



COMPASS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# AS & A LEVEL GUIDE ▶▶▶



## Table of Contents

Message from the Head of Secondary.....	3
Message from the Head of Compass PLUS .....	4
BTEC International Level 3 Certificate Applied Science .....	6
Edexcel International AS and A Level Arabic (WAA01/WAA02) .....	7
Pearson Art And Design A Level 2 Years .....	8
Edexcel International AS and A Level Biology (WBI1) .....	9
Edexcel International A and AS Level in Business (XBS11/YBS11) .....	10
Edexcel International AS and A Level Chemistry (WCH1) .....	12
Cambridge International AS and A Level in Drama (9482) .....	15
Edexcel International A and AS Level in Economics (XEC11/YEC11) .....	16
Cambridge International AS Level in English General Paper (8021) .....	18
Edexcel International AS and A Level in English Language (XEN01/YEN01) .....	19
Edexcel International AS and A Level in English Literature (XET01/YET01) .....	20
Edexcel International AS and A Levels (IAL and IASL) French (XFR01/YFR01) and Spanish (XSP01/YSP01) .....	21
Cambridge International AS and A Level in Geography (9696) .....	23
Cambridge International AS Level in Global Perspectives & Research (9239) .....	24
Edexcel International A and AS level History (XHI01) .....	25
Edexcel International AS and A Level in Mathematics (WMA1) .....	26
Cambridge International A and AS Level in Music (9483) .....	29
Edexcel AS and A Level Psychology (8PS0/01 and 9PS0/01) .....	30
Edexcel International AS and A Level Physics (WPH1) .....	31
Cambridge International AS and A Level Information Technology (9626) .....	33
Cambridge International AS Physical Education (8386) .....	34

# Message from the Head of Secondary

Dear Students and Parents,

We live in exciting times. As students move into the next stage of their education, choosing the right subjects, for the right reasons, can feel both challenging and daunting. The purpose of this booklet is to provide a clear overview of each subject, including course content and assessment methods, to support informed and confident decision-making.

Selecting your combination of AS levels is an important step forward and should be guided by your interests, ambitions, and enjoyment of learning. The choices made at this stage can open or close future pathways, so they should be considered carefully and in consultation with teachers and family members. You are not alone in this process, and we encourage you to seek advice from trusted adults who know you well.

Above all, consider the following

- Are you genuinely interested in the subject and the content studied?
- Do you already have, or are you willing to develop, the skills required for success in the subject?
- Is the subject relevant to your future academic or professional goals?
- Are you academically secure in the subject and able to manage approximately five hours of lessons per week in school?

While positive relationships between students and teachers are extremely important, they should not be the basis for choosing a subject. In international schools, especially, staffing can change, and subject choices should always be grounded in long-term suitability rather than individual preferences.

AS and A levels are academically demanding courses. Success requires significant commitment beyond the classroom,



including independent study, research, and consolidation of learning. The expectations for self-discipline, organisation, and resilience increase substantially between Year 11 and Year 12.

For entry into our Sixth Form, we require a minimum of five A\* to C grades, including English. To succeed at AS level, students should have achieved at least a Grade C (4) at IGCSE in the relevant subject, with a Grade B (5 or 6) or higher preferred for most courses. Subject choices are always considered on an individual basis, as every student's circumstances and aspirations are unique. Parents and students are warmly invited to arrange a meeting with the school's leadership team to discuss future pathways and options.

Please take time to read this booklet carefully. We look forward to supporting you through this important stage and to meeting you in the coming weeks.

Warm regards,

Thomas Kinnersley  
**Head of Secondary, Themaid Campus**

## Message from the Head of Compass PLUS

Welcome to Compass PLUS, and thank you for taking the time to explore your A-level options.

Choosing your subjects is an important step, not because it fixes your future, but because it begins to shape the way you think, learn and challenge yourself over the next two years. At Compass PLUS, we believe education should be intellectually demanding, personally supportive and future-focused.



### Our learning philosophy

A-level study at Compass PLUS is built around depth, independence and purpose. Lessons are discussion-based, analytical and academically rigorous. Students are expected to move beyond memorising content and instead develop the ability to question, evaluate, synthesise ideas and apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

Learning does not stop at the classroom door. Study periods are an essential part of the week and are used to consolidate learning, complete wider reading, practise exam skills and develop independent study habits. Teachers guide this process closely, but responsibility increasingly sits with the student, preparing them for university and beyond.

### Key themes of A-level study

Across all subjects, students will:

- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Learn to communicate ideas clearly, both verbally and in writing
- Build resilience, organisation and self-discipline
- Engage with subject content at a deeper, more conceptual level
- Make connections between ideas within and across subjects

We value academic ambition, but equally we value growth, curiosity and effort.

### Choosing subjects in Year 12 (AS level)

In Year 12, students typically begin with four AS subjects. This allows time to adjust to the demands of learning while keeping options open. When choosing AS subjects, students should consider:

- Subjects they genuinely enjoy and are motivated to study
- Strengths demonstrated at GCSE or equivalent
- Future university or career aspirations (where known)
- A balanced combination of subjects that play to their skills

Advice and guidance are built into the process, and students are supported to make informed, realistic and ambitious choices.

## Progressing to Year 13 (A level)

At the end of Year 12, students usually narrow their study to three subjects, which they continue as full A-levels in Year 13. This decision is based on:

- Performance and engagement during Year 12
- Suitability for the demands of full A-level study
- Future pathways and aspirations

This staged approach allows students to refine their choices with confidence, ensuring they enter Year 13 focused, prepared and motivated.

## The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

EPQ is an optional qualification that allows students to research a topic of personal interest in depth alongside their A-level studies. Students independently design a research question, manage their time, and produce a final outcome such as a written dissertation or project, supported by a reflective log and presentation. The EPQ develops key skills including independent learning, critical thinking, research and academic writing, and is highly valued by universities as strong preparation for higher education.

## Our commitment to students

At Compass PLUS, we know that success at A-level is not just about grades. It is about developing confident, reflective and independent young people who are ready for the challenges of higher education and the wider world.

We look forward to supporting you through this exciting next stage of your academic journey.

Warm regards,

Tim Nixon,

**Head of Compass PLUS**

[timothy.nixon@nais.qa](mailto:timothy.nixon@nais.qa)

# BTEC International Level 3 Certificate Applied Science

BTEC (*Business & Technology Education Council*) International Level 3 Applied Science is a vocational qualification designed for students who want to explore science through practical, real-world applications. It bridges theoretical knowledge with hands-on learning, preparing students for careers or further studies in scientific fields such as healthcare, laboratory work, environmental science, or engineering.

Students will receive the certificate upon successful completion of the course:

**Certificate:** This option provides a foundational understanding of applied science. It includes key units such as:

- *Principles and Applications of Science:* Covering fundamental concepts in biology, chemistry, and physics.
- *Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques:* Focused on laboratory skills and methodologies.

The BTEC approach emphasises continuous assessment through coursework, practical assignments, and applied learning, equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and practical expertise.

## Assessment for BTEC International Level 3 Applied Science

The BTEC assessment approach is designed to evaluate both theoretical understanding and practical skills, ensuring students are well-prepared for real-world applications of science. The assessment method of the **Certificate** is as follows:

**Certificate:**

- **Internal Assessment:** All units are assessed internally by teachers using practical tasks, projects, and coursework.
- **Assignments:** These are set within real-world or simulated scientific scenarios, encouraging students to apply their knowledge and skills.
- **Grading:** Students are graded based on criteria outlined in the unit specifications, focusing on how well they demonstrate understanding, research, and practical application.
- **Units Assessed:** Typically includes fewer core units like Principles and Applications of Science and Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques.

**Key Features of BTEC Assessment :**

- **No Final Exams:** Unlike traditional qualifications, BTEC focuses on continuous assessment through assignments and projects.
- **Practical Focus:** Hands-on experiments and investigations are a central part of the assessment process.
- **Flexible Deadlines:** Students have time to refine their work, encouraging deeper understanding and skill development.
- **Grading System:** Each assignment contributes to an overall grade of Pass, Merit, or Distinction.

This assessment approach ensures that students not only master scientific content but also develop key skills such as critical thinking, time management, and independent learning—preparing them for further studies or scientific careers.

Students are required to convey their understanding of written Arabic through a series of reading tasks. They also need to draw on their knowledge of Arabic language, grammar and lexis to select appropriate forms of words to complete sentences, as well as demonstrate an ability to manipulate Arabic language in continuous writing. Students will be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts and in relation to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle, health and fitness
- Environment and travel
- Education and employment.

## Assessment overview

**Written examination:**

2 hour 30 minute examination in three sections.

**Section A:** Reading. Students will need to understand, retrieve and convey information from a short series of different Arabic-language texts. They will be required to provide a mix of non-verbal and Arabic-language responses. In addition, marks will be given for vocalisation of text produced in response to one of the questions.

**Section B:** Grammar. Students will be assessed on their ability to manipulate Arabic language, grammar and lexis. They will be assessed on their ability to vocalise Arabic vowels and select the right word form over three distinct tasks focusing on a topic area to provide contextualisation.

**Section C:** Essay. Students will write a 240–280 word essay, in Arabic, in response to a short Arabic language stimulus and related bullet points. The assessment rewards learners for communicating relevant information effectively as well as for the quality of the Arabic language produced.



## Aims

The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design are to enable students to develop:

- intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities
- investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes
- their experience of working with a broad range of media
- an understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate

## Syllabus Content

### Fine Art

Fine art requires engagement with aesthetic and intellectual concepts through the use of traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques and processes for the purpose of self-expression, free of external constraints. Fine art may be created to communicate ideas and messages about the observed world, the qualities of materials, perceptions, or preconceptions. It can also be used to explore personal and cultural identity, society and how we live, visual language, and technology. Fine Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

### Disciplines within Fine Art

For the purposes of this qualification, fine art is sub-divided into the following four disciplines:

- painting and drawing
- printmaking
- sculpture
- lens-based image making.

Students will be required to work in one or more of the disciplines to communicate their ideas. By working across disciplines, they will extend their understanding of the scope of fine art; by focusing on one discipline, they will gain a deeper understanding of specific processes within fine art.

## Assessment

### Component 1: Personal Investigation

This component is weighted **60%** of the total qualification. This component incorporates **practical work** and a **personal study** of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose. The personal study will consist of a critical and analytical written piece of a minimum 1000 words continuous prose, making links to the student's own practical investigations, supported by contextual research. The personal study comprises 12% of the final qualification and is marked out of 18.

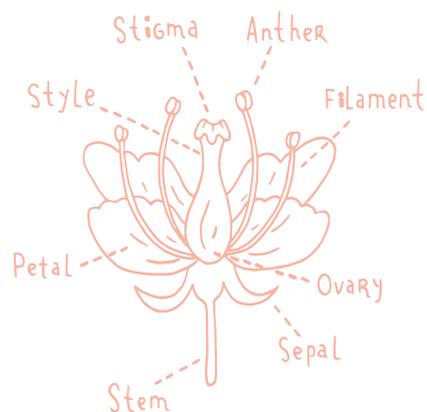
### Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

This component is weighted **40%** of the total qualification. This component incorporates **two major elements: preparatory studies and the 15-hour period of sustained focus**. The Externally Set Assignment represents the culmination of the GCE Qualification allowing students to draw together all the knowledge, understanding and skills developed throughout. The Externally Set Assignment consists of one broad-based thematic starting point to which students respond by developing a portfolio of practical work and final outcome(s).

Biology is a rapidly expanding science. It forms the basis of new and exciting fields of study, such as Biotechnology, Genetics and Ecology. Studying A Level Biology will enable a student to follow one of these courses at university. Students wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science may also take Biology as one of their A Level choices.

Edexcel International AS and A Level Biology builds on the skills acquired at Edexcel IGCSE (or equivalent) level. The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of biology, and a strong emphasis on advanced practical skills. Practical skills are assessed in a timetabled practical examination.

The emphasis throughout is on the understanding of concepts and the application of biology ideas in novel contexts as well as on the acquisition of knowledge. The course encourages creative thinking and problem-solving skills which are transferable to any future career path.



## Content

Candidates for Edexcel International AS Level Biology study the following topics

- Molecules, Transport and Health
- Membranes, Proteins, DNA and Gene Expression
- Cell Structure, Reproduction and Development
- Plant Structure and Function, Biodiversity and Conservation

AS candidates also study practical skills.

Candidates for Edexcel International A level study the AS topics as well as the following topics.

- Energy Flow, Ecosystems and Environment
- Microbiology, Immunity and Forensics
- Respiration, Muscles and Internal Environment
- Co-ordination, Response and Gene Technology
- A level Candidates also study practical skills

## Assessment

### AS level (end of year 12)

**Paper 1:** Questions on topics one and two  
- 1 hour and 30 minutes

**Paper 2:** Questions on topics three and four  
- 1 hour and 30 minutes

Both paper 1 and 2 may include multiple-choice, short-open, open-response, calculations and extended-writing questions.

**Paper 3:** Practical skills in Biology 1  
- 1 hour and 20 minutes

### A level (end of year 13)

**Paper 4:** Questions on topics five and six  
- 1 hour and 45 minutes

**Paper 5:** Questions on topics seven and eight  
- 1 hour and 45 minutes

Both papers 3 and 4 may include multiple-choice, short-open, open-response, calculations and extended-writing questions.

**Paper 6:** Practical skills in Biology 2  
- 1 Hour 20 minutes

# Edexcel International A and AS Level in Business (XBS11/YBS11)

The study of Pearson Edexcel International AS and A-level Business allows learners to take a first step towards a career in private or public organisations or progress with confidence to a degree in Business and management related subjects.

This A-level is a natural progression from the IGCSE Business studies, although it is possible to take the course with no background in Business. The qualification helps to gain a holistic understanding of business, allows the development of quantitative skills, it allows learners to develop an understanding of current global issues that impact business, preparing them for their next steps in today's global world. Students are encouraged to contextualise theory and respond to real-life international business case studies and stimulus material. To ensure all students are able to access the whole exam paper ramping has been introduced within each question. Questions start with a low mark tariff and become more challenging as students work their way through the paper, helping to build confidence.

## Content

Candidates for Pearson Edexcel International AS level Business study the following topics:

### Unit 1: Marketing and people

- **Meeting customer needs:** the market; market research; market positioning
- **The Market:** demand; supply; the markets; price elasticity of demand (PED); income elasticity of demand (YED)
- **Marketing mix and strategy:** marketing objectives and strategy; product/service design; promotion and branding; pricing strategies; distribution
- **Managing people:** approaches to staffing; recruitment, selection and training; organisational design; motivation in theory and practice; leadership
- **Entrepreneurs and leaders:** role of an entrepreneur; entrepreneurial motives and characteristics; business objectives; business choices

### Unit 2: Managing business activities

- **Planning a business and raising finance:** planning; internal finance; external finance; forms of business; liability
- **Financial planning:** sales, revenue and costs; sales forecasting; break-even; cash-flow; budgets
- **Managing finance:** profit; liquidity; business failure
- **Resource management:** production, productivity and efficiency; capacity utilisation; inventory control; quality management
- **External influences:** economic influences; legislation; competitive environment

Candidates for the Pearson Edexcel International A-level Business study the AS level topics and the following topics:

### Unit 3: Business decisions and strategy

- **Business objectives and strategy:** corporate objectives; theories of corporate strategies; SWOT analysis; impact of external influences
- **Business growth:** growth; organic growth; inorganic growth; problems arising from growth
- **Decision-making techniques:** quantitative sales forecasting; investment appraisal; decision trees; critical path analysis; contribution
- **Influences on business decisions:** corporate culture; stakeholder model vs. shareholder model; business ethics
- **Assessing competitiveness:** interpretation of financial statements; ratio analysis; human resources
- **Managing change:** key factors in change; contingency planning

## Unit 4: Global business

- **Globalisation:** growing economies; international trade and business growth; Factors contributing to increased globalisation; protectionism; trading blocs
- **Global markets and business expansion:** Conditions that prompt trade; Assessment of a country as a market; Assessment of a country as a production location; Reasons for global mergers, takeovers or joint ventures; Global expansion and uncertainty
- **Global marketing:** marketing; niche markets; Cultural/social factors
- **Global industries and companies (multinational corporations):** the impact of MNCs; international business ethics; controlling MNCs

## Assessment

### Year 12 (AS level)

- Unit 1: Marketing and people – 2 hours – 80 marks
- Unit 2: Managing business activities – 2 hours – 80 marks

### Assessment overview

- Section A: Short- and extended-response questions based on sources (30 marks)
- Section B: Same format as Section A, based on different sources (30 marks)
- Section C: One 20-mark essay question, based on one or more sources (20 marks)

### Year 13 (A-level)

- Unit 3: Business decisions and strategy – 2 hours – 80 marks
- Unit 4: Global business – 2 hours – 80 marks

### Assessment overview

- Section A: Short and extended-response questions, based on sources (40 marks)
- Section B: One 20-mark essay question, based on one or more sources (20 marks)
- Section C: One 20-mark essay question, based on one or more sources (20 marks)



# Edexcel International AS and A Level Chemistry (WCHI)

A Level Chemistry studies the material world and through it we can describe and explain our experiences. From baking a cake to recharging a mobile phone, chemistry is involved in everything we do and every day life is influenced by many aspects of chemistry. This subject will continue to be at the forefront of responding to the needs of society; with chemists central to making advances in designing new materials, efficient energy use, drug development and technology

Edexcel International AS and A Level Chemistry builds on the skills acquired at Edexcel IGCSE (or equivalent) level. The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of Chemistry, and a strong emphasis on advanced practical skills. Practical skills are assessed in a timetabled practical examination.

The emphasis throughout is on the understanding of concepts and the application of chemistry ideas in novel contexts as well as on the acquisition of knowledge. The course encourages creative thinking and problem-solving skills which are transferable to any future career path.

## Content

Candidates for Edexcel International AS Level Chemistry study the following topics:

### Unit 1

1. Formulae, Equations and Amount of Substance
2. Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
3. Bonding and Structure
4. Introductory Organic Chemistry and Alkanes
5. Alkenes

### Unit 2

1. Energetics
2. Intermolecular Forces
3. Redox Chemistry and Groups 1, 2 and 7
4. Introduction to Kinetics and Equilibria
5. Organic Chemistry: Alcohols,
6. Halogenoalkanes and Spectra
7. AS Level candidates also study practical skills

### Unit 3

1. Practical Skills in Chemistry

Candidates for Edexcel International A Level Chemistry study the following topics:

### Unit 4

1. Kinetics
2. Entropy and energetics
3. Chemical Equilibria
4. Acid-Base Equilibria
5. Organic chemistry: Carbonyls, Carboxylic
6. Acids and Chirality

### Unit 5

1. Redox Equilibria
2. Transition metals and their chemistry
3. Organic chemistry: Arenes
4. Organic Nitrogen Compounds: Amines, Amides, Amino Acids and Proteins
5. Organic synthesis

### Unit 6

1. Practical skills



## Assessment

### AS Level (end of Year 12)

Paper 1-Unit 1: 1 hour 30 mins

Paper 2- Unit 2: 1 hour 30 mins

Both Paper 1 and 2 may include multiple choice, short-open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

**Paper 3:** Practical skills in Chemistry  
- 1 hour 20 minutes

### A Level (end of Year 13)

Paper 4-Unit 4: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 5-Unit 5: 1 hour 45 minutes

Both paper 3 and 4 may include multiple choice, short-open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

**Paper 6:** Practical Skills in Chemistry  
- 1 hour 20 minutes



19 <b>K</b> POTASSIUM 39.098	20 <b>Ca</b> CALCIUM 40.078	21 <b>Sc</b> SCANDIUM 44.955	22 <b>Ti</b> TITANIUM 47.867	23 <b>V</b> VANADIUM 50.9415	24 <b>Cr</b> CHROMIUM 51.9961	25 <b>Mn</b> MANGANESE 54.938	26 <b>Fe</b> IRON 55.845
37 <b>Rb</b> RUBIDIUM 85.467	38 <b>Sr</b> STRONTIUM 87.62	39 <b>Y</b> YTTRIUM 88.9058	40 <b>Zr</b> ZIRCONIUM 91.224	41 <b>Nb</b> NIOBIUM 92.9063	42 <b>Mo</b> MOLYBDENUM 95.95	43 <b>Tc</b> TECHNETIUM (98)	44 <b>Ru</b> RUTHENIUM 101.07



## Aims

The AS and A Level Drama course provides opportunities for learners to develop their skills as theatrical practitioners, engaging with performance texts in practical and creative ways. It fosters engagement with, and enjoyment of, the study of a wide range of theatrical styles and genres. Through their study, learners will develop as skilled, well-informed, reflective practitioners, able to research ideas and create and interpret meaning through drama.

The course encourages learners to be:

- **Confident**, developing practical skills to deliver dramatic performance for an audience
- **Responsible**, developing shared responsibility, working with others and understanding the power of drama to engage, influence, and persuade
- **Reflective**, engaging with performance processes, and using them to inform future practice innovative, creating original dramatic work and formulating imaginative responses to existing
- **Repertoire** engaged, developing their enjoyment of drama as a means of nourishing their own continuing practical, intellectual, and artistic growth.

## Syllabus Content

At AS Level, students focus on three key areas:

- The exploration, interpretation, and analysis of the potential of dramatic texts in a performance context
- The development of dramatic skills and their application to the process of devising based on a selected stimulus
- The development of acting skills and their application to scripted performance.

At A Level, students focus on three key areas:

- Theatre-making and performance through the process of devising and presenting a piece inspired by a selected practitioner or tradition or style
- Structuring individual performance work from materials on a chosen theme selected and linked by the student
- Exploration of and research into performance texts, practitioners, styles, and genres.

Skills developed through drama are all highly transferable. They can help students in other subject areas, and can help equip them for higher education or employment.

## How will you be assessed:

### AS Level

- Component 1 (Written exam) - 2 hours, 60 marks, 50% of the AS Level
- Component 2 (Practical drama – devising & performing) – 60 marks, 50% of the AS Level

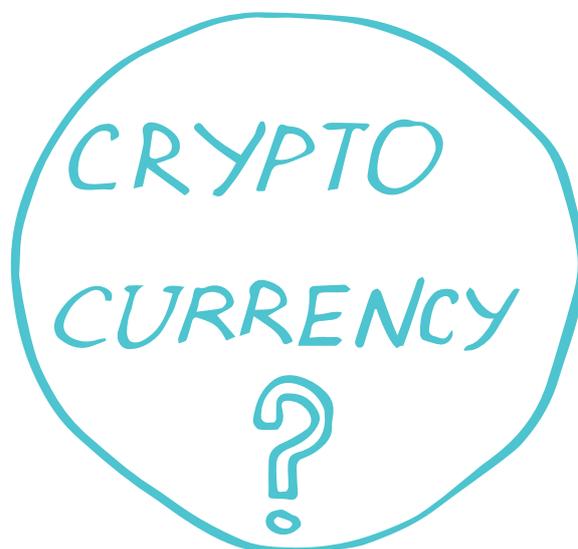
### A Level

- Component 1 (Written exam) - 2 hours, 60 marks, 25% of the A Level
- Component 2 (Practical drama – devising & performing) – 60 marks, 25% of the A Level
- Component 3 (Theatre-making & performing) – 60 marks, 25% of the A Level
- Component 4 (Theatre in context) – 60 marks, 25% of the A Level

The study of Pearson Edexcel International AS and A-level Economics allows learners to explore concepts and theories which can be applied to the way that modern economics work.

Edexcel will engage learners and give them skills that will support their progression to further study. The course is designed to extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills, for example, learners will read sources to interpret and evaluate economic information; write extended responses; respond appropriately to a range of question types, including multiple-choice, short-answer, data response and open-ended questions; develop an understanding of economic concepts and apply these concepts to real-life situations.

Pearson Edexcel International A-level Economics provides a suitable foundation for the study of Economics or related courses in higher education. Equally, it is suitable as part of a course in general education. Students do not need to have studied Economics previously.



### Content

Candidates for Pearson Edexcel International AS level Economics study the following topics:

#### Unit 1: Markets in Action

- Introductory Concepts
- Consumer behaviour and demand
- Supply
- Price determination
- Market failure
- Government intervention in markets

#### Unit 2: Macroeconomic performance and policy

- Measures of economic performance
- Aggregate demand
- Aggregate Supply
- National Income
- Economic growth
- Macroeconomic objectives and policies

Candidates for the Pearson Edexcel International A-level Economics study the AS level topics and the following topics:

### Unit 3: Business behaviour

- Types and size of business
- Revenue, costs and profits
- Market structures and contestability
- Labour markets
- Government intervention

### Unit 4: Development in the global economy

- Causes and effects of globalisation
- Trade and the global economy
- Balance of payments, exchange rates and international competitiveness
- Poverty and inequality
- The role of the state in the macroeconomy
- Growth and development in developing, emerging and developed economies

## Assessment

### Year 12 (AS level)

- Unit 1 Markets in action – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks
- Unit 2 Macroeconomic performance and policy – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks

Both papers are split as:

- Section A: Six multiple-choice questions (6 marks)
- Section B: Five short-answer questions (20 marks)
- Section C: A five-part question, based on data provided in a source booklet (34 marks)
- Section D: One 20-mark essay question from a choice of two (20 marks)

### Year 13 (A-level only)

- Unit 3 Business behaviour – 2 hours – 80 marks
- Unit 4 Development in the global economy – 2 hours – 80 marks

Both papers are split as:

- Section A: Six multiple-choice questions (6 marks)
- Section B: A five-part question, based on data provided in a source booklet (34 marks)
- Section C: Two 20-mark essay questions from a choice of three (40 marks)



# Cambridge International AS Level in English General Paper (8021)

The course develops a set of transferable skills; these include reading comprehension, constructing an argument, presenting views, and writing English coherently and persuasively. Students will develop an understanding and use of language in the context of contemporary topics, and develop an awareness of wider issues through reading, independent reasoning, evaluation, and persuasion skills. In addition, students develop their writing skills and learn how to structure their ideas effectively. They learn to construct well-reasoned arguments, develop clear explanations, and confidently present their own viewpoints while critically reflecting on those of others.

Learners can apply these skills across a range of subjects and these skills can equip them well for progression in higher education or employment.

## Content

Students in Year 12 study a broad range of topics that provide meaningful and stimulating contexts for skills development.

### Topics incorporated:

- Economic, historical, moral, political and social
- Science, including its history, philosophy, ethics, general principles, and applications, environmental issues, technology and mathematics
- Literature, language, the arts, crafts, and the media.

Therefore, this course suits students who are interested in contemporary topics and issues in wider society and the world, and students who enjoy reading, analysing, and evaluating information and thrive on discussion and debates.

## Assessment

### Paper 1: Essay Writing (600-700 words)

One essay question from a choice of 10

1 hour 15 minutes – examination is externally assessed.

### Paper 2: Comprehension

Answer compulsory questions on reading material

1 hour 45 minutes - examination is externally assessed.

# Edexcel International AS and A Level in English Language (XEN01/YEN01)

The English Language course combines linguistic analysis with original writing, requiring students to recognise how texts are crafted for different purposes and audiences, and to recreate this crafting in their own work.

## Key features of the course

- A focus on how language is used to construct identity
- Study of how other languages have affected the development of English and how English has developed outside of the British Isles
- Students create their own texts. One on unseen source texts linked to a single topic and one where they are given a genre and then choose their own audience, purpose and context
- Carry out an independent research topic

## Content

Students in Year 12 deconstruct and recreate a range of genres which are imaginative, narrative, descriptive, persuasive or argumentative in purpose.

Two exams: one producing comparative analytical commentaries, and one in which they produce original writing in response to a set writing brief.

Students in Year 13 continue to build on these skills of analysis and composition, together with studying language in real world contexts, analysing transcribed spoken language given in three contexts: child language acquisition, social groups and global English, language and power, language and technology.

Students are assessed by two examinations: one which combines directed writing with analysis, and a second which requires students to analyse a commentary derived from one of the three language contexts they have studied.

## Assessment

### AS Level (end of Year 12)

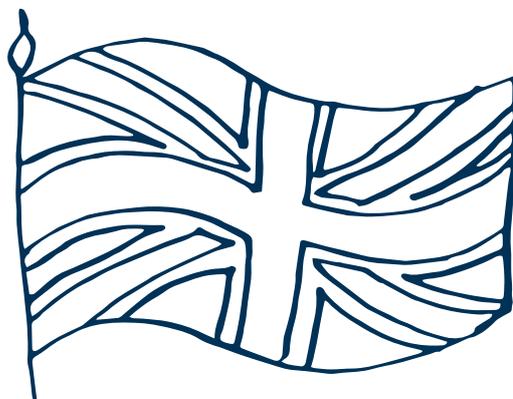
Paper 1: Context and Identity – 1 hour 45 mins

Paper 2: Language in Transition  
– 1 hour 45 mins

### A Level (end of Year 13)

Paper 3: Crafting Language – 2 hours

Paper 4: Investigating Language – 2 hours



# Edexcel International AS and A Level in English Literature (XET01/YET01)

Successful English learners develop a lifelong understanding and enjoyment of literary tools, texts, and, importantly, gain a range of essential skills. Students learn to:

- Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to a range of literary text types in a coherent and sophisticated manner.
- Critically analyse and evaluate texts' meaning and writers' craft.
- Explore connections across literary texts
- Research and apply alternative interpretations of texts and how opinions differ over time.



## Content

Students in Year 12 study a range of post-2000 poetry and a post-2000 contemporary prose. Students also study two drama plays: 1900 Shakespeare tragic play, as well as a post-1900 play by Arthur Miller.

Students in Year 13 study a diverse selection of post-1900 poetry and develop their skills in analysing and comparing two prose texts from different historical periods. In addition, students study one Shakespeare play alongside a range of poems by Romantic-era poets.

This course is suited to students who have an interest in reading a wide variety of contemporary and traditional literature, and to those who are enthusiastic about expressing opinions and discussing their responses with others. Students will learn to recognise the relevance of literature to wider society and make links to the world that we live in.

## Assessment

### AS Level (end of Year 12)

**Paper 1:** Post-2000 Poetry and Prose - 2 hours

**Paper 2:** Drama Pre 1900 and Post 1900  
- 2 hours

### A Level (end of Year 13)

**Paper 3:** Poetry/prose – 2 hours

**Paper 4:** Shakespeare and pre-1900 poetry  
- 2 hours

# Edexcel International AS and A Levels (IAL and IASL) French (XFR01/YFR01) and Spanish (XSP01/YPSP01)

Studying A-Level languages improves career prospects, as multilingual individuals are highly valued in global industries. Language skills also boost university applications and complement other subjects, showcasing intellectual curiosity and discipline. Additionally, learning a language provides personal satisfaction, facilitates meaningful travel experiences, and prepares students for success in an increasingly globalised world.

## Topics for both languages

### Year 12 International AS Level (IASL):

- Youth matters
- Lifestyle, health and fitness
- Environment and travel
- Education and employment

### Year 13 International A-Level (IAL):

This will include the topics covered in the AS specification along with these additional topics:

- Technology in the Spanish/French - speaking world
- Society in the Spanish/French - speaking world
- Ethics in the Spanish/French - speaking world.

## The IASL comprises of two units. (Year 12)

### Unit 1:

**Section A:** Spoken expression and response which is externally assessed. This assessment requires students to respond to four Pearson-set questions on a stimulus related to one of the student's two chosen general topic areas. The spoken examination lasts between 8-10 minutes. There is a total of 40 marks worth 30% of the total IASL qualification and 15% of the IAL.

**Section B:** Discussion – Requires the teacher/examiner to engage the student in a discussion that, although still relating to the same general topic areas and its linked topics, moves away from the main focus of the stimulus.

### Unit 2:

Understanding and written response. An externally assessed written examination worth 2 hours and 30 minutes. This is worth 90 marks which is 70% of the total IASL and 35% of the full IAL.

In that, there are three different sections:

**Section A:** Listening – Requires students to listen to a range of authentic material recorded in Spanish/French and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to a range of questions in Spanish/French. (20 marks)

**Section B:** Reading and Grammar – Requires students to read authentic printed materials in Spanish/French and to retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of questions in Spanish/French. (30 marks)

**Section C:** Writing – Requires students to write an email or article of a recommended length of 240–280 words in Spanish/French based on a short, printed stimulus written in Spanish/French.

## The IAL comprises of four units. (Year 13)

The IAL incorporates the results of the first two units from IASL (Year 12):

**Unit 1:** Spoken Expression and response

**Unit 2:** Understanding and written response

In Year 13, students will study:

**Unit 3:** Spoken expression and response (11-13 minute speaking assessment in the form of a presentation, debate and discussion.)



**Unit 4:** Research, understanding and written response (2 hours and 30 minute assessment covering listening, reading, writing and grammar)

The research task is quite broad and requires students develop their ability to write in Spanish/French by studying one element from a prescribed set of topics, literary texts and films in Spanish/French.

These are sub-divided into:

- A Geography topic
- A History topic
- A Literary text (literature)
- A Film.

# Cambridge International AS and A Level in Geography (9696)

Geography is a flexible subject which complements both Sciences and Arts/Humanities subjects. This means that you can keep your options open when looking at Higher Education and Careers. It is important that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in the environment and current affairs and a willingness to explore new ideas and communicate your ideas effectively.

The Geography syllabus builds upon skills gained at IGCSE (or equivalent) level study. Learners widen their knowledge and understanding of the subject, while developing their investigative abilities and their evaluation and decision-making skills.

The syllabus is wide-ranging and comprises a variety of options. For example, learners can study topics such as hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, atmosphere and weather, rocks and weathering, population change and settlement dynamics. The syllabus considers a range of environments, from tropical to arid, and learners can also study subjects such as environmental management, global interdependence and economic transition.

## Content

Candidates for Cambridge International AS Level Geography study the following topics:

- Hydrology, river processes and hazards
- Atmospheric processes and global climate change
- Earth processes and mass movements
- Population and migration
- Water resources and management
- Urban areas and management

Candidates for Cambridge International A Level Geography study the AS Level topics and two options from:

- Tropical environments
- Coastal environments
- Hazardous environments
- Arid environments

And two options from:

- Environmental issues and management
- Disease and geography
- Climate change impacts and governance
- Trade, aid and tourism

## Assessment

### AS Level (end of Year 12)

Paper 1: Physical Geography

– 1 hour 30 mins

Paper 2: Human Geography

– 1 hour 30 mins

### A Level (end of Year 13)

Paper 3: Global Environments

– 1 hour 30 mins

Paper 4: Global Themes

– 1 hour 30 mins

**\*Each of the four papers are worth 60 marks**



# Cambridge International AS Level in Global Perspectives & Research (9239)

Cambridge International AS Level Global Perspectives and Research is a skills-based course that prepares learners for positive engagement with our rapidly changing world. Learners broaden their outlook through the critical analysis of – and reflection on – issues of global significance. They will develop unique, transferable skills including research, critical thinking and communication by following an approach to analysing and evaluating arguments and perspectives called the 'Critical Path'.

## Assessment

### Component 1 (Written Exam)

1 hour 30 minutes

45 marks (Qu 1 - 5 marks, Qu 2 - 15 marks, Qu 3 - 25 marks)

Written exam consisting of three compulsory questions based on sources provided with the exam paper. The source documents present perspectives on an issue of global significance.

Candidates analyse and evaluate arguments, interrogate evidence and compare perspectives.

**Externally assessed:** 36% of the AS Level

### Component 2 (Essay) 40 marks

Candidates research a global issue of their own choice from topics studied during the course, exploring different perspectives.

Candidates devise their own essay title and write an essay in continuous prose of 1750-2000 words.

**Externally assessed:** 32% of the AS Level

### Component 3 (Team Project) 40 marks

Candidates work in teams to identify a local problem that has global relevance. Each team member researches the problem from a distinct perspective and suggests a solution based on their research findings. Each candidate prepares two pieces of work for individual submission.

Candidates submit:

*Presentation* (30 marks)

Each candidate presents their individual research and proposed solution to the problem in a presentation. Team presentations are not permitted.

*Reflective paper* (10 marks)

Each candidate writes a paper that reflects on the effectiveness of their team's collaboration and on their own learning.

**Externally assessed:** 32% of the AS Level

## Aims

- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance
- Acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of aspects such as social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, as appropriate
- Build on their understanding of the past through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study
- Improve as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds
- Develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them
- Acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study, for example that history is concerned with judgements based on available evidence and that historical judgements are provisional
- Develop their use and understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills
- Make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past
- Organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements.

## Syllabus Content

### **Unit 1: Depth Studies with interpretations (50% AS-Level) – 1 exam, 2 hours**

#### **1A: France in revolution 1774-1799**

- The origins and onset of revolution, 1774–89
- Revolution and the failure of constitutional monarchy, 1789–93
- The National Convention, the Jacobins and the Terror, 1793–94
- From the Directory to Brumaire, 1795–99

### **Unit 2: Breadth Study with Source Evaluation (50% AS-Level) – 1 exam, 2 hours**

#### **1C: Russia 1917-1991**

- Communist government in the USSR, 1917–1991
- Industrial and agricultural change, 1917–1991
- Control of the people, 1917–91
- Social developments, 1917–91

### **Unit 3: Thematic Study (50% A2 Level) – 1 exam, 2 hours**

#### **1D: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1877-2009**

- 'Free at last', 1865–77
- The triumph of 'Jim Crow', 1883–c1900
- Roosevelt and race relations, 1933–45
- 'I have a dream', 1954–68
- Race Relations and Obama's campaign for the presidency, c2000–09

### **Unit 4: Extract evaluation (50% A2 Level) – 1 exam, 2 hours**

#### **1D: The Cold War and Hot War in Asia 1945-90**

- Explaining the outbreak, course and impact of the Korean War (1950-53)
- The Emergence of the Cold War in South East Asia (1945-60)
- War in Indo-China (1961-73)
- South-east Asia without the West; the fading of the Cold War (1973-90)

# Edexcel International AS and A Level in Mathematics (WMA1)

Edexcel International AS & A Level Mathematics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of mathematical knowledge and understanding. Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- A deeper understanding of mathematical principles
- The further development of mathematical skills including the use of applications of mathematics in the context of everyday situations and in other subjects that they may be studying
- The ability to analyse problems logically, recognising when and how a situation may be represented mathematically
- The use of mathematics as a means of communication
- A solid foundation for further study.

## Content

### 1. Pure Mathematics 1 (WMA11)

- 1.1 Algebraic expressions
- 1.2 Quadratics
- 1.3 Equations and inequalities
- 1.4 Graphs and transformations
- 1.5 Straight line graphs
- 1.6 Trigonometric ratios
- 1.7 Radians
- 1.8 Differentiation
- 1.9 Integration

### 2. Pure Mathematics 2 (WMA12)

- 2.1 Algebraic methods
- 2.2 Coordinate geometry in the  $(x,y)$  plane
- 2.3 Exponentials and logarithms
- 2.4 The Binomial expansion
- 2.5 Sequences and series
- 2.6 Trigonometric identities and equations
- 2.7 Differentiation
- 2.8 Integration

### 3. Pure Mathematics 3 (WMA13)

- 3.1 Algebra & Functions
- 3.2 Trigonometry
- 3.3 Exponential & Logarithms
- 3.4 Differentiation
- 3.5 Integration
- 3.6 Numerical Methods

### 4. Pure Mathematics 4 (WMA14)

- 4.1 Proof
- 4.2 Algebra & Functions
- 4.3 Coordinate Geometry in the  $(x, y)$  plane
- 4.4 Binomial Expansion
- 4.5 Differentiation
- 4.6 Integration
- 4.7 Vectors

### 5. Statistics 1 (WST01)

- 5.1 Representation of data
- 5.2 Measures of location and spread
- 5.3 Representations of data
- 5.4 Probability
- 5.5 Correlation and regression
- 5.6 Discrete random variables
- 5.7 The normal distribution

### 6. Mechanics 1 (WME01)

- 6.1 Mathematical models in mechanics
- 6.2 Vectors in mechanics
- 6.3 Kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line
- 6.4 Dynamics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane
- 6.5 Statics of a particle
- 6.6 Moments

## Assessment

### AS Level

The Edexcel International AS Level Mathematics qualification consists of three modules: Pure Mathematics 1, Pure Mathematics 2 and Statistics 1

### A Level

The Edexcel International A Level Mathematics qualification consists of the three modules taken in year 12, along with the following three modules:

Pure Mathematics 3, Pure Mathematics 4 and Mechanics 1

Each of the 6 modules listed above have an examination of 1 hour 30 minutes.

The school will be offering A Level Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics, which is most useful for those considering a career in engineering.





## Aims

Cambridge International AS and A Level Music encourages learners to develop their musical skills in a variety of music styles and traditions and build on their musical interests. Learners are encouraged to listen, compose and perform with understanding, analysis and confident communication. They learn to become independent and critical thinkers.

### What prerequisites are there for A Level Music?

Ideally, students should already be taking instrumental or vocal lessons outside of regular classroom music. In order to achieve a Grade A at A Level Music, students ideally would have reached ABRSM/Rockschool Grade 6 to Grade 8 on their instrument or voice by the Spring Term of Year 13. Practical music lessons on the chosen instrument/voice would be required to be undertaken weekly to reach the required standard at this level.

## Assessment

### All candidates take the following:

Externally Assessed

**Paper 1:** Written (2 hours) – 100 marks (60% of the AS Level, 30% of the A Level)

The paper consists of three sections in the Listening paper:

A: Composition Techniques and Performance Practice

B: Understanding Music

C: Connecting Music

And:

### **Component 2**

Internally Marked and Externally Assessed

**Practical Music: Coursework** – 100 marks (40% of the AS Level, 20% of the A Level)

There are two compulsory elements:  
Performing and Composing

Candidates must complete:

- 6-10 minutes performance
- Two contrasting compositions, 1-2 minutes each

### A Level candidates take two of the following:

#### **Component 3**

Externally Assessed

**Extended Performance** – Coursework 100 marks (25% of the A Level)

There are two parts to Extended Performance:

- 15-20 minute performance
- 1000-1500 word research project

Or:

#### **Component 4**

Externally Assessed

**Extended Performance** – Coursework 100 marks (25% of the A Level)

There are two parts to Extended Composition:

- 6-8 minute composition
- 1000-1500 word research project

Or:

#### **Component 5**

Externally Assessed

**Investigating Music** – Coursework 100 marks (25% of the A Level)

There are two parts to Investigating Music:

- 2500-3000 word essay
- Up 500-word reflective statement

## What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychologists try to understand the ways in which people act, and interact, through the use of the scientific method. Understanding the motivations and reasons behind human behaviour can not only aid treatment and therapy, for mental health but can help us to understand and offer solutions to individual and social dilemmas such as the prejudice, aggression, mental health, crime and more.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology is structured into nine topic areas.

## Syllabus Content

Candidates for Edexcel **AS Level** Psychology study the following topics:

- Social Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Learning theories
- Biological Psychology

Candidates for Edexcel **A Level** study the AS topics as well as the following topics:

- Clinical Psychology
- Criminal Psychology
- Methods
- Issues and debates
- Synoptic review of studies

## Assessment

### AS level (end of year 12)

**Paper 1: Social and Cognitive Psychology**

70 marks - 1 hour and 30 mins exam

50% of AS qualification

**Paper 2: Biological Psychology and Learning theories**

70 marks - 1 hour and 30 mins exam

50% of AS qualification

### A level (end of year 13)

**Paper 1: Foundations in Psychology:**

Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Biological Psychology and Learning theories.

90 marks – 2 hours exam – 35% of qualification

**Paper 2: Applications of Psychology:**

Clinical Psychology and Criminological

90 marks – 2 hours – 35% of qualification

**Paper 3: Psychological Skills:**

Review of methodologies, review of studies, review of issues and debates

80 marks – 2 hours exam - 30% of qualification

# Edexcel International AS and A Level Physics (WPH1)

Physics is widely recognised by universities as a valuable and academically demanding A Level. Its content is of direct relevance to a number of career paths such as all branches of Engineering and Medicine. As well as studying Physics you will also be developing many skills invaluable to your future career and life:

- A logical and numerate mind
- The ability to solve problems
- Communication skills, developed through report writing and presentations
- Computing and practical skills
- Teamwork and flexibility (essential for lab work and projects)

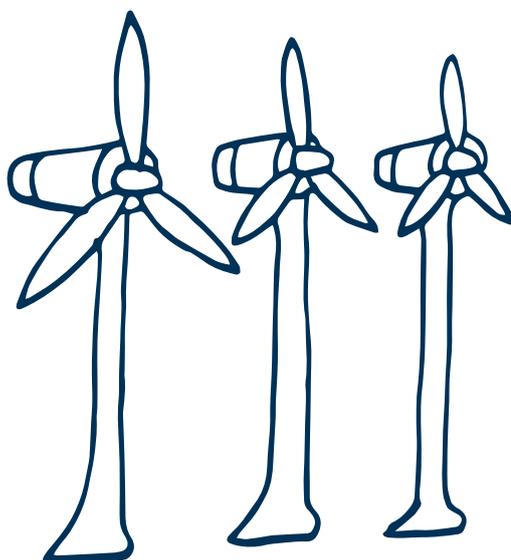
Edexcel International AS and A Level Physics builds on the skills acquired at Edexcel IGCSE (or equivalent) level. The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of physics, and a strong emphasis on advanced practical skills. Practical skills are assessed in a timetabled practical examination.

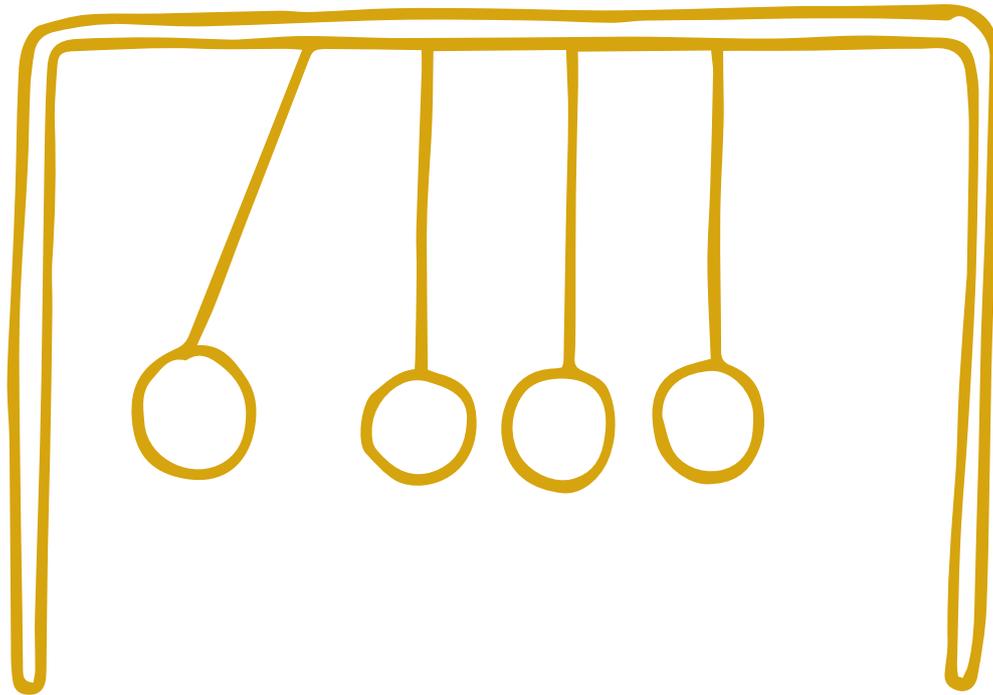
The emphasis throughout is on the understanding of concepts and the application of physics ideas in novel contexts as well as on the acquisition of knowledge. The course encourages creative thinking and problem-solving skills which are transferable to any future career path.

## Content

Candidates for Edexcel International AS Level Physics study the following topics:

- Working as a Physicist
- Motion
- Energy
- Momentum
- Fluids
- Solid Material properties
- Basic Waves
- The Behaviour of Waves
- Wave Properties of Light
- Quantum Physics
- Electrical Circuits





Candidates for Edexcel International ALevel Physics study the AS Level topics and the following topics:

- Further Momentum
- Circular Motion
- Electric Fields
- Ideal gases
- Electromagnetic effects
- Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Particle accelerators and detectors
- Thermodynamics
- Radioactivity
- Oscillations
- Astronomy and Cosmology

A Level candidates also study practical skills.

## Assessment

### AS level (end of Year 12)

#### Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials

Written examination - 1 hour 30 mins

#### Unit 2: Waves and Electricity

Written examination - 1 hour 30 mins

#### Unit 3: Practical Skills in Physics I

Written examination - 1 hour 20 mins

### A level (end of Year 13)

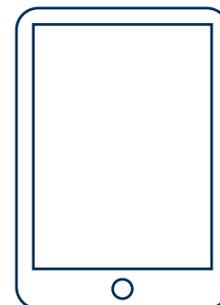
Unit 4: Written examination - 1 hour 45 mins

Unit 5: Written examination - 1 hour 45 mins

Unit 6: Written examination - 1 hour 20 mins

# Cambridge International AS and A Level Information Technology (9626)

This syllabus encourages learners to become effective and discerning users of IT. It helps them to develop a broad range of IT skills, knowledge and understanding. Learners study the structure and use of IT systems within a wide range of organisations, including the use of a variety of computer networks. As a result, learners gain an understanding of IT system life cycles, and how these affect the workplace. They also learn about the wider impact of IT on society in general. At A Level, learners also study simple programming for the web relevant to their own use of IT.



## Content

Candidates for Cambridge International AS Information Technology study the following topics 1–11:

1. Data processing and information
2. Hardware and software
3. Monitoring and control
4. e-Security
5. The digital divide
6. Algorithms and flow charts
7. Expert systems
8. Spreadsheets
9. Database and file concepts
10. Video and audio editing
11. Modelling

Candidates for Cambridge International A Level Information Technology study topics 1–11 and the following topics 12–21..

12. Communications technologies
13. IT in society
14. New and emergine technologies
15. Project management
16. System life cycle
17. Graphics creation
18. Animation
19. Mail merge
20. Programming for the web
21. Data analysis and visualisation

## Assessment

Component	Weighting	
	AS LEVEL	A LEVEL
<b>Paper 1 Theory</b> 1 hour 45 minutes	50%	25%
<b>Paper 2 Practical</b> 2 hour 30 minutes	50%	25%
<b>Paper 3 Theory</b> 1 hour 45 minutes	-	25%
<b>Paper 4 Practical</b> 2 hour 30 minutes	-	25%

## Cambridge International AS Physical Education (8386)

The Cambridge International AS Level Physical Education course is both practical and theoretical. As well as fostering enjoyment in physical activity, it will encourage students to develop an understanding of the interaction between theory and practice by focusing on the performer and performance.

The course provides an excellent grounding for students intending to pursue careers in teaching and coaching, sports development, the leisure industry, recreational management, and professional sport.

### Aims

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the theories underpinning performance in physical activity and sport.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the theories and concepts underpinning the acquisition and development of motor skills in physical activity and sport.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the sociocultural influences affecting trends in regular participation and elite performance in sport.
- Evaluate and think critically about the theoretical concepts underpinning skill development and make informed decisions to improve health, fitness and sports performance.
- Effectively perform a range of sports skills and techniques and select and apply tactics and strategies.
- Understand and appreciate safe practice in physical activity and sport and the benefits of physical exercise for health, fitness and well-being.

### How will you be assessed:

#### Component 1

- 50% of the AS Level Theory exam - based on aims mentioned above.
- 70 marks
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Externally Assessed

#### Component 2

- 50% of the AS Level Practical - candidates choose two physical activities from the list in the syllabus (35 marks per activity)
- 70 marks
- Internally and externally assessed



# CONTACT US

**Contact our Admissions Team to find out more.**

Call: +974 4034 6801

Email: [admissions.cisd@nais.qa](mailto:admissions.cisd@nais.qa)

---

**General Enquiries:**

+974 4034 6800

---

**Email:**

[info.th@nais.qa](mailto:info.th@nais.qa)

---

**Themaïd Campus**

PO Box 22463

Building 16, Street 1457, Zone 51

Al Themaïd

Doha

Qatar



@CISDOHA



Compass International School



@CISDOHA



@CompassDoha

[www.cisdoha.com](http://www.cisdoha.com)