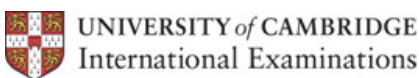




International General Certificate of Secondary Education IGCSE

Handbook for Examinations in June 2011

February 2009



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1 Foreword

The IGCSE Options booklet has been compiled to help you and your son/daughter in the important task of selecting subjects for IGCSE.

Students starting their IGCSE courses in September 2009 will be aiming to take their examinations in May/June 2011. The information about the content of courses and examinations is as accurate as it can be at present, though there may be changes. These may occur according to the availability of certain subjects, which we will do our utmost to limit. Please note that you and your son/daughter will be notified as soon as possible should any changes be necessary.

The schedule for the options process is as follows:

Date	Activity
Thursday 26 th February	<p>Parent / teachers option Evening 17:00 hrs</p> <p>Teachers make a short presentation of possible subjects offered at IGCSE.</p> <p>Option booklet handed out to all Y9 parents</p>
Monday 9 th March	<p>Students hand in their choice indication forms indicating which subjects they would like to take.</p>
Monday 30 th March	<p>Students provided with actual option forms showing option blocks in which to finalise their choices with parental consent</p>
Term 3	<p>Option choices confirmed by LICS via letter to be counter signed by parents</p>

Ruth Noble
Secondary Principal

2 Introduction

In years 10 and 11 all students follow courses leading to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education qualification (IGCSE). LICS offers a variety of subjects at IGCSE and most students take examinations in nine or ten of them. Students may take less than this number if the course proves to be too challenging.

During Key Stage 3 students will have studied a full range of subjects, but because of the increased workload at IGCSE level, and individual preferences, there is some specialisation in years 10 and 11.

Some subjects form an essential part of the education of all students and these are the compulsory Core Subjects. They include English Language, Literature, Mathematics, French (where applicable) and Information Technology (ICT), which are studied at IGCSE, as well as Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education, which are non examinable. Students will then select four or five Option Subjects at IGCSE level.

This booklet sets out to describe the main features of the IGCSE, to outline the content of the Core Subjects, and to describe the Option Subjects available.

We hope that this information will form a useful background to the curriculum at years 10 & 11.

3 The IGCSE

3.1 Main Features

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) was developed to meet the needs of educators and parents throughout the world for a curriculum specifically tailored to international needs. IGCSE provides a curriculum and methods of assessment appropriate for a wide ability range. It is designed as a two-year programme leading to a certificate that is internationally recognised as equivalent in standard to the British GCSE and International GCE 'O' level examinations.

The important principle of the IGCSE examination is that students are rewarded for positive achievement – what they know, understand and can do – rather than being penalised for an accumulation of errors.

As well as testing whether students can recall information and present it in an orderly manner, the curriculum encourages:

- The development of oral and practical skills
- An investigative approach
- The use of initiative to solve problems
- The application of skills, knowledge and understanding
- The ability to undertake individual projects and coursework and to work as part of a team.

The IGCSE examination is suitable for virtually the whole ability range. It has an 8-point scale of grades: A*, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

- Grade A* is awarded for the highest level of achievement
- Grade G indicates minimum satisfactory performance
- Grade U is given when a student fails in the examination

To take account of differing abilities, there is a choice between Core and Extended papers in most subjects. This allows teachers to decide on the most appropriate level of papers for their students. Students taking a core level examination can only get a maximum grade of a 'C' grade.

Assessment takes the form of a final examination, which is marked in Cambridge by experienced International Examiners.

3.2 The ICE Award

The International Certificate of Education (ICE) Award is a certificate, which may be gained in addition to the IGCSE if certain criteria are met. In order to qualify for the ICE, students must enter and sit for at least seven subjects. These must include English, a second Language, a Social Science/ Humanities subject (Geography, History, English Literature), Sciences, Mathematics and a Creative, Technical and Vocational subject (Art and Design, ICT or Business Studies). Students must obtain at least a grade G in each of the seven subjects as specified above.

A Distinction is awarded if a student obtains grade A in five subjects and grade C or above in two further subjects.

A Merit is awarded if a student obtains grade C or above in five subjects and grade F or above in two further subjects.

A Pass is awarded if a student obtains grade G or above in seven subjects.

4 Curriculum Summary

At LICS, we offer as wide a choice of subjects as possible. In IGCSE, there are 5 groups of subjects. To qualify for an ICE award, students must choose 2 subjects from Group I and at least one group II, III, IV and V.

	Subject Group	Subjects offered at LICS
I	Languages	English First Language English Second Language French Foreign Language
II	Humanities and Social Sciences	Geography History Literature (English)
III	Sciences	Biology Chemistry Physics
IV	Mathematics	Mathematics Additional Mathematics
V	Creative, Technical and Vocational	Art and Design Business Studies Information Technology

Please note:

- All students must take ALL the Core Subjects.
- Students must choose 5 IGCSE courses from the options available, or 4 subjects and the option of private study.

Core Subjects (Taken by all students)

Pos	Subject	
1	First language English/ ESL	(IGCSE)
2	Literature (English)	(IGCSE)
3	Mathematics	(IGCSE)
4	French (where appropriate)	(IGCSE)
5	ICT	(IGCSE)
6	Physical Education	Not Examined
7	PSHE	Not Examined

Option Subjects (Students should choose four or five to study)

Pos	Subject	(IGCSE)
	Geography	(IGCSE)
	History	(IGCSE)
	Biology	(IGCSE)
	Chemistry	(IGCSE)
	Physics	(IGCSE)
	Art and Design	(IGCSE)
	Business Studies	(IGCSE)
	Additional Mathematics	(IGCSE)
	Study	Non - examinable

4.1 Core IGCSE Subjects

4.1.1 First Language English (0500)

Summary

The First Language English course will develop the students' ability to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in speech and writing. Students will be encouraged to use relevant vocabulary, to employ correct grammar, spelling and punctuation and to display a sense of style and audience.

The course will help students to enjoy and appreciate the variety of uses of the English Language. It will complement other areas of study by developing skills of a more general application such as the ability to analyse, synthesise, and make inferences, order facts and present options.

Assessment

Assessment will be by written examinations and centre assessed coursework:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Reading (Core)	1hr.45 mins	50% of final result
Paper 2	Reading (Extended)	2 hrs. mins	50% of final result
	Coursework	Three Assignments	50% of final result

4.1.2 Literature (English) (0486)

Summary

Through the study of Literature, students are encouraged to read, interpret and evaluate literary texts. They will develop the ability to:

- Read, understand and respond to all types of literary texts
- Recognise and appreciate themes, attitudes and the ways in which authors achieve these effects
- Construct and convey meaning in written and spoken language, using correct grammar and matching style to audience and purpose
- Explore areas of universal human concern, thus leading to a greater understanding of themselves and others

Assessment

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Open book exam	2 hours 15 mins	70% of final result
Paper 2	Coursework	Two Assignments	30% of final result

4.1.3 English as a Second Language (0510)

This subject is available for students who are recent learners of English.

Summary

The English as a Second Language Syllabus is intended for students who are studying English in order to promote their educational or employment prospects. It reflects the widespread use of English as a medium for academic instruction, commercial activity and entertainment.

Students will learn to use English effectively as a means of practical communication. Work will be related to the kinds of situations students are likely to encounter later in life, and the kinds of topics and interests about which they are likely to need to communicate. There is a strong emphasis on the ability to understand and impart information.

The course will prepare students to work or study in an English-speaking environment, and will provide a sound basis for further development of their English language skills. The study of English as a Second Language will promote personal development and an understanding of self and others.

Assessment

There are 2 examination papers leading to grades A* to E

Paper	Content	Weighting
Paper 2	Reading/Writing	70%
Paper 4	Listening.	30%
Paper 5	Oral	separately endorsed

4.1.4 Mathematics (without coursework) (0580)

Summary

Mathematics is compulsory for all students up to Year 11. Students have a choice of following either the Core or the Extended curriculum. The Extended curriculum goes into greater depth of the core topics and includes additional topics not covered in the Core curriculum.

The aims of the Mathematics curriculum are the same for all students. These aims enable students to:

- Develop mathematical knowledge and oral, written and practical skills in a way that encourages confidence and provides satisfaction and enjoyment;
- Develop the ability to apply Mathematics to other subjects;
- Develop their abilities to reason logically, to classify, generalise and to prove (i.e. develop) problem-solving skills;
- Acquire an appropriate foundation for the further study of Mathematics and other disciplines;
- Develop an understanding of the part Mathematics plays in the real world in which they live.

Assessment

All candidates will write two papers as follows:

Either

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Short answer questions	1 hour	35% of final result
Paper 3	Structured questions	2 hours	65% of final result

Or

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 2	Short answer questions	1.5 hours	35% of final result
Paper 4	Structured questions	2 hours	65% of final result

At the start of term 3 in Year 10, students take an internal mathematics examination design to set the classes in Core and Extended level. Once these classes are set, the delivery of the curriculum differs in the two groups as the curriculum content is different.

4.1.5 Foreign Language French (0520)

Students not studying French have the option to have additional English language support. Alternatively, they may wish to study another language e.g. Greek, Arabic etc. on a private basis. They can be entered for this examination through the school.

Summary

In studying a foreign language, the emphasis is on developing the ability to communicate in practical situations in any country where the language is spoken.

In addition to giving an insight into the culture and civilization of France, the four linked skills of listening; speaking, reading and writing are developed throughout the course, thus encouraging a positive attitude towards language learning and an easy understanding of a culture other than one's own.

Assessment

Core Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Listening	45 minutes	33% to final result
Paper 2	Reading and directed writing	1.5 hours	33% to final result
Paper 3	Speaking	15 minutes	33% to final result

Extended Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Listening	45 minutes	25% to final result
Paper 2	Reading and directed writing	1.5 hours	25% to final result
Paper 3	Speaking	15 minutes	25% to final result
Paper 4	Continuous writing	1.25 hours	25% to final result

Each student's ability will be assessed during the first four terms of the course. The core or extended curriculum will then be offered, according to the student's ability.

4.1.6 Information Technology (0418)

Summary

The aim of this course is to develop and consolidate students' knowledge, skills and understanding in Information Technology. It also aims to encourage students to continue to develop their Information Technology skills in order to enhance their work in a variety of subject areas and to provide opportunities for students to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate Information Technology systems.

The students throughout the course are encouraged to consider the impact of new technologies on methods of working in the outside world and on social, economic, ethical and moral issues and to help students to grow in their awareness of the ways in which Information Technology is used in practical and work-related situations.

Assessment

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Written paper	2 hours	40% of final result
Paper 2	Practical paper	2.5 hours	30% of final result
Paper 4	Practical paper	2.5 hours	30% of final result

4.2 Optional IGCSE Subjects

4.2.1 Geography (0460)

Summary

The Geography IGCSE course is designed to reflect the present day interactions of man and his environment. It encourages the students to develop:

- A sense of place and an understanding of relative location on a local, regional and global scale;
- An awareness of the characteristics and distribution of a selection of contrasting physical and human environments;
- An understanding of some of the processes affecting the development of such environments;
- An understanding of the spatial effects of the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environments;
- An understanding of different communities and cultures throughout the world and an awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints presented by different environments.

Assessment

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Structured questions	1.75 hours	45% of final result
Paper 2	Skills based	1.5 hours	27.5% of final result
Paper 4	Alternative to course-work	1.75 hours	27.5% of final result

4.2.2 History (0470)

Summary

The History course offers students the opportunity to study some of the major international issues of the 20th century, as well as the opportunity to look at the history of particular regions in greater depth.

The course aims:

- To stimulate interest in and enthusiasm for the past
- To promote the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of human activity in the past
- To promote an understanding of the nature of cause and consequence, continuity and change, similarity and difference
- To provide a sound basis for further study and the pursuit of personal interests
- To develop skills in the collection of information, classification, analysis and drawing conclusions.

Assessment

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Core Content	2 hours	40% of final result
Paper 2	Regional options	2 hours	33% of final result
Paper 4	Alternative to course-work	2 hour	27% of final result

4.2.3 Biology (0610)

Summary

IGCSE Biology includes the study of the human body and life processes, plants, ecology and human influences on the environment.

The aims of the course are:

- To develop abilities that are relevant to the study and practice of Biology such as concern for accuracy, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness;
- To stimulate interest in and care for the environment;
- To promote awareness that scientific development is subject to social, economic, ethical and cultural influences and limitations.
- To prepare students for the study of Biology beyond IGCSE in pure, applied or science dependent vocational courses;

Students follow either the Core or Extended curriculum. Details of the papers are as follows:

Assessment

Core Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Multiple Choice	45 minutes	30% of final paper
Paper 2	Structured questions	1.25 hours	50% of final paper
Paper 6	Practical assessment	1 hour	20% of final paper

Extended Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Multiple Choice	45 minutes	30% of final paper
Paper 3	Structured questions	1.25 hours	50% of final paper
Paper 6	Practical assessment	1 hour	20% of final paper

4.2.4 Chemistry (0620)

Summary

IGCSE Chemistry includes the study of carbon and its compounds (organic), the periodic table and its patterns (inorganic) and the structure of matter (physical). Stoichiometry, which is the quantitative analysis of chemical reactions, also forms part of the syllabus.

The aims of the course are:

- To develop abilities that are relevant to the study and practice of Chemistry such as accuracy, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness;
- To stimulate interest in and care for the environment;
- To promote awareness that scientific development is subject to social, economic, ethical and cultural influences and limitations.
- To prepare students for the study of Chemistry beyond IGCSE in pure, applied or science dependent vocational courses;

Students follow either the Core or Extended curriculum. Details of the papers are as follows:

Assessment

Core Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Multiple Choice	45 minutes	30% of final paper
Paper 2	Structured questions	1.25 hours	50% of final paper
Paper 6	Practical assessment	1 hour	20% of final paper

Extended Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Multiple Choice	45 minutes	30% of final paper
Paper 3	Structured questions	1.25 hours	50% of final paper
Paper 6	Practical assessment	1 hour	20% of final paper

4.2.5 Physics (0625)

Summary

The syllabus covers General Physics, Thermal Physics, Properties of Waves, including light and sound, Electricity, Magnetism and Atomic Physics.

The aims of the course are to:

- Provide thorough well-designed studies of experimental and practical science;
- Encourage effective communication as well as efficient and safe practice;
- To develop attitudes which promote enquiry, objectivity, integrity, initiative, inventiveness, interest in and care for the environment, and concern for accuracy and precision;
- Ensure students become aware of the co-operative and cumulative nature of scientific theory and practice, as well as the social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural influences and constraints to which they are subject;
- To encourage an appreciation of how, in its application, Science can be both beneficial and detrimental to the individual, community and environment.

Assessment

Core Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Multiple Choice	45 minutes	30% of final paper
Paper 2	Structured questions	1.25 hours	50% of final paper
Paper 6	Practical assessment	1 hour	20% of final paper

Extended Examination:

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Multiple Choice	45 minutes	30% of final paper
Paper 3	Structured questions	1.25 hours	50% of final paper
Paper 6	Practical assessment	1 hour	20% of final paper

4.2.6 Art and Design (0400)

Summary

This course encourages confidence and a sense of achievement in the practice of Art and Design, stimulating students' imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability.

The course aims to develop a greater understanding of the role of the visual arts in the history of civilisations and to widen cultural horizons, thus enriching the individual. Students are expected to show a development of ideas from initial attempts to the final product. Students are required to enter for two papers for their final examination.

Assessment

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Observational Study	10 hours	50% of final result
Or			
Paper 2	Interpretive Study	10 hours	50% of final result
Or			
Paper 3	Design Study	10 hours	50% of final result
And			
Paper 5	Coursework		50% of final result

Students following the IGCSE Art and Design course are committed to working additional hours outside of the timetable to create a portfolio of art works. This can be done at home or informally in the afternoons in the Art room, when available. Additionally, Art in Yr 10 and 11 are time-tabled at the end of the day so that students can continue working after 14:15 on one afternoon a week.

4.2.7 Business Studies (0450)

Summary

The aim of the course is to develop knowledge and understanding of the environment within which business takes place. Students also develop an understanding of the roles and purposes of business activity in both the private and public sector.

Students will be introduced to the concepts and techniques used in business. On completion of the course, the students will have acquired an awareness of major issues in the business world, which include finance, human resources, marketing, production and organisation.

Students choosing this option should have above average grades in English and Mathematics.

Assessment

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Short-answer, data-response	1.75 hours	40% of final result
Paper 2	Data response questions	1.75 hours	40% of final result
Paper 3	Course work		20% of final result

4.2.8 Additional Mathematics (0606)

Summary

In addition to studying IGCSE mathematics, students may wish to further enhance their mathematical abilities by taking Additional Mathematics. This course is design for those who are gifted mathematicians and as such, can only be accessed by students studying at the extended level in mathematics at a grade A*, A or B level.

The aims are to enable students to:

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

Assessment

Grades A* to E will be available for candidates who achieve the required standards. Since there is no Core Curriculum for this syllabus, Grades F and G will not be available. Therefore candidates who do not achieve the minimum mark for Grade E will be unclassified.

- There will be two papers, each of 2 hours and each carries 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.

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	10 – 12 questions	2 hours	N/A
Paper 2	10 – 12 questions	2 hours	N/A

4.3 Non Examination Subjects

4.3.1 Personal, Social and Health Education

It is recognised that students personal and social development goes hand-in-hand with their ability to learn and achieve, and is nurtured and promoted through LICS.

The aims of the course are:

- To develop students confidence and responsibility and to make the most of their abilities
- To help them develop a healthy, safer lifestyle
- To encourage them to develop good relationships and to respect the differences between people
- To prepare them to play an active role as citizens

4.3.2 Physical Education

Students will tackle complex and demanding activities applying their knowledge of skills, techniques and effective performance. Students will learn skills in netball, soccer, swimming, athletics, basketball and cross-country.

As the timetable becomes more dominated with academic, examinable subjects in Key Stage 4, PE is offered for one hour lesson a week. All senior students are encouraged to play sports in the afternoon activities slots.

5 Help with Choices

It is important that students make the choices that are right for them. Before making a selection each student should consider the following points:

1. **Personal Interest**
A student is more likely to be successful in subjects that he/she enjoys and finds interesting.
2. **Previous Performance**
A student is more likely to be successful in subjects for which he/she has already shown some aptitude.
3. **Possible Career**
A student should aim to keep open as many career paths as possible. He/she should take particular care to check that by dropping a subject he/she has not disqualified himself/herself from entry into any career that he/she might wish to follow.
4. **Qualification for Higher Education**
A student should ensure that he/she has chosen subjects that will fulfil the entry requirements of the course or subject he or she may wish to study.

As well as reading the information contained in this booklet, parents and students are encouraged to consult with their Form Tutor and individual subject teachers who will be able to give advice about the right subject choice.

Completing the Options Sheet (attached at back)

1. Complete the Options Sheet by marking a cross in the box next to **5 IGCSE Optional subjects. (or 4 subjects and study)**
2. Ensure that the correct student name is at the top of the sheet.
3. A parent/guardian is asked to sign the form at the bottom. This is so that we can be sure that they are aware of the subjects chosen.
4. Please return the completed Option Sheets to Mrs Noble by **Monday 9th March 2009**

Subject Choices for Academic Year 2009-2010

Compulsory Core Subjects	Optional Subjects (tick 4 or 5 only)
1. First language English / ESL	1. Additional Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Literature (English)	2. Geography <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Mathematics	3. History <input type="checkbox"/>
4. French / Additional language support	4. Biology <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Information Technology	5. Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Physical Education	6. Physics <input type="checkbox"/>
7. PSHE	7. Art and Design <input type="checkbox"/>
	8. Business Studies <input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Study <input type="checkbox"/>

Everyone has to study the compulsory core subjects.
Students should tick **4/5 optional subjects** they wish to follow.

Students Signature: _____

Parents Signature: _____

Date: _____

Examination Officer: _____