

## IGCSE OPTIONS GUIDE 2023-2024

## Our Vision

We aim to inspire lifelong learners and caring global citizens, in a community where everyone feels encouraged, supported and challenged

## Our Mission

We provide a high quality British style international education in English, balancing tradition and innovation. We aim to be the internationally recognised, outstanding educational choice for families in the region. Our passion is creating a positive, safe and nurturing learning environment in which everyone is valued as individuals, empowering them to be versatile, motivated and caring people.
We will endeavour to create opportunities to develop creativity, collaboration and critical thinking skills through an inclusive and personalised experience

## Our Values

## EXCELLENCE

We are ambitious, developing resilience, independence and a life long love of learning
RESPECT
We celebrate diversity, encouraging a respect for the people and the world around us. RESPONSIBILITY
We are engaged, promoting actions and behaviours that support a sustainable future NTEGRITY
We are transparent, honest and ethical in all our relationships.
COMPASSION
We are kind and caring, encouraging everyone to succeed.

## Welcome to

## Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

The Key Stage 4 curriculum at the British
International School of Ljubljana offers breadth and balance, with courses leading to IGCSE certification from Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE).

All students study a core curriculum, which includes compulsory external examination courses as well as non-examination subjects, and are given a selection of optional examination courses in a variety of
subjects to choose from

These optional subjects are selected by students close consultation with parents and teachers. Students are encouraged to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum, bearing in mind their pathway after the completion of their IGCSE examinations.

Our students also take part in cross-school activities, which give them the opportunities to challenge their skills beyond the curriculum, such as participation in the International Award for Young People - known in the Slovenia as MEPI and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the UK.

## An overview of <br> Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE)

## At BISL, we work with Cambridge Assessment International

Education (CAIE), the world's largest provider of international
education programmes and qualifications. CAIE examinations are sat by students at schools in over 160 countries around the world. Five elements lie at the heart of a Cambridge education:

## . INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM

CAIE offer a wide range of subjects and give schools flexibility in how to offer them. They support schools in developing a curriculum that suits their context, culture and ethos, and that we can tailor to our students particular needs.

## 3. ASSESSMENT

CAIE design their assessments to be fair, valid, reliable and practicable. They assess what they know to be of value: deep subject knowledge, conceptual understanding, and higher level thinking skills.

## 2. TEACHING AND LEARNING

CAIE provide professional development for teachers, to help them improve their performance and practic throughout their careers, encouraging teaching practices that develop the ability of students to reflect on their learning.

## 4. INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

CAIE qualifications are widely recognised by universities and employers. You can be confident that you qualifications will be understood and valued throughout their education and career, across the globe.

## 5. GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Cambridge schools belong to a worldwide education community - professional learning communities which connect teachers around the world so that they can share views, information and resources, and learn from one another.

## Discover your potential <br> Choosing the right courses for you

Key Stage 4 is an important stage in your education. During these two years, you 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 you may choose to study when you start Year 10

## Core Subjects (with examinations) - compulsory

- English Language \& Literature
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics


## Complementary Subjects (no examinations)

- Physical Education (PE) - compulsory
- Personal, Social \& Health Education (PSHE) - compulsory


## Optional Subjects (with examinations)

- Art \& Design
- Computer Science
- Economics
- French
- Music

Students are also able to submit a special request for optional examinations which are not yet listed above based on individual interest. Examples might include: Drama, German, Physical Education.

## The school will look into offering these, but no guarantees can be made.

Please note that whilst we endeavour to accommodate all individual subject preferences, you may find that once the final subject timetable s published, you are unable to select the exact combination of subjects you originally listed.

## Need Advice?

If you are unsure of which subjects to choose, please speak to your subject teachers, form tutor and our head of Secondary School.
We also encourage you to browse through the Curriculum Plans on our school website for details of what is covered in each subject at IGCSE level

We do our best to ensure that the desires of the entire cohort are met, formulating a timetable that works for all students, making all subjects viable for the students who choose them

Whatever your final decision, you will need to consider: what subjects you enjoy, what you are good at, career implications and which university courses you wish to access.

## Attendance

At BISL, our expectation is that attendance will not fall below 95\% in order for you to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to you

For any requests regarding holidays during term time, parents should refer to the school's Attendance Policy on the school website.

## Examinations

The majority of our examinations are sat in May/ June. We provide a carefully controlled environment in which the students can concentrate on their examination and show the examiners what they know. A personalised exam timetable is created for each candidate and a "master schedule" is posted in schoo Exams start and end at different times. This is because when students sit CAIE examinations, they must be under supervised conditions at 09:00 GMT for morning exams) or 13:00 GMT (for afternoon exams). The differing lengths of the papers mean that

## Study Leave

Most Year 11 students have exams over a period of four to five weeks

## International Award

## Engaging our students beyond the curriculum, we

 also offer the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award for Young People (known as MEPI in Slovenia).
## DID YOU KNOW?

An attendance level of $90 \%$ means you are missing 1 day of learning every two weeks.

Requests for absence during term time should only be made if absolutely necessary and are not automatically authorised. Permission should be sought in writing from the Principal using the Leave of Absence Request form.
the start and end times have to vary. More than one examination may take place at a time, either in one room or in separate rooms, as appropriate.
We have no flexibility on exam dates and times; all students in Europe sit the same exams at the same time. If an exam is missed for any reason, the paper cannot be sat at an alternative time and the studen may not gain certification in that subject as a result.

## We expect that you continue to observe the normal

 dress code/uniform during your examinations.A modified school timetable will operate during this period to ensure that you use the time in school to continue to revise for your remaining papers.

Further information is available from our MEP coordinator, Mr Simon Irving.

Core subjects
English Language (0475) \& English Literature (0500)

Why study English Language \& Literature?

IGCSE First Language English offers you the opportunity to respond with understanding to a rich array of reading exts during the course as a whole. You will also use your nowledge of these texts to inform and inspire your own writing, and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

## Course outline

GCSE English comprises both English Language and English Literature.

For the IGCSE English Language you will cover the essential components of linguistic analysis and original writing. You will prepare for two papers: the Reading paper; and the Directed Writing and Composition paper.
The first of these will ask you to respond to texts in a range of formats and to develop comprehension, inference, deduction and analytical skills. The second paper will ask you to write in a range of formats, both fiction and non fiction.


Core subjects
Mathematics (0580)


Why study Mathematics?
This course develops students' mathematical knowledge and serves as a strong basis for further study. As part of the course, students develop their skills, their understanding of mathematical concepts and methods, and solve problems and interpret results.
he course also aims to enable you to recognise when and how a situation may be represented mathematically, identify and interpret relevant factors, select an
appropriate mathematical method to solve the problem and evaluate the method used, as well as use mathematics

## Course outline

The course is tiered to enable effective differentiation for students. The Core content is intended for students targeting grades G-C, and the Extend G-A*

The subject content is organised by topic: number, algebra
shape and space, and probability and statistics. The content is not presented in a teaching order.
a a means of communication with emphasis on the use $f$ clear expression and structured argument. It allows you o appreciate the interdependence of different areas of mathematics and other disciplines.
A good grade at IGCSE, grade B or above, will allow you to enter the study of A Level Mathematics and will show you suitability for the course.
A passing grade for IGCSE Mathematics is a common requirement for entry into higher education/university.

This structure and the use of tiering allows flexibility for teachers to plan delivery appropriately for their students. You should be able to both use techniques listed in the content and apply them to solve problems.

## Core subjects

Biology (0610)

## Why study Biology?

Cambridge IGCSE Biology will help you to understand the technological world in which you live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific development. It will enable you to recognise the usefulness and limitations of the scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life.

## Course outline

This is a linear qualification with three assessments that will be taken in the same series at the end of the two year course of study. The assessments consist of multiple choice, theory and alternative to practical test.

## Key concepts covered

- Characteristics and classification of living organisms
- Organisation of the organism
- Movement in and out of cells
- Biological molecules
- Enzymes
- Plant nutrition
- Human nutrition

You will develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, enquiry, integrity, initiative and inventiveness. You will gain a better understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life.

The assessments are designed to be accessible to students of all abilities. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas studied.


Core subjects
Chemistry (0620)


Why study Chemistry?
Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry will help you to understand the technological world in which you live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific development. It will enable you to recognise the usefulness and limitations of the scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life.

## Course outline

This is a linear qualification with three assessments that will be taken in the same series at the end of the two year course of study. The assessments consist of multiple choice, theory and alternative to practical test.

## Key concepts covered

- The particulate nature of matter
- Experimental techniques
- Atoms, elements and compound
- Stoichiometry
- Electricity and chemistry
- Chemical energetics
- Chemical reactions
- Acids, bases and salts - The Periodic Table
- Metals

You will develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, enquiry, integrity, initiative and entiveness. You will gain a better understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life.

The assessments are designed to be accessible to student fall abilities. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas studied.

- Air and water
- Sulfur
- Carbonates
- Organic chemistry

Core subjects
Physics (0625)

## Why study Physics?

Cambridge IGCSE Physics will help you to understand the technological world in which you live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific development. It will enable you to recognise the usefulness and limitations of the scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life.

## Course outline

This is a linear qualification with three assessments that will be taken in the same series at the end of the two year course of study. The assessments consist of multiple choice, theory and alternative to practical test.

## Key concepts covered

- General physics
- Thermal physic
- Properties of waves, including light and sound
- Electricity and magnetism
ou will develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, enquiry, integrity, initiative and inventiveness. You will gain a better understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life.

The assessments are designed to be accessible to student of all abilities. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas studied.

- Atomic physics


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Core non-examination subject

## Physical Education



## Why study Physical Education?

At BISL, we value the importance of PE in the healthy development of all our students, therefore PE is a mandatory, non-examination subject across the whole school. The benefits of PE include:

- PE and sports improve concentration and focus and have a positive impact on academic life across all subjects.
- Regular physical activity helps you understand the importance of health and wellbeing and is vital in the prevention of child obesity.
- It improves self-discipline.
- Playing different team sports and completing group challenges helps to improve your teamwork and leadership skills.


## Course outline

PE lessons include elements of the IGCSE PE curriculum, making it a rigorous, balanced and demanding course. It is also designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity.
You will develop your knowledge of a variety of sports, including

- Volleyball
- Floorball
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Ultimate frisbee
Various invasion games
- Soccer
- Handball

Although this is a non-examination subject, you will be assessed internally throughout the course.


Optional subjects
Art \& Design (0400)


Why study Art \& Design?
Throughout the Art and Design course you will be encouraged to foster a sensitivity to and develop your understanding of the subject. You will build on practical skills, knowledge and confidence in each area and develop your enjoyment of Art and Design through an active, practical involvement in the creative elements of each discipline.
Art and Design is an essential element in a balanced education, allowing personal expression, personal development, creativity and practical involvement in the subject. You wir gain condence and a real appreciation of each other's talent. Art and Design is one of the few

## Course outline

Component 1: Coursework ( $50 \%$ of final grade)
A sustained project developed in response to a subject/ theme, evidencing the journey from initial engagement with an idea(s) to the realisation of intentions. This will give you the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, your ability to draw together differen areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across your course of study.
areas where students take part in the creation of their wn personal items. This adds even more to the aesthetic value of the subject, giving you a healthy channel for your creative talents.
The subject also provides a unique platform to discuss many different cultures, socioeconomic levels and current events. Through Art, you have a place to ask questions and be more informed about the realities of different people and places beyond your own family or community. With this broader awareness, different perspectives can be gained with a greater ability to foster empathy and understanding.

Component 2: External Set Assignment (50\% of final grade) The externally set assignment will provide five different project titles. You must select and respond to one title. A preparation period is followed by 8 hours of supervised unaided work in which you are required to realise your intentions in a final project outcome. You must not add to or edit your supporting studies once the test begins.

## Optional subjects

## Computer Science (0478)

## Why choose Computer Science?

Computer Science students study the principles and practices of computing and gain confidence in computational thinking and programming. You'll learn o program by writing computer code and develop your understanding of the main principles of problem-solving using computers.
You'll apply your understanding to develop computerbased solutions to problems using algorithms and a highevel programming language. You also develop a range of echnical skills, as well as the ability to test effectively and to evaluate computing solutions.

## Course outline

All candidates take two components. Candidates will be eligible for grades $\mathrm{A}^{*}$ to G .
Paper 1: Theory
Paper 2: Problem-solving and Programming
1 hour 45 minutes ( $40 \%$ of final grade) Short-answer and structured questions

1 hour 45 minutes ( $60 \%$ of final grade)
Short-answer and structured questions

This qualification helps you to appreciate current and emerging computing technologies and the benefits of thei use. You will also learn to recognise the ethical issues and potential risks when using computers.
Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science is an ideal foundation or further study in Computer Science. Understanding the principles of Computer Science provides you with the underpinning knowledge required for many other subjects science and engineering, and the skills learnt can also used in everyday life, and in the next steps of your education or employment.


Optional subjects
Economics (0455)


## Why choose Economics?

Economics is the study of how society can manage all aspects of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.
GCSE Economics will develop your understanding of how the world works from local businesses to global corporations. You'll learn about the impact global markets have on us as a society and what the consequences of their behaviours are.
Studying Economics allows you to explore this fascinating and practical subject in greater depth and build foundational knowledge. Each module will develop your critical thinking and analytical skills so economists will levelop many transferable skills that they can take into $A$解 Level and beyond.

## Course outline

The aims of the course are to enable students to:

- know and understand economic terminology, concepts and theories
- use basic economic numeracy and interpret economic data
- use the tools of economic analysis
- express economic ideas logically and clearly in a written form
- apply economic understanding to current economic issues.

Some of the specific skills you develop include:

- communication - presenting ideas in a well-defined framework, supported by evidence that uses complex data
- numeracy - handling complex data and techniques of mathematical and statistical analysis
- problem-solving
- analytical skills

There are careers that use specific knowledge of Economics, for example banks, insurance, accountancy frms, businesses and in government. More broadly,
 require numerical, analytical and problem solving skills for example in business planning, marketing, research and management.
his will be achieved by covering the following main components:

1. The basic economic problem
2. The allocation of resources
3. Microeconomic decision makers
4. Government and the macroeconomy
5. Economic development
6. International trade and globalisation

## Optional subjects

French (0520)

## Why choose French?

speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities. Language skills are in high demand in an extremely competitive job market and an international career can be extremely rewarding. Research has shown that studying a language will also provide you with nvaluable communications skills as well as improving your decisiveness, problem-solving ability and negotiation skills. Cambridge IGCSE French develops a set of transferable skills for understanding and communicating in everyday situations in French. You'll begin to develop cultural wareness of countries and communities where French is spoken. You acquire the essential linguistic skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

## Course outline

## Paper 1 - Listening ( $25 \%$ of final grade)

Students listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions.

Paper 2 - Reading (25\% of final grade)
Students read a number of texts and answer multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions.

The course encourages you to be:

- confident, using new and familiar structures and vocabulary to communicate with others in everyday situations
- responsible, seeking opportunities to use and develop your language skills
- reflective, considering how to communicate differen ideas and attitudes
- innovative, applying language to a variety of situations
- engaged, developing learning strategies which help you to express your ideas and understanding of other cultures.


## Paper 3 - Speaking (25\% of final grade)

Students complete one role play and conversations on two topics.

Paper 4 - Writing (25\% of final grade)
Students complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email, letter, article or blog.


## Optional subjects

Geography (0460)


## Why choose Geography?

Geography is a wide ranging and challenging subject that osters and develops an understanding and appreciation for the complexities of the modern world and the challenges we all face

Geographers are also equipped with many transferable skills that are appreciated and valued by others subjects and employers as well. Not only will you learn about the physical world and our precarious relationship with it, you

## Course outline

he course is also divided into three academic themes:
Theme 1: Population and settlement Theme 2: The natural environment Theme 3: Economic development
IGCSE geography is also divided into 3 components for assessment:

## Paper 1: Geographical Theme

1 hour 45 minutes ( $45 \%$ of final grade)
Students answer one question from each of the three sections (Human, Physical and Economic/Environmental geography)
This paper explores the major geographical themes of the GCSE and is often referred to as the "knowledge" paper.
will also learn how to think critically and independently and further improve your ability to judge and analyse geographical data and processes.

Above all though, geography helps make you become a more open-minded and responsible global citizen that s ready to take on the challenges of the 21st century, something that is highly valued in our increasingly connected and rapidly changing world.

## Optional subjects

## History (0470)

## Why choose History?

The study of History is crucial in understanding a rapidly changing and ever-complex world. Globalisation, the increasing rejection of expert advice, the rise of mass media and the re-emergence of the far right as a significant orce in politics make it imperative for you to develop your own critical thinking skills.
History's focus on well-structured discussions and debates
ensures that you not only achieve a good grade, but also engage with the world around you, asking poignant questions and learning the lessons of the past.

## Course outline

Students of IGCSE History focus primarily on the political history of Britain, Europe and the World in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, building on the skills, knowledge and understanding they have developed in Key Stage 3. The ability to interpret information, to reason, draw conclusions and make historical judgments, make inferences, analyse and evaluate sources are all integral skills that feature throughout the course.

The ability to analyse and interpret information and o construct a balanced argument is valued in any professional discipline. History is particularly of use those with an interest in Law, Diplomacy, Politics, Journalism, Publishing and Management, but is worth studying in its own right whatever your future holds.

All students complete 3 assessments: either 2 written examination papers and 1 piece of coursework; or 2 written examination papers and an additional written examination paper.


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## Optional subjects

Music (8271 AQA)


## Why choose Music?

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. AQA have designed a relevant and contemporary GCSE qualification that offers students the chance to study a wide range musical genres, with more opportunities for practica earning. Music GCSE brings theory, listening and composition to life in new and engaging ways, and links to the world around us like never before.

## Course outline

## Component 1 - Understanding Music

The areas of study provide an appropriate focus for
tudents to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language.
There are four areas of study:

- Western classical tradition 1650-1910
- Popular music
- Traditional music
- Western classical tradition since 1910

Understanding music is assessed through an externally marked exam in two sections lasting one hour and thirty minutes. It is marked out of a total of 96 marks and constitutes $40 \%$ of the total marks for the qualification.

## Component 3 - Composing Music

Students must learn how to develop musical ideas, including extending and manipulating musicalideas, and compose music that is musically convincing through two compositions. One must be in response to an externally set brief Composition 1) and the other a free composition (Composition 2). The combined duration of the compositions must be a minimum of three minutes.

Compositions can be composed in any style or genre to best reflect the skills, strengths and interests of the individua students.
his component is $30 \%$ of the total GCSE marks and will be internally marked by teachers, externally moderated by AQA.

We know that every student has different learning styles and musical tastes, which is why this GCSE values all music styles, skills and instruments. We aim to broaden students minds and foster a love of all music with a qualification that students of all abilities and backgrounds will enjoy.
The specification supports progression to further and higher education in music and related subjects, and rovides all students with a platform to inspire a lifelons interest and enjoyment of music.

## Component 2 - Performing Music

Students must be able to perform live music using one or both of the following ways: instrumental (including DJ)/ ocal or production via technology.
One performance must be as a soloist and one piece must be as part of an ensemble lasting a combined minimum of four minutes. The performance as part of an ensemble must last for a minimum of one minute
Repertoire will be determined by the student and teacher. need not reference an area of study and can be in any chosen style or genre.
erformance is internally marked by teachers and externally moderated by AQA, marked out of 72 and constitutes $30 \%$ of the total marks for the qualification.

Optional subjects

## Slovene

Why choose Slovene as a Foreign Language?

Speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities. Over the two-year course, you will study various topics depending on your level of knowledge, including: me and my family, food, my city, my home, healthy lifestyle and others.

Why choose First Language Slovene?
You will study both Slovene Language and Literature which allows for a wide choice of set texts. You will also use your knowledge of these texts to inform and inspire your own writing, and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

## Course outline

## Slovene as a Foreign Language

Paper 1: Reading comprehension ( $80 \%$ of final grade) Oral exam: ( $20 \%$ of final grade)

Please note: Students do not sit an external IGCSE examination. Instead, the course culminated in an internal examination based on IGCSE standards that is prepared by our Modern Foreign Languages department and you'll receive a completion certificate issued by the school.

Topics include the development of Slovene literature in comparison with European literature, accompanied by a historical background, as well as the formal use of the Slovene language in various context.

First Language Slovene
Paper 1: Essay ( $80 \%$ of final grade)
Oral exam ( $20 \%$ of final grade)


## 14. British International School of Ljubljana <br> an Orbital Education School

IGCSE Subject Preference Form
SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE HEAD OF SECONDARY
BY THE END OF BLOCK 4

Student's Full Name:

List all the following currently offered IGCSE subjects in the order of preference using the table below:

- Art \& Design
- French
- Music
- Computer Scienc
- Geography
Slovene

Compulsory Subject $\quad$ English Language and Literatur
Compulsory Subject Mathematics

Compulsory Subject Biology
Compulsory Subject Chemistry
Compulsory Subject Physics

Compulsory Subject PE (non-examination)
Preference 1
Preference 2
Preference 3
Preference 4
Preference 5
Preference 6
Preference 7
Any other IGCSE examinations not listed above to submit for special request: (these are not guaranteed)

Any additional comments:
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