



AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

Key Stage 5 Options Booklet 2024-2025



Dear Al Basma Year 11 Student,

KS5 marks a pivotal stage in an Al Basma student's academic journey, shaping their future aspirations and career pathways. We are here to support and guide them every step of the way.

At Al Basma, we are committed to providing a high-quality Sixth Form education that prepares students for university, apprenticeships, and the world of work. The KS5 Options process is a crucial step, allowing students to select subjects that align with their academic strengths, career goals, and personal interests.

The Sixth Form curriculum offers a combination of A-Level and BTEC qualifications, ensuring a broad and balanced education tailored to diverse learning styles and ambitions. Students will embark on a two-year course of study starting in August 2025, culminating in examinations and assessments in the summer of 2027.

We recognise that choosing KS5 subjects is both an exciting and challenging process. To ensure that students and parents are well-informed and confident in their decisions, we provide a structured programme of support, including information sessions, subject consultations, and career guidance.

We look forward to working closely with students and families to help them make well-informed choices that pave the way for success in higher education and beyond.

Best wishes,

Mr Sean Doherty

Secondary Vice Principal

Subjects

Please see the list of AS and A Level subjects which are approved Thanaweya subjects. You must pick 2 or 3 subjects from the below list:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

This is the first step towards a new phase in your education. The choices you make will set the foundation for your university studies and/or future employment. This booklet will give you the information that you need to help you make the right choices. Please read it carefully and remember the key to selecting your option subjects is to ask yourself the following questions:

- What do I enjoy?
- What do I know I am good at?
- What do I need for future degree or career choices?
- Do I have a balance of subjects?
- Am I choosing subjects which align with my strongest iGCSE subjects?

It is very important that you enjoy the options you have chosen as you have to study A Level subjects for 6 lessons a week or 14 lessons a week for BTEC subjects for the next two years. Do not make choices based on what your friends have picked as it will be a long two years doing something you don't like! Remember the two-year A-Level or BTEC courses are all challenging and require very effective time management and independent study. You must consider whether you have a realistic chance of success in your chosen subject based on what you enjoyed/did well at iGCSE, as the step up to A-Level is a big one.

Please note - you will have ideally achieved a grade 6 or above in a subject in order to choose it at A-Level. Those students who have not achieved a grade 6 will generally struggle to pass a full A-Level at the required grade E or above for graduation.

Please email any option queries to Ms Amal (KS5 Leader) at ks5leader@albasmaschool.ae

Shahadat Al Thanaweya Al Amma at Al Basma

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
 - Moral Education
2. Achieve grade 9 to 3 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 one 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 subject

Please Note:

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

All students must study the MoE curriculum in Y12 and 13

MOE Compulsory Subjects

- Arabic A for Arabs
- Islamic Studies A for Arab Muslims or Islamic Studies B for Non-Arab Muslims
- Moral Education

*GCSEs or O Levels subjects can be taken in Years 12 or 13. A-Level Arabic is also available but **does not count** towards the Thanaweya.*

Please note: GCSE, AS and A-Level exam dates and times are set by the UK Exam Boards and may fall on a Friday or on a public/religious holiday or late in the afternoon. As a school, we have no control over the final external examination schedule and neither does ADEK.

ART & DESIGN A-Level

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 university or art college.

What will I study?

A level coursework covers several different endorsements: Fine Art, Photography, 3D Sculpture and Graphic Designing. You will learn to use a sketchbook to make visual and other appropriate research and develop your ideas. You will also develop your knowledge of art and design from other cultures or history and relate it to your own ideas. You will explore a range of artistic media, materials, processes, techniques, and stimuli identifying the areas of strength you will use in the final assessment pieces. 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 1 is a portfolio of coursework and a personal study essay of 3000 words, which accounts for a percentage of the overall marks. Component 2 is an external paper which consists of six weeks of focused study period and ends with a 15-hour compulsory exam conducted in three sessions over a period of a week which accounts for the other half of the percentage of the overall marks. 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.

	Component 1/ Personal study	Component 2 (external exam)
A level Art craft and design	60%	40% (15 hour exam)

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

[GCE-A-level-Art-and-Design-specification-Issue-4.pdf](#)

If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** to study it at A Level.

BIOLOGY iA-Level

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. This course builds on the foundation set at KS4, where students will take a deeper look at ecosystems and the complex network of systems that govern life, biological molecules and cellular biochemistry. Students will learn to approach scientific inquiry methodically and to answer questions about the natural world using a range of theories and experimental techniques that have wide-reaching links to industry and medicine.

Biologists can use this knowledge to do things like try to stop the spread of disease, utilise natural resources, improve public health, animal care and conservation and work out the true impacts of things like pollution. 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, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics and research are all possibilities after studying biology.

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 KS4. You will improve your ability to analyse and present data and apply your knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. The course covers 5 key areas through AS and A Level; Molecules, Diet, Transport and Health, Cells, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation, Practical Skills in Biology I & II, Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity, and Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Technology.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete six written exams; three at AS and three at A level. The exams will be one hour thirty minutes, or one hour and forty-five minutes in duration. 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 A Level at grade A-C.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Edexcel International Advanced Level Biology \(2018\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

Please note, you must have studied this subject at iGCSE in order to select it at A-Level. You must have achieved **grade 6** at iGCSE to study this subject at A Level. Single Science at iGCSE is not sufficient.

BUSINESS iA-Level

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. Ideally, you will have already studied Business at iGCSE. A willingness to work hard and to take an interest in current events is obviously an essential requisite of success. Business complements most other subjects and is a useful field of study for those interested in a career in business, management, finance, banking, accounting, and law.

Business can lead to many different university degrees in the above disciplines too.

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 is used to support the growth of the businesses. The five main areas of study are production, marketing, accounting and finance, human resources, and business activity in the changing environment.

How will I be assessed?

You will have 2 exams of 2 hours at AS-Level (year 12) and a further 2 exams of 2 hours at A-Level (year 13). All papers are essay-based exams, with mathematical questions also. 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.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[The New International A level Business | Pearson qualifications](#)

If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** in it to study it at A Level.

CHEMISTRY iA-Level

Why study Chemistry?

Reading Chemistry at A Level is a natural fit for the curious mind. Chemists at A level will conduct multiple experiments to study a range of reactions to test how different substances behave. 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.

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 KS4. You will improve your ability to analyse and present data and apply your knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. The course covers a range of key areas such as Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry, Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols, Practical Skills in Chemistry I and II, Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry, and Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete 6 written exams throughout the two-year course; exams are either one-hour thirty minutes or one hour forty-five. You will undertake some practical experiments during the course which you will have to describe in the exams. You will be required to interpret the data resulting from these experiments in the exams.

On successful completion of the course, you will receive one A Level at grade A - C.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Chemistry \(YCH11\)](#)

Please note, you must have studied this subject at iGCSE in order to select it at A-Level. You must have achieved **grade 6** in this subject at iGCSE to study it at A Level. Single Science at iGCSE is not sufficient.

COMPUTER SCIENCE iA-Level

Why study Computer Science?

Cambridge International AS & A Level Computer Science encourages learners to meet the needs of Higher Education courses in computer science as well as twenty-first century digital employers. It encourages learners to think creatively, through applying practical programming solutions, demonstrating that they are effective users of technology.

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?

The course consists of four exams in total. Two are taken at the end of the first year and the last two at the end of the second year. Both years consist of one theory and one practical exam paper. In the first year, the practical exam requires you to write algorithms in pseudocode. In the second year, you are required to create a program in Python programming language based on a given scenario within the exam time (2.5 hours).

On successful completion of the course, you will be awarded an A Level grade.

Please note this syllabus may be subject to change as it is currently being reviewed by the exam board.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[595440-2023-2025-syllabus.pdf \(cambridgeinternational.org\)](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/595440-2023-2025-syllabus.pdf)

You should have achieved **grade 6** at iGCSE to study this subject at A Level.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN) A-Level

Why study DT?

At KS5 Design and Technology (Product Design) is a subject that provides a foundation for a range of engineering careers and pathways such as Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Graphic designer and Product developer etc. Pupils will get an opportunity to explore a personalised topic based on their area of interest and focus. This is a client-driven project based on a contextual challenge that will facilitate an area of extensive study and research. Students will cover a range of topics including Performance characteristics of materials, Digital technologies, Effects of technological developments, Factors influencing the development of products and Features of manufacturing industries as part of a wide-ranging curriculum.

What will I study?

In Design & Technology, pupils will need to solve a contextual challenge for a range of clients by carrying out surveys and formal interviews with companies and individuals in order to meet the users' needs and wants. The intended clients will remain a constant feature throughout the project. This will be done via investigations, designing ideas, modelling, and creating prototypes, testing and evaluating based on their design brief and design specification. The subject is a mixture of theory and practical using a variety of tools which develop pupils' foundation skills and knowledge.

How will I be assessed?

This will include one written exam (2 hours and 30 minutes), worth 50% of the overall mark and one non-examination assessment (controlled assessment/coursework) consisting of extensive research of materials, existing products, context in which the pupil's prototype will work, environmental issues, development of a prototype which will involve a large concentration on practical work. This is worth 50% of the overall grade. Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed as part of written assessments; this element will bear a weighting of 100 marks. At the end of the Design and Technology qualifications pupils will be awarded a Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Design and Technology

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[A Level Design and Technology \(Product Design\) \(9DT0\) Specification Issue 2](#)

If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** to study it at A Level.

ECONOMICS iA-Level

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 A-Level 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?

Students will complete two written examinations, each equating to 50% of the overall iA-Level. Paper 1 focuses on Microeconomics and Business Economics, whilst Paper 2 focuses on 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 A-Level graded A-E.

Where can I find more information?

[International Advanced Levels Economics \(2018\)](#)

If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** to study it at A Level.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE iA-Level

Why study A Level English Language?

A Level English Language covers a variety of different writing styles. Its study offers students the opportunity to think critically about language, analysing a writer's decision at all language levels. Students will learn how to evaluate the political and social elements of a text. We will cover intriguing topics across multiple disciplines such as psychology, neuroscience and sociolinguistics throughout the two-year programme. A-Level English Language will give students the skills to develop analytical skills, creative writing skills and essay writing skills. It offers students the chance to gain an in-depth understanding of a vast array of topics such as the History of English, English in the World, Language and the Self, Child Language Acquisition and Language Change.

What will I study?

In the first year of the course, you will refine both your writing skills and your reading skills. Your reading skills will be improved through accessing a range of different texts from a myriad of genres, forms and serving differing purposes. This will include seminal texts in literature to understand how writers make linguistic choices in order to fulfil their intended purposes. In the second year of the course, you will study a range of different topics such as corpus linguistics, theories of language acquisition, global variation in English, language and thought, language and gender, language and social class, as well as many others.

How will I be assessed?

All assessments are in the form of an exam. At the closing of the first year, there are two exams: Paper 1 and Paper 2. Paper 1 is on reading and involves comprehending a text and writing an extension of it in the writer's linguistic style. Paper 2 tests writing skills and involves writing a short writing piece and a longer writing piece depending on a range of possible briefs. At the closing of the two-year course, there are two exams: Paper 3 and Paper 4. Paper 3 looks at analysing language, Section A specifically focuses on Language change and Section B focused on Child Language Acquisition. Paper 4 requires an understanding of Language topics, namely English in the World in Section A and Language and the Self in Section B. Upon successful completion they will be awarded Grades A to E.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Syllabus - Cambridge International AS & A Level English Language 9093](#)

Please note, you must have studied this subject at iGCSE in order to select it at A-Level. You must have achieved **grade 6** at iGCSE to study this subject at A-Level. Studying ESL at iGCSE is not sufficient.

ENGLISH LITERATURE iA-Level

Why study English Literature?

A Level English Literature enables you to build a close appreciation of several treasures of world-class literature, as you encounter some of the finest works ever written. As well as expanding your horizons, this scaffolds critical thinking and supports the development of corollary skills, such as building an argument, expressing ideas clearly and developing your skills as a writer.

What will I study?

The text lists are specially selected to ensure a range of traditional and modern prose and poetry. You will study a selection of works including Jacobean or Elizabethan tragedy as well as later plays, poetry and prose. You will build on skills of comparison, the ability to generate an informed personal response and further develop techniques needed to maintain a confident critical style. You will also refine your ability to analyse how language, form, structure, and contextual factors can be used to create meanings and effects.

How will I be assessed?

The full International A Level is designed to be taken over two years. In the first year (AS level), there are two written examination papers. Unit One focuses on historical tragedy and a modern play, and Unit Two centres on how a sense of place is evoked in selected poetry and a prose work. Unit One is a closed-book exam. For Unit Two, an unmarked copy of the poetry will be provided in the exam, along with access to the prose text. You will choose two essay questions in each unit, one from a choice of two in each text.

The second year (A2) of the qualification also comprises two units. Unit Three attracts 30% of the overall mark, and centres on elements of crime and mystery in selected poetry and prose works. Unit Four, also worth 30% of marks, draws on students' wider guided reading around selected topics, including representations of childhood, women, race and war. This is assessed by a non-exam assessment submission of two essays (each 1250-1500 words).

On successful completion of the course, you will be awarded the International A Level in English Literature. The International AS Level is graded on a five-point scale: A, B, C, D and E.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[International AS and A Level Specification](#)

Please note, you must have studied this subject at iGCSE in order to select it at A-Level. You must have achieved **grade 6** at iGCSE to study this subject at ALevel. Studying ESL at iGCSE is not sufficient.

FRENCH A-Level

Why study French?

We believe languages should appeal to all students. If you have a talent for learning languages, then you might want to consider studying French at A-Level. With our world becoming more globalised by the day, the ability to speak another language, even if only to A-Level, can open up many doors in your career and academic life. This course inspires all students who have an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the French-speaking world.

What will I study?

- Papers 1 and 3 will be based on content from the following four themes. The four themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of France and French-speaking countries.
- Themes 1, 3, and 4 focus on aspects of society or history of France only. Theme 2 requires students to broaden their knowledge across any Francophone country/countries and/or community/communities. Each theme is broken into three sub-themes (highlighted in bold). These sub-themes are each exemplified further.
 - Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française
 - Theme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones
 - Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française
 - Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance

How will I be assessed?

The exam consists of three papers, all externally assessed:

- Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation - 40% - 80 marks
- Paper 2: Written response to works and translation - 30% - 120 marks
- Paper 3: Internally conducted and externally assessed - 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes formal preparation time 30% of the qualification - 72 marks

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Specification | Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in French](#)

If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** to study it at A Level.

GEOGRAPHY iA-Level

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. In Year 12 you will complete Paper 1 (Hazards, Climate Change, Globalization - 60% of AS) and Paper 2 (Coasts, Urban Environments & Fieldwork - 40% of AS). This will be 50% of your final A-Level grade. In Year 13 you will complete paper 3 (Atmosphere and Weather Systems, Biodiversity Under Threat, Energy Gap & Development) and Paper 4 (Tectonic Activity and Hazards). 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 at the end of each year with the Cambridge exam board. The exams aim to assess the student's geographical knowledge and also the skills they have gained throughout the A-Level course. All four papers are 90-minute exams worth 25% of the overall A-Level grade. Papers 1 and 3 are physical geography and papers 2 and 4 are human geography. On successful completion of the course you will be awarded one A-Level grade.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Geography A-Level Specification](#)

If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** to be accepted onto the course.

HISTORY iA-Level

Why study History?

Studying A-Level 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 University 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 12 and two in Year 13. In Year 10 you will study two broad investigations, "Britain from 1964-91" which looks at the political landscape of Britain as well as their domestic and foreign policies. You will also study "The Soviet Union Lenin to Yeltsin" which looks at the rise and fall of the Soviet Union. In Year 13, 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.

How will I be assessed?

History A-Level is assessed by exam only. There are two exam papers which you will take at the end of Year 12 and 13. Papers 1 and 2 will test you on what you learnt in Year 12 as well as papers 1 and 2 in Year 13. All papers are composed of a mixture of source and essay questions to answer in 2 hours.

On successful completion of the course, you will be awarded an A-Level grade A-E.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

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

You will need to have studied history at GCSE if you wish to take it at A-Level. If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** to be accepted onto the course.

MATHEMATICS iA-Level

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics, although abstract, can be seen in modelling both in science, computing and business. Mathematics students feel emboldened when they arrive at a solution which encourages resilience and fortitude, unlike any other subject. Students will implement strategies and model solutions throughout the course with the same skills that are desirable in any project within the field of STEM. Students' problem-solving and critical thinking abilities are a must when it comes to both gaining enrollment in university-level courses and overcoming the high demands of coursework. Coursework within the STEM fields at university normally comprises much more than just rote learning and requires students to become experts in a variety of modules. Hence why this course is really relevant and compliments any students who wish to continue their studies in physics and other courses that are maths intensive.

What will I study?

International A-Level Mathematics is a modular course held over two years consisting of four modules of Pure Mathematics and two additional modules in Statistics and Mechanics.

In Year 12 students will cover P1, P2 and S1 and in Year 13 they will cover P3, P4 and M1.

Each module is equally weighted and the exams are all 90 minutes long and 75 marks each.

The Pure modules build on each other. For instance, in Year 12 P1 you will do basic integration and in P3 they will integrate the trigonometric identities they were taught in P2. So the Pure Mathematics modules p1, p2, p3 and p4 are not only linked but they build on each other.

The S1 in Year 12 and M1 in Year 13 are standalone, as they are based on statistical and mechanical applications, unlike Pure Mathematics which is calculus-driven. In Mechanics 1 students will be exposed to scientific principles using mathematical models and in statistics they will get a good insight into the world of statistics in terms of data inference.

How will I be assessed?

In Year 12 and 13 students will be entered into P1 and P3 exams respectively in January.

This gives a great benchmark for what work is needed. The final exams for Year 12 and 13 P2, S1 and P4 and M1 will be conducted at a later stage around May/June. Each exam is 90 minutes long and 75 marks in total. The first half of your A-Levels in Sixth Form are done in Year 12 this is your AS-Level award, so you can then assess it if you need to resit any so that your overall grade will be adequate for university applications. The Year 13 cohort will be a great point of contact as they will know first-hand how much work is required to obtain good grades.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[International-A-Level-Maths](#)

Please note, you must have studied this subject at iGCSE in order to select it at A-Level. You must have studied **Higher Level Maths at GCSE and achieved grade 6** at iGCSE to study this subject at A Level.

PHYSICS iA-Level

Why study Physics?

Do you like to understand how things work? Have you ever looked at the stars and wondered where it all comes from? Or maybe you are the kind of student who likes to build things? If you have a passion for learning, curiosity and perseverance physics could be for you. 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 physics-related courses.

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 KS4. You will improve your ability to analyse and present data and apply your knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

The course covers 8 key areas: Mechanics and Materials, Waves and Electricity, Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles, Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit 6 exams over the course of two years, two of which will focus primarily on practical Physics.

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 an A level, ranging from an A - D.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[International A Level Physics Specification](#)

Please note, you must have studied this subject at iGCSE in order to select it at A-Level. You must have achieved **grade 6** at iGCSE to study this subject at A Level. Single Science at iGCSE is not sufficient.

PSYCHOLOGY iA-Level

What is Psychology?

Psychology is the science of the human brain and behaviour. The word Psychology means the study of the mind, within this topic students will be able to explore how an individual's behaviour is influenced by both Nature and Nurture.

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 course covers questions such as why do we behave the way we do? What biological processes are responsible for our behaviours? How do you develop mental disorders? This course will cover a range of issues and debates linked to Psychology, this course will provide students with insight into the key ideas and contemporary debates in Psychology. The exam board followed is the Oxford AQA International (9685). Below is a list of the topics which are covered throughout the two-year course.

Compulsory topics:

AS- (First year Studying Psychology)

- Memory
- Social Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Biopsychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Research Methods

A2- (Second year studying Psychology)

- Psychology of Sleep
- Schizophrenia
- Research Methods 2
- Approaches in Psychology
- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Applied Psychology: Work and the Individual

How will I be assessed?

You will be examined with two written exam papers at the end of your AS and a further two examinations at the end of A2. There will be four written examinations in total.

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[A-level Psychology](#)

If you studied this subject at iGCSE you must have achieved **grade 6** at iGCSE to study it at A Level.

BTEC Subjects

A BTEC is the equivalent of an A-Level but with different assessment methods to an A-Level. It can suit students who prefer to be assessed through coursework and controlled assessment, rather than just exams.

If you are choosing a BTEC subject, then you can only choose 1, alongside 1 or 2 A-Level subjects.

Due to option blocks, you cannot choose more than 1 BTEC subject.

Business BTEC, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

What is Business BTEC, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship?

At Al Basma, you will have the opportunity to study a BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary diploma in Business BTEC, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. This will be a two-year course. The Business BTEC (for short) course is a good alternative to A-level and is ideal for students who prefer to complete modular assignments. BTECs enable a student-centred approach to education, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge will be applied to project-based assessments rather than a final examination.

Why study Business BTEC, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship?

- BTEC offers you industry knowledge, transferable skills and behaviours to prepare you for a career in Business or to continue your education
- Offers a flexible and modular course structure to fit in with existing curriculum requirements
- Recognised by many universities and Higher Education Institutes worldwide, as an entry qualification

How will I be assessed?

BTEC includes a range of assessment types and styles. All assessments are internal assessments meaning that they will be taken throughout the two-year period in class under the supervision of your teacher. Your internal assignments will usually take the form of assignments or reports. Each assignment is graded and this mark counts towards the final result of Pass, Merit or Distinction. Business BTEC, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship is equivalent to two international A-levels and students will work towards a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship.

The units you will study are:

Unit 1: Exploring Business:

Unit 2: Research and Plan a Marketing Campaign

Unit 3: Business Finance

Unit 8: Human Resources

Unit 22: Market Research

Unit 33: Enterprise and Entrepreneurs

Unit 37: Intrapreneurship and Innovation in an Enterprise

Where can I find out more information? Click below:

[Specification - BTEC International Level 3 Business](#)

Things to think about when choosing your Y12 & Y13 subjects

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

- If you have any definite career in mind or university courses 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 university-level study and careers
- It is important to choose subjects which you enjoy and which you have done well in at iGCSE
- If you are in doubt as to your ability or potential in any subject, ask the subject teacher
- Remember, you will study **at least 2** subjects. Please note that the highest quality universities will expect 3 A-Level results.

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

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

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

To complete options through the Google Form, please follow this link below:

[Year 12 Options - 25/26](https://forms.gle/oAinMuPPbyAjfb656)

<https://forms.gle/oAinMuPPbyAjfb656>