



EPSOM

COLLEGE

IN MALAYSIA

I/GCSE

Subject Information

2018-2019

www.epsomcollege.edu.my

Welcome from The Deputy Head (Academic)

Year 10 is an exciting time for students at Epsom College. This is when they are able to make important choices about the subjects they want to study at IGCSE level.

IGCSEs are the foundation qualifications that prepare students for study at the Advanced Level in the Sixth Form and then on to University. The curriculum includes a number of core subjects such as Mathematics, English and Science as well as a wide range of option courses. Additional English language support is also offered to those students who would benefit.

Our staff assist each student in choosing the most suitable subjects that will support their Higher Education and career aspirations. This includes one to one careers advice as well as discussions with subject teachers, Form Tutors, the Head of Higher Education or myself.

I look forward to welcoming you to Year 10 as we support and inspire you towards achieving and exceeding your ambitions.

Mr. Matthew Brown
Deputy Head (Academic)

Careers and Higher Education

The Careers and Higher Education Department liaises closely with students to provide guidance and support in choosing the 'best fit' career choice and university destination. The college subscribes to an online programme, BridgeU, which provides guidance on university courses and choices. Students access this programme from Yr11 onwards. The HE Department liaises with universities from around the world to provide 'first hand' information about courses through school visits, fairs and online courses. Students are encouraged to participate in work experience and prospective medical students in particular, participate in the Epsom Internship Programme (EIP) with our local health providers. The aim of the department is to equip students to be informed, skilled and prepared for further studies after Epsom College.

Additional Mathematics

The aims are to enable candidates to:

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

Mathematics is useful in many human activities and essential for understanding the world in which we live. Additional Mathematics provides the opportunity to explore areas of Mathematics which, on the surface, appear to have little relevance to the real world. This gives students their first introduction into Mathematical modelling and how Mathematics is often explored for its own sake rather than the applications it can have in the real world – this is usually an afterthought!

Additional Mathematics will be by invitation only. It will be offered to the students who distinguish themselves in Year 9 or in their entrance exam for Year 10.

Art and Design

“ *I have thoroughly enjoyed working towards my Art GCSE at Epsom. We have been privileged to work with a fantastic range of mediums, equipment and techniques that have supported our portfolios. We are lucky to be part of the Art community and have created collaborative projects as well as independent pieces. Along with the highly experienced staff we have developed our skills and improved our confidence to produce high quality work at GCSE.* ”

GCSE Two year course AQA 8200. No subject specific entry requirements needed but an aptitude for creative expression and enthusiasm for visual arts.

Course content: Art & Design enables students to explore a broad range of 2D and 3D approaches. Initial emphasis is on developing a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology in disciplines include drawing, painting, sculpture and new media. The course also develops an understanding of the place of art, craft and design in history and contemporary society. In the latter stages there is an open, creative approach and students are encouraged to develop individual skills as fully as possible with an independently driven project.

Assessment:

The Art & Design GCSE course is divided into two units of work:

- Unit 1 Portfolio of Work 60%
- Unit 2 Externally Set Task 40%

Both units are combined for full GCSE Grade and internally marked and externally moderated at the end of year exhibition.

Teaching methods:

Practical sessions, discussion groups, tutorials, presentations, with opportunities to develop skills through additional classes such as oil painting, life drawing and a residential study weekend.

Progression:

Art GCSE is a strong foundation to continue at A Level and is a well-respected course at most universities. Careers in design, advertising, publishing, events organisation, architecture, museums, theatre or gallery work, marketing, photography and the media. The study of art and design will also help you develop transferable skills in visual communication which you can take into any career.

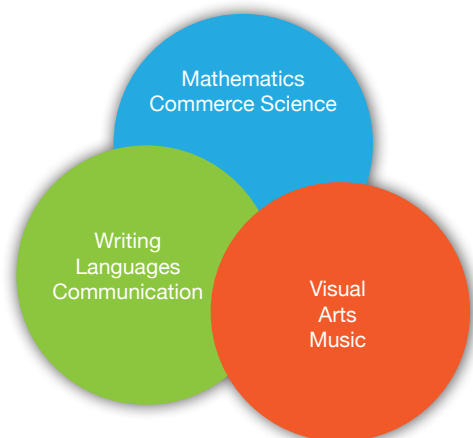
“ *...the creative industries move into first place to be the fastest growing economic sector in the UK, responsible for 5.6% of jobs, and worth £76.9bn to the UK economy*
- UK Gov 2013 - ”

Art and Design

The internet has created an explosion of opportunity for digital designers and multimedia artists:

- Fine artists can reach a worldwide market at the click of a button;
- High school students can achieve recognition while studying;
- Those with a wide skill set have an advantage, in any career;
- Studying Art improves performance in other subjects
(James Catterall, leading professor and Chair of the Faculty at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, has studied 12,000 students over twelve years. His research demonstrates that involvement in the arts (both Visual Art and Performing Art) – especially for students from a low-income background – is associated with higher levels of attainment in both high school and university. Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage.);
- Good marks impress, no matter what;
- Art marks are not solely dependent on an exam;
- Coursework teaches you self-discipline;
- Art makes you happy (if you do choose to study Art, chances are, it will be your favourite class of the day.);
- Arts students are highly sought-after by employers
(Many employers now actively seek those who have studied the arts. Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, was fond of saying his success was due to his hiring artists and musicians fascinated by technology rather than computer geeks. Top talent management agency, The Curve Group specialising in financial and business services, concurs: “Employees with an arts degree have developed more quickly in their roles from the start. They have discipline, confidence and can accept criticism”).

Reasons to choose Art & Design



Biology

**“DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created
- Bill Gates -**

”

IGCSE Biology is accepted by universities and employers as proof of real ability, skills and knowledge. With an emphasis on human biology, the IGCSE Biology syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. They also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level, which are useful in everyday life.

The course is designed to develop:

- A broad understanding of biological facts, concepts and principles.
- Skills in biological investigation and
- An ability to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of modern scientific developments.

The course covers:

- Cells and Organisms Nutrition
- Plant and Animal Physiology Inheritance
- Ecology and Food Production

The course is an ideal preparation for those who wish to go on to study Biology, or other biological subjects, at AS and A2 level.

**“It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose, should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself.
- Rachel Carson, The Sea Around Us -**

”

Business Studies

Everything in life involves business. Think about a new item of clothing that you have recently bought and then think of the different types of business that have made it possible for you to wear it. The obvious ones may be the retailer and the manufacturer but we can't forget the cotton growers, the distribution companies, the packaging suppliers and even the companies who may manage the finance of those businesses.

Thinking to all those processes and people allows you begin to understand what Business Studies is all about and anybody who has a good idea about how businesses work are at an immediate advantage in the future.

The Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out 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.

The main topic areas are

- Business Activity
- People in Business Marketing
- Operations Management
- Financial information and decisions
- External influences on business

Final thoughts

Business Studies IGCSE is an ideal preparation for either Economics or Business at A Level.

It allows students a chance to develop their interest before then specialising further in a commerce-related subject.

“*Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.*
- Steve Jobs -”

“*If you can dream it, you can do it.*
- Walt Disney -”

“*As long as you're going to be thinking anyway, think big.*
- Donald Trump -”



Chemistry

“

*The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth,
the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made
in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff.*

- Carl Sagan, Cosmos -

”

Chemistry IGCSE covers everything from atoms and elements of the periodic table to rates of reactions, metals and industry. Its study helps elucidate the other sciences; develops practical and theoretical problem solving skills; and allows pupils to apply their scientific knowledge in real world contexts.

The Edexcel International GCSE in Chemistry covers the following topics:

- Atomic structure
- Bonding & structure
- Formulae & equations
- Rates & energy Oxides
- Acids & salts
- Electrolysis
- Industry & metals
- Reversible reactions
- Organic chemistry
- Quantitative chemistry

Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of chemical facts, concepts and principles, developing experimental and investigative skills and focusing on the key topics. These are vital skills which are required to successfully study Chemistry at A Level.

“

*New discoveries in science will continue to create a thousand
new frontiers for those who still would adventure.*

- Herbert Hoover -

”



Computer Science

Why study Computer Science?

- Computer Science, a discipline in itself, is of enormous importance to the economy. It is a rapidly growing 'underpinning' subject across Science and Engineering.
- A course developed with the demands of the modern world in mind, such as the need for mobile & web applications, game development and cyber security solutions.
- Highly valued in the English education system.
- It is excellent preparation for students looking to take computing studies at A-Level.

What skills will you develop?

- Real-world programming skills.
- An understanding of the fundamental principles of computing including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- The ability to think creatively, analytically, logically and critically. An understanding of the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- Mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

How will you be assessed?

- Unit 1: Theory 60% (1hour 45 minutes)

Short answer and structured questions assessing theoretical knowledge

- Unit 2: Problem-solving and Programming 40% (1hour 45 minutes)

Short answer and structured questions based on practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.

What do Computer Science students say?

It's worth doing it if you're good at maths. It's a satisfying subject because you've achieved something when you make a program

"I enjoy solving puzzles and problems. Taking this GCSE has allowed me to develop this into a real skill, applying it to real life problems to create my own programs"

Drama

What We Do:

For coursework:

- Performances of scripted plays with free choice appropriate to the group
- Creation of devised theatre in a group Working logs & reflective reports
- It is possible to be assessed on technical theatre (set design, lighting or sound) but only by prior agreement with The Head of Department).

For the examination at the end of Year 11:

- Elements of theatre production & roles in the theatre industry
- Production ideas (direction, performance, set, lighting, costume) for play studied through practical exploration.
- Critical review of a live theatre production seen during the course.

Why We Do It:

GCSE in Drama will allow you to...

- Work imaginatively and creatively in group contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas.
- Consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.
- Reflect on and evaluate your own work and the work of others.
- Develop and demonstrate confidence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills.

So, you will develop presentation & performance skills, group work skills, writing skills and demonstrate a high level of leadership and commitment.

Drama

This is the course for you if...

- You are a creative person who works well with others in group situations.
- You want to develop your team building or social skills. You are able to reflect and evaluate your work.
- You are committed and organised (or ready to develop these skills).
- You are interested in a career in the performing arts industry.
- You are interested in a career that involves people skills and/or presentation skills.
- You have a passion for drama.

Careers/Jobs:

There is a wide range of career opportunities for students such as:

- Doctor (Drama develops ability to deal with patients empathetically).
- Lawyer (Drama develops your public speaking and negotiating skills).
- Business (Drama develops your public speaking and persuasive skills)
- Teacher Performer Director Writer
- Stage technician /Stage designer Playwright
- Casting Director
- Media, Marketing and Management

Things to consider:

It must be stressed, that group work and cooperation is a vital skill needed to complete the course.

The best grades can only be awarded to groups of students who show commitment and reliability to their group and their work.

This is an enjoyable GCSE, but students must realise that it requires self-discipline and lots of enthusiasm!

Design Technology

Subject specific entry requirements: Learners should typically be practical in nature and have excellent organisational skills. If you enjoy playing with gadgets, Lego, making, or even disassembling products this is the course for you.

Course content

Paper 1

This theory unit is taught through a variety of practical activities and theory lessons. Learners will design and make numerous products whilst learning about materials, techniques and manufacturing processes.

Non-exam assessment

Students will learn how to structure an electronic design portfolio alongside the making of a product. Learners will be given a design brief and will be expected to produce a 'shop quality' product.

Assessment

Paper 1: 50% of GCSE grade. Written exam (2 hours).

Non-exam assessment: 50% of GCSE grade. Electronic portfolio.

Teaching methods:

Design Technology is a practical course allowing students to learn about materials, components and manufacturing techniques. Students will develop design and making skills through practical lessons using a variety of hand tools and machinery.

CAD CAM (Computer Aided Design and Manufacture) is a must throughout and as such students will use a range of software and hardware including laser cutters and 3D printers. Use of equipment includes: welding, lathe work, robotics, and many power tools giving students a wide range of practical skills.

Progression:

The course allows for progression into A level Product Design, future careers include: Product Design, Furniture Design, Interior Design, Graphics Design, Packaging, Architecture, Project Management, Fashion, Robotics and Engineering and many more.



English

as a Second Language

Reading & Writing: Paper 2 Extended (2 hours)

70%

- Seven questions - the first 5 are based on reading tasks and the last two are writing tasks.
- Students learn to read different text types, such as journals, newspapers and articles.
- Key skills are summary, letter & essay writing

Listening: Paper 4 Extended (45-50 minutes)

30%

- Listening and responding to short conversations and longer interviews and talks.

Speaking: Paper 5 (up to 15 minutes)

**A separate result
for speaking is
given**

- A conversation with the Examiner and a discussion of a topic on a card chosen by the Examiner

The English as a Second Language course is taught as part of one course (five lessons per week). Students starting Year 10 with an Intermediate knowledge of English (B1) take the ESL paper rather than the First Language IGCSE. Both classes are timetabled in parallel, allowing changes of class if necessary. Students taking this course often drop one other subject at IGCSE and have 4 additional EAL lessons per week to support their learning.

Using English as a Second Language textbooks, this course covers a number of different themes in Year 10 and 11, and is focussed on expanding vocabulary, in particular the words necessary for study at

IGCSE level in a variety of subjects. The course also teaches listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as points of grammar and punctuation necessary for clear expression.

Students taking this paper normally sit for the Extended paper, but there is an option to take the Core paper which is easier but allows only a grade up to 'C' in the exam. Students who gain a grade 'C' or above in this exam (B2) are normally judged to have sufficient English to proceed to Sixth Form studies. Once in the Sixth Form, continued support is available in the form of preparation for the IELTS test.

English

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

Reading: Paper 1 Core & Paper 2 Extended

- Three questions on two passages linked to a common theme.
- Students learn to analyse different text types, such as journals, newspapers and articles.
- Key skills are summary writing, analysis of language and selecting/rewriting information.

% of Total Marks	Reading	Writing
50%	40	10

Reading: Paper 1 Core & Paper 2 Extended

- Section A:
Directed Writing in response to an unseen text.
- Section B:
Choice between Narrative & Descriptive writing.

50%	10	40
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EDEXCEL IGCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Component 1: Poetry and Modern Prose:

- We study a range of poetry - modern and pre-20th Century (30 marks), a modern novel (40 marks) plus an unseen poetry question (20 marks).

60%	90
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Component 3: Drama Coursework

- Students study a modern play and one literary heritage text ie Shakespeare's 'Romeo & Juliet' and produce two essays (30 marks each).

40%	30
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The English Language and Literature course is taught as part of one course (five lessons per week) and is compulsory for all students.

In Language IGCSE the focus is on accurate expression; students learn to analyse purpose, audience and word choice.

The Literature IGCSE course also develops analytical skills and a personal response. Students learn to discuss different interpretations of texts and to analyse texts in detail. Usually only sets 1 & 2 undertake the full Literature course to the external exam.

Student quotations about the courses:

'I really enjoy writing my own stories'; 'It is fun to act out parts of the play and to take on different roles'; 'I like discussing my ideas as a group. It helps me to understand the ideas in the poems; I can apply the skills learnt in English to almost all my other subjects'.

English Speaking Board Qualification

This is an international qualification in public speaking & discussion in English.
It is NOT a GCSE or iGCSE.

The English Speaking Board qualification is a great opportunity to gain an extra qualification that recognises how much progress you are making in your speaking of English. Success in this qualification states that you are able to stand in front of an audience and speak effectively and confidently in English, engaging in discussion and questioning.



What is involved?

The award is available at different levels according to the needs of the student. Each award involves 4 Sections.

Section 1: Talk

Learners are asked to plan and present a short talk that evidences research and personal experience.

Section 2: Performing by heart

Candidates are asked to personally choose a poem or other text then following a short introduction and persuasive reason for choice, recite it from memory.

Section 3: Reading Aloud

Candidates are asked to read aloud from their favourite book or publication making sure it is appropriate for their audience and presented enthusiastically. They are further asked to introduce the piece giving title and author, and clarifying the context of the work to arouse interest from the audience.

Section 4: Open Exchange of Ideas

Listen actively, respond to questions on your own sections and contribute positively to group discussions. They are further required to ask at least two questions of others work and listen attentively.

English Speaking Board Qualifications are recognised by OFQUAL, SQA and Qualifications Wales and are mapped to the relevant National Curriculum and ESOL Core Curriculum requirements.

ESB develops confidence and the important life skills of presentation and public speaking.

French & Spanish

It has never been more important to learn a Modern Foreign Language.

More than 200 million people speak French and it is the second most widely learned language in the world, after English. France is also the world's fifth largest economy, so French language skills are important for the international jobs market.

There are 350 million native speakers of Spanish in the world. Spanish is an increasingly important language not only for business, but also for those who wish to go into medicine and healthcare, especially in the USA. Have we convinced you yet? Here's how IGCSE French and Spanish work...

Entry requirements

You need some knowledge of the language you are choosing before starting the IGCSE course. Most pupils who choose IGCSE French or Spanish will have studied their chosen language in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Content

Over the two year course, we study a range of topics related to ourselves and the world around us. They include...

- Every day activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world

Language Skills

These IGCSEs focus on the importance of learning grammar, and will give you the tools you need to go onto A Level French or Spanish, or to take up a new language.

Assessment

There are four IGCSE papers, which are taken at the end of the two year course.

French & Spanish

Paper 1: Listening

45 minutes, 25% of total marks

You will listen to a series of passages in the native language and answer questions. Some are multiple choice, others require written answers

Paper 2: Reading

1 hour, 25% of total marks

You will complete a number of comprehension activities and write your responses in the target language.

Paper 3: Speaking

15 minutes, 25% of total marks

You will take part in a role play, do a short presentation on a topic of your choice, and then move into a general conversation. This exam will be conducted by your teacher.

Paper 4: Writing

1 hour, 25% of total marks

You will complete a variety of written tasks, ranging from short sentences, to a longer piece of up to 140 words.

For more information, see

Mrs. Hanique, Mr. Pedro, Mrs. Carden-Brown or Mr. Hanique

Geography



Cambridge IGCSE 0460:

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, students will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Pupils 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.

Successful IGCSE Geography candidates develop skills including;

- An understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments;
- An understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale;
- The ability to use and understand geographical data and information;
- An understanding of how communities around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.



Geography

The course is assessed as follows;

Paper 1:

1 hour 45 minutes (45% of IGCSE Grade)

Geographical Themes

Candidates answer three questions, each worth 25 marks. The paper has three sections and each section will be based on Themes 1, 2 or 3. Students answer one question from each of these sections;

Theme 1: Population and Settlement

Theme 2: The Natural Environment

Theme 3: Economic Development

Paper 2:

1 hour 30 minutes (27.5% of IGCSE Grade)

Geographical Skills

Candidates answer all the questions. The paper is based on testing the interpretation and analysis of geographical information, decision making and the application of graphical and other techniques as appropriate

Paper 3:

Coursework (27.5% of IGCSE Grade)

Teachers set one school-based assignment of up to 2000 words. In the past, this has been based on a day's fieldtrip to Sungai Benus in Pahang.

Student Quotes:

"Geography isn't just about learning where the countries of the world are; it's about understanding why the world is how it is and what might happen to it in the future"

"Geography is for students who are passionate about the world; they want to find out what makes it work and to be able to explain why things are as they are."

"Most of what is on the news is Geography and geographers can understand global problems from different perspectives. We learn about the reasons behind them and the likely issues that the future holds."

"I like geography because it is the subject of everything. It contains attributes of every subject and it teaches you everything you'll need to know."

History

Why Does History Matter?

“ *History should be studied because it is essential to individuals and to society, and because it harbours beauty.*
-Historian Peter N. Stearns-

”

The study of History concurs how the past touches our own lives. People in the past had to deal with similar issues facing us – how to conduct their lives, how to settle disputes, how to organise their society amongst many – and a recognition of this within the study of the past opens up areas for discussion and provides opportunities for young people to make connections with issues affecting them or society. It is about touching the ‘human’ past and providing opportunities to see people as real figures trying to live their lives. History is essentially about humanity and its triumphs, trials and tribulations.

But what use is History to me?

It's all about the past - how will it help me get a job?

Studying History doesn't mean you have to be an Historian (although that would be amazing). Besides being an exceedingly interesting subject, it is extremely useful for helping you find a career.

As a History student, you will never experience the events that you study; instead you have to build up a picture from the evidence that has been left. You have to become skilled at asking questions, sometimes awkward questions; you have learned not to take everything at face value. You have to develop empathy and understanding of the actions and achievements of others; you have to be prepared to put your case and argue it well; you have to use evidence to draw conclusions and make judgements. You will develop key critical thinking skills and these skills are highly desirable in many different careers.

Careers that require the skills that a study of History can bring include law; medicine, business, finance, accountancy, tourism, town planning, politics, journalism, research, teacher, librarian, to name but a few!



History

“*The best thing about this course is you get to relive the best parts of modern History and look at them from all different perspectives.* **”**

Core Content:

The 20th century: International Relations since 1919

The content focuses on the following Key Questions:

- Were the peace treaties of 1919–23 fair?
- To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
- Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?
- Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?
- How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?
- Why did events in the Gulf matter, c.1970–2000?

Depth study:

Germany 1918–1945

Coursework:

Based on Germany 1918–1945 Depth Study.

There are also two examination papers alongside the coursework

Component 1 : 2 hours

Written paper

- Candidates answer two questions from Section A (Core Content) and one question from Section B (Depth Study).
- Questions require a range of short and long, structured responses.

Component 2 : 2 hours

Written paper

- Candidates answer six questions on one prescribed topic taken from the Core Content. There is a range of source material relating to each topic.

HSK

(Chinese Proficiency Test)

What is HSK?

The HSK (Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì) is a Chinese Proficiency Test and an international standardised Chinese Language test to measure the ability of Chinese speakers studying outside China.

How could the HSK be valuable to you?

HSK examinations are officially recognised within China for example by Chinese employers, academic institutions and government agencies. For students looking to work or study in China, these additional qualifications may assist with job-hunting, entry to further educational institutions or they may grant credits within broader courses of study in China.

Language Skills

This examination will provide further opportunity for students interested in Mandarin Chinese to deepen their understanding and use of the language.

Students who do especially well in examinations are eligible to apply for scholarships to study abroad through the Confucius Institute Malaysia. Able students may also be offered places at Chinese Language summer schools in China.

Entry Requirements

You must be a native speaker or near native speaker and you will have studied Mandarin as a first language in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Content

Designed for elementary-intermediate learners who can use Chinese to serve the demands of their personal lives, studies, and work, and are capable of completing most of the communicative tasks required during a visit to a Chinese-speaking country.

HSK

(Chinese Proficiency Test)

Assessment

The test includes HSK Level 1, HSK Level 2, HSK Level 3, HSK Level 4, HSK Level 5 and HSK Level 6.

HSK Level	Vocabulary words
Level 6	Over 5000
Level 5	2500
Level 4	1200
Level 3	600
Level 2	300
Level 1	150
	80

N.B. This is not an IGCSE or a GCSE.
However a HSK Level 3 is equivalent to a GCSE.
E.g. of HSK- Level 3 test:

The exam is **80 minutes** in length and includes:

Listening

35 min, 40 marks

Reading

30 min, 30 marks

Writing

15 min, 10 marks

Mandarin

(Native Speaker)

One fifth of the people on our planet speak Chinese. Mandarin is the most widely spoken first language in the world, it is the native language of 873 million people.

China is currently the second largest economy in the world, but as well as opening doors into business, knowing Mandarin will also lead you to discover one of the world's most ancient cultures, with 5000 years of history.

The Cambridge IGCSE first language is aimed at native speakers of Chinese. The syllabus develops students' ability to communicate accurately and articulately in a range of styles and situations. The course is designed to encourage a wide range of vocabulary, correct use of grammar, spelling and punctuation, a personal style, and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

In this course, students are encouraged to read widely in the target language.

Entry Requirements

This course is suited to native speakers of Mandarin Chinese, who want to continue to stretch themselves in their first language. Very strong non-native speakers with many years of experience may also be considered for the course.

Assessment

There are two IGCSE papers, which are taken at the end of the two year course. All candidates take Papers 1 & 2.

Paper 1: Reading

2 hours, 60% of total grade

You will read texts in the target language and answer a range of questions

Paper 2: Writing

1 hour 15 minutes, 40% of total grade

You will write one composition of 400-600 characters, based on a topic you have studied

For more information,
please see The Head of Department.

Mandarin

(Non-Native Speaker)

One fifth of the people on our planet speak Chinese. Mandarin is the most widely spoken first language in the world, it is the native language of 873 million people.

China is currently the second largest economy in the world, but as well as opening doors into business, learning Mandarin will also lead you to discover one of the world's most ancient cultures, with 5000 years of history.

Entry Requirements

You need some knowledge Mandarin before you begin the IGCSE course. Most pupils who choose IGCSE Mandarin will have studied it in years 7, 8 and 9.

Content

Over the two years, we study a range of topics related to ourselves and the world around us. They include...

- Every day activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world

Assessment

There are four IGCSE papers, which are taken at the end of the two year course. All candidates take Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Paper 1: Listening

35 minutes, 25% of total grade

You will listen to a series of passages in the native language and answer questions. Some are multiple choice, others require written answers.

Paper 2: Reading

1 hour 15 minutes, 25% of total grade

You will complete a number of comprehension activities and write your responses in the target language.

Paper 3: Speaking

15 minutes, 25% of total grade

You will take part in a role play, do a short presentation on a topic of your choice, and then move into a general conversation. This exam will be conducted by your teacher.

Paper 4: Writing

45 minutes, 25% of total grade

You will complete a variety of written tasks, ranging from single words, to a longer piece of up to 150 characters.

Bahasa Melayu

The Malay language is spoken by over 33 million people in the Malay Peninsula and in Borneo. This is a fantastic language to learn to help better understand the country in which we live and its incredible and varied culture. Malay language dates back over 1200 years and it's a really fun language to learn.

Entry Requirements

You need some knowledge of the language you are choosing before starting the IGCSE course. Most pupils who choose IGCSE Malay will have studied it in years 7, 8 and 9.

Content

Over the two year course, we study a range of topics related to ourselves and the world around us. They include...

- Every day activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world

Language Skills

This course will help you to develop an ability to use the Malaysian language effectively for practical communication. It is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and you will build up these skills as you progress through your studies.

Assessment

There are four IGCSE papers, which are taken at the end of the two year course. All candidates take Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Paper 2: Reading

1 hour, 33% of total marks

You will complete a number of comprehension activities and write your responses in the target language.

Paper 3: Speaking

15 minutes, 33 % of total marks

You will take part in a role play, do a short presentation on a topic of your choice, and then move into a general conversation. This exam will be conducted by your teacher.

Paper 4: Writing

1 hour, 33% of total marks

You will complete a variety of written tasks, ranging from short sentences, to a longer piece of up to 140 words.



Mathematics



Mathematics is the study of quantity, space, structure and change. Mathematicians seek out patterns and formulate new conjectures. Mathematicians resolve the truth or falsity of conjectures by mathematical proof. It underpins daily life; whether through personal economics or modern scientific reasoning and discovering the major technological advances of our modern era.

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics (Specification A) qualification enables students to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques.
- acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas.
- enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident in using mathematics to solve problems.
- appreciate the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

Mathematics IGCSE as a linear course. There are two papers which are taken at the end of year 11. Each paper is 50% of the total International GCSE.

There is no coursework element to this course.





Music

“ *GCSE music is great for me as I already play the piano to Grade 4 standard so I am already at an A* for performance even though I have only just started the course. I also really like being able to create my own music, which I have never done before* **”**

Do you enjoy music? Do you like to perform on an instrument, or using your voice? Does creating your own music interest you? Are you interested in where music comes from, and how different types of music emerged? If this sounds like you, then GCSE Music may be right up your street. This qualification can lead to A-levels in music in the sixth form (alongside other academic and creative subjects) and the skills that you gain could help you towards a career in music or the music industry.

The Edexcel GCSE in Music has three units:

Unit 1: Performing

Internally assessed, and worth 30% of the total mark. One solo performance e.g. playing the guitar or singing on your own. One ensemble performance e.g. a piano duet, a song with guitar accompaniment.

Unit 2: Composing

Internally assessed, and worth 30% of the total mark. Two compositions (pieces of music that you have written) or Two arrangements (cover versions) or One composition and one arrangement.


Unit 3: Listening and Appraising

Externally assessed through a 90 minute written paper, and worth 40% of the total mark. All the questions relate to 12 set works in the areas of study.

Final Thought

GCSE music is particularly suited to students who can read music and play or sing an instrument. However this is not essential, the most important thing is that the student has a passion for music that they would like to explore or develop further.

“ *GCSE music has allowed me to get a qualification for something I have always enjoyed outside of school. It has also taught me about where music has come from and how it has developed. If you like making music then you should study GCSE music.* **”**



Physical Education

Subject specific entry requirements

Candidates beginning this course are not expected to have studied physical education previously. However, candidates should have an interest and enjoy taking part in physical practical activities and be a strong performer in at least two different sports.

Course Content

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Health, fitness and training.

Unit 3: Skill acquisition and psychology

Unit 4: Social, cultural and ethical influences

Assessment

Paper 1 –

1:45 minutes. 100 marks available (50%)

AO 1:

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the theoretical principles that underpin performance in physical activity/sports

AO 2:

Apply knowledge and understanding of the theoretical principles to a variety of physical activities/sports including the analysis and evaluation of performance

Coursework -

100 marks available (50%).

Candidates choose to undertake four practical activities (25 marks each).

AO 3:

Demonstrate the ability to select and perform skills to produce effective performance in practical activities.

Teaching Methods:

4 x 45 minutes theory lessons. All practical sessions should be conducted during games/CCA and/or externally.

Progression

Candidates who are awarded grades B to A* in Cambridge IGCSE Physical Education are well prepared to follow courses leading A Level Physical Education.

Physics

“ *Look up at the stars and not down at your feet.
Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder
about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.*
- Stephen Hawking - ”

Physics IGCSE covers everything from Forces and Motion to Atomic and Nuclear Physics and the structure of the universe. Its study helps elucidate the other sciences; develops practical and theoretical problem solving skills; and allows pupils to apply their mathematical study in real world contexts.

Content

The Edexcel International GCSE in Physics covers the following topics:

- forces and motion
- electricity
- waves
- energy resources and energy transfer
- solids, liquids and gases
- magnetism and electromagnetism
- radioactivity and particles.

Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of physical facts, concepts and principles, developing experimental and investigative skills and focusing on the key topics. These are vital skills which are required to successfully study Physics at A Level.

“ *Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.
The important thing is to not stop questioning.*
- Albert Einstein - ”

Science

The study of Science is crucial for everyone at KS4 level.

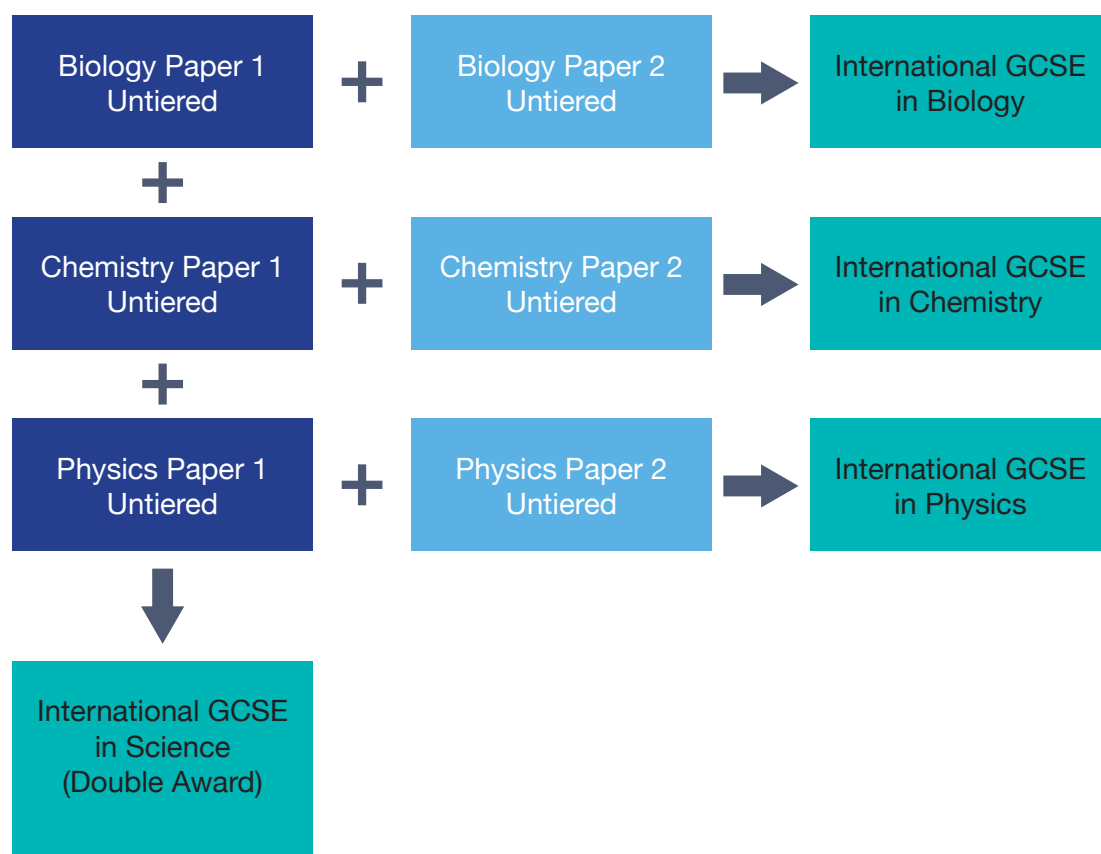
At Epsom College, you will take 12 lessons per week of Science (4 Biology, 4 Chemistry and 4 Physics). Each Science will be taught by a specialist and will have a strong emphasis on practical skills.

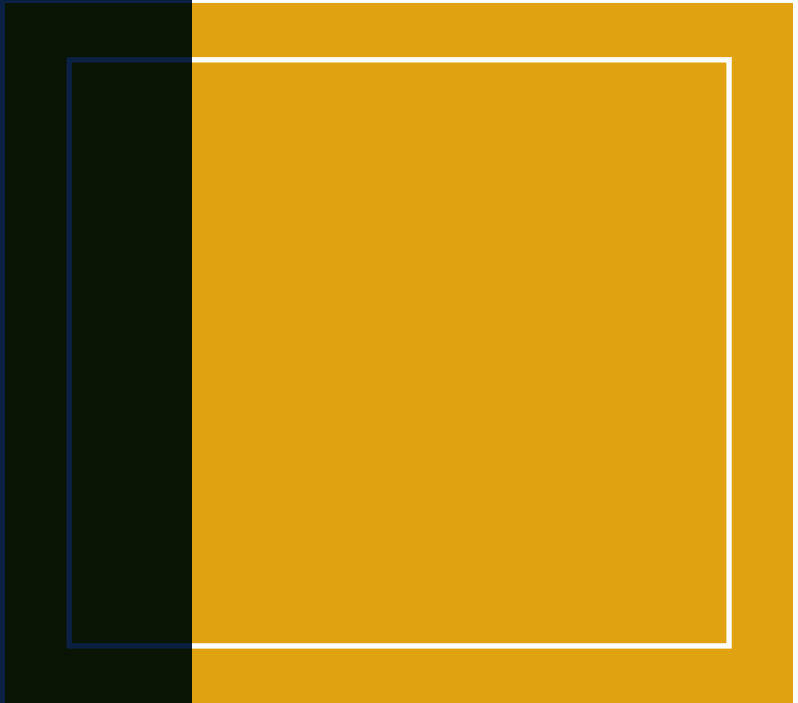
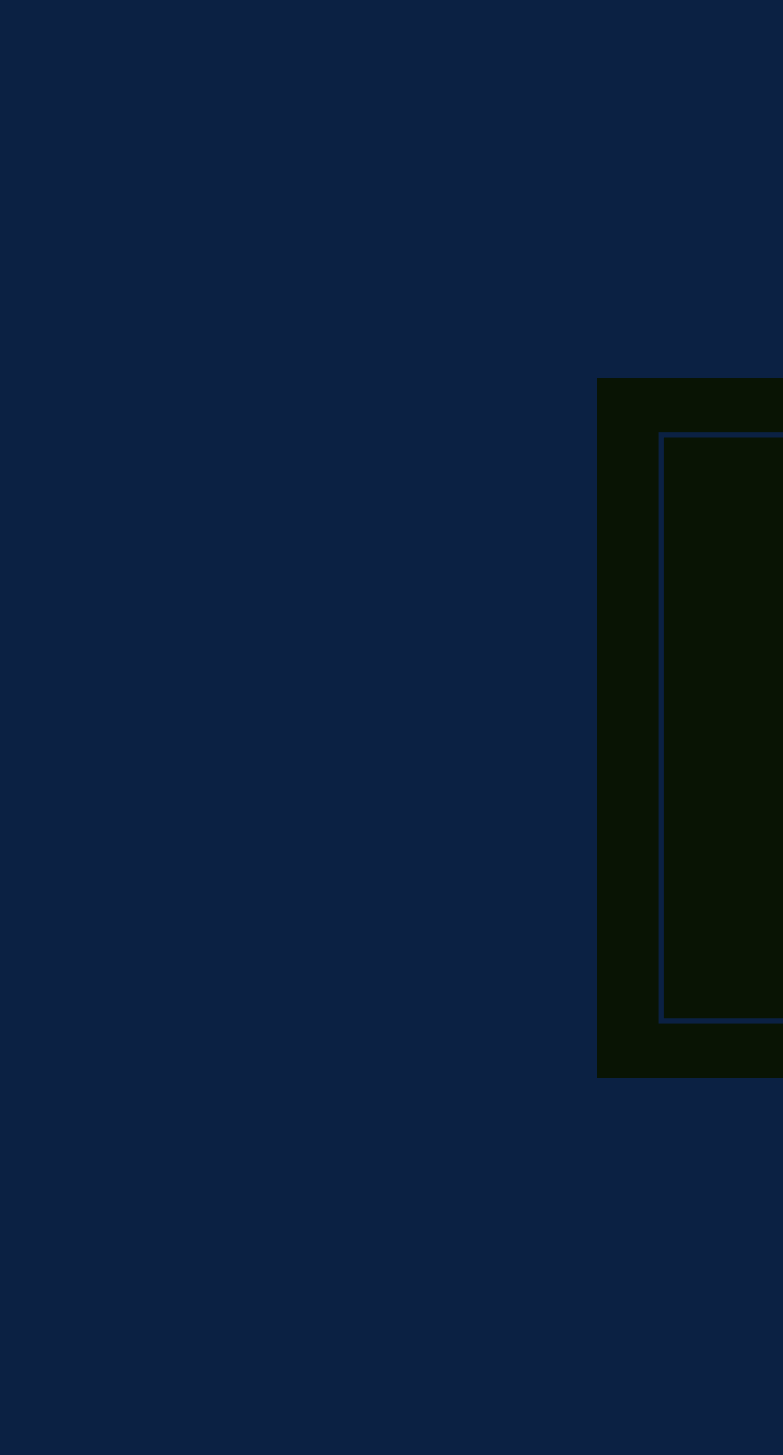
At the end of KS4 students will sit for three individual Science credits (Bio, Chem, Phys).

For students who find Science challenging or are limited by their Language (EAL), we will offer a Double Science option.

Entry into Double Science will be recommended by the Science Faculty. This will not occur until mid-way through year 10.

How assessment relates to the qualifications available is shown below.





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