



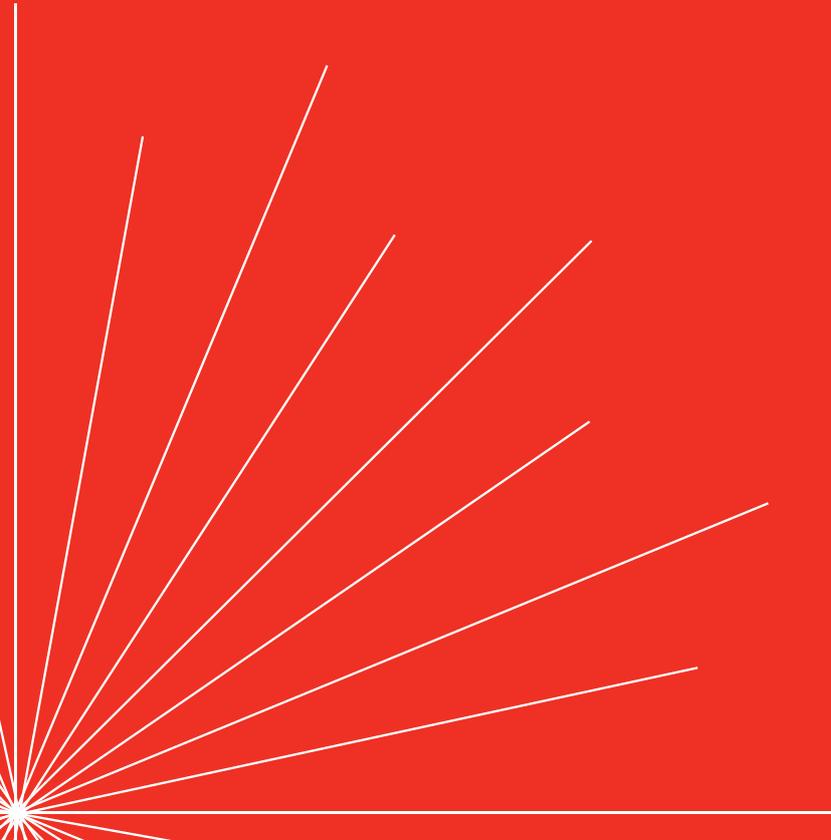
Curriculum  
Guide

# Key Stage 4 - IGCSE

[www.dulwich-beijing.cn](http://www.dulwich-beijing.cn)



**DULWICH COLLEGE | BEIJING |**  
北京德威英国国际学校



# Contents

PHILOSOPHY & OBJECTIVES	4
INTRODUCTION	5
ART & DESIGN	6
BUSINESS STUDIES	7
FIRST LANGUAGE CHINESE	8
CHINESE AS A SECOND LANGUAGE	9
FOREIGN LANGUAGE MANDARIN CHINESE	10
CHINESE	11
COMPUTER SCIENCE	12
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: RESISTANT MATERIALS	13
DRAMA	14
ECONOMICS	15
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE	16
CIE WORLD LITERATURE	17
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE	18
GEOGRAPHY	19
GERMAN	20
FIRST LANGUAGE GERMAN	21
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES	22
HISTORY	23
MATHEMATICS	24
ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS	25
MUSIC	26
PSYCHOLOGY	27
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	28
SCIENCE (DOUBLE AWARD)	29
SCIENCE SEPARATE SCIENCE (TRIPLE AWARD)	30
SPANISH	31

# PHILOSOPHY & OBJECTIVES

---

Because children come first:

- We provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment
- We recognise that each child is unique
- We challenge each child to be the best they can be and support them in this
- We educate the whole child
- We emphasise the benefits and responsibilities of working together
- We know that meaningful learning involves taking risks
- We value awareness of the natural world and its resources
- We prepare children to live their lives with a spirit of respect for themselves and others
- We aim to prepare them for a future that is unpredictable



# INTRODUCTION

---

## WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT KEY STAGE 4?

Key Stage 4 covers Years 10 and 11, during which time students follow the International General Certificate in Secondary Education (IGCSE) and some GCSE courses. (I)GCSEs are a worldwide version of the compulsory school examinations in the UK. These courses last two years, and include internally and externally assessed assignments. (I)GCSE results are used to support university applications. This provides a useful focus as students make the transition to Key Stage 5, when students follow the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

## WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN DURING KEY STAGE 4?

All students follow the compulsory core curriculum, which includes Mathematics, Double or Triple Award Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), English Language, English Literature, Global Perspectives (new from August 2016) and Physical Education (PE). Students then choose 4 optional subjects, which must include one language (Chinese, German, Spanish or French), one humanities course (Economics, Geography or History) and two further subjects, which may include an additional language, a second humanities subject from the above three, Psychology, Business Studies, Drama, Music, Art and Design, Computer Science or Design Technology.

## HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED DURING KEY STAGE 4?

(I)GCSE grades are reported on a scale from A\* to U, with grades A\* to C seen as passing grades. Most subjects have a combination of internally and externally assessed assignments that make up the final (I)GCSE grade. This varies from subject to subject, but is designed so that the final (I)GCSE grade represents the entire two years' work, not just the final examination.

## HOW IS LEARNING ENRICHED DURING KEY STAGE 4?

The (I)GCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 – 16 year olds. It develops successful students, giving them excellent preparation for their next steps in education. Students in the UK usually study GCSEs. The international version allows us to use case studies and texts that are more relevant for our international setting. We further enrich the curriculum with technology, integrating the use of computers into everyday learning to expose students to a wide variety of tools, media and resources to enhance learning. Students are required to bring a laptop computer to school. Students use their own login to access a variety of creative and collaborative learning opportunities. Our students can access our well-resourced media centre throughout the day.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF HOMEWORK IN THE CURRICULUM?

Homework is an integral part of student learning. It enables students to consolidate, practise and develop the skills they have learnt in class and prepare for subsequent lessons. It is also the time when internal assessments can be carried out. Students manage their own time to ensure they meet the deadlines they have been set.

## HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN MY CHILD'S LEARNING?

Formal reports of student progress are made to parents in two main ways: through summary report cards and at parents' evenings. Each of these provides detailed information about your child's progress. Every student is placed in a form group, and the Form Tutor is the first point of contact in the crucial partnership between student, school and home. Subject teachers are readily contactable by email or appointment. Parent workshops focused on various themes run during the year. You can also be involved in your child's learning by talking about the homework, looking at classwork and celebrating the merits achieved across the curriculum.

# GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: ART & DESIGN

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

In Year 10 students will improve their practical skills in a variety of media and processes and be introduced to a range of different artists' works and the concepts behind them. The emphasis is upon building students' confidence as artists and helping them discover their skills. By the end of the year, students will have built up a large portfolio of visual work and have a sketchbook containing notes, drawings, experiments and individual research.

Year 11 students build on the portfolio of work completed in Year 10, but the emphasis is upon personal choice and growing independence. The work might include anything from small accurate pencil portraits to large mixed media abstract sculptures, depending on individual aptitudes and interests. Students use a sketchbook to document their research, experiments and developed ideas. High-quality finished pieces demonstrate the students' ability to resolve ideas in a meaningful and personal way.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

A coursework portfolio of work is compiled throughout Year 10 and the start of Year 11, worth 60% of the overall grade.

The final examination is worth 40% of the overall grade and takes place in Term 2 of Year 11. Students are given eight weeks to prepare a project on a theme set by the examination board. Past examination papers have included themes like Structures or I, Me, Mine. The final examination piece is a major piece of finished work that takes ten hours and will be completed in school over two or three days.

There is no written Art examination.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 2AD01

#### Note

**This course is currently being updated by Edexcel. There will be some changes to the structure and content of the course with effect from September 2016.**

# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

7

## SUBJECT: BUSINESS STUDIES

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

Have you ever wanted to be a successful businessperson? Do you want to learn how to run a successful organisation? Do you want to know how to successfully manage a group of people? Every person, at one point or another in their lives, will be involved in working for, buying from or selling to a business in the corporate world. Business Studies gives invaluable insights into how this world works. The course is accepted by universities and employers as proof of an understanding of business concepts and skills across a range of businesses.

Business Studies learners will be able to:

- understand different forms of business organisations, the environments in which businesses operate and business functions, such as marketing, operations and finance
- appreciate the role of people in business success

They will also gain lifelong skills, including:

- the ability to calculate and interpret business data
- communication skills needed to support arguments with reasons
- the ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements

The (I)GCSE Business Studies course aims to encourage students to:

- apply their knowledge and critical understanding to current business issues
- distinguish between facts and opinions, and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data to help build arguments and make informed judgements
- appreciate the perspectives of a range of stakeholders in relation to the business environment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the major groups and organisations within and outside business
- develop understanding of how the main types of businesses are organised, financed and operated
- develop skills of numeracy, literacy, enquiry, selection and use of relevant sources of information, presentation and interpretation
- develop an awareness of the nature and significance of innovation and change within the context of business activities

There are six parts to the course:

1. Understanding business activity
2. People in business
3. Marketing
4. Operations management
5. Financial information and decisions
6. External influences on business activity

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be closely monitored through end of unit tests and internal examinations, as well as through formative assessment during lessons. The final grade for students will be determined by external examination.

There are two examination papers. Both are worth 80 marks and take 1 hour and 30 minutes. Paper 1 consists of four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses. Paper 2 also consists of four questions, but is based on a case study provided as an insert with the examination paper.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0450

# (I) GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: FIRST LANGUAGE CHINESE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

Students should speak, read and write Chinese at the native or near native level and have passed the school's internal assessment of Mandarin Chinese (First Language).

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

The course is based on themes of study and texts chosen from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Mainland China.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations, as well as submission of assignments and practical projects.

The final grade for students will be determined by two external examinations.

Reading (2 hours) – 60%

Section 1: Students answer a series of comprehension questions based on passage 1

Section 2: Students write a summary based on passages 1 and 2

Writing (1¼ hours) – 40%

This paper will test candidates' skill in writing. A selection of eight titles will be provided calling for an imaginative, narrative or argumentative response in an appropriate style. Candidates will be required to choose one assignment and will be advised to write 400-600 characters.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0509



# (I) GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

9

## SUBJECT: CHINESE AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

#### Is there any prerequisite to this course?

Students should speak, read and write Chinese at near native level and have passed the school's internal assessment of Mandarin Chinese (Second Language).

### COURSE CONTENT

#### What is this course all about?

The course is based on themes of study and texts chosen from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Mainland China.

Topic areas covered in the course include:

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

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

#### What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?

Final grades are determined by two examinations

Paper 1: Reading and Writing – 120 minutes – 70%

Students complete three reading exercises testing comprehension and information transfer and two writing exercises.

Paper 2: Speaking – 12 minutes – 30%

Students complete a presentation, a topic conversation and a general conversation.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

#### Where can I obtain more information?

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0523



# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: FOREIGN LANGUAGE MANDARIN CHINESE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

At least 2 years previous Chinese language study is required to access this course.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

Topics covered in the course include:

- Everyday activities
- The language of the classroom
- Home and school life
- Food, health and fitness
- Personal and social life
- Self, family and personal relationships
- Holidays and special occasions
- The world around us
- Home town and local area
- Natural and man-made environments
- People, places and customs
- The work world
- Continuing education, careers and employment
- The international world
- Tourism at home and abroad
- Life in other countries and communities
- World events and issues

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Final grades are determined by four examinations

Paper 1: Listening – 35 minutes – 25%

Paper 2: Reading – 1¼hours – 25%

Paper 3: Speaking – 15 minutes – 25%

Paper 4: Writing – 1¼ hours – 25%

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0547

# GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

11

## SUBJECT: CHINESE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

It is not necessary to have previous Chinese learning experience to access this course.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

The papers for speaking and writing units must relate to one or more themes selected from the following:

- Media and culture
- Sport and leisure
- Travel and tourism
- Business work and employment

The papers for listening and reading skills refer to the generic content areas specified below:

- Out and about
- Customer service and transactions
- Personal information
- Future plans, education and work

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Paper 1 – 40 marks  
Listening & understanding – 20%

Paper 2 – 60 marks (30x2)  
Speaking – 30%

Paper 3 – 40 marks  
Reading & understanding – 20%

Paper 4 – 60 marks (30x2)  
Writing – 30%

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 2CN01

# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: COMPUTER SCIENCE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

The Cambridge (I)GCSE Computer Science syllabus aims to encourage candidates to develop computational thinking, that is thinking about what can be computed and how, and includes consideration of the data required. Learning computational thinking involves learning to programme, which is to write computer code, as this is the means by which computational thinking is expressed. The assessment is by written papers, but the learning will be done in a mainly practical way: problem solving and programming. Questions will require the candidate to think, use knowledge with understanding, and demonstrate understanding gained through practising practical skills.

The Cambridge (I)GCSE Computer Science syllabus aims to enable students to:

- Develop computational thinking
- Develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems by using computers
- Develop understanding that every computer system is made up of sub-systems, which in turn consist of further sub-systems
- Develop an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communications and people
- Acquire the skills necessary to apply this understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using a high-level programming language

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations some of which will be written and others are of a practical nature. The final grade for students is determined by two components, a written theory paper and a second written paper, with more practical components.

Paper 1 – Theory (1 hour 45 minutes) – 60%

Paper 2 – Problem solving and programming (1 hour 45 minutes ) – 40%

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0478

## SUBJECT: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: RESISTANT MATERIALS

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

#### Is there any prerequisite to this course?

Students who enjoy making things and are interested in how things are made will enjoy this course. It would be an advantage to have taken Key Stage 3 Design and Technology but, with very strong commitment, students can enter with no prior knowledge.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### What is this course all about?

The aim of this course is for students to enjoy designing and making a significant product. Students apply industry standard processes and materials, learn practical workshop skills, and apply current manufacturing technologies, such as 3D CAD modelling, Computer Aided Machining and 3D Printing. This course will be of interest to those interested in areas such as product design, materials science, engineering and architecture.

The course aims to allow the students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in the following areas:

- A range of material properties, processing techniques and industrial practices
- Designing and making quality products
- Sustainability and green design
- Evaluating processes and products
- Considering the wider effects of design and technology upon society

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

#### What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?

Student progress will be monitored through the completion of a major design project. This involves the compilation of a detailed design portfolio and the manufacture of a final working product. There is a single external examination at the end of Year 11.

Design Project (40 hours conducted in year 11) – 60%

Examination Paper (1 hour 30 minutes) – 40%

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

#### Where can I obtain more information?

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course Code: 2RM01



# GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: DRAMA

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No, but students must be willing to perform in front of others.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

GCSE Drama continues the drama work that students explored in Key Stage 3. Students will:

- Develop their improvisation and acting skills
- Examine plays and different ways of bringing a script alive on stage
- Develop knowledge and understanding of World Theatre from practitioners such as Konstantin Stanislavski and Antonin Artaud
- Improve their Speaking and Listening through examination of a wide range of texts such as Mark Ravenhill's *Candide* and Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*
- Examine performance skills using the explorative strategies of cross-cutting, thought-tracking, monologue, forum theatre and narration
- Have access to specialist workshops in acting, the voice of a performer, the Shakespearean actor, stage combat, drama and digital media, stage management, lighting and sound

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

**The Devising Process:** Internally assessed coursework. Students will devise and perform a fifteen minute piece of original theatre from a stimulus.

**Text Into Performance:** Internally assessed coursework. Students perform two pieces of script. One a fifteen minute group piece, and the other an individual monologue.

**The Language of Drama:** Externally assessed written examination. Students work with pre-released material prior to the examination, creating two performances - one devised and once scripted. They write about how they used drama to create their pieces, using the language of drama and showcasing their analytical skills.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.co.uk](http://www.cie.co.uk))

Course Code: 0411



## SUBJECT: ECONOMICS

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

What factors influence the exchange rate? Why do oil prices fluctuate? What is inflation? Why does one country grow faster than another? What can the government do to reduce unemployment? These are the types of questions that students are able to answer after taking the (I)GCSE Economics course.

The (I)GCSE course aims to encourage students to:

- Develop an understanding of economic concepts and be able to apply these to real life situations
- Interpret and evaluate economic data to make reasoned arguments and informed judgments
- Develop an awareness of economic changes and their impact on developed and developing economies
- Understand economic issues, problems and possible solutions that affect mixed economies
- Participate effectively in society as citizens, producers and consumers

There are four main parts to the course:

- The Market System, which looks at how prices are determined
- Business Economics, which concentrates on the costs of production and competition in markets
- Government and the Economy, which explores the objectives of governments and the different policies they can use to achieve these objectives
- The Global Economy, which considers exchange rates, international trade and globalisation

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through end of unit tests and internal examinations, as well as by the submission of assignments. The final grade for students will be determined by external examination.

The examination paper consists of four compulsory questions. Each question is worth 30 marks, for a total of 120 marks, and the examination lasts 2 hours 30 minutes. The questions are a mixture of structured, data-response, short-answer, multiple choice and open-ended questions.

Each question will be based on a particular theme relating to one of the four sections of the subject content. Due to the nature of economics, however, there may be some overlap between the questions.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 4ECO

# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

The English Language course aims to enable students to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in speech and writing. During the two-year course, students are encouraged to enjoy and appreciate the variety of language and will learn to understand and respond appropriately to what they hear, read and experience.

The course encourages students' enjoyment of literary texts from a variety of genres and periods. Students will develop the ability to formulate and communicate informed personal responses and appreciate how writers achieve their effects.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations. The final grade for students will be determined by written examinations and coursework.

English Language:

Written examination (2 hours 15 minutes) – 60%  
Coursework – 40%

English Literature:

Written examinations on two set texts (1 hour 45 minutes) – 60%  
Coursework – 40%

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))  
Course code: English Literature – 4ET0, English Language – 4EA0

Note: These courses lead to two separate (I)GCSE grades.

# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

17

## SUBJECT: CIE WORLD LITERATURE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

Yes. This course is only open to students recommended for it by their teacher in Year 9. There will only be one class in the first instance. The course will be completed in one year. Students will still study for Edexcel English Language in Year 10 and 11 and will study for Edexcel English Literature in Year 11 only.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

This course introduces students to prose, poetry and drama from all over the world, in English. The course is excellent preparation for IB and is ideal for students who are keen readers of literature. The course will encourage a mature appreciation of wide and varied cultures and is highly regarded by universities worldwide.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Students will produce coursework that is internally marked and then externally moderated. This makes for 50% of the overall grade. The final examinations consist of Paper 2, which is 1 hour and 15 minutes, and Paper 3, which is 1 hour and 30 minutes, which is the remaining 50% of the final grade.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

0483 Cambridge World Literature

[www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)



# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

(I)GCSE Second Language English is designed for students who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding to make continued progress in their academic career. The qualification reflects the widespread use of English in education, commerce and entertainment. Through their studies, students will learn how to use English effectively in situations and environments they will encounter in their daily lives. The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.

Students will be assessed on their proficiency in the following areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations. The final grade for students will be determined by a written examination and a listening comprehension test. Marks for the oral component do not contribute to the overall grade students receive for the written components.

Written examination (2 hours) – 70%  
Listening comprehension (45 minutes) – 30%  
Oral examination (10 – 12 minutes)

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0511



## SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

Completion of KS3 Humanities would be an advantage.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

The course expands on the geographical themes examined by students in Key Stage 3. Students will be required to apply their ideas and explain these in relation to problem solving questions and current geographical issues. The areas of study range from population and natural hazards to tourism and development. The study of Geography at (I)GCSE allows students to acquire an understanding of the relationship between cause and consequence, in particular by analysing the link between people and their environment.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through topic tests and examinations, as well as submission of assignments.

The final grade for students will be determined by external examination.

Structured questions involving problem-solving and free response (1 hour 45 minutes) – 45%

Skills-based responses (1 hour 30 minutes) – 27.5%

Alternative to Coursework paper based on field studies (1 hour 30 minutes) – 27.5%

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0460



# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: GERMAN

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

Students must have completed the equivalent of Key Stage 3 German.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

All (I)GCSE Foreign Language courses aim:

- To develop the ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication in all the countries where the language is spoken
- To form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- To offer insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where the language is spoken
- To encourage fuller integration into the local community, where relevant
- To develop a fuller awareness of the nature of language and language learning
- To encourage positive attitudes toward foreign language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages and an empathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- To provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- To complement other areas of study by encouraging skills of a more general application (e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing of inferences)

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations, as well as submission of assignments. The final grade for students will be determined by examinations that consist of external and internally assessed material.

Listening (40 minutes) – 25%

Understand and respond to spoken language

Reading and Writing (1 hour 30 minutes) – 50%

Communicate in writing, using a register appropriate to the situation, showing knowledge of a range of vocabulary in common use and of the grammar and structures prescribed in the specification, and using them accurately

Speaking (Maximum 10 minutes) – 25%

Communicate in speaking, using a register appropriate to the situation, showing knowledge of a range of vocabulary in common use and of the grammar and structures prescribed in the specification, and using them accurately

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 4GN0

## SUBJECT: FIRST LANGUAGE GERMAN

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

Students should speak, read and write German at the native or near native level for this course.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

The German First Language course in Key Stage 4 is designed to introduce different text genres to the students, who are encouraged to enjoy reading and working in German. Students will be made familiar with the handling of non-fictional texts, short stories, poems, novels, drama, advertising and media. They will gain the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively through written work. Students will learn how to organise and structure a piece of writing. They will be encouraged to develop a personal style and learn how to address an audience effectively.

The aim of the language course is to raise appreciation of language, how language might change with time and how language can be used to influence and manipulate people. Students will gain the ability to use a wide range of vocabulary, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations. The final grade for students will be determined by reading and writing examinations.

Reading – 2 hours (50%)

Reading assessment and answering a series of comprehension questions

Writing a summary based on two texts

Writing – 2 hours (50%)

Candidates write two compositions of 350 – 500 words each

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ( [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk) )

Course code: 0505



# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

(I)GCSE Global Perspectives prepares young people for potentially unprecedented challenges in an interconnected and information-heavy world. Through a primarily research based course, young people gain a sense of their own active place in the world and cope with changes that will impact their life chances and life choices.

Cambridge (I)GCSE Global Perspectives is primarily an opportunity for students to develop a variety of skills that they will need at IB Diploma level and university. These skills include: researching, analysing and evaluating information, developing and justifying a line of reasoning, reflecting on processes and outcomes, communicating information and collaborating to achieve a common outcome.

Students will explore stimulating topics that have global significance. They will learn to collaborate with others from another culture, community or country. They will learn to direct their own learning and develop an independence of thought. Cambridge (I)GCSE Global Perspectives emphasises the development and application of skills rather than the acquisition of knowledge.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through the completion of extended tasks using a variety of media including essays, presentations, podcasts and videos. The award of the (I)GCSE is dependent on completion of three components.

Component 1 – Written examination based on response to unseen source material (35%)

Component 2 – Individual research assignment (max. 2000 words) on a student selected topic (30%)

Component 3 – Team project with a specific cross-cultural focus, consisting of a team and personal element (35%)

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0457

## SUBJECT: HISTORY

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?** No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?** The course covers the following topics over two years:

Russia 1914 – 1953

- Causes of the Russian Revolution
- The Russian Revolution
- Russia under Lenin and Stalin

Germany 1918 – 1945

- The Weimar Republic
- The Rise of Hitler
- Life in Nazi Germany

Conflict, Crisis and Change in China 1911 – 1989

- The 1911 Revolution
- Warlords
- Foundation of the Guomindang and CCP
- The May 4 Movement
- The First United Front
- The Chinese Civil War
- The Long March
- The Second World War in China
- The Rise of the Communist Party
- China under Mao Zedong
- China under Deng Xiaoping

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Attainment in this course is assessed through debates, tests, and occasional research projects. The tests and projects involve paragraph answers and essays. There are also assessment tasks requiring students to analyse different historical sources to obtain information and to decide whether or not they are reliable.

The final grade for students will be determined by an external examination. This takes the form of two papers, each lasting 90 minutes.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 4H10

# GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: MATHEMATICS

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

This course expands on the mathematical experiences of Key Stage 3, and seeks to consolidate and broaden students' skills in the areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measures and Statistics. Students will also develop skills in reasoning and problem solving and learn to communicate their ideas mathematically. The course consists of a Core section and a Supplement for more able students.

- Number: The four processes, decimals and fractions, rate, ratio, financial arithmetic, percentages, matrices
- Algebra: Linear and quadratic graphs and equations, indices, variation, expansion and factorisation, linear programming, functions
- Geometry and Measures: Geometrical constructions, properties of 2D and 3D figures, trigonometry of right-angled and non right-angled triangles, locus, mensuration, symmetry, transformations, properties of circles, vectors
- Statistics: Collection and organisation of data, statistical measures of centre and spread, graphical presentation of data, design of a statistical investigation, simple and compound probabilities, sets and Venn diagrams

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through topic tests and internal examinations, as well as submission of assignments and written reports on mathematical investigations.

The final grade for students will be determined by two external examinations.

Those students writing only the Core examinations sit the following:

- Paper 1 – Short answer questions (1 hour) – 35%
- Paper 3 – Structured questions (2 hours) – 65%

Those students writing the Extended examinations (Core and Supplement) sit the following:

- Paper 2 – Short answer questions (1 hour 30 minutes) – 35%
- Paper 4 – Structured questions (2 hours 30 minutes) – 65%

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0580

## SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

#### Is there any prerequisite to this course?

This challenging course is currently only taught in Year 11 to high ability students who have already completed the (I)GCSE Mathematics course in Year 10 and achieved a grade of A\*.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### What is this course all about?

The aims of this course are to enable students:

- To consolidate and extend their elementary mathematical skills, and use these in the context of more advanced techniques
- To further develop their knowledge of mathematical concepts and principles, and use this knowledge for problem solving
- To appreciate the interconnectedness of mathematical knowledge
- To acquire a suitable foundation in mathematics for further study in the subject or in mathematics related subjects
- To devise mathematical arguments and use and present them precisely and logically
- To integrate information technology to enhance the mathematical experience
- To develop the confidence to apply their mathematical skills and knowledge in appropriate situations
- To develop creativity and perseverance in the approach to problem solving
- To derive enjoyment and satisfaction from engaging in mathematical pursuits, and gain an appreciation of the beauty, power and usefulness of mathematics

Topics covered include:

- Set language and notation
- Functions
- Quadratic functions
- Indices and surds
- Factors of polynomials
- Simultaneous equations (nonlinear)
- Logarithmic and exponential functions
- Straight line graphs
- Circular measure and trigonometry
- Permutations and combinations
- Binomial expansions
- Vectors in 2 dimensions
- Matrices
- Differentiation and integration

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

#### What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?

There will be two papers, each lasting 2 hours and carrying 80 marks. Content for Paper 1 and Paper 2 will not be dissected. Each paper will consist of approximately 10 – 12 questions of various lengths. There will be no choice of questions.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

#### Where can I obtain more information?

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0606

# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: MUSIC

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

It is essential for students to take instrumental lessons for the duration of this course as 30% of the final grade will be based on the instrumental performance.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

The (I)GCSE Music curriculum allows students to experience a wide variety of musical genres, based around the following areas of study: Western Classical Music 1600 – 1899, Music in the 20th Century, Popular Music in Context and World Music. Students will cover notation and harmony, structural forms of the Western music tradition, genres of major world music traditions, harmonic and melodic compositional devices and performing techniques and effects.

They will also study, in depth, a set work (Rodrigo's Guitar Concerto "de Aranjuez") and a set world music focus.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Students take a Listening and Appraising examination at the end of the course, which consists of unprepared listening extracts based on Western and non-Western traditions, as well as questions on the set work. The listening examination is worth 40% of the total (I)GCSE Music grade.

The other two areas of assessment consist of Performance (30%) and Composition (30%). A performance portfolio containing recordings of solo and ensemble pieces, and a composition portfolio containing two pieces of contrasting composition work will be submitted to CIE.

The listening examination is based on Western and non-Western traditions, and the set works.

Please note, students taking (I)GCSE music are required to install Sibelius 6 or 7 on their laptops for their composition work.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Cambridge International Examinations ([www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk))

Course code: 0410



## SUBJECT: PSYCHOLOGY

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?** No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?** Psychology is a subject that looks at the brain and behaviour. It is about people both as individuals and as members of society and includes biological and environmental effects on the individual.

The subject also looks at animal behaviour in itself and in order to study humans.

This GCSE Psychology course focuses on areas such as genes, reasons for dreaming, characteristics of defendants that affect a jury and how offender profiling works. The topics are phrased as key questions and, through the content structure, students are encouraged to answer these questions from a psychological perspective. All topics ask students to explore and investigate the question and consider why psychology matters. Interpretation, evaluation and analysis of psychology are, therefore, embedded throughout the topics.

The five topics are all key contemporary debates in society today and include relevant and contemporary scientific research. The topics provide a platform to explore current debates such as nature–nurture, ethical issues and comparisons to see how psychology has developed over time and differs between various cultures. There is a deliberate focus on what psychologists do and the course enables students to consider the implications of psychology for society.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?** Assessed through an external examination. The paper consists of multiple choice questions, short answers and some extended writing and lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Unit one – There are 60 marks in the examination and the result contributes 40% of the total grade for the full GCSE.

Unit two – There are 90 marks in the examination and the result contributes 60% of the total grade for the full GCSE.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?** Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: (2PS01)

# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

Students do not have to be religious or practise any particular religion.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

(I)GCSE Religious Studies will help students understand other people and the world around them. It teaches the key beliefs and practices of world religions and encourages students to understand and evaluate these beliefs. Students are expected to develop their own standpoint on a variety of philosophical and contemporary ethical issues. Students will develop skills in evaluation, reasoning, debating, source analysing, teamwork, and understanding the motivation behind their own and other people's beliefs.

This wide-ranging syllabus aims to promote an enquiring, critical and sympathetic approach to the study of religion. Students will reflect on religious responses to moral issues, identify and explore questions about the meaning of life, and recognise the contribution of religion to patterns of belief and behaviour.

Students will answer questions from the perspective of a religion or religions of their choice and explore contemporary issues, considering these issues alongside the study of religious teachings and practices.

Examination questions will give students the chance to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of religion and will also allow candidates to express their own ideas and opinions in evaluating contemporary views about religion.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Students will be assessed by examination at the end of the course (100%).

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course Code: 4RS0

## SUBJECT: SCIENCE (DOUBLE AWARD)

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

This course expands on the scientific knowledge and skills gained by students in Key Stage 3. It is a well-balanced course featuring all the major topic areas of all three experimental sciences. It is designed to be comprehensive and in-depth enough to form a solid foundation for any of the sciences at IB – Standard or Higher Level. Although the students are taught all three sciences by specialist teachers, their final result is an (I)GCSE Science certificate worth the equivalent of two (I) GCSEs.

- Biology: The nature and variety of living organisms; structure and function in living organisms; reproduction and inheritance; ecology and the environment; GM, selective breeding and cloning; plant biology; and, use of biological resources
- Chemistry: Principles of chemistry; chemistry of the elements; organic chemistry; and, physical chemistry
- Physics: Forces and motion; electricity; waves; energy resources and energy transfer; solids, liquids and gases; magnetism and electromagnetism; and, radioactivity and particles

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations, as well as submission of assignments and practical projects.

The final grades for students will be determined by three external examinations. The examination paper for each subject is the same as the Separate Science (Triple Award) Paper 1. These are equally weighted and separately cover the content from the Biology, Chemistry and Physics aspects of the course. The papers examine practical investigative skills as well as subject knowledge and understanding. The scores on each paper are averaged to produce two final (I) GCSE grades. The examination papers are each two hours long, and include some assessment of investigative skills.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 4Sc0



# (I)GCSE COURSE DESCRIPTION

## SUBJECT: SCIENCE SEPARATE SCIENCE (TRIPLE AWARD)

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Is there any prerequisite to this course?**

No.

### COURSE CONTENT

**What is this course all about?**

This course expands on the scientific knowledge and skills gained by students in Key Stage 3. It is a well-balanced course featuring all the major topic areas of all three experimental sciences. It is designed to be comprehensive and in-depth enough to form a solid foundation for any of the sciences at IB – Standard or Higher Level. Within each topic area there is some additional, more in depth content and the classes are taught at an accelerated pace compared to the Double Award. The final result of this difference is that students are awarded separate (I)GCSEs for each of the three sciences. This course proves to be challenging to some students and is offered only to high performing students.

- Biology: The nature and variety of living organisms; structure and function in living organisms; reproduction and inheritance; ecology and the environment; GM, selective breeding and cloning; plant biology; and, use of biological resources
- Chemistry: Principles of chemistry; chemistry of the elements; organic chemistry; and, physical chemistry
- Physics: Forces and motion; electricity; waves; energy resources and energy transfer; solids, liquids and gases; magnetism and electromagnetism; and, radioactivity and particles

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

**What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?**

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations, as well as submission of assignments and practical projects.

The final grades for each of the three sciences will be determined by two examination papers in each subject. The papers examine practical investigative skills as well as subject knowledge and understanding. Paper 1 assesses the shared content with the Double Award course. Paper 2 assesses the additional content covered only by Triple Award students. The scores on each paper are averaged to produce the final (I)GCSE grade in each subject. Paper 1 is two hours long and Paper 2 is one hour long in each subject, and all papers include some assessment of investigative skills.

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

**Where can I obtain more information?**

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 4B10/1B and 4B10/2B  
4C10/1C and 4C10/2C  
4P10/1P and 4P10/2P

## SUBJECT: SPANISH

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

#### Is there any prerequisite to this course?

It is recommended that students have completed the equivalent of Key Stage 3 Spanish. Alternatively, a linguistic background in another Romance language (French, Italian, Portuguese) would be an advantage.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### What is this course all about?

All (I)GCSE Foreign Language courses aim:

- To develop the ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication in all the countries where the language is spoken
- To form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- To offer insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where the language is spoken
- To encourage fuller integration into the local community, where relevant
- To develop a fuller awareness of the nature of language and language learning
- To encourage positive attitudes toward foreign language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages and an empathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- To provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- To complement other areas of study by encouraging skills of a more general application (e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing of inferences)

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

#### What types of assessment tasks will students be asked to do?

Student progress will be monitored through tests and internal examinations, as well as submission of assignments. The final grade for students will be determined by examinations that consist of external and internally assessed material.

Listening (40 minutes) – 25%

Understand and respond to spoken language

Reading and Writing (1 hour 30 minutes) – 50%

Communicate in writing, using a register appropriate to the situation, showing knowledge of a range of vocabulary in common usage and of the grammar and structures prescribed in the specification, and using them accurately.

Speaking (Maximum 10 minutes) – 25%

Communicate in speaking, using a register appropriate to the situation, showing knowledge of a range of vocabulary in common usage and of the grammar and structures prescribed in the specification, and using them accurately

### COURSE CODE AND EXAMINING BOARD WEBSITE

#### Where can I obtain more information?

Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

Course code: 4SPO



**Legend Garden Campus**

89, Capital Airport Road Shunyi District, Beijing

Tel: (+10) 6454-9000