



Nobel Algarve  
BRITISH  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

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## A-Level Options Booklet







# Introduction

Dear Students,

Congratulations on reaching an important stage in your academic journey: selecting your A-Level options. Joining the Sixth Form at Nobel Algarve British International School is an exciting opportunity to focus your studies on the subjects that will shape your future. Your choices now can influence your university options, career paths, and personal development, so it's essential to approach this decision thoughtfully.

## Striking the Right Balance

A well-chosen combination of A-level subjects is key to keeping your options open while aligning with your aspirations. A good balance of subjects ensures you develop a broad skill set and meet the requirements for a range of university courses or career paths. Avoid narrowing your focus too much unless you're absolutely certain about your future direction.

## Play to Your Strengths

Choose subjects where you are most likely to achieve strong grades. These are typically the subjects you enjoy and excel in. A-level studies are challenging and require dedication, so selecting subjects you're passionate about will help you stay motivated and perform at your best. Avoid choosing a subject just because your friends are taking it—this is your journey, and your decisions should reflect your strengths and goals.

## Seek Advice and Support

Don't make this decision alone. Discuss your options with your parents, teachers, and peers. Your parents can provide insight into your long-term goals and interests, while your

teachers can help you understand your strengths and the demands of each subject. Talking with friends can also provide helpful perspectives, but remember to focus on what's right for you.

## Consider Your Career and University Aspirations

Your A-Level choices should align with your future plans. Take some time to explore potential career paths and identify which subjects will support those goals. If you're considering university, research entrance requirements for courses and institutions you're interested in. Many universities have specific subject prerequisites, so it's crucial to ensure your choices meet these criteria.

## Plan for Success

This is an opportunity to shape your future and take a step closer to achieving your dreams. Take your time, explore your options, and seek guidance from those around you. With careful consideration, you'll make choices that set you on a path to success.

We're here to support you every step of the way and wish you the very best as you prepare to join our Sixth Form community.

**Ian Temple**  
Head of School





“All students are challenged  
to be the best they can be.”

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Why choose A-Levels?





## What are A Levels?

A Levels (*Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level qualifications*) are a UK subject-based qualification for students aged 16 and above. Although they are a UK qualification, schools across the world offer A Levels and universities and Higher Education institutes worldwide recognise A Levels as a valuable entry qualifications.

## Why choose A Levels?

A Levels are a great choice – as you can see they are widely accepted by universities across the globe who recognise the academic rigour of the qualifications. Moreover, A Levels are really beneficial for students who excel in certain subjects as they can study subjects in depth and subjects they are passionate about rather than the IB where students cannot specialise in quite the same way studying a range of subjects and receiving a combined score.

It is not just universities who value A Levels, they are also valued by vocational qualification providers such as entry to apprenticeships as well as by employers who value them because they show a good level of education demonstrating how young people have developed a range of skills including good time management, organisation, research skills, networking, presenting ideas, reasoning, decision-making, problem solving, commitment and self-motivation too.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a red and white pen, writing on a piece of paper. The person is wearing a white shirt. The background is blurred, showing a wooden desk and other papers. The text "A-Levels assessment" is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

A-Levels assessment





## Entry requirements

- A minimum of at least 6 (I)GCSE subjects at grade “C” or “4” following the new (I)GCSE structure
- These must include English and Mathematics
- All subjects will require fluency in speaking, reading and written English
- Individual subjects which have specific requirements state them on the subject page
- Good study skills are always required to perform well academically as well as the ability to work independently.

## How are students assessed?

Written examinations sat at the end of a two-year course of study are the main form of assessment. Reforms to A Levels in September 2015 mean that there is much less project work and the coursework elements have generally been reduced but do still contribute to the final grade depending on the subject.

Grades are awarded on a scale from A\* – E. Those who do not meet the minimum standard receive a U. Students need approximately 40% to achieve an E, 50% for a D, 60% for a C and so on. Students who average 80% across all modules will gain an A\*, but grade boundaries do shift each year.

In the UK, if a student fails in IAL subjects, they must re-sit the whole exam – it is not possible just to re-sit specific modules; however, international students can re-sit units meaning they have many bites at the cherry, a distinct advantage compared to their UK peers.





Choosing A-Levels?





## How do I decide which A levels to take?

If you have a particular university course in mind, look on the university website to see whether there are specific subject requirements in order to study that course. If a course requires you to study a subject that you do not really want to study, perhaps that is not the right course for you.

Consider which subjects you enjoy most: you will spend two years studying the subject in depth and you are likely to achieve most success if you enjoy it.

Play to your strengths: A Level work is considerably more challenging than GCSE and your university entry will depend upon high grades, so ensure that you are giving yourself the best chance of success.

Inform yourself as much as possible about the content of the course and how it is assessed. Speak to teachers of the subject and to students in older years who study the subject. This is particularly appropriate for subjects that are taught only in the Sixth Form.

## Examination Boards

There are several different examination boards who assess A levels. Most often, international schools use Edexcel or CIA (Cambridge International Assessment). Universities value A Levels from different examination boards equally. Cambridge qualifications are recognised for admission by all UK universities as well as universities in the United States (Stanford and all Ivy League universities), South Africa, Canada, the European Union, Middle East, West Asia, New Zealand to name but a few, and Pearson qualifications are taken annually by over 100,000 students in over 80 countries with 500 individual universities formally confirmed as accepting Pearson International A Levels for admission to universities across the world.

## How many subjects will I study?

The majority of students will study 4 x AS subjects in the Lower Sixth (Year 12) of which 3 will be continued into the Upper Sixth (Year 13) to A2 (A Level). It is normal for pupils at Nobel Algarve to follow this pattern. However, for some pupils, it may be possible / desirable to study 3 AS subjects or to carry all 4 onto A Level. This would need discussing with the Head of the International Section or a member of the Sixth Form pastoral team.

## Subject Choice

Whilst we will endeavour to accommodate your combination of subjects, some combinations cannot be met due to timetabling constraints. Subjects where demand is very small (less than 5 students) may be withdrawn. In these cases the students affected will be advised and asked to re-opt.





Geography

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# Geography

Pearson Edexcel (YGE01)



**Course:** A-Level Geography is a highly relevant subject and is both an Art and a Science. It, therefore, bridges many subjects and can be highly useful when applying to university. Geography improves skills in essay writing, fieldwork techniques, independent research, debate of contemporary issues, use of qualitative and quantitative data, presentation skills and of scientific enquiry.

**Careers:** Geography is a 'facilitating' subject which is highly sought after by top universities, and provides pupils with a broad range of options at university level and in the workplace. Geography graduates can enter a wide range of professions, including Accountancy, Banking, Finance, IT, Law, Management, Marketing, PR and Research, to name but a few.

### Course Content

#### IAS (Y12)

##### Unit 1: Global Challenges

Topic 1: World at Risk

Topic 2: Going Global

##### Unit 2: Geographical Investigations

Topic 1: Crowded Coasts

Topic 2: Urban planning and regeneration

#### IA2 (Y13)

##### Unit 3: Contested Planet

Topic 1: Atmosphere and Weather

Topic 2: Biodiversity under Threat

Topic 3: Energy Security

Topic 4: Superpower Geographies

##### Topic 4: Geographical Research

Tectonic Activity

### Assessment

Units 1 & 2 taken in Year 12

Units 3 & 4 taken in Year 13

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/geography-2016.html>





# English Literature

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**Course:** Our A Level English Literature qualification encourages students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of a broad range of English literature. They apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation to engage critically and creatively with both set texts. During the course of study students are encouraged to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses.

**Careers:** English Literature is a ‘facilitating’ subject which is highly sought after by top universities. It is widely recognised by universities that the skills developed through the study of English Literature are among the most transferable, with English graduates going on to develop the widest range of careers — among the most popular are publishing, broadcasting, marketing and PR, journalism, law, teaching and politics.

## Course Content

### IAS (Y12)

#### Unit 1: Post-2000 Poetry and Prose

Section A: Post-2000 Poetry  
Section B: Post-2000 Prose

#### Unit 2: Drama

Section A: Pre-1900 Drama  
Section B: Post-1900 Drama

### IA2 (Y13)

#### Unit 3: Poetry and prose

Section A: Post-1900 Unseen Poetry  
Section B: Two Prose Texts covering a theme

#### Unit 4: Shakespeare and Pre-1900 Poetry

Section A: Shakespeare  
Section B: Pre-1900 Poetry

## Assessment

Units 1 & 2 taken in Year 12

Units 3 & 4 taken in Year 13

## Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/english-literature-2015.html#%2Ftab-Studying>



$$a(\omega) \cos(\omega t) + b(\omega) \sin(\omega t)$$

$$a(\omega) =$$

$$C_n = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(t) e^{-\frac{j n \pi t}{L}} dt \quad b(\omega) =$$

$$\frac{f(t)}{t} dt$$

$$\frac{f(t)}{t} dt$$

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} C_n \cdot e^{\frac{j n \pi t}{L}}$$

$$C(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-j \omega t} dt$$

$$a_n \cos\left(\frac{n \pi t}{L}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n \pi t}{L}\right)$$



$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & t \geq 0 \\ 0, & t < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi}$$



$$f(t) = a \hat{f}(t) + b \hat{f}(t), \quad a, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

Mathematics

$$\cos(\omega t) + b(\omega) \sin(\omega t)$$



# Mathematics

Pearson Edexcel (YMA01)



**Course:** Pearson Edexcel Mathematics emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected, and how Mathematics can be applied to model situations using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. The course is designed to offer breadth, depth and an appreciation of how to use Mathematics in a wider field. It covers both Pure Mathematics and the applied strands of Mechanics and Statistics as well as Decision Mathematics.

**Careers:** Physics, Chemistry, Accountancy, Computer Science and Technology, Economics, Biology, Psychology, Banking and Sports Science.

## Course Content

IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** Pure Mathematics 1  
**Unit 2:** Pure Mathematics 2  
**Unit 3:** Decision Mathematics  
or Mechanics

IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 1:** Pure Mathematics 3  
**Unit 2:** Pure Mathematics 4  
**Unit 3:** Statistics or Mechanics 2

**Prerequisite:** Higher Tier IGCSE of at least Grade 7. Statistics indicate that an 8/9\* is deemed desirable at IGCSE in order not to struggle with the concepts and application of A Level Mathematics.

## Assessment – each unit:

- Is externally assessed
- Has a written examination of 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Has 75 marks

## Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/mathematics-2018.html>



The graph shows a periodic current  $i$  as a function of time  $t$ . The horizontal axis is labeled  $t$  and the vertical axis is labeled  $i$ . The current starts at a negative value, crosses the  $t$ -axis at  $t = \pi$ , and reaches a positive peak at  $t = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ .

$$r_{yx} = r_{xy} \cdot \frac{s_y}{s_x}, (4)$$

$$\sqrt{n-1} \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{s^2}$$

$$\tilde{G}^2(\varepsilon) = \tilde{S}^2(\varepsilon) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n e_i^2}{n-2}$$

$$\tilde{G}^2(\varepsilon) = \tilde{J}^2(\varepsilon) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx)$$

$$B_{yx} = r_{yx} * \frac{S_y}{S_x}, \quad n=1$$

# Further Mathematics

## Additional Subject





## Further Mathematics – Additional Subject

Pearson Edexcel (YFM01)

**Course:** A level Further Mathematics is designed for pupils with an enthusiasm for Mathematics, many of whom will go on to degrees in Mathematics, Engineering, the sciences and Economics, or any subject where Mathematics is developed further than in A level Mathematics. A level Further Mathematics is both deeper and broader than A level Mathematics, and builds from GCSE and A level Mathematics. A level Further Mathematics prepares pupils for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines which require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

**Essential for careers in:** Physics.

**Useful for careers in:** Chemistry, Biology, Accountancy Psychology, Computer, Science, Banking ,Technology, Sports Science, Music Technology.

### Course Content

IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** Further Pure Mathematics 1  
**Unit 2:** Statistics 1  
**Unit 3:** Decision Mathematics  
or Mechanics

IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 1:** Further Pure Mathematics 2  
**Unit 2:** Further Pure Mathematics 3  
**Unit 3:** Statistics 2

**Prerequisite:** Higher Tier IGCSE of at least Grade 6. Statistics indicate that a Grade of 7/8/9\* is deemed desirable at IGCSE in order not to struggle with the concepts and application of A Level Mathematics. Please note that Further Mathematics is not included in the blocking groups. Those wishing to study Further Mathematics should express interest on the return of their subject choice application and it will be timetabled upon the students return in September.

### Assessment – each unit:

- Is externally assessed
- Has a written examination of 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Has 75 marks

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/mathematics-2018.html>



A blue-tinted night cityscape, likely New York City, featuring the Empire State Building and other skyscrapers. The image is overlaid with a white grid pattern and several glowing white lines, including a prominent arc on the left and a diagonal line across the center. The word "Economics" is written in a white serif font at the bottom left, underlined.

# Economics



# Economics

Pearson Edexcel (XEC11, YEC11)



**Course:** Students will develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories through critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions. They will be able to apply economic concepts and theories in a range of contexts and appreciate their value and limitation in explaining real-world phenomena. The course will also allow students to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of the government within it.

**Careers:** Common career paths include Economist, Financial risk analyst, data analyst, financial planner, accountant, economic researcher, financial consultant, and investment analyst, Legal Profession, Teaching, Business Management.

### Course Content

IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1** Markets in Action  
**Unit 2** Macroeconomics performance and policy

IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 3** Business Behaviour  
**Unit 4** Developments in the Global Economy

**Prerequisite:** Most courses at higher level require students to take at least one AS – preferably A2 level mathematics subject. In addition, a minimum grade B in IGCSE English is expected.

### Assessment – each unit:

#### Year 12:

IAS Unit 1: Markets in action

IAS Unit 2: Macroeconomic performance and policy

#### Year 13:

IA2 Unit 3: Business Behaviour

IA2 Unit 4: Developments in the economy

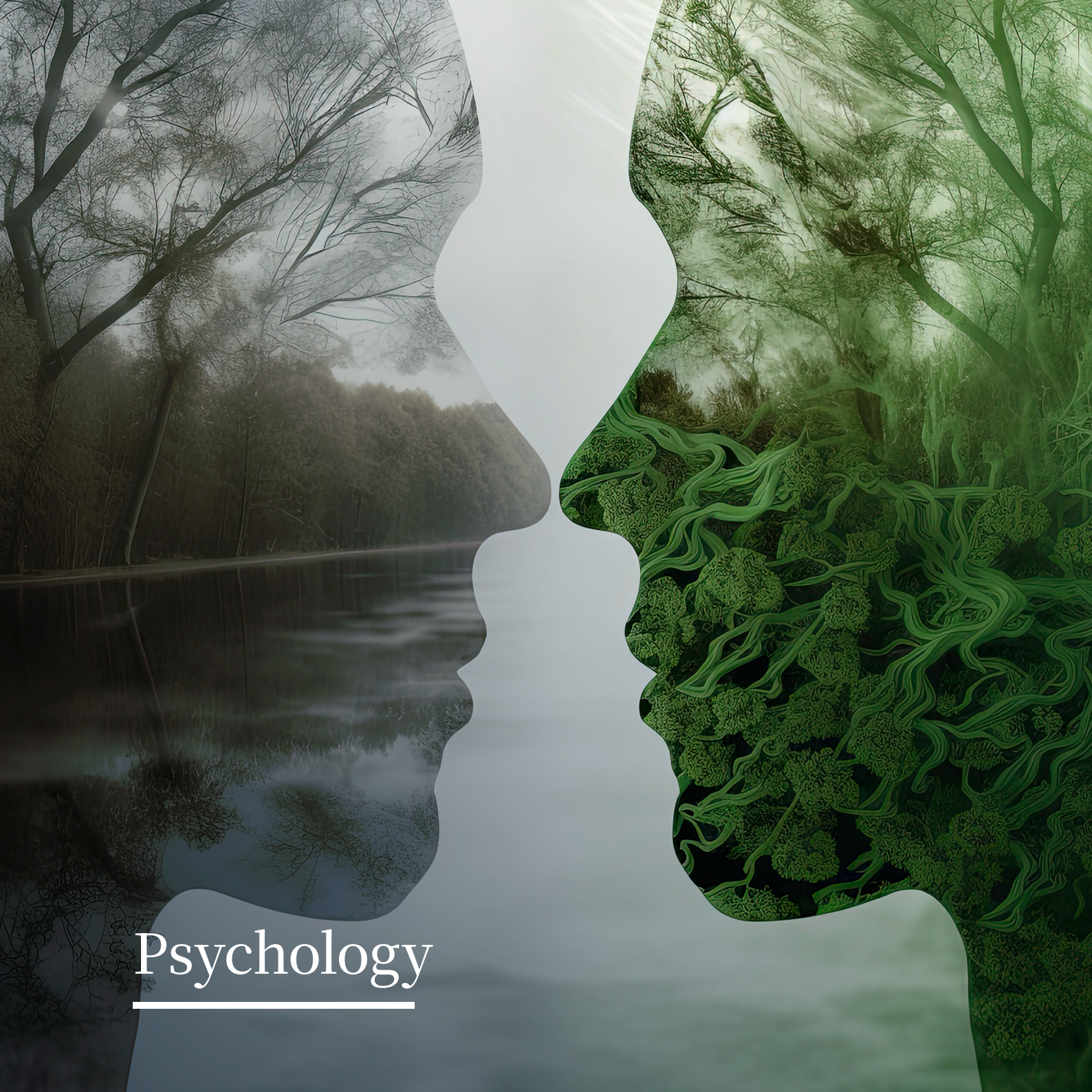
Units 1 and 3 are externally assessed in January, Units 2 and 4 are externally assessed in June of relevant study year.

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/economics-2018.html>

Although most admissions tutors accept BOTH Business and Economics as separate subjects, some (eg: LSE) universities do not for some course. When researching universities please check your course accepted subject combinations.





Psychology



# Psychology

Cambridge International (9990)



**Course:** This syllabus aims to encourage an interest in and appreciation of psychology through an exploration of the ways in which psychology is conducted. This exploration includes:

- a review of a number of important research studies
- an opportunity to look at the ways in which psychology has been applied.

The syllabus uses a wide variety of assessment techniques that will allow students to show what they know, understand and are able to do. The emphasis is on the development of psychological skills as well as the learning of psychological knowledge.

**Careers:** A very challenging and stimulating subject, Psychology A level is a highly respected qualification and is accepted for a wide variety of further education courses. The transferable skills developed in the study of Psychology mean that graduates can enter a wide range of professions, including accountancy, banking, finance, IT, law, management, marketing, PR and research, for example.

### Course Content

#### IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** Research methods.  
Different approaches in Psychology  
**Unit 2:** Biological approach  
**Unit 3:** Cognitive approach  
**Unit 4:** Learning approach  
**Unit 5:** Social approach

#### IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 6:** Clinical Psychology  
**Unit 7:** Psychology and consumer behaviour  
**Unit 8:** Psychology and health  
**Unit 9:** Organisational Psychology  
  
(Choice of 2 units)

### Assessment – each unit:

Paper 1 Approaches, Issues, and debates  
Paper 2 Research methods  
Paper 3 Specialist options: theory

Paper 4 Specialist options: application  
All papers are 1 hour 30minutes and worth 60 mark

### Link to course

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-international-as-and-a-level-psychology-9990/>





Business

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## Business



**Pearson Edexcel (XBS11, YBS11)**

**Course:** This Business course involves studying how businesses set up, manage their departments, and make decisions. Therefore it is an excellent foundation for anyone considering management of any kind. It also complements many other subjects. Please be aware that many business higher education programmes require mathematics of some kind. If you have specific universities in mind, you should carefully check their entry requirements. You do not have to have studied Business before, but to achieve a high grade; a good standard of English and Mathematics at GCSE would be a distinct advantage. Successful candidates are aware of the business environment around them, may have entrepreneurial interests and have excellent independent study skills.

**Careers:** Business combines well with most subjects and prepares pupils for a range of careers including Banking, Insurance, Accountancy, Government Administration, Marketing, Management and Commerce.

### Course Content

IAS (Y12)	<b>Unit 1:</b> Marketing and People <b>Unit 2:</b> Managing Business Activities	IA2 (Y13)	<b>Unit 3:</b> Business Decisions and Strategy <b>Unit 4:</b> Global Business
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**Prerequisite:** You do not to have to have studied Business before, but to achieve a high grade; a good level of English and Mathematics at IGCSE would be a distinct advantage.

### Assessment – each unit:

<b>Year 12:</b> Paper 1 Marketing and people Paper 2 Managing business activities	<b>Year 13:</b> Paper 3 Business decisions and strategy Paper 4 Global business	All papers are 2 hours each.
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Units 1 and 3 externally assessed in January, Units 2 and 4 externally assessed in June of relevant study year.

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/business-2018.html>

Although most admissions tutors accept BOTH Business and Economics as separate subjects, some (eg: LSE) universities do not for some courses. If you know your path in higher education please check your course accepted subject combinations.





Chemistry

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# Chemistry

Pearson Edexcel (YCH11)



**Course:** This course enables students to develop enthusiasm for chemistry, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Chemistry. They will acquire deeper knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject, such as inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry. Students will learn to appreciate the contribution of Chemistry to the success of the economy and society and stimulate awareness on contemporary environmental issues.

**Careers:** Popular career pathways include Analytical Chemist, Accountant/Auditor, Chemical Engineer, Chemical Development Engineer, Lecturer, Environmental Chemist, Forensic Research and Forensic Scientist.

### Course Content

#### IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry  
**Unit 2:** Energetics, Group Chemistry Halogenoalkanes  
**Unit 3:** Covers Units 1 and 2, the practical written examination covers the areas of physical, organic and inorganic chemistry.

#### IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 4:** Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry  
**Unit 5:** Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry  
**Unit 6:** Practical Skills in Chemistry 2

**Prerequisite:** It is advisable that students who take IAL Chemistry have a Grade B or above in IGCSE Chemistry. The subject is very demanding in terms of language and mathematical skills, a high level in both is also required.

### Assessment:

#### Year 12:

Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry  
Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols  
Unit 3: Practical Skills in Chemistry I

#### Year 13:

Unit 4: Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry  
Unit 5: Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry  
Unit 6: Practical Skills in Chemistry II

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/chemistry-2018.html>



$$f \quad \beta = \frac{\Delta I_c}{\Delta I_B} \quad V = c/\lambda$$

$$\frac{v_2}{v_1} = \frac{w_2}{w_1} \quad v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon \cdot \mu}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r \mu_r}}$$

$$E = mc^2$$

$$F_v = \left\{ \frac{F_n}{R} \right.$$

$$X^* T =$$

Physics

$$F_g = \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

$$\gamma$$

$$E = \frac{E_c}{\gamma}$$





**Course:** Physics is the subject that, more than any other, explains the universe around us at its most fundamental level. Understanding Physics is key to some of the biggest questions that humanity has ever asked, and is at the heart of our greatest technological achievements. There is no greater excitement than the thrill of seeking Physics' cutting edge

**Careers:** A level Physics is a challenging course highly respected by universities and employers. The fundamental knowledge and understanding gained, plus the skills of analysis and problem solving, are highly desirable in many fields. This subject is an excellent preparation for university entry in subjects such as Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Accountancy, Law and Medicine.

### Course Content

#### IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** Mechanics and Materials  
**Unit 2:** Waves and Electricity  
**Unit 3:** Practical skills in Physics 1

#### IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 4:** Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles  
**Unit 5:** Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology  
**Unit 6:** Practical Skills in Physics 2

**Prerequisite:** A Level Mathematics needs to be done simultaneously with A Level Physics.  
Minimum grade B in IGCSE Physics and Mathematics-

### Assessment – each unit:

#### Year 12:

Paper 1 Mechanics and Materials  
Paper 2 Waves and Electricity  
Paper 3 Practical Skills and Physics 1  
Paper 1, 2 and 3 will include multiple choice, short open-response, calculation and extended writing questions.

#### Year 13:

Paper 4 Further Mathematics, Fields and Particles  
Paper 5 Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/physics-2018.html>





History

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# History

Pearson Edexcel (WHI01)



**Course:** History pupils should be interested in the causes and consequences of events that have occurred in the past. For that reason, an enquiring mind, and a willingness to think for oneself are desirable qualities in a Sixth Form historian. The course develops an understanding of the background to our own times. It fosters the skill of synthesis and an analytical approach to information. Above all, it encourages pupils to evaluate what they read and to take an objective view of the past.

**Careers:** Apart from the more obvious careers such as teaching, archive and museum work, History graduates find employment in law, the media, publishing, public relations, management and commerce. Their understanding of what ‘makes people tick’, the ability to research and synthesise information, to formulate logical arguments and present objective reports makes historians attractive to employers.

## Course Content

IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** France in Revolution  
1774-1795  
**Unit 2:** China 1900-76

IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 3:** USA 1763 - 1865  
Independence to Civil War  
**Unit 4:** Superpower Relations 1945-1989

**Prerequisite:** The minimum requirement for enrolment on this course is a B grade in IGCSE History and / or a B grade in IGCSE English

## Assessment – each unit:

### Year 12:

Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations (France in Revolution)  
Paper 2: Breadth Study with Source Evaluation (China)  
Both papers are 2 hours

### Year 13:

Paper 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation (USA)  
Paper 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations  
All examinations are externally assessed (Superpowers)

## Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/history-2015.html>





# Art and Design

**Additional studio fee:** Both Design Technology and Art will attract a 50 Euro studio fee per term. This studio fee is aimed to further extend the resources available to students to facilitate them attaining the higher levels within these subjects. An investment in ICT, CAD / CAM and Photoshop-based programs will allow pupils to access specialist 21st century learning techniques. Additionally, students may need to purchase individual items for their major own personalised projects in GCSE and A-Level. The main aim for the studio fee is for the Design and Art is to give each and every student the best possible tools, equipment, media and hardware to reach their full potential without any barriers to their success.



## Art and Design

Cambridge International (9479)



**Course:** Cambridge International AS and A Level Art and Design is recognised by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of art and design principles and practice. CIE recommend that candidates who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge O Level or Cambridge IGCSE course in Art or Art and Design or the equivalent.

**Essential for careers in:** Visual effects art, fashion design, architecture, illustration, animation and graphic design. Useful for careers in: Film production, art gallery curation, conservation, art valuation, publishing and photography.

### Course Content

#### IAS (Y12)

**Component 1:** Coursework  
Candidate's research, develop and realise a project from one area of study in the syllabus content  
**Component 2:** Externally set assignment  
Candidates choose one starting point to develop into a personal response.

#### IA2 (Y13)

**Component 3:** Personal investigation & written analysis  
Candidates investigate a theme, idea, concept or process that is personal to them.

**Prerequisite:** It is recommended that students have previously completed an IGCSE in Art or Art and Design or equivalent.

### Assessment – each unit:

#### Year 12:

Component 1: Coursework worth 100 marks  
Externally assessed  
Component 2: Externally set assignment worth 100 marks with a controlled exam of 15 hours. All work is sent digitally to Cambridge.

#### Year 13:

Component 3: Externally assessed Personal Investigation with a written analysis of between 1000 and 1500 words worth 100 marks. All work is sent digitally to Cambridge

### Link to course

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/415195-2019-2021-syllabus.pdf>





Travel and Tourism

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# Travel and Tourism

Cambridge International (9395)



**Course:** Travel and Tourism students can gain an understanding of what it's really like to work in this dynamic and exciting industry. The A Level topics covered by the course will give you a taste of what's required whether you will be going straight into employment or going on to university. You will get an opportunity to plan a travel and tourism trip that will count towards your final examination grade as well as experience the complexities of the travel and tourism business.

**Careers:** Air cabin crew, Holiday representative, Hotel manager, Tour manager, Tourism officer, Tourist information centre manager, Travel agency manager.

## Course Content

IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** Features of the travel and tourism industry  
**Unit 2:** Planning and managing a travel and tourism event

IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 3:** Destination marketing  
**Unit 4:** Destination management

**Prerequisite:** It is advisable that students who take this subject have a grade C or above in English Language or other proof of English proficiency.

## Assessment – each unit:

### Year 12:

Paper 1: Themes and Concepts (topics 1-4) is a written exam that is externally assessed

Paper 2: Planning and Managing a Travel and Tourism Event (topic 5) is coursework where candidates work in a team but

present their project individually that is internally assessed and externally moderated.

### Year 13:

Paper 3: Destination marketing. Exam is 1 hour 30 minutes.

## Link to course

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/597384-2023-syllabus.pdf>





Portuguese



# Portuguese

Cambridge International (AS – 8684 / A2 - 9718)



**Course:** The course encourages maximum use of the language. Studying a language at A Level will provide students with a sound basis for further study and enhance their employment prospects. Beyond the language competency, you acquire transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility.

**Careers:** Popular careers pathways include Translator/Interpreter, Translation Project Manager, Teacher, Content Creator, Customer Service Representative, Sales Representative, Tour Guide, Travel Agent and Flight Steward.

## Course Content

### Components 1, 2 and 3 Topics:

- Human Relationships
- Philosophy and Belief
- Work and Leisure
- Education
- Conservation

### Component 4 - (3 books from the list):

- O meu pé de laranja lima, José Mauro de Vasconcelos
- A rainha Ginga, José Eduardo Agualusa
- As três vidas, João Tordo
- Veromar, Dina Salústio
- Equador, Miguel Sousa Tavares
- Luanda, Lisboa, Paraíso, Djamilia Pereira de Almeida

**Prerequisite:** IGCSE Portuguese grade A or B

## Assessment – each unit:

Paper 1 – Speaking (25%)

Paper 2 – Reading and Writing (25%)

Paper 3 – Essay (25%)

Paper 4 – Set Texts (25%)

## Link to course

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/597432-2023-syllabus.pdf>





Biology



# Biology

Pearson Edexcel (YBI11)



**Course:** A level Biology provides a fascinating introduction to many aspects of this modern science. It is designed and taught to stimulate the pupils and create a lifelong interest in the subject. Practical work is undertaken throughout the course.

**Careers:** Biology is a very well regarded subject by universities, and lends itself to undergraduate study in Science, Medicine, Veterinary, Engineering and Law. It is an excellent preparation for university entrance in subjects such as Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, and it is an essential requirement for the majority of Medical, Dental and Veterinary Science courses. The analytical, practical and problem solving skills gained are also highly desirable in many fields such as Business, Accountancy and Law, amongst others.

### Course Content

#### IAS (Y12)

**Unit 1:** Molecules, diet, Transport and Health  
**Unit 2:** Cell, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation  
**Unit 3:** Practical Skills in Biology 1

#### IA2 (Y13)

**Unit 4:** Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity  
**Unit 5:** Energy Flow, Ecosystems and the environment;  
**Unit 6:** Microbiology, Immunity and Forensics;  
**Unit 7:** Respiration, Muscles and Internal Environment;  
**Unit 8:** Coordination, Response and Gene Technology

**Prerequisite:** It is required that students who take AS/A Level Biology have a grade B or above in their Biology IGCSE and a C grade or above in English Language and Extended Mathematics.

### Assessment:

#### Year 12:

Paper 1: Molecules, diet, transport and health  
Paper 2: Cells, development, biodiversity and conservation  
Paper 3: Practical skills in Biology 1

#### Year 13:

Paper 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity  
Paper 5: Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/biology-2018.html>





# Design Technology

**Additional studio fee:** Both Design Technology and Art will attract a 50 Euro studio fee per term. This studio fee is aimed to further extend the resources available to students to facilitate them attaining the higher levels within these subjects. An investment in ICT, CAD / CAM and Photoshop-based programs will allow pupils to access specialist 21st century learning techniques. Additionally, students may need to purchase individual items for their major own personalised projects in GCSE and A-Level. The main aim for the studio fee is for the Design and Art is to give each and every student the best possible tools, equipment, media and hardware to reach their full potential without any barriers to their success.



## Design Technology

Pearson Edexcel (9DT0)



**Course:** This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing products of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

**Careers:** The study of Design Technology is excellent preparation for a range of Design Technology undergraduate courses. Careers for people with Design and Technology include: Product Designer, Architect, Software Engineer, Landscape Designer, Structural Engineer, Material Scientist, or even the next Jonathan Ive or James Dyson.

### Course Content

IA2 (Y13)

**Component 1:**

Principles of Design and Technology

**Component 2:**

Independent Design and Make Project

**Prerequisite:** Attainment of a grade C or above at HIGHER tier in IGCSE/GCSE Mathematics. This is due to the mathematical content of the course.

If this course is studied to a full A Level, all components have to be taken in the summer examination series. That is, as a LINEAR course at the end of the two years in Year 13.

### Assessment – each unit:

**Component 1:** Written examination

**Component 2:** Non-examined assessment (coursework)

### Link to course

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/design-technology-product-design-2017.html>





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