



IGCSE Choices 2018-2020

At the Prince of Wales Island International School, Year 10 and 11 students follow a UK style curriculum. This curriculum (now called the Ebacc in England) consists of compulsory IGCSEs in English, Maths and Science, comprising Physics, Chemistry and Biology. In addition, the curriculum requires students to study at least one language, at least one of Geography or History and two other subjects of the student's choice. Due to local Ministry of Education requirements, Malaysian citizens must choose Bahasa Melayu, either alone or combined, as one of their options.

The table below details the subjects offered in each of the subject areas. In order to meet the requirements of the Ebacc style curriculum, students must choose one subject from each of blocks A and B below. Their third and fourth choice is a free choice and they can choose any two subjects, although some combinations are not allowed. Students requiring English support and/or learning support will receive this on a rotating timetable, meaning they should still choose four subjects.

A Humanities	B Languages	C and D Free Choice – Choose 2 subjects.
Geography History	Bahasa Melayu French Mandarin Chinese Combined BM and French* Combined BM and Mandarin*	Art Business Studies or Economics** Computer Science or ICT** Design Technology Drama Music Physical Education (examined) Any other subject from groups A or B

* Combined Languages will result in two IGCSEs but are designed for advanced BM speakers only.

** Students are not permitted to choose both Business Studies and Economics.

Subjects that require prior knowledge:

- Languages: To take a language subject, the student should have some previous experience in that language. If a student has no knowledge of any of the languages offered, the requirement to study a language may be dropped, and an alternative subject taken instead, after discussion with Mr Kirk Green.
- Music: It is advisable that students have basic musical knowledge, including notation.

All students are expected to maintain a full timetable with a broad range of subjects. Therefore, except in very exceptional circumstances, we do not allow students to 'drop' subjects during Year 10 or 11. However, changes are allowed during term 1 of Year 10.

Students should discuss their options with subject teachers, tutors and parents/guardians. Every effort will be made to accommodate all students' first choices. However, if this is not possible in individual cases, students may be asked to make an alternative. This will be done in discussion with Mr Kirk Green.

Student Name:

Block	Subject	Subject Teacher Signature (proof of discussion)
A		
B		
C		
D		

Signature of Tutor: Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Years 10 and 11 Curriculum Guide

The transition from Year 9 to 10 is an important step in students' academic careers as it represents the first time that they are able to make a significant choice about which subjects they wish to study.

At POWIIS the Year 10 and 11 curriculum offers breadth and depth and is primarily based on the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). The IGCSE is an international version of the compulsory school examinations in England and Wales but is more suited to students in international schools as it allows us to use case studies and texts which are more appropriate to this region. The IGCSE is the most popular examination worldwide for 14-16 year olds and is seen as excellent preparation for A Level and other post 16 qualifications. IGCSE courses do follow a prescribed curriculum administered by examination boards in England. At POWIIS we use two examination boards to administer our examinations: Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and Edexcel (formerly the University of London Examinations Board). However we structure our courses around learning rather than assessment and the learning is not always confined to the limits of the syllabus content.

Each IGCSE course lasts two years and is externally assessed by written examinations. Some courses include coursework which will be completed in school and internally assessed but then externally moderated. IGCSE courses start in September of Year 10 and the examinations are usually sat in May and June of Year 11. CIE IGCSE grades are reported on a scale from A* to U, with grades A* to C usually considered to be a good pass. Edexcel IGCSE courses will receive a 1 (low) to 9 (high) award, with 4 and above considered a good pass.

In addition to the more formal academic curriculum students at POWIIS will follow a Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) course. PSHE provides year 10 and 11 students with the opportunity to reflect on and apply their academic knowledge. It covers a broad range of subjects, focusing on students' wellbeing and aims to help them become young adults who are prepared to make their own moral judgments. Among other things, it looks at how to live a healthy lifestyle, bullying, freedom of speech, as well as relationship education. Students will also continue to have timetabled (non-examined) Physical Education lessons and will be required to maintain their wide ranging extra-curricular involvement through the after school activities programme.



Subject Information

The electronic version of this guide contains hyperlinks to each subject's syllabus for further information.

Core Subjects

English First Language

CIE

[0500](#)

English First Language is tailored towards those fluent in English and those who use English to communicate in their everyday lives. This course will help students to improve their written and spoken communication, whilst exposing them to a wide-range of fiction and non-fiction texts. They will develop close reading skills and will engage with writers' thoughts, feelings and viewpoint, as well as developing personal responses to ideas in a text. Students will not only learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, but will also enjoy plentiful opportunities for creative writing.

English as a Second Language

CIE

[0510](#)

This course is designed for students who are in the earlier stages of English language acquisition. The course offers learners the opportunity to improve their communicative ability in English; it will enable them to understand English in a range of everyday situations and social circumstances; and improve their ability to understand how the English Language works. Students who take this route are often encouraged to take additional English support lessons.

Mathematics

EDEXCEL

[4MA1](#)

An essential subject for all learners, Edexcel 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. All Year 10 students will be taught Mathematics for 5 periods per week with two exams in May 2017.

English Literature

CIE

[0475](#)

For selected students only.

Students who have shown promise in their English lessons in year 9 are offered the chance to achieve an additional IGCSE in English. Students who take this route will be exposed to a range of texts, including Poetry, Drama and Prose, from the works of Shakespeare to contemporary literature. An English Literature student should enjoy reading and be prepared to uncover the deeper meanings and significance within a text. He/she will be prepared to take risks and share their personal interpretations, remembering that there is not always a right or wrong answer! An IGCSE in Literature will stimulate learners to read for pleasure, to explore wider and universal issues, thus promoting a better understanding of themselves and the world.

Further Pure Mathematics

EDEXCEL

[4PM1](#)

For selected students only.

Some students in Year 10 will study Further Pure Mathematics IGCSE in addition to Mathematics IGCSE. This does not count as an option subject as it is studied without any extra lesson time. A group of students have already undergone preparation for the course but if any other students are interested they should speak to their Maths teacher who will discuss their suitability. It is a very challenging course which should only be undertaken if students are naturally gifted, genuinely interested and determined to succeed. Studying this course will help prepare students for AS and A Level Mathematics but it is not an essential requirement for any course.

Biology

EDEXCEL

[4BI1](#)

The IGCSE Biology course involves a mixture of learning key biological facts and concepts, with developing practical skills relevant to the subject. The course focuses on the unifying themes within Biology and allows students to develop a cross-curricular approach to Science as well. Topics studied include cells, classification, human body systems, ecology and the impact of humans on the environment. Throughout the course, students complete practical work including dissections and learn methods for accurate data collection.

Chemistry

EDEXCEL

[4CH1](#)

Chemistry is the study of atoms, the building blocks of all materials. The world of chemistry serves two very important roles, making useful materials and testing materials. Chemistry is a very practical subject and our aim in POWIIS is to make the study of chemistry come alive through colourful and thought-provoking experiments. The syllabus for Edexcel divides our study into 5 main topics which are described in detail on the syllabus. All students will develop practical and investigative skills during the course as well as acquire a knowledge of the facts, concepts and principles of chemistry. In an age of rapid change and development we aim to equip our students for the World of the future as well as prepare them for further studies in this subject.

Physics

EDEXCEL

[4PH1](#)

Physics is the most fundamental branch of science and is concerned with the study of matter and energy. Topics studied range from the forces keeping planets in their orbits to the make-up of the electromagnetic spectrum and the structure of the atom. At POWIIS we endeavour to make Physics as practical as possible as well as giving students a thorough grounding in the subject to prepare them for further study.

Option Choices

History

CIE

[0470](#)

Students who study IGCSE History have a fantastic opportunity, to undertake a course that allows them to understand how the 21st century has been shaped by the events of the 20th century. This course will not only increase their knowledge of key events, some events their own relatives lived through, but will also allow them, with hindsight, to question the decisions made by the leaders of the time. They will evaluate primary evidence, make judgments on the decisions of key leaders of the day, as well as debate what decisions could have been made. At the end of the course students are able to assess whether History repeats itself, and whether 'Man' does learn from his mistakes. Students are also more aware of world events today, and can thus, play a role in shaping the world they live in. Students who study History can also enjoy careers in Law, Journalism, Archeology, Research, to name but a few.

Geography

CIE

[0460](#)

This course is for those whom enjoy learning about the world around them both natural and human. Students will be exposed, not just to the visual stimuli of photographs, maps and graphs in the classroom, but also have the opportunity to do fieldwork. There is a field trip to Northern Thailand that students are encouraged to go on to learn more about fieldwork and the outdoors. Students will appreciate that people have different views of, and attitudes to the world, its environments and its issues. The Syllabus will help develop a student's awareness of global issues and recognise the need for a sustainable future.

Bahasa Malayu

CIE

0546

Studying Bahasa Malaysia is of great importance for those living in Malaysia. Bahasa Melayu, as it is also called, is a major language of the Austronesian family. It is the national language of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei, and one of four official languages of Singapore. It is spoken natively by 40 million people in South East Asia. The practical value of learning the language of one's country of residence is immense, and students are encouraged to do so across the world. The Malay language option for IGCSE aims to develop students' ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication. 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.

Mandarin Chinese

CIE

0509, 0523, 0547

One fifth of the planet speaks Chinese. Mandarin Chinese is the mother tongue of over 873 million people, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world. In addition to the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, Mandarin Chinese is also spoken in the important and influential Chinese communities of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Mongolia. With increasing demand for people with the talent of speaking Chinese, more and more are now beginning to learn Chinese. There are three possibilities for students wishing to study Chinese; Chinese as a First Language (0509), Chinese as a Second Language (0523) and Chinese as a Foreign Language (0547).

French

CIE

0520

French is second only to English for the number of countries where it has official status and is a working language of international organizations such as the UN and the EU. France is in the top-five countries for studying abroad and its language, culture and literature have influenced today's western culture significantly. The French language option for IGCSE offers the possibility for students to reach an intermediate level in French. The main focus is the ability to communicate in the French language in everyday life situations. Students will be able to understand standard written and spoken texts and they will learn to interact as well as produce texts of their own on familiar topics that are evolving around the students' life like school, home, family, community life, travel, leisure and culture. The course is not oriented towards total beginners and students should have knowledge of the 3 basic tenses (present, immediate future and perfect tense) when joining.

Art and Design

Edexcel

4FA1

The course aims to give students the experience of expressive and experimental work; observational and imaginative drawing; designing and problem solving; graphic communication and presentation skills, all within an art historical and contextual framework. It is structured to give all students the opportunity to make a creative and personal journey over two years in which they will develop skills, techniques and ideas through the exploration of the formal elements in art and design. The course is designed for those who have a commitment to and love of the subject and feel motivated to develop their skills and express their ideas in working through thematic projects and assignments.

Drama

CIE

0411

The IGCSE course in Drama aims to develop students' understanding of Drama through practical and theoretical study; to enable students to realise the performance possibilities of text and other stimuli; to encourage the use of dramatic forms and structures; and to communicate feelings and ideas to an audience. Assessment is based on 60% practical work which is moderated by Cambridge and 40% theory in the form of an external examination of two and half hours. Drama also provides other important Life Skills which can be used in other fields of study.

Music

CIE

0410

Cambridge IGCSE Music offers students opportunity to develop their own practical musical skills through performing and composing. They also develop their listening skills by studying music from the main historical periods and styles of Western music as well as selected non-Western traditions. The emphasis within this syllabus is as much on developing lifelong musical skills as on acquiring knowledge. Besides, IGCSE Music gives the opportunity to listen to and learn about music from a wide range of historical periods and major world cultures; to develop skills in performing music, both individually and in a group with other musicians; and to develop skills in composing music in a style of the student's choice.

Design and Technology

CIE

0445

The IGCSE Design and Technology course enables students to develop and apply knowledge and skills that are different from many of their other subjects. The Design portfolio they create has a strong academic content and requires considerable time and commitment. The course develops creativity, practical skills and specialist language use as well as building independent and project-based skills needed for most professional career paths. Students gain greater technical and design awareness, while developing skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity. They also develop the communication skills central to design making and evaluation. IGCSE Design and Technology provides an ideal basis for further study and prepares students for their future within a rapidly changing technological society. The qualification is ideal for students considering careers in engineering, architecture, product design, graphics and research and development.

Business Studies

CIE

0450

The Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organisation are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence.

Economics

CIE

0455

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.

Computer Science

CIE

0478

Computer science is the study of the foundational principles and practices of computation and computational thinking and their application in the design and development of computer systems. Learning computational thinking involves learning to program, that is to write computer code, because this is the means by which computational thinking is expressed. Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science enables learners to develop an interest in computing and to gain confidence in computational thinking and programming. They develop their understanding of the main principles of problem-solving using computers.

ICT

CIE

0417

The Information Communication Technology syllabus encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, which will be useful to them in their work across the curriculum and prepare them for future employment. They will develop understanding of the implications of technology in society, including social, economic and ethical uses and awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments. The syllabus combines theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications to solve problems, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software, web browsers and website design. Learners analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose.

Physical Education

CIE

0413

The IGCSE in Physical Education is a theoretical and practical course studying anatomy, physiology and psychological aspects of the human body and relating it to sporting situations. The subject also covers sociological and historical issues linked to health and physical activity around the world. It is a diverse subject which provides students the opportunity to demonstrate they are able to apply knowledge and analytical skills to areas outside of the core subjects. Alongside the theoretical side, there is a written coursework element on performance analysis and a practical element. It is therefore important for this course that students are prepared and committed to achieve a school team standard in four different sports. This qualification is a subject that combines well with the scientific subjects in particular and is valuable in the pursuit of many different educational pathways and careers.

