



**GEMS**

مدرسة جيمس كامبريدج إنترناشيونال الخاصة بالشارقة  
Cambridge International Private School  
SHARJAH

# GCSE

## Options 2023

### A complete guide



We see **genius**  
in every child



General Certificate of Secondary Education



## Accredited By



## Index

<b>Welcome Letter</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Schedules and Processes</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Make your choice</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Career Counselling at GCS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>GCSE / IGCSE Key Information</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Advice for Students</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Introduction to the Key Stage 4 Curriculum</b>	<b>10</b>

### **Compulsory Subject (17 - 11)**

<b>English Language 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> Language</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>MOE Subjects: Arabic A/B</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Islamic A/B</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Social Studies A/B</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Moral Education A/B</b>	<b>17</b>

### **Optional Subject (27 - 18)**

<b>Arabic (First Language)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Computing</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Economics</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>English Literature</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Modern Foreign Languages (French)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Psychology</b>	<b>27</b>



Dear Parents,  
GCSE Options Process

Your child has reached an important milestone in their educational journey: Beginning their GCSE subjects next academic year. The GCSE options process is an opportunity for your child to begin making some far-reaching decisions. Over the course of the next few months, your child will be guided through the selection process of GCSE courses.

Students will continue to study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Arabic, Islamic Studies (for Muslim students), UAE Social Studies and Moral Education. They will then be able to choose additional subjects from option blocks based on their own strengths and interests. The option blocks are designed to help students maintain a breadth of subjects as required for entry into Post-16 education and university in the future.

When considering subject choices, it is vital that students, parents and teachers are involved in the decision-making process. As such, there are a number of key events in the coming months to assist with this. These events will provide an opportunity for you to speak to SLT and understand more about the courses on offer. Please could I also urge you to speak to subject teachers about taking forward certain subjects to GCSE level.

I would like to reassure students and parents that all teachers at GCS are available to offer support and guidance throughout the options process.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Keiron Tucker  
Head of Secondary  
k.tucker\_gcs@gemsedu.com



# OPTIONS

## Schedules and Processes

<b>Coffee Afternoon</b>	<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>Individual meeting to discuss career options</b>	<b>Week of 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>
<b>Parents' meeting with Head of Year/ School</b>	<b>Week of 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>Options form Submission due date</b>	<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>

# Make your Choice

## IGCSE Options for Year 9

Mandatory Subjects			Optional Subjects – (Choose any 2)				
Maths	English 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics.)	Arabic First Language (CIE 7184)	Business (CIE 0986)	Economics (CIE 0987)	French (CIE 7156)	Psychology (Edexcel 1PSO)
			Art and Design Language (CIE 0989)	Computing (CIE 0984)	English (CIE 0992)	Geography (CIE 0976)	

\* English, Maths & Science are Mandatory

- The above subjects are IGCSE/GCSE, in addition to this, students will study Arabic A or B. Islamic or PSHE. Moral Education and Social Studies
- Single Science is 3 Sciences including Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Please note that some subjects may not go ahead if there is not enough student uptake. This information will be shared with parents as soon as we receive all the options forms back.
- If you want to study 8 subjects you will choose 3 options and one will be after school.
- More subjects may be added.



# Career Counselling at GCS

Students, with the collaboration and support of their parents and counsellor, embark on a year-long journey of self-discovery as they engage in honest self-assessment, thoughtful research and increasingly independent decisions. We encourage students to find their voice in the university process while they explore, probe and challenge their own assumptions about themselves and the university they are considering. To find appropriate matches between students and undergraduate institutions, we attempt to foster among the students, parents and counsellor open lines of communication, honest feedback and a spirit of cooperation. We adhere to the belief that students are ultimately the driving force behind the process. Students must take ownership of their destiny and responsibility for their actions; we support them in embracing this opportunity to test their values, explore their personal preferences and make complex, long-term decisions for themselves. Application deadlines, testing dates, essays, recommendation requests and interviews all require equal and full attention from the students. In the end, students will find most success in their university process when they allow their insights, research and self-discoveries to lead them toward the best matches as they leave behind the safe and nurturing environment of GEMS Cambridge International Private School Sharjah.

## Career progression support given at GCS

- Psychometric Testing
- Individual Counselling
- University fairs/ Career Fairs
- Career Awareness Sessions
- Summer Schools Options
- Internships, Volunteering & Mentoring Opportunities
- Preparation for SAT & entrance exams for universities
- Workshops on various careers/college essay writing
- Opportunities for profile building & skill development
- Documentation
- Pre departure meetings



## Helpful links- Unifrog - [unifrog.org](http://unifrog.org) - best place to start!

Every country and every institution has their own application procedure, requirements, and deadlines, we hope you will use this information as a starting point for your research

### Canada

Universities in Canada (<http://www.univcan.ca/>)

### United Kingdom

For undergraduate studies, the centralized admissions service in the UK allows you to apply to five institutions simultaneously through one electronic application. This service is known as UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). You can learn more about the process at <http://www.ucas.ac.uk>

### France

- Campus France: [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) – The national agency for the promotion of higher education, international student services, and international mobility. They also offer a virtual fair in November (<http://virtual.campusfrance.org>).
- CIEP: [www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf](http://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf) - The organization responsible for French language tests
- MOOC: <http://mooc-ref.net/>

### United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) requires all males between the age of 18–30 to serve in the military for 12 months.

For more information, please visit the following website: [www.uaensr.ae/default.aspx](http://www.uaensr.ae/default.aspx)

### Scholarships

Government Scholarships Local students can complete the registration for scholarships through NAPO (National Admissions & Placement Office). Please visit the following website for more information: [https://adm.moe.gov.ae/napo/Default\\_EN.aspx](https://adm.moe.gov.ae/napo/Default_EN.aspx)

### EmSAT:

<http://emsat.moe.gov.ae/emsat/FAQs.aspx>

For students wanting to study at a university in the UAE:

<https://www.moe.gov.ae/En/EServices/ServiceCard/pages/CertEquivalent.aspx>

### Europe

These websites offer general information on the admissions process by country:

Austria - <http://studyinaustria.at>

Czech Republic - [www.studyin.cz](http://www.studyin.cz)

Denmark - [www.studyindenmark.dk](http://www.studyindenmark.dk)

Finland - [www.studyinfinland.fi](http://www.studyinfinland.fi)

Germany - [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de) and [www.young-germany.de](http://www.young-germany.de)

Ireland - [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) and [www.heai.ie](http://www.heai.ie)

Italy - <http://www.study-in-italy.it/> and <http://www.universitaly.it/>

Netherlands - [www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl) and [www.studyfinder.nl](http://www.studyfinder.nl)

Norway - [www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no)

Spain - <http://www.studying-in-spain.com/>

Sweden - [www.studyinsweden.se](http://www.studyinsweden.se)

Switzerland - <http://www.crus.ch>



# GCSE/IGCSE

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

## Key Information

### The new '1-9' grading system has replaced the A\*-G Grades to show greater differentiation

New grades compared with the old ones

Old Grades	New Grades
	9
A*	8
A	7
B	6
C	5 Strong Pass 4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

- Undertaken over Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11).
- Exams will be undertaken after 2 years at the end of the course.
- Some GCSE courses have a form of coursework known as Controlled Assessment which is prepared in class and at home but completed under examination conditions in school. It is marked by teachers then externally moderated by the examination board. Students cannot enter an examination if the controlled assessment is not completed.

#### Useful websites

<a href="http://www.edexcel.org.uk">www.edexcel.org.uk</a>	Edexcel Examination Board
<a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>	UK University Applications
<a href="http://www.connections-direct.com">www.connections-direct.com</a>	Jobs4u - Careers Database
<a href="http://www.isco.org.uk">www.isco.org.uk</a>	Careers service
<a href="http://www.hotcourses.com">www.hotcourses.com</a>	Courses guide
<a href="http://www.careers-uk.com">www.careers-uk.com</a>	General careers site
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/essentials/">www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/essentials/</a>	General advice site
<a href="http://www.careerswales.com">www.careerswales.com</a>	Careers Wales web site
<a href="http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk">www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk</a>	National Careers service



## QUICK advice for students

While choosing subjects to study at GCSE students should think carefully about the following points:

**What do I enjoy?**

**What am I good at?**

**Do I have a balance of subjects?**

**What do I need for future Post-16 choices?**

**Even at this early stage it is sensible to consider which subjects you are likely to pursue when you reach Grade 11 (A level).**

### Do not select a subject if

You know that your friends are making this selection – it is important that the choice you make is based on your enjoyment of the subject and where your interests lie. This is your chance to make a choice for you! There is also no guarantee that you will be in the same class as your friend.

You feel this will be an easy subject – all GCSE courses are challenging. Overcoming this difficulty will come through your enjoyment of the subject. Choose something you will enjoy.

### Entry Requirements

It has been recognised that certain GCSE courses are more difficult to access without a solid foundation being achieved within Mathematics/English. For this reason, students will not be able to select a subject where they do not meet the minimum entry requirements stated. This is for the benefit of the student. The data picture throughout the first two terms at GCS will be used to assess whether students meet the criteria. Students will only be allowed to take certain courses depending on their current reports and school targets. Exceptions will not be made if a student does not meet the minimum requirements.

### Final Thought

This is the first opportunity that students will have to really shape their own future. All students should seek the support of their parents in working towards a set of choices that provide a broad and balanced pathway for Year 10/11. It is vital that each child enjoys what they are studying, it makes sense as we are all successful in the things that we enjoy. Students should play to their strengths. I would advise that it is important that students take note of the entry requirements of specific subjects.

# Introduction to the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

Students beginning Year 10 are embarking on the next phase of their educational journey, to Year 11 which is known as Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum for England.

This is an extremely important part of your child's education which will ultimately be an important step in their educational journey. These will culminate in terminal exams which will help shape the further education choices your child will make.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of compulsory and optional subjects. Students will have the opportunity to select optional subjects.

## Compulsory Subjects

**English Language 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Mathematics**  
**Science** (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)  
**Arabic A/B students**  
**will study the MOE course**  
**Islamic Studies A/B** (Muslim students)  
**PSHE** (non-Muslim students)  
**Moral Education**  
**UAE Social Studies**

## Optional Subjects

**Arabic (First Language)**  
**Art and Design**  
**Business Studies**  
**Computing**  
**Economics**  
**English Literature**  
**French**  
**Geography**  
**Psychology**

**\* Some courses may change examination board to Cambridge.**



## Compulsory Subject

# English Language 1<sup>st</sup> (4EA1)/ 2<sup>nd</sup> (4ES1) Language

### Course Description

The Pearson Edexcel English course enables students to develop specific skills in inference, exploration, language analysis and deduction alongside the more general skills of selection, synthesis and organisation.

Students have the opportunity to produce planned, developed and sustained responses, with a choice of writing tasks in both examination papers.

It offers excellent preparation for IB courses and international AS and A-level English Language, as well as giving students a grounding in a wide variety of language that will stay with them for life.

### Exams/Assessments



<b>Component 1</b>	Written Exam 2hr 15min	60%
<b>Component 3</b>	Two Essay Assignments	40%

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-english-language-a-2016.html>



<b>Paper - 1</b>	Reading and Writing 56%	Written Examination 2hrs
<b>Paper - 2</b>	Listening 22%	Written Examination 50mins
<b>Paper - 3</b>	Speaking 22%	Recording 12min

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

### Post 16

Pearson IGCSEs are general qualifications that enable learners to progress directly to employment or to proceed to further qualifications.

Candidates who are awarded grades A\* to C in Pearson IGCSE First Language English are well prepared to follow courses leading to Pearson International AS and A Level English Language, or the equivalent.

Pearson IGCSE English as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to gain lifelong skills and knowledge including:

- Better communicative ability in English
- Improved ability to understand English in a range of everyday situations and in a variety of social registers and styles
- Greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills
- Wider international perspective

# Compulsory Subject

# Mathematics 4MA1



## Course Description

Number  
Algebra  
Geometry and Measures  
Statistics  
Probability  
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change

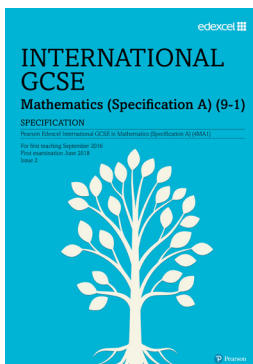
### There are two tiers of entry:

Higher (Tier 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 and 4) and Foundation (Tier 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1).

The course starts in Year 10 and continues through to Year 11. The tier of entry is based on the student's previous attainment and their progress subsequent to that. The final decision is not made until after the mock GCSE exams have taken place in Year 11.

## Exams/Assessments

Every student at GCS follows the Edexcel syllabus for GCSE Mathematics (1MA1). Students are entered for either the Higher Tier or the Foundation Tier. Both tiers follow the Linear Course. During the course students take regular topic tests which are used to set target grades and may lead to changes where appropriate.



<b>Paper 1</b>	Foundation or Higher 50%	2hrs
<b>Paper 2</b>	Foundation or Higher 50%	2hrs

## Post 16

IGCSE Mathematics is a useful introduction to AS and A-Level Mathematics. Mathematics is also a relevant qualification for many careers such as: Accountancy, Actuarial work, Aeronautics, Air-traffic control, Architecture, Business and Finance, Civil Engineering, Computer programming, Computer Science, Cryptography, Economics, Electrical engineering, Forensic Science, Geodesy, Geophysical mathematics, ICT, Law, Management, Mathematics, Medicine etc.

# Compulsory Subject Science

Bio. (4BI1), Chem. (4CH1),  
Phy. (4PH01)

## Course Description

The Double Award and Separate Science courses both combine relevant, inspiring content and practical work. The study of either results in recognised iGCSE qualifications in which students can achieve grades 9-1. The Double Award is made up of two combined GCSE Science qualifications covering all three Sciences. Separate Science covers the same content and more, resulting in three separate GCSE qualifications: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course starts in Year 10 with every student learning the content which is common to both the Double and Single Award. A recommendation will be published to parents at the end of the first term in Year 10 as to whether students should continue studying science for the Double Award or for the Separate Science. This decision will be based on the students' topic test and mock results.

INTERNATIONAL  
GCSE  
Biology (9-1)  
SPECIFICATION  
Pearson Science International GCSE in Biology (4BI1)



<b>Paper 1B</b>	Written Examination 61%	2hrs
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<b>Paper 2B</b>	Written Examination 39%	1hr 15min
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<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-biology-2017.html>

INTERNATIONAL  
GCSE  
Chemistry (9-1)  
SPECIFICATION  
Pearson Science International GCSE in Chemistry (4CH1)



<b>Paper 1C</b>	Written Examination 61%	2hrs
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<b>Paper 2C</b>	Written Examination 39%	1hr 15min
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<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-chemistry-2017.html>

INTERNATIONAL  
GCSE  
Physics (9-1)  
SPECIFICATION  
Pearson Science International GCSE in Physics (4PH1)



<b>Paper 1P</b>	Written Examination 61%	2hrs
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<b>Paper 2P</b>	Written Examination 39%	1hr 15min
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<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-physics-2017.html>

## Post 16

The list is endless for careers as well as the job opportunities after taking Science subjects for IGCSE. It gives you a head start and easier beginning to studying Science at A level or its equivalents.

Careers using BIOLOGY Biology Teacher, Biochemist, Genetic Engineer, Dietician, Doctor, Ecologist, Health Officer, Medical Lab Technician, Marine Biologist, Microbiologist

Careers using CHEMISTRY Chemistry Teacher, Biotechnologist, Chemical Engineer, Pharmacist Crime Officer, Forensic Scientist, Material Scientist, Metallurgist Research Scientist, Chemical Plant Operator

Careers using PHYSICS Physics Teacher, Aeronautical Engineer, Astronomer, Cyberneticist, Surveyor, Meteorologist, Flight Manager, Engineer, Biophysicist, Nuclear Scientist

## Compulsory Subject

# MOE Subjects: Arabic A/B

United Arab Emirates  
Ministry of Education



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
وزارة التربية والتعليم



The Ministry of Education has embarked on building the Arabic language curriculum which is scientifically, planned and studied in accordance with international standards in building curricula in an accumulative and conscious manner that considers its texts, themes and treatment are representative of the language competencies that a student of the twenty-first century must possess to be able to deal with the requirements of the times.

The Arabic language curriculum standards are divided into six areas:

1. Basics of reading
2. Reading literary text
3. Reading informational text
4. Writing
5. Listening
6. Speaking

At GEMS Cambridge Sharjah, we remove all obstacles our students might face and introduce them to the Arabic language curriculum in an interesting way that suits the requirements of the modern era, and enables the students to use the language in their daily life smoothly and effectively.

# Compulsory Subject Islamic

United Arab Emirates  
Ministry of Education



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
وزارة التربية والتعليم

## Course Description

Islamic education aims to confirm the national identity of the learners, and to strengthen the bonds of love and cooperation among them. It also aims to prepare students to participate actively in building a society, to keep pace with global changes, and to be consciously open to other cultures. Islamic education includes everything related to the student's life, existence, values and heritage.

Islam remains the main pillar for the upbringing of a generation of believing students equipped with basic knowledge about their religion and the ability to apply it in their lives, and from this standpoint, the standards of Islamic education from kindergarten to the twelfth grade - which were developed by a technical team of experts specializing in education in the United Arab Emirates. It provides a framework that ensures bridging the gap between faith and action. It will also provide the student with the cognitive skills necessary to solve difficulties, resist challenges, solve problems, and contribute positively to society.

The standards focus on six areas of learning that represent the components of the subject, such as: Divine revelation, belief, the values and etiquette of Islam, the rulings and purposes of Islam, the biography and personalities, identity and issues of the age.



# Compulsory Subject Social Studies

United Arab Emirates  
Ministry of Education



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
وزارة التربية والتعليم

## Course Description

The Social Studies course provides an in-depth systematic study of information, skills and concepts in each of the specializations of history, geography, political science, economics, anthropology, psychology, law, archeology and social studies, which are majors that focus attention on the links and relations between different peoples and nations and the relationship between science, technology, society and how to practice good citizenship. In addition, social studies help young people develop their various knowledge and skills, which are necessary to make good decisions as active members in a society dominated by cultural diversity within an interconnected world.

Students will have a deeper understanding of social, political and economic systems, as well as an optimal understanding of events, trends, personalities, movements and historical movements, whether local, national or global, and they will learn local, national and global geography, and they will also understand how the concepts and principles of social studies contribute in explaining the behaviours of people, which prepares them for career and life-long learning experience. The new standards require students to understand the facts, concepts, principles, and perspectives that shape social studies majors.





# Compulsory Subject Moral Education

United Arab Emirates  
Ministry of Education



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
وزارة التربية والتعليم

## Course Description

Moral Education is an innovative, engaging curriculum designed to develop young people of all nationalities and ages in the UAE with universal principles and values, that reflect the shared experiences of humanity.

The UAE is committed to developing responsible, cultured, engaged adults ready for society. In reinforcing this commitment, Moral Education endorses an ethos of giving and volunteering that prepares responsible and resilient youth, who will contribute to the advancement of society and the wider world. The program develops in students, the modern skills needed to compete and become productive members of the UAE community.

For students across the UAE, Moral Education helps to create a strong foundation of moral purpose, an ethical outlook, character development and an understanding of shared values of humanity. It will help prepare youth to compete in a rapidly changing environment and make meaningful contributions to society. The program also teaches students practical life skills that will encourage them to develop into well-adjusted adults.



التربية الأخلاقية  
MORAL EDUCATION

# Optional Subjects



# Optional Subject

## Arabic (First Language) 4AR0



### Course Description

The Edexcel IGCSE First Language Arabic syllabus is designed for students whose first language is Arabic. This First Language syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. This qualification enables students to:

Develop their ability to read, understand and respond to material from a variety of sources  
Develop their ability to communicate accurately in writing, matching style to audience and purpose

Develop their understanding of the structure and variety of language  
Further their personal development, and an understanding of themselves and the world around them

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

### Exams/Assessments

IGCSE is available to first language speakers of Arabic: The examination board is Edexcel and consists of 2 papers. The aim of these papers is to assess comprehension, summaries and writing.



<b>Paper - 1</b>	Written exam	25%
<b>Paper - 2</b>	Speaking in Arabic	25%
<b>Paper - 3</b>	Written exam	25%
<b>Paper - 4</b>	Written exam	25%

# Optional Subject

## Art and Design 4FA1



### Course Description

GCSE Art and Design is one of the few subjects that allow students a degree of autonomy over their work. Once taught the skills, students make decisions about the direction of their own work. It is not uncommon in a GCSE class to see students working on the same project but with completely different and individual outcomes. Creating autonomous learners is one of the key aims of the Art Department at GCS.

GCSE Art and Design follows the Edexcel syllabus. The course is set into two units of work; unit one is internally set and unit two is set by the exam board.

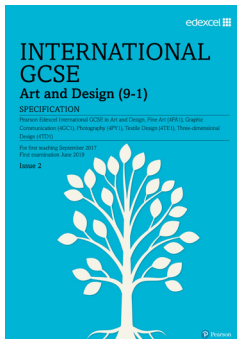
Throughout the course, students are taught a wide variety of techniques, processes, use of media and different materials. In the final term, students will start their externally set assignment. This will conclude with a ten hour exam where students will produce a final examination piece. Visits to art galleries, museums and student study days are a compulsory part of the creative experience.

A final year public exhibition of course work and examination work will be held in school for parents and dignitaries.

### Exams/Assessments

#### Controlled Assessment

Students will complete a series of pieces to produce a portfolio of work.



<b>Component 1</b>	Personal Portfolio	50%
<b>Component 2</b>	Externally-set Assignment	50%

### Post 16

#### Writing/Analytical:

Art Curriculum Writer - Art Historian - Art Critic - Arts Administrator - Arts & Cultural Planner - Website Owner/Blogger - Graphic Novel Author

#### Spatial Design:

Architect - Landscape Architect - Urban Designer/Town Planner - Playground/Theme Park/Sports Arena/Golf Course Designer - Interior Designer/Decorator/Architect - Set/Stage Design Arranging/Display: Food Stylist - Floral Arranger - Display & Exhibition Planner - Art/Design/Colour Consultant - Gallery Owner/Assistant - Museum Curator - Personal Stylist - Picture Framer - Online Curator

#### Organisation/People Management:

Art School Director - Primary/Elementary Teacher - Middle/High School Art Teacher - University Lecturer/Professor - Private Art Instructor - Art Therapist - Art Dealer - Artist Agent - Art Supplies Retailer

# Optional Subject

## Business Studies (CIE 0986)



### Course Description

This popular course aims to develop learners understanding of business and encourages creative thinking and decision making. They learn about the world of business through research and investigation as well as practical tasks. Learners are not expected to have a knowledge of business but should be interested in learning about the world around them, how businesses are set up and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur.

Learners continue to follow specific schemes of work based on their setting and again have regular half-termly assessments as well as an extra assessed piece of homework each half-term. Learners all sit a formal mock examination before winter break. There are focused intervention programs and revision sessions for learners during Year 11. They will cover all 6 Sections of the syllabus.

### Exams/Assessments

80 marks for each paper. Externally assessed. Paper 1 (50%) – 1 hour 30 minutes Written examination consisting of four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses. Paper 2 (50%) 1 hour 30 minutes Written examination consisting of four questions based on a case study, provided as an Insert with the paper



<b>Paper - 1</b>	50%	1hr 30mins
<b>Paper - 2</b>	50%	1hr 30mins

### Post 16

Candidates who are awarded LEVEL 9 to 5 in Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies are well prepared to follow courses leading to Cambridge International AS and A Level Business Studies, or the equivalent.

# Optional Subject

# Computing (CIE 0984)



## Course Description

Through studying Computer Science, learners are enabled to develop an interest in computing and gain confidence in computational thinking, that is, thinking about what can be computed and how. Learners will also learn how to program – the means through which computational thinking is expressed.

The language this centre has chosen is Python. Course aims:

- Develop computational thinking
- Develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems by using computers
- Develop understanding that every computer system is made up of subsystems, which in turn consists of further sub-systems.
- Develop an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate
- Acquire the skills necessary to apply this understanding to develop computerbased solutions to problems using a high-level programming language.

## Exams/Assessments

Termly assessment will take place. At the end of the course, learners will be awarded a grade from 9 - 1. Entry Requirements Students require a Mathematics current anticipated grade of at least a 6 to make this selection.

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Paper - 1 Theoretical Concepts	60%	Externally assessed written paper 1h 45min	Data representation including: Binary/ hexadecimal systems Data storage Communication & Internet technologies including: Serial and parallel transmission Internet principles of operation Hardware and software including: Logic gates Input/ Sensors/ Output devices Security including: Ethics
Paper - 2 Practical Programming	40%	Externally assessed Written paper 1h 45min 20/50 marks based on pre-release material	Algorithm design and problem solving Programming Databases

# Optional Subject

## Economics (CIE 0987)



### Course Description

**The main course topics Economics are in relation to:**

- The basic economic problem • The allocation of resources
- Microeconomic decision makers • Government and the macroeconomy
- Economic development • International trade and globalisation

**The aims of the course are for students to be able to:**

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus. The aims are to enable students to: • know and understand economic terminology, concepts and theories • use basic economic numeracy and interpret economic data • use the tools of economic analysis • express economic ideas logically and clearly in a written form • apply economic understanding to current economic issues.

### Exams/Assessments

All candidates take two components. Candidates will be eligible for grades 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade.

All candidates take:	And:
<b>45 minutes</b> Paper 1 Multiple Choice 30 marks Candidates answer all 30 questions Externally assessed	<b>2 hours 15 minutes</b> Paper 2 Structured Questions 90 marks Candidates. answer one compulsory question and three questions from a choice of four. Externally assessed

### Post 16

As Level and A Level Economics, Finance and Marketing. Students often go onto pursue careers in the financial sector.

# Optional Subject

## English Literature 4ET1



### Course Description

The English Literature IGCSE offers learners the opportunity to read, interpret, evaluate and respond to a range of literature in English. The range includes drama, prose and poetry from the works of Shakespeare to contemporary literature. This course enables learners to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the ways in which writers use English to express meaning and achieve effects.

IGCSE English Literature will stimulate learners to read for pleasure, to explore wider and universal issues, promoting a better understanding of themselves and the world.

### Exams/Assessments

Throughout the course students will prepare for one written examination paper and two coursework assignments.



<b>Component 1</b>	2hr Written Exam	60%
<b>Component 5</b>	2 Coursework Essays	40%

### Post 16

Pearson IGCSE Literature (English) is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of Literature in English. Candidates who are awarded grades A\* to C in Pearson IGCSE Literature (English) are well prepared to follow courses leading to Pearson International AS and A Level English, International Baccalaureate Certificates in English or the equivalent. The skills you develop through the study of English Literature (effective written and verbal communication, time-management, organisational skills, team-work, independent study and research, developing persuasive arguments) are applicable to a wide variety of professional areas. Some areas which have traditionally attracted English Literature graduates include advertising, marketing and PR work, arts administration, library and information management, the legal profession, editing and publishing, journalism and other areas of the media. Academic careers are also popular choices.



## Optional Subject

# French (Modern Foreign Languages) 4FR1



### Course Description

Students will have the opportunity to develop their language skills in a variety of contexts. They will work through three core themes and extend their skills in the four core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing:

**Identity and Culture:** includes family and relationships, technology in everyday life, free time, customs and cultures in language-speaking countries)

**Local, national, international and global areas of interest:** includes home and region, social issues such as healthy lifestyles, global issues, travel and tourism

**Current and future studies and employment:** includes school and current studies, Post-16 education, jobs and career aspirations

GCSE is a continuation of work covered in at Key Stage 3. Some topics will be familiar to students, but will be revised, extended and covered in more depth.

### Exams/Assessments

The GCSE course will prepare students to continue their studies in the IB Diploma at Standard or Higher level.

GCSE French is a linear course meaning all exams are taken at the end of two years of study; they are all externally assessed. The four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are assessed.

There are two tiers of assessment: Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4-9). Students must be entered for the same tier across each skill area. Each area is worth 25% of the student's final grade.



<b>Paper - 1</b>	Listening 25%	Written Examination 30min
<b>Paper - 2</b>	Reading and Writing 50%	Written Examination 1hr 45mins
<b>Paper - 3</b>	Speaking 25%	Written Examination 10min

### Post 16

This includes studying French at AS and A-Level. Knowledge of French can also open doors to a whole range of different careers in the fields of languages, law and diplomacy, and also provides opportunities in medicine, the environment, business, engineering, science and technology

# Optional Subject

## Geography (CIE 0976)



### Course Description

At Key Stage 3, students have already developed a range of relevant skills and knowledge that the GCSE course builds upon. The course introduces students to new skills, places, ideas and management issues.

Students are taught to apply their skills and knowledge to real world situations. This allows them to understand how people's decisions shape the world we live in.

Geography is a subject that requires a certain level of general knowledge, an ability to use commonsense and to think logically when answering questions.

### Exams/Assessments

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Paper 1: Geographical Themes	45% 75 marks	Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes	Theme 1: Population and settlement Theme 2: The natural environment Theme 3: Economic development
Paper 2: Geographical Skills	27.5% 60 marks	Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	The paper is based on testing the interpretation and analysis of geographical information, decision making and the application of graphical and other techniques.
Paper 3: Alternative to Field Work	27.5% 60 marks	Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	The paper gives students field work and asks them to show an appreciation of a range of techniques used in fieldwork studies.

### Why Geography

In order to answer this difficult question, students must ask themselves what they enjoy about the study of Geography. Do I want to: • learn more about the world I live in? • develop skills that will help me in other areas, such as ICT and research? • do some of my work away from the classroom? • work in a team with other students? • learn through investigating and doing, not listening and reading? The world is always changing, and Geography gives you the chance to learn about these changes. It is a subject that links to all other subjects in the curriculum, so an iGCSE in Geography is a stepping stone to a whole range of future opportunities. A good grade will help to move students onto any subject at Key Stage 5. Employment opportunities where the skills students have developed and which will be of particular value are in Journalism, Travel and Tourism, Environmental Management, Geology, Marketing, Business Management and Teaching. Geographers are everywhere!

# Optional Subject Psychology 1PS0



## Course Description

GCSE Psychology encourages learners to be inspired and moved by following a broad, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and to gain an insight into related sectors, such as science.

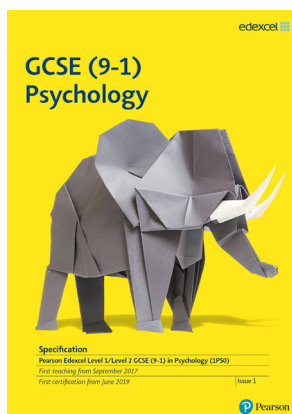
GCSE Psychology encourages learners to develop a personal interest in, and enthusiasm for, psychology and prepares them to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

The specification encourages candidates to engage in the process of psychological enquiry to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Students will develop an awareness of why psychology matters, acquire knowledge and understanding of how psychology works and its essential role in society.

### Candidates should:

- Be interested in people
- Be able to meet deadlines
- Have an ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Have effective verbal and written communication
- Have an ability to take theories and apply them to real life scenarios
- Be interested in careers in for example; Health, Education, Sport, Clinical, Counselling or Sport Psychology

## Exams/Assessments



<b>Paper - 1</b>	55%	1hr 45mins
<b>Paper - 2</b>	45%	1hr 20mins

## Post 16

Psychology students generally report being pleased that what they studied in school has helped prepare them for both life and work. Psychology is a straightforward path towards career in becoming clinical psychologist, researcher, university professor, psychophysics psychologist, developmental psychologist, counseling psychologist, Army and Air-force psychologists, child psychologist, cognitive neuroscientist, forensic psychologist, gerontologist, geriatric Psychologist and many, many more such lucrative and high-profile careers.

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