

# TASIS



PORTUGAL

## IGSCE OPTIONS BOOKLET

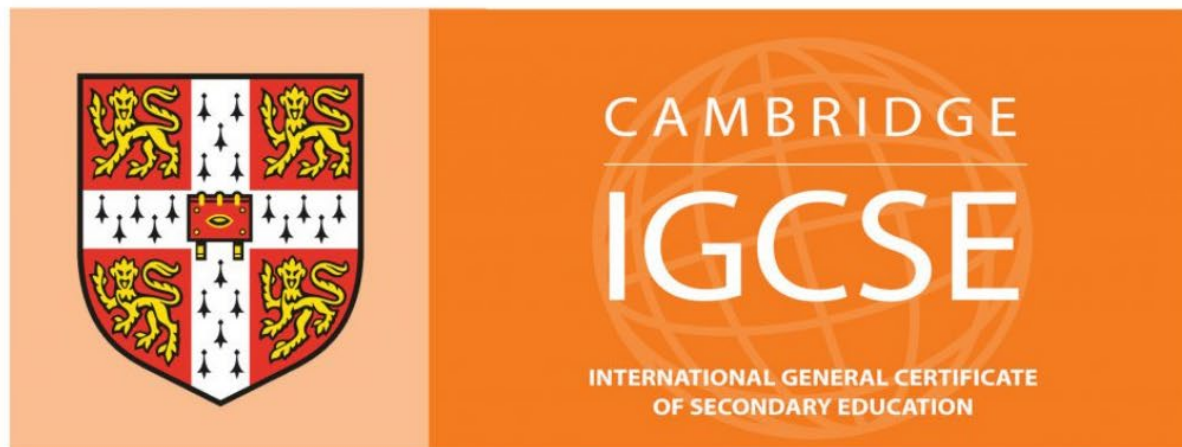
## What is the IGCSE?

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) and 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 10<sup>th</sup> Grade. 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.



## Graduation Requirements:

**9-10th 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.

**11-12th grades:** To receive an IB diploma, candidates must receive a minimum of 24 points or an average of four out of a possible seven points for six subjects. Candidates must also receive a minimum of 12 points from their Higher Level subjects and a minimum of 9 points from their Standard Level subjects.

- English: 4 years of English
- Mathematics: 3 years of mathematics
- History: 2 - 4 years of history
- Science: 3 years of laboratory science
- Foreign Language: 4 years of language study or B1 proficiency as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference) in a foreign language other than English that is offered at TASIS Portugal.
- Fine Arts: 2 years of visual or performing arts

### 2-4 years of elective courses

- Service Learning and Leadership: 4 years of participation in TASIS Portugal service learning and/or leadership
- Sports and Activities: Fulfillment of the Sports and Activities requirements
- Public Speaking: 4 years of participation in TASIS Speaks

### Please Note:

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

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

## **High School IGCSE offerings:**

### **Required IGCSE subjects:**

English Language/English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science (biology, chemistry, physics)  
History

### **Options Block 1: (one choice)**

Portuguese First Language IGCSE  
Portuguese Second Language, Camões Júnior  
Spanish Second Language IGCSE  
French Second Language IGCSE

### **Options Blocks 2 and 3: (two choices)**

Art & Design IGCSE  
Music IGCSE  
Drama IGCSE  
Computer Science IGCSE  
Geography IGCSE  
Spanish Second Language IGCSE  
French Second Language IGCSE

**Elective Block: (one choice per year)**

Spanish First Language IGCSE  
French First Language IGCSE  
Enterprise IGCSE  
STEAM/Engineering/Design Lab TESIS  
Learning Support TESIS  
Fitness and Health TESIS  
Classical Studies TESIS

**Bespoke TESIS Portugal Requirements**

Academic Research and Essay Writing (embedded in your English and history lessons)  
TESIS Speaks (embedded in your English lessons)  
TESIS Competitive Sports (After School Program)  
Academic Enrichment (You will work within your chosen guilds, collaborating with peers who share a common interest while aiming to produce a product, performance, or service)  
Homeroom Advisory and Social-Emotional Learning

\*TESIS Portugal will strive to ensure that all students are placed in their first choice of courses. Parents and students should be aware that this will not always be possible based on student uptake of courses and the scheduling requirements of the school. If a student's selection is not possible, they will be contacted promptly and given guidance about possible alternatives. Completion of the form by the required deadline increases the likelihood that course selections can be accommodated.

## **IGCSE Options:**

### **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 First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills, such as inference and order of facts and presenting opinions effectively.

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

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

## **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 a better understanding of oneself and of the world around us.

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 Portugal course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.**

## **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 Portugal course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.**



**Sciences - Coordinated (Double) (0654); Biology (0610); Chemistry (0620); Physics (0625)**

There are two pathways within the sciences.

Cambridge IGCSE Coordinated Sciences 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. In addition to 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.

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 taught with no extra 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 TESIS Portugal 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.**

## **History (0470)**

The Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Both coursework and non-coursework options are available.

**The course will be assessed with an examination (70%) and the submission of a coursework portfolio(30%).**

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

## **Geography (0460)**

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

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

**The course will be assessed with an examination (70%) and the submission of a coursework portfolio(30%).**

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

### **Portuguese – First Language** [\(0504\)](#)

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Portuguese is designed for children 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.

They 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 Portugal course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.**

### **Portuguese - Foreign Language** [\(Camões Júnior – e-certification Portuguese as a Foreign Language\)](#)

This course is designed for students who are learning Portuguese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop the 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 upon 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.

### **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 TESIS Portugal course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.**

### **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 upon 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 TESIS Portugal course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.**

## **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 for and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances lifelong 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 Portugal 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.**

## **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.

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

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

**Your TESIS Portugal 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.**

## **Art & Design (0400)**

The Cambridge IGCSE Art & 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 and solve problems in visual and tactile forms.

They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art & 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 TASIS Portugal 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.**



## **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. Learners also develop a range of technical skills and the ability to test and evaluate computing solutions effectively.

Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps students 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 TASIS Portugal course grade will consider participation, classwork, homework, and in-class assessment.**

## Elective Block

### Engineering and Design

This high school elective course invites innovation, creativity, and invention through hands-on projects. Students are guided through the engineering design processes to solve problems of personal interest.

#### STEAM Engineering and Design Lab

Students engage with high- and low-tech tools to build a more integrated knowledge of math, design, science, technology, and engineering concepts through project-based work. The lab is a well-equipped space to explore real-world skills and creative problem-solving. The lab is a shared space used primarily for high school courses, yet also for elementary and middle school STEAM projects.



## **Classical Studies**

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

- Provide students with an understanding of Greek and Roman civilizations 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; and
- Encourage students to develop a personal response to a range of material from the Greek and Roman worlds.

**Example Timetable**

|             | Monday  | Tuesday        | Wednesday      | Thursday       | Friday         |
|-------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 8:30-9:30   | English   | Physics        | English        | Option Block 1 | Assembly       |
| 9:30- 10:30 | Biology   | TASIS Elective | Option Block 3 | Option Block 2 | Option Block 3 |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break   |                |                |                |                |
| 11:00-12:00 | Mathematics   | English        | Mathematics    | Chemistry      | SEL            |
| 12:00-13:00 | Option Block 1  | History        | Biology        | Mathematics    | End of Day     |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch   |                |                |                |                |
| 14:00-15:00 | Chemistry   | Mathematics    | History        | TASIS Elective |                |
| 15:00-16:00 | Option Block 2  | Option Block 1 | Physics        | English        |                |
| 16:00-17:30 | <b><i>Competitive Sports &amp; After School Clubs</i></b> |                |                |                |                |

**How some of your choices can lead into IB subjects:**

Music > **IBDP Music**

Enterprise > **IBDP Economics**

Art & 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 Individual and Society; 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 PK-Grade 8, 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 create. To that end, the school has designed a program with lots of extracurricular activities and fun learning opportunities. Exam practice and 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 talks 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, reassured, and capable 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 experiences gained, plus the successes and mistakes felt, will help you enormously. The IGCSEs may also inform 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 use grades from 1 – 7. What is the IGCSEs grading format?”***

The IGCSEs use A\* - F gradings.

- ***“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.

- ***“I am interested in economics and business, what can I choose that is relevant?”***

We offer the IGCSE in “Enterprise,” which is a unique syllabus that brings the world of business into the classroom and gives you a clear insight into what it means to think like an entrepreneur. We suggest combining this with a business-related Academic Enrichment option.