2 Written Paper – 1.5 Hours – 50% of course

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

"I like Triple Science because we have explored new ideas and concepts. We have learnt new skills and how to apply them to new and interesting situations"

Achievement Centre (Ace)

(Selected Students)

SUBJECT

Alternative Pathway

COURSE OVERVIEW

Our HIS Achievement Centre (ACe), believe that all our students should have the opportunity to discover, develop and make use of their abilities to affirm their identities, contribute to society, and challenge educational and social inequalities.

We realise that it may be beneficial for some students to study fewer subjects at GCSE and follow a study intervention option. This is designed to help students increase their level of achievement in the GCSE examinations, not only in English and Mathematics but also in other subjects that depend to some extent on literacy and numeracy skills.

A key feature of our study intervention option course is that it does not follow a set syllabus or specification but is designed specifically for a particular group of students who will benefit from structured academic supports to reach their full potential in their chosen GCSE options.

ASDAN

ASDAN is an education charity and awarding organisation providing courses, accredited curriculum programs and regulated qualifications to engage, elevate and empower young people aged 11 to 25 years. Asdan engages students through relevant and motivating courses to achieve meaningful learning outcomes, which elevate them to go on to further education, training and work, and empower them to take control of their lives.

Here at HIS, we offer a range of ASDAN courses dependent on the needs of our individual learners. We are an official ASDAN accredited centre, with fully trained staff to facilitate these programs.

The ASDAN International Award Programs progress through Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each program is designed to develop, assess and accredit Key Skills, and recognise each students' personal achievements.

EXAMPLES OF UNITS

Each program contains a choice of challenges that will encourage students to become more skilled at: Improving their own learning and performance, working with others, problem solving. In addition, challenges and activities may develop other skills and provide evidence for: communication, application of number and ICT. The skills listed above are commonly known as Key Skills. These skills are highly valued by employers and institutions of further and higher education, and will help you to make the most of employment and training opportunities.

ASSESSMENT

- The Personal Development Programmes (PDP) feature 12 modules. Each learner must work from their own student book and compile a portfolio of evidence to show what they have done. This portfolio is submitted to be externally moderated and assessed.
- Students gain 1 or 2 credits for each section completed, with each credit representing about 10 hours of activity. Six credits are needed to achieve Bronze, 12 credits for Silver and 18 credits for Gold.
- Students are required to plan and review their work at key points, explaining how they have developed their skills in six areas: Ability to learn; Teamwork; Problem solving, IT skills; Literacy; and Numeracy.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

ACe Study Block

"Having the additional time to work with the Ace team has helped us make sure we can get our best grade in our chosen GCSE"

ASDAN

"I really enjoy ASDAN. It has helped me to be more confident in public speaking and organizing events. I really enjoy the work experience each week"

*****Miss Reilly, Head of Inclusion will identify and advise students who may benefit from this course**

Global Citizenship

(Invitation only)

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

COURSE OVERVIEW

The International GCSE in Global Citizenship focuses on developing students' understanding of global citizenship through key themes such as Politics and Governance, Economic Development and the Environment, Culture and Community, and Technology. It encourages active, informed, and responsible participation, fostering respect for diversity and a sense of global responsibility.

There are deep cross-curricular links with both Geography and Business Studies.

UNITS

1. Politics and Governance: Understanding systems of governance, rights and responsibilities, and participation in democracy.
2. Economic Development and the Environment: Examining economic growth, sustainability, and environmental impacts.
3. Culture and Community: Exploring cultural identity, migration, and social attitudes.
4. Technology: Analysing the role of technology in communication, community building, and economic development.
5. Community Action Project

PROGRESSION

This course prepares students for further study and involvement in global citizenship. It fosters critical thinking, informed debate, and active participation in societal and global issues, equipping students with skills valuable for a range of future academic pursuits and careers.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is via a single 2.5-hour examination paper, worth 100% of the qualification. It includes a Citizenship Community Action Project and synoptic assessment, covering the four key themes. The total number of marks available is 100.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

Students often express that this course has broadened their perspectives on global issues, enhanced their understanding of their role in the world, and fostered a sense of global responsibility. They appreciate the comprehensive coverage of contemporary topics and the opportunity to engage in community action projects.



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