



KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF LATVIA

IGCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET



A Message from the Head of Secondary

Dear Parents,

For King's students, the transition to IGCSE courses is exciting, challenging and represents the first significant milestone in an educational journey. IGCSE's will require students to think deeply and carefully about strengths, weaknesses, and consider how individual subjects offer an insight into a broader picture of life.

Making decisions about one's future can be tricky and it is unusual for an IGCSE student to have a career direction in mind, especially at such a young age. Some students may know exactly what they want to do, therefore their options will be straightforward. However, students who have yet to decide should not worry or feel under pressure to make career decisions at this point. IGCSE's represent the first step in a general direction of study and will not restrict or designate opportunities for the future.

We recommend taking time to think about a pathway which will enable students to achieve the best possible results and inspire a desire to seek a deeper understanding of each subject. The process of choosing IGCSE options will offer students the chance to reflect on the type of learner they are, what they would like to achieve in the future, and how education offers them the pathway to be successful in their ambitions.

To make the best possible decisions, students should seek the support of others. Therefore, we recommend talking with parents and teachers as much as possible to understand more about each subject, how it is assessed and consider the progress made so far. We also highly recommend talking to students in Years 10 and 11 - asking if they made the right choices, their experiences of making the decisions and how studying each subject has gone. However, the ultimate decision should be made by students, as they must feel a sense of agency over their studies and their future ambitions.

Throughout the process, please know that King's staff will always be available to offer guidance and support to both parents and students should they require it, so please reach out to us if this is the case.

Mr P Sprawson
Head of Secondary
peter.sprawson@kings.education



IGCSE Courses on Offer at KCL

The subjects on offer for the IGCSE's, beginning in Year 10 are shown below. Further details about each course are outlined later in this booklet.

CORE SUBJECTS - These are compulsory subjects which every student has to take. However, there is a choice to make regarding science*.

IGCSE English Language (External Examination)
IGCSE English Literature (External Examination)
IGCSE Mathematics (External Examination)
IGCSE Global Perspectives (External Examination)
Pre-IB (Non-examination subject)
Physical Education (Non-examination subject)

Humanities Option Choices

IGCSE Geography (External Examination)
IGCSE History (External Examination)
IGCSE Business Studies (External Examination)

Science Option Choices

Biology (External Examination)
Chemistry (External Examination)
Physics (External Examination)
Computer Science (External Examination)

Modern Foreign Language Choices

Spanish (External Examination)
Latvian

Creative Arts-

IGCSE Art (External Examination)
IGCSE Music (External Examination)



Year 10 and 11 Pathway



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IGCSE Subjects



Compulsory Subjects

| | | |
|---------|-------|---------------------|
| English | Maths | Global Perspectives |
|---------|-------|---------------------|

Unique Pre IBDP Component

| Option A | Option B | Option C | Option D |
|----------|------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Biology | Chemistry | Music | Spanish |
| Physics | Computer Science | Art | Latvian <small>(no exam)</small> |
| History | Business Studies | Geography | |

Guidance On Making Subject Choices

It is important that students make choices aligned to academic goals and ambitions. IGCSE's are considered by universities and form part of their decision making process on application. Therefore, students must ensure they are prepared to work hard to get the best possible grades. However, the more successful choices are usually ones in subjects that students enjoy the most. Enjoyment is an essential component given the time and work invested in each subject across the 2 years of study.

It is also important to consider:

1. Your level of interest in each subject - Does a subject really interest you? If so, why?

You need to be interested in the subject matter and enjoy developing the skills involved in it. For example, does it involve extended writing? Is it a more practical subject? In addition, take into account how the subject will be assessed. Will there be any coursework? Is all examination based?

2. Your ability in each subject - What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Look at your latest school report and be honest about the subjects you have been most successful in so far, consider why this is. What skills come more easily to you? Do you prefer doing things practically? Do you enjoy theories? Is essay writing your thing?

3. IB Diploma and University choices - Do your choices align with your next step in education?

It is never too early to start thinking about a university. Consider which subjects are available at IBDP and if your IGCSE's align with them as these choices will inform university courses. The combination of subjects chosen at IGCSE heavily influences admissions tutors at colleges and prospective employers.

However, it is advisable to retain a broad range of subjects if you do not know what you want to do as this will ensure opportunities later, but please be aware of the following:

- **English and Mathematics** IGCSE are required for most higher and further education courses, as well as by most employers.
- **The IBDP** requires you to continue to study Maths, English, languages, Humanities and Sciences up to the age of 18.
- If you are thinking about applying to a **science i.e. medicine, nursing** etc. or continuing **biology, chemistry and physics** – the entry requirements are likely to require Triple Sciences alongside Higher Level grades at IBDP
- If you intend to pursue a course in architecture or design, then **Art** might be a good choice when making your decision.
- IGCSE **Geography** is accepted by universities as bridging subject for the arts and sciences
- IGCSE **History** is a good choice if you are interested in a career in **law**.



- Only students with experience playing an instrument and reading music may choose to study **Music iGCSE**
- You need to demonstrate proficiency in at least 4 sporting activities to be able to access marks in IGCSE PE, as this accounts for 50% of your grade.

Further Guidance

It is useful to look at the UniFrog website: <https://www.unifrog.org/> for more information about possible university destinations and the entry requirements that are needed for each course. Students have already been given their log-ins for this platform and it offers useful information and exercises to explore likes and dislikes and possible career choices.



Finally when you are choosing, please bear the following in mind:

Do choose a subject because:

- You will enjoy it
- You have a strong interest in it
- You are good at it
- It will help you in your future career aspirations and plans
- You believe that you will succeed in it



Do Not choose a subject because:

- Your friends have chosen it
- You think it will be easy
- You have been told it involves less work
- Relatives or friends tell you to do it without a good reason
- You just like your current teacher
- You want to do something new for the sake of it



What are IGCSE's?

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is an International version of the GCSE taught in the schools system of England and Wales. Both IGCSE and GCSE are qualifications aimed at students between the ages of 14 and 16. IGCSE's lay a general foundation of academic study which prepares students for further academic studies in the IB Diploma from ages to 16 and 18.

Facts about IGCSE's

- The IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14-16 year olds. It is taken in more than 160 countries. More than 5000 schools worldwide, many UK independent schools offer IGCSEs.
- The IGCSE is considered to be an international passport to progression and success. It is recognised around the world by employers and universities as evidence of academic ability.
- University admissions services around the world do not distinguish between IGCSE's awarded in International schools and GCSE's awarded in UK schools.

Course Structure

- The IGCSE is a 2-year linear programme of study
- Summative examinations will begin in April of Year 11
- Coursework (Formative Assessment) can be completed at any time during the program but is usually submitted at the end of April of Year 11
- Results are distributed the following August
- The course contents for each subject are set out in [Course Specifications](#)
- There are many types of assessment for each subject such as examinations, coursework, essays, short questions.

Examinations

- Prior to the main examinations, students sit mock exams in January which mirror the experience of what it is like. Results of mock exams are also distributed like the real examination process.
- The examination centres around a 'Key time' when every student in our time zone (Zone 3) is required to be under exam conditions, exams can start or finish at the Key Time
- All students must be present for their examinations, it is only under very extreme circumstances that students will be allowed to miss an exam..
- Examinations are run under very strict conditions and any student attempting to cheat will receive a zero mark
- Language examinations include a speaking test, where students are given a scenario in which they have to speak the taught language, these are recorded and sent to the examination board (see below).



- Music students must perform a composition and submit that as evidence of proficiency
- Art examinations take 8 hours and students must produce work from scratch based on a prior given theme or concept.

Grading

The UK government recently reformed GCSE grading system to acknowledge the very high achieving students, As part of these changes, the grading structure has moved from A*-G system to a numerical structure where a grade 9 is the highest outcome and 1 is the lowest.

| A*-G grades | 9-1 grades | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| A* | 9 | |
| A | 8 | |
| | 7 | Anchor point |
| B | 6 | |
| C | 5 | |
| | 4 | Anchor point |
| D | 3 | |
| E | 2 | |
| F | 1 | |
| G | 1 | Anchor point |
| U | U | |

Examination Boards



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

International General Certificate for Secondary Education

Schools have a choice as to which examination board they wish to use. At King's we are accredited to use the Cambridge Board of examiners. The reason for choosing Cambridge is that we feel their course structures are suited to our students, the context of our school and the prior experience delivering these courses amongst our teachers. Although other examination boards have different structures, a Cambridge IGCSE offers no greater or lesser value for a IGCSE. To know more about Cambridge Examinations follow this [link](#).



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Core Subjects

English Language & English Literature

"Literature adds to reality." C. S. Lewis

Why study English Literature & Language?

In Key Stage Four, English is split into two subjects: Language and Literature. These are taught simultaneously, but lead to two qualifications. They are not optional. Every student must study for both qualifications. We will be following the Cambridge IGCSE syllabus.

English Literature focuses on giving students cultural capital so that they may better enjoy and explore the world around them. It is about showing students the wealth of superb literature written in the English language, and teaching them to appreciate it and be inspired by it. It is also about students responding to literature in an analytical and critical way - finding their own interpretation of a text and, through a well structured essay, demonstrating how that is supported by their reading. Therefore, the texts chosen are rich and multi-layered to inspire original and individual exploration and ideas.

The study of English language is a skills based qualification, aiming to give students the ability to draw on ideas from a wide range of texts, contexts and critical perspectives. It has more of an emphasis on the students' ability to write and express themselves. This means, there is more of a focus on grammatical structures, terminology and linguistic conventions. Students will take two written externally assessed examinations, one which tests their reading skills and another which tests their writing skills.

Where does this go?

The study of English is compulsory at IB level - students can pick Standard or Higher Level and, in order to be successful and able to join the Higher Level, they will need to reach at least a grade 5 at IGCSE.

Further on, the skills acquired in English will be essential for success in any English language university. For example, most university courses will expect students to have the essay skills or communication skills required for high level study and success.

Careers/jobs in English include:

- Communication or public relations roles
- Social media management
- Content creation and management for websites
- Professional or technical writing for companies
- Digital copywriter
- Editorial assistant
- Lexicographer
- Magazine journalist
- Newspaper journalist
- Politician / civil servant
- Publishing copy-editor/proofreader
- Web content manager
- Writer
- Teacher
- Advertising copywriter



What will I learn?

In Literature, students will study a range of different texts including poetry, a modern playtext, a Shakespeare text, and a 19th century novella. They will learn how to analyse these texts at a high level, learn about the context around these texts and how to write literature essays on them.

In Language, the course will focus on reading and writing skills such as:

- Comprehending unseen texts
- Summarising what they have read
- Their ability to find explicit and implicit meanings in a text
- Their knowledge of writing techniques
- Their ability to write a non-fiction text in response to what they have read
- Articulating experienced and expressing what is thought, felt and imagined
- Organising and structuring ideas and opinions for deliberate effect
- Using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context
- Making accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How will I be assessed?

- English Language Paper 1 (Reading skills) - 2 hours.
- English Language Paper 2 (Writing skills) - 2 hours
- English Literature Paper 1 (Poetry and Prose) - 1 hour 30 minutes
- English Literature Paper 3 (Modern Playtext) - 45 minutes
- Coursework Portfolio - 2 essays

For more information please contact: Garreth.bradshaw@kings.education

Mathematics

"Mathematics is the language with which God has written the universe." Galileo

Why study Mathematics?

We would like our students to perceive mathematics not only as a school subject, but also as a tool for solving problems. Mathematics teaches you skills that you can use in many different work and personal situations. In this way, the skills you learn on a maths course are skills you will use throughout your life. Just some of the transferable skills that a maths degree can give you include:

- Data analysis
- Organisation
- Critical thinking
- Time management
- Communication
- Decision making

Where does this go?

It is a requirement for all students completing the IBDP program to choose one mathematics course for years 12 and 13. There are two mathematics courses for students to choose from in the IBDP and students' choices should be based on their interests, intended career paths and performance during their IGCSE course. These courses are as follows:

- Mathematics Analysis and Approaches: this course targets students who are comfortable with the most advanced mathematics topics covered in IGCSE and who intend to follow a career path that will require a deep understanding of mathematics (such as accountancy, actuarial science, architecture and engineering).
- Mathematics Applications & Interpretations: this course is ideal for students who wish to deepen and extend their understanding of topics that were covered during their IGCSE course. Students will develop their ability to use mathematics to describe our world and solve practical problems.

What will I learn?

Students will learn to think logically and to consistently apply concepts and skills from the following strands of mathematics:-

- Number: the foundation of mathematics, providing students with the skills to identify, represent and operate with numbers in a variety of practical ways
- Algebra and graphs: allowing students to find elegant and efficient solutions to complex problems



- Geometry and mensuration: appreciating the way shape and space has produced various mathematical discoveries that have real-world implications
- Statistics and probability: considering ways that data can be gathered and applied to make predictions and plan effectively

How will I be assessed?

Students' final IGCSE grade will be based on the results of 2 exams, which will be sat in the final term of Year 11. Students likely to achieve a Grade 5 or lower, will sit the Core exams. This will focus on testing the student's understanding of basic mathematical concepts and will cover a smaller amount of content. Students targeting a Grade 6 or higher will sit the Extended exams. These exams cover the most advanced areas of the syllabus and require a much deeper understanding of the Maths content and more advanced problem solving skills.

- Paper 1 (Core students only): Calculators are NOT allowed for this exam. There are 80 marks available and the exam will last 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Paper 2 (Extended students only) Calculators are NOT allowed for this exam. There are 100 marks available and the exam will last 2 hours.
- Paper 3 (Core students only): Calculators are allowed for this exam. There are 80 marks available and the exam will last 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Paper 4 (Extended students only): Calculators are allowed for this exam. There are 100 marks available and the exam will last 2 hours.

To help students prepare for these exams, they will sit regular assessments in-lesson to help them track their own progress and to identify their own strengths and areas for improvement.

For more information please contact: richard.hinton@kings.education



Global Perspectives

Why Study Global Perspectives?

Global Perspectives is a skills-based curriculum, there is no specific knowledge content to learn, Global Perspectives enables students to develop key skills such as critical thinking, research, analysis, reasoning, problem solving, reflection, evaluation, collaboration and communication. Our aim is to encourage awareness of global challenges and to offer a range of opportunities to explore solutions. The course is designed to open students' minds to the complexity of the world and of human thought, and to encourage empathy for the diversity of human experience and feeling.

What will I study?

Global Perspectives is built around an active learning process in which students have a great deal of autonomy in choosing what issues are explored, often reacting to events that are happening at that time.

We research and analyse:

- the causes and consequences of an issue
- the different perspectives involved (local, national and global)
- Different courses of action and their respective feasibility
- Evaluate our sources for reliability

Finally, armed with a deeper understanding, students must also form their own ideas and opinions. This approach empowers students to really take ownership of their learning and become skilled in independent enquiry and collaborative action.

The options of topics offered in Global Perspectives are issues of global importance such as:

Demographic change, fuel and energy, globalisation, migration, belief systems, biodiversity, sustainable living, conflict and peace, disease and health, human rights, poverty and inequality, language and communication, culture and identity.

Where does this go?

While not a discrete subject at IB, the skills and mindset that are developed with Global Perspectives are a **very strong foundation** for Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay, both of which are a compulsory part of the Core of the IB Diploma Programme. The topic areas which are studied by students in Global Perspectives all relate to the contemporary world and therefore link to many other subject areas. So even though Global Perspectives is not an option in the IB Diploma, a good grade at IGCSE in Global Perspectives will fulfil the entry requirements for other subject options.



How will I be assessed?

Global perspectives is different to other subjects in that it gives students the opportunity to complete the majority of the course in their own time at school, 65% of the grade comes from coursework completed before the final examination. This is an advantage to students who might struggle with exams and the stress that comes with exams. It also prepares students for the core aspects of the IB Diploma with a focus on collaboration, service and reflection which are all vital skills for IB Diploma students.

Component 1 - Written Examination 35% (1 hour 25 minutes)

Component 2 - Individual Report 30% (2000 words)

Component 3 - Team Project 35% (Team Outcome and Explanation, and Individual Reflection)

For more information please contact: joanne.felts@kings.education



Physical Education (Core) non examined

"Intelligence and skills can only function at the peak capacity when the body is fit and strong"

J.F.Kennedy

What is Core PE?

Core PE is a compulsory component of Year 10 and 11. This subject ensures wellbeing through physical activity.

Physical Education allows students to develop outside of the classroom. Providing opportunities to work with peers in a practical setting and offering the freedom to explore existing and hidden talents. The Core PE curriculum allows students to focus on physical, social, cognitive and fitness development through participation in a broad and challenging range of sports and physical activities.

What will I learn?

Taught activities include Badminton, Basketball, Netball, Swimming (may include: Personal survival, Life saving, Underwater Hockey), Volleyball, Weight training.

Although the activities mentioned above are the ones currently in KCL's curriculum for Y10 and Y11, some may be removed and others may be added, according to sport's venues, yearly events that our school may attend, international schools' events, adapted or new activities that may be introduced to P.E. curriculums. Examples of the latest are Athletics, Cricket, Dance, Football, Handball, Rounders, Rugby, Table tennis, just to name a few.

Core PE also aims to develop students' understanding of the benefits of participating in physical activity, including educating them about the importance of being physically active for a sustained period of time. Students are encouraged to be self-motivated and develop key transferable skills such as resilience, teamwork, communication, leadership and adaptability. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities will also build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

For more information please contact: liga.erina@kings.education



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Optional Subjects

Sciences

Science

“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the true source of all Art and Science” Albert Einstein

Why study Biology?

IGCSE Biology is particularly relevant for students planning to continue to study the subject at IB Diploma level. As well as a subject focus, the biology syllabus enables learners to:

- Better understand the technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- Recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life
- Develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- Develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life

Why study Physics?

IGCSE Physics is particularly relevant for students planning to study the subject at IB diploma level. As well as a subject focus, the physics syllabus enables learners to:

- Better understand the technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- Recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life
- Develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- Develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life

Why study Chemistry?

IGCSE Chemistry is particularly relevant for students planning to study the subject at IB diploma level. As well as a subject focus, the chemistry syllabus enables learners to:

- Better understand the technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- Recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life
- Develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- Develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life



Where does this go?

The IGCSE programmes for Biology, Chemistry and Physics are a great introduction to these scientific fields. Much of the content covered in these three programmes are also found in the IB Diploma programmes for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students selecting the Triple science pathway will have a smoother transition into any Higher Level IB Diploma Science programmes. This is because the IGCSE Triple Science courses cover each natural science in greater depth, enabling a greater understanding and readiness for the IB diploma. As such, students performing well in science find Triple Science IGCSE programmes more appropriate to their interests and abilities. However, students choosing to follow the Double Award, can still choose to continue studying science at IB and are not restricted by this choice.

Science students will find multiple possibilities in terms of career paths, such as medicine, biology, physics, chemistry, chemical engineering, astronomy and psychology.

What will I learn?

Biology is the branch of science dealing with the study of life. It describes the characteristics, classification, and behaviours of organisms, how species come into existence, and the interactions they have with each other and the environment. Biology has many specialised areas, covering a wide range of areas, from biochemistry to ecology.

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science. Physics challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and it leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers, that lead to technologies which change our lives - from healing joints, to curing cancer, to developing sustainable energy solutions. During the course students will complete a number of units based upon general physics, thermal physics, atomic physics, and properties of waves, electricity, and magnetism.

Chemistry is an important and interesting subject to study. It helps to develop practical skills and problem solving abilities. It also explains, alongside the other sciences, how the natural world works and is essential in creating new materials and finding cures for diseases. During the course students will gain a wide range of knowledge and understanding of scientific phenomena, including: facts, laws, definitions, concepts and theories. They will develop experimental skills to plan and carry out experiments and investigations safely using a range of techniques, apparatus and materials.

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 2 (45 Minutes) Multiple choice questions (30%)
- Paper 4 (1 hour and 45 minutes) Theory - Short answer and structured questions (50%)
- Paper 6 (1 hour) Questions based on experimental skills – alternative to practical (20%)

For more information please contact: phil.purslow@kings.education

Computer Science

"Everyone should learn to code, it teaches you to think" Steve Jobs

Why study Computer Science?

Computers are everywhere! It's hard to even think of an aspect of life which hasn't been affected by the evolution of technology. When something has such a big say in our lives it is important we understand it. Understand what it is, understand how it works and perhaps most of all, understand where it can take us!

Problem solving is an essential skill for life and in Computer Science a great deal of time is spent solving problems. The skills taught and practised obviously have a place in software design but they can also be applied across all of your lessons and out of school.

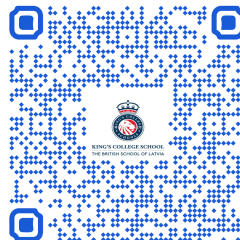
What will I learn?

The obvious thing which people think of when they see Computer Science on their time table is coding and they are right. Fifty percent of the course is taken up by problem solving and learning how to code but that's not all we do...

In unit one of the iGCSE we look at the theory of Computer Science, this is how data is seen and used by computer systems, how things work and how we can send things so far and so fast.

Some of the things learned include:

- Computer Networks
- Binary Representation
- Data Transfer
- Digital Currency
- Computer Processors
- Computer Memory



Follow the QR codes to see the class website and youtube channel!

Where does this go?

iGCSE provides an excellent platform from which a student can progress into the Computer Science world. A lot of the content is naturally built upon in the IB program and can then be specialised in at University.

Computer Science degrees vary in nature and students can study generalised degrees which have a wider focus on all aspects of computing or can specialise in areas such as programming, networking and Artificial Intelligence.



Computer Science offers a wide range of different career paths to suit almost everyone's interests. Careers such as program design (including computer games), database design, computer networking, web design and IT support as well as countless more are all a possibility for someone moving into the world of Computer Science.

How will I be assessed?

- iGCSE Computer Science is assessed using two written exam papers both of which are taken in year 11 at the end of the course.
- Paper 1 - Is out of 75 marks and is based on the theory units of the course (topics 1-6). It is worth 50% of the final overall grade and lasts 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Paper 2 - Is also out of 75 marks and is based on the problem solving units of the course (topics 7-10). It is also worth 50% of the overall grade and lasts 1 hour 45 minutes.

For more information please contact: christopher.tuff@kings.education



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Optional Subjects

Humanities

Geography

"The study of Geography is more than just memorising places on a map. It is about understanding the complexities of our world" Barack Obama

Why study Geography?

If you are interested in learning about:

- Learning about current world issues and how we can tackle them
- If you want to develop and deepen your knowledge about the world around you and how you interact with it
- Keep up to date with places & problems around the world through the study of real-life examples
- Develop your inquiry & independence skills by completing the iGCSE coursework component on "How rivers change from their Source to the Mouth"
- Learn investigation skills, such as Setting up an Investigation, Collecting Primary Data, Analysing and showing understanding of numerical data including statistical analysis.
- Explore the world and learn about different cultures with an overseas field trip to Spain

Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences, it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with, both at iGCSE and IB Diploma.

What will I learn?

We will look at a variety of subjects from the three different stands of Geography: Human Geography, Physical Geography and Economic Geography. Some of the Topics we cover include Human Development, Industry & Globalisation, Food Production, Population Studies, Migration, Natural Disasters, Rivers: Processes, Landforms and management, and Coastal Processes & Management.

Where does this go?

iGCSE Geography will help with the transition to the IB Diploma where Geography is on offer at both Higher and Standard Levels, however iGCSE geography is not a requirement to take Geography at Diploma Level. [International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Subject Brief - Individuals and societies: Geography](#), Jobs that you could go into with a degree in Geography include: Environmental consultants, Climate scientist, Geoscientist, Town Planners, Landscape architect, Data analyst, International NGO's, working with Geographical information systems such as google maps, or alternatively you could get into Politics

How will I be assessed?

- 1. Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes** - Candidates answer three questions out of six. There are two questions set on each of the three themes. Questions are structured with gradients of difficulty and are resource-based, involving problem-solving and free-response writing. (75 marks) 45% of total marks
- 2. Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 minutes** - Candidates answer all the questions. The paper is based on testing the interpretation and analysis of geographical information and on the application of graphical and other techniques as appropriate. The questions will not require specific information about the place. (60 marks) 27.5% of total marks
- 3. Paper 3 - Coursework** – Linked in with the coastal unit of work. A 4-day Fieldwork may be undertaken in Spain in September 2024 (approx. €1500.00). 2000 words. (60 marks) 27.5% of total marks.

For more information please contact: joanne.felts@kings.education or andrew.zwick@kings.education

History

"To remain ignorant of History is to remain forever a child" Cicero

Why study History?

If you enjoy asking questions about the past and human motivations then History is the subject for you. To know that events happened in the past is one thing, but to be able to explain why they happened requires a lot of skill. By learning historical and analytical skills you will be able to provide detailed and well constructed explanations for human actions. History promotes and supports the use of English language in reading, writing and comprehension. It helps you to develop critical thinking skills, and supports your understanding of world events outside your own context.

What will I learn?

You will learn about 20th century History. There are two sections to the course, the first looks at many global events in the 20th century, ranging from making peace at the end of the 1st world war to the fall of Communism in the 1990s. The second part of the course looks at a shorter period of time in a lot more depth and will be about Germany from 1918 - 1939 which covers the Weimar Republic, the rise of Hitler and the Nazis and what it was like to live in Germany under authoritarian control.

Where does this go?

The History iGCSE combines knowledge and skills which makes it an excellent springboard from which to launch into IB DP History. The subject content students acquire means they become knowledgeable, and the skills they learn mean they can apply the knowledge in different scenarios and to effectively answer different questions. Together with a 16-18 qualification such as the IB DP, the iGCSE in History is an attractive qualification that universities value as evidence of academic achievement. The skills gained at iGCSE level give a firm foundation and starting point for students considering employment in law and education, in research and analysis, as well as in journalism and diplomatic work.

How will I be assessed?

There are three components to the iGCSE in History. The skills and requirements for each component are taught explicitly throughout the course and students are given plenty of opportunity to develop and practise these skills.

- **Paper 1: (2 hours)**

Students answer three questions in total. Two questions are on the breadth topic and the third is from the depth topic. All questions are in three parts, the final part of each question being a mini essay. This component is 40% of the final grade.



How will I be assessed Continued

- **Paper 2: (1 hour 45 minutes)**

Students answer all five questions relating to a group of sources. The sources will be about one area from the core content. The questions require source analysis skills and subject content to be used to form structured responses. This component is 30% of the final grade.

- **Paper 4: (1 hour)**

Students answer one question which is broken into two parts. This is based on the content of the depth study. One question is a narrative question, the other is significance.. This component is 30% of the final grade.

For more information please contact: joanne.felts@kings.education



Business Studies

Why Study Business?

Everything around us is shaped by the world of business, whether it is a favourite football team, fashion brand or computer game. This course is especially suited to those who are interested in how ideas become a business, how to promote and market a business and how to run and manage a business.

IGCSE Business will allow students to move on to a range of courses, including Business and Economics offered at IBDP level. The skills acquired will support students into further education and beyond into the world of work. Studying Business IGCSE provides a fantastic base which can be used to excel in the workplace if a student pursues an apprenticeship route.

What will I study?

During the course students will gain an understanding of how the world of business works. They will apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in both the local and national contexts. Students will look at a range of topics including:

Business Activity: This will involve looking at the purpose of businesses, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.

Influences on business: Looking at the different external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences.

Business operations: The study of production, human resources, finance and marketing.

How is the course assessed?

Cambridge iGCSE Business is assessed through two written examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes Short Answer and Data Response 50% - 80 marks. Four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses. Externally assessed.

Paper 2 : 1 hour 30 minutes Case Study 50% - 80 marks. Four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper. Externally assessed.

For more information please contact: shane.nolan@kings.education

Spanish

*“Si no escalas la montaña, jamás podrás disfrutar del paisaje.” Pablo Neruda
(If you don't climb the mountain, you'll never be able to enjoy the view)*

Why study Spanish?

Among the many reasons to study Spanish, here are 5 that I consider to be the most important:

1. Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. With over 580 million speakers, it is the second most spoken language after Chinese. It is an official language in 21 countries and is spoken at different levels of proficiency in many more.
2. It is becoming important in the business world. Knowledge of Spanish can be a valuable asset in many industries, including business, education, healthcare, and tourism. Spanish ranks third in the classification of languages according to their contribution to the global GDP with 6.2%, although at a considerable distance from Chinese and English, which are at 18.7% and 32.6% respectively. Behind them are French with 5.4%, Arabic with 4.8%, and Russian with 4%.
3. It is a gateway to other cultures. Spanish is the language of some of the world's richest and most diverse cultures, including those of Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Studying Spanish can open a whole new world of literature, music, film, and art.
4. It can enhance your travel experiences. Being able to communicate in Spanish can enrich your travel experiences and allow you to connect with locals on a deeper level.
5. The main universities in Spanish-speaking countries are among the most prestigious in the world rankings. Usually, these universities require at least an intermediate-high level of Spanish language proficiency (B2 level, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) to gain admission. This is precisely the level that can be achieved after completing the IBDP program during year 12 and 13 if the Higher Level option is chosen.

Extra reason for any language: Learning a new language has been shown to improve cognitive function, including memory, attention and problem-solving skills.

What will I learn?

Once the IGCSE Spanish course is completed and the exams are passed, the level obtained is typically considered as an A2 (high-basic) with some features of B1 (low-intermediate) according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This means that you should be able to understand and use basic expressions/vocabulary related to everyday situations, such as introductions, shopping, ordering food, etc.; understand short, simple texts on familiar topics, such as personal emails or notes;



participate in simple, routine conversations about everyday activities; write short messages, emails, or notes on familiar topics; understand and use basic grammar structures, such as present tense, past tense, and future tense, as well as common prepositions, adjectives, and adverbs. Overall, an A2 level in Spanish is a good starting point for learning the language and it can be helpful in a variety of situations, travelling or communicating with Spanish speakers in a simple and basic way.

Where does this go?

Spanish IGCSE is a good starting point for the journey in learning Spanish to continue delving deeper during the IBDP program. Studying Spanish can lead to many different paths and opportunities. Here are a few examples:

Personal enrichment. Learning Spanish can be a rewarding experience in and of itself, allowing you to communicate with millions of people around the world, access new cultures, and gain a deeper understanding of the language and its history.

Academic and professional opportunities. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, and many universities and employers value proficiency in the language. Learning Spanish can open up new opportunities for study abroad, research, internships, and jobs in a wide range of fields, including education, business, law, healthcare, and more.

Cultural exchange and travel. Knowing Spanish can enhance your travel experiences in Spanish-speaking countries, allowing you to communicate with locals, make new friends, and immerse yourself in the local culture.

Language teaching and translation. Proficiency in Spanish can also bring opportunities to teach Spanish as a second language or work as a translator or interpreter.

The study of Spanish can lead to personal and professional growth, increased cultural awareness, and expanded opportunities both at home and abroad.

How will I be assessed?

The IGCSE Spanish exam consists of 4 different exams that correspond to the four basic language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Each exam evaluates a different skill and has a different duration and format:

Paper 1. Listening exam. 50 minutes. 40 marks. 25 %. Students listen to a variety of audio texts in Spanish (conversations, monologues, interviews, advertisements,...). They must be able to understand the main points and different details of the audio and answer comprehension questions.



Paper 2. Reading exam. 60 minutes. 45 marks. 25%. Evaluates the ability to read and comprehend a variety of written texts in Spanish (emails, letters, stories, advertisements,...). They must be able to understand the main points and details of the text and answer comprehension questions.

Paper 3. Speaking exam. 10 minutes. 40 marks. 25%. Evaluates the ability to communicate orally in Spanish about specific topics and to maintain a conversation with fluency and naturalness.

Paper 4. Writing exam. 60 minutes. 45 marks. 25%. Students must be able to write texts (emails, letters, stories) in Spanish effectively, using appropriate grammar and vocabulary.

For more information please contact: sara.plomer@kings.education

Latvian

Latvian Language Study: A Suitable Option for You?

If you are considering studying Latvian, this course is designed for learners eager to communicate clearly and effectively in Latvian. Throughout the program, you'll acquire a comprehensive understanding of the language's vocabulary and grammar. You'll develop the skills needed to express yourself accurately, both in writing and speaking, while paying attention to spelling, punctuation, and style.

Where does this go?

The course encourages you to explore a wide range of texts, allowing you to enjoy reading in Latvian while gaining an appreciation for how writers in Latvia express themselves. You'll also focus on building a personal style that reflects an awareness of your audience. Whether you're looking to communicate in everyday situations or immerse yourself in Latvian literature and culture, this course provides the foundational tools for success.

Moreover, proficiency in Latvian can lead to the **Language and Literature A** course at the **International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme**, which offers an in-depth study of literature, language, and cultural context. This course is an excellent path for students aiming to earn a **bilingual diploma**, showcasing your ability to master two languages at an advanced level. By achieving fluency in Latvian, you will not only strengthen your communication skills but also open doors to an international educational experience, helping you stand out in a globalized world.



KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL
THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF LATVIA



Subjects

Creative Options

Music

"Music is life itself" Louis Armstrong

Why study Music?

This course is designed for all learners, not just those who have instrumental or singing lessons. Learners that enjoy playing and composing projects in music lessons, and would like to learn about the latest technological equipment and studio facilities, will enjoy this course.

To support their learning, **learners are expected to take up all opportunities to get involved in music ensembles** to enhance their performing skills.

What will I learn?

Learners will develop an appreciation of various styles of music and, as a stimulus, will understand the composing process. They will listen widely to different genres of music to understand that process. Many stimulating workshops and performances will be offered in both lesson time and outside of school time.

Where does this go?

We would recommend completing the iGCSE Music course to move forward further musical study and a solid foundation for IB Diploma Music and Music Technology, as it gives you a great foundation in Music, although it is not essential. You may wish to take a iGCSE in Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include carers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

How will I be assessed?

iGCSE Music is divided into three areas:

Performance 30% (internally assessed)

Learners perform two pieces either vocal or instrumental. One piece is a Solo performance with piano accompaniment, if appropriate. The second piece must be an independent part in an ensemble with a minimum of 3 players. (2 pieces – 3 minutes minimum timing for both together)

Composition 30% (internally assessed)

Learners submit two compositions in contrastingly different styles based on any of the four main areas of study. (2 pieces – 3 minutes minimum for both)

Listening Paper 40% 1hr 15 min. (externally assessed)

Learners are required to answer questions on different pieces of music from the 16th Century to the present day and from anywhere around the world. There are four main areas of study: Musical forms and devices; Music for ensemble; Film music and Popular music. One piece (Set Work) will be studied in greater depth.

For more information please contact: ruta.kanteruka@kings.education

Art

"Creativity takes courage" Henri Matisse

Why study Art?

GCSE Art and Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature.

What will I learn?

Arts and design promotes learning across a wide variety of experiences. This is done using a range of processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to generate evidence of working and outcomes. Over the two years, two projects will be completed to develop skills through different forms of art, craft and design. This enables pupils to meet the requirements of the assessment objectives and provide evidence of drawing and written annotation of their ideas and outcomes. Portfolio projects may cover topics such as war and conflict, close-up, disguise/identity and a choice from a past paper to ensure pupils are practising for their externally set assignment.

Where does this go?

IGCSE Arts and Design is good preparation for IB Visual art course. During the course, students learn how to carry out any creative project and this skill is very important in such professions as an architect, interior designer, graphic designer, fashion designer, textile design, exhibition curator. Also the practical skills and creative possibilities of art and design can be very rewarding. Being creative is a reward in itself.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 - Coursework

50% - 100 marks

Candidates research, develop and realise a project from one area of study in the subject content from a theme set by the teacher. There are two parts to the coursework: – a portfolio and – a final outcome. Externally assessed

Component 2 - Externally set assignment (8h)

50% - 100 marks

Candidates respond to one starting point set by Cambridge International. Candidates may produce work from the same area of study as Component 1, but they do not have to. There are two parts to the assignment: – supporting studies and – a final outcome, produced during a supervised test of 8 hours' total duration. Externally assessed

For more information please contact: jack.bishop@kings.education



IGCSE Curriculum Syllabus Information

1. Compulsory IGCSEs (students have to study all of these subjects)

- [IGCSE Mathematics](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [IGCSE English Language](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [IGCSE English Literature](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [Global Perspectives](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)

Option Choices (students must make two choices from the five subjects below)

- [Business Studies](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [Music](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [History](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [Geography](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [Art and Design](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [IGCSE Computer Science](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [IGCSE Spanish](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [Chemistry](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [Biology](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)
- [Physics](#) (worth 1 IGCSE)