



CAMBRIDGE

International Examinations

Cambridge International School

IGCSE INFORMATION BOOKLET



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CAMBRIDGE IGCSE COURSE PROGRAMME

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14-16 year olds, leading to globally recognised and valued Cambridge IGCSE qualifications. Cambridge IGCSE is a two year program where students are assessed at the end of the two years by Cambridge.

Cambridge IGCSE encourages learner-centred and enquiry-based approaches to learning. It develops learners' skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving learners excellent preparation for the next stage in their education.

Cambridge IGCSE develops learner knowledge, understanding and skills in:
• Subject content
• Applying knowledge and understanding to familiar and new situations
• Intellectual enquiry
• Flexibility and responsiveness to change
• Working and communicating in English
• Influencing outcomes
• Cultural awareness

The program consists of the following subjects:

- **English First Language or Second Language (students choose)**
- **Coordinated Science**
- **Mathematics or Additional Mathematics**
- **Global Perspectives**
- **Business Studies**
- **ICT**

In addition to this students will also study school based subjects of:

- **Health and Physical Education**
- **Foundation English A (EFL) – Year 1 IGCSE**
- **Foundation English B (EFL) – Year 2 IGCSE**

English First Language

Introduction

Designed for students for whom English is their mother tongue, IGCSE First Language English develops the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in both speech and writing. Students learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed. Students are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Assessment

Candidates take either:	Or:
Paper 1: Reading Passage (Core) 1 hour 45 minutes Candidates answer two questions on one passage of 700 – 800 words. Eligible for Grades C – G. 50% of total marks.	Paper 2: Reading Passages (Extended) 2 hours Candidates answer three questions on two passages of 600 – 700 words each, linked by a common theme. Eligible for Grades A – E on this component.* 50% of total marks.
And either:	Or:
Paper 3: Directed Writing and Composition 2 hours Candidates answer one question on a passage or passages totaling 700 – 800 words. Candidates also answer one composition task from a choice of 6 titles. Eligible for Grades A – G on this component.* 50% of total marks.	Component 4: Coursework Portfolio Candidates submit three assignments, each of 500 – 800 words. Eligible for Grades A – G on this component.* 50% of total marks.

English as a Second Language

Introduction

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for students who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their academic or professional career. The qualification reflects the widespread use of English in education and commerce, and also in entertainment. 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. In Syllabus 0510, marks for the oral component do not contribute to the overall grade candidates receive for the written components.

Assessment

Candidates take either:	Or:
Paper 1 Reading and writing (Core) 1 hour 30 minutes Eligible for grades C - G 70% of total marks	Paper 2 Reading and writing (Extended) 2 hours Eligible for grades A* - E 70% of total marks
And either:	Or:
Paper 3 Listening (Core) Approx 30 – 40 minutes Eligible for grades C – G 30% of total marks	Paper 4 Listening (Extended) Approx 45 minutes Eligible for grades A* - E 30% of total marks
And either:	Or:
Component 5 Oral Approx 10 – 15 minutes Separately endorsed	Component 6 Oral coursework n/a Separately endorsed

Mathematics

Introduction

An essential subject for all students, IGCSE Mathematics is a fully examined course which encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build students' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Students also learn how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

Assessment

Core curriculum <i>Grades available C - G</i>	Extended curriculum <i>Grades available A* - E</i>
Paper 1 1 hour Short-answer questions. Candidates should answer each question. Weighting: 35%	Paper 2 1½ hours Short-answer questions. Candidates should answer each question Weighting: 35%
Paper 3 2 hours Structured questions. Candidates should answer each question. Weighting: 65%	Paper 4 2 ½ hours Structured questions. Candidates should answer each question. Weighting: 65%

Additional Mathematics*

Introduction

Additional Mathematics is intended for high ability students who are likely to achieve, Grade A*, A or B in the Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics examination.

Successful Cambridge IGCSE Additional Mathematics students gain lifelong skills, including:

- the further development of mathematical concepts and principles
- the extension of mathematical skills and their use in more advanced techniques
- an ability to solve problems, present solutions logically and interpret results
- a solid foundation for further study

Students who are awarded C to A* in Cambridge IGCSE Additional Mathematics are well prepared to follow courses leading to Cambridge International AS and A Level Mathematics.

Assessment

All students will take two written papers.

Paper	Duration	Marks
Paper 1 10 – 12 questions of various lengths No choice of questions	2 hours	80
Paper 2 10 – 12 questions of various lengths No choice of question	2 hours	80

Grades A* to E will be available for students 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.

*Enrollment in this program is subject to selection.

Coordinated Science (Double Award)

Introduction

A double award, earning two grades, IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives students the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. Students learn about 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. Students 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 therefore enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

Assessment

Candidates are awarded grades A*A* to GG.

Candidates expected to achieve grades DD, EE, FF or GG study the core curriculum only and are eligible for grades CC to GG.

Candidates expected to achieve grades CC or higher should study the core and supplementary curriculum areas.

All candidates must enter for **three** papers.

Candidates take:	
Paper 1 (45 minutes) A multiple-choice paper consisting of 40 items of the four-choice type.	(30% of total marks)
and either:	or:
Paper 2 (2 hours) <i>Core curriculum – Grades C to G available</i> Core theory paper consisting of short-answer and structured questions, based on the core curriculum.	Paper 3 (2 hours) <i>Extended curriculum – Grades A* to G available</i> Extended theory paper consisting of short-answer and structured questions. The questions will be based on all of the material, both from the core and supplement, and will allow candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.
and:	
Practical assessment either: Paper 4 Coursework or: Paper 5 Practical Test (2 hours) or: Paper 6 Alternative to Practical (1 hour)	(20% of total marks)

Global Perspectives

Introduction

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 students are pursuing through the Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives course. Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is a groundbreaking new course that is cross-curricular, stretching across traditional subject boundaries. It taps into the way students of today enjoy learning as well as including group work, seminars, projects, and working with other students 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.

Assessment

For the Cambridge IGCSE in global perspectives, candidates take three compulsory components: Individual Research, a Group Project and a Written Paper. Candidates are eligible for grades A* to G.

Component	Weighting	Raw mark	Nature of assessment
Individual Research Candidates carry out research based on two topic areas and submit an Individual Research report on each topic.	40%	80	Internal Individual
Group Project The Group Project comprises two elements. Group Element Candidates collaborate to produce a plan and carry out a group project based on research into one topic area. The topic area must be different from the topics studied for the Individual Research. Individual Element Candidates evaluate the plan, process and outcome of the group project as well as their individual contributions to the project. Candidates report on what they have learnt from cross-cultural collaborations.	30%	60	Internal Group 33% Individual 67%
Written Paper 1 hour 15 minutes The written Paper consists of compulsory questions based on a range of sources provided with the paper. Sources will present global issues from a range of perspectives.	30%	60	External Individual

Business Studies

Introduction

The IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops students' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Students learn how the major types of business organisation are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence. Through their studies, students not only learn about business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry. The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study at A Level, and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

Assessment

Candidates take:	
Paper 1	1¾ hours
Short-answer questions and structured/data response questions There will be no choice of questions	
50% of total marks	
Paper 2	1¾ hours
Questions arising from a given case-study (not pre-released) There will be no choice of questions.	
50% of total marks	

Information and Communication Technology

Introduction

The Information Communication Technology syllabus combines theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software, e-mail, web browsers and website design. Students will develop a greater awareness of how applications are used in the workplace, and consider the impact of new technologies on methods of working and on social, economic, ethical and moral issues. The skills learnt will be useful to them in their work across the curriculum, and will prepare them for future employment. Assessment of the practical tests is hardware and software independent. Any hardware platform, operating system, and applications packages can be used, providing that students have the opportunity to demonstrate the full range of skills in the syllabus.

Assessment

Candidates take:

Paper 1

2 hours

Written paper testing sections 1 – 8 of the syllabus and assessing the skills in Assessment objective AO2. It may also assess knowledge and understanding from sections 9 – 16 of the syllabus.

All questions compulsory: mostly multiple choice or short answer questions, but also some requiring longer responses.

100 marks weighted at 40% of total

and:

Paper 2

2½ hours

Practical test assessing knowledge, skills and understanding of sections 9 – 16 of the syllabus. It may also assess some core knowledge and understanding from sections 1 – 8 of the syllabus.

80 marks weighted at 30% of total

and:

Paper 3

2½ hours

Practical test assessing knowledge, skills and understanding of sections 9 – 16 of the syllabus. It may also assess some core knowledge and understanding from sections 1 – 8 of the syllabus.

80 marks weighted at 30% of total