



BRIGHTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
BANGKOK

IGCSE Choices 2017



BRIGHTON COLLEGE BANGKOK

A member of the Brighton College family of schools.

Brighton College Bangkok



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IGCSE Options 2017

The Year 10 and 11 IGCSE Course

The curriculum in Years 10 and 11 will build on work studied during the Pre-IGCSE courses in Year 9. In some subjects they will already have completed work towards the IGCSE syllabus and in others they will have developed the skills required to begin the course in Year 10. There will also be opportunities to study new subjects. In addition to the 'Core Curriculum', which is followed by all Brighton College Bangkok pupils in Years 10 & 11, there will also be the opportunity to choose option subjects. Therefore, we are able to design a curriculum that reflects pupils' own particular strengths and interests. We will offer advice on choices but there may also be practical considerations during this process, such as the number of pupils who opt for a subject and whether or not we can physically timetable the combinations of choices. However, wherever possible, pupils' choices will be accommodated.

The Core Curriculum

All pupils are expected to study a group of subjects that ensure a rigorous set of transferable skills and knowledge. This is very much in keeping with the best practice in schools that offer an IGCSE curriculum. These subjects are:

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

In addition, in accordance with Ministry of Education regulations, all Thai nationals will be required to study IGCSE Thai.

Finally, all pupils in Years 10 and 11 will follow core Physical Education and Well-being programmes in order to promote regular exercise and a healthy, happy lifestyle. (Note: the core Physical Education course is separate from the IGCSE Physical Education option and does not result in a qualification.)

IGCSE Option Subjects

In addition to the core subjects above, pupils will choose four additional subjects (three for Thai nationals) from the following options:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Art and Design | • History |
| • Computer Science | • Mandarin |
| • Drama | • Music |
| • Economics | • Physical Education |
| • French | • Spanish |
| • Geography | |

These choices should provide a sufficient range for pupils to be able to pursue a curriculum that is both useful and interesting, whilst providing suitable breadth and academic rigour. Guidance on choices is given below.



Choosing your options

When choosing options subjects to complement the core studies, it is important to consider a variety of factors, both educational and practical. Consequently, it is likely that in making choices, it may be necessary to make certain compromises. It is also important to make the choices as early as possible, as this will give us the time to try to adjust the timetable to accommodate the subjects that have been chosen. Once the timetable has been written, it may still be possible to make changes; however, choices are likely to be more restricted at this stage. Therefore, please try to consider the following key points:

Breadth of education

At this early stage of their education, it is important that pupils continue to develop the widest possible range of skills and to keep as many options open for their future education and careers as possible. It is for this reason that our recommendation, unless there are strong reasons otherwise, is to include one subject from humanities (Economics, Geography or History), one language (Thai, Mandarin, French or Spanish), one creative subject (Art, Drama or Music) and one more applied subject (Computer Science, Design Technology or Physical Education). The exception is for pupils with a particular interest or area of strength, for example languages, who may wish to skew their choices in that direction.

Your strengths

It is important that pupils' choices prepare them to succeed in their IGCSEs and to obtain the best possible set of qualifications. For the majority of the option subjects, pupils will have already experienced work at an IGCSE level or close to it; as such, we suggest that they should try to choose those subjects they feel they are best at and perhaps try to avoid those they have struggled with in the past.

Your interests

Pupils will be studying these subjects for the next two years and are likely to enjoy the experience much more, and be more willing to work with greater endeavour, if they have an interest in the subjects they are studying.

Usefulness

Some pupils already have an idea of the subjects they wish to study at 'A' level, at university and even the kind of career that they may want to go into. If this is the case, it is particularly important to make sure

the subjects chosen now will not close these possibilities in the future. For example, if pupils want to study History or Geography at 'A' level then they will have to study them at IGCSE level. Similarly, those wishing to study languages at a higher level will find it useful to study more than one language at IGCSE. However, it is not necessary to study Economics at IGCSE level to study it at 'A' level.

Choosing options may seem a daunting prospect and it is important to get help and advice from people who can help to answer some of the questions above. Discuss things with parents, form tutors and current teachers. Please also feel very welcome to contact us here if you need any help and advice making the decisions.



IGCSE Options 2017

The Core Subjects

English Language

IGCSE First Language English is designed for pupils who speak English as their first language or those who are suitably proficient in English. Pupils will develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in both speech and writing. They will also learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style that also has an awareness of the audience.

Pupils are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for pupils who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their education or career. Through their studies, pupils will improve their ability to understand and use English in a range of situations.

The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.

English Literature

The English Literature syllabus enables pupils to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Pupils will develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

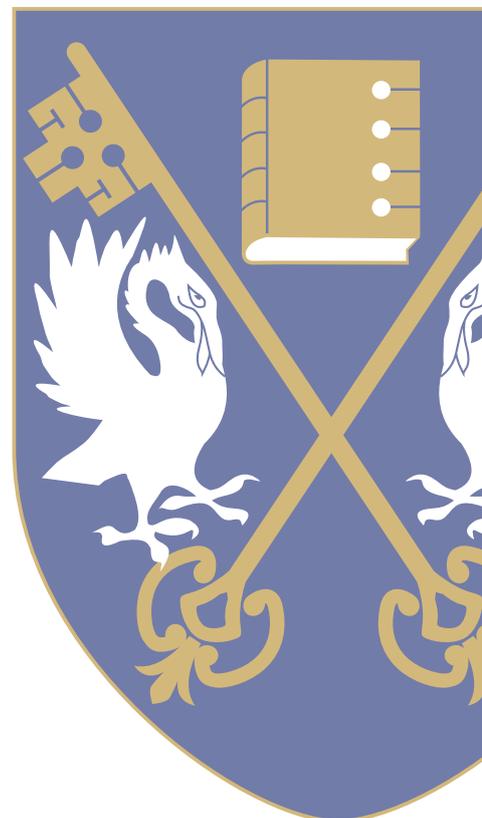
The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting pupils' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

Mathematics

An essential subject for all learners, Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

In addition, for high ability learners who have achieved, or are likely to achieve, grade A*, A or B in the IGCSE Mathematics examination, Cambridge IGCSE Additional Mathematics enables learners to extend the mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics course and use skills in the context of more advanced techniques.

The syllabus has a Pure Mathematics only content which enables learners to acquire a suitable foundation in mathematics for further study in the subject.



The Sciences

Science at IGCSE is taught in three distinct subjects: Physics, Chemistry and Biology, each resulting in the awarding of a full IGCSE qualification. The IGCSE Science syllabi help learners understand the technical world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. They learn about the basic principles of Physics, Chemistry and Biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Pupils also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A levels - skills which are also useful in everyday life.

As they progress, pupils gain an understanding of how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

Thai (First Language)

The Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai syllabus is for learners whose first language is Thai. This First Language syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, for their own enjoyment and to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.



IGCSE Options 2017

The Option Subjects

Art and Design

The Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

In addition to developing a range of technical skills, the Art and Design course also enables pupils to explore and develop their analytical and problem solving skills in addition to exploring their own creativity which will help to support them in all other academic areas and life beyond school. Pupils will create art that will strengthen their sense of identity, exploring and developing their skills in a multitude of art media from 2-dimensional to technology. Pupils will also explore the history of art and its impact on the contemporary. They will also learn to think broadly and critically, enriching their life experience as no other subject can; they will be able to take an idea and run away with it - passion never fails.

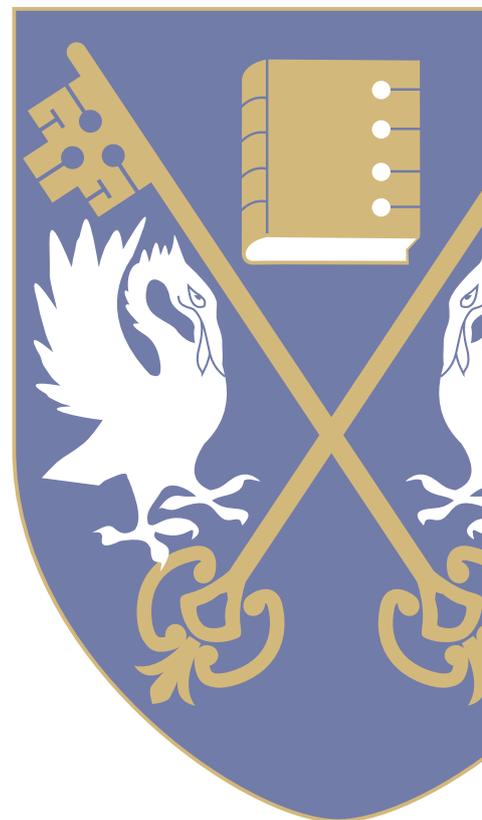
Computer Science

Learners following the Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science syllabus develop their understanding of the main principles of problem solving using computers. They can apply their understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills, as well as being able to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions. Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science will help learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use and recognise their potential risks.

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computing and gain confidence in computational thinking. It is an ideal foundation for further study at Cambridge International AS and A Level, and the skills learnt can also be used in other areas of study and in everyday life.

Computer Science also gives you the opportunity to be creative in ways not possible in other fields of study. You can create and publish things for the whole world to see. You can modify existing structures to suit your needs. You can create something that nobody ever thought of and will develop a greater understanding of the digital world around us.

Computer Science skills are also in high demand. More and more employers want to see candidates that can code websites and mobile apps. In 2014, Facebook and Microsoft acquired 'WhatsApp' and the creators of Minecraft respectively. In both cases, this was because they had identified highly skilled individuals in the smaller companies whose skills they needed; currently there is a shortage of skilled programmers and developers in the world. As well as being an exciting and innovative subject, Computer Science is a subject that can lead to a wide arrange of employment opportunities.



Design Technology

The IGCSE Design and Technology syllabus enables pupils to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools. As a result, pupils will gain a greater technical and design awareness, while developing skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity. They will also develop the communication skills central to design making and evaluation. Design and Technology is also a subject that enables pupils to draw on the skills and knowledge developed in other subject areas, such as Mathematics and Physics, and use them to solve 21st Century problems. The IGCSE provides an ideal basis for further study, and prepares learners for their future within a rapidly changing technological society.

Drama

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

IGCSE Drama will enable pupils to develop their self-confidence and communication and analytical skills in addition to nurturing a sense of creativity, all of which will be invaluable in Higher Education and careers beyond. In addition to promoting involvement in drama and theatre, pupils will also have the opportunity to study and analyse texts to provide greater insight and enable them to be more informed and appreciative audience members.

Economics

The Cambridge IGCSE Economics syllabus develops an understanding of economic terminology and principles, and of basic economic theory. Learners study the economics of developed and developing nations and how these interrelate. They also learn to handle simple data and undertake economic analysis, evaluate information and discriminate between facts and value judgements in economic issues. A foundation (but not a requirement) for further study at Cambridge International AS and A Level, the syllabus also encourages a better understanding of the world in which learners live, and helps them play an active part in the decision-making process, whether as consumers, producers or citizens of the local, national and international community.

Economics IGCSE provides pupils with a fundamental understanding of how the world's scarce resources are allocated, how wealth is generated and distributed, and how economics can be used to improve choices in order to raise living standards for everyone.



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French

This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where French is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

A world language spoken by 220 million people on the five continents. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and the international courts. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, and the continent of Africa). Perhaps the best reason, however, is the culture - French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. Furthermore, it is the language of Victor Hugo, Molière, Edith Piaf, Alain Delon and Zinedine Zidane. IGCSE French at Brighton College will enable you to experience the pleasure of learning a beautiful, rich and melodious language.

Geography

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, learners will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. They will also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world.

The study of geography will help pupils to develop an understanding of the physical and human world, covering areas as diverse as: landscapes, plate tectonics, inequalities and economic development, global climate change, migration, agriculture, environmental degradation and social cohesion.

Geography is the perfect bridge between the arts and the sciences in that to excel it requires pupils to be both literate and numerate; to debate and analyse; to describe, represent and report; and to develop an in depth understanding of crucial contemporary issues.

Geography will appeal to those pupils who are curious and open-minded, to those who wish to discover the world beyond their current home and to those who wish to get out and explore - both literally and metaphorically.



History

The Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject. Both coursework and non-coursework options are available.

Developing an understanding of past events and eras that have shaped and crafted our world is both fascinating and thought-provoking for pupils.

The study of history will help pupils to develop a wide range of transferable skills, including: excellent communication and writing skills; the ability to construct and unpick an argument; investigative and problem-solving skills; and analytical and interpretation skills. Learning about the past and the people who have influenced it will also help pupils to set the contemporary world in context and will enable them to question, understand and predict how it may develop in the future.

Mandarin

This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where Mandarin Chinese is spoken, encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

The need to learn Chinese is driven by economic and political demands around the world. With increased international trade and cultural exchange, learning Chinese as a Second Language is becoming all the more popular and essential. The ability to speak Chinese, together with an understanding of Chinese culture, will definitely open up more opportunities to work, live and communicate. Furthermore, it will help to prepare for a future in which China will continue to play an important role.



Music

When studying the Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus, learners listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, learners enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment.

Learners study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and they are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive and critical when listening. Although the majority of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is always represented.

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Studying IGCSE Music encourages aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and creativity. Music is a great way to express emotions and its possibilities are truly endless. Learners are assessed in three areas: listening, composing and performing. In preparation for the listening exam, students will study and analyse a wide variety of music. Performing and composing music will be in the form of coursework, allowing time to prepare and refine work. The Music classroom is a passionate learning environment and often leads to building meaningful and lasting friendships. To take IGCSE music, it is essential to play an instrument or sing to a minimum of Grade 4 standard. It is also essential to possess theoretical music skills and being able to read music is highly advantageous.

Physical Education

The syllabus provides learners with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. This helps learners to develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

IGCSE PE is a great choice for all pupils who are passionate about sports performance, health, psychology, physiology and biomechanics. It is also essential that young adults understand how to lead a healthy, active lifestyle and how to get the most from their body. IGCSE PE will give each pupil a clear perspective on this. It offers a unique opportunity to combine a range of subjects (Biology, Maths, English, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and History) within the key focus of sport. Much of the learning will be done practically and pupils will carry out experiments, complete training programmes and train in a number of different sports. IGCSE PE will look at 2 key areas: health and the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle; sports performance - where we consider what makes a top athlete. The course is examined practically and theoretically, whilst pupils will be expected to train and compete in at least four different sports during curriculum time, after school and at weekends to improve their performance and skills.

Spanish

This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning Spanish as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

Spanish is the third most spoken language in the world, and the most spoken language in the Americas. It's the official language in 22 countries and the second most spoken language in the United States. As such, speaking this language makes you hugely employable and enables you to conduct business with Spanish or Latin American firms, improving your career prospects significantly. Spanish combines well with other university subjects such as law, business studies, economics, journalism, and politics to name just a few. Best of all, it is the most "fun" language to learn! Think of it - sing along and dance to music such as Spanish Flamenco, Argentinian tango, Puerto Rican salsa! Experience real passion by watching "telenovelas" soaps and news in Spanish! Explore magical literature through Cervantes, Garcia Marquez or Allende, and connect through artists and architects such as Frida Khalo or Gaudi. By completing the IGCSE Spanish course at Brighton College Bangkok, you will experience the flavours and rhythms of the infamous Hispanic passion!





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