



International GCSE Curriculum Guide August 2024

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Respect | Integrity | Excellence | Compassion | Responsibility



Welcome to Oryx International School



Dear parents and students,

Choosing the correct subjects for I/GCSE examinations is vital when preparing students for their future careers and employment opportunities. We offer a range of subjects to cater for all areas of interest whether these are in sciences, technology, arts, humanities, languages or other non-subject related areas of study. This ensures that our students' interests and strengths are utilised whilst taking the first step towards I/GCSE qualifications. Our experienced staff will guide you and your child through this next stage of school, making sure that all your questions are answered and that sound advice is given to you and your child.

Subjects are split into the three categories, shown below, which are explained later in this document.

1. Compulsory subjects: Maths, English, Arabic language and Islamic studies (for Arabic passport holders only).
2. Optional subjects: your choice of optional subjects.
3. Complementary subjects: compulsory but without any examination, e.g. PE, PSHE and Qatar History.

The three questions students should ask regarding which optional subjects to choose are:

1. Do I enjoy this subject?
2. Am I good at this subject?
3. Will it help me towards my future career pathway?

The advice we give is that students should keep their range of subjects as wide as possible at this stage to allow for any future changes in career pathway, e.g. not to choose all technology or all art subjects.

The main differences between current assessments and I/GCSE examinations are that they are now external, not school-based. The specification and examinations content

are prepared by the national examination centre in the UK (The Joint Council for Qualifications - JCQ) and regulated by Ofsted. This ensures that all children sitting these exams are measured against each other using the same standards, no matter which country they live in. The other main difference is that the exam time and dates are set by the examination board and are not flexible. Students must sit the same subject exams on the same days throughout the world. This will mean that some exams will be taken outside the usual operating times of the school and possibly on Fridays. As the exam dates are set by the examination board, students must be available up to the last day of Term 3 and possibly even beyond that date. The school will be informed of the exam dates at the start of each academic year, i.e. September.

Examination Fees: Finally, the examination board charges a fee for each International GCSE, which is not included in our school fees. The approximate cost per exam is QAR 550. Please note that this changes year on year and is provided only as an approximation for your information at this time. The examination board will inform the school of the fees at the start of each academic year, after which we will inform you of the cost and the payment methods in Year 11.

I hope you will find this booklet an informative first step to deciding your child's I/GCSE examinations for Year 10.

Re gard s ,

Ken Haggarty
Vice Principal - Secondary



Secondary school structure

Key Stage 3	Year 7	UK National Curriculum plus regulatory requirements of the MOE&HE, Qatar	Termly school exams and GL Assessments
	Year 8	UK National Curriculum plus regulatory requirements of the MOE&HE, Qatar	Termly school exams and GL Assessments Termly
	Year 9	UK National Curriculum plus regulatory requirements of the MOE&HE, Qatar	school exams and GL Assessments Students choose I/GCSE subjects for KS4
Key Stage 4	Year 10	First year of I/GCSE courses with Edexcel Pearson Examination Board UK National Curriculum plus regulatory requirements of the MOE&HE, Qatar	Termly assessments and mock exams. Preparation of portfolio in practical IGCSE
	Year 11	Second year of I/GCSE courses UK National Curriculum plus regulatory requirements of the MOE&HE, Qatar	Mock exams in November/December All external exams in May/June

2024- 25 personnel

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Key Stage 4 curriculum

Key Stage 4 (KS4) is an important stage in your child’s education. It is the start of a two-year programme of study that will culminate in examinations that are set and marked by examination boards in the U.K and indicate the final two years of this stage of compulsory education. During these two years, your child will be studying a range of

subjects, some of which are optional and some of which are compulsory.

This booklet is designed to give you further information on what to expect from the next two years and to encourage you to start thinking about the optional subjects your child may wish to study when they start Year 10.

The following subjects are compulsory in Year 10 and 11:

Core subjects (with examinations)

- English Language
- Mathematics

Complementary subjects (no examination)

- Physical Education (Core)
- PSHE embedded in the curriculum as part of form time

Students are then able to choose from a selection of optional subjects:

A maximum of five subjects can be chosen, giving nine These optional subjects are normally taught for three subjects in total. lessons per week.

Optional subjects (with examinations)

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Double Science
- Drama
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish

You may find that when the final subjects are published you are unable to select the exact combination of subjects you originally wanted.

We do our best to meet the desires of the entire cohort, but it is not always possible to run courses that gives everyone their first choice and makes that subject viable for the student.

Making informed decisions
for your I/GCSE choices



You will still study and take examinations in English, mathematics and at least one science, and you can select up to five additional courses that you would like to study in Years 10 and 11.

You will also study Core PE and PSHE in Year 10, which

will be delivered in discrete lessons. Students do not take examinations in these subjects.

The International GCSE options that you choose, and the grades you achieve in them, will assist with your decision for Sixth Form subject choices.

I/GCSE Subjects
Do you have the necessary skills to do well
in each subject at GCSE level?

	The ability to / an interest in:
Arabic First Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication.• Proficient in Arabic is essential.
Arabic Second Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication.• Don't have to be proficient in Arabic.
Art and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in inquiry-based learning.• Engage in critical and analytical thinking and understanding.• Think and work independently.
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in critical analysis.• Read and understand extended case studies and engage in numerical analysis.• Be an independent learner.
Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand computer graphics, game development or how computer hardware and software work.• Be secure in coding and programming.• Be confident in mathematics.
Design and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in art, craft and design, researching skills, using materials and media to communicate ideas.• Have manufacturing skills.• Develop knowledge and understanding of design technology hand tools, equipment and processes as well as CAD (computer-aided design).
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehearse and devise original material linked to specific practitioners of study.• Create original interpretation through characterisation.• Be disciplined when working independently or within a group environment.• Enhance creativity through a set brief.• Be organised and take initiative.• Have good communication skills.• Engage in critical evaluation and reflections.
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To have an interest in world affairs and economies.• To have a capacity for mathematics and analysis.• Engage in independent reading.
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in map reading skills.• Think and work independently.• Engage in critical thinking and commitment to learning extended terminology.• Develop synoptic skills.• Provide evidence for both sides of an argument.
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form a balanced argument.• Analyse sources, and assess their nature, origin and purpose.• Organise written work in a logical and structured way.• Form judgements based on evidence.
Islamic Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background in Islamic Studies in desired but not essential.• Writing.• Memorisation of different Hadiths and passages.
French / Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commit towards extending your knowledge of French / Spanish vocabulary to talk about a wide range of topics.• Understand and use the three main time-frames (past, present and future) in the written and spoken form.• Communicate in writing and speaking to give information about yourself, your opinions and your interests.
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a passion for many types and genres of Music.• The ability to play an instrument or to sing at a level equivalent to ABRSM Grade 3.• To be taking individual instrumental/vocal lessons in order excel in the performance component of the course.• Be creative and willing to 'think outside the box'.
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students taking GCSE PE should refer to the list of team and individual sports, they must already be regularly training and competing in at least two of these listed sports.• Students should be part of school teams and/or sport extra/after school activities to develop their practical abilities.
Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication.• Research.• Problem solving.• Patiences.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a solid grounding in mathematics (physics and chemistry involve a lot of mathematical calculations, as well as biology but to a lesser extent).• Be analytical.• Learn, understand and reproduce complex processes.• Be practically competent and able to understand the 'scientific method' to test and explore scientific hypotheses.

I/GCSE Subjects

E xaminations

Throughout the course of Year 10 and 11, students will be working towards IGCSEs. These are official examinations that prove a student has successfully completed this stage of compulsory secondary education.

I/GCSE examinations are managed by various government approved organisations in the UK. Oryx International School is an approved examination centre for one of the biggest examination boards for all its exams: Pearson Edexcel International Examinations. The exams are marked on a 9-point scale as shown in the table below.

I/GCSE old grades	I/GCSE new grades	Description
A*	9	High Grade PASS
A	8	
B	7	
C	6	
D	5	Low Grade PASS
E	4	
F	3	
G	2	
U	1	Ungraded
	U	

In order to ‘pass’ Year 11 and meet the entrance requirements of our Sixth Form, Students Must archive a minimum of 5 A*-C Grades (9-5) in their I/GCSE examinations

Please note: All I/GCSE examinations incur additional costs not included in school fees.

Mock examinations

Please note that mock examinations in December for Year 11 are compulsory for all students.

These are used by the school to support and mentor our students and the results can be requested by the

examination board in the event of a query.

You are asked not to arrange holidays during the terms in Year 11.

Important dates

Students are entered for their final I/GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. Some subjects, however, have *controlled assessments*, which are ‘coursework-like’ activities that take place at different points throughout Year 10 and 11.

Controlled assessments are activities, undertaken by students in a controlled environment or under examination conditions, which directly contribute to their final exam grade.

In some cases, they could account for 60% or more of the grade that is awarded. If students are absent and miss these activities, then it is highly unlikely the examination board will allow them to attempt them at a later date. It is essential that students do their best to attend school at all times, particularly when these activities have been organised.

The table below explains some of the key dates when students must ensure they are in school.

Please note: The examination board sets the date and time of the examinations and we are unable to change those dates.



Year 10	
All Year	Ongoing Assessment activities
May/June Year 10	Formal end of year exams

Year 11	
All Year	Ongoing Assessment activities
November/December Year 11	Mock Examinations
March Year 11 until July Year 11	Practical and oral examinations will start in March and continue until May. Written exams usually begin at the end of April and can continue until the beginning of July.

I/GCSE results from the exam board are released in August each year. Students and parents will be given a secure ‘log-on’ access code to find out the results of their examinations.

Core subjects



English Language A

International GCSE Edexcel – 4EA1

Course outline

The English Faculty will deliver the Edexcel I/GCSE for both English Language and English Literature. This I/ GCSE is exclusive to independent and international schools. The Edexcel International GCSE in English Language (Specification A) is designed as a two-year course.

The specification includes a wide range of reading and writing - the reading requirements of the course are covered in the Edexcel Anthology for International GCSE, for use throughout the course and the examination.



Course details

Paper 1: 4EA1/01 (Examination – 60% of total GCSE) Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing

Overview of content:

Reading

- A mixture of short and long answer questions related to a non-fiction text from the anthology and one previously unseen extract.
- Students will analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects.
- For this unit students will look at the contemporary non-fiction texts from Part 1 of the Edexcel Anthology for International GCSE and Certificate Qualifications in English Language and Literature.

Writing

- Transactional writing – one 45 minute writing task from a choice of two involving a given audience, form or purpose.

Overview of assessment:

- The assessment of this unit is through a two-hour and 15-minute examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel.
- Single tier of entry.
- The total number of marks available is 90.
- Students are provided with an Anthology for the examination.

Paper 2: 4EA1/03 (Examination – 40% of total GCSE) Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing

Overview of content:

Assignment A

- One 30-mark essay question on poetry and prose texts from the Pearson Edexcel Anthology.

Assignment B

- One 30-mark imaginative writing task.

Overview of assessment:

- The assessment of this unit is through an internal assessment
- The total number of marks available is 60.

Career prospects

If taught in conjunction with International GCSE Literature, it enables access to AS and A2 English Literature. Careers in Media, Law or Journalism can be pursued.

Mathematics

International GCSE Edexcel – 4MA1

Course outline

Students have been following this course from the start of the academic year. During Year 10 students will continue to study topics from these six areas: number, geometry and measures, probability and statistics. New topics are introduced under these headings such as errors in calculations, further trigonometry, solving quadratic equations, vectors and statistical measures. Other topics are studied to a greater depth than in previous years.

The aims of the Mathematics Department at Oryx International School relate to all year groups but are especially relevant to those students in Years 10 and 11 who may be considering taking mathematics after I/GCSE:

- To develop an ability to think and reason mathematically.
- To notice and realise the application of mathematics in the real world.
- To have the understanding of how to use mathematics up to I/GCSE level and create a firm foundation for those wishing to study the subject further.
- For students to have a positive attitude to mathematics and to achieve to the best of their ability, with confidence and enjoyment.



Course details

Students are assessed by two written examinations: each paper contributes to 50% of the qualification. Both examination papers are calculator based. In addition, both papers must be taken during the same assessment series. The total number of marks for each paper is 100 marks.

We use the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics (Specification A). Each paper is assessed through a 2-hour examination set and marked by Pearson.

Assessment criteria

Students will be required to show their application of mathematics and their choice of skills in a variety of practical and investigative problems within these assessments.

Entry to International GCSE Mathematics is made in one of two overlapping tiers:

1. Higher tier: Grades 9 - 4
2. Foundation tier: Grades 5 – 1

Career prospects

Successful completion of the course provides an excellent platform to study AS/A Level mathematics. Furthermore, most Sixth Form colleges/further education providers require a minimum of a Grade 4 on the new grading system.

Optional subjects



Arabic (First Language)

International GCSE Edexcel – 4AA1

Course outline

Over the two-year International GCSE course, students will study five key topic areas for approximately one term per topic:

- 1. Identity and culture.
- 2. Local area, holiday, and travel.
- 3. School.
- 4. Future aspirations, study and work.
- 5. International and global dimension.

Course details

Lessons will develop the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students will be supported and encouraged to use the language for genuine communication and as creatively as possible.

Assessment criteria

All assessments will take place at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Reading, Summary and Grammer	Paper 2: Writing
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth matters• Education• Media• Culture• Sport and leisure• Travel and tourism• Business, work and employment• Environment• Health• Technology	Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth matters• Education• Media• Culture• Sport and leisure• Travel and tourism• Business, work and employment• Environment• Health• Technology
Assessment Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hours 15 minutes• Part one: reading (49 marks) Short- and extended-response questions on two texts.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part Two: Summary (6 marks) Summary of the main points of a third text.• Part Three: Grammar (20 marks) Four questions on a range of aspects of grammar.	Assessment Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour 30 minutes• Two extended-response writing tasks (25 marks for each task).
60% of total I/GCSE	40% of total I/GCSE

Career prospects

Language graduates have a vast array of career opportunities open to them in all fields, thanks to the wide range of skills developed through learning a foreign language. There are exciting opportunities often involving travel abroad in almost every sector.

Art & Design

International GCSE Edexcel – 4FA1

Course outline

The course is made up of two components each weighing at 50% of the total:

Component 1: Personal portfolio must include supporting studies and personal responses, demonstrating evidence of the four assessment objectives and approximately 120 hours supervised study. This component is internally set and externally assessed.

Component 2: Externally set Assignment is a body of work for the four assessment objectives based on an externally set theme. The work produced will consist of approximately 25 hours supervised study and 10 hours of sustained focus in exam conditions. This component is externally set and assessed.

The course objectives are to:

- Develop the student’s creative and imaginative ability and practical skills, for engaging with, and for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings with the use of art, craft and design.
- To develop investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretive capabilities, aesthetic understanding and critical and enquiring minds, with increasing independence, cultural knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design and of the media and technologies used in different times, contexts and societies.
- To further develop personal attributes including self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment.

The skills that will be developed will include recording experiences and observations, undertaking research and gathering, selecting and organising visual, tactile and sensory materials and other relevant information. Exploring relevant resources, analysing and evaluating images, objects and products, and making independent judgements as to their relevance in visual art.

Course details

Component 1

Personal Portfolio in Art and Design (50% of total I/GCSE)

Component 2

Externally Set Assignment (50% of total I/GCSE)

Assessment criteria

An on-going portfolio of work throughout the course plus an examination under controlled conditions.

This I/GCSE qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total subject mark where 9 is the highest grade. Individual components are not graded.

Career prospects

This is a gateway to A Level in Art and Design. If students choose to seek employment, they will have a portfolio of work that evidences their ability to pursue a course in Art and Design, covering different projects and producing a range of work. There may be opportunities to work, for example, in local galleries, design offices, graphics companies and retail.



Biology

International GCSE Edexcel – 4BH / 4SD0

Course outline

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Biology is a linear qualification with two written examinations that will be taken in the same series at the end of the course of study. The assessment is an un-tiered written examination with questions designed to be accessible to students of all abilities.

Our approach

Learners will learn about unifying patterns and themes in biology and use them in new and changing situations. They will acquire knowledge and understanding of biological facts, terminology, concepts, principles and practical techniques to evaluate biological information, make judgements on the basis of this information. They will analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods, drawing conclusions that are consistent with evidence from experimental activities and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations.



Assessment criteria

Biology Paper 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessedAvailability: January and JuneFirst assessment: June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Paper code 4BI1/1B and 4SD0/1B <p>61.1% of the total International GCSE</p>
<p>Content Summary</p> <p>Questions may come from any topic area across the specification.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">The nature and variety of living organisms.Structures and functions in living organisms.Reproduction and inheritance.Ecology and the environmentUse of biological resources.	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The paper is assessed through a 2-hour written examination paper set and marked by Pearson.The total number of marks is 110.A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.A calculator may be used in the examinations.
Biology Paper 2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessedAvailability: January and JuneFirst assessment: June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Paper code 4BI1/2B and 4SD0/2B <p>38.9% of the total International GCSE</p>
<p>Content Summary</p> <p>Questions may come from any topic area across the specification.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">The nature and variety of living organisms.Structures and functions in living organisms.Reproduction and inheritance.Ecology and the environmentUse of biological resources.	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The paper is assessed through a 1-hour and 15 written examination paper set and marked by Pearson.The total number of marks is 70.A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.A calculator may be used in the examinations.

Career prospects

After the completion of the IGCSE, students can progress to a range of different, relevant academic or vocational higher education qualifications, for example a degree in biology or in a related subject, including marine biology, natural science and anatomy, or employment and further training.

Business

International GCSE Edexcel – 4BS1

Course outline

The course is split into two units.

Unit 1: “Investigating Small Businesses” focuses on identifying a business opportunity, showing enterprise, putting a business idea into practise, making the start-up effective and understanding the economic influences.

Unit 2: “Investigating Large Businesses” focuses on growing the business, including marketing, HR, finance and operations.

The course objectives are to:

- Actively engage in the study of business and the wider environment to develop as effective and independent students, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- To use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgements.
- To develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts.
- To appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities.
- To consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

Skills that will be developed will be to introduce students to the world of small businesses and to consider what makes someone a successful business person. Students will know how to develop an idea, identify an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business. How to make a business effective and manage money.



Course details

Unit 1

Investigating small businesses (50% of total I/GCSE)

Unit 2

Investigating large businesses (50% of total I/GCSE)

Assessment criteria

Students will take two examinations at the end of Year 11. Both exams are 1 hour and 30 minutes and have a maximum of 90 marks available.

Career prospects

Having successfully completed the International GCSE Business course would provide you with an excellent grounding for the AS/A Level Business Studies or the BTEC National Diploma in Business.

Chemistry

International GCSE Edexcel – 4CH1 / 4SD0

Course outline

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Chemistry is a linear qualification with two written examinations that will be taken in the same series at the end of the course of study. The assessment is an un-tiered written examination with questions designed to be accessible to students of all abilities.

Our approach

Learners will learn about unifying patterns and themes in chemistry and use them in new and changing situations. They will acquire knowledge and understanding of chemical facts, terminology, concepts, principles and practical techniques to evaluate chemical information, make judgements on the basis of this information. They will analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods. Learners will draw conclusions that are consistent with evidence from experimental activities and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations.



Assessment criteria

Chemistry Paper 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally assessed Availability: January and June First assessment: June 2024 	*Paper code 4CH1/2C 61.1% of the total International GCSE
Content Summary Questions may come from any topic area across the specification. 1. Principles of chemistry 2. Inorganic chemistry 3. Physical chemistry 4. Organic chemistry	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paper is assessed through a 2-hour written examination paper set and marked by Pearson. The total number of marks is 110. A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. A calculator may be used in the examinations.
Chemistry Paper 2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Externally assessed Availability: January and June First assessment: June 2024 	*Paper code 4BI1/2B and 4SD0/2B 38.9% of the total International GCSE
Content Summary Questions may come from any topic area across the specification. 1. Principles of chemistry 2. Inorganic chemistry 3. Physical chemistry 4. Organic chemistry	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paper is assessed through a 1-hour and 15 written examination paper set and marked by Pearson. The total number of marks is 70. A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. A calculator may be used in the examinations.

Career prospects

After the completion of IGCSEs, students can progress to a range of different, relevant academic or vocational higher education qualifications, for example Analytical chemist, Biotechnologist, Chemical engineer, Clinical scientist, Forensic scientist, Nanotechnologist, Pharmacologist, Research scientist (physical sciences), Scientific laboratory technician, Toxicologist.

Computer Science

International GCSE Edexcel – 4CPO

Course outline

The course consists of six different topics.

Topic 1 – Problem solving: includes the study of algorithms, decomposition and abstraction.

Topic 2 – Programming: includes the study of developing code, constructs, data types and structures, input/output, operators and subprograms.

Topic 3 – Data: includes the study of binary, data representation, data storage, compression and encryption.

Topic 4 – Computers: includes the study of machines, hardware, logic, software and programming languages.

Topic 5 – Communication and the Internet: includes the study of networks, network security and the internet,

Topic 6 – The Bigger Picture: includes the study of emerging trends, issues and the impact of computers.

The course objectives are to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation.
- To analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- To think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- To understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- To apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

Skills that will be developed will include programming, problem solving, networking, emerging future trends in computing, logical thinking, modelling and critical thinking.

Course details

Paper 1

Principles of Computer Science (50% of total I/GCSE)

Paper 2

Application of Computational Thinking (50% of total I/GCSE)

Assessment criteria

Students will take two examinations at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 is a 2-hour examination-based paper. Paper 2 is a 3-hour practical-based paper.

Career prospects

Having successfully completed the International GCSE Computer Science course, this would provide you with an excellent grounding for the AS/A Level Computer Science course or the BTEC National Diploma in Computing. Future careers could include Computer Engineer, Software Developer, Games Developer, Network Manager, Website/APP Developer, Security Analyst or Games/Software Tester.



Design & Technology

GCSE Edexcel – 1DTO

Course outline

The aims and objectives of the course are to:

- Enable students to understand and apply the iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes.
- Enable students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others’ needs, wants and values.
- Provide opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.
- Acquire subject knowledge in Design and Technology that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities.
- Learn how to take design risks; helping students to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens.
- Prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.
- Be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.



Course details

The course is made up of 2 components:

Component 1 is working towards an exam which makes up 50% of the total grade. The exam paper consists of two sections.

- Section A is assessed on the core content which provides students with a breadth of study, and
- Section B is assessed on material which provides students with the depth of study. Students must study at least one material from the following: metals, papers and boards, polymers, systems, textiles, and timbers.

Component 2 is a non-examined assessment, where students will complete the contextual challenge. This will provide a basis from which they will investigate, design, make and evaluate a project. The exam board will communicate a contextual challenge to centres in June of the calendar year preceding the year in which the qualification is to be awarded.

Assessment criteria

Component 1

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
(50% of total I/GCSE)

Component 2

Non-examination assessment
(50% of total I/GCSE).

Career prospects

Design and technology goes well with art, but also science and technology subjects, including physics, maths, chemistry and IT. It can prepare students for a career in a wide variety of industries such as fashion, engineering, architecture, industry, information technology and even education. Popular careers for people with design and technology qualifications include; industrial designer, graphic designer, web developer, software engineer, civil engineer, fashion designer, product designer and many more.

Double Science

International GCSE Edexcel – 4SDO

Course outline

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Science (Double Award) is a linear qualification. Three written examinations must be taken in the same series at the end of the course of study. The assessment is an un-tiered written examination with questions designed to be accessible to students of all abilities..

Our approach

Learners will learn about unifying patterns and themes across all three sciences and use them in new and changing situations. They will acquire knowledge and understanding of facts, terminology, concepts, principles and practical techniques to evaluate information, make judgements on the basis of this information in all the three sciences. They will analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods. Learners will draw conclusions that are consistent with evidence from experimental activities and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations.

Assessment criteria

Chemistry Paper 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Externally assessed• Availability: January and June• First assessment: June 2024	*Paper code 4SD0/1C 33.3% of the total I/GCSE Combined Science
Content Summary Questions may come from any topic area across the specification. 1. Principles of chemistry 2. Inorganic chemistry 3. Physical chemistry 4. Organic chemistry	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The paper is assessed through a 2-hour written examination paper set and marked by Pearson.• The total number of marks is 110.• A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.• A calculator may be used in the examinations.
Biology Paper 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Externally assessed• Availability: January and June• First assessment: June 2024	*Paper code 4SD0/1B 33.3% of the total I/GCSE Combined Science
Content Summary Questions may come from any topic area across the specification. 1. The nature and variety of living organisms. 2. Structures and functions in living organisms. 3. Reproduction and inheritance. 4. Ecology and the environment 5. Use of biological resources.	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The paper is assessed through a 2-hour written examination paper set and marked by Pearson.• The total number of marks is 110.• A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.• A calculator may be used in the examinations.

Double Science (Provisional)

International GCSE Edexcel – 4SDO

This course is currently under consideration

Assessment criteria

Physics Paper 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessed *Paper code 4SD0/1PAvailability: January and JuneFirst assessment: June 202433.3% of the total I/GCSE Combined Science	
Content SummaryAssessment Questions may come from any topic area across the specification. examination paper set and marked by Pearson. 1. Forces and motion • The total number of marks is 110. 2. Electricity • A mixture of different question styles, including 3. Waves multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, 4. Energy resources and energy transferscalculations and extended open-response questions. 5. Solids, liquids and gases • A calculator may be used in the examinations. 6. Magnetism and electromagnetism 7. Radioactivity and particles 8. Astrophysics	• The paper is assessed through a 2-hour written

Double Science concludes in a double award in Year 11 effectively two grades (i.e. 9, 9). Candidates study Physics, Chemistry and Biology over the two year I/GCSE course. Progression to A level is unaffected whether candidates take double science or single science subjects.

Career prospects

After the completion of IGCSEs, students can progress to a range of different, relevant academic or vocational higher education qualifications, A level in any of the sciences for example Analytical chemist, Biotechnologist, Chemical engineer, Clinical scientist, Forensic scientist, Nanotechnologist, Pharmacologist, Research scientist (physical sciences), Scientific laboratory technician, Toxicologist, Aviation, Engineering, Architecture, Medicine, Marine Biology, Natural Science and Anatomy.



Drama

GCSE Edexcel – 1DRO

Course outline

The aim and objectives of the qualification are to enable students to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama.
- Explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created.
- Develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances.
- Work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas.
- Develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective students able to make informed choices in process and performance.
- Contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance.
- Reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others.
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice and to adopt safe working practises.



Course details

Component 1	Component 3
Devising (Practical 40% of total GCSE - 60 marks)	Theatre makers in Practice
Component 2	(Written Examination 40% of total GCSE - 60 marks)
Performance from text (Practical 20% of total GCSE - 48 marks)	

Assessment criteria

Component 1 is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus which is moderated by Pearson Edexcel. For this component students must complete two assessment tasks:

- A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and the analysis and evaluation of this process.
- A devised performance/design realisation.

Component 2 is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text. This is assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3 students will prepare for a written exam which is divided into two compulsory sections:

- Section A: Bringing texts to life• Section B: Live theatre evaluation

Career prospects

After you have completed the GCSE Drama course you can go on to higher levels of study, such as Drama and Theatre Studies at A Level or BTEC Performing Arts in Acting. This GCSE is also very helpful with any post age 16 course, due to it giving you confidence and creativity. Students have the chance to enhance their presentation and evaluation skills through critical reviews of professional productions, all of which will make for a smooth transition to the next level of study. This clearly links to Journalism, Marketing, Media, Business or English degree subjects due to its practical and theoretical nature.

Economics

International GCSE Edexcel – 4EC1

Course outline

The topics to be covered during the two years of study are as follows:

Paper 1 (Microeconomics and Business Economics)

- The market system
- The economic problem
 - Economic assumptions
 - Demand, supply and market equilibrium
 - Elasticity
 - The mixed economy
 - Externalities

Business economics

- Production
- Productivity and division of labour
- Business costs, revenues and profit
- Business competition
- The labour market
- Government intervention

Paper 2 (Macroeconomics and the global economy)

Government and the economy

- Macroeconomic objectives
- Government policies
 - Relationships between objectives and policies

The global economy

- Globalisation
- International trade
- Exchange rates



Course details

Paper 1 is worth 50% of the course and final assessment.

Paper 2 is worth 50% of the course and final assessment.

Assessment criteria

Paper 1

A 90-minute paper consisting of 4 questions, each worth 20 marks. Sub-questions can include multiple choice, short answers, data response and open ended questions.

Paper 2

A 90-minute paper consisting of 4 questions, each worth 20 marks. Sub-questions can include multiple choice, short answers, data response and open ended questions.

Career prospects

Economists work in industry, commerce, banking and government. A knowledge of Economics is a sound combination with Mathematics and Geography.

French

International GCSE Edexcel – 4FR1

Course outline

Over the two year I/GCSE course, students will study five key topic areas for approximately one term per topic:

- A: Home and abroad.
B: Education and employment.
C: Personal life and relationships.
D: The world around us.
E: Social activities, fitness and health.



Course details

Lessons will develop the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students will be supported and encouraged to use the language for genuine communication and as creatively as possible.

Assessment criteria

All assessments will take place at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Reading & Writing	Paper 3: Speaking
Topics: Topics: Covers all 5 key topic areas.	Covers all 5 key topic areas.	Topics: 3 of the 5 key topic areas covered.
Assessment Information: • 30 min exam, plus 5 min reading time. minutes.	Assessment Information: • Written examination of 1hr 45	Assessment Information: • Recorded discussion and conversation with class teacher lasting a maximum 10 minutes. • Marked by Edexcel
25% of total I/GCSE	50% of total I/GCSE	25% of total I/GCSE

Career prospects

Students who achieve a Grade 5 or above will have the opportunity to continue their chosen language to AS Level. Language graduates have a vast array of career opportunities open to them in all fields, thanks to the wide range of skills developed through learning a foreign language. There are exciting opportunities often involving travel abroad in almost every sector.

French is an official language in many major political bodies like the EU and UN and would also be considered a major asset by companies with operations in one of the twenty-nine countries worldwide where it is the official language.

Geography

International GCSE Edexcel – 4GE1

Course outline

Geography is an ideal subject for developing a full range of skills. You will be encouraged to develop your investigative approaches to explore geographical questions and issues.

There will be a focus on improving your ability to make geographical decisions by applying your knowledge, understanding and skills with a real-world focus.

Fieldwork is an integral part of the course and this will help you to develop the skills of organising your own time, and working and co-operating with others.

All these skills are transferable and will help you to make progress in other subjects. They are also skills that are highly valued by employers, and will be useful in the world of work.



Course details

Paper 1 – Physical Geography (40% of total I/GCSE)

- Coastal environments
- Hazardous environments including fieldwork from one of these topics

Paper 2 – Human Geography (60% of total I/GCSE)

- Economic activity and energy
- Urban environments including fieldwork from one of these topics
- Global issues - Development and human welfare

Assessment criteria

Paper 1: Examination of 1 hour and 10 minutes, consisting of two sections. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

- Section A: Candidates answer questions on- coastal environments and hazardous environments.
- Section B: Candidates answer fieldwork-related questions on coastal environments.

Paper 2: Examination of 1 hour and 45 minutes, consisting of three sections. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

- Section A: Candidates answer questions on- economic activity, energy and urban environments.
- Section B: Candidates answer fieldwork-related questions on urban environments.
- Section C: Candidates answer questions on globalisation and migration.

Career prospects

Geography ensures students are well placed to contribute to the scientific and political debates regarding the world in which we live. Students learn an excellent range of transferable skills that enable them to be successful across a range of professions. Employment opportunities include Journalism, Media, Law, Engineering, Business Management, ICT, Environmental Management, Teaching, Economic Planning, Marketing, Leisure and Recreation and Tourism.

History

International GCSE Edexcel – 4HI1

Course outline

The topics to be covered across the two years of study are as follows:

Paper 1:

- Depth Studies - A world divided: superpower relations, 1943–72, and
- Dictatorship and conflict in the USSR, 1924-53

Paper 2:

- Investigation and Breadth Studies - The origins and course of the First World War, 1905–18 and Changes in Medicine, 1848 - 1948

The objective of the course will be to enable students to recall, select, organise and deploy knowledge and communicate it through description, explanation and analysis. Show that students understand and can analyse and interpret historical sources in context. To show that students can comprehend, analyse and evaluate how and why events, people, situations and changes have been interpreted and represented in relation to the historical themes and periods studied.

The skills that will be developed will be to foster a knowledge and understanding of selected periods and/or aspects of history, exploring the significance of historical events, people, changes and issues and to give students the ability to use historical sources critically, in context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions. To enable learners to organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history and to enable learners to draw conclusions and make historical judgements.



Course details

Paper 1 – Students answer two questions, one on each of the depth studies they have studied. (50 % of total I/GCSE)

Paper 2 – Students answer two questions, one question on their historical investigation and one question on their breadth study in change. (50 % of total I/GCSE)

Assessment criteria

All the assessment for International GCSE History will take place at the end of the two years of study. There is no coursework element to the course. The examination will be 2 un-tiered written examinations.

- Paper 1: 1hr 30 mins;
- Paper 2: 1hr 30 mins.

The I/GCSE qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total subject mark where 9 is the highest grade. Individual papers are not graded.

Career prospects

Successful completion of the International GCSE History course allows for the progression to Edexcel GCE AS and A2 Level History.

However, because the course is very much geared to allowing students to become independent thinkers, who are good communicators and able to articulate sound judgements, it also provides a sound basis for a number of other avenues.

Music

GCSE Edexcel – 1MU0

Course outline

GCSE Music takes you deeper into the world of music, studying and performing a variety of pieces ranging from classical to rock. Students must be able to perform at a level equivalent to ABRSM Grade 3 on their chosen instrument (or voice). Additionally, it is important to be taking individual instrumental/vocal lessons in order to pass and excel in the performance component of the course.

The course is split into three main areas: Performing, Composition and Listening & Appraising.

- **Performing:** you will perform as a soloist and a member of an ensemble, this can be on an instrument you are already learning, or wish to learn.

- **Composition:** you will compose two pieces of music, one of your own choice and one to a set brief of the exam board. Styles and genres are based on the set work pieces studied.

- **Listening & appraising:** continuous studies throughout the course with the written exam taking place at the end of year 11. The exam is based on the set works studied during the course, as well as unfamiliar pieces, where the student will answer a range of questions about what they can hear in the music.



Set works

Instrumental Music:

- J S Bach 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no.5 in D Major, and
- L Van Beethoven 1st movement from Piano Sonata no.8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

Vocal Music:

- H Purcell: Music for a While, and
- Queen's Killer Queen

Music for Stage & Screen:

- Defying Gravity from Wicked, and
- Main title/rebel blockade runner from Star Wars: A New Hope

Fusions:

- Afro Celt Sound System Release, and
- Esperanza Spalding Samba Em Preludio

Assessment criteria

Unit 1

Performing Music (30% of total GCSE)

Unit 2

Composing Music (30% of total GCSE)

Unit 3

Listening and Appraising (40% of total GCSE)

Career prospects

Studio Engineers, Teachers, Professional Musicians, Session Musicians, DJs, Producers, Record Label Managers, Singers are some of the possible career paths after taking GCSE Music.

Please note: Due to the nature of the course we highly recommend that students have instrumental/singing lessons alongside the GCSE course.

Physical Educatioin

GCSE Edexcel – 1PE0

Course outline

GCSE Physical Education will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Students will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and well-being.

The objectives of this course are to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport, and how to use these factors to improve performances.
- Provide opportunities for students to understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport and the contribution that sport can make to health, fitness and well-being.

The practical element of the course aims to improve performances in different physical activities by developing skills, techniques, tactics and strategies. Students will also become equipped to analyse and evaluate to improve performances in physical activity and sport.



Course details

Component 1	Component 3
Fitness and Body Systems (36% of total GCSE)	Practical Performance (30% of total GCSE)
Component 2	Component 4
Health and Performance (24% of total GCSE)	Personal Exercise Programme (10% of total GCSE)

Assessment criteria

The GCSE course is assessed over the four components.

Component 1 and 2 are externally assessed through two written examination papers in May/June 2021.

Component 3 is assessed internally by the teacher. These marks are then modified by an external moderator. Students will be assessed in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer.

Component 4 is internally marked and externally moderated by Pearson. This piece of work should include planning, performing and evaluating a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) and will be completed prior to the final exams.

The GCSE qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine - grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total subject mark where 9 is the highest grade. Individual papers are not graded.

Career prospects

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, the blend of scientific and social knowledge in GCSE PE positions students to access a range of qualifications.

GCSE PE allows for progression to related vocational qualifications and gives students an in-depth insight into the career pathways in sport and the necessary skills to allow them to take on coaching roles in the future.

Physics

International GCSE Edexcel – 4PH1 / 4SD0

Course outline

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Physics is a linear qualification with two written examinations, that will be taken in the same series at the end of the course of study. The assessment is an un-tiered written examination with questions designed to be accessible to students of all abilities

Our approach

Learners will learn about unifying patterns and themes in physics and use them in new and changing situations. They will acquire knowledge and understanding of physical facts, terminology, concepts, principles and practical techniques to evaluate information and make judgements on the basis of this information. They will analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods. Learners will draw conclusions that are consistent with evidence from experimental activities and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations.



Assessment criteria

Physics Paper 1		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessedAvailability: January and JuneFirst assessment: June 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Paper code 4PH1/2P61.1% of the total International GCSE
<p>Content Summary</p> <p>Questions may come from any topic area across the specification.</p> <div><div>1. Forces and motion</div><div>5.Solids, Liquids and Gases</div><div>2. Electricity</div><div>6.Magnetism and electromagnetism</div><div>3. Waves</div><div>7.Radioactivity and particles</div><div>4. Energy Resources Transfer</div><div>8. Astrophysics</div></div>		<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The paper is assessed through a 2-hour written examination paper set and marked by Pearson.The total number of marks is 110.A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.A calculator may be used in the examinations.
Physics Paper 2		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally assessedAvailability:First assessment: June 2019		<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Paper code 4PH1/2P and 4SD0/2P38.9% of the total International GCSE
<p>Content Summary</p> <p>Questions may come from any topic area across the specification.</p> <div><div>1. Forces and motion</div><div>5. Solids, liquids and gases</div><div>2. Electricity</div><div>6. Magnetism and electromagnetism</div><div>3. Waves</div><div>7. Radioactivity and particles</div><div>4. Energy Resources</div><div>5.and energy transfers</div><div>Astrophysics</div></div>		<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The paper is assessed through a 1-hour and 15 written examination paper set and marked by Pearson.The total number of marks is 70.A mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.A calculator may be used in the examinations.

Career prospects

After the completion of IGCSEs, students can progress to a range of different, relevant academic or vocational higher education qualifications in physics, physics related studies, Aviation, Engineering, Architecture and Medicine.

Psychology

GCSE Edexcel – 1PS0

Course outline

The GCSE course in Psychology introduces students to psychological concepts and methodologies in the context of real-life issues, focusing on key questions, the work of renowned psychologists and the research students can undertake themselves.

Course Outline

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Use specialist vocabulary, psychological concepts, terminology and convention to engage in the process of psychological enquiry
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- Understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- Present information, develop arguments and draw conclusions through a critical approach to psychological evidence, developing as reflective thinkers
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- Develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society.

Course Details

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of key features of the following core areas of psychology through the study of the compulsory and optional topics in this specification, including research methods:

- Biological – an understanding of biological concepts in psychology, including neuroscience and genetics as contributors to behaviour
- Cognitive – an understanding of thought, information and mental processing as contributors to behaviour
- Social – an understanding of the social area of psychology, the impact of social and environmental factors on behaviour and the influence of groups
- Developmental – an understanding of how individuals change throughout their lives, with a particular focus on childhood and how both nature and nurture can affect individuals
- Individual differences – an understanding of the complex nature of human behaviour and experiences and why and how people are different.

Assessment Criteria

Paper 1	
• Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes	*Paper code 1PS0/01 55% of the qualification 98 marks
Paper 2:	
• Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes	*Paper code 1PS0/02 45% of the qualification 79 marks

Career prospects

- GCEs, for example in psychology, biology and geography
- Level 3 vocational qualifications, for example the BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care, Applied Science and Children’s Care, Learning and Development
- Employment in a wide range of careers (with further training), for example product management and general management, or a science-based apprenticeship.

Spanish

International GCSE Edexcel – 4SP1

Course outline

Over the two year I/GCSE course, students will study five key topic areas for approximately one term per topic:

- A: Home and abroad.
- B: Education and employment.
- C: Personal life and relationships.
- D: The world around us.
- E: Social activities, fitness and health.

Course details

Lessons will develop the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Students will be supported and encouraged to use the language for genuine communication and as creatively as possible.



Assessment criteria

All assessments will take place at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Reading & Writing	Paper 3: Speaking
Topics: Covers all 5 key topic areas.	Topics: Covers all 5 key topic areas.	Topics: 3 of the 5 key topic areas covered.
Assessment Information: • 30 min exam, plus 5 min reading time. minutes.	Assessment Information: • Written examination of 1hr 45	Assessment Information: • Recorded discussion and conversation with class teacher lasting a maximum 10 minutes. • Marked by Edexcel
25% of total I/GCSE	50% of total I/GCSE	25% of total I/GCSE

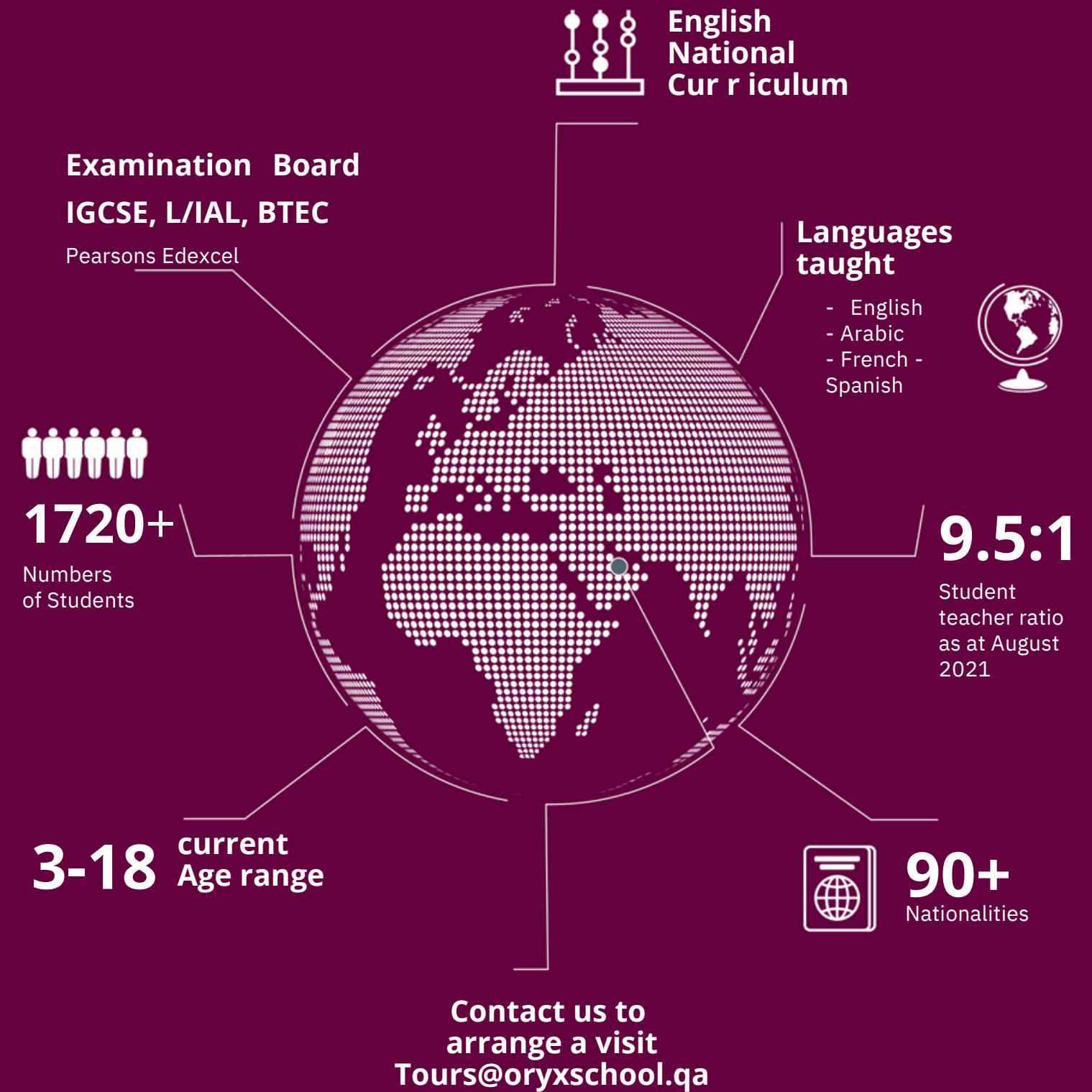
Career prospects

Students who achieve a Grade 5 or above will have the opportunity to continue their chosen language to AS Level. Language graduates have a vast array of career opportunities open to them in all fields, thanks to the wide range of skills developed through learning a foreign language. There are exciting opportunities often involving travel abroad in almost every sector.

Spanish is the world’s second most popular language after Mandarin, with over four-hundred million speakers worldwide. It is an official language of the UN and knowledge of the language is therefore also very valuable in the global labour market.



Our school at a glance



British education for
children aged 3-18 years
www.oryxschool.qa