



**AL BASMA
BRITISH SCHOOL**

**Key Stage 4
Options Booklet
2025 - 2026**

RATED VERY GOOD BY ADEK AND BSO CERTIFIED



MISSION AND EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

At **Al Basma British School**, we provide a dynamic, creative, and academically challenging education, preparing students for life in the 21st century. We nurture each student's unique talents in an environment of care and respect, promoting resilience, confidence, and self-management skills.

Our school is a safe and supportive space where students can thrive, make progress, and achieve high standards. We encourage full participation in school life and a positive contribution to the community, guiding students to become motivated, successful, and well-adjusted adults.

In a culture of collaboration and respect for diversity, we inspire students to think critically, create, and be self-directed learners, always displaying positive attitudes and behaviours.

OUR VISION

Rooted in Tradition, Growing Towards the Future. **Al Basma British School** proudly traces its origins back to 1980 as Giggles English School, a testament to its enduring commitment to education in Abu Dhabi. Relaunches in 2014, Al Basma continues the tradition of providing a high-quality British education, now in a modern, purpose-built campus that has expanded over the years. Phase 1 of the campus was built 9 years ago, and Phase 2, which houses the primary school, was completed just 5 years ago. This blend of rich history and contemporary facilities positions Al Basma as a unique institution where students benefit from a legacy of excellence while thriving in a 21st-century.

OUR GOALS

- To provide inspirational learning opportunities for all.
- To instill academic rigour and success.
- To develop well-rounded bilingual students.
- To ensure effective links with parents and home learning.
- To use innovative technology effectively.
- To embrace UAE identity and values.
- To provide a world-class yet affordable British education to families in the local and international communities of Abu Dhabi.



Mr Sean Doherty

Vice Principal (Secondary)

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WELCOME!

FROM OUR VICE PRINCIPAL

I/GCSEs mark a significant milestone in an Al Basma student's educational journey, and we are committed to supporting and guiding them every step of the way.

Throughout Years 7 to 9, students follow a broad and balanced curriculum, providing them with a strong foundation in the English National Curriculum and UAE-

Ministry of Education subjects. The I/GCSE Options process is their first opportunity to make subject choices that reflect their passions, strengths, and aspirations for the future.

I/GCSEs require a two-year course of study, meaning that students will begin their subjects in August 2026 and sit their IGCSE examinations in the summer of 2028. At Al Basma, we understand that every student has unique strengths, interests, and goals. While there are core compulsory subjects, students have the flexibility to choose subjects that align with their ambitions and future pathways.

In Key Stage 4 all GCSE option subjects will be in mixed classes.

We also recognise that selecting I/GCSE Options can be both an exciting and daunting process. To ensure students and parents feel well-informed and supported, we have a structured timeline of events and guidance sessions. This will help students make well-considered choices, setting them up for success in their academic journey and beyond.

We look forward to working closely with students and parents throughout this process to ensure informed and confident decision-making.

Best of luck students!

Mr Sean Doherty
Vice Principal Secondary
Al Basma British School



A message from our Head of Key Stage



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Here at Al Basma British School, we understand that learning between the ages of 14 and 19 is significant in preparing young people for future life. At Key Stage 4 (Year 10 & 11) we offer a range of courses which prepare you for higher and further education, training or employment. We encourage and advise you to choose a balanced range of subjects that will equip you to make sure you are able, in the future, to follow your chosen career path. A personalised offer of IGCSEs and GCSEs will lead to you being entered for a minimum of 5 qualifications and a maximum of 9.

This booklet will give you the information that you need to help you to make the right choices. It is very important that you enjoy the options you have chosen as you have to study them for three hours a week, alongside compulsory subjects. It is worth noting that some future career choices (such as engineering, medicine and law) require specific subjects to be selected at GCSE level.

As pupils progress up the school, so does the volume of homework and academic expectations. We have a strong pastoral team dedicated to ensuring your child feels supported in their studies and inspired to reach their fullest potential.



9-1 GCSE

GCSE'S are a two year programme that assess student attainment through numerous exams at the end of Year 11. GCSE results often impact future aspirations and further study. This handbook will provide you and your child with the tools to make an informed decisions about which subjects to choose, and the skills and knowledge required for each subject.

The grading system at GCSE level works differently than that in Key Stage 3. All GCSE qualifications are no longer graded from **A* - G**, but instead **1 -9**.

| GCSE Grading Scale | Progress Bands |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 9 | Exceptional |
| 8 | |
| 7 | Very Good |
| 6 | |
| 5 | |
| 4 | Good |
| 3 | |
| 2 | Below average |
| U | |

The **Thanaweya** is the UAE high school equivalency certificate.

Any student who has studied in the UAE for their final Secondary School year (Year 13) must have the Shahadat Al Thanaweya Al Amma if they intend to:

- Study in another Arabic Country (e.g. Jordan, Lebanon or Egypt) after the age of 18.
- Work in the UAE at any point after the age of 18.

In order to receive the equivalency certificate from the Ministry of Education a student following the British curriculum in the current Y11, 12 and 13 classes must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Pass the **MOE** compulsory course exams in **Year 13**.

- Arabic for Arabs
- Islamic for Muslim Arabs and Muslim non-Arabs

2. Achieve Grade 3 to 9 in at least 5 **IGCSE** or **GCSE** accepted subjects (not including Arabic, Islamic Studies, PE, Music, Drama or any BTEC courses). You must study at least **one English GCSE, one Science GCSE and the Maths GCSE**.

3. Achieve **A* to D** Grades in 2 IAS or AS Levels or 1 IA or A Level in accepted subjects or a Level 3, 120 Credit, BTEC in an accepted GCSE.

ADEK has not yet published the graduation requirements for current Y9 students. So we have shared the Graduation requirements currently in place. As soon as we have an official update from ADEK we will inform you.

Please Note:

1. All students must complete Year 13 in order to graduate high school.

All students must study the **MOE curriculum in Y10 and 11**

MOE Compulsory Subjects

Year 10:

Arabic A for Arabs or Arabic B for non-Arabs

Islamic Studies A for Arab Muslims or Islamic Studies B for Non-Arab Muslims

UAE Studies A for Arabs or UAE Studies B for Non Arabs

Year 11:

Arabic A for Arabs or Arabic B for Non Arabs

Islamic Studies A for Arab Muslims or Islamic Studies B for non-Arab Muslims

Please Note:

Non-Muslims will have additional Arabic lessons when Muslims have Islamic in Year 10 & 11.

GCSE's or OLevels in MOE subjects can be taken in Year 12 or 13.

Who makes the decision?

You make the selection of subjects, but you do this with the help and guidance of your **teachers** and **agreement of your parents**.

Key questions to consider:

How do I decide whether to select a certain subject or not?

Important questions to consider when choosing a subject:

- Will it help to give you a balanced timetable, with a realistic amounts of work to complete each week?
- will it be a useful addition to the other subjects you have definitely decided to take?
- Are you interested enough to study it for two years in school and outside school?
- Do you enjoy the subject?
- Have you done well in this subject in the past? (Look back at your Grade Cards)
- If you do not include this subject, are you limiting the range of A Level and university courses/jobs/professions which will be open to you in the future?
- Unifrog is a powerful platform to explore future options, prepare for university, and make informed decisions. What subjects align with my goals?



Unifrog is a **one-stop-shop** where students can easily explore their **interests**, then find and **successfully apply** for their next best step after school.

- Unifrog can help you make decisions now about what you want to study and what career path you choose to take
- It will help select the opportunities that are right for you
- Be smart. Get ahead of the game!



This booklet contains everything that you need to know about the GCSE courses that we offer at *Al Basma British School*.

When you are choosing your subjects, you should read the information in this booklet carefully and keep the following advice in mind:



Consider your current progress in the subjects you would like to study. Choose subjects you enjoy and experienced some success in.

Check which subjects you need to study to progress on to the A level and degree courses you're interested in.

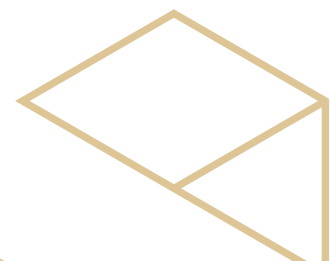
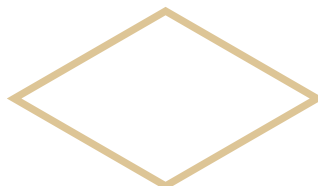


Take responsibility for your decisions. YOU will be the one studying the course and it will need your commitment.

Seek advice and find out as much about the course as possible. Speak to your parents, teachers and students who already take the course.



Be prepared to push yourself harder than you have in years 7, 8 and 9 to open your mind to new and exciting ways of learning.



Compulsory Subjects

English IGCSE
 Mathematics IGCSE
 Science IGCSE
 MOE Arabic
 Islamic Studies (*Muslims Only*)
 UAE Social Studies (*Year 10 Only*)
 Core Physical Education
 Moral Education



English:

A small number of students will follow an **English Second Language course** where they will study a single English IGCSE and will receive one **IGCSE Grade 3 to 9** upon successful completion of the examination at the end of the course.

The majority of students will follow an English course in which they will study **English Language** and **English Literature** over two years. Upon successful completion of the examinations at the end of the two-year course students will receive **2 IGCSE grades 3 to 9**.

The **English Department** will assess all students following the **English Language** and **Literature courses** over the first year of study to determine if students are able to be examined for both **English IGCSEs** in **Year 11** or if they should focus on one course.

Mathematics:

All students take Mathematics. On successful completion of the course in Year 11 they will receive **one IGCSE grade 1 to 9**.

Science:

A small number of students will follow a single science course where they will study **Single Science IGCSE** and will receive **one IGCSE grade 3 to 9** on successful completion of the examination at the end of the two-year course.

The majority of students will follow a course in which they will study Biology and Physics over two years. Upon successful completion of the examinations at the end of the two-year course students will receive 2 IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

In addition, students can choose Biology IGCSE as an option subject and a 3rd Science with their teacher's agreement. Upon successful completion of the examination at the end of the two-year course they will receive 1 IGCSE grade 3 to 9.

Non GCSE Subjects

In addition to the GCSE subjects your child takes they must also, under UAE law, take:

UAE Ministry of Education Subjects



وزارة التربية والتعليم
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

All Muslim Students must attend weekly **Islamic Studies** Lessons

All children must attend **Arabic lessons**; either Arabic for native speakers or Arabic for non natives

All children must attend **Arabic Social Studies**

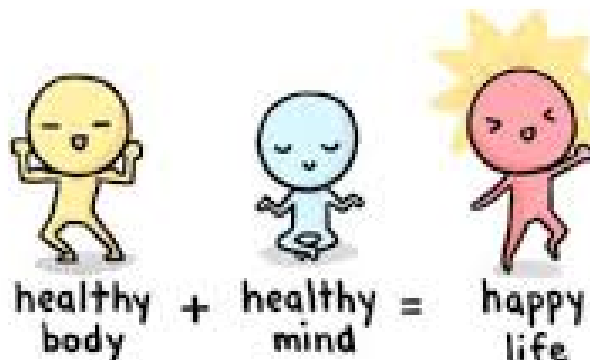
All children must attend weekly **Moral Education** lessons

Core Physical Education:

In order for our children to have a balanced curriculum and to try to ensure their well being both mentally and physically:

All students take **one double lesson of PE** as part of the **compulsory curriculum at KS4**. This is in addition should you **choose PE as a GCSE option**.

Please note GCSE PE does not count towards the Thanaweya as it is not on the Thanaweya accepted subjects list.



OPTION SUBJECTS

ARABIC FIRST LANGUAGE

Why study Arabic First Language?

Arabic is the **5th** most **spoken native language** in the world with well **over 375 million speakers**. The **Arab region** with its rapidly growing population provides a huge market for goods and services offering a variety of job options **including journalism, business, education, finance, education, travel, and intelligence**.

Arabic is available to study beyond IGCSE and at many universities around the world and you can study ALevel Arabic at Al Basma.

What will I study?

You will develop your understanding of explicit and implicit meanings and attitudes when reading a range of **Arabic texts**. You will learn to follow an **argument**, distinguishing between **fact** and **opinion** and **extract, summarise** and present appropriately relevant information from **Arabic text**. You will develop your ability to **communicate in writing** clearly and **imaginatively**, using and adapting forms for different readers and purposes. You will learn to organise your writing into clear and coherent sentences and whole texts using accurate **spelling** and observing the conventions of **punctuation**. You will develop an understanding of **grammatical topics: cases, vocalisation, vocabulary choices** and **syntax**.

How will I be assessed?

There are two parts to the assessment: reading, summaries and grammar; and continuous writing. Paper one accounts for 70% of the overall marks, and paper 2 accounts for the remaining 30%. In paper one you will answer a series of short answer comprehension questions based on an Arabic text in 2 hr 15 min, it has three Arabic texts, text one and two have 8 understanding questions and the questions No 9 is for comparing between the 2 texts. The third text is for summaries and for grammar skills. Paper 2 is for writing in a 90-minute exam choosing to answer 2 questions from a set of 3 and have to write 300 words for each one.

Content overview This paper assesses reading and grammar skills across a selection of topic areas:

- Youth Matters
- Education
- Media
- Culture
- Sports and Leisure
- Travel and Tourism
- Business, Work and Employment
- Environment

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grade in Arabic First Language.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Arabic%20as%20a%20first%20language/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/International-GCSE-Arabic-Spec.pdf>

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Specification A)

Why study English Language?

English is vital for communicating with others in school and in the wider world and is fundamental to learning in **all curriculum subjects**. Employers say that one of the most valuable things they look for in the people who work for them is good communication skills and this means writing, presentation skills as well as verbal ability. In this way, the **English language course** prepares students for more than just their iGCSE examination but also for their **working life**.

What will I study?

You will study **poetry, fiction** and **non-fiction** texts from different **anthologies**, developing the ability to analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve effects and exploring links and connections between writers' **ideas** and **perspectives**. There is a **strong focus** on nonfiction texts in this course, which is very applicable for further study or employment; the focus on nonfiction can be seen in the analysis part of the course but also in the writing, where students are asked to communicate to a variety of different audiences in a particular nonfiction form. You will learn how to use **grammar, spelling, and punctuation accurately**.

How will I be assessed?

All assessments are in the form of an **exam**. **Paper one** focuses on the **anthology texts** and non-fiction writing and accounts for **60%** of the overall marks. You will complete a mix of **short** and **long** answer questions about the non-fiction texts in the anthology and one previously unseen non-fiction text. You will also complete **one piece of nonfiction writing** given an audience, and a form or purpose. An unmarked copy of the anthology will be provided in the exam. **Paper two** consists of a second paper in which they will be assessed on their **creative writing skills** and their ability to comment on a fiction text from **Section B** of their anthology.

Upon successful completion they will be awarded grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[English Language \(Specification A\) \(9-1\)](#)

***Please be aware that you must have studied GCSE English Language in order to study A-Level English Language in Years 12-13. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in GCSE English Language underpins the content covered at A-Level.**



Why study English Literature?

Through the study of literature, students learn to become **enthusiastic** and **critical readers** of **stories, poetry, and drama** as well as **non-fiction texts**, gaining access to the pleasure and world of knowledge that reading offers. Looking at the patterns, structures, origins, and conventions of English helps students understand how language works, and to appreciate and interpret the choices made by a range of different writers.

What will I study?

You will study **poetry** from the **anthology, one modern novel, one modern drama** and **one classic novel** from the list of set texts. Whilst studying all **four genres** you will develop **skills of comparison**, the **ability to generate** an informed personal response and the **skills needed to maintain a critical style**. You will also develop your ability to **analyse** how **language, form, structure**, and **contextual factors** can be used to create meanings and effects in all four genres.

How will I be assessed?

All **literature components** are **assessed** through **written exams**, there are **two written papers** for English literature. It concentrates on the **poetry** and the **modern novel** and accounts for **60%** of the **overall marks**. You will complete **three essay questions**. One **exploring the meaning** and effects created in a previously unseen poem, one about the **modern novel** and **one comparing two poems from the anthology**. An unmarked copy of the anthology will be provided in the exam. **However, there will not be access to the modern novel in the exam**. **Section two** will be assessed by a **90 minute exam** based on a **Shakespearean play** and a **modern drama** text both chosen and delivered by the teacher. The exam is **'open book'** so you will have access to **clean copies** of the two texts you have studied. You will **choose two essay questions**, one from a choice of two on each text.

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[English Language \(Specification A\) \(9-1\)](#)

***Please be aware that you must have studied GCSE English Language in order to study A-Level English Language in Years 12-13. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in GCSE English Language underpins the content covered at A-Level.**



Why study English Second Language?

This subject is suitable for students whose **first language** is **not English**, but who use it as their language of study. Having a firm grasp of English will help you enormously when exploring career options.

What will I study?

You will learn to **read** and **understand** a range of **texts** developing your **speed, fluency**, and **style**. You will develop your understanding of **standard spoken language**, both **spoken** and **broadcast** on both **unfamiliar** and **familiar topics**. You will develop your ability to **write clear**, well-structured non-fiction texts using an appropriate non-fiction form. You will develop your use of **organisational patterns, connectors**, and **cohesive devices** in your writing. You will learn to use **spoken language** to express yourself fluently, spontaneously, and appropriately in a range of familiar speaking contexts.

How will I be assessed?

There are **four components** to the assessment. **Paper 1 is a 1 hour and 15-minute reading examination** which is worth **30%** of the overall marks. What's assessed? - Understanding and responding to different types of written language. **Paper 2 is a 1 hour and 15-minute writing examination** which is worth **30%** of the overall marks. What's assessed? - Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. **Paper 3 is a 45-minute listening examination** which is worth **20%** of the overall marks. What's assessed? - Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. **Paper 4 is a 10-minute speaking examination** which is worth **20%** of the overall marks. What's assessed? - Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grades 3 to 9 and one separately endorsed certificate for speaking graded 1 to 5 (high to low).

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://www.oxfordaqa.com/qualifications/international-gcse-english-as-a-second-language/>

***Please be aware that you will not be able to take A-Level English Language or Literature in Years 12-13 if you have completed the ESL course at GCSE level. It is a mandatory requirement to have studied English Language GCSE to be able to take A-Level English Language and English Literature GCSE to be able to take A-Level English Literature.**



Why study Islamic Studies?

This will enable learners to **develop** an understanding of the importance of the **major beliefs of Islam**, and of the early **history of the Islamic community**.

What will I study?

All students will study the **Qur'an and Hadith**; specified by the **exam board** and the **life, teaching and achievements** of the **Prophet Muhammad**. The key beliefs, **practices** and features of the early Muslim community founded by the Prophet and the key beliefs and practices of **living a Muslim life today**.

How will I be assessed?

There are **three parts** to the assessment: **Section A, B & C** which are common to all candidates. The **questions** are **written** and **answered in English** with a **small amount of translation of Surahs, Ahadis and Ayats required from Arabic to English**. The assessment is **2 hours 30 minutes** long. Students will answer **1 question** in **section A & section B** and **all questions in section C**.

Each question begins with short answer questions, then an explanation question and finally a longer response question related to a given passage from the Quran or Hadith. Students will be expected to use views and opinions to support their answer to the longer response question.

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grade from grades 3 to 9 in Islamic Studies.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[international-gcse-islamic-Studies-Specification.pdf](#)



Why study Mathematics?

Just as **languages** provide the building blocks and rules we need to **communicate**, maths uses its own language made up of **numbers, symbols** and **formulas**, to explore the **rules** we need to **measure** or **identify** essential problems like **distance, speed, time, space, change, force** and **quantities**. Studying **maths** helps us find **patterns** and **structure** in our lives. People with **maths degrees** and other qualifications can go into **accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, civil service, design, construction**, and **astrophysics** to name a few. **Maths is available at A-level and at university in a variety of forms.**

What will I study?

You will engage in **independent, paired** and **group work** covering the areas of maths that you are already familiar with from **KS3: number, algebra, ratio** and **proportion, geometry** and **measure, probability**, and **statistics**. In addition, there are new, more challenging elements of the course for more able students at higher tier which were previously examined at A Level including **simple calculus**.

How will I be assessed?

All students will take **two externally assessed 2-hour exam** papers; The Unit 1 paper will be taken near the end of Y10, and Unit 2 will be taken near the end of Y11. Each unit accounts for **50%** of the overall marks, and you can resit Unit 1 in Y11 if you think you can improve on your Y10 grade.. In both units the **questions increase in difficulty** as you work through the paper. Students can use **calculators in both exams**. There are **two tiers** in which students can be entered, the **Higher Tier** where students can achieve grades 3 to 9 and the **foundation tier** where students can achieve **grades 1 to 5**. *There is the option for higher achievers to take a unit earlier, for example in the January rather than June.*

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Mathematics Modular IGCSE \(Specification A\) \(9-1\)](#)

***Please be aware that you will not be able to take A-Level English Language or Literature in Years 12-13 if you have completed the ESL course at GCSE level. It is a mandatory requirement to have studied English Language GCSE to be able to take A-Level English Language and English Literature GCSE to be able to take A-Level English Literature.**

$$\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cdot \cos x$$

$$\operatorname{tg} \frac{x}{2} = \frac{1 - \cos x}{\sin x} = \frac{\sin x}{1 + \cos x}$$

$$\operatorname{tg} x \cdot \operatorname{cotg} x = 1$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^n (P_2(x_i) - y_i)^2$$



Science at KS4 – Your Choices Explained

Science is a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4 (KS4), meaning that all students must take at least one science course as part of their GCSE studies. To ensure this, every student must select at least one science subject from Option Block 4.

Single Science vs. Separate Sciences

In **Option Block 4**, one of the available choices is *Single Science*, which is a **combined GCSE covering Biology, Chemistry, and Physics**. This option provides a broad understanding of all three sciences but slightly less depth than taking **Biology, Chemistry, or Physics** as **separate subjects**.

- **Single Science** is ideal for students who want a **general science qualification without focusing too heavily on one area**.
- It covers key **concepts** in *Biology, Chemistry, and Physics* but **does not go** into the same level of detail as choosing these subjects individually.
- Single Science does not have an option to continue to A level Science, so it is suitable if you are planning not to choose Science for A levels.
- Students who select Single Science will still receive a GCSE in Science, **but this may not be as specialised as taking separate sciences**.

Choosing Your Science Pathway

Beyond the required selection from **Option Block 4**, students have the flexibility to study additional sciences if they wish. **Biology, Chemistry, and Physics** are also available in **Option Blocks 1, 2, 3, and 4** allowing students to take **multiple sciences if they are interested in a more science-focused pathway**.

Here's how you can structure your science choices:

1. Minimum Requirement:

- You must select at least one science from Option Block 4 (Single Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics).

2. Triple Science Pathway:

- If you are interested in taking all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) in more depth, you can select each from different option blocks.
- For example, you might choose Biology from Block 1, Physics from Block 2, and Chemistry from Block 3.

3. Double Science or Specific Focus:

- You may choose two sciences if you have a particular interest in a combination (e.g., Biology and Chemistry or Physics and Chemistry).

4. Single Science Option:

- If you prefer to take only one science, you must select it from Option Block 4.
- Choosing Single Science will give you a broad foundation but may not provide the depth required for some science-related careers or further study.

WHY CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE SCIENCE?

Studying multiple sciences can be beneficial if you are considering future studies or careers in medicine, engineering, environmental science, psychology, or other STEM-related fields. Many universities and colleges prefer students to have at least two sciences for certain courses.

If you are unsure about which sciences to take, speak with your science teacher or career advisor for guidance on what will best suit your future aspirations.

Why study Physics?

Physicists use the laws they uncover to **develop new materials, machinery**, and **technology** to improve our lives and help us explore the **universe** further, from **computers** to **telescopes** and **spacecraft**. Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve **building things** and developing **new technologies**, including: **engineering (flight, buildings, space) astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology, research** and **nanotechnology**. **Students can opt for A-level Physics and most universities offer it.**

What will I study?

Throughout the course you will develop your ability to work scientifically. In addition, you will develop your knowledge of the topic areas you have already started to study at KS3. You will improve your ability to analyse and present data and apply your knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

The course covers 8 key areas: forces and motion, electricity, waves, energy resources and energy transfer, solids, liquids and gases, magnetism and electromagnetism, radioactivity and particles and astrophysics.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete **two written exams** - one at the end of year 10 and one at the end of year 11; **both papers are one-hour forty minute** and account for **halves** of the overall marks each. Both papers include questions at all grades from 9 to 1, **the level of difficulty rising as you progress through each paper**. Unit 1 includes questions from **topics 1-4** and Unit 2 includes questions from **topics 5-9**. You can resit individual papers.

You will undertake some practical experiments during the course which you will have to describe in the exams. You will also be required to interpret the data resulting from these experiments in the exams. On successful completion of the course you will receive one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/physics-2024-modular.html>

***Please be aware that you will not be able to take A-Level Physics in Years 12-13 if you have not studied Physics GCSE or if you have achieved a grade 5 or lower at GCSE as you will not have the prerequisite knowledge needed to access the A Level course.**



Why study Chemistry?

Chemists conduct *experiments* to study how *elements* work in different conditions, test how they *mix*, and **work** out what they are made up of. The results can be **groundbreaking**, **colourful**, **explosive** or **almost impossible to see**. Chemistry helps you to develop **research**, **problem solving** and **analytical skills**. It helps you to challenge ideas and show how you worked things out through logic and step-by-step reasoning. Chemistry is an **important subject** for careers in **medicine**, **environmental science**, **engineering**, **toxicology**, **developing consumer products**, **metallurgy** (studying how metals behave), **space exploration**, **developing perfumes** and **cosmetics**, **pharmaceuticals**, **energy**, **teaching**, **science writing**, **software development** and **research**.

Chemistry is available at both A-level and in university.

What will I study?

Throughout the course you will develop your ability to work scientifically. In addition, you will develop your knowledge of the topic areas you have already started to study at KS3. You will improve your ability to analyse and present data and apply your knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. The course covers **4 key areas: principles of chemistry, organic chemistry, physical chemistry, and inorganic chemistry.**

How will I be assessed?

You will complete **two written exams** at the end of the course; both papers are **one-hour forty minute** and account for **halves** of the overall marks each. Both papers include questions at all **grades from 9 to 1, the level of difficulty rising as you progress through each paper.** Content is split in two parts with little overlap across both **Units**. You can resit individual papers.

You will undertake some practical experiments during the course which you will have to describe in the exams. You will also be required to interpret the data resulting from these experiments in the exams.

On successful completion of the course you will receive one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcse/international-gcse-chemistry-2017.html>

***Please be aware that you will not be able to take A-Level Chemistry in Years 12-13 if you have not studied Chemistry GCSE or if you have achieved a grade 5 or lower at GCSE as you will not have the prerequisite knowledge needed to access the A Level course.**



Why study Biology?

Biologists are scientists who study the natural world and all the living things in it, from the largest mammals down to our *very own microscopic DNA*. Biologists use this knowledge to do things like try to stop the spread of disease, track down natural resources, improve **public health, animal care and conservation** and work out the true impacts of things like pollution. As with the other sciences, Biology helps you to build up research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills. Biology is a key subject for lots of **STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals**. Career choices such as **nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics** and **research** are all possibilities after studying biology. **Biology is a popular subject at A-level and university.**

What will I study?

Throughout the course you will develop your ability to **work scientifically**. In addition, you will develop your knowledge of the topic areas you have already started to study at KS3. You will improve your ability to analyse and present data and apply your knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. The course covers 5 key areas; the **nature and variety of living organisms, structures and functions in living organisms, reproduction and inheritance, ecology, and the environment, and use of biological resources**.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete **two written exams** - one at the end of year 10 and one at the end of year 11; both papers are **one-hour forty minute** and account for **halves** of the overall marks each. Both papers include questions at all grades from **9 to 1**, the level of difficulty rising as you progress through each paper. **Unit 1** includes questions from topics 1-2 and **Unit 2** includes questions from **topics 3-6**. You can resit individual papers.

You will undertake some practical experiments during the course which you will have to describe in the exams. You will also be required to interpret the data resulting from these experiments in the exams.

On successful completion of the course you will receive one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-science-single-award-2017.html>

***Please be aware that you will not be able to take A-Level Biology in Years 12-13 if you have not studied Biology GCSE or if you have achieved a grade 5 or lower at GCSE as you will not have the prerequisite knowledge needed to access the A Level course.**

Biology [baɪˈɒlədʒi] the science of life

Why study Single Science?

It is a **combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics**. Science is the **systematic study** of the **physical and natural world** through **observation** and **experimentation**. **Biology** is the study of **living organisms** and their **structure, life cycles, adaptations, and environment**. **Chemistry** is the study of the **composition, behaviour and properties of matter**, and of the **elements of the Earth** and its **atmosphere**. **Physics** is the **study of energy, forces, mechanics, waves**, and the **structure of atoms** and the **physical universe**. **Science is an important subject for careers in medicine, engineering, computer science, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, and communications**. **Science is not available at A-level.**

What will I study?

Throughout the course you will develop your ability to work **scientifically**. In addition, you will develop your knowledge of the topic areas you have already started to study at KS3. You will improve your ability to analyse and present data and apply your knowledge in **unfamiliar contexts**. The course covers key areas in **Chemistry (principles of chemistry, organic chemistry, physical chemistry, and inorganic chemistry)**, **Biology (the nature and variety of living organisms, structures and functions in living organisms, reproduction and inheritance, ecology and the environment, and use of biological resources)** and **Physics (forces and motion, electricity, waves, energy resources and energy transfer, solids, liquids and gases, magnetism and electromagnetism, radioactivity and particles, and astrophysics)**.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete three written exams at the end of the course: each **one hour and 10 minutes** long. They are each worth **33.3%** of the total **International GCSE**. Both papers include questions at all *grades from 9 to 1*, the level of difficulty rising as you progress through each paper. **Paper 1** will consist of the **Biology topics**; **Paper 2** will consist of the **Chemistry topics** and **Paper 3** will consist of the **Physics topics**. You will undertake some **practical experiments** during the course which you will have to describe in the exams. You will also be required to **interpret the data** resulting from these **experiments** in the exams.

On successful completion of the course you will receive one IGCSE grade 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-science-single-award-2017.html>

***Please be aware that you will not be able to take A-Level Chemistry or Physics in Years 12-13 if you have studied Science GCSE as you will not have the prerequisite knowledge needed to access the A Level course.**



Sample of Option Blocks

Please note that the options are subject to change.

You may choose *one subject from Block 1, one subject from Block 2, one subject from Block 3 and one from Block 4.*

BLOCK 1

- Biology
- Btec Performing Arts
- Computer Science
- Geography
- Economics
- Art
- French
- ICT

Btec Performing Arts (does not count towards Thanaweya)

BLOCK 2

- Physics
- Business Studies
- Design and Technology
- Btec Music
- Psychology
- ICT
- Geography

Btec Music (does not count towards Thanaweya)

BLOCK 3

- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Business Studies
- GCSE P.E.
- Food Tech
- History
- Design and Tech
- Economics

GCSE PE (does not count towards Thanaweya)

BLOCK 4

- Single Science
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics

**Students who select Single Science will still receive a GCSE in Science, but this may not be as specialised as taking separate sciences.*

Please note:

It is only possible to run an option subject if there is enough demand. It may not be possible to offer every combination of subjects.

It is important that you should continue to participate in as wide a variety of enrichment activities as you can throughout the two years of your IGCSE courses and beyond. Universities and employers always look for students who have a variety of learning experiences. In order to further build on the strength of your future University applications you should engage in any opportunities outside of lessons to take on responsibility, volunteer, take part in competitions or activities and events which broaden your experiences.

Why study Art and Design?

An **education** in **Art and Design** is essential for anyone interested in a career in **product design, architecture, textiles, fashion, jewellery, furniture design, interior design, graphics, photography**, and **publishing**, as well as the **fine arts of painting** and **sculpture**. Art develops **communication skills** and **self-confidence, problem solving skills** and **teamwork**. You will be able to work in any way you wish, once you have learned about materials, processes, and skills. *Art can be studied further at A-level and at a university or art college.*

What will I study?

ABBS offers the **iGCSE Graphic Communication course**, which aims to work within fields such as **advertising, design for print, illustration, multi-media** and **package design**. **However, students are free to work within any genre and theme they prefer. Examples of such portfolios may include students working within the genre of character design, using a theme of the Far Eastern culture. They may choose to create illustrations or an animation to show their final piece of work. Another example would be a student working within the genre of fashion using a theme of flowers. They may choose to create a magazine cover or advertisement to show their final piece of work.** Students will carry out **research** relating to their theme including artists and designers that influence their work. They will then develop ideas stemming from this research, and refine their ideas towards a final piece of work. Students will explore a range of **media, materials**, and **techniques** to identify **strengths** and **weaknesses**, developing their skills and knowledge in this process. **Media** explored may include **painting** and **drawing, graphics media, textile design, photography, 3D studies, printing, Photo editing, traditional** and **non-traditional media**.

How will I be assessed?

Component one is coursework which accounts for **50 percent** of the overall marks and follows the same model as the exam **but the final piece is produced over an undefined time period**. **Component two** consists of a **single term** of **focused studies** period and ends with a **10-hour compulsory exam** conducted in **two sessions** over a period of a week which accounts for the **other half** of the overall marks. For **both components** you will prepare **preparatory research** and **studies** which will be used during the **exam** for component 2. They will be submitted with the final piece/s and will be assessed in relation to how they **evidence, the gathering, recording, research, investigation, exploration**, and **development of ideas**. The final piece/s will be assessed on the extent to which it demonstrates: **The organisation and relationships of visual and/or other forms; the selection and control of materials, media, and processes; and personal vision and presentation**.

Where can I find out more information? Click below for iGCSE:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/Art%20and%20Design/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/art-design-spec-updated.pdf>

***Please be aware that you do not need to have studied GCSE Art to study A-Level Art in Years 12-13, however it is highly recommended that you have prior knowledge and be highly skilled in traditional art skills, in order to be able to access and cover the course content/material.**

Why study Business?

In **Business** you will be **expected** to take an **interest** in **local** and **global business events** and **issues**. **The subject requires quite extensive reading and writing in response to business problems. An ability to handle numerical data is also required.** It is unlikely that you will have studied the subject before, and this is not a requirement as the course assumes that you have no previous knowledge. **A willingness to work hard and to take an interest in current events is obviously an essential requisite of success. Business compliments most other subjects and is a useful field of study for those interested in a career in business, management, finance, banking, accounting, and law.**

A-levels are available in Business and Economics as well at a degree level.

What will I study?

You will have the **opportunity** to learn about how **real businesses** work. You will **study** how **large** and **small businesses operate** and how they are **successful**, how they **adapt to change**, how **essential ICT** is to their success and how it used to support the growth of the businesses. The **five main areas of study** are **production, marketing, finance, human resources**, and **business activity in the changing environment**.

How will I be assessed?

You will have **2 exams of 1 hour 30 minutes** at the end of the course. Both papers will include a **mixture of multiple choice, short answers, data response** and **open-ended questions**. **Calculators may be used in both exams.** Both papers test **knowledge, understanding, applications, selection analysis** and **evaluation of topics** taken from the whole subject content. Paper 1 does this in the context of small businesses (up to 49 employers) and paper 2 in the context of large businesses (more than 250 employers). **On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grades 3 to 9 for Year 11.**

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Business \(9-1\) - SPECIFICATION](#)

***Please be aware that you do not need to have studied Business iGCSE to study Business in Years 12-13, however it is recommended to have prior knowledge to be able to access the course content/material.**



Why study Computer Science?

Computer science is the study of the **foundational principles** and **practices of computational thinking** and its application in the design and development of **computer systems**. It is an **exciting, growing, and challenging field** that has an **impact** in most **aspects** of everyday life.

Available at A-level and university, career opportunities include analysts, administrators, technicians, and programmers.

What will I study?

The course is **split** into **two sections**: The **theory of computer science** and **practical problem solving** and **programming**. Through both sections you will develop your understanding of the main principles of **problem-solving using computers**. You will learn to apply your understanding to develop **computer-based solutions** to problems using **algorithms** and a **high-level programming language**. You will develop a range of **technical skills**, as well as the **ability to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions** based on tasks set against the pre-release materials. You will gain an appreciation of current and emerging computing technologies and the benefits of their use and learn to recognise the **ethical issues** and **potential risks** that can be faced when using **computers**.

How will I be assessed?

You will take **two exams** at the end of the course. **Paper two** focuses on **assessing your knowledge of the theory of computer science** through **short answers** and **structured questions**. This paper is **2 hours** long and **accounts for 50%** of the overall marks. **Paper one** is **2 hours** long and accounts for **50%** of the overall marks, it will focus on assessing your ability to use **learned techniques** and **skills to solve problems**. It will also include questions on the tasks set in the **pre-released material**.

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grade 1-9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://www.oxfordaqa.com/qualifications/international-gcse-computer-science/>

***Please be aware that you must have studied GCSE Computer Science in order to study A-Level Computer Science in Years 12-13. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in GCSE Computer Science underpins the content covered at A-Level**



Why study DT?

Design and Technology is a **dynamic subject** which is intrinsically linked with **Mathematics** and **Science** which forms the platform for a **wide range** of **Engineering pursuits**. The study of **design** and **technology** seeks to prepare pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, **including historical, social/cultural, environmental, and economic factors**. The **core** knowledge gain also provides a platform and opportunities for students to pursue careers in the **construction field** such as **Architecture, Civil Engineering**, or other types of engineering including **Mechanical Engineering** as this dynamic subject provides some of the fundamental skills that can be expanded into further studies.

What will I study?

The course is **split** into **two sections**: The **theory of computer science** and **practical problem solving** and **programming**. Through both sections you will develop your understanding of the main principles of **problem-solving using computers**. You will learn to apply your understanding to develop **computer-based solutions** to problems using **algorithms** and a **high-level programming language**. You will develop a range of **technical skills**, as well as the **ability to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions** based on tasks set against the pre-release materials. You will gain an appreciation of current and emerging computing technologies and the benefits of their use and learn to recognise the **ethical issues** and **potential risks** that can be faced when using **computers**.

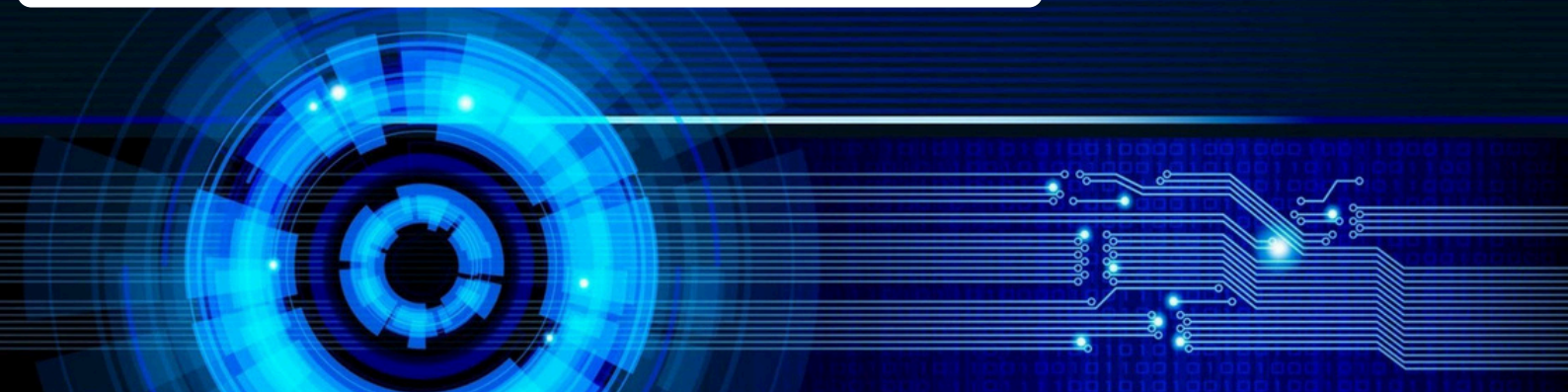
How will I be assessed?

In Design & Technology students will need to solve a given **contextual challenge** with an **individual practical** and **workable outcome** with the aid of **CAD/CAM**. This will be done via **investigations, designing ideas, modelling, and creating prototypes**, testing and evaluating based on their design brief and design specification. Design and Technology also covers a vast range of materials such as **plastics, woods, and metals** including **smart** and **modern materials**. The subject is a mixture of theory and practical using a variety of tools which develop students' foundation skills and knowledge.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/design-and-technology/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-GCSE-L1-L2-in-Design-and-Technology.pdf>

***Please be aware that you will not be able to take A-Level Physics in Years 12-13 if you have not studied Physics GCSE or if you have achieved a grade 5 or lower at GCSE as you will not have the prerequisite knowledge needed to access the A Level course.**



BTEC Performing Arts (Drama)

Please note: Drama is not an ADEK accredited subject and will not count towards your child's final Thanaweya.

Why study BTEC Performing Arts?

Through **practical** and **theoretical** study, students develop an **understanding** and **enjoyment** of **drama**, developing **group** and **individual skills** and studying ways to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience. They learn how to discover the performance possibilities of a text and other stimuli and devise dramatic material of their own. Learners also develop their performance skills, the demonstration of which will form part of the final assessment.

What will I study?

What will I study?

Through practical and theoretical study, the Pearson syllabus encourages students to understand and enjoy drama by:

- Developing your performance skills, both individually and in groups
- Understanding the role of actor, director and designer in creating a piece of theatre
- Considering ways in which ideas and feelings can be communicated to an audience
- Discovering the performance possibilities of plays and other dramatic stimuli
- Devising dramatic material of your own

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed through a combination of **coursework** and **performance work**. Students will complete **four units** reflecting on the **rehearsal process**, how to devise a performance for an audience and **different forms** of **theatre**, including substantial **performance texts**. The texts will be studied to gain a practical understanding of drama. Students will participate in a **minimum** of **four performances**, **three devised** and **one from a performance text** which has been studied as part of the course.

The **Pearson International Level 2 BTEC Qualification in Performing Arts** consists of three coursework components and one externally examined Unit:

Unit 1: Introduction to Performing Arts **(25% of the qualification)**

Unit 2: Performing Arts Production **(25% of the qualification)** - **Pearson Set Assignment**

Unit 3: Performing Existing Repertoire **(25% of the qualification)**

Unit 8: Multimedia Performance **(25% of the qualification)**

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-international-level-2/performing-arts-2022.html>



Why study Economics?

Many, if not most, of the nation's and the world's most significant social problems have an *economic dimension*. Microeconomics provides the tools to analyse the trade-offs that **individuals, firms, and governments** confront because of **limited resources**. It considers the choices that are made, the social context in which they take place and the implications for human welfare. **Economists** apply these tools to study a wide range of **controversial public policy questions, including environmental regulation, government restrictions on domestic and international markets**, the structure of the legal system and the design of **tax policy**. Macroeconomics explores the sources of economic growth and the causes of recessions and inflation. Macroeconomic analysis assesses monetary policy, explains the performance of financial markets, and considers international trade and financial links.

What will I study?

The **Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Economics** qualification enables students to • **develop an understanding of economic concepts and apply these concepts to real-life situations** • **calculate, interpret, and evaluate economic data in order to make reasoned arguments and informed judgements** • develop an awareness of economic change and its impact on developing and developed economies • **understand economic issues, problems and possible solutions that affect mixed economies** • participate effectively in society as citizens, producers and consumers.

How will I be assessed?

You will take **two written exams; one at the end of Y10 and one at the end of Y11 with the Pearson exam board partaking** in their modular route, each equating to **50%** of the overall iGCSE. **Paper 1** focuses upon **Microeconomics** and **Business Economics**, whilst **Paper 2** focuses upon **Macroeconomics** and the **Global Economy**. The content is appropriate and relevant for progression, and is appropriate for international students, building understanding and awareness of economic theory and testing concepts in realistic contexts. It develops students' ability to participate effectively in global society as **citizens, producers, and consumers**. On successful completion of the course you will be awarded 1 GCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find more information?

[Economics iGCSE Spec](#)

A-Level Requirements:

Please be aware that you must have obtained a minimum level 5 in English Language and Maths. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in A-Level Economics requires you to complete in-depth essay questions, and an ability to understand mathematical diagrams and make calculations.



Why study French?

A modern foreign language develops practical **communication skills** and adds an **international dimension** to your studies. It will appeal to all types of students including those interested in **travel, culture, and people from different countries**, as well as those students who always have something to say! The world has become a much smaller place and the ability to communicate in a different language will place you in a strong position for interesting employment in a wide variety of careers involving **translation** or **communication** with people from **non-English** speaking countries. This can include careers in **tourism, government, politics, media, publishing, and journalism**.

What will I study?

There are **4 skill areas** which will be developed during the **two-year course: reading, writing, speaking and listening**. You will develop your skills in these areas whilst studying **five topics: home and abroad; education and employment; personal life and relationships; the world around us; social activities, fitness, and health**.

How will I be assessed?

Syllabus/ exam board : Pearson Edexcel International GCSE French (2017)

Paper 1: Listening - 35 minute exam; 40 marks, **25%**

Paper 2: Reading & Writing - 1 hour 45 minute exam; 80 marks, **50%**

Paper 3: Speaking - 8-10 minute exam; 40 marks, **25%**

All exams are assessed at the end of Year 11 in the June series. Paper 1 and 2 are externally assessed, and Paper 3 is internally assessed.

Knowledge of all five topics will be assessed in each examination. On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-french-2017.html>

A-Level Requirements:

***Please be aware that you must have studied GCSE French in order to study A-Level French in Years 12-13. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in GCSE French underpins the content covered at A-Level.**

point of view.
French [fren(t)
language spo

Why study Geography?

For students who are **curious** about the **real world outside the classroom**, Geography provides opportunities to deepen their understanding of the **complex planet** on which they live. Geography increases knowledge and confidence in dealing with challenging issues of both the **physical** and **human environment**. Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the **environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data**. Popular careers for people with Geography qualifications include **town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting**.

What will I study?

During the **two-year course you will primarily learn through enquiry**. Paper 1 is the **physical Geography** paper and you will study the **physical topics of coastal environments and hazardous environments**, as well as undertaking a **physical fieldwork investigation** into beach morphology at Saadiyat Beach. Paper 2 is the **human Geography** paper and you will study the topics **economic activity & energy** and **urban environments**, as well as undertaking a **human fieldwork investigation into urban sustainability** at Masdar City. You will also study **one 'global issue'** for paper 2 which will be **development and human welfare**. You will explore all of these topics from a **local, national and global perspective, studying a variety of case studies** and named examples to deepen your understanding of the topics, enabling you to add specific location references and examples into your exam responses. You will also develop a wide range of geographical skills as you move through the course, such as **map skills, graph skills** and **statistical skills**, as well as **generic skills** such as debating strategies and research techniques.

How will I be assessed?

You will take **two written exams; one at the end of Y10 and one at the end of Y11 with the Pearson exam board partaking in their modular route**. The exams aim to assess the student's geographical knowledge and also the skills they have gained throughout the GCSE course. Paper 1 is a **70-minute exam on physical Geography**, this is worth **40%** of the overall GCSE grade. Paper 2 is a **105-minute exam on human Geography**, worth **60%** of the overall GCSE grade. On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Geography\(9-1\) - SPECIFICATION](#)

A-Level Requirements:

Please be aware that you must have obtained a minimum level in English and Maths. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in A-Level geography requires you to complete in-depth essay questions and there are data based questions with graph analysis also.



HISTORY

Why study History?

Studying IGCSE History will help you to answer important questions. Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the **future**. Apart from studying a wide range of exciting **historic periods**, you'll learn a range of handy skills that will help you with **A-levels** and **future work**. These include **excellent communication** and **writing skills, how to construct an argument, research and problem skills, investigation and problem-solving skills** and **analytical and interpretation skills**. As a traditional academic subject, History is widely respected by employers and universities alike.

What will I study?

You will study **four topics – two in year 10 and two in Year 11**. In **Year 10**, you will study **“Superpower Relations from 1943 to 1972”** which looks at the relationship between the **USA and Russia during the Cold War Era**. You will also study **“Civil Rights in the USA from 1945 to 1974”** which is the study of how **African Americans began to demand equal rights**. In **Year 11** you will study two broad investigations, **“The origins and course of the First World War 1905–18”** which looks at the reasons why WWI started, the course of the war and why it ended. You will also study **“Changes in Medicine from 1848 to 1948”** which looks at how the development of medicine progressed over a period of 100 years.

How will I be assessed?

You will take **two written exams; one at the end of Y10 and one at the end of Y11 with the Pearson exam board partaking in their modular route**. Paper 1 will test you on what you learnt in **Year 10 (Superpower Relations & Civil Rights)** and **Paper 2 will test you on your Year 11 work (First World War & Changes in Medicine)**. Both papers are composed of a **mixture of source and essay questions** with a total of **6 questions (3 per topic)** to answer in **1hr and 30mins**. On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in History Specification](#)

***Please be aware that you must have obtained a minimum level 4 in English. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in A-Level History requires you to complete in-depth essay questions that require a decent level of English language acquisition.**



Why study ICT?

Computers are at the heart of everything we do, in every walk of life and every profession. This engaging, challenging, and stimulating course is highly practical and will equip students with skills that they will be able to use in **school**, at **home** and eventually, in the **workplace**. **Strong computer skills** are an **asset** in both **employment** and in **higher education**. The need to be computer literate is vital and this course will teach students how to use a wide range of different software applications on both the Windows and Mac platforms. This course will provide an excellent foundation for any student interested in pursuing a career in the field of technology, multimedia, and computers.

What will I study?

Throughout the course you will learn how to **solve practical 21st Century** problems using: **spreadsheets, databases, graphics software, desktop publishing, word processors, audio and video editing packages**, and **multimedia presentation software**. In addition, you will learn about **ICT systems**, their uses and impact in the 21st Century and **how to find, select, develop, present**, and **communicate information using ICT solutions**.

How will I be assessed?

There will be **2 practical 2 hours** and **15 minute** long **computer-based examinations**, taken under controlled conditions, which will consist of **structured activities** and each will be worth **30%** of the exam. You will use your **operational knowledge** of the **software packages** and **ICT systems** you have used during the course to **find, select, present**, and **communicate information**. The assessment will evaluate your ability to apply ICT and your software skills.

In addition, you will take a **1 hour and 45 minute** written exam paper at the end of the course which will be worth **40%** of the course. The **exam** will consist of **multiple-choice** and **short & long answer questions** which will be arranged in order of **increasing difficulty**. These will cover the topics of **digital devices, connectivity, operating online** and **online goods & services**.

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one IGCSE grades 3 to 9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[595438-2023-2025-syllabus.pdf \(cambridge international.org\)](#)

***Please be aware that studying ICT can help support your studies in Computer Science (and vice versa), as topics are similar in many areas. Only Computer Science is offered at A-Level, no ICT.**



MUSIC BTEC

Please note: Music is not an ADEK accredited subject and will not count towards your child's final Thanaweya.

Why study Music?

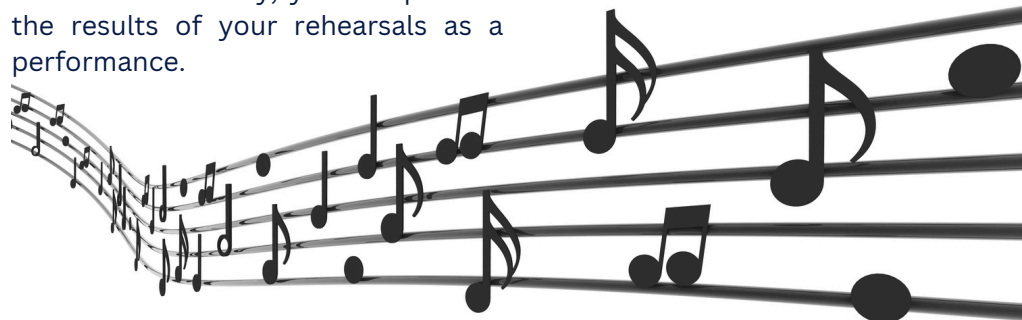
Studying Music opens up **many career opportunities**. As well as **jobs in music (from performance, composition, and production, through teaching, music therapy and community arts, to arts management and industry, and a lot more besides)**, employers in many sectors are increasingly seeking arts and humanities graduates for their transferable skills. As a **music student** you achieve **creative flair** and **imagination**, confidence in expressing yourself, an openness to new ideas, a capacity for hard work and an ability to analyse data. You learn the value of working with others towards a shared, finished product and a whole range of flexible, professional skills.

What will I study?

Unit 6: Plan and Create a Music Product for a Brief– In this unit, you will create a music product such as a live event or recording. You will experience the full creative process starting with developing your initial idea and following this through to completion and delivery. You will also explore the ways that music products are promoted, and you will produce marketing materials and activities for the product that you create. You can work individually or as part of a group to develop and create a music product. You must clearly evidence your individual contribution to the planning, development and delivery of your final product.

Unit 1: Introduction to Performance – In this unit, you will develop a range of skills required to give a successful performance. You will learn how to practise effectively, developing your technique and skills on your chosen instrument/voice. You will also learn how to rehearse effectively and to improve your performance through self-reflection and acting on feedback from others. Finally, you will present the results of your rehearsals as a performance.

Unit 2: Introducing Music Composition – As a composer of music, the ability to experiment and generate a number of initial ideas and then select and refine the best ones is a useful skill. You will explore a variety of ways of generating starting points and will experiment with ways that you can extend, develop and shape musical ideas into a finished piece of music.



How will I be assessed?

Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Award in Music

Mandatory Units:

There is **1 mandatory unit**, which is assessed by a **set assignment**. Learners must **complete** and **achieve a Pass or above** in the mandatory unit.

Optional Units:

Learners must also **complete 2 optional units**.

| Pearson BTEC International Level 2 Award in Music | | | | |
|--|---|-----|-----------|----------------|
| Unit number | Unit title | GLH | Type | How assessed |
| Mandatory unit – learners complete and achieve one mandatory unit | | | | |
| 6 | Plan and Create a Music Product for a Brief | 60 | Mandatory | Set assignment |
| Optional units – learners must complete two optional units | | | | |
| 1 | Introduction to Performing | 30 | Optional | Internal |
| 2 | Introduction to Composing | 30 | Optional | Internal |

Where can I find out more information?
Click below:

[BTEC International Level 2 in Music specification](#)

Please be aware that you must have obtained a minimum of 5 GCSE's at level 4 or above, including English language. You do not need a GCSE in music, however, you will need to be able to play an instrument or sing at a grade 4 standard or higher.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

Why study PE GCSE?

The academic study of Physical Education provides learners with an opportunity to study both the **practical and theoretical aspects** of **physical education** and **sport**. Students receive a well-rounded introduction to the world of PE, sport and **sport science** by developing an understanding of how the **mind and body work** in relation to performance in **physical activity**. Our students will be able to develop their **independent thinking, reflective skills and ability to problem solve** whilst studying GCSE PE. Physical Education lends itself to a range of **careers in sports and fitness** as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. For example, did you know that **many nutritionists, physical therapists and chiropractors have a degree in PE?** Some careers that you could consider doing with PE include: **sports science, PE teacher, physiotherapist, professional sportsperson, coach/consultant, diet and fitness instructor, personal trainer.**

What will I study?

This course provides you with an opportunity to study both the **practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education**. You will learn about **physiological and biomechanical** workings of the body and explore how to apply this to your training, as well as developing your knowledge of the link between **health and performance**, and explore the contribution that physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being. Physical Education has many links to other subjects, such as **physics, biology and psychology**. Further to this, you will develop your knowledge and skills across a range of different sports; by the end of **Year 11 you will be assessed in your 3 strongest sports.**

How will I be assessed?

There will be **2 external exams** at the end of Year 11 worth **60%** of the overall marks. **Paper 1** will consist of **multiple choice, short answer** and **extended writing questions** based on the **body systems** and **physical fitness**, which is covered in **Component 1 of the course**. **Paper 2** will consist of **multiple choice, short answer** and **extended writing questions** based on the links between health and performance, which is covered in Component 2 of the course.

In addition, your **practical skills** will be assessed in each of your **3 chosen sports** accounting for **30%** of the overall marks. Finally, you will complete a piece of course work which is based upon a **6-8 week Personal Exercise Plan**. This coursework will account for the final **10%** of the **GCSE**.

On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one GCSE grade 1-9.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[PE GCSE Spec Info](#)

***Please be aware that you do need to have studied GCSE PE to study A-level Physical Education in Years 12-13, however, it is recommended to have prior knowledge to be able to access the course content/material.**

What is Psychology?

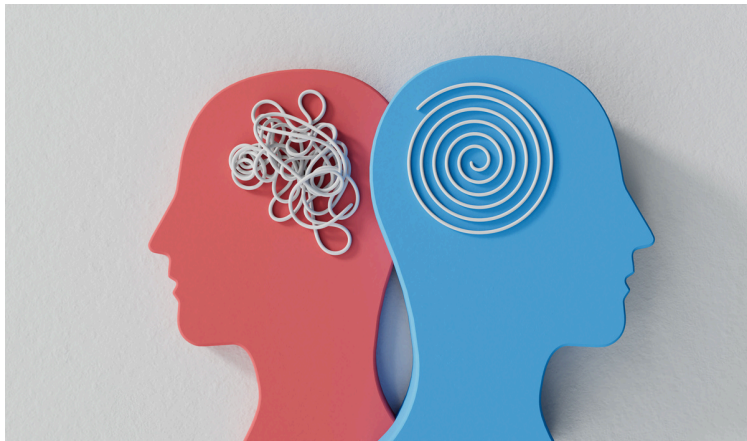
Psychology is the science of the human brain and behaviour.

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is a **vast** and **fascinating subject** which will offer you the opportunity to gain a **multitude of transferable skills** and **knowledge**. There are many **cross-curricular overlaps** in this course, with an emphasis on **biology** and **mathematics**. The **two-year GCSE course** will allow you to gain a better understanding of how people **think, act, and feel**. The course covers questions such as why do we behave the way we do? What biological processes are responsible for our behaviours? How did you develop? This course will cover such questions and more. Below is a list of the topics which are covered throughout the two-year course.

Compulsory topics:

- **Topic 1:** Development – How did you develop?
- **Topic 2:** Memory – How does your memory work?
- **Topic 3:** Psychological problems – How would psychological problems affect you?
- **Topic 4:** The brain and neuropsychology – How does your brain affect you?
- **Topic 5:** Social influence – How do others affect you?



Optional Topics (Teacher will choose 2 of the following):

- **Topic 6:** Criminal psychology – Why do people become criminals?
- **Topic 7:** The self – What makes you who you are?
- **Topic 8:** Perception – How do you interpret the world around you?
- **Topic 9:** Sleep and dreaming – Why do you need to sleep and dream?
- **Topic 10:** Language, thought and communication – How do you communicate with others?
- **Topic 11:** Research methods – How do you carry out psychological research?

How will I be assessed?

You will be examined in two written exam papers at the end of the course (100%).

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[GCSE \(9-1\) Psychology Spec](#)

**Please be aware that you do not need to have studied GCSE Psychology to study A-level Psychology in Years 12-13, however, it is recommended to have prior knowledge to be able to access the course content/material. You must have obtained a minimum level 4 in your English language GCSE. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in A-Level Psychology requires you to complete in-depth essay questions that require a decent level of English language acquisition.*

Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society, social relationships, and human behaviour within social groups.

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is a thought-provoking and relevant subject that helps you understand how society works and how it shapes people's lives. You will explore real-world issues such as inequality, education, crime, and family life, while developing strong analytical, research, and evaluation skills.

The course has clear cross-curricular links with subjects such as history, psychology, politics, geography, and English, and encourages you to think critically about evidence, arguments, and social change.

Topics:

- Topic 1: Social stratification – How and why inequality exists in society, including class, gender, ethnicity, and power.
- Topic 2: Families – How families are structured, how they have changed over time, and how family life affects individuals.
- Topic 3: Education – How the education system works, why achievement differs between groups, and how education shapes life chances.
- Topic 4: Crime and deviance – Why people commit crime, how crime is measured, and how society responds to deviance.
- Topic 5: Research methods – How sociologists investigate society, including questionnaires, interviews, observations, and the use of official statistics.

How will I be assessed:

You will be examined in two written exam papers at the end of the course (100%):

- Paper 1: Social stratification and families
- Paper 2: Education, crime and deviance, and research methods

Both exams test your ability to:

- Demonstrate sociological knowledge
- Apply concepts to real-life contexts
- Analyse and evaluate evidence and arguments



How will I be assessed?

You will be examined in two written exam papers at the end of the course (100%).

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://www.oxfordaqa.com/qualifications/international-gcse-sociology/>

****Please be aware that you do not need to have studied GCSE Sociology to study A-level Psychology in Years 12-13, however, it is recommended to have prior knowledge to be able to access the course content/material. You must have obtained a minimum level 4 in your English language GCSE. This is a mandatory requirement, as the content covered in A-Level Sociology requires you to complete in-depth essay questions that require a decent level of English language acquisition.***

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

What is Food and Preparation Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a GCSE course that focuses on the principles of food science, food safety, nutrition, and healthy eating. Through practical cooking and theoretical learning, students develop essential life skills, gain confidence in food preparation, and explore ingredients from different cultures.

Why study Food and Preparation Nutrition?

This course provides a strong foundation in five key areas: **Nutrition and Health, Food Science, Food Safety, Food Choice, and Food Provenance.**

- In **Year 10**, students learn about **food safety, food spoilage, macronutrients and micronutrients, health and nutritional needs, cooking methods, and the chemical and functional properties of food.**
- In **Year 11**, the focus shifts to food choices, **international cuisines, sensory evaluation, environmental sustainability, food processing, and advanced cooking techniques.**

Students who enjoy practical learning, have an interest in science, and want to develop valuable skills for both personal and professional use will benefit from this course.

How will I be assessed?

- **Year 10:**
 - End-of-topic written tests
 - End-of-topic practical assessments
 - Summer exam
- **Year 11:**
 - Written Exam (1 hour 45 mins) – 50% of GCSE
 - Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 1: Food Investigation (15%) – A practical food investigation with a written report
 - Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 2: Food Preparation (35%) – Students prepare, cook, and present a three-dish menu within three hours, alongside a written portfolio with photographic evidence (20 A4 pages)

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/food/specifications/AQA-8585-SP-2016.PDF>



Things To Think About When Choosing Your Option Subjects

Please bear these points in mind when indicating your choice of subjects:

- If you have any definite career ideas you must make sure you choose any essential subjects for these.
- If you have no definite future plans yet you should choose subjects which keep open a broad range of possibilities for A Level and University level study and careers.
-
- It is important to choose subjects which you enjoy and think you will be good at.
- If you are in doubt as to your ability or potential in any subject, ask the subject teacher.
- Remember, you will study three option subjects.

Groups of IGCSE option subjects will then be organised to accommodate as many requested subject combinations as possible; your choice of IGCSE subjects will then be finalised.

On the next page is a link to a google form where you will submit your option choices - be sure to choose a first choice from each option block and a second choice for each option block - do not choose the same subjects in both blocks as this limits your chance of getting subjects you want. When you submit your form it should have 6 different subjects listed on it - 3 first choice subjects and 3 second choice subjects.

Whilst we aim to meet the needs of all students it may not always be possible for every student's combination of choices to be met, in which case we will look at the second choice in the blocks.

In the unlikely event that the second choices cannot be met contact will be made with parents and students and alternative choices requested.





AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

OPTION BLOCKS

| Options Block 1 | Options Block 2 | Options Block 3 | Options Block 4 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Biology | Physics | Chemistry | Single Science |
| Computer Science | Business Studies | Computer Science | Biology |
| ICT | ICT | Business Studies | Chemistry |
| Geography | Geography | GCSE PE* | Physics |
| Economics | Psychology | Food Tech | |
| Art and Design | Art and Design | History | |
| French | Design and Tech | Design and Tech | |
| Btec Performing Arts* | Btec Music* | Economics | |
| | | | |

*Please note that subjects marked with an * do not count towards your child's Thanaweya.*

**ACADEMIC YEAR
2025-2026**



RATED VERY GOOD BY ADEK AND BSO CERTIFIED