

TASIS



PORTUGAL

IGCSE Options Booklet

TASIS Portugal's IGCSE Options Booklet

What is the IGCSE?

The **Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)** is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16-year-olds. This curriculum offers a variety of options in preparation for the International Baccalaureate (IB), colleges, and universities around the world.

All TASIS Portugal students are required to take courses in Mathematics, English, Science(s), and History. You will then build your learning journey from various IGCSE options and TASIS Portugal offerings.

Why the IGCSE?

It is Portuguese ministry of education policy that you complete formal assessments at the end of Grade 10. The IGCSE provides the most rigorous and adaptable option to bridge our Core Knowledge and Singapore Math curricula with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP). We intentionally designed the course offerings to help you reach your potential while preparing you for the challenges of the IB.

Estimated Achievement:

Each IGCSE course culminates in a standardized examination where scores are scaled based on global student performance in that subject. Throughout the two-year program, TASIS Portugal students are assessed using questions from past IGCSE examinations, which are marked according to the grading scheme outlined by Cambridge Assessment International Education. This ensures that students are familiar with, and prepared for, the examinations they will sit at the end of Grade 10. Predicted grades are our best forecast of progress and help students understand where they stand relative to the intended learning outcomes for the course, and like all formative assessments, they are a prediction of future success.

Graduation Requirements:

9th & 10th grades: A minimum of 6 IGCSE examinations must be passed with a grade of C or above; they can be in any courses. A maximum of 12 IGCSE examinations are possible but not required.

After-School Activities and Sports:

Sports are an important part of our education program at TASIS Portugal. We have built a comprehensive after-school activities and sports program that helps expand both mental and physical development of our students.

We believe in our students' development and preparation for life through team sports, healthy competition, and access to a wide variety of activities designed to meet individual interests. Sports encourage the development of important character traits such as self-discipline, cooperation, determination, respect, and leadership. It is compulsory for each of our Upper School students to choose at least one sport. They will be required to do this sport for at least one school term per year.

- Football (Soccer)
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Cross Country Running
- TASIS Dance Academy
- High Performance or Elite Level Sport
- Other (as signed by Director of Sports)

High School IGCSE offerings:

Required IGCSE subjects:

IGCSE English – First Language / IGCSE Literature in English

IGCSE International Mathematics

IGCSE Sciences – Co-ordinated (Double); Biology; Chemistry; Physics

IGCSE History

Options Block 1 (one choice):

IGCSE Portuguese – First Language

Portuguese – Foreign Language (Non IGCSE exam to certify language proficiency – CEFR)

Portuguese – Beginner

IGCSE French – Foreign Language

IGCSE Spanish – Foreign Language

Options Block 2 and 3 (two choices):

IGCSE Music

IGCSE Drama

IGCSE Art and Design

IGCSE Business Studies **or** IGCSE Enterprise

IGCSE Computer Science **or** IGCSE Geography

IGCSE French – Foreign Language

IGCSE Spanish – Foreign Language

Elective Block: (one choice per year)

IGCSE Spanish – First Language

IGCSE French – First Language

TASIS STEAM / Engineering / Design Lab

TASIS Classical Studies

TASIS Learning Support

TASIS Fitness and Health

TASIS Music

Bespoke TASIS Portugal Requirements:

Academic Research and Essay Writing (embedded in your English and History lessons)

TASIS Speaks (embedded in your English lessons)

TASIS Competitive Sports (After-School Program)

Academic Enrichment

Advisory and Social-Emotional Learning

Please note:

You will receive a **course grade** and an **IGCSE exam grade** for your final Year 10 report cards.

TASIS course grades will separately consider **participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.**

Required IGCSE Subjects:

IGCSE English – First Language (0500)

Designed for students whose first language is English, the course is challenging and is often used by universities to judge the English ability of prospective undergraduates. Achieving a Grade C in IGCSE English is usually enough to satisfy the language requirements for some universities in English-speaking nations.

The course aims to:

- Develop the ability to communicate accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- Use a wide range of vocabulary and the correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed

Students are also encouraged to read widely, both for their enjoyment and to further their awareness. Cambridge IGCSE English First Language also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as inference and order facts and present opinions effectively.

The IGCSE course will be assessed with an examination (50%) and the submission of a coursework portfolio (50%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

IGCSE Literature in English (0475)

The syllabus enables students to read, interpret, and evaluate texts through the study of Literature in English. Students develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts, and the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed.

Through their studies, they learn to recognize and appreciate how writers use English to achieve a range of effects and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

The syllabus also encourages the exploration of broader and universal issues, promoting children with a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Some of the books on offer include:

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – **Purple Hibiscus**

Charles Dickens – **Great Expectations**

Daphne du Maurier – **Rebecca**

Jhumpa Lahiri – **The Namesake**

Joan Lindsay – **Picnic at Hanging Rock**

Yann Martel – **Life of Pi**

H G Wells – **The War of the Worlds**

The IGCSE course will be assessed with written examinations (100%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

IGCSE International Mathematics (0607)

An essential subject for all students, Cambridge IGCSE International Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a critical life skill and as a solid basis for more advanced study.

The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop competence and fluency with mathematical concepts, methods, and skills and a feel for numbers, patterns, and relationships.

The syllabus also places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts, as well as learning how to use a graphing calculator to support higher-level problem-solving.

The IGCSE course will be assessed with written examinations (100%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

IGCSE Sciences – Co-ordinated (Double) (0654); Biology (0610); Chemistry (0620); Physics (0625)

There are two pathways within the sciences.

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences (Double Award) allows learners to study Biology, Chemistry, and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades.

Students learn how science is studied and practiced and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities, and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps students understand the technological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

The more motivated science students will be working in a faster-paced group that will follow a program leading to a separate IGCSE grade in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (sometimes referred to as Triple Award Science). These will include the same core material as the Double Award Science qualification with additional, more challenging material with no extra class time allocation. This course is particularly suited to those students planning to follow IB science courses at Higher Level.

The IGCSE course will be assessed with written examinations (80%) and practical tests (20%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

Students will follow the course most suited to their interests in Science. Teachers and students will determine this together.

IGCSE History (0470)

The Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus (Option A – The nineteenth century: the development of modern nation states, 1848–1914) looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and covers the history of regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and the skills required for historical research.

Students understand the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference, and how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies.

Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any student interested in the past, providing a basis for further study and encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

The course will be assessed by examination (73%) and the submission of an extended writing coursework (27%).

Your TASH course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

Options Block 1 (one choice):

IGCSE Portuguese – First Language (0504)

Cambridge IGCSE Portuguese First Language is designed for those whose first language is Portuguese. This First Language syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate accurately and effectively. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Students are also encouraged to read widely, both for their enjoyment and to appreciate how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.

The course will be assessed with written examinations (100%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

Portuguese – Foreign Language (Non IGCSE exam to certify language proficiency – CEFR)

This course is designed for students who are learning Portuguese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop their ability to use the language effectively for practical communication.

The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilization of countries where the language is spoken, encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and speakers of foreign languages.

Portuguese – Beginner

This course is designed for students who are learning Portuguese as a foreign language and have had little prior exposure to the language. The aim is to develop their ability to use the language effectively for practical communication.

IGCSE French – Foreign Language (0520)

This syllabus is designed for students who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where French is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and speakers of other languages.

The course will be assessed with written and spoken examinations (100%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

IGCSE Spanish – Foreign Language (0530)

This syllabus is designed for students who are learning Spanish as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and speakers of other languages.

The course will be assessed with written and spoken examinations (100%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

Options Block 2 and 3 (two choices):

IGCSE Music (0410)

When studying the Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus, learners listen to, perform, and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline, and, importantly, creativity. As a result, learners enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment.

Learners study the music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and they are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive, and critical when listening. Although most of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is always represented.

The course will be assessed with written examinations (40%) and the performing and composing of pieces. (60%).

Your TESIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

It is important to have an ongoing passion for and dedication to music – please speak to Mr. Gomes for further details.

IGCSE Drama (0411)

Through practical and theoretical study, learners develop an understanding and enjoyment of drama, developing group and individual skills and studying ways to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience.

Students learn how to discover the performance possibilities of a text and other stimuli and devise dramatic material of their own. They also develop performance skills, the demonstration of which will form part of the final assessment.

The course will be assessed with an examination (40%) and the submission of a coursework portfolio (60%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

It is important to be willing to perform both individually and within a group – please speak to Mr. Duarte for further details.

IGCSE Art and Design (0400)

The Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design syllabus encourages a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation, and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two- and three-dimensional form and composition and can identify as well as solve problems in visual and tactile forms.

Students also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

The course will be assessed with the submission of a coursework portfolio and essay (100%).

Your TASH course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

It is important to have an ongoing passion for creating art – please speak to Ms. Miyakawa for further details.

IGCSE Business Studies ([0450](#))

The Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organizations are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence.

Learners not only study business concepts and techniques, but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry.

The course will be assessed with written examinations (100%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

IGCSE Enterprise ([0454](#))

Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise is a unique syllabus that brings the world of business into the classroom and gives learners a clear insight into what it means to think like an entrepreneur. This is the first Cambridge IGCSE syllabus which asks learners to adopt the thoughts and actions of entrepreneurs, developing their knowledge and understanding of the practicalities of setting up and running their own new enterprise.

Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise equips learners with a range of vital life skills for use in planning and organization, communication, and financial management.

The course will be assessed with written examinations (50%) and the submission of a coursework portfolio (50%).

Your TASIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

IGCSE Computer Science (0478)

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computational thinking and an understanding of the principles of problem-solving using computers. They apply this understanding to create computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Students also develop a range of technical skills and the ability to test and evaluate computing solutions effectively.

Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use, and recognize their potential risks. It provides an ideal foundation for progression to IBDP Computer Science and is valuable for other areas of study and everyday life.

The course will be assessed with written examinations (100%).

Your TESIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

IGCSE Geography (0460)

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, students will develop a “sense of place” by looking at the world around them on a local, regional, and global scale.

Classes will examine a range of natural and human-made environments and study some of the processes which affected their development. They will also look at how people interact with their environment and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures around the world.

The course will be assessed with an examination (72.5%) and the submission of a coursework assignment (27.5%).

Your TESIS course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.

Elective options

IGCSE Spanish – First Language (0502)

Cambridge IGCSE Spanish First Language is designed for learners whose first language is Spanish. The course develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately, and effectively when speaking and writing. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which Spanish can be used. Cambridge IGCSE Spanish First Language also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

IGCSE French – First Language (0501)

Cambridge IGCSE French First Language is designed for learners whose first language is French. The syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately, and effectively. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and develop a personal style and awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.

TASIS TEAM / Engineering / Design Lab

The STEAM lab offers students the opportunity to create, design, and explore STEAM in a controlled and supervised environment.

TASIS Classical Studies

Classical Studies involve the study of the civilizations of Greece and Rome in the Classical period. Students will learn about the culture, literature, history, politics, and significant individuals of the Classical period. This course will:

- Provide students with an understanding of Greek and Roman civilization and encourage an appreciation of the Classical world;
- Enable students to understand the core foundations of Western traditions of architecture, art, history, literature, and political thought – traditions which have had major influences on the shape of the modern world;
- Develop students' awareness of diversity in civilizations by understanding cultures, values, and assumptions, which are different from contemporary views;
- Encourage students to develop a personal response to a range of material from the Greek and Roman world.

TASIS Learning Support

Students can utilize this time to work with our Learning Support Team on any additional academic needs.

TASIS Fitness and Health

A bespoke course comprising elements of physical activity and a focus on nutrition.

TASIS Music

A bespoke course focused on performing.



TASIS Portugal

High School Sample Daily Schedule

| Week A | | | | | |
|--------|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Time | Monday A | Tuesday A | Wednesday A | Thursday A | Friday A |
| 8:15 | Drop-Off | | | | |
| 8:30 | English | Physics | English | Option Block 1 | Chemistry |
| 9:30 | Biology | Option Block 2 | TASIS Elective | Option Block 2 | Option Block 3 |
| 10:30 | Break | | | | |
| 11:00 | Mathematics | Mathematics | Mathematics | Chemistry | Assembly |
| 12:00 | Option Block 1 | History | Biology | Mathematics | English |
| 13:00 |  Lunch / Recess | | | | |
| 14:00 | Chemistry | Option Block 3 | History | Option Block 1 | TASIS Elective |
| 15:00 | Option Block 2 | Option Block 1 | Physics | English | TASIS Elective |
| 15:50 | 1st Pick-Up | | | | |
| 16:00 | ASAs (2nd Pick-Up at 17:00) | | | | |

How some of your choices can lead into IB subjects:

Music > **IBDP Music**

Enterprise or Business Studies > **IBDP Economics**

Art and Design > **IBDP Visual Arts**

Mathematics > **IBDP Mathematics**

Drama > **IBDP Theatre; IBDP Dance**

Computer Science > **IBDP Computer Science**

Portuguese / Spanish / French > **IBDP Language Acquisition**

Fitness and Health > **IBDP Sports, Exercise, and Health Science**

English Language / English Literature > **IBDP Language A: Language and Literature; IBDP Literature**

Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) > **IBDP Biology; IBDP Chemistry; IBDP Computer Science; IBDP Design Technology; IBDP Environmental Systems and Societies; IBDP Nature of Science; IBDP Physics**

History / Geography > **IBDP Geography; IBDP Global Politics; IBDP History**

Questions that may be on your mind:

- ***“I know students who will be doing the MYP, why are we doing the IGCSEs instead?”***

Given the clearly defined Core Knowledge and Singapore Math content in Pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, we believe the IGCSE provides the best bridge to the IBDP, with a rigorous and challenging preparatory curriculum.

- ***“I get nervous and feel the pressure of formal exams. Can I opt out?”***

We are very aware of the pressure examinations can have on you. To that end, the School has designed a program with lots of extracurricular activities and fun learning opportunities. Exam practice and exam teaching will not be a fundamental component of your classes.

You cannot opt out of the IGCSE examinations. However, there is scope to reduce the number taken. This decision can be made further down the line after thorough conversations with your teachers.

We understand your results do not define you, and we guarantee you will have support throughout your journey. You will feel ready, capable, and reassured for the challenges ahead.

- ***“The IGCSEs don’t hold great significance for American Colleges. Is there still the need to do them if college is my aim?”***

Absolutely. The knowledge and experience gained, besides the successes and mistakes felt, will help you hugely. The IGCSEs may also aid the direction you wish to take for higher education. The IGCSEs are known by every established college and university globally, even if they are not required for entry.

- ***“I know the IB uses 1 to 7 gradings. What is the IGCSEs grading format?”***

The IGCSEs use A* to G gradings. TASIS Portugal uses an estimated grading system, with results ranging from A* to F.

- ***“What sporting opportunities are there for me?”***

We will offer various after-school activities, competitive sports options, and optional Fitness and Health sessions for you. You must commit to joining a competitive sports team.