

A-LEVEL GUIDE



2024-25
Hebron School,
Ooty, India

Table of Contents

AN INTRODUCTION FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS	3
MAKING YOUR A LEVEL CHOICES: SOME THOUGHTS FOR STUDENTS	4
ART & DESIGN	5
BIOLOGY	6
BUSINESS	8
CHEMISTRY	10
COMPUTER SCIENCE	11
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN)	12
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	13
ENGLISH LITERATURE	15
GERMAN	17
GEOGRAPHY	19
HISTORY	20
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	21
MATHEMATICS	23
MUSIC	24
PHYSICS	26
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	27
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT QUALIFICATION	28
WHAT A FUTURE A LEVEL STUDENT Needs to do:	29

AN INTRODUCTION FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

What an education at Hebron can offer

Hebron School offers the opportunity of an international, Christian boarding school education with a very strong academic and pastoral tradition. The school, which was founded in 1899, places a strong emphasis on its Christian nature and ethos with all teachers being committed Christians. All students are expected to be sympathetic to the Christian ethos and policies of Hebron, as well as pursuing academic excellence.

Education at Hebron is in the medium of the English language. It is also based on the long established and internationally recognised English A level educational system. Most students reach high levels of achievement and subsequently move on to universities in India and around the world.

Advanced Levels (A Levels)

Studying A Levels at Hebron is a two-year programme with students in standards 12 and 13 taking external examinations after each year of study in the May-June examination session.

A Levels build on the two year IGCSE programme which is taught at Hebron in standards 10 & 11. Students arriving from other systems - Indian or IB for instance - may find that there will be some adjustments to their mode of study.

In the UK, students follow the academic A Level route or they enter vocational training or apprenticeships. The pass grades for A Level courses are A*-E (a fail is labelled 'U' for unclassified). Students in the UK follow a linear route which means they are assessed by external examinations at the end of two years. At Hebron we follow a modular route to allow for greater flexibility as our students prepare to study in different university systems around the world.

Students who have attained high grades at IGCSE will still find it a challenge to achieve highly at A Levels. It is a significant academic jump from one to the other. Lower grades therefore do not necessarily indicate a decrease in achievement levels.

A Levels are recognised internationally. The most prestigious universities require three pass grades of A*AA or AAA for entry into most courses. Lower grades will still meet the requirements to enter a range of universities and courses.

Students at Hebron begin their Std. 12 courses studying three or four A Levels depending on their IGCSE grades. Those studying for four qualifications may carry on with all of them until the end of the course or they may drop down to three at some point. Students have the option of taking an AS Level qualification in a subject they plan to drop at the end of Std. 12 but they need to consult their teacher for guidance. A Level students are also offered the chance to undertake an Independent Project Qualification (IPQ) - an essay/project of their own choice that is considered as the equivalent of an AS level. This course further broadens the curriculum for students.

Entry Requirements to Std 12/13

A Level courses are academic and require a strong basis of skills at point of entry. Students can consider A Level studies in a subject which they did not take at IGCSE if they have shown ability in a related subject. Sometimes subjects only become available for study at A level. Grades in related subjects are required for students to be allowed to begin the course.

The following minimum requirements are required for entry into Std. 12:

- Grade B (or 6) or above at IGCSE in the chosen A Level subjects, or a closely related subject, e.g. within the Humanities
- Grade C or above in at least two other subjects, including English Language and Mathematics. In some circumstances, students will be required to re-take their English Language and possibly Mathematics along with their 'A' level subjects.
- For A level subjects not taken at IGCSE level there may also be specific testing at the school.
- A positive attitude to the academic, social and Christian nature of Hebron.
- Other qualifications may be acceptable and can be discussed.

MAKING YOUR A LEVEL CHOICES: SOME THOUGHTS FOR STUDENTS

The following points are crucial in your decision-making.

- Discuss possible subject choices with teachers, Heads of departments and Heads of school, and parents.
- The main criteria for choosing an A level subject should be enthusiasm and aptitude. Problems can arise when a selection is made for other reasons, especially when it is contrary to advice given by subject teachers or Heads of School.
- Some students already have an idea about the university course they would like to study. Discussions, before starting a course of study, are essential to ensure that these ideas are feasible.
- When it comes to the question of which A Levels match particular careers there are fewer restrictions in western countries. Indian Universities, by contrast, are often more prescriptive.
- Many university courses, especially those in the Sciences, do require some specific subjects at A Level. However, for many careers any combination of subjects is acceptable. For example, careers in chartered accountancy, law, hotel management, broadcasting, banking and many others follow equally well from Arts and Science A Level and degree courses. The position in Indian universities can be different, especially for certain Science courses. Students must check requirements for specific universities from their literature.

- Students applying for medicine to Indian Universities (and Australian citizens applying to Australian universities) should take English Language to AS Level at least and check the requirements for their future university choices.
- Students taking Further Mathematics may, at the discretion of the Head of A Levels, take it as a fifth subject. An IPQ can also replace one subject choice.

AS/A2 subjects on offer at Hebron

1. Art & Design	7. English Language	13. Mathematics
2. Biology	8. English Literature	14. Music
3. Business	9. German	15. Physics
4. Chemistry	10. Geography	16. Religious Studies
5. Computer Science	11. History	17. International Project Qualification
6. Design & Technology	12. Information Technology	

You will find below a brief outline on each of the subjects offered at Hebron. For further information on A2 and AS courses consult:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/> for Cambridge International
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html> for Edexcel courses

ART & DESIGN

Course: CIE 9479

The A-level art and design course is taken over two years. Components 1,2 are taken in standard 12 and component 3 is taken in standard 13.

AS - 2 Components

Component 1 - Coursework internally set and externally graded.

Component 2 - Examination externally set and externally graded.

A2 - 1 Components

Component 3 - Personal investigation internally set and externally graded.

Preamble

A level Art and Design is the first step along the road for many exciting careers including: Graphic Design, Web design, Illustration, Animation, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Product Design... to name but a few! The AS & A2 courses are very broad based and tailored to individual needs and interests. You will learn many new techniques and be encouraged to experiment with different media. Art history is at the core of what we do and is studied through discussions and a trip to Art Galleries where students can analyse and compare the work of artists first hand. It is recommended but not compulsory that A level art students have access to their own digital camera.

Requirements:

It is recommended that students have attained at least a C in Art and Design at IGCSE level. Students that have not taken art prior to AS level will be required to complete assessments with the Head of Art to assess their admission application.

AS Course Content

Component 1: There are two parts to this component: a portfolio and a final outcome. Candidates explore and develop coursework based on a theme of their choice, producing a portfolio of work leading to a final outcome. Cambridge International will assess the portfolio and the final outcome together and award a single mark out of 100. This is worth 50% of the overall grade at AS level.

Component 2: The question paper for this component is set by Cambridge. There are two parts to this component: supporting studies, created during the preparatory period and a final outcome, produced during a supervised test of 15 hours. This is worth 50% of the overall grade at AS level.

A2 Course Content

Component 3 is the A Level component. The Personal Investigation is an in-depth study that demonstrates the candidate's ability to carry out independent research from a starting point of their choice through to a fully realised and coherent conclusion. During their investigation candidates produce practical work supported by written analysis containing detailed research. First-hand studies from primary sources such as visits to local galleries, studios or buildings, or contact with local artists, designers or crafts-people must form at least part of the research. Cambridge International will assess the practical work and the written analysis together and award a single mark out of 100.

The combined overall grade for A2 level will be awarded as follows:

Components 1 and 2 - 50%

Component 3 - 50%

BIOLOGY

Course: CIE 9700

A Level Biology is a modular course, studied over two years. AS Papers 1, 2 & 3 are sat in the June of the first year. A2 Papers 5 & 6 are sat in the June of the second year.

AS and A2 Level papers:

Paper 1: Theory paper 1¼ hours 40 multiple choice questions

Paper 2: Theory paper 1¼ hours short answer questions

Paper 3: Practical Exam 2 hours laboratory based exam

Paper 4: Theory paper 2 hours short answer questions

Paper 5: Written paper 1¼ hours testing advanced practical skills

Preamble

As well as the need for biological understanding in traditional occupations, a good understanding of Biology is becoming more important for all citizens of the modern world. This may be illustrated by the way citizens of today are confronted by issues stemming from concern for the environment, the impact of new technology on the biosphere, and ethical issues arising from new genetic and medical knowledge.

Equally, studying a modern Biology course gives tremendous insight into the wonders of the Living World.

Course Content

The study of this subject at A level follows naturally from an IGCSE course (or any other equivalent) in Biology. We expect prospective A level students to have attained a minimum grade B at IGCSE level. Presenting, understanding and applying data are key skills for a Biologist. Equally at A Level, a good grasp of chemical concepts is very important. Students without a strong foundation in IGCSE Mathematics and Chemistry will therefore find the course very challenging.

The course places a strong emphasis on a foundation of the biochemistry and physiology of plant and animal cells, including topics dealing with the structure and function of quite complex biological molecules, the rate of enzyme controlled reactions, transport in plant and animal tissue and genetic control. In addition, there are sections on the physiology of gas exchange and on various aspects of human health and disease.

This foundation then enables a detailed study of key biochemical processes such as the details of Respiration and Photosynthesis, Homeostasis and Coordination and Control mechanisms involved both in plants and humans with the impact of biotechnology in relevant areas. Other areas considered include Inherited changes, Genetic Technology, Biodiversity and its conservation and selection, including theories of evolution.

There is a significant practical element to the course which fosters skills of planning, interpretation of data and evaluation using various statistical analysis tools, as well as manipulation of equipment and observation and presentation of results.

Future Study and Career Options

Completing the course successfully will give access into medical, dental and veterinary courses (with good grades); into pharmacology and biochemistry (if studied with Chemistry); pure and applied Biology; zoology or botany; microbiology; agriculture; marine biology; ecology and other specialist Biology-based courses. It would also give access to the nursing profession, psychology courses and teaching and laboratory-based work in hospitals and research labs.

BUSINESS

Course: CIE 9609

Course Components: AS – 50% A2 – 50%

In the A Level Business course students will appear for a total of 4 papers over the 2 years of the course. It is a modular course, with students appearing for papers 1 and 2 externally at the end of Std. 12 and papers 3 and 4 at the end of std.13. If a student wishes to study for AS Business only, they will only sit papers 1-2 externally at the end of Std. 12.

The following is an overview of the 4 external exam papers for the course:

Paper 1: (1 hour 15 mins) - four short answers and one essay (40 marks)

Paper 2: (1 hour 30 mins) - two data response questions (60 marks)

Paper 3: (1 hour 45 mins) - Detailed case study on 'Business Decision Making' requiring short and long form answers. (60 marks)

Paper 4: (1 hour 15 mins) - Two essay questions based on a case study on 'Business Strategy' (40 marks)

Preamble

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.

Cambridge learners of Business will develop:

- The capacity to analyse characteristics and activities of business organisations and how they respond to the changing demands of their environments
- An understanding of how effective managers and leaders develop successful organisations in terms of customer focus and the products/services they offer
- The opportunity to reflect on how successful business organisations engage in financial and accounting practices to maximise value for stakeholders' value
- Development of knowledge that relates to strategic planning and decision-making to ensure business survival, change, and sustainable success
- A solid foundation for further study.

Course Structure

Much of the work in A level Business involves detailed investigations of individual businesses and their activities. Case studies involve some quantitative analysis; particularly at A2 Level, hence some mathematical ability is useful. At least a B in IGCSE Maths is desirable but not essential for students going for A Level Business. The Business syllabus content is divided into five main topic areas and in each of these five, a lesson on business strategy is added to provide students with a basic understanding of how companies make strategic decisions to remain relevant and achieve growth after evaluating their strengths, their objectives and the business environment.

1. Business and its Environment

This topic focuses on comprehending business nature, purpose, structures, functions, cultures, and objectives. It emphasises the dynamic nature of business environments, exploring the influence of political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental, and ethical factors, with adaptability being crucial for business success.

2. Human Resource Management

This topic emphasises developing effective policies, procedures, structures, systems, and leadership approaches to harness human potential for organisational goals, requiring an understanding of management and leadership theories, motivation techniques, and the role of human resource management in achieving business success.

3. Marketing

This topic emphasises the importance of marketing for business competitiveness, highlighting the significance of marketing orientation, principles, practices, and their application to both commercial and non-profit organisations. It explores the relationship between marketing and other business functions and underscores the objective of satisfying customer needs through market research and a strong customer focus.

4. Operations Management

This topic covers operations management for efficient goods and services production, and project management for one-off projects, emphasising the interrelation of design, planning, quality, and workforce issues to achieve objectives. It encourages understanding the benefits and limitations of techniques and frameworks used by managers, highlighting the crucial role of innovation in supporting effective businesses in dynamic environments.

5. Finance & Accounting

This section introduces the importance of financial management, accounting principles, and financial performance assessment. It covers the basics of financial management techniques, the value of financial statements, and their role in decision-making. Emphasising the link between finance and overall management, it highlights the significance of interpreting management accounting information to create and measure value. Additionally, the 'Business Strategy' component explores strategic management concepts, decision-making, and tools to develop basic business strategies across various organisational contexts.

Further Studies and Career Options

Undergraduate and graduate courses cover various business subjects. After A-levels, students can either pursue a general business degree or specialise in common functions (e.g., Marketing, IT, HR) or specific industries (e.g., finance, retail, hospitality).

Career options open to a business studies graduate are wide and include in the field of Management; Administration; Financial Services; Human Resources; Marketing; Advertising and Teaching.

CHEMISTRY

Course: CIE 9701

A Level Chemistry is a modular course, studied over two years. AS Papers 1, 2 & 3 are sat in the June of the first year. A2 Papers 4 & 5 are sat in the June of the second year.

AS and A2 Level papers:

Paper 1 (1 hour) Multiple Choice

Paper 2 (1¼ hour) Short Answers

Paper 3 (2 hours) Practical Exam

Paper 4 (2 hours) Core & Applications Short Answers

Paper 5 (1¼ hours) Written paper testing advanced practical skills

Preamble

Chemistry opens up a wide range of career opportunities. It is essential for any medical based profession linking effectively with Biology, and is very useful to support Mathematics and Physics for engineering. You can also study Chemistry itself and find yourself at the forefront of research into, and production of, new and improved materials such as those needed for integrated circuits, contact lenses, and biodegradable

plastics. Chemists provide the background to environmental pollution issues as well as servicing essentials for life through pharmaceuticals.

Students must attain a minimum of a B grade at IGCSE Chemistry to qualify for the A Level course and should also have at least a B grade in IGCSE level Mathematics.

Course Structure

The course followed is prescribed and examined by Cambridge International Examinations and is developed around the following key concepts:

- Atoms and forces: Matter is built from atoms interacting and bonding through electrostatic forces. The structure of matter affects its physical and chemical properties, and influences how substances react chemically.
- Experiments and evidence: Chemists use evidence gained from observations and experiments to build models and theories of the structure and reactivity of materials.
- Patterns in chemical behaviour and reactions: By identifying patterns in chemical behaviour we can predict the properties of substances and how they can be transformed into new substances by chemical reactions. This allows us to design new materials of use to society.
- Chemical bonds: The understanding of how chemical bonds are made and broken by the movement of electrons allows us to predict patterns of reactivity.
- Energy changes: The energy changes that take place during chemical reactions can be used to predict both the extent and the rate of such reactions.

Students will engage in regular practical work that enhances investigative skills and links theory to real world Chemistry.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course: CIE 9618 (Linear)

Preamble

This course encourages learners to meet the needs of Higher Education courses in computer science as well as twenty-first-century digital employers. It encourages learners to think creatively, through applying practical programming solutions, demonstrating that they are effective users of technology.

The approach of the course is to help learners to become:

- confident using a range of technology and programming paradigms
- responsible for using technology ethically
- reflective as programmers, improving their programming solution
- innovative in creating efficient solutions to problems
- engaged in technology, how it is built and how software solutions are developed.

Prior learning

Learners who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE course, or the equivalent, in Computer Science or Information Communication Technology. The course content builds on the understanding developed at Key Stage 4 (IGCSE or equivalent), enabling learners to make a smooth transition to the next level of study.

We highly recommend learners wishing to study Computer Science at this level to have gained preferably a B or above in their IGCSE/equivalent examination. An aptitude and an enthusiasm for basic coding skills (block coding) are essential and will help their learning.

Course Content Overview

AS content

1. Information Representation	5. System Software	9. Algorithm Design and Problem-Solving
2. Communication	6. Security, Privacy and Data Integrity	10. Data Types and Structures
3. Hardware	7. Ethics and Ownership	11. Programming
4. Processor Fundamentals	8. Databases	12. Software Development

A2 Content

1. Data Representation	5. Security
2. Communication and Internet Technologies	6. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
3. Hardware and Virtual Machines	7. Computational Thinking and Problem Solving
4. System Software	8. Further Programming

Assessment

The assessment for computer science comprises four papers:

Papers 1 and 2 for AS Level, and all four papers for A Level. Calculators are prohibited in all papers. Paper 1, focusing on Theory Fundamentals, lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and assesses syllabus sections 1 to 8, with 75 marks allocated. Paper 2, on Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills, lasts 2 hours and evaluates sections 9 to 12, with 75 marks.

Both Papers 1 and 2 are written and externally assessed, covering 50% of AS Level and 25% of A Level.

Paper 3, Advanced Theory, lasts 1 hour 20 minutes, covers sections 13 to 20, and has 75 marks. Paper 4, Practical, lasts 2 hours 30 minutes and assesses sections 19 to 20, excluding low-level and declarative programming.

Candidates must submit complete program code and testing evidence. They can use Java, Visual Basic, or Python console model languages, and the paper is externally assessed. Paper 3 constitutes 25% of the A Level assessment, as does Paper 4.

Further Studies & Career Options

A Level Computer Science provides a suitable foundation for the study of IT, Computer Science, Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, computer game development, or any related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Computer Science or engineering, or as part of a course of general education.

Career options:

Some of the jobs where your degree would be useful include:

1. Air Traffic Controller	8. Computer Programmer
2. Robotics Consultant	9. Interface Designer
3. Chief Information Officer	10. Technical Writer
4. Law Enforcement Officer	11. Satellite Communications Consultant
5. Video Game Developer	12. Manufacturing Machine Designer
6. Internet Safety Analyst	13. Telecommunication Consultant
7. Computer Engineer	14. Professor/Teacher

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN)

Course: Edexcel A2 9DT0 (Linear)

Overview

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Design and Technology (Product Design) course is designed to empower students with both the knowledge and the practical skills required to develop creative design solutions to user requirements. It focuses on design and production, teaching students design principles and

manufacturing techniques, while also developing hands-on skills in a range of materials. At Hebron, students will have the opportunity to work with wood, polymers, paper, and metal using a variety of machines and processes to bring designs to reality. They will also study various components impacting design such as new technologies, environmental concerns, computer assisted tools, material uses and limitations, design history, user focused design process among others.

The non-examined assessment component is a user focused design process that leads the student through the various stages of design from concept to manufacture. It is designed to teach students how to develop a product according to the needs and specifications of a client.

Assessment

The Design and Technology course consists of one externally-examined paper (worth 50% of the qualification) and one non-examined assessment component (worth 50% of the qualification), both assessed in the second year of the course. This is a 2-year linear course.

Further Studies and Career Options

The course will be of value to anyone who wishes to pursue a university or higher education course leading to a career in a creative field. For example:

- Architecture
- Interior Design
- Industrial/Product Design
- Environmental Design
- Mechanical, Aeronautical or Production Engineering.

For any skill-based trade, this course is a great introduction to a wide range of skill-sets, including: welding, carpentry, construction, entrepreneurship, artisan manufacturing, CNC operator, etc.

It is also useful in empowering students to safely utilise a variety of hand and power tools in order to design and build products for personal use.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Course: CIE 9093

Content

Cambridge International AS Level English Language provides students with opportunities to make critical and informed responses to texts which are wide-ranging in their form, style and context. Students will also produce their own imaginative writing, and will demonstrate their ability to produce writing for given audiences. Those who opt for Cambridge International A Level English Language will develop a strong foundation in the study of linguistics, focusing on spoken language, English as a Global Language, Child Language Acquisition and Language and Self-identity.

AS 2 papers

Paper 1 (2 hours 15 min) Passages

Paper 2 (2 Hours) Writing

A2 2 papers

Paper 3 (2 hours 15 min) Language Analysis

Paper 4 (2 hours 15 min) Language Topics

Aim

To develop a critical and informed response to texts in a range of forms, styles, contexts and audiences; the interdependent skills of reading, analysis and research; effective, creative, accurate and appropriate communication; and a firm foundation for further study of language and linguistics.

AS Paper 1 Passages

This paper has two sections: Section A: Directed response, and Section B: Text analysis. Each section is worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer two compulsory questions: Question 1 in Section A, and Question 2 in Section B. Each question requires candidates to respond to one unseen text.

AS Paper 2 Writing

This paper has two sections: Section A: Shorter writing and reflective commentary, and Section B: Extended writing. Each section is worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer two questions: Question 1 in Section A (compulsory), and one question in Section B.

A2 Level Paper 3 Language Analysis

This paper has two sections, Section A: Language change, and Section B: Child language acquisition. Each section is worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer both questions.

A2 Level Paper 4 Language Topics

This paper has two sections, Section A: English in the world, and Section B: Language and the self. Each section is worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer both questions.

Assessment objectives

Candidates are assessed on their ability to:

1. Read with understanding and analyse texts in a variety of forms
2. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of English language and its use in a variety of contexts
3. Write clearly, accurately, creatively and effectively for different purposes/audiences, using different forms. Learners who follow the Cambridge International AS & A Level English Language syllabus will develop the following skills and understanding:
 - Sustaining accurate, fluent and consistent writing
 - Producing informed responses appropriate to the specified form, style, context, and audiences

- Conveying knowledge and understanding from both specific examples and wider studies. These are highly transferable skills and may help learners in other subject areas, as well as equipping them for higher education or employment.

Course structure

A Level English Language is a modular A Level course, the reason being most students need the AS course to qualify them for professional courses at university. The course content for the AS module is taught in Std. 12 and the course content for the A2 module is taught in Std. 13. Students learn analytical writing skills at AS level which, if they opt to do A2, becomes an invaluable tool in its own right. Some transferable skills developed in studying English A level include: research skills, critical thinking, essay writing, analytical skills, attention to detail, and crafting arguments.

Career Options would include any of the following and more: journalism, grant writing, social media management, law, school teaching, technical writing, and public relations. The A2 Language course is foundational to courses at university like Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Media Studies, Law, Linguistics, International Relations, to name a few.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course: CIE 9695

AS: 2 Papers

Paper 1 (2 hours): Drama and Poetry, 2 questions from different sections

Paper 2 (2 hours): Prose and Unseen, 2 questions from different sections

A2: 2 Papers

Paper 3 (2 hours): Shakespeare and Drama, 2 questions from different sections

Paper 4 (2 hours): Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose, 2 questions from different sections.

Preamble

English Literature students develop a lifelong understanding and enjoyment of literary texts, and, importantly, gain a range of essential skills. These include the ability to write clearly and effectively and the ability to analyse texts in different forms and styles. Critical thinking and the ability to engage with different views and life experiences as explored through literary works are additional, invaluable outcomes. Skills in developing arguments and in researching and managing information are also imparted through the course.

Students who already read widely will have an added advantage in this subject.

Course Structure

Students have a choice of undertaking a modular or a linear course in Literature depending on their plans post-A level, but are encouraged to undertake the full 2-year course in order to have time to develop their skills. This Literature syllabus is based around the study of a number of set-text options within certain prescribed limits of genre. Cambridge offers a choice of works with an international flavour alongside English Literature classics, with the selection changing every three years. Class and independent work is based on a mix of lively group discussions, essays, presentations and wider reading.

AS level

Paper 1 – Drama and Poetry

In their final externally assessed exam, students must answer two questions: one question from a choice of Drama set texts in Section A and one question from a choice of Poetry set texts in Section B. Each question requires candidates to demonstrate understanding of the text and informed independent opinions, and to communicate these clearly and appropriately. Questions on the relation of textual extracts to the work as a whole, on the effective use of narrative, poetic and dramatic methods, and on the style and language of texts will test understanding of the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meaning.

Paper 2 – Prose and Unseen (2 hours)

In their second, externally assessed exam, students must answer two questions: one question from a choice of Prose set texts in Section A and one question from a choice of two previously unseen texts in Section B. For section B, students will be required to write a critical appreciation of previously unseen passages. The passages will cover at least two of the categories of prose, poetry and drama. All questions give students an opportunity to show their understanding of the text, their informed independent opinions, and to communicate these clearly and appropriately.

Advanced level (A2)

Paper 3 - Shakespeare and Drama (2 hours)

This paper is divided into Section A: Shakespeare and Section B: drama. There are two questions on each text: one essay question and one passage based question. All questions require students to demonstrate a response showing understanding of the text and an informed independent opinion, and to communicate these clearly and appropriately. In addition, at Advanced level, students' work should also be informed by some understanding of critical literary theory and of the ways in which other readers have interpreted the texts.

Paper 4 – Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose (2 hours)

In their final externally assessed paper, students must answer two questions: one question from a choice of pre-1900 poetry and prose set texts in Section A and one question from a choice of post-1900 poetry and prose set texts in Section B. As in Paper 3, students have a further opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the text and an informed independent opinion, and to communicate these clearly and appropriately in essay form. Students should also be bringing an understanding of critical theory to their work to show some understanding of the ways in which other readers have interpreted the texts.

Further Studies & Career Options

Students of literature develop the ability to think critically, read analytically, and communicate clearly throughout this course.

Students who study literature can go into any number of professions, from those more explicitly connected to literature - journalism, editing, publishing, research, archiving - to careers dependent on communication - teaching, consulting, legal practice, public relations - to careers founded in creativity - entertainment, advertising, writing, theatre.

GERMAN

Course: Edexcel - IAL - German AS XGN01, German A2 YGN01

Coursework Components: AS - 0%; A2 - 0%

Preamble

Students wishing to study German at this level should have gained at least a 7 in their IGCSE examination. An aptitude and an enthusiasm for language learning are of course essential! The course content builds on the understanding developed at Key Stage 4, enabling pupils to make a smooth transition to the next level of study. We use A-level course books, as well as magazine/ newspaper articles, CD/DVD materials, online resources and native speaker support if available. The International A Level is aimed at students studying the language while living outside of Europe.

Aim

- To enhance linguistic skills; develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language
- To develop the ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- To develop language learning skills and communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence
- To engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated

and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context

- To develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- To foster the ability to learn other languages; equip pupils with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment.

Course Structure

AS Level

General topic areas covered at AS Level:

- Youth matters (family relationships and friendships, peer pressure and role models, music and fashion, technology and communication)
- Lifestyle, health and fitness (food and diet, sport and exercise, health issues, urban and rural life) Environment and travel (tourism, travel and transport, natural disasters and weather, climate change and its impact, energy, pollution and recycling)
- Education and employment (education systems and types of schooling, pupil/student life, volunteering and internships, jobs and unemployment)
- Environment and Travel (tourism, travel and transport, natural disasters and weather, climate change and its impact, energy, pollution and recycling)

Assessment

Unit1: Spoken Expression and Response (40 marks)

Students choose two general topics; Edexcel assigns one for assessment, involving a response to a stimulus card and discussing subtopics within that general area.

Unit 2: Understanding and Written Response (90 marks)

The paper consists of three sections: A Listening; B Reading comprehension and grammar; C essay 240-280 words)

German A2 Level

General topic areas covered at A2 Level:

- Technology in the German speaking world (scientific advances, technological innovations, impact on life and environment)
- Society in the German speaking world (migration, equality, politics, customs)
- Ethics in the German speaking world (beliefs, law and order, moral issues)

Assessment

Unit 3: Understanding and spoken response (40 marks)

- Section A: Debate
- The student chooses a debate topic, introduces it and discusses it with the examiner for about 5 min.
- Section B: Further issues
-

- The examiner introduces two more issues for discussion. These are based on the seven general topic areas that were covered during AS and A2.

Unit 4: Research, understanding and written response (90 marks)

- Section A: Listening
- Section B: Reading comprehension and grammar
- Section C: essay (300-400 words)

The essay is based on a research topic chosen in advance. This can be from the following areas:

- Geography (key people, events, issues, customs, traditions, beliefs, religions)
- History (a period of history, key people, events, issues)
- Literature (set list of books)
- Film (set list of films)

Description of assessment tasks

- Listening: Students respond to multiple choice and open response comprehension questions based on recordings in a variety of contexts and sources
- Reading comprehension: Students respond to multiple choice and open response comprehension questions based on a variety of text-types and genres
- Essay: Students respond to an essay question based on the four general topic areas (AS Level) or on their research project (A2 Level)

Further Studies and Career Options

German AS/ A2 complements other subjects, preparing students for a global society. These qualifications enhance employability for UK organisations trading internationally and global companies in the UK. Career paths include journalism, education, science, medicine, civil service, sales, marketing, retail, and charities.

GEOGRAPHY

Course: CIE 9696

Geography has been viewed as a link between the Sciences and the Arts and this remains central to the philosophy of the subject at this level. The A Level course studies both human and physical environments and especially the way they are interconnected. Special attention is given to their use, misuse and development in a sustainable way. This draws on areas from science, economics, politics and the business world. Contemporary issues and patterns are central to the studies. Anyone interested in the world we live in and the future of Planet Earth would find this course of value and interest.

Course structure and content

This is a linear A Level. Students are prepared to take all external exam papers (1-4) at the end of Std. 13. The course content for papers 1 and 2 is taught in Std. 12 so that any

students who only want to study to AS level can sit their exams at the end of Std. 12. Students are also taught research and essay writing skills.

Assessment

There is no coursework and all four papers are externally assessed and ninety minutes long:

- Paper 1 AS physical geography,
- Paper 2 AS human geography,
- Paper 3 A2 physical geography and
- Paper 4 A2 human geography

In preparation for papers 1 and 2, both physical and human Geography core topics are explored. Physical topics include plate margin studies, hydrology and the atmosphere. These are studied from a scientific perspective but within the context of related human environments. The Human Geography syllabus focuses on population and settlement issues in High and Low income countries, exploring both global and local issues. Both courses provide opportunities for fieldwork and local studies.

For Paper 3, two options are studied from the following physical optional topics:

1. Hazardous environments
2. Coastal environments.
3. Hot arid and semi-arid environments.

For Paper 4, two options are studied from the following Human optional topics:

1. Global Interdependence.
2. Environmental Management
3. Economic transition

All optional topics involve the development of case studies.

HISTORY

Course: CIE 9489

AS - 2 papers

Students focus on changes in Europe between 1794 and 1921. Content is focused on the French, Russian and Industrial Revolutions. The emergence of Germany as a world power is also studied. Paper 1 is a document study and Paper 2 is assessed by essay style questions.

A2 - 2 papers

The development of the Cold War is analysed in depth and examined via a document question for Paper 3. The world since 1945 is studied for Paper 4 with focus on the modern history of Southeast Asia and the superpowers, via essay questions.

Preamble

The history A Level course complements without replicating the prior learning of students at Hebron School. It also serves as a valuable standalone qualification, enabling students to understand the political, social and economic configuration of the modern world, equipping them with the necessary skills to study and research beyond A Level. Students wishing to study history should have attained a grade B / 6 at IGCSE in this or a similar subject.

Course structure

This is a modular A Level. Students are prepared to take AS papers at the end of Std. 12 and A2 papers at the end of Std. 13. The course content for the AS module is taught in Std. 12. The course content for the A2 module is taught in Std. 13. Students are also taught research and essay writing skills. Exam materials and questions are used

throughout to prepare students for their final assessments. We strongly encourage students to read beyond their core texts in order to develop their understanding.

Assessment

All papers are externally assessed. There is no coursework. Papers 1 & 3 are 1 hour 15 minutes long. Papers 2 & 4 are 1 hour 45 minutes long. Papers 1 & 3 provide stimulus material which students must use in their answers. All papers require students to master the ability to write longer essay style answers.

Further Studies & Career Options

Students develop very good skills of reading, writing and evaluation – particularly in regard to source material. Class work demands that students are strong communicators and able to research effectively. These skills are valued in higher education institutions and a range of careers. Students who wish to study new disciplines of Classics, Politics, Economics, International Relations, PPE or Law at university will find History A Level a great help in preparing them. Studying History is excellent preparation for a wide range of careers which include Journalism, Media, Law, Politics, Government and Civil Service whilst being beneficial for any profession involving management or dealing with people.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Course: CIE 9626 (Linear)

Preamble

This course empowers learners to master IT effectively, fostering a diverse skill set and deep understanding. Covering IT system structures and applications across various sectors, learners tackle real-world IT challenges and explore diverse computer networks. Through this, they grasp IT system life cycles and comprehend the impact of technology on workplaces and society. At A Level, learners delve into practical web programming tailored to their IT needs, alongside fundamental digital sound, video, and animation production skills.

Prior learning

Learners embarking on this course should have completed a Cambridge IGCSE course in Information Technology or Computer Science or an equivalent qualification. This course builds upon the foundation laid at Key Stage 4 (IGCSE or equivalent), facilitating a seamless progression to the next level of study. To study Information Technology at this level learners need a minimum grade of C in their IGCSE or equivalent examination in Computer Science or Information Communication Technology. An aptitude and enthusiasm for hands-on practical IT skills are also vital.

Course Content

Information Technology is a subject that requires frequent access to computer and internet facilities for learners to develop a broad range of vocational IT skills. Having a personal Notebook/Laptop PC is not essential but would be beneficial for personal study and IT skills practice.

A Level Curriculum content

1. Data, information, knowledge and processing	11. Sound and video editing
2. Hardware and software	12. IT in society
3. Monitoring and control	13. New and emerging technologies
4. Algorithm and Flowchart	14. Communications technology
5. E-security	15. Project management
6. The digital divide	16. System life cycle
7. Expert systems	17. Data analysis and visualisation
8. Spreadsheets	18. Mail merge
9. Data Modelling	19. Graphics creation
10. Database and file concepts	20. Animation
	21. Programming for the Web (Using JavaScript)

Assessment Structure:

Paper 1 focuses on Theory and lasts 1 hour 45 minutes, with 70 marks. Candidates answer all questions based on sections 1-11 of the subject content. It is externally assessed and constitutes 50% of the AS Level and 25% of the A Level.

Paper 2 Practical, lasting 2 hours 30 minutes, with 90 marks. Candidates answer all questions based on sections 8-11 of the subject content, applying knowledge from sections 1-7. It's externally assessed and constitutes 50% of the AS Level and 25% of the A Level.

Paper 3 Advanced Theory, lasts 1 hour 45 minutes, with 70 marks. Candidates answer all questions based on sections 12-21 of the subject content. It's externally assessed and constitutes 25% of the A Level.

Paper 4 Advanced Practical, also lasts 2 hours 30 minutes, with 90 marks. Candidates answer all questions based on sections 17-21, applying knowledge from all subject content. It may include practical tasks from sections 8-10 within a problem-solving context. It's externally assessed and constitutes 25% of the A Level.

Further Studies & Career Options

Cambridge International A Level Information Technology provides a suitable foundation for the study of IT, Computer Science, Engineering, Project Management or any related courses in higher education. Equally, it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in IT, or as part of a course of general education.

Some of the jobs where an IT degree would be useful include

1. Systems Analyst	8. Interaction Designer (websites, games, Apps)
2. Software Development Manager	9. Database Architect
3. Systems Designer	10. Business Intelligence Analyst
4. E-Commerce System Developer	11. Data Engineer
5. User Experience (UX) Researcher	12. Application Developer
6. Web Designer	13. Data Visualisation Specialist
7. Database Administrator	14. Professor/Teacher

MATHEMATICS

(Edexcel IAL)

Mathematics XMA01 and YMA01

This is a modular course. There is no coursework. All papers are externally assessed. Each module has one paper of 1 hour 30 minutes. This consists of three exams at the end of Standard 12 plus three exams at the end of Standard 13

Mathematics

AS - Three modules including two Pure Mathematics modules (P1 & P2), and Statistics (S1).

A2 - Three modules including two Pure Mathematics modules (P3 & P4), and either Decision Maths (D1) or Mechanics (M1).

Admission Requirements

Students wishing to study Mathematics at A Level must have an IGCSE Mathematics grade of B or above.

Preamble

The course enables students to acquire a wide range of mathematical knowledge and skills. But its aims go far beyond that, encouraging clear thinking, accuracy, the development of problem solving skills and the ability to draw conclusions and present arguments clearly.

The Mechanics content of the course complements Physics. The Statistics content complements Geography, Biology and other subjects. The Decision Mathematics content complements Computer Studies.

Course Structure

Pure Mathematics covers topics including algebra, series, trigonometric, Equations and identities, differentiation, integration and complex numbers. Mechanics covers topics from kinematics, forces, momentum and moments through to elastics, potential energy, circular motion, statics and simple harmonic motion.

Decision Mathematics covers algorithms for sorting data, bin packing algorithms, graphs and networks, Kruskal's, Dijkstra's & Prim's algorithms, critical path analysis, minimum route algorithms, and linear programming.

Statistics covers topics including probability, correlation, discrete random variables, continuous random variables, the Binomial, Poisson and Normal distributions and hypothesis testing.

At present, for the Mathematics course, we have seven periods per week.

Further Studies & Career Options

A degree in Mathematics opens the door to a whole range of careers. Also, many other university courses, (in particular science and business related courses), include a significant mathematics component. A sound knowledge of A Level Mathematics can give you a head start when studying these subjects at degree level.

MUSIC

Course: Edexcel AS: 8MU0, A2: 9MU0

Coursework components: 30% Performing 30% Composing
Exam: 40% Written and Listening paper - 2 hours

Preamble

This qualification will support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, including performing, composing and appraising. Students will be encouraged to engage critically with a wide range of music and musical contexts and develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts. Students are expected to have done IGCSE Music. It is also recommended that students have passed Grade 5 Theory and ABRSM grade 7/8 should be expected to be passed by the end of the course. Grade 8 theory which is an equivalent to AS/A level can be offered as an alternative, if there is not a sufficient number of students.

Course Structure

A-level Music can be a complimentary subject to any other A-level subjects, whether you wish to go into science or humanities after school. It shows a wide interest range and will broaden your artistic awareness.

AS LEVEL

Component Overview Assessment

Component 1 Performing 30% NEA: Total performance time of 6 minutes Solo and/or ensemble: Total of 60 marks, 12 available for difficulty of pieces.

Component 2 Composing 30% NEA: 2 compositions: 2 pieces – 30 marks each Total of 60 marks.

Component 3 Appraising 40 % exam	6 Areas of study with 2 set works in each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal Music • Instrumental Music • Music for Film • Popular Music and Jazz • Fusions • New Directions 	Exam 1hr 30 mins Total 80 marks
--	---	------------------------------------

A2 LEVEL

Component Overview Assessment

Component 1 Performing 30% NEA: Total performance time of 8 minutes: Solo and/or ensemble:

Total of 60 marks - 12 available for difficulty of pieces

Component 2 Composing 30% NEA	2 compositions 1 free or free choice brief – min 4 min 1 brief assessing technique – min 1 min Together total min of 6 minutes	2 pieces 40 marks 20 marks Total of 60 marks
Component 3 Appraising 40% exam	6 Areas of study with 3 set works in each Vocal Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumental Music • Music for Film • Popular Music and Jazz • Fusions • New Directions 	Exam 2hrs Total 100 marks

Further Studies & Career Options

This qualification will allow students to develop particular strengths and interests, encourage lifelong learning and provide access to higher education, music conservatories and university degree courses in music and music-related subjects, as well as music-related and other careers.

PHYSICS

Course: CIE 9702

A Level Physics is a modular course, studied over two years. AS Papers 1, 2 & 3 are sat in the June of the first year. A2 Papers 4 & 5 are sat in the June of the second year.

A Level papers:

Paper 1 (1¼ hours) Multiple Choice

Paper 2 (1¼ hours) Short Answers

Paper 3 (2 hours) Practical Exam

Paper 4 (2 hours) Core & Applications Short Answers

Paper 5 (1¼ hours) Written paper testing advanced practical skills

Preamble

Physics is a key part of science and technology, dealing with how and why things behave as they do. You may not be certain about your choice of career, but if you are fascinated by the world around you and would like to understand more about it, then study Physics. Students should have achieved a minimum B grade in Physics at IGCSE, IGCSE or O-levels to have a realistic chance of coping with the concepts at this level. They also need at least a B grade in IGCSE Mathematics or an equivalent Maths course.

Course Structure

The course followed is prescribed and examined by Cambridge International Examinations and is developed around the following key concepts:

- **Models of physical systems:** Physics is the science that seeks to understand the behaviour of the universe. The development of models of physical systems is central to Physics. Models simplify, explain and predict how physical systems behave.
- **Testing predictions against evidence:** Physical models are usually based on prior observations, and their predictions are tested to check that they are consistent with the behaviour of the real world. This testing requires evidence, often obtained from experiments.
- **Mathematics as a language and problem-solving tool:** Mathematics is integral to physics, as it is the language that is used to express physical principles and models. It is also a tool to analyse theoretical models, solve quantitative problems and produce predictions.
- **Matter, energy and waves:** Everything in the Universe comprises matter and/or energy. Waves are a key mechanism for the transfer of energy and are essential to many modern applications of Physics.
- **Forces and fields:** The way that matter and energy interact is through forces and fields. The behaviour of the Universe is governed by fundamental forces that act over different length scales and magnitudes. These include the gravitational force, the electromagnetic force, and the strong force.

Further Studies and Career options for Physics

A physics degree is a great starting point for a career in scientific research, as well as in a range of careers in the business, finance, IT and engineering sectors.

Some of the most popular physics-related courses at graduate and postgraduate level include: Astro Physics, Quantum Physics, Engineering and Technology (Electrical, Telecommunications, Instrumentation and Control, Computer Science and IT, Medical Physics, Electronics, Mechanical, Energy, Aeronautical and Aerospace, Micro-Electronics and Nanotechnology and Bio- Engineering), Particle Physics and Medical Sciences.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Courses: Edexcel 8RS0

Preamble

Religious Studies covers several disciplines including Biblical Studies, Philosophy, Ethics, History, Language, and Literature. Religious Studies looks at the deepest issues of life. It offers an academic approach to the study of religion in general and Christianity in particular.

The course does not require any prior knowledge of Religious Studies, though students with a background in Christianity will be at an advantage for the New Testament paper

Course Overview

Hebron offers three subject areas:

- Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion (9RS0/01; written examination - 2 hours, 80 marks) Philosophical issues and questions; The nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering; Philosophical language; Works of scholars; Influences of developments in religious belief.
- Paper 2: Religion and Ethics (9RS0/02; written examination - 2 hours, 80 marks) Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance; Ethical language; Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.
- Paper 3: New Testament Studies (9RS0/03; written examination - 2 hours, 80 marks) Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament; Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus; Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship; Ways of interpreting the scripture; Texts and interpretation: The Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus; Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.

Objectives

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

- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world
- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to specialist study of religion
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

Students will require a minimum of a B grade in IGCSE Religious Studies to be eligible to take it at AS Level. A Level Religious Studies is a linear course and students taking it in standard 12 will write their final exam at the end of standard 13. The standard 13 examination is a compilation of both AS and A2 material. However, a student can opt to do a stand-alone AS qualification at the end of std 12 but those marks cannot be carried forward for the full A Level qualification.

Further Studies and Career Options

Universities and Theological/Bible Colleges offer a wide range of theology and ministry courses for those interested in careers ranging from the academic theologian to various positions in church and missions ministry. In addition, however, Religious Studies offers an excellent background for many other disciplines. It is an extremely useful subject to have studied for any career to do with people; for example, anthropology, counselling, education, law, medicine, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, political science, international studies, criminology, journalism and media.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Courses: CIE CIP 9980

Assessment

The IPQ is a stand-alone externally assessed qualification rated as an Advanced Level course by the British University body UCAS. It can take the place of an AS Level in a student's programme of study and is roughly equivalent to the value of an AS Level as a qualification. Students are assessed by a research log and a single piece of writing, not exceeding 5000 words. Students are graded A*- E.

Preamble

The course is designed for students to carry out an independent research project to complement their Cambridge International AS or A Level subjects and adds value to their university application.

Studying for the Cambridge IPQ allows students to demonstrate engagement with their chosen discipline beyond preparation for an exam. Academic evidence suggests that this sort of deeper engagement will help improve exam performance. It also allows students to position themselves well in university applications. Highly competitive universities value evidence of student passion for their subject.

Course structure

Students select a topic that they are interested in and then develop a research question that they will investigate. Throughout the course there are research deadlines to meet. Students are guided by a mentor in their research but must show a high level of organisation and discipline as they will be mostly working alone on their project. Students are expected to present their research findings in a spoken presentation at the completion of their project. Guided learning hours for this qualification are similar to that of a Cambridge International AS Level qualification over the course of an academic year.

The Value of an IPQ

The IPQ is a wonderful opportunity for students to undertake original research beyond the remit of their A Level courses. For those studying subjects in one academic area it allows a demonstration of wider interests and abilities.

University applications are enriched by discussing IPQ studies. Further to this, students need to show a great deal of maturity and independence of thought to complete the project. Such qualities are much sought after in higher education. Further information is available from camebridgeinternational.org

Please note: students must enroll for IPQ at the beginning of the academic year and not later. Should a student decide they want to take an IPQ after the start of the year they must wait until the start of std 13 for this opportunity.

WHAT A FUTURE A LEVEL STUDENT Needs to do:

- Do further research on each A Level you are considering taking.
- As well as discussing your future options with your family, talk to your teachers to further find out what is involved in each course. Ask them for an honest opinion of your potential in the subject.
- Talk to students who are already taking that subject. The more information you have the better informed your A Level choices will be and the more likely you are to enjoy your future studies.

In the final term of the academic year you will be asked to submit your choices for Standard 12. Remember that many students will take four courses initially. It is expected that you carry on with at least three to Standard 13. Whatever you choose we very much look forward to you thriving in your A Level studies, making a great contribution to the Hebron community and thoroughly enjoying your time in Standards 12 and 13.



Hebron School, Lushington Hall, Vannarapettai, Ooty,
Tamil Nadu - 643001
www.hebronooty.org