



BRITISH VIETNAMESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HO CHI MINH CITY
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

CHOOSING THE RIGHT

A Levels

FOR YOUR FUTURE



2026 - 2027

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Introduction to A Levels

We hope that this A level booklet will help you to make good choices to support you when you leave school. At BVIS we have a balanced curriculum that will help you develop the skills that you need to succeed on your chosen pathway after school. To do this we have a broad range of subjects that includes 3 or 4 A levels, Academic English, Vietnamese literature, history and geography, PE and a Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme that prepares you for life after school and includes units on careers and university applications to help you get ready for a successful transition. The table below explains how lesson time in years 12 and 13 is used

Course	Time	Benefit
3 or 4 A level courses	6 lessons a week per A level	These are an excellent preparation for university and accepted and respected by the best universities in the world. Students who do well in their A levels will get offers from good universities around the world.
Academic English*	3 lessons per week	All students need excellent English to do well in their A levels whatever subjects they are studying. This course will support them in developing the skills needed to engage in high-level academic discourse at university. The course also prepares students to secure an IELTS certificate at a level of 6.5 or higher, allowing them to meet the English language proficiency requirements of most university courses worldwide.

Vietnamese Studies	2 lessons per week	As part of our mission to develop global citizens with a Vietnamese perspective, we teach Vietnamese studies throughout Years 12 and 13. This helps ensure our students graduate with a firm grounding in their culture and language.
Physical Education	1 lesson per week	PE in year 12 and 13 focuses on improving overall fitness for health while participating in a wide range of activities and sports. Students are encouraged to develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and apply knowledge of components of fitness to help them identify preferred activities. The long-term aim is to build a commitment to and passion for life-long participation in sport and exercise.
Life skills & Wellbeing (LSW)	1 lesson per week	PSHE is an essential part of students' overall development and covers a wide range of academic, social and personal development areas. In Key Stage 5, the PSHE curriculum is designed to give students the opportunity to maximise their university placement chances as well as to acquire vital skills for living away from home either in Vietnam or internationally.

** Academic English is available only in Year 12 and unfortunately cannot be offered to students who have chosen to take four A Levels.*

What are A Levels?

A Levels are England's national high school qualification, although they are also used in 125 other countries because they have a proven reputation for being excellent preparation for university study, employment and life. They are studied by students aged 17 - 18 during their final two years at school.

Students usually take three subjects, though for a few universities and courses, it is helpful to take four subjects. Our Head of Sixth Form and our University and Careers Guidance Counsellors can help you to decide what the right number is for you.

What are the benefits of A Levels?

1. Universities around the world, including all UK universities and the vast majority of US universities, accept A Levels for entry. Many top-tier universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, MIT and Stanford see the best A Level applicants as prime targets. To find out more about university recognition of A levels visit www.cie.org.uk/recognition.
2. A levels provide a deep understanding of chosen subjects, enabling students to prepare for specific university courses and career pathways.
3. Academic expectations are high and therefore similar to those experienced in top universities
4. A levels emphasise and develop critical thinking, advanced comprehension and research skills.
5. A levels promote advanced reading and writing skills, particularly the ability to structure and defend an argument.
6. A levels develop the ability to present and participate in a debate and to positively engage with critical feedback.
7. A levels develop students as independent learners.

Cambridge Assessment International Examinations and Pearson Edexcel

BVIS is a registered examination centre for the Cambridge Assessment and Pearson Edexcel A Levels. Both Cambridge and Pearson Edexcel International A Levels are accepted by all Russell Group Universities in the UK, and the Group of Eight (Go8) universities in Australia. US Universities such as Yale, Columbia, Caltech and MIT, and Canadian institutions such as Toronto and McGill have also approved A Levels as part of their admission criteria.

Choosing your options

Most students will take three or four AS level subjects in year 12. For those taking three A levels a course in Academic English is also provided to help prepare for any English language tests necessary for university applications.

The subjects you choose should be based on the grades you get at IGCSE as well as your intended career pathway, and your form tutor, subject teachers and our University and Careers Guidance Counsellor will help you with these. **Do not choose subjects based on a teacher you like or the subjects that your friends have chosen.**

Your final decision should be made after you have discussed your options and ideas with your form tutor and parents.



Courses Offered

BVIS offers one of the largest ranges of A level courses in HCMC and each year as our school grows, we offer more courses. The list of course on the following pages are the courses that we will be offering this year.

It is important to note that we will only run each course if there are enough students opting to take the course. Therefore, whilst most will be running, they are not all guaranteed to run.



A Levels Choice and University Entrance

Your choice of A level subjects will affect what you can study in University and where you can apply. Universities often require specific A Level subjects for particular courses. Some individual universities and universities in some countries also have general subject entry requirements that you must meet. To make sure you choose the right subjects for what you want to do in the future, use this quick guide:

If you know the subject you want to study at university and the country you want to study in:

- Check the general and subject specific entry requirements for several universities in that country online and make sure you know the subjects you need to take. If you don't know how to do this, speak to the University and Careers Guidance Counsellor, in the Counselling Room, and ask for help.

If you don't know the subject but do know the country you want to study in:

- Check the general entry requirements for several universities in that country online and make sure you know the subjects you need to take. If you don't know how to do this, speak to the University and Careers Guidance Counsellor, in the Counselling Room, and ask for help.
- Keep your options open by choosing at least one maths/science subject and one English/humanities subject at A Level.
- Where possible, choose at least two facilitating subjects. The facilitating subjects BVIS offer are: Maths, English Literature, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Economics can also be a good alternative to these.

If you know the subject but not the country you want to study in:

- Check the subject entry requirements for several universities in different countries online and make sure you know the subjects you need to take. If you don't know how to do this, speak to the University and Careers Guidance Counsellor, in the Counselling Room, and ask for help.

If you don't know what you want to study or the country you want to study in:

- Keep your options open by choosing at least one Maths/science subject and one English/humanities subject at A Level.
- Where possible, choose at least two facilitating subjects. The facilitating subjects BVIS offer are: Maths, English Literature, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry and biology. Economics can also be a good alternative to these.

A few things to note:

- To apply to university, you should have 5 IGCSE passes at grade C or above, including Maths and English (1st or 2nd language) as well as your AS and A Levels.
- The number of A levels you will need to take depends on your academic ability and the country you intend to study in. Please speak to the University and Careers Guidance Counsellor for help.
- In future, most Australian Universities will require at least AS and possibly A Level maths. If you are thinking of applying to Australia, you should take maths.
- Most Business Studies courses in the UK/Europe/Canada/Australia require A Level maths.
- If you want to study science at university, you may need to study maths. Please speak to the University and Careers Guidance Counsellor about this.

If you or your parents are unsure about subject choices and how they will affect your university applications, you must talk to the University and Careers Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible. We are here to help.





Progression from IGCSE to A Levels

Students and parents often ask if you need to study a particular subject at IGCSE to study the same subject at A Level. The answer depends on the subject.

The first group of subjects require an IGCSE in the same subject before starting A Level. This is because A Level study builds upon the knowledge, skills and understanding gained through IGCSE study. Our experience suggests that students who do well in these subjects normally have a B grade (or above) pass at IGCSE:

- **Art**
- **English Literature**
- **Maths**
- **Music**

Similarly, the following subjects require a good IGCSE pass in either coordinated or triple science before starting A Level:

- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**

The next group of subjects are offered at IGCSE, and this is a good preparation for A level study. However, the syllabuses are designed to allow students to start A level study without having completed the subject at IGCSE:

Business	Drama
Economics	Geography
History	Physical Education

Finally, BVIS also offers several subjects at A level which are not taught at IGCSE and you do not need prior knowledge to study these courses. They often make good choices if you are interested in that subject:

- **Media Studies**
- **Psychology**

**Students from year 10 and above will be awarded with numerical grades in Maths scaling from 1 to 9 (9 being the highest grade possible); it is suggested that students who achieve a grade 6 (or above) at IGCSE are most likely to be successful in this subject at As/ A level.*

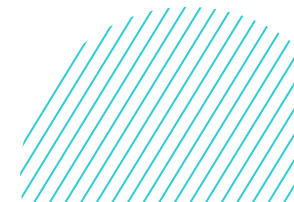
Progression from AS to A2 Study

Following a year of studying for their A-Level qualifications, students sit an examination that is equivalent to 50% of the total A-Level (in most cases). These examinations are called AS examinations. For a student to progress onto Year 13, they need to pass AS Level examinations in a minimum of two of their subjects.

Some students will find the nature of studying A-Level challenging and we have options available for students who are not successful at the time they take their AS examinations at the end of Year 12.

If students do not meet the requirements of 2 AS pass qualifications the options available are:

- Re-sit Year 12 with the same subjects – this allows some students further time to learn Year 12 content and as a result do well the following summer.
- Re-sit Year 12 with different subjects – this allows students who may have made unsuitable choices at AS to pick more suitable subjects.
- Transfer from A-Level to the BVIS High School Diploma – this is a course of academic rigor that caters for students who may not be suited to just traditional examinations and involves both project work and examinations. On successful completion, students can progress onto further education courses in the USA and Europe.



BVIS High School Diploma Route to Graduation

In addition to A levels, we offer an alternative route to High School Graduation through our High School Diploma programme. The programme was designed in consultation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), who accredit schools both in the USA and internationally.

In consultation with the WASC, we have put together a programme of courses that meets their standards for quality and curriculum content, allowing students that select this pathway to earn a high school graduation certificate accredited by their organisation.

The table below shows examples courses for year 12 and 13. Teachers and the Sixth Form Tutor team will talk to individual students if they think the BVIS High School Diploma route may be suitable for them.

Year 12	Year 13
As Level Course 1	Maths for High School Diploma course
As Level Course 2	Business Studies for High School Diploma Course
As Level Course 3	Science for High School Diploma course
Academic English	Extended Project (to meet English study requirements)

Vietnamese Literature	Vietnamese Literature
Vietnamese Humanities	Vietnamese Humanities

* All High School Diploma courses are internally assessed.



BVIS Diploma - HSD- FAQs for parent

What is the BVIS Diploma?

The BVIS Diploma is a route to graduation, and to university study, that BVIS offer as an alternative to the AS / A Level pathway in Year 13.

When do students study for the BVIS Diploma?

Students choosing the BVIS Diploma route to graduation begin their course in Year 13. Diploma students graduate at the end of Year 13, at the same time as students studying for A Levels.

Why do some students choose the BVIS Diploma over A Levels?

The BVIS Diploma provides an alternative to the large, high-stakes, terminal examinations that characterise AS and A-Level courses by assessing students learning in a more modular way. This modular assessment blends smaller-scale, lower-stake unit tests with elements of coursework-based assessment. This way of working often benefits students who are better able to demonstrate their learning through smaller, more regular assessments than they are through high-stakes, terminal exams. Additionally, because the BVIS Diploma is equivalent to a US High School diploma, which has long been recognised as the standard mechanism by which students in the USA gain access to American universities, the BVIS Diploma offers our students a clear pathway into the American tertiary education system.

Why do some students choose A Levels over the BVIS Diploma?

A Levels were introduced in 1951 and are exceptionally well recognised worldwide. As such, they can provide access to a greater range of courses at a greater range of universities around the world. Furthermore, because many A Levels are exclusively exam-based, they may appeal to students who tend to do well in high-stakes, formal examinations.

How can BVIS provide an American-style high school graduation certificate?

BVIS are licensed to offer their Diploma course through our accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), in the USA. WASC have been providing quality assurance of schools in the USA and around the world since 1962.

Which institutions accept the BVIS Diploma?

The BVIS Diploma is recognised by a wide range of community colleges and universities in the USA, leading hospitality universities in Switzerland, and several institutions in Viet Nam, such as RMIT. Students holding a BVIS Diploma who want to access university in the USA will normally do so via community college, where they will complete an Associate's Degree (a two-year course) before transferring to an American university to complete their Bachelor's degree (a further two years).

Which subjects will my child study on the BVIS Diploma?

Students on the BVIS Diploma currently study Maths, English, Science, Business Studies, Vietnamese Literature and Vietnamese Humanities as credit bearing courses. All Diploma students also take part in PSHE and physical education as non-credit bearing courses.

How are BVIS Diploma students assessed?

The BVIS Diploma is assessed through a variety of methods including formal (internal) examinations, coursework, and presentations. All assessments are written and marked by our experienced teachers and are quality assured through our WASC accreditation.

How is the BVIS Diploma graded?

For formative purposes, all BVIS Diploma modules are graded as either:

- Pass
- Merit
- Distinction
- *Distinction

These grades are converted into points, which is how they appear on students' academic transcripts. For example, a 'Pass' grade corresponds to three points, whereas a '*Distinction' corresponds to 6 points. We use the different grade descriptors to distinguish between passing grades of different quality. The point system allows universities to see how the BVIS Diploma relates to other types of qualification students typically take at this age.

Each time a student secures a passing grade for a credit-bearing course, they gain credits towards successful completion of the Diploma. Different courses have different numbers of credits assigned to them, and passing the BVIS Diploma is conditional upon students securing sufficient credits during their time on the course, rather than passing any one specific assessment.

What is the attendance requirement for the BVIS Diploma?

In order to pass the BVIS Diploma, students must accumulate sufficient credits from each of their credit-bearing courses. To be awarded any credit for a given course, students must attend a minimum of 75% of lessons (except where medical concerns have made this impossible).

Does my child need to pass all chosen IGCSE or AS Level qualifications to be accepted onto the BVIS Diploma?

No, it is not essential that students pass all their preceding qualifications before beginning the BVIS Diploma programme. It is only essential that prospective students show an ability to learn, and a commitment to working hard.

Art and Design

A Level Art and Design offers students the opportunity to develop their technical skills and ideas through a range of different media and materials. Students complete two components for this qualification, investigating a theme or topic through critical engagement with a theme:

- **Component 1: Personal Investigation – (90 marks - 60% of A Level)**
Component 1 incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study essay. Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study essay comprises 12% of the total qualification and is marked out of 18.
- **Component 2: Externally set assignment - (72 marks – 40% of A Level)**
Students produce preparatory studies and personal outcome(s) based on a theme set by Edexcel. The theme will be released in January of Y13. Students have 15 hours to produce a personal outcome or outcomes in timed exam conditions.

Core skills are introduced at the beginning of the course to develop a visual language through exploration of the formal elements, composition and experimentation with a variety of 2D and 3D processes. Students are expected to produce preparatory work for all components, culminating in a final piece using their chosen media. Possible materials, processes and techniques include drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed-media, sculpture, photography, installation and digital art.

Students contextualise their ideas through researching the work of other artists, studying their techniques and responding to these. Critical and analytical vocabulary is introduced and encouraged through annotations, reflections and evaluations. Sketchbooks are provided and should evidence idea development from initial concept right through to realisation. Students must show engagement with their surroundings through first hand recording and drawing from observation.

Students may progress on to a variety of university courses in a range of disciplines, such as Fine Art, Fashion and Textiles, Architecture, Photography, Graphic Design, Illustration, Product Design, Interior Design, 3D Design, Animation, Media Studies, Advertising, Film, Accessory Design, Jewellery, and Art History.





Biology

Why study Biology?

"If you want to make a difference in the world, study biology."

- Bill Gates

Advanced level biology is a challenging and rewarding subject that can open up a world of possibilities. It is the study of life, from the smallest cells to the largest ecosystems. Students who study advanced level biology will learn about the structure and function of living organisms, the evolution of life, and the interactions between organisms and their environment.

Advanced level biology is a great choice for students who are interested in a career in science, medicine, or environmental science. It is also a valuable foundation for students who want to pursue a career in business, law, or government.

If you are interested in learning more about the world around you and how it works, then advanced level biology is the perfect subject for you. It is a challenging and rewarding subject that will give you the knowledge and skills you need to make a difference in the world.

Here are some of the benefits of studying advanced level biology:

- You will learn about the fundamental principles of life.
- You will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

- You will learn how to conduct scientific research.
- You will gain a deeper understanding of the world around you.
- You will be prepared for a career in science, medicine, or other fields related to biology.

Cambridge International AS and A Level Biology builds on the skills acquired at Cambridge IGCSE (or equivalent) level. The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are fundamental to the subject, a section on some current applications of biology, and a strong emphasis on advanced practical skills. Practical skills are assessed in a timetabled practical examination in Year 12.

If you take the course, which is most suitable for those who have gained grade B or above at IGCSE level Science (or equivalent), you begin by studying the Advanced Subsidiary Level in Year 12. Once the Advanced Subsidiary A Level in Biology is achieved, you can continue to take the Advanced Level qualification in Year 13.

What will you learn as part of your course?

In year 12 you will study the following topics:	In year 13 you will study the additional topics of:
• Biological molecules and enzymes • Cells as the basic units of life • DNA and the mitotic cell cycle • Transport in plants and mammals • Gas exchange • Disease and protection against disease	• Inheritance • Selection and evolution • Classification, biodiversity and conservation • Genetic technology • Energy and respiration • Homeostasis • Control and coordination • Photosynthesis

Assessment

For the Advanced Subsidiary A Level in Biology there are 3 examination papers sat in the May/June examination session in year 12.

Paper 1 – Multiple choice

Paper 2 – AS structured questions

Paper 3 – Advanced practical skills

To continue on to the Advanced Level there are 2 more examination papers sat in the May/June examination session in year 13

Paper 4 – A2 structured questions

Paper 5 – Planning, analysis and evaluation

Business

The study of Cambridge International AS and A Level Business allows learners to take the first step towards a career in private or public organisations or progress with confidence to a degree in business and management related subjects.



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What are the syllabus aims?

The syllabus aims to enable candidates to:

- Understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and the role of business in society, internationally and within each candidate's own country
- Develop critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value
- Evaluate business behaviour from the perspective of a range of stakeholders including owner/shareholder, manager, employee, customer, supplier, lender and government
- Develop an awareness of the political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental and ethical issues associated with business activity
- Develop quantitative, problem-solving, decision-making and communication skills.

What will you study in business?

- Business and its environment
- Human resource management
- Marketing
- Operations management
- Finance and accounting

Assessment

The A Levels Business course consists of 4 exams.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Paper 1 - Business Concepts 1 | 20% of the A Levels qualification |
| • Paper 2 - Business Concepts 2 | 30% of the A Levels qualification |
| • Paper 3 - Business Decision Making | 30% of the A Levels qualification |
| • Paper 4 - Business Strategy | 20% of the A Level qualification |

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Have an interest in how a business operates.
- Enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences.
- Would like to do a subject that offers opportunities for a career in business.
- Would like to learn how to make business decisions and solve business problems.
- Want to keep their options open – business can be a useful choice for a wide range of careers and can be combined with a wide range of subjects.



Chemistry

Why study Chemistry?

Wherever we look, the work of the chemist has raised the level of our civilisation and has increased the productive capacity of the nation."

-John Calvin Coolidge

The behaviour of atoms, molecules, and ions determines the sort of world we live in, our shapes and sizes, and even how we feel on a given day. Chemists that understand these phenomena are very well equipped to tackle problems faced by our modern society. On any given day, they may be measuring the amount of insecticide in drinking water, comparing the protein content of meats, developing a new antibiotic, or analysing a moon rock. To design a synthetic fibre or even the skin of a space capsule requires a knowledge of chemistry. To understand why an autumn leaf turns red, or why a diamond is hard, or why soap gets us clean, requires, first, a basic understanding of chemistry.

Cambridge International AS and A Level Chemistry builds on the skills acquired at Cambridge IGCSE (or equivalent) level. The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are fundamental to the subject, a section on 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. Cambridge International AS and A Level Chemistry is ideal for learners who want to study chemistry or a wide variety of related subjects at university or to follow a career in science.

The course is most suitable for those who have gained grade B or above at IGCSE level Science (or equivalent), you begin by studying the Advanced Subsidiary Level in Year 12. Once the Advanced Subsidiary A Level in Chemistry is achieved, you can continue to take the Advanced Level qualification in Year 13.

What will you learn as part of your course?

This syllabus is designed:

- To stimulate students, create and sustain their interest in chemistry, and understand its relevance to society
- To give a thorough introduction to the study of chemistry and scientific methods
- To develop skills and abilities that are relevant to the safe practice of science and to everyday life:
- Concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, the skills of enquiry, initiative and insight
- To enable candidates to become confident citizens in a technological world and to take an informed interest in matters of scientific importance
- To stimulate interest in, and care for, the environment.

In year 12 you will study the following topics:	In year 13 you will study the additional topics of:
• Moles and equations • Atomic structure • Electrons in atoms • Chemical bonding • States of matter • Enthalpy changes • Equilibrium • Rates of reaction • Groups 2 & 17 • Nitrogen & Sulfur Chemistry • Periodicity • Organic chemistry	• Lattice energy • Electrode potentials • Reaction kinetics • Transition elements • Polymerisation • The chemistry of life • Analytical chemistry • Design and materials

Assessment

For the Advanced Subsidiary A Level in Chemistry there are 3 examination papers sat in the May/June examination session in year 12.

Paper 1 – Multiple choice

Paper 2 – AS structured questions

Paper 3 – Advanced practical skills

To continue on to the Advanced Level there are 2 more examination papers sat in the May/June examination session in year 13

Paper 4 – A2 structured questions

Paper 5 – Planning, analysis and evaluation

Computer Science

A Level Computer Science is a rigorous and challenging course for students who enjoy logical thinking, problem-solving and understanding how technology works at a deeper level. It builds on IGCSE Computer Science and develops both theoretical understanding and advanced programming skills (however prior IGCSE CS knowledge is not essential). Assessments include written theory exams and a practical programming examination in Python.

Students learn how computer systems are designed and operate, how data is represented and transmitted, and how complex problems can be solved through algorithms, structured programming and computational thinking. The course also explores cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, ethics, and the wider impact of technology on society.

A significant part of the course focuses on writing, testing and evaluating programs, preparing students well for university study and careers in computing, engineering, data science and related fields.

This subject is well suited to students who:

- Enjoy mathematics, logic and problem-solving
- Are confident programmers or keen to improve their coding skills
- Are considering careers in computer science, engineering, AI, cybersecurity or data science
- Want to develop independent thinking and analytical skills valued by top universities

Students completing this course gain highly transferable skills including precision, resilience, abstraction, and structured thinking.



Year 12 AS Level Computer Science

1. Data representation (number systems, images, sound, compression)
2. Communication and networking, including the internet
3. Computer hardware and logic gates
4. Processor fundamentals and assembly language
5. System software (operating systems, translators, IDEs)
6. Security, privacy and data integrity
7. Ethics and ownership in computing
8. Databases and SQL
9. Algorithm Design and Problem-Solving
10. Data Types and Structures
11. Programming fundamentals
12. Software development life cycle and testing

Year 13 A Level Computer Science

1. Advanced data representation (user-defined data types, file organisation, floating-point numbers)
2. Communication technologies and internet protocols
3. Advanced hardware, parallel processing and virtual machines
4. Boolean algebra, logic simplification and Karnaugh maps
5. Advanced operating system concepts and translation software
6. Advanced security, encryption and digital certificates
7. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
8. Advanced algorithms, recursion and computational complexity

Components

Weighting

AS A

Paper 1 Theory Fundamentals (Y12)

This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions.

50%

25%

Paper 2: Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills (Y12)

This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions.

50%

25%

Paper 3: Advanced Theory (Y13)

This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions.

-

25%

Paper 4: Further Problem-solving and Programming Skills (Y13)

This practical section will test problem solving skills.

-

25%

Design and Technology

Aims and Objectives:

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Design is knowing which ones to keep" - Scott Adams

The Cambridge A Level Design & Technology syllabus encourages students to be innovative and creative while developing their ability to design high quality products. Students will be working with a wide variety of different media, materials and tools to enable them to identify, consider and solve real-world problems through creative thinking, planning and design.

The aims of the A Level Design & Technology (Graphics) syllabus are to enable students to develop:

- The ability to be innovative and creative in design and technology and to recognise constraints and produce high quality products
- An awareness of the significance of design and technology to society
- The ability to apply essential knowledge, understanding and skills of design production processes to a range of technological activities and develop an understanding of industrial practices.
- The ability to use information and communications technology (ICT), as appropriate, to enhance design and technology capability.
- Critical evaluation skills in technical, aesthetic, economic, environmental, social and cultural contexts
- Positive attitudes of co-operation and citizenship, and the ability to work collaboratively their knowledge and understanding of design and technology to enable entry to university and beyond.

As a result, students will become discerning consumers of design and technology, able to make informed design choices.



Cambridge International AS and A Level

Component Break down, weighting and overview

Component 1 (Weight - AS-50% / A-25%) 3 Hours	Component 2 (Weight AS-50% / A-25%) 40 - 50 Hours
This is a written paper which tests knowledge, understanding, product analysis and design. There are three sections; in each section candidates answer one question from a choice of three.	This is a coursework project which involves an individual design problem and production of a design model.
Weighted at 30% of total marks	Weighted at 20% of total marks
Component 3 (Weight A-25%) 3 Hours	Component 4 (Weight A-25%) 40 - 50 Hours
This is a written paper which tests design, knowledge and understanding in three focus areas; candidates specialise in one of these areas. There are two sections in this paper. In Section A candidates answer two structured knowledge application questions from a choice of three on their chosen focus area. In Section B candidates answer the one design question on their chosen focus area.	This is a coursework project, and it can either be developed from the Component 2 project or be a completely new project covering Components 2 and 4 in an holistic way.
Weighted at 30% of total marks	Weighted at 20% of total marks

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This qualification follows on from the Cambridge iGCSE Design and Technology course and is aimed at preparing students practically for a career in design or engineering and gives students the opportunities to translate their knowledge from other subjects such as chemistry, maths and physics into real world objects and artefacts. It provides essential skills for many engineering courses and will give students the knowledge and expertise that will set them apart from some of their peers. They will start university with an innate understanding and experience of how to manufacture products from the ground up, and how to use tools and machinery to bring their ideas to life.

Drama

"Theatre acts as a reflection of our world, holding up a lens to social issues, cultural norms, and the human experience. It sparks conversations, challenges perspectives, and encourages empathy."

Acting is a key element of drama, however drama is about much more than performing. It's a dynamic A-Level that unlocks the transferable skills valued by universities and future employers across the board, no matter what you plan to study in the future.

These skills are in high demand across all professions; Imagine yourself confidently leading a board meeting, delivering a persuasive argument in court, or inspiring your team with a clear vision. Drama equips you with the tools to excel in any path you choose and makes you stand out in your university applications. The advantages of drama education extend far beyond the theater walls. Research has shown that students involved in drama tend to have both higher academic achievement and cognitive abilities than their peers.

BVIS Drama A-Level alumni go on to thrive in diverse degrees and careers with the most recent graduates going on to study Business, Business Management, Criminology, Public Relations and Performing Arts at universities across the world.

As long as you have an interest in performing then you can join this course without IGCSE experience.

What will you learn as part of the course?

- **To communicate:** Drama hones communication skills and makes you able to stand out from the crowd. From clear and powerful vocal projection to strong body language, these are essential tools for everyone, from CEO's to politicians.
- **To be an innovator:** Theatre is a platform for experimentation and pushing boundaries. It encourages creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving – essential skills for progress in any field.
- **To be a researcher and analyser:** You will conduct thorough research investigations into a diverse range of theatre styles, texts and writers. This will enhance your ability to produce dissertations suited to your future university studies as you will learn to navigate research libraries and cite from all types of media sources.
- **To create:** : Drama will teach you how to act, direct, design sets, lighting, sound and costume. This shows you are able to make links to form creative ideas, and that you are a visionary who can see the 'bigger picture'.

Assessment

	Practical Coursework	Written Assessments
Year 12	Component 2 Coursework- 25% • 1 performance of a play extract in a group • 1 group devised performance • 1 verbal evaluation to camera	Component 1 Exam- 25% A 2 hour paper investigating two plays from different time periods
Year 13	Component 3 Coursework- 25% • 1 group devised performance following a specific style • 1 'one-man' show (8 minutes) • An 800 word evaluation of your work	Component 4 Coursework- 25% A 3000 word dissertation investigating an area of theatre of your choice

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

- Students with a strong interest in performing
- Students who want to go into any profession that involves leadership, communication, creativity and teamwork, for example; Law, Business, Management, Politics, Design or Advertising.
- Students who are unsure what they want to study in future, as drama is suited to almost all areas of future education.



Economics

The study of Cambridge International AS and A Level Economics allows learners to explore concepts and theories which can be applied to the way that modern economies work.

The students will develop the ability to explain, evaluate and analyse economic issues and arguments. They gain lifelong skills and a solid foundation for further study.



What are the syllabus aims of the course?

The syllabus aims to enable candidates to develop:

- An understanding of the factual knowledge of economics
- A facility for self-expression, not only in writing but also in using additional aids, such as statistics and diagrams, where appropriate
- The habit of using works of reference as sources of data specific to economics
- The habit of reading critically to gain information about the changing economy we live in
- An appreciation of the methods of study used by the economist, and of the most effective ways economic data may be analysed, correlated, discussed and presented.

What will you study in economics?

- Basic economic ideas and resource allocation
- The price system and the micro economy
- Government microeconomic intervention
- The macro economy
- Government macro intervention
- International economic issues

Assessment

The A Levels Economics course consists of 4 exams.

Paper 1 - Multiple choice	17% of the A Level qualification
Paper 2 - Data response and essays	33% of the A Level qualification
Paper 3 - Multiple choice	17% of the A Level qualification
Paper 4- Data response and essays	33% of the A Level qualification

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- Have an interest in how an economy operates
- Would like to develop range of skills
- Would like to do a subject that offers opportunities for a career in business, government and financial institutions.

English Literature

Why study English literature?

Since the emergence of human consciousness we have given ourselves imaginative accounts of what it is to be human. To study literature is to engage in a dialogue with your own humanity. Literature is an essential study for all whose future careers involve people, whether it's medicine, business or engineering.

The English literature AS and A Levels course will enrich your knowledge of the English language and help you to confidently develop analytical, critical and innovative thinking skills. You will read a range of mature and sophisticated literature from across the canon that will enhance your cultural and literary awareness. The course requires its participants to be reflective learners, developing an independent ability to engage socially and intellectually to a wide range of theories, ideas and texts from the English literary heritage. The course is suitable for students who are strong in English, who enjoy reading and discussing their thoughts and ideas. The course welcomes young philosophers who have creative, inquisitive minds, who are open to understanding more about the world around them.

It is imperative that you have studied English Literature at IGCSE to study on this course.

You will begin by studying the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level in Year 12. Once the AS Level in English Literature is achieved, you can continue to take the Advanced Level qualification in Year 13.



What will you learn as part of your course?

Successful Literature students develop an understanding of a wide-ranging literary canon and in addition gain skills for life, including:

- Writing clearly and effectively
- Debating and engaging in arguments in a mature, insightful manner
- Researching and reading critically
- Writing essays in an insightful, sophisticated style
- Analysing complex texts in different forms and styles
- Developing a love of reading
- Appreciating different viewpoints and how they enliven a critical debate
- Communicating complex ideas with clarity and precision
- Collaborating with peers
- Thinking critically about a range of perspectives, viewpoints, ideas
- Creating in an imaginative, progressive way

The examinations in Year 12 and 13, test your ability to maturely discuss concepts and theories with clarity and fluency. You will use your imagination to explore various texts and new concepts in detail. You will learn to structure your thoughts into critical appreciations of works from some of English Literature's greatest writers.

The emphasis of the course is on developing personal responses to texts, reinforced by a mature understanding of those texts and an awareness of the use of language, structure, characterisation and other literary devices.

A wide range of texts are studied, including poetry, prose, and drama. You do not need to be native speakers of English to succeed in the literature course, but an eagerness to build and develop the foundations you have learnt in English language and a passion for reading English texts are important.

The two examinations in Year 12 (Paper 1 and Paper 2) combine to make up 100% of your total mark for AS Levels Literature in English. They are both "closed book" examinations, which means that you cannot take your texts into the examination room with you.

Year 12 (AS Level) and year 13 (A Level) course

Assessment	Year 12	Year 13	Weighting
Paper 1 Drama and Poetry	x		50% of the AS Level 25% of the A Level
Paper 2 Prose and unseen	x		50% of the AS Level 25% of the A Level
Paper 3 Shakespeare and Drama		x	25% of the A Level
Paper 4 Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose		x	25% of the A Level

In Year 12 you will study a play, a collection of poems, a modern novel from a different culture and a range of unseen texts (poetry, prose or drama). You will answer 4 questions in total.

Year 12 examinations contribute to 50% of the final grade of your final A Levels.

In Year 13, you will study a Shakespeare play, a modern play, a collection of poems, and a novel. These four texts will contribute 50% to your A Level grade.

Studying AS and A Levels Literature in English can enhance your ability to use English with accuracy and sensitivity. The course is challenging but immensely satisfying and enjoyable. The course is fantastic for people who are interested in pursuing Law, Humanities, Diplomacy, Politics and Media. However, as Universities adapt their application process and now appreciate and value a wide-range of subjects learned at A Level, English can supplement subjects such as Maths and Business.

Why not stand out from every other graduate and study English Literature alongside Maths and Economics?

Geography

"Geography is more than maps and mountains—it's about understanding people, places, and the planet. It's a subject that shapes leaders."

- Prince William -

Why Choose Geography?

At the Davos Economic Forum, some of the world's leading economists made it clear: understanding geography is no longer optional—it's essential. As global challenges become more complex, from climate change to international trade, future business leaders, economists, and decision-makers will need a solid grasp of geographical issues to make informed choices.

So, who is Geography for?

Geography is for anyone curious about the world, how it works, why problems like inequality or environmental damage exist, and what we can do about them. If you're interested in real-world issues and want to be part of the solution, geography is a great fit.

It's a subject that connects well with almost everything—science, business, politics, law, and more. That's why geography students go on to such a wide range of careers. Whether you're thinking about working in sustainability, urban planning, international relations, or especially finance or law, geography gives you the tools to understand the bigger picture.

And here's something worth knowing: geography graduates are among the most employable. In fact, alongside philosophy, geography has one of the highest employment rates after university.

In short:

- Geography helps you understand the world—and your place in it.
- It opens doors to a wide range of careers.
- Employers value the skills geography teaches: analysis, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

If you want a subject that's relevant, respected by the top universities, and rooted in the real world, geography is a smart choice.

What is studied in A-Level Geography?

AS Level is studied in Year 12 (50% of the total A-Level) and consists of two 1.5 hour exams, sat on different days, covering separate physical & human geography units:

Paper 1 Physical Geography	Paper 2 Human Geography
- Hydrology, river process & hazards - Atmospheric processes & global climate change - Earth processes and mass movements	- Population & migration - Water resources & management - Urban areas & management

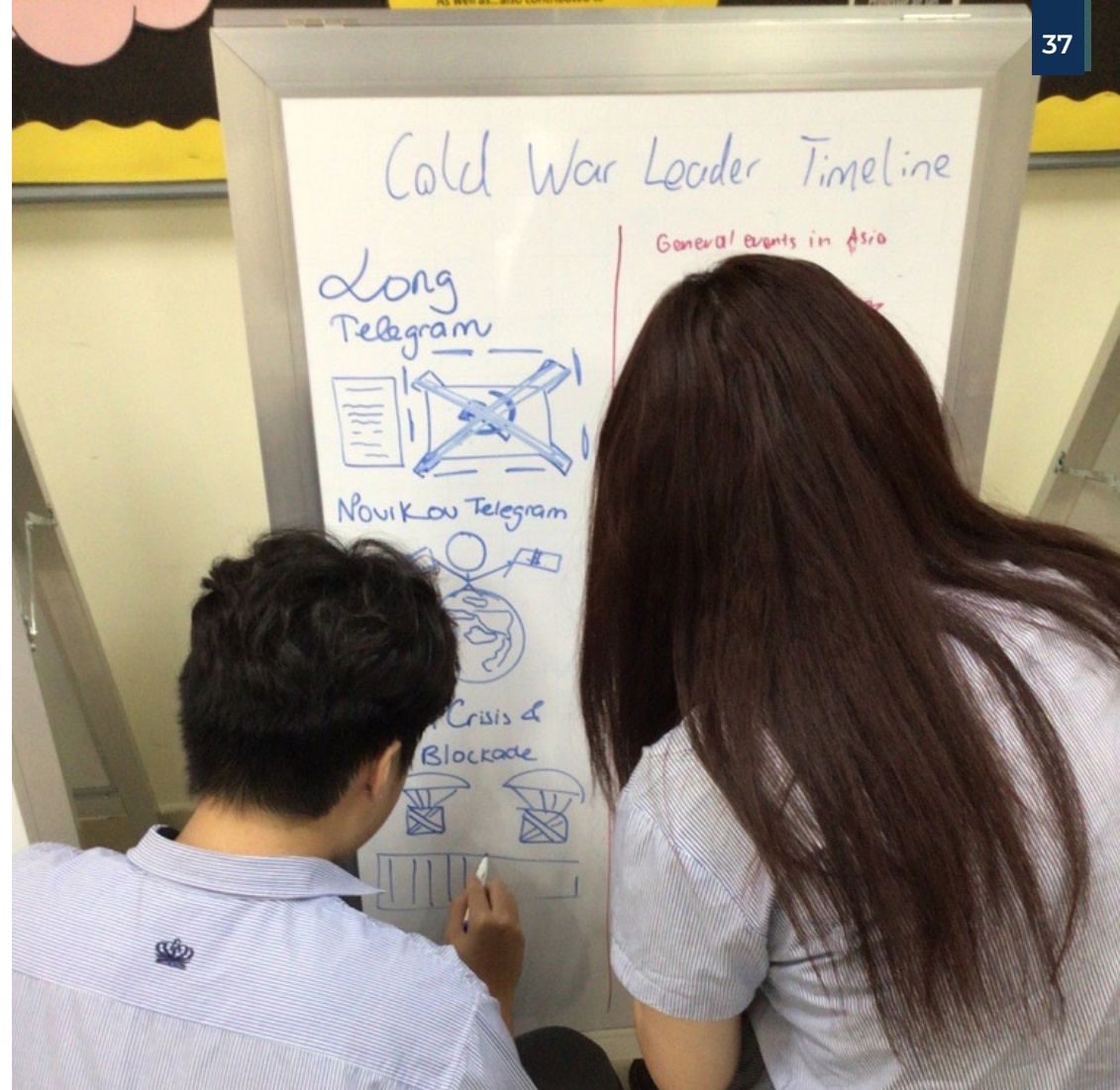
In Year 13 you will study for the full A-Level qualification and will sit two 1.5 hour exams, sat on different days, covering separate physical and human options:

Paper 3 Global Environments	Paper 4 Global Themes
- Coastal Environments - Hazardous Environments	- Environmental issues & management - Trade, aid & tourism

Assessment

The A Level Geography course consists of 4 exams.

Paper	Description	Weighting AS Level	Weighting A Level
Paper 1	Physical Geography	50%	25%
Paper 2	Human Geography	50%	25%
Paper 3	Global Environments	-	25%
Paper 3	Global Themes	-	25%



History

History A Levels can help students gain lifelong skills including:

- Assessing different interpretations of an argument
- Formulating their own ideas about a subject
- Presenting clear and logical arguments
- Evaluating historical evidence
- Developing an understanding of historical concepts such as cause and effect, similarity and difference and continuity

The AS Level is made up of two components (a depth study with interpretations and a source based breadth study), whilst the A Level is made up of 4 components (the two AS Level components added to a thematic interpretations based question and an international source based study question).

Units:

Unit 1: Germany 1918-1945

Unit 2: Russia 1917-1991: From Lenin to Yeltsin

Unit 3: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1865–2009

Unit 4: The World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943–90

There are 2 examinations at the end of each year of two hours each.

Unit 1 (50% of IAS, 25% IAL) 2 hours: Depth Study with Interpretations. Candidates answer two questions from a choice of four. Questions are essay based tackling knowledge and understanding of the period in depth and analysis of historical interpretations. (50 marks)

Unit 2 (50% of IAS, 25% IAL) 2 hours: Breadth Study with Source Evaluation. Candidates answer two questions. One from Section A and one from Section B. Section A questions focus on ability to analyse source material. Section B focuses on understanding of the whole period. (50 marks)

Unit 3 (50% of IA2, 25% IAL) 2 hours: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation. Candidates answer two questions. One from Section A and one from Section B. Section A questions focus on ability to analyse source material. Section B focuses on understanding of the whole period. (50 marks)

Unit 4 (50% of IA2, 25% IAL) 2 hours: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation. Candidates answer two questions. One from Section A and one from Section B. Section A questions focus on ability to understand and evaluate different



Mathematics

Why study Mathematics?

"No employment can be managed without arithmetic, no mechanical invention without geometry"

- Benjamin Franklin.

Mathematics at International Advanced Level (IAL) is both challenging and enjoyable. Mathematics develops key employability skills such as problem solving, logical reasoning, communication and resilience, whilst providing you with an increased knowledge and understanding of mathematical techniques and their applications. It also supports the study of other IAL subjects and provides excellent preparation for a wide range of university courses such as social sciences, engineering, sciences and of course mathematics.

Researchers at London School of Economics found that having an A-Level in Mathematics increases your earning potential by 7-10% compared to any other A-Level.

We offer the Edexcel International AS and A Level in Mathematics. If you take the course, which is suitable for those who have gained grade 6 or above at IGCSE level (or equivalent), you begin by studying the International Advanced Subsidiary Level in Year 12. The International Advanced Level qualification is then studied in Year 13.



What will you learn as part of your course?

Edexcel AS and 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 applications of Mathematics in everyday situations;
- 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.

The IAL course is split into 6 units, 4 Pure units and 2 Applied units. In Year 12, you will study three units, Pure 1, Pure 2 and one Applied module. In Year 13, these units are expanded upon in Pure 3, Pure 4 and one Applied module. Each unit is equally weighted.

Year 12 – AS level Mathematics		
Pure 1 and 2	Applied (Statistics 1)	
	Statistics 1	
1. Proof 2. Algebra and Functions 3. Coordinate geometry 4. Trigonometry 5. Sequences and series 6. Calculus 7. Logarithms and exponentials	1. Representation of data 2. Probability 3. Discrete random variables 4. The normal distribution 5. Linear combinations of random variables	

Year 13 – A level Mathematics

Pure 3 and 4	Applied (Mechanics 1 or Decision 1)	
	Mechanics 1	Decision 1
1. Proof 2. Algebra and Functions 3. Coordinate geometry 4. Trigonometry 5. Calculus 6. Numerical methods 7. Vectors 8. Binominal expansion 9. Logarithms and exponentials	1. Mathematical models 2. Vectors 3. Kinematics 4. Dynamics 5. Statics 6. Moments.	1. Algorithms 2. Graphs and Networks 3. Optimisation 4. Critical Path Analysis 5. Linear Programming





This course will ensure you have the necessary subject knowledge to go to study a wide range of subjects at university. It is a must for those considering Mathematics, Engineering and Physics. Mathematics is highly regarded by both universities and employers, not only because of the rigor of the subject but also due to the wide range of transferable skills it will help you to develop:

- **Analytical skills** – clear thinking, attention to detail, ability to follow complex reasoning, ability to understand and construct logical arguments.
- **Communication skills** – ability to answer questions clearly and to communicate an argument precisely and logically, both orally and in written form.
- **Investigative skills** – knowing where and how to find information.
- **Learning skills** – ability to understand difficult concepts and apply them to a problem.
- **Problem solving skills** – being able to present a solution clearly, take a flexible approach, tackle a problem with confidence and appreciate when to seek help.
- **Self-management** – thorough approaches to work, time management, ability to work independently, determination.

Media Studies

Why Study Media?

Media has a considerable impact on the day to day lives of the majority of people on the planet. As we move further into the 21st Century this impact will only continue to develop. Through studying A Levels Media Studies, students will develop an understanding of the role media institutions play in the production and dissemination of information and will also have an opportunity to start exploring the production of media. The course has a strong emphasis on the practical side of media production with students being given the opportunity to develop skills in a variety of areas and engage with media issues and arguments. They gain lifelong skills and a solid foundation for further study.



Throughout the course students will gain lifelong skills including:

- The ability to apply practical skills creatively
- Research and evaluation skills
- Information management and project management skills
- The ability to analyse text and media products critically
- The ability to reflect critically upon their own learning.

These skills are easily transferrable and will support students in their future endeavours, on whichever path they choose to take

Media Studies Course

Students will complete two Components in Year 12 and two components in Year 13.

Year 12:

Component 1: Foundation Portfolio – Students will develop their media production skills by completing either a film based task or a magazine based task. (Coursework)

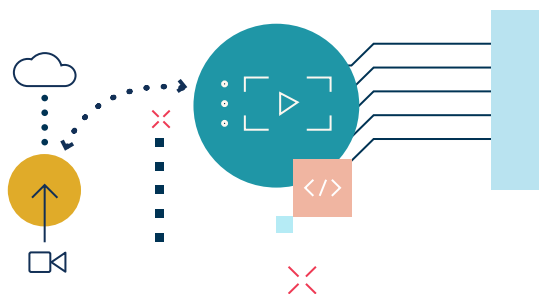
Component 2: Media Texts and Contexts – Students will learn about media institutions and practices. They will also develop an understanding of how media products are used to shape meaning. (Examination)

Year 13:

Component 3: Advanced Portfolio – Students will produce a campaign of mediaproducts, digital evidence of the process of their work and a creative critical reflection. (Coursework)

Component 4: Critical Perspectives – Students will continue to develop their understanding of the media industries and contemporary issues. (Examination)

Assessment – Each component carries equal weighting. Components 1 & 3 are coursework based and Components 2 & 4 are examination based.



Music

Why study Music?

Music as an academic subject provides a unique set of skills which are acknowledged to be excellent preparation for a range of careers and vocations. Music enhances creativity, communication, and self-expression and as a result learners have a deeper appreciation for Music in a global context. Music combines Arts, Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages and Sociology which creates a well-rounded education admired by universities and employers.

Course Description

Cambridge International AS & A Level Music aims to enable students to:

- Develop appreciation of music, through listening, composing and performing
- Develop aural appreciation of a variety of Western and non-Western music styles, genres and traditions
- Encourage an informed critical response to music
- Develop creative and interpretative skills through composing and performing in Western and/or non-Western traditions
- Deepen understanding of music in its wider cultural context
- Communicate understanding confidently, supporting judgements with evidence-based argument
- Develop the skills and understanding needed for the study of Music in higher education and/or lifelong learning

Assessment Overview

AS Level Music (Year 12): Students complete Component 1 and Component 2

- Component 1: Listening - 2 hour listening exam on Compositional Techniques and Performance Practice; Understanding Music; Connecting Music. (60% of the AS Level and 30% of the A Level)
- Component 2: Practical Musicianship - Performance recital (6-8 minutes) of two contrasting pieces on one instrument AND Composition portfolio of two contrasting compositions (1-2 minutes each). (40% of the AS Level and 20% of the A Level)

A Level Music (Year 13): Students complete Component 3 and either Component 4 OR Component 5.

- Component 3: Extended Performance – Performance recital (15-20 minutes) of thematically connected pieces on one instrument AND a research report (1000-1500 words). (25% of the A Level)
- Component 4: Extended Composition – Extended composition (6-8 minutes) of thematically connected material AND a research report (1000-1500 words). (25% of the A Level)
- Component 5: Music Investigation – Essay (2500-3000 words) on any musical area of interest AND a reflective statement (500 words). (25% of the A Level)

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

All students are welcome to apply for A Level Music as long as they can play at least one instrument (including vocals) to a good standard (equivalent to ABRSM Grade 4 and above) and have a passion and interest in the subject.

Cambridge International A Level Music can prepare students for a career in almost anything, with many going on to areas such as Music, Finance, Management and Law. The transferable skills you will learn, such as self-confidence, teamwork and creative thinking will open up many opportunities for any career path or university course you may choose.



Physics at AS & A level

Why study Physics?

"Not only is the Universe stranger than we think, it is stranger than we can think."

-Werner Heisenberg

We'd be lost without physics! All the gadgets that we take for granted like laptops and mobile phones wouldn't be here. Nor would the electricity supply that charges them and powers so many other things we use every day. Did you know that a physicist invented the World Wide Web? It's hard to imagine a world without the Internet, but when you were born almost no one had heard of it. Physicists are constantly finding new things. They have recently shown that teleportation is possible – who knows what that will lead to in a few years' time?

The Cambridge International AS and A Level in Physics is suitable for students who are looking at careers in engineering, medicine, communications and even law. The course requires students to develop their problem solving and analytical skills and not just their knowledge of the subject. These skills are highly transferable and desirable in any future career.

If you take the course, which is most suitable for those who have gained grade B or above at IGCSE level Science (or equivalent), you begin by studying the Advanced Subsidiary Level in Year 12. Once the Advanced Subsidiary A Level in Physics is achieved, you can continue to take the Advanced Level qualification in Year 13.

What will you learn as part of your course?

Cambridge International AS and A Level Physics qualifications are accepted by universities and employers as proof of essential knowledge and ability.

This syllabus is designed:

- to give a thorough introduction to the study of Physics and scientific methods
- to develop skills and abilities that are relevant to the safe practice of science and to everyday life: concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, the skills of enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- to emphasise the understanding and application of scientific concepts and principles, rather than the recall of factual material
- to enable candidates to become confident citizens in a technological world and to take an informed interest in matters of scientific importance
- to promote the use of IT as an aid to experiments and as a tool for the interpretation of experimental and theoretical results.

In year 12 and 13 you will study the following topics

- General physics and measurements
- Newtonian mechanics
- States of matter
- Oscillations and waves
- Electricity

In year 13 you will study the additional topics of

- Fields of Forces
- Thermal physics
- Electromagnetism
- Particle physics
- Quantum physics
- Medical Physics

Assessment

For the Advanced Subsidiary A Level in Physics there are 3 examination papers sat in the May/June examination session in year 12.

Paper 1 – Multiple choice

Paper 2 – AS structured questions

Paper 3 – Advanced practical skills

To continue on to the Advanced Level there are 2 more examination papers sat in the May/June examination session in year 13

Paper 4 – A2 structured questions

Paper 5 – Planning, analysis and evaluation



Physical Education

Why study A Level Physical Education?

Study of physical education at A Level will enhance your knowledge and experience of PE and Sport, as well as giving you a deeper understanding of health issues. This A Level offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of and participation in sport, play, leisure and recreation, allowing you to study movement, performance and behaviour in relation to PE.

Who is A level Physical Education suitable for?

You should enjoy science and looking at how the human body and mind is affected by sport participation and performance, and you should also be interested in the place of PE and sport in our society and how the subject has developed opportunities for participation. It goes without saying that you must also enjoy developing and acquiring skills and techniques in a variety of physical activities.

Prior learning

We recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in Physical Education or the equivalent and currently be taking part in **competitive school or club sport**.

What will I learn?

The Edexcel A Level Physical Education syllabus 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 is a linear course and will be examined at the end of year 13.

Year 12 (first year) students learn about:

- Scientific Principles of Physical Education (Applied anatomy & physiology, Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis)
- Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education (Skill acquisition and sport psychology, Sport and society)
- Practical Performance in one sport (as a performer or coach)
- Performance Analysis



Year 13 (second year) students learn:

- Scientific Principles of Physical Education (Applied anatomy & physiology, Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis)
- Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education (Skill acquisition and sport psychology, Sport and society)
- Practical Performance in one sport (as a performer or coach)
- Performance Analysis and Performance Development Programme

Progression

Edexcel A Level Physical Education provides a suitable foundation for the study of Physical Education, Sport Sciences or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in teaching, coaching, sport development, the leisure industry, recreational management and professional sport. However, A level physical education is recognized as a good course to help or as part of a course of general education.

Assessment

Year 12 (First Year)

- Practical performance assessment in one sport as a performer or coach - 15% of final grade
- Performance analysis in your chosen sport – 15% of final grade

Year 13 (Second Year)

- Scientific Principles of Physical Education – 2h 30 minute exam (140 marks) – 40% of final grade.
- Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education – 2h exam (100 marks) – 30% of final grade.
- Practical performance assessment in one sport as a performer or coach - 15% of final grade
- Performance analysis and Performance Development Programme in your chosen sport – 15% of final grade

Psychology

Aims and Objectives :

Psychology encourages learners to think like a psychologist. The course provides opportunities to explore key concepts and debates that underpin the subject of psychology and to develop the skills of interpretation, application, analysis and evaluation while studying a range of stimulating topics and real-world issues. Psychology will also improve students critical thinking, independent learning, scientific enquiry, language and literacy skills.

Students will be required to draw on a broad understanding of psychological theory, concepts and research methodology. Students will learn how to conduct research and how to apply findings to novel situations.

Psychology and its subsequent skills can aid and support students in a variety of subjects and careers. Students do not need any prior knowledge of psychology, but a good English level will be beneficial. Complimentary subjects can include English, science especially biology, mathematics.

Aims:

The aims are to enable students to develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories and research findings.
- An understanding of psychological approaches, issues and debates and research methodology.
- An awareness of the scientific method and range and limitations of psychological theory and practice.
- Improved skills in data analysis, evaluation and drawing conclusions.
- An awareness of the relationships between psychological findings and everyday life.
- An understanding of ethical issues in psychology.
- An appreciation and understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity.

Assessment Objectives:

- **Knowledge and understanding** - Demonstrate their knowledge and understanding
- **Applying knowledge and understanding** - Apply their knowledge to familiar and unfamiliar situations and real life and theoretical contexts
- **Analysis and evaluation** - Analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological information, ideas and evidence.

Key Skills:

Cambridge International AS & A Level Psychology encourages learners to be:

Confident – able to communicate psychological ideas and arguments to others and explore contemporary social issues with maturity and insight.

Responsible – able to consider the ethical and moral implications of what they learn.

Reflective – able to reflect on their own and others behaviour and mental processes.

Innovative – able to develop informed views about real-world issues and an ability to think psychologically to understand problems and respond to different situations.

Engaged – able to debate issues and use research findings to understand the world around them.

Course Content:

Year 12:

Research Methods:

Students will start by studying research methods and learn how psychological experiments are conducted. Students need to understand research methodology used by psychologists to investigate human and animal behaviour and the ethical guidelines that surround this. This includes features of experimental design including observations, questionnaires, interviews and experiments. It requires students to conduct & evaluate psychological research.

Core Studies:

Students will study 12 different studies from the social, cognitive, biological and learning approaches in psychology. These psychological studies are recent or historically important and are learned in detail, evaluated, and linked to contemporary issues and debates. By exploring the content of the study and the research methods, students will gain a broad understanding of how psychologists study experiences and behaviours and why the research took place.

AS students take two compulsory papers of 90minutes each. (50% of the total A-Level)

Paper 1 – Approaches, Issues and Debates and Paper 2 – Research Methods.

Year 13:

Clinical psychology:

The study of a range of mental and behavioural disorders/conditions considering the diagnostic criteria, symptoms, explanations and treatments. Students will be expected to understand the strengths and weaknesses of these explanations and treatments and compare them with each other. Students should have the opportunity to explore the different issues and debates relevant to the psychological theories and concepts and the research methods used to investigate these conditions/disorders.

Health psychology:

Health psychologists look at the factors that influence behaviours in both health and community settings. For this option, students will look at psychological factors that influence health and will also examine the management and assessment of health-related behaviours linked to stress, pain and non-adherence to medical advice. It will also look at the ways to influence behaviours around health and health choices. Students will have the opportunity to explore the different issues and debates relevant to the psychological theories and concepts and the research methods used to investigate health-related behaviour.

Each option has a number of key studies and example studies which are useful when looking at the research in each area.

A2 students take two compulsory papers of 90minute each (50% of total A-Level).

Paper 3 – Specialist Options: Approaches, Issues and Debates and Paper 4 – Specialist Options: Application and Research Methods.



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