



NEXUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
PUTRAJAYA



**IGCSE OPTIONS
INFORMATION BOOKLET**

OUR PURPOSE

To educate the youth of the world to take their productive place as leaders in the global community.

OUR CORE VALUES

Being Dedicated to a culture of **Respecting** and Caring for Each Other
Excellence
Openness in **Communication**
Acting with **Integrity**
Being **Passionate** in What We Do
Creating **Enjoyable** Environment

OUR VISION

Nexus International School will be an internationally minded learning community that nurtures and supports every child's emotional, physical, creative and intellectual needs in order that they can achieve academic success and become globally responsible citizens.

We will accomplish this by celebrating diversity and challenging minds.

OUR PROMISE

To foster the gifts and talents that reside in everybody through careful mentorship and guidance based on respect.

To provide a nurturing environment for these talents; one that is innovative, progressive and grounded in trust, compassion and respect.

Dear Year 9 Learner,

For most learners, and your parents, the choice of IGCSE options represents an important moment in your education. Although it may seem like it, decisions made at this point are not necessarily for life as they can be easily revised at a later stage. It is perhaps helpful but certainly not vital, for example, to have studied Geography or History for IGCSE in order to choose them at IB. On the other hand, it is often the case that a choice made today can set you off on a specific path towards the next step in your education, so decisions need to be taken with care.

The best pieces of advice I can give you is **'do your homework'**. Talk to your parents, talk to your teachers, talk to learners who have been through this already. The real experts in this process are those who were faced with the same options last year or the year before; talk to them, ask them if they made the right choices. This is especially important if you are thinking of studying a 'new' subject such as Business Studies, Media or Economics – do you really know what it's all about, or do you just "think" you know?

Above all, this is an opportunity to think carefully about your future and to ask yourself some important questions; **'what aspect of my learning do I enjoy most? Am I aware of what my particular strengths and weaknesses are? Have I selected a sensible and broad range of skills or subjects?'** In some ways questions like these are much more important than, 'should I choose Music or Drama?'

The two-year IGCSE courses are all challenging and will require effective time management and independence. A set of realistic choices made now will help you to succeed in two years' time. Most importantly, you have to enjoy it!

Of course, life is not all about exams. Being a learner in Years 10 and 11 offers many other exciting opportunities ahead to develop your leadership skills, participate in service projects within and beyond school as well as getting involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

Finally, take an objective, collaborative approach, research intelligently and make your choices thoughtfully. So this is the point at which you can genuinely claim that you are beginning to take personal responsibility for your academic future. This is an exciting time, enjoy and good luck!

Middle School Phase Leader

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Introduction:

IGCSE stands for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education. It is an international qualification which prepares learners for further pre-university courses such as the International Baccalaureate. The choices that a learner makes are therefore very important and we at Nexus International School believe in providing the relevant information through this booklet, and the upcoming Options Information Evening, to help learners and their parents make informed choices. Should you have any additional questions please speak to the subject teachers or Phase Leader.





The Year 10 & 11 Curriculum at Nexus International School

All learners entering Year 10 follow an appropriate pathway. As the table demonstrates these pathways include core subjects (both examined and non-examined) plus 3 options subjects, at least one of which needs to be a LOTE subject.

Please refer to each individual subject guide in this booklet for more information.

Core examined subjects

English, Mathematics, Science, Global Perspectives

LOTE (language other than English)

Bahasa Malaysia, Chinese Mandarin, French, Spanish

Core non-examined subjects

Digital Literacy, PSD (Personal Social Development) Core PE (Physical Education)

Options Subjects

** Additional Maths	Geography
Art and Design	History
Business	Media Studies
Drama	Music
Economics	* Physical Education

Note:

*This is in addition to Core PE

**This is in addition to Core Maths. Learners may only sign up for this course upon approval of the Head of Maths.



Exam Fees and cost implications:

Parents/guardians are responsible for paying the examination fees of each learner. This is a separate charge to the normal school fees and parents/guardians will be invoiced well in advance of the your child sitting the examination. There is a charge for each examination and the total fees payable may vary depending on the total number of examinations each learner sits and to which examination board the subject belongs.

Once a learner is entered for an examination with an examination board, payment must be made even if they are withdrawn after the closing date. Late entry fees will also be payable if a learner is entered for an exam after the close of entry date.

FAQ

ARE THERE OPTION BLOCKS?

The option blocks vary each year, depending on the choices of the cohort. Each year we ask Year 9 learners to take an options pre-assessment to identify the potential combinations of subjects. This is important to make sure we can combine the subjects your son/daughter wishes to take and determine the option blocks for that year. The option blocks will then be identified on the final options form.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT OPTIONS ARE MOST SUITABLE FOR MY CHILD?

Have conversations with your child about what they enjoy and what they would like to do, then speak to your child's tutor and the relevant subject teacher. If you are concerned about career prospects please arrange a meeting with our Careers and Guidance Advisor.

HOW WILL CHOICES AFFECT FUTURE IB OPTIONS, UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS?

Some careers and higher education courses require specific IB subjects. Your chances of success in these post-16 courses may depend on what options are selected at IGCSE. You may already have a specific course or career in mind, in which case you may need to make sure your proposed combination of IGCSE subjects is suitable. If you are unsure, then talk to your teachers. You might want to make an appointment with the Careers and Universities Guidance Counsellor. In most cases though, it is important to bear in mind that you really should avoid choosing too narrow a range of subjects in order to keep your future options open.

WHY DO LEARNERS AT NEXUS DO THE INTERNATIONAL GCSE?

The IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14-16 year olds. It is taken in more than 160 countries. More than 3000 schools worldwide offer IGCSEs and many of the top UK independent schools have recently switched to IGCSEs. The IGCSE is an international passport to progression and success. It is recognized around the world by employers and universities as evidence of academic ability.

WHEN DO I TAKE THE EXAMS?

IGCSE examinations are linear qualifications, meaning that learners take all of the examinations at the end of the course. The examinations are normally held in May/June. There are many types of assessment to suit different learners – oral, coursework and practical. This broadens opportunities for learners to demonstrate their learning, particularly if their first language is not English. Check carefully the assessment sections in this options booklet – play to your strengths – coursework, exams, essays, short questions?

HOW IS THE IGCSE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The IGCSE is a rigorous 2-year linear programme of study. Each subject's course contents are in this options booklet. Make sure that you speak to your teachers to see that the material covered will be of interest to you.

HOW ARE THE IGCSE EXAMINATIONS GRADED?

The grades range from A* to G, with grades A* to C being recognised as passing grades with regards to entrance to IB Diploma courses. The final percentages and grade boundaries are set in the UK, by the exam boards, and then communicated back to the school.

HOW SHOULD I MAKE MY CHOICE?

Consider three things when deciding your subject options: what do I enjoy; what do I think I am best at; how will it help me in the future. This will involve lots of discussions with parents, subject teachers, older learners and your tutor.

Certain subjects are compulsory: English, Maths, Science, Global Perspectives, Language Other Than English (LOTE), Digital Literacy and Personal Social Development (PSD). You will also continue to take PE once a week, although the IGCSE course itself is not compulsory.

Keep your choices as wide as possible, to reflect the ever-changing nature of education. We strongly advise you to consider a range of options such as a Humanities subject to demonstrate ability to write in-depth essays and communicate arguments effectively. Consider a practical creative subject such as Art or Drama. Look at whether there is coursework attached to the subject and be aware of how demanding it can be in terms of workload.

NOTE: if you are a Malaysian passport holder it is requirement you take BM until you reach IGCSE standard.

The two-year IGCSE courses are all challenging and require effective time management and independence. A set of realistic choices made now will help you to succeed in your exams in two years' time. Most importantly, you have to enjoy it!

DO I HAVE TO STUDY BAHASA MALAYSIA?

If you are a Malaysian passport holder then it is a government requirement for you to take BM. If you have already completed your IGCSE or SPM course in BM, we recommend you maintain your language skills by choosing one or more of the following options:

BM (non-examined course) foundation for Malay A at IBDP (Malaysian literature course specifically for BM fluent speakers)

French IGCSE

Spanish IGCSE

Spanish Express IGCSE

Mandarin IGCSE (1st lang, 2nd lang, foreign)

WILL I DEFINITELY GET TO STUDY THE SUBJECTS I CHOOSE?

Our Options process is designed to maximise the chances of you being able to make the combination of subjects that you want. The initial selection you make will allow us to build the timetable. In rare circumstances, due to timetabling restrictions, a learner will not be able to take their first choice subject combination.

Choices should be made in partnership with teachers working together with learners and their parents. Our options process and timelines are designed to make sure that you have access to all the information you need and all the people who can help, at the right times, to allow you to make fully informed choices.

CAN I VIEW THE PREVIOUS YEARS' IGCSE RESULTS?

Absolutely, the results from previous years IGCSE and IBDP examinations can be found on the school website (www.nexus.edu.my).



SUBJECT INFORMATION FOR CORE EXAMINED SUBJECTS

English
Global Perspectives
Mathematics
Science

CORE COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

CIE - IGCSE

The English course leads to two CIE IGCSE qualifications, which cover the development of a range of skills from reading fiction and non-fiction texts, writing a wide range of text types and speaking and listening. This course aims to promote in learners a knowledge of, and affection for, English Literature, and creates the opportunity to read widely across a range of genres. In addition, the course seeks to develop learners' speaking and listening skills, including their ability to formulate, both written and spoken Standard English. Independent learning is an essential component of this course. English is a vital part of every learner's education and will inform and aid their learning across all curriculum areas.

Curriculum Outline:

English First Language	English Literature
<p>Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is designed primarily for learners whose mother tongue is English. The course allows learners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when writing and communicating.• Learn how to effectively use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.• Develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed. <p>Language learners are encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English language can be used. The course also develops the skills of analysis and communication; such as, synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.</p>	<p>Cambridge IGCSE World Literature is designed for learners who have previously studied some creative writing – prose/poetry/drama in the medium of English. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read, interpret and evaluate literary texts from different countries and cultures.• Develop an understanding of literal and implicit meaning, relevant contexts and the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed.• Present an informed, personal response to literary texts they have studied.• Explore wider and universal issues and gain skills of empathy, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them. <p>This syllabus aims to encourage and develop candidates' ability to enjoy reading world literature, understand and respond to literary texts in different forms, from different countries and cultures, and appreciate and communicate appropriately and effectively.</p>
Assessment Details:	Assessment Details:
<p>50% of the course is assessed through coursework where learners submit three assignments. The remaining 50% of the course is assessed in a final examination, which will take place at the end of Year 11. Candidates can be entered for either Core or Extended in the examination.</p>	<p>50% of the course is assessed through a portfolio, which contains two written assignments and one oral assignment. The remaining course is assessed in a final examination, which will take place at the end of Year 11.</p>

CORE COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

CIE - IGCSE

Global Perspectives is a groundbreaking cross-curricular course stretching across traditional subject boundaries. It taps into the way today's learners enjoy learning – including group work, seminars, projects, and working with other learners around the world. The emphasis is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view. The study of IGCSE Global Perspectives provides opportunities for enquiry into, and reflection on, those changes.

Curriculum Outline:

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives aims to develop learners who:

- are independent, active learners who are empowered to take their place in an ever changing, information-heavy, interconnected world.
- have an analytical, evaluative grasp of key world issues, their causes, effects & possible solutions.
- inquire into and reflect on issues and collaborate with others to find solutions.
- work independently or well as part of a team, are able to direct much of their own learning with the teacher as facilitator.
- consider important issues from personal, local and global perspectives and who understand some of the links between the personal, local and global.
- critically assess the information available to them and develop lines of reasoning.
- have a sense of their own, active place in the world.
- can empathise with the needs and rights of others

Learners must investigate 3 of the following areas:

- Belief Systems
- Biodiversity & Ecosystems Loss
- Climate and Change
- Conflict and Peace
- Disease and Health
- Education for All
- Employment
- Family and Demographic Change
- Transport & Infrastructure
- Water, Food & Agriculture
- Fuel and Energy
- Humans & Other Species
- Language & Communication
- Law & Criminality
- Poverty & Inequality
- Sport & Recreation
- Technology & the Economic Divide
- Trade and Aid
- Traditional Culture and Identity.
- Urbanisation

Assessment Details:

Component	Content	Weighting	Assessment
Individual Research	2 2000 word research reports.	40%	Internal Individual
Group Project	Group collaboration & independent evaluation.	30%	Internal Individual 67% Group 33%
Written Paper	1 hour 15 mins exam focusing on enquiry, reasoning & evaluation	30%	External Examination

Further Study or Careers:

IGCSE Global Perspectives is an excellent precursor to further study, particularly as a gateway to the International Baccalaureate. The course is designed to develop independent learners with the skills to think for themselves, take on new initiatives, and use a variety of different research mediums including ICT. It enables learners to communicate, to analyse information, to formulate their own opinion and to explain and synthesise ideas and to work in a trans-cultural capacity.

CORE COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

MATHEMATICS

CIE - IGCSE

Mathematics is a fundamental subject in any well-rounded education. It teaches the learners the ability to think, to reason critically and to solve problems using a variety of different techniques. Here at Nexus we are offering the International Mathematics Syllabus run by the Cambridge International Examinations board. This is an internationally recognized course specifically designed to merge with the IB Diploma thus creating a custom-made pathway for Nexus learners as they progress through school. There are additional costs associated with this course, which include a graphics calculator and textbook.

Curriculum Outline:

Cambridge International Mathematics (IGCSE) syllabus is designed as a two-year course for examination.

The aims of this syllabus should enable learners to:

- Acquire a foundation of mathematical skills appropriate to further study and continued learning in mathematics
- Develop a foundation of mathematical skills and apply them to other subjects and to the real world
- Develop methods of problem solving; Appreciate the beauty and power of mathematics
- Interpret mathematical results and understand their significance
- Develop patience and persistence in solving problems;
- Develop a positive attitude towards mathematics which encourages enjoyment, fosters confidence and promotes enquiry and further learning
- Appreciate the difference between mathematical proof and pattern spotting
- Appreciate the interdependence of different branches of mathematics and the links with other disciplines
- Appreciate the international aspect of mathematics, its cultural and historical significance and its role in the real world

Assessment details:

Core Curriculum	Extended Curriculum
Paper 1: (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10–12 short response questions.• Assess knowledge, basic skills and methods.• 40 marks: 25% of assessment.	Paper 2: (45 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10–12 short response questions.• Assess knowledge, basic skills and methods.• 40 marks: 20% of assessment.
Paper 3: (1 3/4 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11–15 medium/extended response questions.• 96 marks: 60% of assessment.	Paper 4: (2 1/4 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11–15 medium/extended response questions.• 120 marks: 60% of assessment.
Paper 5: (1 hr) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One investigation question.• Assessed on ability to investigate and solve a more open-ended problem.• 24 marks: 15% of assessment	Paper 6: : (1 1/2 hrs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One investigation and one modeling question.• Assessed on ability to investigate, model, and solve more open-ended problems.• 40 marks: 20% of assessment

Further Study or Careers:

Mathematics is an important subject especially for any learner interested in the fields of science, engineering, economics and business. Mathematics is a compulsory component of the IB Diploma and is a requirement for many university courses at this level. The problem solving skills developed by studying mathematical techniques are transferable across many subject areas.

CORE COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

SCIENCE

CIE - IGCSE

A study of science allows learners to understand the world around them and the role that science plays in our lives – from food security, to the smartphone in your hands. Beyond this, Science enables learners to develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to independently seek answers to their own questions – to think scientifically. Not only that but Science at Nexus develops a learner's ability to confidently take part in public debate and decision making about Science.

Learners at Nexus begin the foundation year for IGCSE course in Year 9 and progress into Years 10 and 11 via a number of pathways

Combined Science Learners will:	Coordinated Science Learners will:	Separate Sciences Learners will:
Study three sciences leading to a single IGCSE qualification covering practical and theoretical aspects of Science.	Study three sciences leading to a double award IGCSE qualification covering practical and theoretical aspects of Science.	Study three sciences leading to an IGCSE qualification in each of the Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics.

Assessment varies with the qualifications that learners will sit at the end of the course.

Curriculum Outline

The Cambridge IGCSE science programme is the world's most popular international range of qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success.

At Nexus, we give all learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each taught by a subject specialist. The courses are designed to encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged. They encourage learners to develop their curiosity about the living world, enables them to engage with Science in their everyday lives and enables them to make informed choices about further study in science, or related disciplines.

Further study or careers

Science can lead to a wide range of careers, including the following areas: Agriculture, Biochemistry, Business and industry, Chemical engineering, Conservation, Consultancy, Economics, Education, Environmental management, Finance, Forensic Science, Health Care, Health & Safety, Mathematics, Medicine, Oil industry, Pharmacy, Politics and policy, Renewable energy, Research, Science Communication, Seismology, Waste management,

Separate Sciences

The Biology, Chemistry and Physics IGCSEs provide the basis for studying IB Sciences or a general background for those wanting to specialise in one, or more, separate science. Learners who pursue the separate Sciences will explore each of the areas with significant rigour.

The separate CIE IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged. It encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the living world, enabling them to engage with Science in their everyday lives and enable them to make informed choices about further study in Science and related disciplines.

Curriculum Outlines

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
A natural science that explores the vast and diverse world of living organisms, and how organisms interrelate with their environment. Explains the physical makeup of our bodies, genes, inheritance and variation and how it relates to treatments and cure.	The science of the materials that make up our physical world. Systematically studying the composition, properties, and activity of organic and inorganic substances along with other elementary forms of matter. The contributions to agriculture, manufacturing, new technologies alongside efficient means of transportation and communication.	Concerned with the most basic building blocks of the universe – from ants to antennae, from quarks to quasars. Trying to find out what the universe is made of, and how these things move and interact with each other.

Assessment details:

The assessment format is the same for the CIE Biology, Chemistry and Physics IGCSE.

Core Curriculum	Extended Curriculum
Paper 1 (45 mins) 30% final grade Multiple-choice (40 marks).	Paper 2 (45 mins) 30% final grade Multiple-choice (40 marks).
Paper 3 (1 hr 45 mins) 50% final grade Short-answer and structured questions (80 marks).	Paper 4 (1 hr 45 mins) 50% final grade Short-answer and structured questions (80 marks).
All learners will complete either Paper 5 or Paper 6	
Paper 5 (1 hr 15 mins) 20% final grade Practical Test (40 marks).	Paper 6 (1 hr) 20% final grade Alternative to Practical (40 marks).

Combined Science

Curriculum Outline

Cambridge IGCSE Combined Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each covered in separate syllabus sections. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

Assessment details

Core Curriculum	Extended Curriculum
Paper 1 (45 mins) 30% final grade Multiple-choice (40 marks).	Paper 2 (45 mins) 30% final grade Multiple-choice (40 marks).
Paper 3 (1 hr 15 mins) 50% final grade Short-answer and structured questions (80 marks).	Paper 4 (1 hr 15 mins) 50% final grade Short-answer and structured questions (80 marks).
All learners will complete either Paper 5 or Paper 6	
Paper 5 (1 hr 30 mins) 20% final grade Practical Test (30 marks).	Paper 6 (1 hr) 20% final grade Alternative to Practical (60 marks).

Co-ordinated Science

Curriculum Outline

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in greater depth. They will explore how science is studied and practised, and how results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. It is a double award, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

Assessment details

Core Curriculum	Extended Curriculum
Paper 1 (45 mins) 30% final grade Multiple-choice (40 marks).	Paper 2 (45 mins) 30% final grade Multiple-choice (40 marks).
Paper 3 (2 hrs) 50% final grade Short-answer and structured questions (100 marks).	Paper 4 (2 hrs) 50% final grade Short-answer and structured questions (100 marks).
All learners will complete either Paper 5 or Paper 6	
Paper 5 (2 hrs) 20% final grade Practical Test (45 marks).	Paper 6 (1 hr) 20% final grade Alternative to Practical (60 marks).

CORE COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

LOTE (Languages Other Than English)

CIE - IGCSE



The study of **at least one** language other than English (LOTE) to IGCSE level is required.

NOTE: if you are a Malaysian passport holder it is a requirement that you take BM until you reach IGCSE standard.

Do you

- enjoy communicating with others?
- already speak another language?
- enjoy learning about different countries and cultures?
- enjoy learning about language and how it works?

Studies have found that speaking two or more languages is a great asset to the cognitive process, encourages analysis, memorising and drawing of inferences. The brains of bilingual people operate differently than single language speakers, and these differences can offer improved decision-making skills and problem-solving. By choosing a LOTE option you will develop a range of skills such as communication, public speaking, a well developed cultural awareness and even an improvement in your native language and English language skills.

To support your language journey there are a number of options available within LOTE; you can take more than one LOTE option if you wish.

Bahasa Malaysia

French

Mandarin

Spanish

For the pathways available in each language please read further.

Further study or Careers

All the LOTE options are great preparation for the IB Diploma program. If you are planning future careers, languages are an excellent choice creating greater opportunities to work for companies with international links; many employers specifically seek people who can speak a foreign language.



First Language Bahasa Malaysia Non-examined

This is a **non-examination course** focussing on literature study. The aim of this course is to further develop the language skills of First Language Malay speakers (who have already completed SPM or IGCSE Bahasa Malaysia) fully preparing them for the transition to IB Malay A.

During the course learners will analyse a Malay cinematic classic; Film Papadam. They will investigate and analyse a range of literary genres in Malay as well as developing their analytical essay-writing skills.

Texts:

1. Antologi Teks : Harga Sebuah Lukisan
2. Antologi Teks : Harga Remaja
3. Antologi : Gunting
4. Novel : Merenang Gelora
5. Novel : PAPA...
6. Novel Madam Bovary
7. Drama : Tamu di Bukit Kenny

Assessment details

There is **no final assessment** as this is a **non-examined option**.

Bahasa Malaysia Foreign Language Examined

IGCSE Bahasa Malaysia is a stimulating and enjoyable course linking the language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Curriculum Outline

- Develop the ability to use language effectively for effective communication;
- Form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure;
- Offer insights into and empathy towards the culture and civilisation of Malaysia;
- Encourage fuller integration into the local community;
- Develop a fuller awareness of the nature of language and language learning;
- Encourage positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

Assessment details

Paper	Duration	Weighting
Paper 2 Reading & Writing	2 hours	40%
Paper 3 Speaking	2 hours	33%
Paper 4 Continuous writing	1 hour	27%

CORE COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

Chinese

CIE - IGCSE

There are three pathways dependent upon your Chinese and Mandarin experience.

First Language Chinese

Suitable for learners whose mother tongue is Chinese.

Curriculum Outline

- enable learners to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in writing;
- enable learners to understand and respond appropriately to what they read;
- encourage learners to enjoy and appreciate the variety of language;

Assessment details

Paper	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1 Reading & Comprehension	2 hours	60%
Paper 2 Writing	1 ¼ hours	40%

Chinese as a Second Language

Suitable for learners who are fairly fluent in spoken Chinese but need to develop both their writing and reading skills.

Curriculum Outline

Practical communication ideal for everyday use, forming the basis for further, more in-depth language study.

- Everyday activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world

Assessment details

Paper	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1 Reading & Writing	2 hours	70%
Paper 2 Speaking	10-12mins	30%

Mandarin Foreign Language

Curriculum Outline

You will learn vocabulary and grammatical structures you will need to understand and read about the topics as well as talk and write about them.

- Everyday activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The international world
- The world of work

Assessment details

Paper	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1 Listening	35 mins	25%
Paper 2 Reading & Directed Writing	1 ¼ hours	25%
Paper 3 Speaking (role play cards)	15 mins	25%
Paper 4 Continuous Writing	1 ¼ hours	25%

CORE COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

European Languages

CIE - IGCSE

There are 3 pathways available for those who would like to study a European language.



French or Spanish Foreign Language

Suitable for learners who have some previous experience of French or Spanish.

Curriculum Outline

You will learn vocabulary and grammatical structures you will need to understand and read about the topics as well as talk and write about them.

- Everyday activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world

Assessment details

Paper	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1 Listening	45 mins	25%
Paper 2 Reading & Writing	1 hour	25%
Paper 3 Speaking	15 mins	25%
Paper 4 Writing	1 hour	25%

Spanish Express Course

A compressed course suitable for learners who joined Nexus in Year 9 and would like to study for the Spanish IGCSE examination.



SUBJECT INFORMATION FOR OPTIONS SUBJECTS





IGCSE Additional Mathematics is an optional mathematics course designed to extend the mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the IGCSE Mathematics course, and learn and apply more advanced techniques. It is only available to learners who can demonstrate the mathematical ability to cope with this demanding course. Learners that complete this course will receive a separate GCSE Certificate. The course prepares the learners well for the Higher Level Advanced IB Mathematics course.

Curriculum Outline:

Who can take the Additional Mathematics course?

The additional mathematics syllabus is intended for mathematically minded learners to take alongside the compulsory Mathematics IGCSE. Learners must have consistently demonstrated a high level of attainment in the subject to be accepted on to this course.

Entry to the Additional Mathematics course is dependent on the learner's mathematical ability, specific assessment criteria and is decided by the Head of Mathematics and the Head of Secondary School.

Assessment Details:

Paper	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1 80 marks	2 hours	50%
Paper 2 80 marks	2 hours	50%

Further Study or Careers:

Mathematics is an important subject especially for any learner interested in the fields of science, engineering, economics and business. The problem solving skills developed by studying mathematical techniques are transferable across many subject areas. Add mathematics is only available to learners who have the ability to cope with the rigors of the course and at the discretion of the Head of Mathematics. .



The IGCSE Art and Design syllabus will encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop practical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual forms. Learners also discover how to develop ideas and create processes that reach final outcomes. The course is an excellent foundation to broaden learner knowledge in art and design it will develop a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history identifying cultural links and growing the individual artistic experience.

Curriculum Outline:

Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 projects/themes • Drawings, paintings, printmaking, sculpture, photography • ICT work including Photoshop • Sketchbook work • Large scale work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework- containing two assignments. • Exam work - containing one assignment. • Artist research to develop cultural and historical understanding. • Developing ideas through investigations. • Refining ideas through experimenting with materials. • Recording ideas and observations. • Presenting a personal, informed response.

Assessment Details:

During the two-year course, learners must undertake 60% coursework creating two separate assignments, and a 40% exam, based on an external question and practical work.

Further Study or Careers:

Fine Artist/Painter, Creative Advisor, Architecture, Landscape Architect, Photography, Graphic Design, Illustration, Animation and Computer Animation, Interior and Exterior Design, Industrial Design, Product Design, Art Education, Art Therapy, Art History, Gallery Direction, Art Conservation, Fashion Design, Printmaker, Professional Sculptor, Art Director for Film and Television, Theatre Designer, Costume Designer, In house Designer, Photographer, Layout Designer, Model Maker, Lighting Designer, Jewelry Design, Ceramics, Display Design, Textile Design.



Everyday we are exposed to thousands of businesses, whether it is walking down the street, Surfing the Internet or simply watching TV. IGCSE Business Studies equips learners with the necessary skills to be informed and responsible consumers and prepares them for being the workforce and business leaders of tomorrow. The IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners explore the setting up and operation of a business, the activities of business and the reasons for success or failure. It encourages learners to appreciate that businesses must operate within society and that this involves businesses engaging with a wide range of stakeholders who will hold differing perspectives.

Curriculum Outline:

The key units in the IGCSE Business Studies course are described below:

- Understanding Business Activity
- People in Business
- Marketing
- Operations Management
- Financial Information and Decisions
- External Influence and Decisions

Assessment:

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes)

Written examination consisting of four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses.

Candidates answer all questions
Weighted at 50% of total available marks.

Paper 2 Structured questions (2 hours 15 minutes)

Written examination consisting of four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper, Weighted at 50% of total available marks.



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

Curriculum Outline:

- understanding Drama through practical and theoretical study
- the performance possibilities of text and other stimuli
- use of dramatic forms and structures to communicate feelings and ideas to an audience
- acquire and develop skills in Drama, both individually and in groups
- develop understanding of the processes leading to performance and the elements involved in creating
- evaluate the various stages of performance work.

Learners will learn about:

- developing their performance skills, both individually and in groups
- considering ways in which ideas and feelings can be communicated to an audience
- discovering the performance possibilities of texts and other stimuli
- devising dramatic material of their own

Assessment Details :

The IGCSE Drama Curriculum is made up of two key components:

Paper 1: Written examination is made up of three components: candidates answer questions relating to a pre-release text and three stimuli.

- Section A: 8 to 10 short-answer questions on all of the pre-release material. Answer all questions.
 - Section B: Answer one from three longer-answer questions on the pre-release extract.
- Section C: Answer one from three longer-answer questions on the three stimuli.

Paper 2: Coursework is Internally assessed and externally moderated. Candidates submit three pieces of practical work:

- One individual piece (max 5 mins): either original devised work or a performance of an extract from a piece of repertoire.
- Two group pieces (max 15 minutes each): one original devised piece and one performance of an extract from a piece of repertoire.

Further Study or Careers:

Successful achievement at IGCSE Drama can lead to a progression route on to the International Baccalaureate in Theatre Arts at Nexus International School. Further academic study at universities throughout the world can lead to a subject specific degree. Knowledge of drama can lead to pursuing careers in the following areas: performing as an actor, directing theatre, devising and scripting new works, teaching drama, drama therapy, arts management and promotion.



The IGCSE Economics course equips learners with the basic tools of the economist. It helps them understand their place in, and contribution to, the local, national and global economy as consumers, workers and citizens. Learners will investigate how the actions governments, firms, consumers and workers affect the operation of the economy, exploring a range of contemporary issues, and analysing evidence from different perspectives so as to make reasoned judgements and informed decisions. Learners will explore specific economic concepts and theories and apply these to a range of economic issues locally, nationally and globally.

Curriculum Outline:

The key units in the IGCSE Economics course are described below:

- Basic economics: choice and the allocation of resources
- The allocation of resources: how the market works; market failure
- The individual as producer, consumer and borrower
- The private firm as producer and employer
- Role of government in economy
- Economic indicators
- Developed and developing economies: trends in production, population and living standards; and other international aspects

Assessment:

Paper 1: Multiple choice (45 minutes)

Candidates answer 30 multiple choice questions. Weighted at 30% of total available marks.

Paper 2: Structured questions (2 hours 15 minutes)

Candidates answer one compulsory question, which requires them to interpret and analyse previously unseen data relevant to a real economic situation, and three optional questions from a choice of six. Weighted at 70% of total available marks.

The Edexcel International GCSE in Geography enables learners to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world
- develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments from a local to global scale
- appreciate that people have different views of, and attitudes to, the world, its environments and its issues
- develop and apply practical geographical enquiry skills
- undertake geographical investigations that include both primary and secondary data collection
- develop and apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork
- develop their awareness of global issues and recognise the need for a sustainable future.

Curriculum Outline:

The Geography IGCSE course has 4 sections. Sections A, B, and D contain options while section C focuses on practical geographical enquiry skills.

Section A: The Natural Environment (2 topics from):

1. River Environments
2. Coastal Environments
3. Hazardous Environments

Section B: People and their Environments (2 topics from):

1. Economic activity and energy
2. Ecosystems and rural environments
3. Urban environments

Section C: Practical Geographical Enquiry:

The development of practical geographical enquiry skills related to the investigation of each selected topic from Sections A and B

Section D: Global Issues (1 topic from):

1. Fragile Environments
2. Globalisation and migration
3. Development and human welfare

Assessment Details :

One externally assessed examination (3 hours).



The History IGCSE syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the twentieth century, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on knowledge and on the skills required for historical research. Learners learn about the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. The course will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

Curriculum Outline:

Core Content: The 20th Century: International Relations since 1919

1. Were the peace treaties of 1919–23 fair?
2. To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
3. Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?
4. Who was to blame for the Cold War?
5. How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?
6. How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?
7. Why did events in the Gulf matter, c.1970–2000?

Depth Study: Germany 1914-1945

1. Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?
2. Why was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?
3. The Nazi Regime

Assessment:

Component 1: Written Paper (2 hours)

Learners answer 2 questions from the core content and one question from on their depth study
Weighting: 40%

Component 2: Written Paper (2 hours)

Learners answer 6 source-based questions on a topic from the core content
Weighting: 33%

Component 3 has a 27% weighting and is either:

Coursework

Learners produce one piece of extended writing, up to 2000 words based on content taken from any of the Depth Studies.

Written Paper (1 hour)

Learners answer one question from a choice of 2 on their Depth Study.

OPTION SUBJECTS

Media Studies

CIE - IGCSE



The course is practically weighted to provide opportunities for the learners to engage with the actual process of media production in two specific areas; Audio-visual and Print Media. There is an underpinning theoretical aspect as the learners are encouraged to become aware of global media institutions and ownership. They will explore all the different roles needed when planning, storyboarding, shooting and editing a film, as well as providing planning, research into Print Magazines and how to construct a digital magazine product. As a result, learners engage in creative and digital communication in order to develop crucial transferable skills.

COMPONENT 1: Foundation Portfolio	Weighting
<p>Coursework in which candidates work individually, or as a group, to produce a media product (Film or Print) plus digital evidence of their work and a creative reflection.</p> <p>100 marks Internally assessed and externally moderated</p>	50%
COMPONENT 2: Key Media Concepts	2 hours
<p>Written examination consisting of two questions There are two sections to this paper</p> <p>SECTION A: Textual analysis and representation (50 marks) Candidates analyse a moving image extract in terms of technical codes and representation.</p> <p>SECTION B: Institutions and audiences Candidates study a specific media industry from a choice of: film, music, print, radio or video games.</p> <p>100 marks Externally assessed</p>	50%

The learners will:

- develop critical understanding of the media through engagement with media products, concepts and the creative application of practical skills
- explore production processes and develop skills in Print and Audio-Visual media
- encourage independence in research skills and their application to media texts
- enhance learners' enjoyment and appreciation of the media and its role in their daily lives.

Further study or Careers:

There are direct transferable technical and creative skills in using digital editing software, as well as camera, lighting and sound recording equipment. Project management and presentation skills will be evident and are vital in any business field. Successful achievement in CIE Media Studies can lead to a progression route on to the IB Diploma in Film at Nexus International School. Further career paths can include filmmaking and directing, editing, sound recording, graphic design, lighting, screenwriting and cinematography.

OPTION SUBJECTS

Music

Edexcel - GCSE



This course is designed for all learners, not just those who have instrumental or singing lessons. Learners that enjoy playing and composing projects in music lessons, and would like to learn about the latest technological equipment and studio facilities, will enjoy this course. Many stimulating workshops and performances are offered in both lesson time and outside of school time.

To support their learning, learners are expected to take up all opportunities to get involved in music ensembles to enhance their performing skills. Learners need to develop an appreciation of various styles of music and, as a stimulus, to understand the composing process. They will need to listen widely to different genres of music to understand that process.

Assessment Details:

GCSE Music is divided into three areas:

Performance 30%

Learners perform two pieces either vocal or instrumental. One piece is a Solo performance with piano accompaniment, if appropriate. The second piece must be an independent part in an ensemble with a minimum of 3 players.

(2 pieces – 3 minutes minimum timing for both together)

Composition 30%

Learners submit two compositions in contrastingly different styles based on any of the four main areas of study.

(2 pieces – 3 minutes minimum for both)

Listening Paper 40% 1hr 30 mins

Learners are required to answer questions on different pieces of music from the 16th Century to the present day and from anywhere around the world. There are four main areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700–1820; Vocal Music; Music for Stage and Screen; Fusions.

Further study or careers?

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for IBDP Music or AS/A Levels in Music and Music Technology. You may wish to take a GCSE in Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.







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