

TASIS



PORTUGAL

2026-2027 School Year IGCSE Options Booklet

TASIS Portugal's IGCSE Options Booklet

What is the IGCSE?

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

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

Why the IGCSE?

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

Estimated Achievement:

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

Graduation Requirements:

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

After-School Activities and Sports:

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

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

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

High School IGCSE offerings:

Required IGCSE subjects:

IGCSE English – First Language
IGCSE Literature in English
IGCSE Mathematics
IGCSE Sciences – Co-ordinated (Double) OR Biology; Chemistry; Physics
IGCSE History

Options Block 1 (one choice):

IGCSE Portuguese – First Language
Portuguese – Foreign Language (Non IGCSE exam to certify language proficiency – CEFR)
Portuguese – Beginner
IGCSE French – Foreign Language
IGCSE Spanish – Foreign Language
IGCSE French – First Language
IGCSE Spanish – First Language

Options Block 2 and 3 (two choices):

IGCSE Art and Design
IGCSE Business Studies or IGCSE Enterprise
IGCSE Computer Science
IGCSE Design & Technology
IGCSE Drama
IGCSE French – Foreign Language
IGCSE Geography
IGCSE Marine Science

IGCSE Music

IGCSE Spanish – Foreign Language

Elective Block: (one choice per term)

Wednesday P4

TASIS Art

TASIS Drama

TASIS Duke of Edinburgh

TASIS Magazine

TASIS Math Society

TASIS Multisport

TASIS Music

TASIS Life and Financial Skills

TASIS Orchestra

TASIS Portuguese Immersion (B)

TASIS REACH

TASIS Sustainability

TASIS Study

Please note:

Students will receive a TASIS course grade each term and their final IGCSE exam grade in the summer of Grade 10.

Required IGCSE Subjects:

IGCSE English – First Language (0500)

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

The course aims to:

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

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

IGCSE History [\(0470\)](#)

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

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

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

IGCSE Literature in English [\(0475\)](#)

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

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

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

IGCSE Mathematics ([0580](#))

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

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

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

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

There are two pathways within the sciences.

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

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

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

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

Options Block 1 (one choice):

IGCSE French – First Language (0501)

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

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

IGCSE French – Foreign Language (0520)

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

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

Portuguese – Beginner

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

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

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

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

Portuguese – Foreign Language *(IGCSE and European certificate in language proficiency – CEFR)*

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

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

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

IGCSE Spanish – First Language [\(0502\)](#)

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

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

Students can utilize this time to withdraw from an IGCSE options subject, focusing on building the skills and knowledge to achieve greater academic success.

IGCSE Spanish – Foreign Language [\(0530\)](#)

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

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

Options Block 2 and 3 (two choices):

IGCSE Art and Design (0400)

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

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

It is important to have an ongoing passion for creating art – please speak to our Head of Art for further details.

IGCSE Business Studies (0450)

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

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

IGCSE Computer Science [\(0478\)](#)

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

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

Cambridge IGCSE Design & Technology [\(0445\)](#)

The Cambridge IGCSE Design and Technology syllabus enables learners to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools. As a result, learners gain greater technical and design awareness, while developing skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity. They also develop the communication skills central to design making and evaluation.

Cambridge IGCSE Design and Technology provides an ideal basis for further study, and prepares learners for their future within a rapidly changing technological society.

IGCSE Drama ([0411](#))

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

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

It is important to be willing to perform both individually and within a group – please speak to our Head of Drama for further details.

IGCSE Enterprise ([0454](#))

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

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

IGCSE Geography [\(0460\)](#)

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

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

IGCSE Music [\(0410\)](#)

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

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

It is important to have an ongoing passion for and dedication to music – please speak to our Head of Music for further details.

IGCSE Marine Science [\(0697\)](#)

Cambridge IGCSE Marine Science sparks interest in the marine world while showing its importance to society. It builds core scientific knowledge, helps learners understand marine ecosystems and environmental responsibility, develops essential practical skills, and prepares students for further study or careers in science, including progression to Cambridge International AS & A Level.

Elective options

TASIS Art

An elective that enables creative students to experiment with various artistic techniques and work on individual projects.

TASIS Drama

For students who wish to rehearse and practice drama pieces while also learning the art of performance.

TASIS Life and Financial Skills

A practical course that helps students develop essential life skills, including budgeting, financial planning, decision-making, and personal responsibility.

TASIS Magazine

Between The Lines is a student-led magazine that gives students the opportunity to collaborate and take on a variety of roles, developing creativity, responsibility, and teamwork while sharing their voices.

TASIS Math Society

An invitational elective that encourages problem-solving, logical thinking, and a deeper appreciation of mathematics.

TASIS Multisport/Duke

A flexible course that integrates fitness and team sports. Students wishing to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program must select this.

TASIS Music

A practical course focused on performing as a group or individually.

TASIS Orchestra

A performance-based elective for students who play orchestral instruments, focusing on ensemble work, technique, and musical expression.

TASIS Portuguese Advanced (A)

A course designed for fluent or near-fluent Portuguese speakers, focusing on advanced reading, writing, and discussion skills.

TASIS Portuguese Immersion (B)

A language course aimed at students looking to develop fluency in Portuguese through immersive activities and structured lessons.

TASIS REACH

An invitational elective that encourages leadership, reading beyond the curriculum, and stretching academic abilities.

TASIS Sustainability

An interdisciplinary elective that explores environmental issues, sustainability practices, and responsible global citizenship.

TASIS Study/Duke

A chance for students to have supervised library time to focus on their academic work. Students wishing to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program must select this elective or the alternative TASIS Multisport.

Example timetable – Week A

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-9:30	English	Physics	English	Option Block 1	Chemistry
9:30-10:30	Biology	OptionBlock 2	Biology	Option Block 2	Option Block 3
10:30-11:00	Break				
11:00-12:00	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Chemistry	Assembly
12:00-13:00	OptionBlock 1	History	TASIS Elective	Mathematics	English
13:00-14:00	Lunch				
14:00-15:00	Chemistry	Option Block 3	History	Option Block 1	TASISElective
15:00-16:00	Option Block 2	Option Block 1	Physics	English	TASISElective
16:00-17:30	Competitive Sports and After School Clubs				

How some of your choices can lead into IB subjects:

Music > IBDP Music

Enterprise or Business Studies > IBDP Economics

Art and Design > IBDP Visual Arts

Mathematics > IBDP Mathematics

Drama > IBDP Theatre; IBDP Dance

Computer Science > IBDP Computer Science

Portuguese / Spanish / French > IBDP Language Acquisition

Multisport > IBDP Sports, Exercise, and Health Science

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

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

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

Questions that may be on your mind:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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