

iGCSE Subjects
For study in Grade 9
2019/20

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About Cambridge IGCSEs

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success. Developed over 30 years ago, it is tried, tested and trusted by schools worldwide. The majority of international schools in Singapore offer the iGCSE pathway as an academically rigorous curriculum and assessment method.

At SMMIS

- Our aim is to give students a broad academic base of study during grades 9 and 10 to enable them to pursue their ambitions, wherever their paths may lead them.
- Students will take the core academic subjects: English, Maths and Science.
- Students choose one language to study
- In Maths, students who are very able and ambitious will have the option to take Additional Maths

Core: English

First Language English

First Language English is designed for learners whose first language is English. The course enables learners to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners 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 inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Literature in English

The Literature in English syllabus enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Learners develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

Core: Mathematics

Mathematics

An essential subject for all learners, iGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a strong basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop competence and fluency with mathematical concepts, methods and skills, as well as a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships.

The syllabus also places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results.

Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

Additional Mathematics

Optional and offered subject to teacher assessment of Mathematical ability, ambition and commitment

iGCSE Additional Mathematics supports learners in building competency, confidence and fluency in their use of techniques and mathematical understanding. This course helps learners to develop a feel for quantity, patterns and relationships. Learners will develop their reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills in a variety of contexts.

It provides a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge both for candidates studying mathematics at a higher level and those who will require mathematics to support skills in other subjects. It is designed to stretch the most able candidates and provides a smooth transition to Cambridge AS & A Level Mathematics.

Core: Science

Sciences – Co-ordinated (Double)

iGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

They learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

Humanity: History

The iGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

Languages

Modern Hebrew

There is currently no iGCSE Hebrew available from Cambridge, however the UK based exam board AQA have a GCSE qualification in Hebrew. We will teach to this specification and are in the process of finding an external AQA centre where students can take the exams.

AQA's GCSE Modern Hebrew specification has been created with teachers to ensure assessments are clear and accessible, with a range of topics which aim to expand students' cultural knowledge.

Students will be tested in listening, reading, speaking and writing and will develop transferable skills, relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in the culture of Modern Hebrew speaking countries.

If you have any general questions, please email Ali Cipriano: alexandra@smm.edu.sg

If you have subject specific questions, please direct these to the subject specialist teacher.