



 **Cambridge Assessment**
International Education
Cambridge International School

CAMBRIDGE
IGCSE

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE
OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

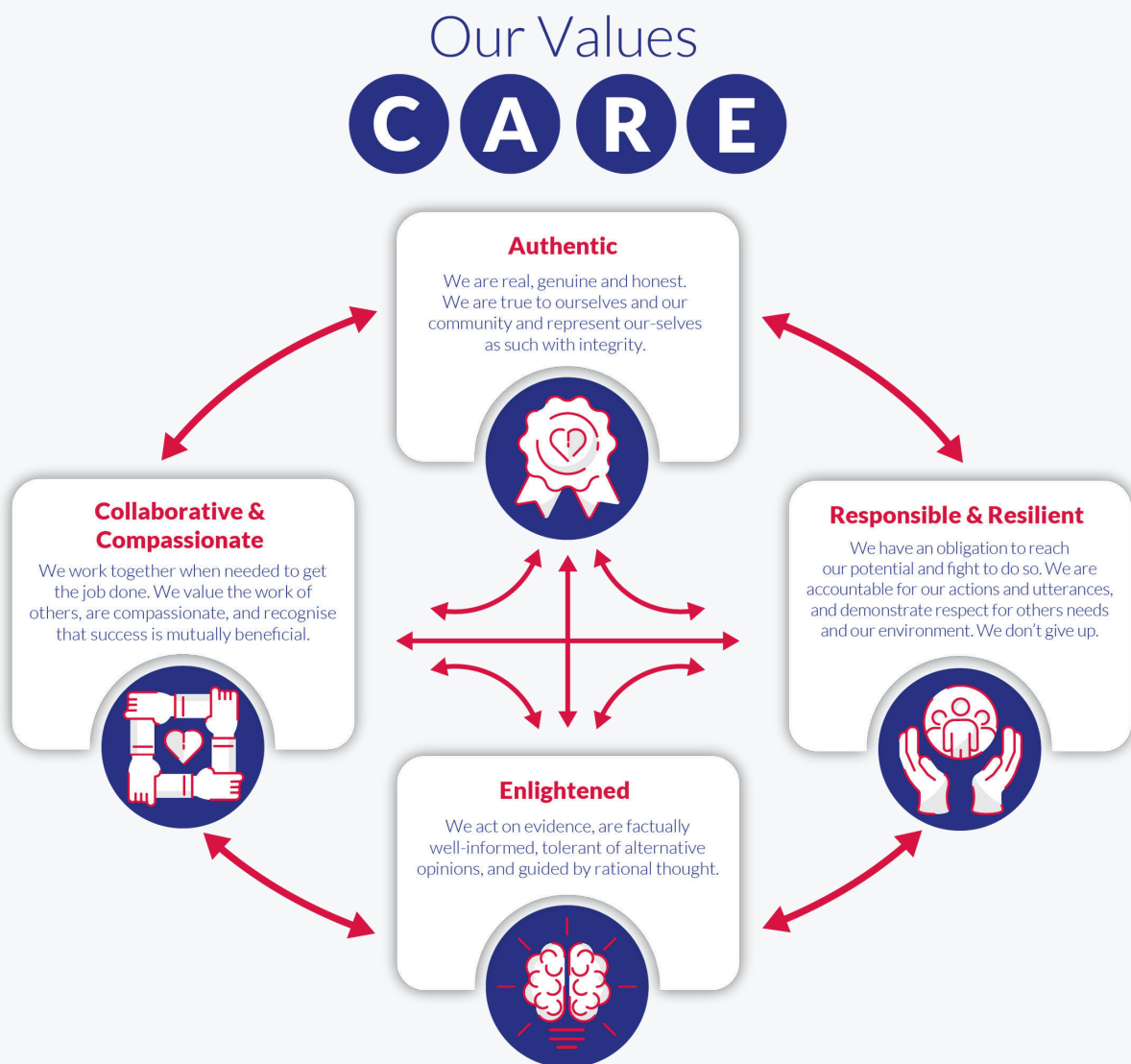


IGCSE

COURSE INFORMATION BOOKLET

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2025-2026

Caring today | Shaping tomorrow





● ● ● Welcome

Dear Parents and Students,

A very warm welcome to Thames British School Warsaw.

As the Executive Head of Schools, I warmly welcome you to Thames British School, Warsaw. Whether it's your first encounter or you're already part of our community, we're a diverse group of learners from around the world, bound by our home in Warsaw, shared values and purpose: our dedication to the young people in our care.

What defines an international British-style education? It blends British education traditions and values, providing a global outlook while respecting local customs. Following the British curriculum, students benefit from exposure to various subjects, cultivating a well-rounded education enriched by learning the Polish language and understanding local traditions. Emphasising critical thinking, creativity, and effective communication, this education prepares students for a competitive and interconnected world, striving to create globally aware individuals.

A hallmark of British education is the emphasis on examinations and assessments. Thames students undergo assessments to ensure alignment with international and British standards.

In the final four years, we offer the Cambridge IGCSE as a stepping stone for A Levels or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Our diverse programmes provide students with equally rigorous pathways to world-leading institutions, focusing on what they need for what comes next.

"We are called to be the architects of our future, not its victims" (Buckminster Fuller). This embodies Thames' mission — to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and agency to shape their futures, and our values — Responsibility, Integrity, Compassion, Resilience, and Collaboration — are at the core.

Our dedicated professionals tirelessly provide meaningful and impactful learning opportunities. Strong home-school partnerships built on shared values define Thames learners, emphasising character traits alongside academic success. Trust is earned through authentic communication consistent with our values, and our commitment to safeguarding every young person entrusted to us. After all, "It takes a village to raise a child".

As a young, ambitious school with four campuses, we bring the best of International British Education to Warsaw. Striving for constant improvement, each campus has its unique character. Still, we work together as one village, one community united by a common purpose — to prepare young people for whatever comes next.

Yours in partnership,

A stylized blue ink signature of the Executive Head of School.

Executive Head of School



●●● Contents

>>>	CAMBRIDGE COORDINATOR'S ADDRESS	2
>>>	CONTENTS	3
>>>	KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM	4
>>>	ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS	5
>>>	CHOOSING IGCSE OPTIONS	6
>>>	OPTIONS GUIDE	7
>>>	FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH	8
>>>	ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE	9
>>>	MATHEMATICS	10
>>>	CO-ORDINATED SCIENCES	11
>>>	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	12
>>>	ENGLISH LITERATURE	13
>>>	GERMAN	14
>>>	SPANISH	15
>>>	FRENCH	16
>>>	GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES	17
>>>	BUSINESS STUDIES	18
>>>	COMPUTER SCIENCE	19
>>>	ART & DESIGN	20
>>>	GEOGRAPHY	21
>>>	HISTORY	22
>>>	TIMELINE	23

The purpose of this guide is to inform students, parents, and carers about the Key Stage 4 Curriculum offered at Thames British School. Our curriculum is designed to provide students with a wide range of study options that ensure that all pathways are open in the future (even if, for many, that pathway is not decided). To meet this aim, students in Year 10 and Year 11 take IGCSE courses in a variety of subjects, some being optional and some compulsory.

● ● ● Compulsory IGCSE subjects for all students

Mathematics

First Language English *or* English as a Second Language

Co-ordinated Sciences (double award)

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

In addition to the compulsory core subjects, students **choose 3 additional subjects** from the **Options Section** in this booklet. We also require that you select a reserve subject in case your chosen course does not run.

You must choose **one option** from **each option block**:

Second Languages:

French

(depending on demand and teacher availability)

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German

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Spanish

Global Perspectives

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Business Studies

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Computer Science

(Cannot be studied together with ICT)

Art and Design

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ICT

(Information Communication Technology)

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Geography

~

History

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English Literature

● ● ● Other non-examination subjects

PSHE (Personal Social Health and Economic Education)

● ● ● Additional Subjects (Polish Curriculum)

Polish Language for all students

History and Geography (for Polish citizens)

PE

Religion/Ethics (Optional)



●●● Choosing IGCSE Options:

Students are advised to choose subjects which they are good at, enjoy, and that keep doors open for the future. Students are well-advised about course content from the professional teaching staff at Thames British School and individual meetings are held to discuss options to provide a good personalised timetable for each student.



Students hand in their option choices before a certain deadline in order for classes to be assigned and confirmed.

Every effort is made to accommodate students' first choices but this is not always possible as class sizes need to be viable in order for classes to be timetabled. In the event that a student is unable to take their combination of subjects, they will be contacted to discuss other options.

●●● Changing an Option Subject:

Should a student change their mind about an option choice, the IGCSE Options Change Policy must be adhered to, including the following process:

- The parent/guardian must give written consent via an Options Change form provided to the Cambridge Coordinator.
- If needed, the careers advisors will be consulted to assess the request and confirm the decision with the Head of Secondary and Cambridge Coordinator.
- The student/parent will be informed if the request is denied.



Examination, Coursework, and Assessment

IGCSEs are assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework. This means that some of the school work done from an early stage in Year 10 is directly assessed by your teacher, and forms an important part of your final grade.

Despite their preparation in previous school years, many students find Years 10 and 11 to be extremely demanding – self-directed study in your own time will become increasingly necessary. Good conditions for study must be provided at home and support and encouragement must be given from the very beginning of the course. If you have any concerns about this, please contact us so we can direct you to revision classes and homework clubs, which are all in place to ensure that all our students succeed.

Please take the time to read the information in the following pages. You will find an outline of all the courses offered next year. For each course we have provided information about the type of qualification awarded, the assessment process, and progression routes for this subject. All of these will be helpful and informative when considering which subjects to choose next year.

You should remember the following when selecting options:



Do:

- Choose subjects which you like or enjoy.
- Choose subjects you are good at.
- Choose subjects which you may need for your career or further education.
- Find out everything you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to stick with it for the full two years.
- Talk to the people who know you best and listen to the advice your subject teachers give you.



Do not:

- Choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it, friendships may change with time but your IGCSE grades will remain with you forever.
- Choose a subject just because you like, or dislike a particular teacher. They may not end up teaching you!



What do students study?

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English offers candidates the opportunity to respond with understanding to a rich array of reading texts during the course. Candidates use these texts to inform and inspire their own writing, and write a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

Candidates develop both their speaking and listening skills, delivering a presentation, and responding to questions and engaging in conversations. Candidates are encouraged to become appreciative and critical readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.

What leads to success in this course?

Both exam papers are unseen and require students to be able to understand and comprehend and write a range of challenging texts. Newspapers, novels, short stories, letters, and magazines all count. Students just need to start reading! Not only does this help develop literacy skills but it also means that students learn new vocabulary, understand sentence types and their effects, and appreciate the role of punctuation.

What does this qualification lead to?

Every career pathway requires literacy and verbal communication skills meaning you will use English for the rest of your life. Building academic proficiency in English is vital for furthering your studies in all subjects where the language of instruction is English.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Reading (2 hrs)

50% – 80 marks

Structured and extended writing questions.

The questions are based on three reading texts.

Externally assessed.

Paper 2: Directed Writing and Composition (2 hrs)

50% – 80 marks

Extended writing question and a composition task.

Externally assessed.

English: 2nd Language



What do students study?

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Learners are presented with a variety of stimuli that build up their skills in reading and writing. They learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practise writing for different purposes and audiences. Learners listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations in order to develop their listening skills. Learners engage in conversations on a variety of topics and develop their skills in responding to different situations and audiences with a high degree of accuracy and clarity.

Who does this course suit?

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language, who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their education or career but have not yet achieved academic proficiency. Through their studies, learners improve their ability to understand and use English in a range of situations.

What does this qualification lead to?

The aim is for students to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study required in 6th form and beyond.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 2: Reading and Writing 2 hrs / 70% / 80 marks

Six exercises testing a range of reading and writing skills.

Externally assessed.

Paper 4: Listening 50 mins / 30% / 40 marks

Candidates listen to several short extracts and longer texts, and complete a range of task types, including short-answer questions, gap filling, matching, multiple choice, and note making.

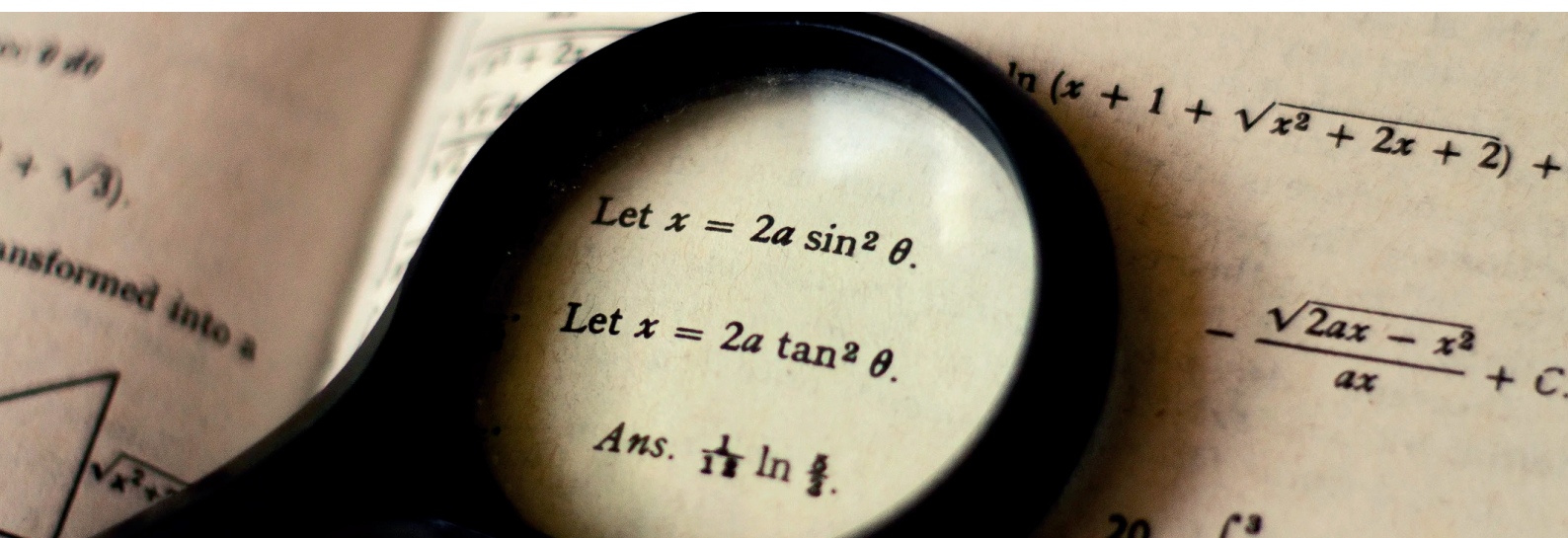
Externally assessed.

Component 5

Speaking 10–15 mins / 30 marks

Following a 2–3 minute warm-up conversation, candidates engage in a 6–9 minute discussion with the examiner on a given topic.

Internally assessed/externally moderated.



What do students study?

An essential subject for all learners, Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill and a strong 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 problem-solving and presenting and interpreting results. Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

What lead to success in this course?

Mathematics requires a great deal of hard work and effort by students in order to be successful. Regular attendance and full involvement in all the tasks and activities provided is essential. Independent learning (IL) must be completed to a high standard and submitted on time. It must be accurate and well organised. Support is always be available when required. Mistakes are inevitable, but good mathematicians learn from their mistakes and be prepared to 'have a go' until they get it right.

What does this qualification lead to?

A good IGCSE Mathematics qualification is essential for students to take their place in the 21st century workplace. Almost every job or career involves Mathematics to a greater or lesser extent.

Students who gain a strong pass in their IGCSE Mathematics qualification (Grade B or above) are suitable candidates to consider studying Mathematics at the IDBP level. Beyond this, students can study for a Mathematics or related degree at university or secure well paid careers in accountancy, insurance, statistics, marketing, banking, retail, engineering, education, and much more.

How is the course assessed?

The qualification consists of three equally weighted written exam papers at either the Foundation or Higher tier. All three papers must be taken at the same tier of entry.

CORE

Paper 1: Short-answer questions (1 hr)

Paper 3: Structured questions (2 hrs)

EXTENDED

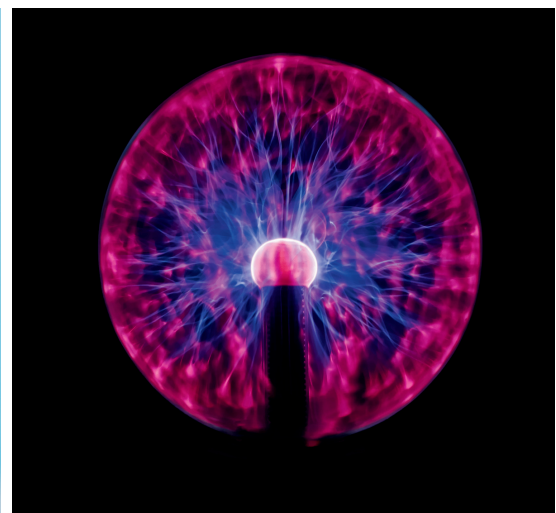
Paper 2: Short-answer questions (1 hr 30 mins)

Paper 4: Structured questions (2 hrs 30 mins)

Core: grades C–G

Extended: A*–E

Co-ordinated Sciences



What do students study?

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry, and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. They learn how science is studied and practised, 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 learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

What are the aims of this course?

The aims are to provide an enjoyable and worthwhile educational experience for all learners whether or not they go on to study science beyond this level. The course prepares students well for studies beyond the Cambridge IGCSE programme and enables them to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding to become confident citizens in a technological world and develop an informed interest in scientific matters.

What does this qualification lead to?

It is a double award qualification, earning students two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, whilst also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study. Learners develop skills that are relevant to the study and practice of science and are also useful in everyday life. They also develop attitudes relevant to science such as concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative, and inventiveness.

How is the course assessed?

Core candidates take:

Paper 1: Multiple Choice

Paper 3: Theory

Extended candidates take:

Paper 2: Multiple Choice

Paper 4: Theory

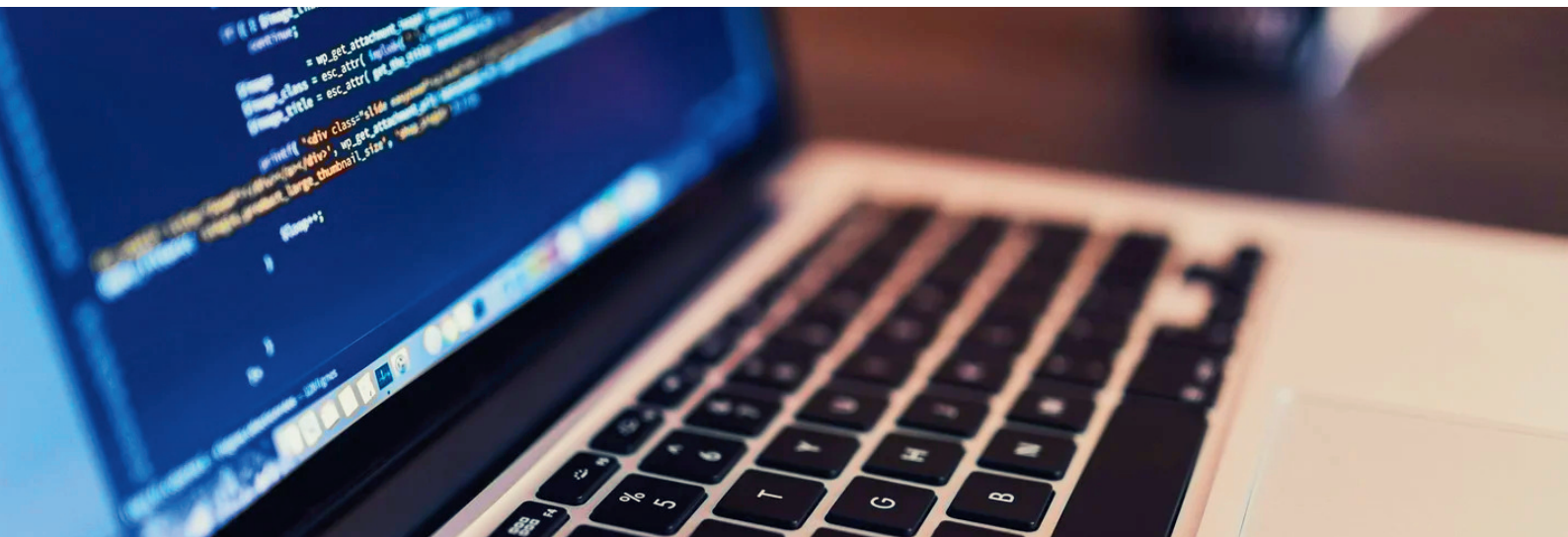
All candidates take either:

Paper 5 Practical Test

or

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)



What do students study?

Cambridge IGCSE Information and Communication Technology provides learners with the opportunity to use a broad range of ICT skills and fosters an understanding of the development of ICT systems, networks, and their safe use. Students develop an understanding of the implications of technology in society and the ways Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can help at home, work, and the wider world. Through practical and theoretical studies, students solve problems using a variety of common software programmes such as word processors and interactive presentation software. Learners analyse, design, implement, test, and evaluate ICT systems, making sure that they are fit for purpose. There is an emphasis on developing lifelong skills, which are essential across the curriculum and their future career.

What are the aims of this course?

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn about the rapid change of ICT in a technology-based society and the impact ICT has on the world. Learners in a modern ICT based world need to be able to gather, process, and manipulate data, and this course helps learners to do this.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Theory – 80 marks. Questions are based on sections 1–21 of the subject content. All questions are compulsory.

Externally assessed / 1 hr 30 mins / 40%

Paper 2 Document Production, Databases and Presentations – 70 marks

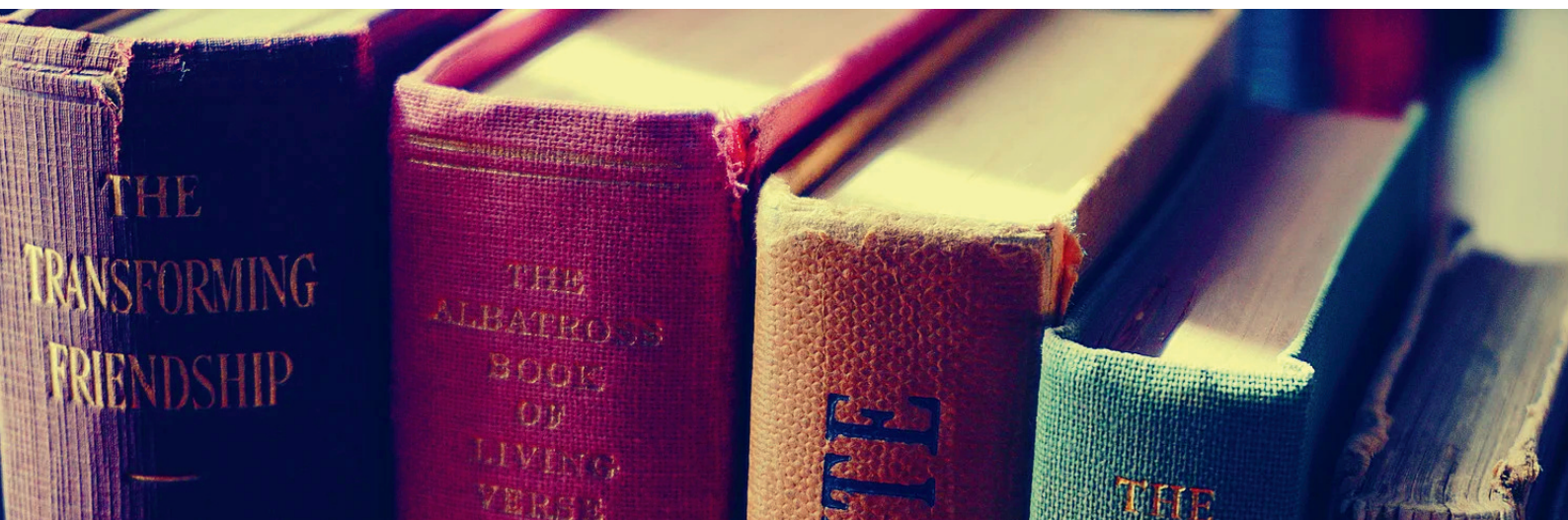
This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 17, 18, and 19 of the subject content. Candidates must demonstrate the practical skills relevant to Sections 11–16. All tasks are compulsory.

Externally assessed / 2 hrs 15 mins / 30%

Paper 3 Spreadsheets and Website Authoring – 70 marks

This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 20 and 21 of the subject content. Candidates must demonstrate the practical skills relevant to Sections 11–16. All tasks are compulsory.

Externally assessed / 2 hrs 15 mins / 30%



What do students study?

IGCSE English Literature provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a wide variety of plays, poetry, and prose. Opportunities to develop analytical and evaluative skills such as comprehension help them become better readers and appreciate the beauty of the English language by exploring how it has changed and developed over time. An anthology of short stories, a range of poetry, and a modern play are studied during the two year course. An understanding of the social and historical context of these texts is also explored to develop students' critical thinking skills. Students are also taught how to access and explore a range of unseen texts.

What leads to success in this course?

Reading a range of similar texts to those studied in class help support the progress made in this course. Our library is well stocked with more Shakespeare, poetry, plays, and novels of the same time period and genre. Similarly, students can support home learning by engaging with the online revision materials available for each unit. Researching the time periods and historical importance of the settings of texts also helps bring about success. Watching period dramas and films also lends an appreciation of the time frame in which texts are set.

What does this qualification lead to?

A wide range of opportunities in a variety of fields. Students learn to think critically, conduct research, apply analytical models, and communicate. This can lead to careers including communications, HR, copywriting, administration, marketing/PR, teaching, editing/publishing, journalism, and advertising.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Poetry and Prose

1 hr 30 mins / 50% / 50 marks

Two questions on two texts: one poetry and one prose.

Externally assessed.

Paper 3: Drama (Open Text)

45 mins / 25% / 25 marks

One question on one text.

Externally assessed.

Paper 4: Unseen

1 hr 15 mins / 25% / 25 marks

One question requiring critical commentary.

Externally assessed.



What do students study?

Languages open up a whole range of exciting future career pathways and possibilities in our modern world. It also demonstrates to employers that students have a high level of perseverance and willingness to learn. Students study a wide range of interesting topics relating to the German language and the culture of German-speaking countries. There are three study themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture.

Theme 2: Local, national, international, and global areas of interest.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

Who does this course suit?

This course is suited to all students, but it helps if they have an interest in other cultures and broadening their horizons. Students use and develop a range of soft skills whilst learning another language. In the ever-developing world, it is now more important than ever to learn a foreign language and it is a skill employers are looking for!

What does this qualification lead to?

The skills developed through learning languages is invaluable in respect of all areas of the curriculum. IGCSE German prepares learners for further language study at the level of A Levels and beyond. Employers, colleges, and some university degrees now require a language at the IGCSE level, and this course fosters excellent communication and listening skills, preparing students for the world of work.

How is the course assessed?

IGCSE German is assessed through final exams, which means there is no coursework and all exams are taken at the end of Year 11.

The course is made up of four main skills areas, all of which are worth 25% of the course. They are:

Paper 1: Listening (50 mins)

Externally assessed.

Paper 2: Reading (1 hr)

Externally assessed.

Paper 3: Speaking (10 mins)

Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Paper 4: Writing (1 hr)

Externally assessed.



What do students study?

Languages open up a whole range of exciting future career pathways and possibilities in our modern world. It also demonstrates to employers that students have a high level of perseverance and willingness to learn. Students study a wide range of interesting topics relating to the Spanish language and the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. There are three study themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture.

Theme 2: Local, national, international, and global areas of interest.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

Who does this course suit?

This course is suited to all students, but it helps if they have an interest in other cultures and broadening their horizons. Students use and develop a range of soft skills whilst learning another language. In the ever-developing world, it is now more important than ever to learn a foreign language and it is a skill employers are looking for!

What does this qualification lead to?

IGCSE Spanish prepares students for further language study at the IDBP level and beyond. Employers, colleges, and even some university degrees now require a language at the IGCSE level and this course helps students develop their communication and listening skills. It is excellent preparation for the world of work in a global society.

How is the course assessed?

IGCSE Spanish is assessed through final exams, which means there is no coursework and all exams are taken at the end of Year 11. The course is made up of four main skills areas, all of which are worth 25% of the course. They are:

Paper 1: Listening (50 mins)

Externally assessed.

Paper 2: Reading (1 hr)

Externally assessed.

Paper 3: Speaking (10 mins)

Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Paper 4: Writing (1 hr)

Externally assessed.



What do students study?

Students study a wide range of engaging topics related to the French language and the culture of French-speaking countries. There are five study themes:

- Everyday activities.
- Personal and social life.
- The world around us.
- The world of work.
- The international world.

The syllabus provides opportunities to develop and apply a wide range of language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students engage with various written and spoken texts on familiar topics, demonstrating an understanding of key ideas, opinions, and attitudes. They are also given the opportunity to write in French on everyday topics and participate in everyday conversations, enhancing their communication skills and cultural understanding.

Who does this course suit?

This course is ideal for students interested in exploring diverse cultures and expanding their global perspectives. Learning French not only enhances communication skills but also develops valuable soft skills such as adaptability and problem-solving. In our interconnected world, proficiency in a foreign language like French is increasingly important and highly valued by employers.

What does this qualification lead to?

IGCSE French prepares students for further language study at the IDBP level and beyond. Employers, colleges, and even some university degrees now require a language at the IGCSE level and this course helps students develop their communication and listening skills. It is excellent preparation for the world of work in a global society.

How is the course assessed?

IGCSE French is assessed through final exams at the end of Year 11, with no coursework component. The assessment comprises four equally weighted skills, each accounting for 25% of the total grade:

Paper 1: Listening (approximately 50 mins)
Externally assessed.

Paper 2: Reading (1 hr)
Externally assessed.

Paper 3: Speaking (approximately 10 mins)
Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Paper 4: Writing (1 hr)
Externally assessed.



What do students study?

Meeting government ministers, organising a local river clean-up project, and writing to the United Nations about climate change are just some of the activities learners pursue in the Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives course. Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is a groundbreaking and stimulating course that stretches across traditional subject boundaries and develops transferable skills. It is both cross-curricular and skills-based and taps into the way learners of today enjoy learning, including teamwork, presentations, projects, and working with other learners around the world. The emphasis is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view.

Who does this course suit?

Students who want to:

- Become independent and empowered to take their place in an ever-changing, information-heavy, interconnected world.
- Develop an analytical, evaluative grasp of global issues and their causes, consequences, and possible courses of action.
- Enquire into and reflect on issues independently and in collaboration with others from different cultural perspectives.

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives emphasises the development and application of skills rather than the acquisition of knowledge. Candidates develop transferable skills that are useful for further study and for young people as active citizens of the future.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1

1 hr 15 mins

35% – 70 marks

Candidates answer four compulsory questions based on a range of sources. The sources present a global issue from a range of perspectives, personal, local, and/or national and global.

Component 2

Individual Report: 30% – 60 marks

Candidates research one topic area of personal, local, and/or national and global significance.

The title is selected by the candidates.

The report is 1,500–2,000 words and written in continuous prose.

Component 3

Team Project: 35% – 70 marks

Candidates devise and develop a collaborative project into an aspect of one topic.



What do students study?

During the course, students gain an understanding of how the world of business works. They apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in both the local and national contexts. Students study a range of topics including:

Business Activity: This involves looking at the purpose of businesses, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.

Influences on business: The different external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences.

Business operations: The study of production, human resources, finance and marketing.

Who does this course suit?

Everything around us is shaped by the world of business, whether it is your favourite football team, fashion brand, or computer game. This course is especially suited to those who are interested in how ideas become a business, how to promote and market a business, and how to run and manage a business.

How is the course assessed?

Cambridge IGCSE Business is assessed through two written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins. 50% – 80 marks

Short Answer and Data Response:

Four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses.

Externally assessed.

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins

Case Study 50% – 80 marks

Four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper. Candidates answer all questions.

Externally assessed.

What does this qualification lead to?

After taking the IGCSE Business programme, students move on to a range of courses, including Business and Economics. The skills acquired support students as they move into further education and beyond into the world of work. Business IGCSE provides a fantastic base for students to excel in the workplace if they pursue an apprenticeship route.



What do students study?

The Cambridge Computer Science IGCSE provides an ideal foundation in computer science. Learners gain confidence in computational thinking and programming, an appreciation of automated and emerging technologies and the benefits of their use. They develop an understanding of the main principles of problem-solving by creating computer-based solutions using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills including the ability to test effectively and to evaluate solutions.

Who does this course suit?

Learners who are:

- Confident, interested in learning about computer science and using technical language to communicate their knowledge and understanding.
- Responsible, work systematically, safely, and securely when using technology.
- Reflective, learn from their experiences when creating programmes and using technology; understand how technology impacts society.
- Innovative, solve unfamiliar problems and design computer programmes creatively and independently.
- Engaged, keen to develop computer science skills and further their understanding of developments in the use of technology.

How is the course assessed?

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science is assessed through two written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1

1 hr 45 mins

Computer Systems

50% – 75 marks

Short-answer and structured questions.

Externally assessed.

Paper 2

1 hr 45 mins

Algorithms, Programming and Logic.

50% – 75 marks

Short-answer and structured questions and a scenario-based question.

Externally assessed.

What does this qualification lead to?

Studying Computer Science offers a lot more than simply learning keywords associated with computing. It empowers you to solve complex, challenging problems, enabling you to make a positive difference in the world. Computing skills are essential in a wide range of professions, from astronomy to financial analysis, and not just in IT related jobs. As a result, computing jobs often come with high salaries and those who can show computer proficiency are more attractive to employers. There are many opportunities for travel and/or remote work for people with high-level computing skills. The future possibilities for people with Computer Science skills are unlimited, and these skills are only going to become more important. This is particularly true following the COVID pandemic during which the CEO of Microsoft said, “We’ve seen two years’ worth of digital transformation in two months”.



What do students study?

Throughout the IGCSE Geography course, students are given the opportunity to study a variety of geographical issues and, in doing so, become knowledgeable and critical citizens and geographers. There is a strong emphasis on the understanding of physical processes in the environment and the management and mismanagement of resources by humans. Students also study social problems, migration, economy, and the development of regions around the world.

Who does this course suit?

This course is well suited to students who are interested in learning about the world around them. Geography is a course for all-rounders. Students use their literacy skills, as some exam questions require extended writing. Numeracy skills are also needed as some questions require students to read graphs and make basic calculations. All of these are developed during the course.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Geographical Themes

1 hr 45 mins

45% – 75 marks, weighted to 100 marks.
Candidates answer three questions, each worth 25 marks.

Paper 2: Geographical Skills

1 hr 30 mins

27.5% – 60 marks

Candidates answer all the questions.

Paper 4: Alternative to Coursework

27.5%

Candidates answer two compulsory questions, completing a series of written tasks. Externally assessed.

What does this qualification lead to?

On completion of this two-year course, students will have the skills and experience to progress onto the IBDP, A Levels, and beyond. Geography is a fascinating subject which opens doors to many different careers. Geography could help you on your way to becoming an architect, environmental ranger, engineer, town planner, weather forecaster, cartographer, flood protection manager, travel writer, TV researcher, lawyer, aid worker or diplomat.



Who does this course suit?

Students learn about a broad range of factors that have promoted or restricted change across time, so this course suits anyone who has an interest in studying the past and understanding how it affects the future. If students like to read, analyse source material, and delve into debates and explanations, this is the course for them!

How is the course assessed? This course is assessed by three exam papers:

Paper 1: 2 hrs. Written paper 40%, 60 marks. All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into three parts: (a), (b) and (c).

Paper 2: 2 hrs. Written paper 33%, 50 marks .

Candidates answer six questions on a prescribed topic taken from the Core Content. There is a range of source material relating to each prescribed topic.

What does this qualification lead to?

There are many careers that you can go into after studying History. Some of these include: civil service, media, financial sector, police, military, historian, researcher, lawyer, teacher, librarian and archaeologist.

●●● Timeline

In January of Year 9, students are invited to an information session at the high school so they can ask questions and start to think about what subjects they would like to study.

Most of the curriculum is covered during Year 11 and the first semester of Year 12. Mock exams are held in January, between the Christmas holidays and the winter vacation. **These are not optional, so please plan accordingly.**

The second semester of Year 12 is focused on examinations. The deadline for registration for these exams is in February. Students take most of their exams in April–June. These are externally examined by Cambridge International examinations

The results of Cambridge IGCSE exams are published in **August**, and the certificates are sent in late **October**.

Students receive their Cambridge IGCSE certificates at a school IGCSE certificate award ceremony.

Key contacts:

Head of School:

head_mokotowhigh@thamesbritishschool.pl

Deputy Head Academic:

deputy_academic@thamesbritishschool.pl

Assistant Head for Culture and Character:

aht_seniors@thamesbritishschool.pl

Admissions:

admissions_mokotowhigh@thamesbritishschool.pl





THAMES
BRITISH SCHOOL

2025-2026

