



Cambridge Assessment
International Education



**SIR
MANASSEH
MEYER**
International School

Grade 8
iGCSE Subject Choices
For study in Grades 9 & 10
2022-2024

Contents

Introduction to Cambridge iGCSEs

Core Subjects

First Language English

English Literature

English as a Second Language

Mathematics

Additional Mathematics (optional and subject to teacher recommendation)

Co-ordinated Science

Option Subjects

Humanities/Social Sciences

Geography

Global Perspectives

History

Religious Studies

Modern Foreign Languages

Mandarin

Modern Hebrew

Home Language

Creative and Professional

Art and Design

Music

PE

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 8-9 IGCSEs. The average number in Singapore International schools is 8 subjects taken.
- All students will take the core academic subjects: English, Maths and Science.
- Students choose one language to study, with the possibility of independently studying for a 'Home Language', subject to availability from exam board.
- Students then choose one of 3 options from the Humanities and Creative subjects on offer.
- Additional Maths is available subject to teacher assessment of ability to succeed at this challenging curriculum

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.

English as a Second Language

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their education or career. Through their studies, learners will improve their ability to understand and use English in a range of situations.

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

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.

Options: Humanities/Social Sciences

Geography

Through the iGCSE Geography syllabus, learners will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. They will also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world.

Global Perspectives

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 learners are pursuing through the Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives course.

iGCSE Global Perspectives is a groundbreaking and stimulating course that stretches across traditional subject boundaries and develops transferable skills. It is both cross-curricular and skills-based and taps into the way learners of today enjoy learning, including team work, presentations, projects, and working with other learners 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.

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.

Religious Studies

This wide-ranging syllabus aims to promote an enquiring, critical and sympathetic approach to the study of religion. Learners will reflect on religious responses to moral issues, identify and explore questions about the meaning of life, and recognise the contribution of religion to patterns of belief and behaviour. They study Christianity, Islam and Judaism, providing an introduction to the challenging and varied nature of religion.

Options: Languages

There are three different pathways available from Cambridge in iGCSE Chinese. These are Chinese - First Language, Chinese – Second Language and Chinese (Mandarin) Foreign Language. We will recommend the pathway most suited to a student’s ability based on teacher assessment of their Chinese Language ability.

Chinese (Mandarin) Foreign Language

This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where Mandarin Chinese is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

Chinese - Second Language

iGCSE Chinese as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding to progress their education or career. Through their studies, learners achieve a thorough understanding of a wide range of registers and styles and learn to communicate appropriately in different situations.

The syllabus focuses on the linked language skills of reading, writing, listening and oral communication. Through their study of Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language, learners can achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.

Chinese – First Language

The Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese syllabus is designed for learners whose first language is Chinese. The syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. They 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.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and in order to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.

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 award students with an externally assessed, SMMIS G10 Modern Hebrew qualification.

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.

Home Language

If students have a mother tongue or home language additional to the above options, and there is a Cambridge iGCSE available in that subject, we offer the option for home study of the language, and we will facilitate the taking of the exam in school.

We would advise that students are actively reading and writing in their home language if they're interested in this. It would also be encouraged to find a language tutor, especially in grade 10, to effectively prepare the student for the requirements of the exam.

Cambridge offer iGCSEs in this region in the following languages spoken by our students:

- French (Foreign Language)
- Japanese (Foreign Language)
- Hindi (Second Language)

Options: Creative and Professional

Art and Design

The iGCSE Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

Music

When studying the iGCSE Music syllabus, learners listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, learners enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment.

Learners study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and they are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive and critical when listening. Although the majority of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is always represented.

Please note that the study of Music at iGCSE standard requires prior experience in learning a musical instrument due to the performance component involved. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Ms Otilia or Ms Ali.

Physical Education

The iGCSE Physical Education syllabus provides learners with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. This helps learners to develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

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.