

**The British International School of
Al Khobar**

Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

Information Booklet

General Certificate of Secondary Education/International General Certificate of Education

Introduction

For many students whose education is based upon the [English] National Curriculum, the move from Year 9 into Year 10 is particularly exciting as for the first time they are able to have an input into just which subjects they will be studying. Of course this is not a totally free choice as certain key subjects will remain as a core of the teaching and learning process: in addition, the availability of the optional subjects will need to reflect both demand and availability of teaching staff. However, this is an important step for our students at BISAK and as a consequence a great deal of thought and advice will need to be given to ensure that the best possible route is selected for each and every individual in our care.

Students entering Year 10 are at the beginning of a two year course [referred to as Key Stage 4] which culminates in public examinations known as the *General Certificate of Secondary Education [GCSE]/International General Certificate of Secondary Education [IGCSE]*. IGCSEs are a development of the GCSE, with the content adapted to provide an international perspective. The integrity and calibre of these exams is recognised throughout the world and they are universally accepted as qualifications for entry into further education and ultimately university. These examinations are graded from A* to G, grades A* to C are seen as a pass and the grades that will be required by employers and universities. A valuable feature of these courses is the availability of a great deal of information from the examinations boards web site www.edexcel.com thus allowing students and parents to have a good insight into what can be expected of the examination papers.

Core Curriculum

All students will be required to study **English and Mathematics**. These two subjects are particularly important as increasingly further education is requiring proven competence in both these subjects.

English will be taught by integrating the **Language** and **Literature** courses, allowing students the opportunity to be entered for both examinations, although in some cases the Literature element may be omitted if it creates too great a workload.

Optional Curriculum

English and Mathematics are compulsory subjects at *GCSE/IGCSE*. General PE is also compulsory. You will select six optional subjects from the list below. At least one Science subject must be selected from the options available.

1. Arabic
2. Art
3. Biology
4. Business Studies
5. Chemistry
6. Design Technology
7. Drama
8. Economics
9. French
10. Geography
11. History
12. ICT
13. Physical Education
14. Physics

Your choice will not be entirely free, as you will have to select one subject from each of the six columns, including one Science, on the next page. In addition, students joining Year 10 after the start of the academic year may find their choices limited by timetabling and class size constraints. Once students have started in Year 10 they can change subject if the option block permits it. This will only happen with a written request by the parent. No student will be able to change subjects after 6 weeks from the start of the academic year.

OPTION CHOICES

You must choose six subjects, one subject from each column

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5	COLUMN 6
PHYSICS	BUSINESS STUDIES	CHEMISTRY	ICT	ARABIC	ECONOMICS
HISTORY	ICT	GEOGRAPHY	ART	BIOLOGY	MUSIC
	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	FRENCH	BUSINESS STUDIES	DRAMA

Please understand that for several reasons it might not be possible to meet with every student's individual option choices; if there is a difficulty further help and guidance will be given.

English (Edexcel 2EH01)

What will I study?

- a) Various speaking and listening activities
- b) Reading: Non-Fiction and media texts; poetry and prose from other cultures; Shakespeare.
- c) Writing: Personal writing; responses.

What skills/qualities are required?

- Effective communication through individual oral presentations, group discussions and role-play.
- Reading with insight, understanding and interpretive ability.
- Writing with clarity, imagination, organisation and accuracy.

How will I learn?

You will learn through:

- Reading
- Writing
- Discussions and listening
- Analysing prose
- Drama
- Analysing poetry
- Empathy

How will I be assessed?

Through examinations (40%) and controlled assessment (written and oral tasks 60%).

Where could it lead?

Success in English is essential for achievement in virtually all careers. Specific careers that employ English skills include media, journalism, librarianship, teaching; in short, any with a premium on communication.

English Literature (Edexcel 2ET01)

What will I study?

The following literature texts will be studied:

- 2 prose texts. One text from the Literary Heritage and one from a Different Culture.
 - A collection of poetry from the Edexcel Anthology.
 - 2 plays. One Shakespeare play and one contemporary drama.

What skills/qualities are required?

- Effective communication through individual oral presentation, group discussion and role-play.
- Reading with insight, understanding and interpretive ability.
- Writing with clarity, imagination, organisation and accuracy.

How will I learn?

You will learn through:

- Reading
- Writing
- Discussions and listening
- Analysing prose
- Drama
- Analysing poetry
- Empathy

How will I be assessed?

Through examinations (75%) and controlled assessment (25% written).

Where could it lead?

Success in English is essential for achievement in virtually all careers. Specific careers that employ English skills include media, journalism, librarianship, teaching; in short, any with a premium on communication.

What will I study?

- d) Various speaking and listening activities
- e) Reading: Non-Fiction and media texts; poetry and prose from other cultures; Shakespeare.
- f) Writing: Personal writing; responses.

What skills/qualities are required?

- Effective communication through individual oral presentations, group discussions and role-play.
- Reading with insight, understanding and interpretive ability.
- Writing with clarity, imagination, organisation and accuracy.

How will I learn?

You will learn through:

- Reading
- Writing
- Discussions and listening
- Analysing prose
- Drama
- Analysing poetry
- Empathy

How will I be assessed?

Through examinations (40%) and controlled assessment (written and oral tasks 60%).

Where could it lead?

Success in English is essential for achievement in virtually all careers. Specific careers that employ English skills include media, journalism, librarianship, teaching; in short, any with a premium on communication

Mathematics (Edexcel 1380)

Specification at a glance

Paper	Areas of content	Weighting	Method of Assessment
1	Statistics & Probability, Number & Algebra, Geometry & Measures	50%	External
2	Statistics & Probability, Number & Algebra, Geometry & Measures	50%	External

The Edexcel GCSE in Mathematics A is a linear qualification

Mathematics	Paper Code 1F/2F Paper Code 1H/2H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally Assessed • Availability: March, June and November • First Assessment: June 2012 	100% of the total GCSE
Overview of content <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number 2. Algebra 3. Geometry 4. Measures 5. Probability 6. Statistics 	
Overview of assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two written papers: each contributes 50% of the final grade • Tiered papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foundation Tier grades C - G available ○ Higher Tier grades A* - D available (E allowed) • 1 hour 45 minutes (Foundation Papers) • 1 hour 45 minutes (Higher papers) • 100 marks each paper • Paper 1F and 1H: Non calculator • Paper 2F and 2H: Calculator • The functional elements of mathematics are assessed on each paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 30 - 40% of the Foundation Tier papers ➤ 20 - 30% of the Higher Tier papers 	

Mathematics (Edexcel 1380) Cont'd

List of subject contents

Foundation

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Geometry
4. Measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

Higher

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Geometry
4. Measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

Mathematics (Edexcel 1380) Cont'd

Assessment at a Glance

Specification A has been designed to allow a holistic approach to teaching and assessment.

Each paper assesses all assessment objectives and content

With two units available at each of the two tiers (Higher and Foundation) each worth 50% of the final marks, you can feel confident that there will be no surprises come examination day

Paper	Available Tier of Entry	Method of Assessment	Assessment Availability	First Assessment	Weighting	Structure of Assessment
1	F and H	External	Mar, Jun and Nov	June 2012	50%	Non-calculator
2	F and H	External	Mar, Jun and Nov	June 2012	50%	Calculator

Assessment summary

GCSE in Mathematics A is externally assessed

Mathematics	Paper code 1F/2F Paper code 1H/2H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally assessed • Two written papers • Each paper lasts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 hour 45 minutes (Foundation) ➤ 1 hour 45 minutes (Higher) • Each paper contains 100 marks • Papers 2F and 1H: Non-calculator, papers 2H and 2H Calculator allowed • Tiered papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foundation tier grades C-G available ○ Higher Tier grades A*-D available (E allowed) • Each paper assesses the functional element of mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 30 - 40% on foundation tier papers ➤ 20 - 30% on Higher Tier papers 	

Mathematics (Edexcel 1380) Cont'd

Assessment Objectives and weightings

	% in GCSE
AO1: Recall and use their knowledge of the prescribed content	45 - 55%
AO2: Select and apply mathematical methods in a range of contexts	25 - 35%
AO3: Interpret and analyse problems and generate strategies to solve them	15 - 25%
TOTAL	100%

Relationship of Assessment Objectives to papers

Specification	Assessment Objective			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total for AO1, AO2 and AO3
Weighting	45 - 55%	25 - 35%	15 - 25%	100%

Assessment opportunities

	June 2010	November 2010	March 2013	June 2013
All papers	✓	✓	✓	✓

IGCGE in Arabic (First Language) (4ARO)

Fluent Arabic speakers might like to consider following this course

The course aims to encourage a broad range of reading and writing in standard Arabic. Key features are:

- Assessment is through two compulsory papers.
- A choice of writing tasks in Paper 2 allows candidates to demonstrate a range of writing styles
- The course encourages reading of both contemporary and classical Arabic, fiction and non-fiction
- Language awareness and usage is assessed through grammatical exercises.

The specification gives candidates opportunities 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.

Assessment

Consists of two papers:

Paper 1 (2 hours 15 minutes) 70% of the marks

This paper has three sections.

Section 1

This section will assess students' reading comprehension through a series of short- answer comprehension questions based on reading a passage.

Section 2

In this section students will be presented with a short text which they will be required to summarise. Students will also be required to produce a piece of directed writing based on the same text e.g. a letter, a speech, a report or an article.

Section 3

This section will test students' grammatical usage in a series of exercises.

IGCSE in Arabic (First Language) (4ARO) Cont'd

Paper 2 (1 hours 30 minutes) 30% of the marks

Paper 2 will require student to produce two pieces of continuous writing. Students will choose two titles from a choice of six. The six titles may include a range of writing styles and purposes, such as discursive, narrative, persuasive, descriptive, explanatory and informative. A form of writing can be specified as can the readership for the piece of writing.

Edexcel GCSE in Arabic (2AR01)

As an alternative to IGCSE there is GCSE Arabic which is designed for students who are not first language speakers.

The Edexcel GCSE in Arabic consists of four units based on the following skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

In Unit 1 (Listening and understanding in Arabic) students will be tested on their ability to understand spoken Arabic.

In Unit 2 (Speaking in Arabic) students will be required to demonstrate an ability to use the language in a general conversation and in a discussion or presentation. The topics will relate to the following themes: media, travel and culture, or sport, leisure and work.

In Unit 3 (Reading and understanding in Arabic) students will be tested on their ability to understand written Arabic; testing is through a variety of tasks which require a response, (either verbal or non-verbal), to demonstrate understanding.

Unit 4 (Writing in Arabic) requires the student to produce two pieces of Arabic writing in response to a choice of questions that relate to the themes of media, travel and culture or, sport, leisure and work.

Fine Art Full Course (2FA01)

Traditionally, art has always been categorised in two groups: Fine Art and Applied Art.

Applied art refers to objects which serve a practical function which have been designed to make them appealing to us and visually uplift our world, such as pottery and graphic design, whilst **fine art** refers to art objects made purely to express ideas, such as spiritual beliefs or social themes, or for aesthetic (visually appealing) purposes in order to decorate and beautify our world. This latter encompasses drawing, painting, mixed media collages, some photography, various forms of printing, sculpture and three-dimensional object making. Architecture bridges both categories.

On the **fine art** course, you will explore ideas on themes, researching from observation by drawing, painting, model-making or taking photographs, research the work of other artists to help you with your ideas, experiment with different media (art materials), develop your ideas and compositions, and then produce a final piece of your best work.

You will learn many techniques first of all in drawing, painting, printing and three-dimensional making, looking at different genres such as landscape, portraiture and figure. You will experiment with many different media, such as pastels, different paints including oils, printing techniques such as block and screen printing and making three-dimensional work in clay, wire and plaster, for example. You will learn about art movements from ancient, classical and modern. You can choose what kind of art you like best and want to follow. With your knowledge and skills you will develop and create your own, personal work!

Why Study Art?

A good question, and there are two reasons you must consider: *personal and professional*.

Personal reasons:

Studying art will enhance your sensibilities; your understanding and appreciation of the world and what is in it, and your understanding and appreciation of all our culture. You will also improve your existing abilities and acquire new abilities to create work you may treasure for a long time, and be able to express yourself in ways you might otherwise not.

Professional reasons:

Studying art is a direct route to the following professions:

Fine artist (painter, sculptor or print-maker), illustrator, theatre set and costume design, fashion designer, art teacher, restorer.

It is also very useful to contribute to professional formation for the following:

Architect (highly recommended for this), graphic designer, museum or gallery curator or guide, auctioneer, art historian, photographer, film-maker or film crew and architect.

Art (continued)

Scheme of assessment

The scheme of assessment establishes how candidates have met the assessment objectives. You will be expected to have developed a knowledge and understanding in at least one of the following fields: **Painting, Drawing, Printmaking** and **Sculpture**.

The Full Course GCSE is made up of Paper 1 (Personal portfolio) and Paper 2 (Exam):

Paper	Component	Weighting	Method of assessment	Requirements
1	Coursework portfolio	60%	Internally set and marked Externally moderated	Must include personal work that shows evidence of all assessment objectives
2	Externally set assignment	40%	Externally set Internally marked Externally moderated 8 weeks' preparation 10 hours timed test	Must show evidence of all assessment objectives Must include work journal

The Assessment Objectives:

1	2	3	4
Recording your observations, such as through drawing and photography	Analysing and understanding the work of other artists	Experimenting with different media and techniques, and developing your ideas	Your final piece: the culmination of all your research, practice, and experimentation!

Personal portfolio:

In the first year of the course you will explore different techniques and materials that are used in art and learn how to develop those techniques to create personal artwork on themes set by your teacher. In the second year you will produce a portfolio of personal work that is your own interpretation of one theme that includes research, studies and work showing the development of your ideas, leading to finished pieces of work.

Externally set assignment:

This will be set at the end course and will take the form of a broad theme set by the exam board. The paper will also contain suggestions of possible starting points or areas of study. You will then have eight weeks to discuss your ideas with your teacher, experiment and develop your work, and prepare your response. At the end of this period, you will sit a ten hour timed examination (over two days), during which you will create your final piece or pieces of art, which along with your preparatory work, will be submitted for assessment.

BUSINESS STUDIES (4BS0)

"If you do things well, do them better. Be daring, be first, be different, be just."

Quote by Anita Roddick, successful entrepreneur and founder of The Body Shop

Business students will be introduced to new business ideas and concepts and will use and reinforce previously learned concepts and skills. The course is designed to give students a sound understanding of business and the ability to use knowledge, skills and understanding appropriately in the context of international markets and the United Kingdom (UK). Business case studies are extensively maintaining a 'real life' feel to classroom learning.

Topics you will learn:

Business Activity and the Changing Environment: examines businesses objectives, the changing environment and the criteria for judging success.

Accounting and Finance: explores the use of accounting and financial information as an aid to decision making.

Production: examines the way organisations use and manage resources to produce goods and services.

Human Resources: looks at people in organisations focusing on their roles, relationships and management in business.

Marketing: focuses on identifying and satisfying customer needs in a changing and competitive international environment.

Why study Business?

The Edexcel IGCSE in Business Studies enables students to:

- develop an interest in, and enjoyment of, business subjects that will be sustained in later life
- use relevant terminology, concepts and methods effectively and recognise the strengths and limitations of the ideas used
- use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between facts and opinion and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data, to help build arguments and make informed judgements
- appreciate the range of different stakeholder perspectives in relation to business activities
- have an understanding of the dynamics of business activity and the related considerations of ethics and sustainability in business.

BUSINESS STUDIES (4BS0) Cont'd

How you will be assessed?

There is a single exam in Business Studies that takes place in the summer; there is no coursework option. Students with a strong work ethic and a good grasp of English find the course easier.

Career Progression

Students who plan to study Business at A-Level or beyond have an advantage over other students if they have already achieved the IGCSE in Business Studies. Entry to A-Level Business Studies does not usually depend upon students having gained a GCSE in the subject.

Business graduates may typically work:

- ✓ In management as a Director or Chief Executive
- ✓ For a global or Blue Chip company
- ✓ As a specialist functional manager in Marketing, Finance, Sales, Production
- ✓ In the financial or banking sector
- ✓ As a Business Analyst
- ✓ In Retail Management
- ✓ In the leisure and entertainment sector
- ✓ As an Entrepreneur or business owner
- ✓ As a specialist skilled manager; Project Manager, Logistics Manager, Risk Manager
- ✓ As an Accountant or Auditor

Design Technology – Graphic Products Edexcel (GR01)

Through the application of the design process to carry out design and make activities, this course is largely concerned with visual communication. All work is assessed on the appropriate use of graphic materials and the application of graphic skills. Final solutions are through presentation drawings and models or prototypes. The student will study many drawing methods and graphic techniques as well as develop an understanding of the technology behind the subject. The subject requires students to demonstrate application and understanding of:

- materials and components
- industrial and commercial processes
- analysing products
- designing products
- technology
- sustainability
- ethical design and manufacture

The two year course is assessed by a final (one and a half hour) exam weighted at 40% plus a single Design and Make project (forty hours), in year eleven, weighted at 60%.

This qualification supports progression to courses in Product Design, Art and Design and Graphic Media.

The student who will thrive in this subject will be one who excels at investigating, researching, planning and organising. You will enjoy Graphic Products if you have a flair for innovative, creative and imaginative work.

This course is a foundation for anyone interested in any form of design based career. These might include architecture, media, advertising, promotional work and the packaging industry.

Drama (Edexcel 1699)

What will I study?

- The ways in which ideas, feeling and meaning are conveyed through the language of drama.
- A range of drama forms by recognising them in the work of others and by applying them in practical drama activities.
- At least one play by examining the ways in which practitioners use the language of drama to realise a text in performance.
- The way in which ideas in drama can be recorded and interpreted.
- How plays and ideas in drama relate to social, cultural and historical contexts.
- Your personality and how you work with others.

What skill/qualities are required?

- Effective communication through discussion and role-play
- Presentation and performance skills
- Leadership skills- directing and leading other students
- Group and ensemble work
- Assertiveness and people management skills
- Interpersonal and group working skills
- Creativity (acting, directing, designing etc_
- Improvisation skills
- Evaluative skills

(These skills will continue to develop throughout the duration of the course.)

How will I learn?

You will learn through:

- Responding to ideas, issues and/or play texts
- Presenting ideas to others, using appropriate performing and production skills to communicate intention
- Developing and exploring ideas
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the drama work and examining the significance of social, historical and cultural influences

How will I be assessed?

PAPER ONE 60%: Two Teacher Assessed practical workshops (40%) Written Portfolio 20% PAPER TWO 40%: Drama performance .

Where could it lead?

Not only does drama open the door to performing arts courses - it also shows universities and potential employers that you have vital teamwork, leadership and project development skills. Success in drama may lead to a career in the theatre, whether as an actor/director or as a member of the production/backstage staff. However, it is the skills that are developed during the course that are recognised and valued by many employers e.g: communication and leadership abilities, confidence, etc.

ECONOMICS (4ECO)

*"Economics are the method; the object is to change the soul."
Quote by Margaret Thatcher, British Prime Minister 1979 - 1990*

Economics students develop a sound understanding of economics, and the ability to use knowledge, skills and understanding appropriately in the context of individual countries and the global economy.

Topics you will learn

The Market System <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demand and supply• The role of the market in solving the economic problem• The labour market	Government and the Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macroeconomic objectives• Policies• Relationship between objectives and policies
Business Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production• Competition• Public and private sectors	The Global Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globalisation• International trade• Exchange rates

Why study Economics?

The Edexcel IGCSE in Economics enables students to:

- develop an understanding of economic concepts and apply these concepts to real-life situations
- interpret and evaluate economic data in order to make reasoned arguments and informed judgements
- develop an awareness of economic change and its impact on developing and developed economies
- understand economic issues, problems and possible solutions that affect mixed economies
- participate effectively in society as citizens, producers and consumers.

ECONOMICS (4ECO) Cont'd

How you will be assessed?

There is a single exam in Economics; there is no coursework option. Students with a strong work ethic and a good grasp of Maths will find the course easier.

Career progression

Students who plan to study Economics at A-Level or beyond have an advantage over other students if they have already achieved the iGCSE in economics. Entry to A-Level Economics does not usually depend upon students having gained a GCSE in the subject.

Economics graduates may typically work as:

- ✓ An Economist
- ✓ A Consultant
- ✓ A Policy Advisor
- ✓ An Investment Banker
- ✓ A Financial Analyst for the Treasury
- ✓ A specialist Reporter or Journalist
- ✓ A College or University Lecturer

Why study French?

Knowledge of another foreign language such as French is a valuable asset in many careers, international travel and commerce. In short, a qualification in French is invariably beneficial.

How many French speakers?

128 million Francophones speak French (as a native or adopted language) fluently and use it on a regular basis.

72 million partial Francophones live in a francophone country but do not speak French regularly, due to limited knowledge.

100-110 million students of all ages do not live in a Francophone country, but have learned/are learning French in order to communicate with Francophones.

Where is French spoken?

French is the official language in 33 countries, second only to English. French and English are the only languages spoken as a native language on 5 continents and the only language taught in every country in the world.

French is the official language of France and its overseas territories and in countries such as Central African Republic, Luxembourg, Mali and Monaco.

French is one of two or more official languages in countries such as Belgium, Burundi, Seychelles and Switzerland.

In many countries French plays an important role as an administrative, commercial or international language or simply due to a significant French-speaking population. These include Argentina, Dominica, Egypt, Grenada, Laos, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Vietnam.

Where is French used?

French is one of the official languages in dozens of international organizations, including:

Amnesty International

Interpol

International Olympic Committee

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Org.for Economic Cooperation+Development(OECD)
Red cross and Red Crescent
United Nations(UN)
World health Organization(WHO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

French (Edexcel 2FR01)

Course Specifications

The course will focus on the language required to deal with practical real-life situations such as:

- My World - Family and friends, house and home etc
- Holiday time - weather, accommodation, transport etc
- Jobs
- Health

Knowledge skills and understanding

Listening Speaking Reading Writing

Assessments

Examinations are offered at Foundation and Higher Tier and students will be entered appropriately.

Assessment	Allocation of marks
Paper 1 Listening and understanding	20
Paper 2 Speaking	30
Paper 3 Reading and understanding	20
Paper 4 Writing	30

Without geography you are ... NOWHERE!

Studying people + places + processes = studying LIFE

Why choose geography?

You have come to an important point in your education. You must decide which choices to make.

Are you interested in studying geography further? You should be, because geography tackles the big issues:

- Environmental responsibility
- Our global interdependence
- Cultural understanding and tolerance
- Commerce, trade and industry.

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes. If you enjoy studying geography - carry on studying it! You are more likely to obtain your best results in a subject you enjoy.

The transferable skills which geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking. It is less likely that you will spend all your life with one company or organisation (the 'job for life'); so flexible thinking is a great attribute.

Geographical study fosters these qualities and provides a firm basis for life-long learning.

What do geographers do?

Compared to other subjects, geography graduates are among the most employable. They possess the skills that employers look for. In part, this is because the subject combines knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts.

Geography graduates were surveyed after their degree courses about their career destinations. The results show:

- 40.6% went into management and administration
- 24.8% did further training, including PGCE for teaching
- 11.4% joined the financial sector
- 10.4% joined the retail sector
- 10% joined other professions, including the media.

(Source AGCAS)

Geographers can:

- make a concise report
- handle data
- ask questions and find answers
- make decisions about an issue
- analyse material
- organise themselves
- think creatively and independently

Geographers are:

- good communicators
- spatially aware
- socially, economically and environmentally aware
- problem solvers
- good team players
- computer literate
- well rounded, flexible thinkers

Edexcel IGCSE in Geography (4GE0)

What will you study?

So what will you study over the next two years if chose to take geography. The topics will include:

- i) River or coastal environments
- ii) Natural hazards
- iii) Towns and cities
- iv) Economic activity and energy
- v) Globalization and migration/development and human welfare.

How will you be examined?

The assessment of this qualification is through a 2-hour and 45-minute examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel. The examination will contain a variety of questions types, such as multiple-choice questions, short and extended answer questions, graphical and data questions and fieldwork questions.

Where will fieldwork take place?

Fieldwork plays a vital part in the course though students no longer undertake coursework. Students must take part in field trips. Field trip(s) will take place to one or more of the following: Ban Thaton (Maekok Field Study Centre, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand); Kritou Terra, Cyprus or to various locations in the region. The decision as to where the field trip(s) will go to will depend on costs as well as social and political considerations.

IGCSE History (Edexcel 4HIO)

It is probably no coincidence that so many leaders, past and present, in a whole range of businesses and professions throughout the world have a background that has included the study of history. The critical and analytical skills that this subject develops doubtlessly would have been invaluable in enabling and equipping them to reach the top in their chosen fields.

Although the content of the course will either be new or will address topics in much greater detail than previously taught, nevertheless it is important to realise that the focus of much of the teaching of History in Years 7, 8 and 9 has been to prepare and equip students with the skills necessary to take their studies forward; Years 10 and 11 will be the opportunity to bring this to fruition.

The Edexcel IGCSE in History enables students to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of selected periods and/or aspects of history, exploring the significance of historical events, people, changes and issues;
- use historical sources critically, in context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions;
- organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history;
- draw conclusions and make historical judgements.

There are no tiers of entry - which means accessibility for all students. There is also no compulsory content - teachers choose the areas of study which suit their needs and resources. This course provides progression to Edexcel GCE AS and Advanced Level in History, or equivalent qualifications.

Assessment:

The Edexcel IGCSE in History comprises one external examination. The examination paper has three sections:

- In Section A, students answer two questions, each on a theme, each question is worth 25 marks;
- In Section B, students answer one question worth 25 marks;
- In Section C, students answer one question worth 25 marks;
- The total mark available is 100 and the time allowed for the examination will be 2 hours and 30 minutes.

The following page contains the complete content overview although naturally only a few selected topics will actually be taught, most probably focussing upon the twentieth century.

Section A

Students study at least **two themes** from this list A1-A10:

- A1 Development of a nation: Unification of Italy, 1852-70
- A2 Development of a nation: Unification of Germany, 1848-71
- A3 Development of dictatorship: Germany, 1918-45
- A4 Development of dictatorship: Italy, 1918-43
- A5 Russia: Autocracy and revolt, 1881-1914
- A6 Russia: Dictatorship and conflict, 1924-53
- A7 A divided union. Depression and recovery in the USA, 1929-45
- A8 A divided union. Civil rights in the USA, 1945-74
- A9 A world divided: International relations between the wars, 1919-39
- A10 A world divided: superpower relations, 1945-62

Students must answer two questions, each from a different theme from those listed A1-A10. Students are advised to spend one hour on this section. There will be one question set on each theme in every examination session. Centres may choose to prepare students for more than the minimum content required, to provide greater choice in the examination.

Section B

Students choose **one depth study** from this list B1-B6:

- B1 The French Revolution, 1789-94
- B2 The First World War, 1914-18
- B3 Russia in Revolution, 1914-24
- B4 The USA, 1917-29
- B5 Colonial rule and the nationalist challenge in India, 1919-47
- B6 The fall of communism in Europe, 1979-91

Section B offers students a choice of topics in nineteenth or twentieth-century history. Questions will focus on the understanding and treatment of source and stimulus material. Students must answer one question on one topic from those listed (B1-B6). Students are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Section C

Students choose **one study in change** from this list C1-C8:

- C1 Revolution and change in Europe, 1789-1848
- C2 The changing nature of warfare, 1803-1905
- C3 Changes in medicine, c1845-c1945
- C4 The changing role of international organisations: the League and the UN, 1919-2000
- C5 Conflict, crisis and change: The Middle East, c1919-c1973
- C6 Conflict, crisis and change: China, c1934-c1989
- C7 Change in Africa from colonialism to independence, 1945-2000
- C8 The Changing Nature of Warfare, c1936-c2003

Studies in change for Section C have been chosen so that they link naturally with many of the themes and topics in the specification. Students must answer one question on one topic from those listed (C1-C8). Students are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Information and Communication Technology

The Edexcel International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is designed for use in schools and colleges as a two-year course. It aims to encourage the exploration and study of ICT in a variety of contexts: home, community, business, industry, recreation and education. In any given situation, students will be given the opportunity to acquire competence, ability and critical skills through the implementation, use and evaluation of a range of ICT systems. Students can develop their interest in, enjoyment of and critical reflections about ICT as an integral part of modern society.

Key subject aims:

- To acquire and apply ICT skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts
- To develop ICT-based solutions to address challenges and solve problems
- To develop an understanding of ICT systems
- To develop an understanding and awareness of current and emerging technologies
- To develop an awareness of the legal, social, ethical and environmental consequences of the use of ICT systems for individuals, organisations and society
- To recognise potential risks when using ICT and develop safe, secure and responsible practice.

Unique features and benefits of this specification

- A practical examination is included to enable students to demonstrate their ability.

Assessment and progression

- Single tier. Single exam
- Grading A* to G
- Assessment opportunities in both January and June examination series
- Appropriate for students of various ages and from diverse backgrounds in terms of general education and life-long learning.

Edexcel GCSE MUSIC (2MU01)

What will I study?

In GCSE Music you will have four Areas of Study:

Area of Study 1: Western classical music 1600-1899

Area of Study 2: Music in the 20th century

Area of Study 3: Popular music in context

Area of Study 4: World music

Each Area of Study includes three set works that will be the subject of examination in the written paper.

What skills/qualities are required?

You should have a keen musical sense, creativity, curiosity about different musical expressions, persistence and dedication, good musical hearing, sense of rhythm and a diverse musical knowledge. It is important that either you play an instrument or have a good singing voice. To complete this course, though not always necessary, it is widely recommended that you attend private instrumental or vocal tuition.

How will I learn?

Four areas of study will be explored both separately and combined, as different tools that can be used together. Several projects of listening, performance and composition will take place throughout the course where you will have the chance to perform publicly the work produced in the classroom. You may take a specialization in performing a musical instrument, singing or even conducting.

How will I be assessed?

Performing two musical pieces - **30%**

Presenting two compositions or arrangements based on two different areas of study - **30%**

Completing a written paper which will test your knowledge on 12 set works - **40%**

Where could it lead?

Maybe this is the beginning of a musical career for you. There are several music related degrees you can take, from Instrument or Singing to Composition or Music History. These are, nowadays, available in a wide range of music fields. Other music related careers, will also benefit from this course, like Sound Engineering, Music Business or Music Therapy. Even if you do not follow a music related career, the musical knowledge you gain will always be a source of welfare throughout your life.

Physical Education (Edexcel 1827)

What is GCSE Physical Education all about?

PE will offer you the opportunity to develop your skills in a wide range of sports and activities and help you improve your own performance. You will learn about exercise, how the body works to help you exercise and then through training how performance can be improved.

Will I enjoy this course?

The course is practically based and involves participating in a range of practical activities as well as developing the knowledge to improve your own ability in these activities. For pupils who enjoy sport this will, therefore, be a very enjoyable course.

How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

You will have already been taught a variety of different activities in your PE lessons. This course will help you to build upon these basic skills. You will develop the analytical skills necessary to look at and improve your own performance.

What about exams?

There is one exam at the end of the course, which will test your knowledge and understanding of the theory element of the course. The exam will be 1 Hour 45 minutes. The exam is divided into three parts: multiple choice, short answer and scenario questions. All of the questions enable pupils to apply their understanding of the theory content of the course.

Is there any coursework?

Throughout the course you will be learning and developing new skills and techniques through a range of different activities. The final coursework mark is worth 60% of the total mark and you will need to offer four activities for assessment. The course is also designed to develop your ability to observe and analyse different performances. In the final assessment you will need to analyse performance in one of your chosen practical activities. In addition to this pupils will be designing and carrying out their own "Personal Exercise Programme" (PEP).

What other skills might I develop?

Physical education allows you to develop a wide range of personal skills through the involvement in physical activity. At the same time the need to analyse performance will often involve using ICT as a basis for studying and reviewing different performances.

What could I do next with GCSE Physical Education?

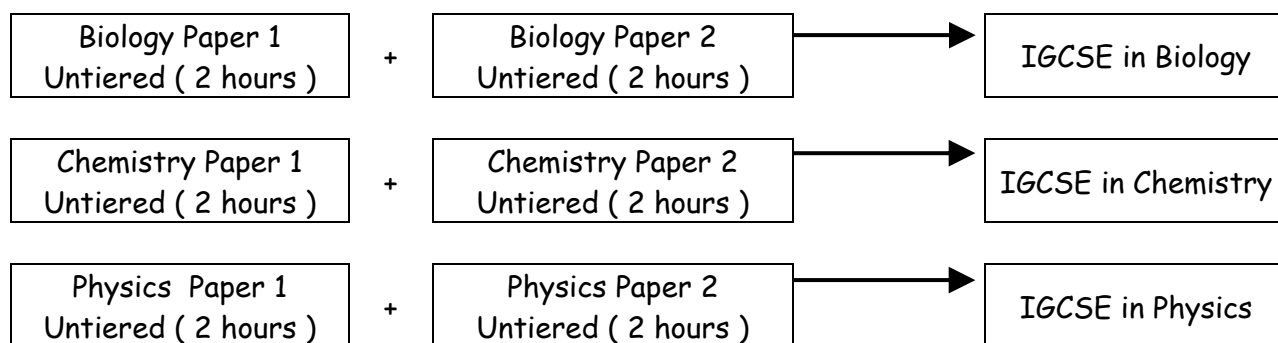
A good grade at GCSE will help you move on to any AS or Advanced GCE course. Employment opportunities where your skills will be particularly valued include the sport and leisure industry, travel and tourism and teaching. You may, of course, wish to follow this course for its own sake because you are interested in fitness and health and enjoy physical activities.

EDEXCEL IGCSE SPECIFICATIONS FOR SCIENCE

Introduction

The Edexcel International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) in Science is designed for use in schools and colleges. The course offers students the opportunity to experience science within the context of their general education. In terms of progression, the design of the course provides a basis of progression to further study in GCE Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The relationship of assessment to the qualifications available is shown below.



Key features and benefits of the specification

Key features and benefits are:

- the specification includes aspects of science appropriate for the 21st century
- a straightforward linear assessment
- single tier assessment
- assessment of investigative skills through an examination paper
- provides a sound foundation for progression to Edexcel GCE Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level Chemistry, and other comparable post-16 qualifications.

IGCSE in Biology (4BIO)

Key subject aims

The Edexcel IGCSE in Biology enables students to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of biological facts, concepts and principles
- develop an appreciation of the significance of biological facts, concepts and principles and the skills needed for their use in new and changing situations
- appreciate the importance of accurate experimental work to scientific method and reporting
- form hypotheses and design experiments to test them
- sustain and develop an enjoyment of, and interest in, the study of living organisms
- evaluate, in terms of their biological knowledge and understanding, the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments, including those related to social, environmental and economic issues.

Specification at a glance

This Edexcel IGCSE in Biology qualification comprises two externally assessed papers:

- Biology Paper 1
- Biology Paper 2

Biology Paper 1	Paper code: 4BIO/1B	67% of the total IGCSE marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Externally assessed• First assessment: June 2011		
Overview of content:		
Assesses only the content not in bold		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 1: The nature and variety of living organisms• Section 2: Structures and functions in living organisms• Section 3: Reproduction and inheritance• Section 4: Ecology and the environment• Section 5: Use of biological resources		
Overview of assessment:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The paper is assessed through a two-hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.• The total number of marks is 120.		

Biology Paper 2	Paper code: 4BIO/2B	33% of the total IGCSE marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Externally assessed• First assessment: June 2011		
Overview of content:		
Assesses all content - including the content in bold		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 1: The nature and variety of living organisms• Section 2: Structures and functions in living organisms• Section 3: Reproduction and inheritance• Section 4: Ecology and the environment• Section 5: Use of biological resources		
Overview of assessment:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The paper is assessed through a one-hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.• The total number of marks is 60.		

IGCSE in Chemistry (4CHO)

Key subject aims

The Edexcel IGCSE in Chemistry qualification enables students to:

- learn about the unifying patterns and themes of chemistry
- appreciate the practical nature of chemistry, acquiring experimental and skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques
- appreciate the importance to scientific methods of accurate experimental work reporting
- form hypotheses and design experiments to test them
- develop a logical approach to problem solving in a wider context
- understand the widespread importance of chemistry and the way materials are used in the world
- appreciate how the work of the chemist has social, industrial, technological, environmental and economic consequences for the community
- prepare for more advanced courses in chemistry and for courses which require them to have a knowledge of chemistry.

Specification at a glance

This Edexcel IGCSE in Chemistry qualification comprises two externally assessed papers.

- Chemistry Paper 1
- Chemistry Paper 2

Chemistry Paper 1

Paper code: 4CHO/1C

67% of the total IGCSE marks

- Externally assessed

- First assessment: June 2011

Overview of content:

Assesses only the content not in bold

- Section 1: Principles of chemistry
- Section 2: Chemistry of the elements
- Section 3: Organic chemistry
- Section 4: Physical chemistry
- Section 5: Chemistry in society

Overview of assessment:

- The paper is assessed through a two-hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.
- The total number of marks is 120.

Chemistry Paper 2

Paper code: 4CHO/2C

33% of the total IGCSE marks

- Externally assessed

- First assessment: June 2011

Overview of content:

Assesses all content including content in bold

- Section 1: Principles of chemistry
- Section 2: Chemistry of the elements
- Section 3: Organic chemistry
- Section 4: Physical chemistry
- Section 5: Chemistry in society

Overview of assessment:

- The paper is assessed through a one-hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.
- The total number of marks is 60.

IGCSE in Physics (4PH0)

Key subject aims

The Edexcel IGCSE in Physics enables students to:

- acquire a systematic body of scientific knowledge and the skills needed to apply this in new and changing situations in many domestic, industrial and environmental contexts
- appreciate the practical nature of physics, acquiring experimental and investigative skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques
- appreciate the importance of accurate experimental work and reporting to scientific method
- form hypotheses and design experiments to test them
- evaluate, in terms of their scientific knowledge and understanding, the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments
- select, organise and present information clearly and logically, using appropriate scientific terms and conventions.

Specification at a glance

The Edexcel IGCSE in Physics qualification comprises two assessments.

- Physics paper 1
- Physics paper 2

Physics paper 1

Paper code: 4PH0/1P

67% of the total IGCSE marks

- Externally assessed

- First assessment: June 2011

Overview of content:

Assesses only the content not in bold

- Section 1: Forces and motion
- Section 2: Electricity
- Section 3: Waves
- Section 4: Energy resources and energy transfer
- Section 5: Solids, liquids and gases
- Section 6: Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Section 7: Radioactivity and particles

Overview of assessment:

- The paper is assessed through a 2 hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.
- The total number of marks is 120.

Physics paper 2

Paper code: 4PH0/2P

33% of the total IGCSE marks

- Externally assessed

- First assessment: June 2011

Overview of content:

- Assesses all content including content in bold
- Section 1: Forces and motion
- Section 2: Electricity
- Section 3: Waves
- Section 4: Energy resources and energy transfer
- Section 5: Solids, liquids and gases
- Section 6: Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Section 7: Radioactivity and particles

Overview of assessment:

- The paper is assessed through a 1 hour examination paper set and marked by Edexcel.
- The total number of marks is 60.

OPTION CHOICES

You must choose six subjects, one subject from each column

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4	COLUMN 5	COLUMN 6
PHYSICS	BUSINESS STUDIES	CHEMISTRY	ICT	ARABIC	ECONOMICS
HISTORY	ICT	GEOGRAPHY	ART	BIOLOGY	MUSIC
	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	FRENCH	BUSINESS STUDIES	DRAMA

Please understand that for several reasons it might not be possible to meet with every student's individual option choices; if there is a difficulty further help and guidance will be given.

Please return this form by Wednesday 30th January to your son/daughter's tutor.

You must choose six subjects, one subject from each column. Please write in your chosen subjects below.

Column 1

Physics or History _____

Column 2

Business Studies, ICT or Physical Education _____

Column 3

Chemistry, DT or Geography _____

Column 4

ICT, Art or French _____

Column 5

Arabic, Business Studies or Biology _____

Column 6

Economics, Music or Drama _____

Student's Name

Tutor group

Parental signature