

Senior School and Sixth Form

YEAR 10 OPTIONS

GCSE/IGCSE Information Booklet

2026 - 2027





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2026 – 2027

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Introduction

The move from Year 9 into Year 10 is an exciting time as pupils choose the subjects they will be studying for the next two years. This is an important step, and a great deal of consideration is needed about the subject choices.

Pupils entering Year 10 are at the beginning of a two-year course (referred to as Key Stage 4), culminating in public examinations known as the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) or International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). IGCSEs are a

development of the GCSE, with content adapted to provide an international perspective.

The integrity and calibre of these exams is recognised throughout the world, and they are universally accepted qualifications for entry into further education and ultimately university.

Grade Descriptions

Previously, these examinations were graded from A* to G. They are now graded from 9 to 1, with grades 9 to 4 (equivalent to A* to C) being regarded as a passing grade. Grades 9 to 7 are the new highest grades, equivalent to A* and A. These are the grades that will be looked for by employers and universities.

GCSE/IGCSE - grades 9 to 1 (A* to G)

New Grade	Equivalent Old Grade
9 8	A*
7	A
6	B
5 4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F G
U	U

Examination Boards

BISAK offers examinations at GCSE/IGCSE level with Edexcel (Pearson Qualifications), Cambridge (CIE) examination boards. In making this choice, we have been mindful of their existing strong presence in the Kingdom as well as the excellent range of resources already in place to support teaching and learning.

Resources

The examination boards offer a range of on-line materials to support pupils. These allows pupils and parents to have a good insight into what can be expected in the examination papers. It is highly recommended familiarising yourself with the following websites for access to these resources and to gain more detailed information relating to each subject:

Edexcel – Pearson

[Edexcel – Pearson <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/edexcel.html>](http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/edexcel.html)

Cambridge International Examinations

www.cie.org.uk

Core Curriculum

All pupils are required to study English and Mathematics. English will be taught by combining the Language and Literature courses. Pupils will be entered for both examinations.

General Physical Education (PE) is also compulsory. It is required for all pupils but will not be an exam subject.

Optional Curriculum

Each pupil will select one subject from each of the six columns below for their Optional Subjects. The optional subjects reflect both demand and the availability of specialist teaching staff.

Allocation to Optional Subject classes will be based on availability of places in each class. Some pupils may unfortunately not be placed in their preferred options. In the event an option block becomes over – subscribed, BISAK Senior School’s Leadership Team will make the final decision regarding pupil placement.

This decision will take into account various factors including prior academic attainment, the suitability of the pupil for the subject, future career choices and the date the options form was submitted.

Pupils joining Year 10 after the start of the academic year may find their choices limited by timetabling and class-size constraints.

The optional subjects available are as follows:

- Arabic (First language)
- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- BTEC Business
- BTEC Travel and Tourism
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Double Science Award
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- Global Citizenship
- History
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Music
- Physical Education (in addition to General PE)
- Psychology
- Triple Science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics)

Option Choices for 2026–2027

Pupils will select **one** subject from each option block below, except Double Science which must be chosen in Option 1 and Option 2.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Triple Science			Arabic	Computer Science	Art
Double Science		BTEC Business	Business (GCSE)	ICT	Business (GCSE)
		BTEC Travel and Tourism	Design and Technology	History	Geography
		Geography	Economics	Music	Global Citizenship
			French	P.E. (GCSE)	Psychology
			History		

Choosing Your Options (Help & Guidance)

When choosing the options, pupils should consider how the choices (including the subjects that will no longer be studied) impact upon further education and career plans.

Pupils should:

- Choose subjects they like or are interested in.
- Think about what they are good at.
- Focus on needs and career choices.
- Talk to parents and other adults – especially if you have a particular career in mind as this may identify the key subjects that must be studied.
- Discuss preferred options with your teachers.
- Try to balance choices with a range of areas.
- Consider how subjects may be useful in unrelated areas.

Pupils should not:

- Choose subjects on account of the teacher. They may not be available for the entire course.
- Choose subjects their friends have chosen. They may not be in the same group and their interests, abilities and plans are likely to be different.

Other Important Information

Some subjects may not be available if there are insufficient pupils. The subjects offered are subject to change, and as pupils go through Year 9, ideas and needs may change. However, pupils should consider their choices carefully to try to get them right the first time in order to ensure first choices are available.

Be aware that not all subjects make the same time demands. Most subjects have a relatively even amount of time that needs to be devoted throughout the course. However, some have periods of greater need. For example, some subjects have deadlines for coursework and projects to be met.

Generally, it is expected to spend approximately 90 minutes per subject, per week on homework. However, some subjects such as English, for example, may require two hours per week.

At school, teachers and all other members of staff will be more than willing to offer help and guidance. They can also help establish sources of further information. Time will be available in tutor groups and during scheduled option choice sessions to discuss options. In addition, pupils meet individually with the Careers Guidance Advisor to discuss choices. The Year 9 and Year 10 Leader will also be available for guidance as required.

Subject Information

The following pages contain a brief overview of each subject, including details of the specifications followed.

Core Curriculum

English Language

IGCSE (Specification A) - Edexcel (4EA1)

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Where could it lead?

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

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

What will I study?

- Speaking and Listening: public speaking and giving presentations.
- Reading: the study of non-fiction, poetry and prose
- texts included in the Edexcel IGCSE Anthology.
- Writing: personal writing and responses which inform, explain, describe and argue, persuade and advise.

What skills/qualities are required?

- Effective communication through individual oral presentations and group discussions.
- Read with insight and engagement, making appropriate reference to texts and developing and sustaining interpretations of them.
- Understand and evaluate how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects.
- Write with clarity, imagination, organisation and accuracy and for different readers and purposes.

How will I learn?

You will learn through:

- Reading
- Writing
- Discussing and listening
- Analysing prose
- Analysing poetry
- Empathy

How will I be assessed?

Through examinations (100%).



Where could it lead?

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

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

What will I study?

Four literature texts will be studied:

- Prose text
- Modern Drama text
- Literary Heritage text
- Anthology Section C: A Selection of Poetry

What skills/qualities are required?

- A close knowledge of texts and the contexts in which they were written.
- An understanding and appreciation of authors' uses of characterisation, narrative, plot, setting and language.
- The ability to respond critically and sensitively to a range of poems.
- Show understanding of how meanings and ideas are conveyed through language, structure and form.
- Make connections and comparisons between poems.
- A focused, sensitive, lively and informed personal response to texts.

How will I learn?

You will learn through:

- Reading
- Writing
- Discussing and listening
- Analysing prose
- Analysing poetry
- Drama.

How will I be assessed?

Through examinations (100%).

Mathematics

IGCSE - Edexcel (4MA1)

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Careers

Mathematics lends itself to a diverse range of careers and areas of further study: medicine; financial services; engineering; computer game design; forensic science; sports coaching; architecture... the list is almost endless! Increasingly, universities around the world are looking at grades in IGCSE Mathematics before offering pupils places on a course, as success in Mathematics is integral to so many areas of study.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Introduction

Mathematics is a compulsory subject and pupils will begin studying the IGCSE course at the start of Year 10. There are two tiers of entry for the final examinations – Foundation and Higher.

Course content

The IGCSE Mathematics course is defined by the National Curriculum. The main areas of study are: number; algebra; ratio, proportion and rates of change; geometry and measures; statistics; and probability.

Pupils will master the various skills taught by practising questions on their own, or by discussing and working on tasks in pairs or small groups. Pupils will be expected to apply mathematical methods in a range of contexts and interpret, analyse and solve problems. Functional skills will be tested using real-life, scenario-based contexts.

Assessment

Whichever tier the pupil sits, the IGCSE Mathematics course is assessed through an exam consisting of two written papers. Pupils will be able to use a calculator in both exams.

Tier of entry	Grades available	Assessment structure	Exam length	Weighting of final grade
Foundation	1 - 5	Calculator paper Calculator paper	2 hours 2 hours	50% 50%
Higher	3 - 9	Calculator paper Calculator paper	2 hours 2 hours	50% 50%

Option Choices



Why Choose Arabic?

Studying Arabic will give first-language Arabic-speaking pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of the language across the four areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening 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 texts.
- 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

Assessment is carried out through two papers:

Paper 1

(2 hours 15 minutes) 70% of the marks

This paper has three sections.

Section 1

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

Section 2

In this section, pupils will be presented with a short text which they will be required to summarise.

Pupils will also be required to produce a piece of directed writing based on the same text, for example a letter, a speech, a report or an article.

Section 3

This section will test pupils' use of grammar in a series of exercises.

Paper 2

(1 hour 30 minutes) 30% of the marks

Paper 2 will require pupils to produce two pieces of continuous writing. Pupils 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.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)



GCSE Art & Design is followed through the fine art specification where students will create works associated within the following areas of study such as drawing, installation, lens-light based media, photography, modelling, mixed media, land art, printing, painting, sculptures.

This is a qualification that develops transferable creative skills. Pupils are required to actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

Pupils will learn to:

- Apply a creative approach to problem-solving.
- Consider and develop original ideas from initiation to realisation.
- Analyse critically their own work and that of others.
- Express individual thoughts and choices confidently,
- take risks, experiment and learn from mistakes.

The department has very good facilities and has the specialist equipment to give all pupils the opportunity to explore their specialism to create an original, creative and exciting portfolio of work.

Coursework is 60% of the overall grade and this is completed through a minimum of two and a maximum of six units of work over Years 10 and 11 to create a practical portfolio. The units of work are thematic and each covers a 14-week period. The first unit is teacher-led to guide and support pupils through the assessment criteria. All art work is done in context with Art History from Traditional to Contemporary and the influences of different cultures.

Assessment Objectives:

A01

Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources. 25%.

A02

Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. 25%.

A03

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. 25%.

A04

Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language. 25%.

There is no essay writing; all analysis is done in note form.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)





Why study Biology?

Aside from being a truly interesting subject, Biology is essential for anyone interested in pursuing health-related careers like Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science and many more. It is best to study it in combination with Chemistry to have the greatest chance of a success and progress in the two subjects.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Specification at a glance

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

	Biology Paper 1	Biology Paper 2
Paper code	4BI1/1B	4BI1/2B
Percentage of total IGCSE Mark	61.1 %	38.9%
Externally Assessed	Yes	Yes
Overview of content	<p>Both papers cover the content below, with Paper 2 doing so at a higher level</p> <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 	
Paper length	2 hour	1 hour 15 minutes
Total Number of Marks	110	70

Key subject aims

The Edexcel IGCSE in Biology enables pupils 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.



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

Anita Roddick, successful entrepreneur and founder of The Body Shop

Business Studies pupils 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 pupils 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. Business case studies appropriate for international pupils are used extensively, maintaining a ‘real life’ feel to classroom learning. The course develops pupils’ ability to participate effectively in global society as citizens, producers and consumers.

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 finance 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 pupils to:

- develop an interest in 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 fact 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.

How you will be assessed?

Two-paper assessment

Paper 1: Investigating Small Businesses

Paper 2: Investigating Large Businesses

Career Progression

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

Business graduates may typically work:

- In management as a director or chief executive
- As a specialist functional manager in marketing, finance, sales or 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 or risk manager
- As an accountant or auditor.

[Click here to see the specification](#)

Chemistry

IGCSE - Pearson Edexcel (4CH1)

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Why study Chemistry:

In addition to being a most exciting subject, studying Chemistry is essential for most science-related careers like Chemical Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Forensics and Biochemistry.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Key subject aims

The Edexcel IGCSE in Chemistry qualification enables pupils to:

- Learn about the unifying patterns and themes of Chemistry
- Appreciate the practical nature of Chemistry, acquiring experimental 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

	Chemistry Paper 1	Chemistry Paper 2
Paper code	4CH1/1C	4CH1/2C
Percentage of total IGCSE Mark	61.1 %	38.9%
Externally Assessed	Yes	Yes
Overview of content	<p>Both papers cover the content below, with Paper 2 doing so at a higher level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of chemistry • Inorganic chemistry • Physical chemistry • Organic chemistry 	
Paper length	2 hour	1 hour 15 minutes
Total Number of Marks	110	70

Computer Science

IGCSE – Pearson Edexcel (4CP0)

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Computer Science is the study of the foundational principles and practices of computation and computational thinking and their application in the design and development of computer systems. Learning computational thinking involves learning to program, that is to write computer code, because this is the means by which computational thinking is expressed.

Key aims of the course are to:

- Develop computational thinking.
- Develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems by using computers.
- Develop understanding that every computer system is made up of sub-systems, which in turn consist of further sub-systems.
- Develop an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communications and people.
- Acquire the skills necessary to apply this understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems.

Assessment is through two written papers: there is no coursework for this course. Paper 1 focuses on the course concepts as algorithms, Boolean and data encoding and encryption.

Paper 2 is a practical exam allowing pupils to demonstrate their programming and problem solving skills..

Taking IGCSE Computer Science is an excellent choice if you are looking to pursue the subject in further education. It is also a valuable qualification to gain for a range of jobs, including the fields of computing, science and engineering.



[Click here to see the subject specifications](#)

Exam	Overview	Weighting
Paper 1 : Principles of Computer Science	Written paper, testing the concepts and principles that have been studied during the course.	50%
Paper 2 : Application of Computational Thinking	Practical Examination, consisting of multiple-choice, short open-response, open-response, extended open response answer and task-based questions.	50%



The GCSE in Design & Technology enables pupils to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables pupils to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

The subject requires pupils 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 in year 11 as follows:

- A final exam – 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)
- A Design and Make project (50%)

Three contextual challenges will be provided each year, from which pupils must choose one to respond to.

Pupils will produce a project which consists of a portfolio and a prototype, graded equally.

There are four parts to the assessment:

- A01: Investigate
- A02: Design
- A03: Make
- A04: Evaluate

Past challenges have been:

- Making Travel more comfortable.
- Improving the experience of a Festival.
- Educating children during their visit to a Zoo.

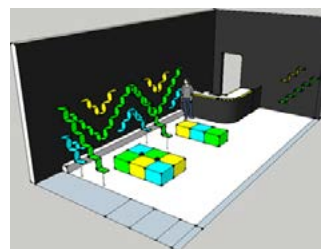
This qualification supports progression to courses in Product Design, Engineering and Graphic Media.

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

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

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Examples of past Controlled Assessment Projects at BISAk



Double Science

IGCSE – Pearson Edexcel (Double award) (4SD0)

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Why study Double Science? This is a new option that offers the following advantages:

1. Pupils get to study all 3 sciences at GCSE.
2. The stress of making science subject choices at Year 9 is lessened.
3. With iGCSE Double Science, pupils are still able to study all or any of the 3 Sciences at A-level.
4. Medical schools are known to reject applications if pupils did not study all 3 Sciences at GCSE.

5. The general perception is that you only need Chemistry and Biology for medicine;
6. But there is a significant requirement for Physics as well.
7. At Year 9, most pupils are not sure of which career path they will pursue in future; restricting the choice of sciences at this early stage can have consequences on options in later life.

Key subject aims

The Edexcel IGCSE in Science (Double Award) enables pupils to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of facts, concepts and principles in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Develop skills in experimental work, scientific method and accurate reporting.
- Form hypotheses and design experiments to test them.
- Understand and appreciate the challenges of scientific and technological developments; including social, environmental and economic issues.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Specification at a glance

This Edexcel IGCSE in Science (Double Award) qualification comprises three externally assessed papers:

	Biology Paper 1	Chemistry Paper 1	Physics Paper 1
Paper code	4SD0/1B	4SD0/1C	4SD0/1P
Percentage of total IGCSE Mark	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Externally Assessed	Yes	Yes	Yes
Overview of content			
Each paper covers the content below			
Biology 1: <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 		Physics 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Section 8: Astrophysics 	
Chemistry 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1: Principles of chemistry • Section 2: Inorganic chemistry • Section 3: Physical chemistry • Section 4: Organic Chemistry 			
Paper length	2 hours for each paper		
Total Number of Marks	330 marks total (110 for each paper)		



"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining"

Quote by John F Kennedy, American President 1962

Economics pupils develop a sound understanding of real-life 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

- Demand and supply
- The role of the market in solving economic problems
- The labour market

Government and the Economy

- Macroeconomic objectives
- Policies
- The relationship between objectives and policies

Business Economics

- Production
- Competition
- Public and private sectors

The Global Economy

- Globalisation
- International trade
- Exchange rates

Why study Economics?

The Edexcel IGCSE in Economics enables pupils 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.

How you will be assessed?

Two-paper assessment

We will test knowledge, understanding, analytical and evaluation skills around two themes:

Paper 1: Microeconomics and Business Economics

Paper 2: Macroeconomics and the Global Economy.

Concepts and content

The content in both Paper 1: Microeconomics and Business Economics and Paper 2: Macroeconomics and the Global Economy is engaging and accessible for all pupils. It is appropriate and relevant for international pupils, building progression in the understanding and awareness of economic theory and testing concepts in realistic contexts. It develops pupils' ability to participate effectively in global society as citizens, producers and consumers.

Career progression

Entry to A level Economics does not usually depend upon pupils having gained a GCSE in the subject. However, pupils who plan to study Economics at A level or beyond have an advantage over other pupils if they have already achieved the IGCSE 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.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)



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 pupils 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, which second only to English in this regard. French and English are the only languages spoken as a native language on five continents and the only language taught in every country in the world. In many countries, French plays an important international role as an administrative or commercial language and is vital to learn simply because so many countries have a significant French-speaking population.

Course Specifications

Course Specifications: The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in French is part of a suite of International GCSE qualifications offered by Pearson. The qualification is designed primarily for pupils who are studying French in order to enhance their future education or employment prospects. Pupils at this level are expected to understand the main points of familiar matters regularly encountered

in work, school, leisure, etc., and can deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in an area where the language is spoken. They can produce simple, connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest, and can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions, and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. Pupils will be expected to communicate formally and informally in a range of contexts, and to understand a wide range of texts and styles. The aim of the qualification is to test French language competence through realistic and contextualised tasks based on authentic texts. Speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are tested through three examination papers. The course will focus on the language required to deal with practical real-life situations and covers the exam themes and subtopics:

- Identity and culture
- Local Area, Holiday and Travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Edexcel IGCSE Examination

Examinations are offered at Foundation and Higher Tier and pupils will be entered on an appropriate tier according to their level of achievement on the course.

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in French Externally assessed

- 25% of the total qualification.

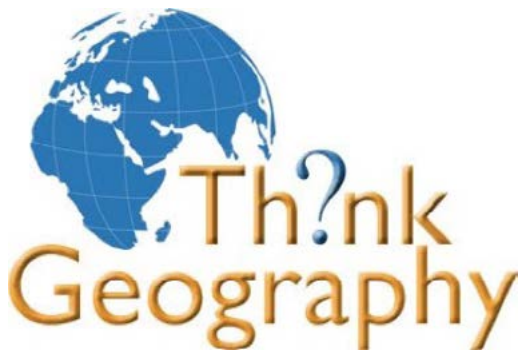
Paper 2: Reading and writing in French Externally assessed

- 50% of the total qualification.

Paper 3: Speaking in French Internally conducted and externally assessed

- 25% of the total qualification.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)



Why choose Geography?

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.

What do geographers do?

Geography graduates are sometimes the most employable. They possess the skills that employers often seek from young people. In part, this is because the subject combines knowledge of science and an understanding of the humanities and arts.

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.

Geographers can:

- Make a concise report
- Handle data
- Ask questions and find answers
- Make decisions about an issue
- Analyse material
- Think creatively and independently.

Geographers are:

- Good communicators
- Spatially aware
- Socially, economically and environmentally aware
- Problem-solvers
- Good team players.

Geography can support careers in:

Accountancy, Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Armed Forces, Business Studies, Civil Service, Health and Safety, History of Art, Law, Management Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Police, Politics, Publishing, Psychology and Teaching.

Geography-specific careers include:

Cartography, Earth Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Geographical Information Systems/Information Technology, Geology, Hazard Risk Management, International Aid, Meteorology, Nature Conservation, Seismology, Surveying, Sustainability Consultancy, Teaching, Tourism, Town Planning, Transport and Volcanology.

Where will fieldwork take place?

Fieldwork plays a vital part in the course though pupils no longer undertake coursework. If possible, pupils should take part in field trips, which may take place in Bahrain. The decision as to where the field trip(s) will go will depend on costs, as well as social, political considerations and Covid-19.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Paper 1: Physical Geography 40% (1 hour & 10 mins)	Paper 2: Human Geography 60% (1 hour & 45 mins)
Section A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal environments • Hazardous environments 	Section A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic activity & energy • Urban environments
Section B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork-related questions on Physical Geography topics 	Section B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork-related questions on Human Geography topics
	Section C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragile Environments or • Globalisation & Migration

Global Citizenship

IGCSE - Pearson Edexcel (4GL1)

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What is global Citizenship?

This qualification seeks to develop pupils as global citizens; to improve their awareness of the wider world; to support them in gaining a sense of their own role as citizens and participating in the community. The qualification focuses on and links together themes and their impact on citizens globally. A link to the subject specification with further details can be found [here](#).

Community Action Project

The pupils will undertake a community action project as part of their qualification. Taking citizenship action outside of the classroom allows pupils the opportunity to apply citizenship knowledge, understanding and skills and to communicate their actions. It will require the pupils to practise a range of citizenship skills such as research and enquiry, interpretation of evidence, including primary and secondary sources, planning, collaboration, problem solving, advocacy, campaigning and evaluation. In carrying out the community action project, pupils will learn:

- Key principles of undertaking a citizenship community action project.
- Planning an appropriate citizenship community action project in relation to one or more key themes.
- Undertaking, reflecting on and reviewing the outcomes of the citizenship community action project and its impact / possible future impact upon the pupil, individuals and / or other community groups.

Assessment

Pupils will complete one exam paper in 2 hours and 30 minutes. A sample assessment for further details can be found [here](#).

Topics

Section A - Marks 20

A mixture of short answer, medium and longer questions.

Section B - Marks 30

Based on the community action project.

Section C - Marks 30

A mixture of multiple choice, short answer, medium and longer questions.

Section D - Marks 20

Questions will be based on sources provided.

Beyond IGCSE

Due to its variety of topics, Global Citizenship complements pupils studying subjects such as geography, history, economics, business, ICT, computer science, sociology, English, mathematics, and sciences. Pursuing an IGCSE in Global Citizenship opens pathways for further education and career prospects. Educational institutions recognise the value of this qualification as it can serve as a strong foundation for A-level studies, particularly in subjects such as geography, history, politics and sociology. Global Citizenship emphasises a wide variety of transferrable skills that are highly relevant in today's job market, such as project management, collaboration, communication, reasoning, problem solving and evaluation. Employers value graduates who demonstrate global awareness and social responsibility. Careers in international relations, consultancy, law and journalism are just a few examples of paths that may stem from the insights gained through this course, though the options it allows are virtually endless.

Themes

- Political change and governance through international relations and systems of regulation
- Economic development through trade and economic growth and adaptation; sustainable development; the sharing of one planet
- Social and cultural development through media and telecommunications; travel and migration
- Technological development and advancements

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)



As Theodore Roosevelt said, “The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.”

Most people who study History do not become professional historians, however employers often deliberately seek pupils with capabilities that the studying of History promotes. It is 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 subject promotes academic rigour, critical analysis and researching skills, which enable pupils to find and evaluate sources of information and identify and discuss diverse interpretations. This is invaluable in equipping pupils with the skills 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 pupils 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 pupils to:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of selected periods of history, exploring the significance of historical events, people, changes and issues.
- Use historical sources critically and reach conclusions.
- Organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding.
- Draw conclusions and make historical judgements.

This is an untiered qualification; all pupils are capable of reaching the top grades. There is also no compulsory content – teachers choose the areas of study which suit their needs and resources. This course provides progression to Edexcel International AS and A level in History, or equivalent qualifications.

Assessment

The Edexcel IGCSE in History comprises two external examinations. Both are 1 hour 30 minutes long and are worth 60 marks, or 50% of the final IGCSE grade.

Paper 1

Pupils answer two questions from a list of depth topics. Example topics include:

1. Germany: development of dictatorship, 1918–45
2. A world divided: superpower relations, 1943–72
3. A divided union: civil rights in the USA, 1945–74.

Paper 2

Pupils answer two questions.

One is about a historical investigation they have studied. Potential topics include:

1. The origins and course of World War One, 1905–18
2. Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905–24
3. The USA, 1918–41
4. The Vietnam Conflict, 1945–75

Pupils also answer one breadth topic question. Examples of study include:

1. The changing role of international organisations: The League and the UN, 1919–c2011
2. The changing nature of warfare and international conflict, 1919–2011
3. The Middle East: conflict, crisis and change, 1917–2012

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)



ICT and Computer Science are unique and complementary subjects serving different purposes and meeting different pupil needs, which is why we are offering both subjects as International GCSEs. ICT develops important skills in pupils, such as data handling, which are transferable and useful for a wide range of jobs. Studying ICT provides pupils with every opportunity to learn skills that will enable them to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable Pupils to:

- Develop as confident and competent ICT users
- Operate confidently in today's digital world.
- Develop relevant and transferable practical skills needed in further education and work.
- Learn about topics ranging from digital devices and connectivity, safe and responsible practice.
- Understand the impact of the internet on the way that organisations do business.
- Practise using software applications effectively.

How you will be assessed:

Paper / Type	Time	Weighting	Course Content
Paper 1 : Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes	50%	Topic 1: Digital Devices Topic 2: Connectivity Topic 3: Operating Online Topic 4: Online Goods and Services.
Paper 2 : Practical Exam	3 hours	50%	Topic 5: Applying Information and Communication Technology Topic 6: Software Skills

- Explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society.
- Learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts by individuals and organisations.
- Develop awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice.
- Work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts.
- Learn how to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and how to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Music

GCSE Music – Pearson Edexcel (1MU0)

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Why study Music:

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate pupils to be the best they can be. It is a vehicle for individual expression, and it can play an important role in personal development. We provide opportunities for all to create, play, perform and enjoy music; to develop the skills to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to develop the confidence to make informed judgements about music. Pupils can gain extra UCAS points when applying to university by completing graded music exams (ABRSM). Music is a great supplementary subject to have as Russell group universities are looking out for rigorous subjects like music that demonstrate creativity and music theory skills. GCSE music with Pearson/Edexcel is well known for its rigor and challenge.



[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Coursework (60%)	Exam (40%)
<p>Performance</p> <p>Solo Performance (15%) - Pupils will practice and perform a piece on their principal instrument</p> <p>Ensemble Performance (15%) - Pupils will perform their instrument in a group or Duet</p>	<p>Listening and Appraising Exam (written)</p> <p>Section A – Listening questions based on the 8 set works (pieces of music), dictation and unfamiliar music.</p> <p>Section B – Extended written response, comparison to set works and one unfamiliar piece</p>
<p>Composition</p> <p>Set brief (15%) - Compose music based of brief set by exam board</p> <p>Free composition (15%) - Compose music in any style of your choice</p>	
<p>All coursework is moderated internally and marked and assessed externally</p>	<p>Exams are marked and assessed externally</p>



GCSE PE opens the door to many different career paths, for example: a professional sports person, coaching, the Sport & Leisure Industry, sports agent, the Travel & Tourism industry, personal training, physiotherapy, nutrition, firefighting, the police force, the armed services, an event's organiser and teaching.

Having a PE qualification also shows that a pupil has more to offer than academic skills. GCSE PE requires teamwork, dedication, good communication, organisational skills, responsibility, the ability to analyse and evaluate and a high level of practical ability. All of these are greatly valued by sixth form colleges and universities.

GCSE PE is split into two areas: theory and practical, which is combined with the coursework.

Theory

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes. 36% of the overall grade.

Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology

- The musculo-skeletal system
- The cardio-respiratory system
- Anaerobic and aerobic exercise
- Short and long term effects of exercise.

Topic 2: Movement analysis

- Lever systems and the mechanical advantage they provide in movement
- Planes and axes of movement.

Topic 3: Physical training

- Health and fitness and the role that exercise plays in both
- The components of fitness
- The principles of training
- The long term effects of exercise
- Injury prevention
- Effective use of a warm up and cool down

Topic 4: Use of data

- Develop knowledge of data analysis

Paper 2: 1 hour 15 minutes. 24% of the overall grade.

Topic 1: Health, fitness and well-being

- Physical, emotional and social health, fitness and well-being
- The consequences of a sedentary lifestyle
- Energy, diet, nutrition and hydration.

Topic 2: Sport psychology

- Classification of skill
- Goal-setting and SMART targets
- Guidance and feedback on performance
- Mental preparation.

Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences

- Different social groups in physical activity and sport
- Commercialism of physical activity and sport
- Ethical and socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.

Topic 4: Use of data

- Develop knowledge and understanding of data analysis in relation to key areas of physical activity and sport.

Practical activity: 30% of the overall grade

- Pupils complete three physical activities:
 - One must be a team activity.
 - One must be an individual activity.
 - The final activity can be a free choice (team or individual).

Practical coursework: 10% of the overall grade

- Pupils must produce a "Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)". This is a written piece of coursework, which combines with an analysis of their own and others' practical performance.

[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Physics

IGCSE - Pearson Edexcel (4PH1)

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Careers

The study of Physics can be challenging but at the same time most rewarding. It is essential for most engineering degrees such as Civil, Mechanical, Chemical, Electronic and Electrical Engineering. It is also desirable for a wide range of other courses including Computer Science, Architecture and Finance.

Specification at a glance

The Edexcel IGCSE in Physics qualification comprises two assessments:

	Physics Paper 1	Physics Paper 2
Paper code	4PH1/1P	4PH1/2P
Percentage of total IGCSE Mark	61.1 %	38.9%
Externally Assessed	Yes	Yes
Overview of content	<p>Both papers cover the content below, with Paper 2 doing so at a higher level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Section 8: Astrophysics 	
Paper length	2 hours	1 hour 15 minutes
Total Number of Marks	110	70

Key subject aims

The Edexcel IGCSE in Physics enables pupils 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 practice.
- Appreciate the importance of work and reporting to scientists.
- Form hypotheses and design experiments to test them.
- Evaluate, in terms of their accuracy and understanding, the results of scientific and technological experiments.
- Select, organise and present clearly and logically, using scientific terms and conventions.



[Click here to see the subject specification](#)



What's it all about?

Psychology is a scientific subject that looks at the brain and behaviour. It is about people, both as individuals and as members of society and includes biological and environmental effects on the individual.

Overview of the curriculum

At GCSE you will be introduced to psychological concepts and methodologies in the context of real-life issues, focusing on key questions, the work of renowned psychologist and research.

This GCSE will help you gain another science-based GCSE, and it provides a useful basis for studying the subject at A-Level.

Careers

- Clinical psychologist
- Counselling psychologist
- Education mental health practitioner
- Educational psychologist
- Forensic psychologist
- Health psychologist
- High intensity therapist
- Sports and exercise psychologist
- Border Force office
- Dance movement psychotherapist
- Market researcher
- Neuroscientist
- Play therapist
- Social researcher

How will you be assessed?

You will sit two external papers at the end of Y11 covering the following units:

Paper 1: Section A

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

Paper 2: Section B

Topic 11	Research methods	How do you carry out psychological research?
Topic 6	• Criminal psychology	• Why do people become criminals?
Topic 9	• Sleep and dreaming	• Why do you need to sleep and dream?

Exam

Paper	Time	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	1 hour and 45 minutes	55%	1-5
Paper 2	1 hour and 20 minutes	45%	11, 6, 9

[Click here to see more for careers](#)



[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Parents' Guide to the Pearson International BTEC Level 2 Qualification

Introduction

Choosing the right qualification for your child is an important decision. The Pearson International BTEC Level 2 qualification is designed to provide pupils aged approximately 14–16 with practical, career-focused learning that builds both academic knowledge and real-world skills. This guide explains what the qualification involves, how it is assessed, and how it can support your child’s future education and career pathways.

What is the International BTEC Level 2?

The International BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) Level 2 is a globally recognised qualification developed by Pearson. It combines theoretical understanding with practical application, helping pupils learn by doing rather than relying solely on traditional exams.

Key features include: - **Career-focused learning** connected to real industries - **Continuous assessment** rather than one final high-stakes exam - **Skill development** in communication, teamwork, research, and problem-solving - **International recognition** by schools, colleges, and employers.

Level 2 qualifications are broadly equivalent to GCSE-level study.

Why Choose BTEC for Your Child?

Many pupils thrive in environments where learning is interactive and applied. BTEC courses are ideal for learners who: - Prefer coursework, projects, and practical assignments - Enjoy linking learning to real-life situations - May not perform at their best in exam-only systems - Want to explore potential career interests early.

Pupils often develop confidence because progress is measured throughout the course rather than based on a single exam.

Subjects Available

We offer 2 different subject options for BTEC Level 2 subjects include:

Business Studies

It includes key areas such as: Organisations, Purpose, Finance and marketing.



[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

Travel and Tourism

It includes key areas such as: Industry, History, Development and research into various hospitality industries.



[Click here to see the subject specification](#)

How is the Qualification Assessed?

Assessment is designed to reflect real workplace tasks.

Coursework-Based Units

Most units are assessed through assignments such as:

- Reports
- Presentations
- Practical projects
- Case studies
- Group work

External Assessment

Some programmes include externally set and marked assessments to ensure consistent international standards.

Grading

Pupils typically receive grades such as:

- **Distinction** – Outstanding performance
- **Merit** – Strong understanding and application
- **Pass** – Secure achievement of required skills

Schools may combine unit grades into an overall qualification result.

Skills Your Child Will Develop

Beyond subject knowledge, BTEC pupils build transferable skills valued by universities and employers:

- Independent learning
- Time management
- Research skills
- Collaboration
- Professional communication
- Critical thinking

These competencies help prepare pupils for further study and the workplace.

Progression After Level 2

The International BTEC Level 2 provides multiple progression routes, including:

- **BTEC International Level 3 qualifications** (equivalent to A Levels)
- **A Levels or other academic programmes** (depending on school entry requirements)
- **Specialised technical pathways**

The qualification supports both academic and vocational futures.

How Parents Can Support Their Child

Your involvement plays a key role in your child's success.

- **Encourage organisation:** Coursework often involves longer deadlines, so planning ahead is important.
- **Show interest in assignments:** Ask your child what they are working on and how it connects to real careers.
- **Promote independence:** Support them in managing their workload without doing the work for them.
- **Stay informed:** Attend school information sessions and communicate with teachers when needed.

[Further information and case studies – click here](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Is BTEC easier than traditional qualifications?

No – it is different rather than easier. Pupils must consistently meet assessment criteria and demonstrate applied understanding.

Will universities accept BTEC qualifications?

Yes. BTEC pathways are widely recognised, especially when pupils progress to Level 3.

Can my child switch to academic routes later?

In many cases, yes. Schools advise on entry requirements for different pathways.

Does it limit career choices?

Not at all. BTEC qualifications open doors to both higher education and employment sectors.

Key Benefits at a Glance

- Practical, engaging approach to learning
- Develops workplace-ready skills
- Recognised internationally
- Supports multiple future pathways
- Builds confidence through continuous assessment

Final Thoughts

The Pearson International BTEC Level 2 qualification is an excellent option for pupils who benefit from applied learning and skill development. By combining academic knowledge with practical experience, it helps prepare young people for the next stage of their education and their future careers.

