TENBY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIRI

IGCSE

A United World at Peace—Through Education
## IGCSE Course Guide 2014 - 2016

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Foreword

This handbook is designed to inform students and their families about the educational programme at Tenby International School Miri during Years 10 and 11 over the next two years (2014-2016). In particular, it provides information about the IGCSE courses Tenby International School Miri currently have planned and the choices that have to be made by students at this stage of their educational career. Following the pattern set by the National Curriculum for England, we offer a core of compulsory subjects, along with a range of optional subjects from which students can choose according to their goal, aptitudes and interests. This handbook also offers a set of guidelines for making these choices.

The programme of study at Tenby International School Miri for students in Years 10 and 11 is based on the programmes offered by the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), a body which has offered IGCSE subjects as an integral part of their international provision for many years.

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) has been designed for 14 to 16 year olds and aims to prepare students for further academic success, including progression to A Levels or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, and to equip students with the skills needed for immediate employment. IGCSE is broadly equivalent in standard to the British GCSE and is recognised as evidence of ability by academic institutions and employers around the world; indeed many schools in the UK choose the IGCSE course above the GCSE alternative.

The IGCSE curriculum allows teaching to be placed in a localised context, making it relevant in different regions. It is also suitable for students whose first language may not be English and this is acknowledged throughout the examination process. However, it is essential to note that English is the language of instruction at Tenby International School Miri and therefore students require a certain level of competency in this area in order to achieve their potential and to be able to follow the programmes of study with ease.

Grading in the IGCSE is on an eight-point passing scale (A*–G) and grades A to C are equivalent to the former ‘O’ Level Grades A to E. In some countries, IGCSE qualifications will satisfy entry requirements for university; in others, they form the first part of university matriculation requirements. They are widely used as a preparation for A Level, AS, International Baccalaureate and US Advanced Placement courses. A Grade of C in IGCSE English satisfies the English proficiency requirements of many universities in the UK and other Anglophone countries.

Before making their choices, students can acquire information about course content from their subject teachers. Tutors will also be helping them with the choice procedure. If you would like more details about any aspect of the curriculum for Years 10 and 11, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Peter Shearer
Head of Secondary, Tenby International School Miri

For further information about IGCSEs, please visit the Cambridge International Examinations website: www.cie.org.uk
Introduction for Students

This handbook has been written for you and we recommend that you read it with your parents.

In August when you move into Year 10 you will start a challenging and rewarding two-year programme of study. This booklet tells you something about your courses over that period, until May 2016. It explains what the IGCSE is about and why you have a choice in some areas but not in others:

- **Before you start** An overview of years 10 and 11.
- **What to aim for** A word or two about IGCSE.
- **What are my options?** How to make your choices.
- **Yes, but...** Some questions answered.
- **What next?** How you tell us your choices.

**Before You Start**

Remember that there is a limit to how much information and advice you can get from a book like this. Talk with people; ask questions; listen to what they say. Do not choose a subject because your friend is doing it. Your friend will not have to live with the consequence of you making the wrong choice.

- Talk with your parents – they know you best.
- Talk with your Tutor, Subject Teachers and the Head of Secondary.

To get a picture of your typical school week for the next two years, think of two groups of subjects.

The first group - the Compulsory subjects - contains certain subjects, which everyone has to study. Here is the list:

**Core Subjects (compulsory)**

- English
- Another language: Chinese, Malay OR French.
- Mathematics (with Additional Mathematics for the most able students)
- Science
- Physical Education*
- Information and Communication Technology*
- PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education; not an examination subject)

In PSHE students will be looking at issues concerned with being a ‘World Citizen’ as well as spending time on preparation for life after TIS.

*In accordance with Key Stage 4 studies in the National Curriculum for England, you will be required to participate in PE and ICT through Years 10 and 11. However not all students will be expected to undertake the examinations in these subjects.

The second group of subjects – the options – is where you have some choice. These subjects are as follows:
Optional Subjects (please note that this list may be subject to change).

- Business Studies
- History
- Music
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Drama

What to aim for: The IGCSE and Post–16 education

English, Mathematics, Science and the optional subjects lead to a qualification called the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). IGCSE grades are from A* to G. The IGCSE gives students an excellent foundation from which to choose the subject areas they wish to take later, whether A Levels, the IB Diploma, or the Advanced Placement Programme (AP).

What are my options? How to make your choices

In making decisions about selection of subjects, you should:

1: Consider your goals: In making these choices, you should be considering your options for the future, and setting goals that you hope to attain. These should be:
   - **Short-term goals:** e.g. achieving a high grade in Mathematics this year (be realistic but aspirational!).
   - **Medium term goals:** e.g. choosing, and setting specific targets in, IGCSE subjects.
   - **Long term goals:** e.g. planning what you want to do on completing Years 12 and 13; what courses you might want to study at university; where you might want to study; and so on. **NOTE:** Long term goals especially can be readjusted as your interests change and as you mature, but remember the saying: *A ship without a course cannot hope for a favourable wind.*

2: Do some research: You should find out more about what you will learn in each subject, and you should investigate the jobs, courses and universities that might interest you as your long-term goals. Using the Internet to access university websites is a very useful means of obtaining the required information.

3: Consider prerequisites for the courses that interest you: You should check:
   - The subjects required for entry into a university course in which you are interested.
   - The grade level (marks) required.
   - The level of English competency needed.

As well as checking the Internet, for further information, you can also make an appointment with your Tutor to discuss your goals, your options, and your progress. Be aware that any informed decision is based on the gathering of evidence.

4: Consider what subjects you enjoy: You should select subjects you will like and enjoy (after you have ensured that you have covered the prerequisites for your future goals).

5: Consider what you're good at: You should make a realistic assessment of how capable you are in various subjects, and choose those in which you will achieve best.

6: Listen carefully to advice and ideas from parents, teachers, friends. But remember that you will be in the hot seat, studying the subject, completing the assignments and using the results to shape
your future. Choose what suits you best. Again, do not choose a subject just because your friends are choosing it (this is the worst reason for choosing a subject).

Yes, but...

**Why do I have to do all of the Compulsory Subjects?**
No secondary school student’s curriculum could possibly be complete without Mathematics, Science and (in an English language school) English. These are the first three subjects on the list. Virtually all higher education institutions worldwide expect you to have a qualification in English and Mathematics. Developing language skills is a very important part of today’s global society and the skills you learn in developing a new language are transferable to nearly every other subject. Other subjects are compulsory because you need the skills and knowledge they provide for success.

**Why do I have to choose Optional Subjects? Why don’t we just do all of them?**
The main reason is time. Add up the total number of compulsory subjects and options together. In a week, how many periods, on average, would each subject get? This would be nothing like enough to get you anywhere near IGCSE standard. To study all the subjects in the sort of depth appropriate to your age would require a school day about twice as long as ours, and think of the homework!

**So why can’t I just choose my favourite subjects?**
There are two reasons. The first is theoretical: it is important for your development as an educated person that you study a broad range of subjects. The Compulsory and Optional subjects in combination should be broad enough to offer you experience in different areas of learning. The second reason is practical. You may have an idea about what you are going to do for your career, but you are probably not certain yet. It is most important that you do not close any career doors – in other words, that you do not leave out subjects, or types of study, that you may need later (this is another reason why we insist that you take the compulsory subjects).

**What are the reasons for making my choice?**
Does it really make any difference which courses you choose? You may think that a particular subject will be useful for a future course or career you have in mind. For instance, if you want to go into politics, History would provide some useful background.

However, there are very few courses and careers that require particular IGCSE subjects, with the exception of English, Mathematics and Science. You do not need an IGCSE in Music to be a successful business manager, or an IGCSE in Art and Design to be an architect. Nevertheless, good grades in a broad range of subjects are important as a foundation for further specialised study. The business manager needs good communication skills and the architect must have a sound understanding of mathematics.

**What next? How you confirm your options**

After reading this booklet carefully and discussing your thoughts with your parents, teachers and friends, you will need to complete the Options Form.

Please note that the creation of your course of study is also influenced by the blocks in which subjects are offered. Some combinations of subjects are not available. Please see the separate Options Form to know which particular choices are available.
Assessment and Communication

Assessment

Subject departments use a variety of assessment techniques throughout each year, including peer and self assessment, teacher assessment of group and individual work, and the marking of tests. In addition, there are internal examinations for all students at the end of Year 10. Reports will be issued to parents indicating levels of attainment and effort, and examination scores (where appropriate), with comments by the subject teachers and each child’s Tutor in February and at the end of the academic year in July.

From time to time we will also provide feedback on how you are progressing with the IGCSE Programme. We will tell you about your effort in a particular subject as well as attainment. You will also be given end of topic/unit tests in some subjects, which help to reinforce learning covered in class.

The exact nature of the assessments in each subject is provided in the pages dealing with specific subjects. However, in general, each subject will have an examination component that students will sit for in May of Year 11. A number of subjects also have a compulsory course work component as part of their assessment.

Some IGCSE subjects offer students the options of Extended or Core Papers. During year 10, all students at Tenby International School Miri will cover the material necessary for completing the Extended Course. This will afford you the full option of grades. In some instances, the subject teachers will insist that a student has to be entered for the Core Papers because it would not be in their interest to be entered for the Extended examination (generally because they have not shown the potential to attain a C grade during the course of the programme). This would be the exception rather than the rule.

School/Parent Communication

As a student you are responsible for your learning. In this you are guided by a partnership between teachers and parents. To this end an effective line of communication between these two groups is essential. The Tutor should be the first point of contact when there is any concern. These teachers are in the best position to gain an all round perspective of progress. The most effective means of communication is through the Student Planner, which will be checked weekly by the Tutor. Parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the planner and are asked to sign it each week. Additionally, staff can readily be contacted through the school office. By maintaining effective communication channels, potential problems can be forestalled.

There are additional opportunities during the year for parents and staff to communicate with regard to student progress. Often class work and homework books indicate areas for celebration and at times, areas for concern. When a pattern of concern arises, the Tutor will contact parents to discuss support for the student.
The IGCSE and ICE Award

Main Features of the IGCSE

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:

- An investigative approach
- The development of oral and practical skills
- 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

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, Sciences, Mathematics and a Creative, Technical and Vocational subject. 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.

Pages 8 to 23 give details of IGCSE subjects that may be chosen for 2014 to 2016.
IGCSE ENGLISH

Core subject

Why is English important?

- To operate successfully in the workplace you must be a fluent reader, writer and speaker of English. Employers expect this as a minimum.
- Colleges and institutions of higher education will always look carefully at your English grade. Overseas universities often have a minimum grade/requirement for English which you must meet in order to gain places with them.

What does the course cover?

You will learn about various styles of writing, including argumentative and discursive writing, descriptive and narrative writing, report writing, magazine features, formal and informal letters and speech writing. You will develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in both speech and writing. You will 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. You will also be encouraged to read widely, both for your own enjoyment and to further your awareness of the ways in which English can be used. English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

How will I learn?

In lessons you will be encouraged to:
- Read for pleasure and be discerning about your choice of reading material
- Think quickly and practically about your choice of language
- Inhabit characters from texts
- Discuss and analyse how language is used and write in a variety of styles
- Experiment with speech devices and figurative language

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through two examination papers, each worth 50% of the final grade. Both papers test reading and writing skills.

Students will take either First Language English or Second Language English according to ability and progress in the course.
IGCSE MATHEMATICS

Core subject

Why is IGCSE Mathematics important?

- To develop thoughtful writing of mathematics and logical thinking in problem solving and investigations;
- To apply mathematics in everyday situations and develop an understanding of the part which mathematics plays in the world around you;
- IGCSE Mathematics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of mathematical knowledge and understanding. Successful IGCSE Mathematics candidates gain lifelong skills:
  - confidence by developing a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships;
  - an ability to consider and solve problems and present and interpret results;
  - communication and reason using mathematical concepts;
  - a solid foundation for further study;
  - imaginative and creative work arising from mathematical ideas.

What does the course cover?

- Algebra
- Geometry
- Graphs
- Matrices and Transformation
- Mensuration
- Trigonometry
- Sets, Vectors and Functions
- Statistics and Probability

How will I learn?

Throughout the course there will be regular tests, discussions and exam questions. Other learning methods include group work, investigations, and ICT resources.

How will I be assessed?

Core Examination (grades available: C-G):
Paper 1: Short answer questions (1 hour; 35% of final grade)
Paper 2: Structured questions (2 hours; 65% of final grade)

Extended Examination (grades available: A*-E):
Paper 1: Short answer questions (1 hour 30 mins.; 35% of final grade)
Paper 2: Structured questions (2 hours 30 mins.; 65% of final grade)
IGCSE SCIENCE

Core subject

Why is IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences important?

Science is the driving force behind new discoveries, inventions and technologies and has a major effect on everyday life and the economy. Understanding science is essential to be able to talk about its relevance to the modern world.

IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives you the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award, which means you will gain two grades at IGCSE. You will then be able to progress to single science AS and A Level qualifications, as well as the IB Diploma, where science is a compulsory subject for all candidates.

What does the course cover?

You will learn:
- the basic principles of each subject (biology, chemistry, physics) through a mix of theoretical and practical studies;
- to develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study;
- how science is studied and practised;
- that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment;
- to better understand the technological world in which you live;
- to take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

How will I learn?

Science is about being curious about how the world works and you will be given the opportunity to find explanations and answers. You will:

- connect your own practical experience with scientific ideas as you experiment in physics, chemistry and biology labs;
- be able to link your own knowledge with the discoveries of great scientists from our history;
- discover that the ‘scientific method’ has great value in many different fields – not just in the laboratory.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (45 minutes; 30% of total marks): A multiple-choice paper consisting of 40 four-choice questions.

Paper 3 (2 hours; 50% of total marks): Extended curriculum; Grades A* to G can be achieved. Extended theory paper consisting of short-answer and structured questions. The questions will be based on all of the material covered by the two-year course.

Paper 5 Practical Test (2 hours; 20% of final grade)
IGCSE INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY  Core subject

Why is ICT important?

To develop lifelong skills including:
• the ability to understand and implement new technologies within a business environment;
• how to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
• considering the impact which new technologies will have on ways of working and the social, economic and ethical issues associated with them;
• Awareness of the ways ICT can help in practical and work-related scenarios.

What does the course cover?

The two assessment objectives in ICT are:

Practical Skills: Students should be able to:
• Use e-mail and the Internet to gather and communicate information;
• Use word processing facilities to prepare documents;
• Use database facilities to manipulate data to solve problems and represent data graphically;
• Use a spreadsheet to create and test a data model, extracting and summarising data;
• Create a structured website with style sheets, tables and hyperlinks;
• Create and control an interactive presentation.

Knowledge and Understanding
Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in relation to:
• The functions of the main hardware and software components of computer systems;
• The networking of information-processing systems;
• The ways in which information technology is used and the effects of its use;
• The stages and methods of system analysis and design;
• Computing terminology.

How will I learn?
You will be building up your knowledge and understanding of ICT through theory work and developing practical skills in the use of ICT tools including using different types of software. You will be learning the concepts and given the opportunity to build on them.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (2 hours) (40% of final grade)
Papers 2 & 3 (each 2 hours 30 minutes; together, 60% of final grade)

Papers 2 and 3 will consist of a number of practical tasks to be taken under controlled conditions. These practical tests focus on the candidate's ability to carry out practical tasks rather than to explain the theory of how the tasks are completed.
IGCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why is IGCSE Physical Education important?

- The IGCSE PE course will enable you to expand your knowledge, skills and understanding by studying the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education;
- Universities and employers accept your IGCSE PE qualification as proof that you have knowledge, skills and an understanding of a range of relevant physical activities;
- It is provides lifelong learning in leading a fun, balanced, healthy and active lifestyles.

What does the course cover?

The course is divided up into two different components:

Component 1 (theory) covers the following units:
- Unit 1: Factors affecting performance
- Unit 2: Health, safety and training
- Unit 3: Reasons and opportunities for participation in physical activity.

Component 2 (practical coursework) covers an variety of sports from the following categories:
- Games activities (team sports)
- Outdoor and adventurous activities
- Swimming and athletics activities
- Combat, dance and gymnastics activities

How will I learn?

- IGCSE PE demands three hours of contact time each week; this is divided into one hour of theory and two hours of practical studies;
- You will learn independently in order to build your knowledge and understanding of the course units; and have the ability to analyse and improve on your individual performances;
- You will learn collaboratively with your fellow pupils in during physical activity sessions, problem solving and evaluations;
- You will have the opportunity to become a leader, and demonstrate effective communication and thinking skills in during in most aspects of the course including planning, tactical awareness and performance analysis.

How will I be assessed?

Written Examination: Short and long answer questions from each of the three units (40% of final grade);

Coursework: Four practical activities from at least two of the categories listed above (50% of final grade). You must also show the ability to analyse and improve practical performance in one of the four practical activities (10% of final grade).
IGCSE CHINESE

*NOTE: You must choose one language other than English.

Why choose IGCSE Chinese?

Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world, spoken not only in China but also in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and many other places in South-East Asia. Currently Mandarin Chinese is spoken by over 1 billion people around the world, about one fifth of the global population. It means speak the language and you can speak to 1 billion people. Did you know that the number of students learning Chinese is the fastest growing among all foreign languages? Each year more and more students around the world whose mother tongue is not Mandarin are studying it with enthusiasm and success. With an economy growing by leaps and bounds, the importance of China on the world stage is increasingly felt. Learning to speak Chinese is a great way to gain an advantage in the business world. Simultaneously, it helps you to understand Chinese culture, literature and history. Learning Mandarin Chinese is a challenging but rewarding experience through which you can immerse yourself in a different culture and develop lifelong skills.

What does the course cover?

- Chinese Pinyin
- Character writing & formation
- Introducing China – Cultures & customs
- Writing simple essays, notes, articles, and letters.
- Skills in the language used in everyday life, with reference to family, home, school, travel, holiday, employment, careers, environment, and current affairs.

How will I learn?

In lessons, you will be encouraged to:

- Work in pairs or small groups to practise using the language orally and in writing;
- Use ICT to practise the language and carry on projects;
- Work independently on assignments;
- Work individually or in small groups doing intensive speaking practice;
- Assess your own work and that of others to help you to understand how to improve;
- Be involved in target setting and the learning review process;
- Be active and participate in class;
- Practise individually or collaboratively reading and writing characters.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be by examination at the end of Year 11. Students will be entered either for Core (C-G grades only) or the Extended Examination (A* - G grades only). Only pupils taking the Extended Examination will do Paper 4.

**Paper 1: Listening:** 33% of final grade (Core students); 25% of final grade (Extended students)

**Paper 2: Reading Comprehension:** 33% of final grade (Core); 25% of final grade (Extended)

**Paper 3: Speaking:** 33% of final grade (Core students); 25% of final grade (Extended students)

**Paper 4: Extended Writing** (only for Extended Students); 25% of final grade
**IGCSE FRENCH**

*NOTE:* You must choose one language other than English.

**Why choose French?**

- It is spoken on 5 continents by 200 million people, and is therefore the world’s second most-learned language, the ninth most widely-spoken, and the third most used language on the web;
- You will **learn to communicate with other people** and about different countries and cultures. It can also make travel and leisure much more interesting and exciting!
- Universities and employers tend to prefer candidates who speak one or more foreign language, and speaking French opens up **study opportunities at renowned French universities and business schools**;
- Some universities have a foreign language requirement: don’t be at a disadvantage!
- **French is a good base for learning other languages**, especially Romance languages (Spanish, Italian and Portuguese) as well as English, since a good proportion of current English vocabulary is derived from French.

**What does the course cover?**

French language for: Everyday activities; Personal and social life; The world around us; The world of work; The international world.

**How will I learn?**

Language classes are fun and interactive. You will cover things at a slightly quicker pace than in KS3.

In lessons, you will be encouraged to:
- Work in pairs or small groups to practise using the language orally and in writing;
- Use ICT to practise grammar, reading and listening, and to carry out research for presentations;
- Work independently on assignments;
- Work individually or in small groups to do intensive speaking practice in preparation for oral examinations;
- Assess your own work and that of others in your group to help you to understand how to improve;
- Be involved in target setting;
- Be active and participate in class.

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessment will be by examination at the end of Year 11. Students will be entered either for Core (C-G grades only) or the Extended Examination (A* - G grades only). Only pupils taking the Extended Examination will do **Paper 4**.

**Paper 1: Listening:** 33% of final grade (Core students); 25% of final grade (Extended students)
**Paper 2: Reading and Directed Writing:** 33% of final grade (Core students); 25% of final grade (Extended students)
**Paper 3: Speaking:** 33% of final grade (Core students); 25% of final grade (Extended students)
**Paper 4: Continuous Writing** (only for Extended Students); 25% of final grade
IGCSE MALAY Optional subject*

*NOTE: You must choose one language other than English.

Why choose IGCSE Malay?

Learning languages is an advantage irrespective of who and what you intend to be in future. A candidate for a position in a multinational company will stand a better chance if he or she can communicate in various languages. Someone who intends to venture into business in a foreign country will stand a better chance of success if he or she is able to communicate in the local language and understand the culture of the society.

For Malaysians, upon completion of your tertiary education abroad and if you intend to settle down in Malaysia, Malay is the language of communication, especially in the public sector.

The IGCSE Malay syllabus encourages students to develop lifelong skills, including:
- The ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication;
- Insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken;
- A positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and civilisations;
- Techniques relevant to other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills;
- A sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

What does the course cover?

- Reading
- Directed writing
- Speaking
- Continuous writing

How will I learn?

Classes are fun and interactive. There will also be exam practice so that you are ready for exams. In lessons, you will be encouraged to:
- Work in pairs or small groups to practise using the language orally and in writing;
- Use ICT to practise grammar, reading and listening, and to carry out research for presentations;
- Work on intensive speaking practice in preparation for oral examination;
- Assess your own work and that of others in your group to help you to understand how to improve;
- Be involved in target setting and the learning review process.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be by examination at the end of Year 11. Students will be entered either for Core or the Extended Examination. Only pupils taking the Extended Examination will do Paper 4.

**Paper 1: Listening:** 33% of final grade (Core students); 25% of final grade (Extended students).

**Paper 2: Reading Comprehension:** 33% of final grade (Core); 25% of final grade (Extended).

**Paper 3: Speaking:** 33% of final grade (Core students); 25% of final grade (Extended students).

**Paper 4: Continuous Writing** (only for Extended Students); 25% of final grade.
IGCSE ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

Optional subject

Why study IGCSE Additional Maths?

- 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;
- IGCSE Additional Mathematics is accepted by universities and employers as proof of essential mathematical knowledge and ability;
- Successful IGCSE Additional Mathematics candidates 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.

What does the course cover?

The Additional Mathematics Syllabus is intended for high ability candidates who have achieved or are likely to achieve Grade A*, A or B in the IGCSE Mathematics examination, taken at the end of year 10. The curriculum objectives are therefore assessed at one level only (Extended).

- Set Language and Notation
- Functions
- Quadratic Functions
- Logarithmic and Exponential Functions
- Vectors in 2D Dimensions
- Differentiation and Integration
- Indices and Surds
- Factors of Polynomials
- Simultaneous Equations
- Trigonometry
- Permutations and Combinations
- Binomial Expansions
- Matrices

How will I learn?

You will learn individually, in groups and as a whole class. You will be given questions to complete at school and also at home. Throughout the course there will be regular tests, discussions and exam questions. Other learning methods include: Group work, investigations.

How will I be assessed?

All candidates will take two written papers. The syllabus content will be assessed by two papers (two hours each), each worth 50% of the total marks. 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.

Internal assessment is based on class work, homework, investigations, quizzes, tests, end-of-year test and practice examinations.
IGCSE ART AND DESIGN

Optional subject

Why choose IGCSE Art and Design?

- IGCSE Art and Design provides experiences and skills in developing and producing a range of artefacts which show visual knowledge and understanding;
- The course develops critical thinking, cultural understanding and aesthetic awareness;
- The course challenges you to develop problem solving skills, research and recording skills and refine creative techniques through the exploration of a range of skills and media;
- The course admits independent thinking, allowing you to pursue your designs and ideas;
- Art and Design provides a foundation which enables you to seek direct employment or continue further study in the creative arts and design related career paths.

What does the course cover?

- Painting and related media
- Printmaking
- Three-dimensional studies
- Photography, digital and lens based media
- Graphic communication
- Textile design

How will I learn?

In lessons you will be encouraged through:

- Master classes and foundation skills in researching, developing and making artefacts;
- Instruction in ‘creative cycle’ processing of projects and supportive documentation;
- Investigation of concepts of creativity, problem solving, visual awareness, critical and cultural understanding;
- Development of a portfolio charting your development as an artist;
- Development of confidence in applying artistic concepts and terminology;
- Self-directed projects that stem from personal interests, creative skills and imagination.

How will I be assessed?

Students must complete two of the following components of study:

Component A: Broad Based Component (50% of final grade)
Externally assessed; unlimited preparatory period during which candidates produce their supporting studies (Control Test: 8 hours)

Component B - Design Component (50% of final grade)
Externally assessed; unlimited preparatory period during which candidates produce their supporting studies (Control Test: 8 hours)

Component C - Critical and Historical Component (50% of final grade)
Externally assessed; candidate produces a folder of 1500-2000 words with illustrative material

Component D - Coursework Component (50% of final grade)
Internally Assessed, externally Moderated. Candidates produce a portfolio of up to four sheets (8 sides) of A2. Final Outcome: candidates produce a final outcome in a chosen medium
IGCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Optional subject

Why choose IGCSE Business Studies?

Business Studies is an ideal start to a career in business, irrespective of your intention to either be the owner of a business or be an employee of an institution. Public sector, private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) depend greatly on employees with business skills and understanding. Even if you choose a career as a professional e.g. doctor, politician, administrator, engineer or lawyer, you will need business skills and knowledge before you start practising. You will also be able to apply business skills into your daily life and get the best value for every penny you spend – a smart consumer.

Business Studies will help you to be a better communicator. With the various business terms you learn through IGCSE, you will not only be able to convey a message precisely but also be able to understand statements, news and discussions of a business nature more effectively. And yes, if you want to be a successful business person involved in multi-national organisations and intend to get into the Forbes, Business Studies is the ideal start path for you.

What does the course cover?

Business and the environment in which it operates
Business structure, organisation and control
Business activities to achieve objectives
People in business
Regulating and controlling business activities

How will I learn?

Learning is based on 4 assessment objectives: knowledge, understanding, analysis and evaluation;
You will work and learn from a variety of sources: textbooks; internet materials; documentary films;
Learning also happens through talks by invited guests, often successful entrepreneurs with first-hand experience in business;
Educational visits to relevant business entities will enhance understanding of business theories and principles learnt in classroom;
You will also gain experience by participating in real life business practice through the Business Club;
Analysing and practising past papers rigorously will be a most important part of learning; this will help ensure a good examination result.

How will I be assessed?

Final assessment will be by examination at the end of Year 11 and will be assessed through the four assessment objectives - Knowledge and Understanding, Application, Analysis and Evaluation.

Students will sit two papers, each worth 50% of the final grade:

Paper 1: Short answer questions and structural/data questions

Paper 2: A business situation or problem and questions arising from this
IGCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Optional subject

Why choose IGCSE Design and Technology?

- IGCSE Design and Technology enables you to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design;
- You will gain technical and design awareness through exposure to design concepts, media and tool usage;
- You will be encouraged to develop your thought-processes to prepare for a rapidly changing technological society.

What does the course cover?

- Product design
- Graphic products
- Resistant materials
- Systems and control
- Self-directed design and construction project.

How will I learn?

In lessons you will be encouraged through:

- Master classes and foundation skills in researching and planning, developing and making design artefacts;
- Instruction in ‘design cycle’ processing of projects and creating supportive documentation;
- Investigation and development of concepts of design, planning, problem solving, manufacturing processes, critical analysis and evaluation;
- Development of a portfolio of supportive documentation that charts your development as a designer;
- Development of confidence in applying design concepts and terminology;
- Self-directed projects that stem from personal interests, design skills and imagination.

How will I be assessed?

You must complete three components of study:

**Paper 1: Compulsory written paper** (25% of final grade)
Externally Marked; tests design thinking and knowledge

Either: **Paper 2: Graphic Products** (25% of final grade)
Externally marked written/drawing paper

Or: **Paper 3: Resistant Materials** (25% of final grade)
Externally marked written paper

Or: **Paper 4 – Systems and Control** (25% of final grade)
Externally marked written/drawing paper

**Paper 5: Compulsory Project** (50% of final grade)
Internally assessed, externally moderated design and construction project
IGCSE DRAMA

Optional subject

Why choose GCSE Drama?

- Drama is an active subject – body and mind work together;
- Drama is interactive and collaborative – you achieve your best by working with others;
- Drama teaches expression, communication and understanding of others – key elements of leadership;
- Drama is part of your cultural heritage and you deserve to know more about it;
- Drama lets you develop your skills, to enjoy what you do and to share your achievement;
- Studying Drama is especially valuable for working in media, theatre, television, education.

What does the course cover?

You will be studying the numerous skills and techniques required to produce performances in a variety of Drama styles including; Melodrama, Comedy, Monologue, Musical Theatre, Children’s Drama, Mime, Roleplay and Improvisation. During the two years you will be working on different Drama projects that will involve public performance of original pieces as well as pieces drawn from Contemporary to Ancient plays/literature.

How will I learn?

In lessons you will be encouraged to:

- Work in different sized groups and as an individual;
- Lead and direct others with sensitivity;
- Contribute your own ideas and respect those of others;
- Use your facial expressions, body language, movement and voice as an actor;
- Explore and experiment with practical Drama using your creativity;
- Select and use a range of Drama techniques in your practical work;
- Devise, improvise, rehearse and perform throughout each project;
- Discuss, analyse, constructively criticise, evaluate and reflect upon your own Drama experience and the work of others in the class;
- Watch performances in class from your peers, by visiting professionals and at the Theatre;
- Assess yourself and your fellow students to help you to understand how to improve your work.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Written examination
40% of final grade. The paper has three sections; one short answer section and two longer answer sections

Paper 2: Coursework
60% of your final grade is given for 3 pieces of practical work (performances); one individual piece and two group performances, which are internally assessed and externally moderated
IGCSE HISTORY

Why choose IGCSE History?

- Studying History helps you understand how the world has come to be the way it is. How the world we live in today was shaped and defined by the key events of the last century.
- History provides you with the skills needed to cope with the demands of higher education and employment. History teaches you to:
  - Conduct independent research;
  - Interpret and analyse challenging pieces of information;
  - Use and interpret graphs, newspaper articles and speeches;
  - Have good communication skills;
  - Develop computer literacy.

What will the course cover?

You will investigate key events from the 20th Century which include:
- The Peace Treaties of 1919-1923
- The League of Nations
- The Cold War
- The collapse of international peace in 1939
- The war in Vietnam
- The effectiveness of the United Nations
- The events in the Gulf

How will I learn?

Throughout the course we will be doing regular tests and exam questions. Other learning methods include: Independent research, oral presentations, group work, extended writing, peer and self-assessment.

How will I be assessed?

The course (CIE History) is exam based. There are three examination papers, all taken at the end of year 11 in June. Each focuses on different skills. The breakdown is as follows:

Paper 1: Core topics (see above) and Depth Study (The USA 1919-1941) 2 hour exam (40% of final grade)

Paper 2: Prescribed topic - Source based exam - 2 hour exam (33% of final grade)

Paper 4: Alternative to coursework - Depth Study (USA) - 1 hour exam (27% of final grade)
IGCSE MUSIC

Why choose IGCSE Music?

- To develop and extend practical skills in music;
- To develop skills and confidence in performing music, both individually and in an ensemble;
- To develop skills in composing music in a style of your own choice;
- To develop skills in listening to and analysing music from a wide range of historical periods and major world cultures.

What does the course cover?

The Music IGCSE course is divided into three sections: listening, performing and composing. Practical music is very much at the heart of the programme.

Listening
Develop your awareness and understanding of Western Classical music from the Baroque period to the 20th Century. Identify and comment on a range of music from countries and cultures around the world.

Performing
Prepare, rehearse and perform one solo performance of your own choice. Prepare, rehearse and perform a piece of your own choice within a band or ensemble.

Composing
Create a piece of music in the Western Classical style. Create a piece of music in any style of your choice.

How will I learn?

A variety of learning methods are used throughout the IGCSE Music course which includes rehearsing, performing, composing, listening and analysing music, presentations, group work and self-assessment.

How will I be assessed?

The Listening paper is a written examination in which you will be required to answer questions based on musical extracts. The practical elements of the course are assessed through coursework, which is recorded and sent to the examining board for moderation.

Listening (40%): Written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes)
Performing (30%): Two performances (one solo and one ensemble) to be completed within the two year course (coursework)
Composing (30%): Two compositions to be completed within the two year course (coursework)

Please note: As 60% of IGCSE Music is assessed through practical coursework, it is highly recommended that students receive tuition on their first instrument. This can be from an outside teacher, or from instrumental lessons arranged in school. Students need to be a minimum of Grade 2 standard when starting IGCSE Music.
Why choose IGCSE Physics?

- In Physics you will gain confidence in a technological world;
- In Physics you will be aware of the application of science in everyday life which may be both helpful and harmful to the community and the environment;
- An excellent foundation for advanced study in pure sciences, in applied science or in science-dependent vocational courses.

As well as a subject focus, the Physics syllabus enables students to develop:

- relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness;
- an understanding of how scientific theories and methods have developed, and continue to develop;
- an understanding of how groups and individuals work together;
- better understand the influence and limitations placed on scientific study by society, technology and the environment;
- an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and in everyday life.

What does the course cover?

The course is divided into 5 sections. Three sections are covered in Year 10, two in Year 11:

1. General Physics (length and time, speed, acceleration, velocity, mass, density, forces, work, pressure, energy and power).
2. Thermal Physics (simple kinetic molecular of matter, thermal properties, transfer of thermal properties).
3. Properties of waves, including lights and sound (general wave properties).
4. Electricity and magnetism (simple phenomena of magnetism and electrical quantities).
5. Atomic Physics (Radioactivity and nuclear atom).

How will I learn?

A variety of learning methods are used throughout the course which include practical work, presentations, group work, audio-visual tasks, field research, essay writing and self-assessment.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by two papers that test your understanding of the content covered: one multiple-choice (45 minutes and worth 30% of the total grade) and one extended written paper (75 minutes and 50% of the total); and a practical test (75 minutes and 20% of the total) that tests practical technique, data handling and analytical skills. We expect that all students will complete the extended CIE syllabus, covering IGCSE grades A*-D. Any student who is not meeting these expectations can be asked to take the core syllabus, covering IGCSE grades C-G.
NOTES

We are grateful to the Head Teacher and Staff at Tenby International Secondary School, Penang, for their input into our IGCSE Handbook.