Prince of Wales Island International School

IGCSE Options

Subject Information Booklet.

For IGCSE Students Sept 2026 - July 2028

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UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE International Examinations
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

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Core Subjects.

All students will sit English Language (either first or second), Mathematics and at least one Science. There is the option to sit all three Sciences if a student wishes or to take the Double Award.

English First Language Edexcel 4EA1 and English Literature Edexcel 4ET1

English First Language is tailored towards those who are showing strong and capable 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 viewpoints, 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.

All students will start the Literature course in year 10 and study two of the selected texts alongside their English Language GCSE. The intention is that *all* **first** language English IGCSE students should have the opportunity to study the Literature component and sit the IGCSE exam in conjunction with it. This is the norm throughout most international contexts, where most students will sit both qualifications; in the UK they are rarely, if ever, taught separately. Students will be exposed to a range of texts, including Poetry, Drama and Prose, from the works of Shakespeare to contemporary literature. 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. IGCSE Literature has an historically higher pass rate than the English Language qualification and is one of the few subjects where essay writing and debate are included, making it a perfect foundation for higher level studies.

English as a Second Language CAIE 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.

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.

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 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 IGCSE is a 2 year course in which students study physical processes such as Forces, Motion, Energy, Electromagnetism and Radioactivity. Their final grade will come from their performance in external examinations at the end of Year 11. Physics is a practical subject and students are expected to develop their practical skill during the course and use this to deepen their understanding of the subject. A good IGCSE grade in Physics gives students a thorough grounding in the subject to prepare them for further study.

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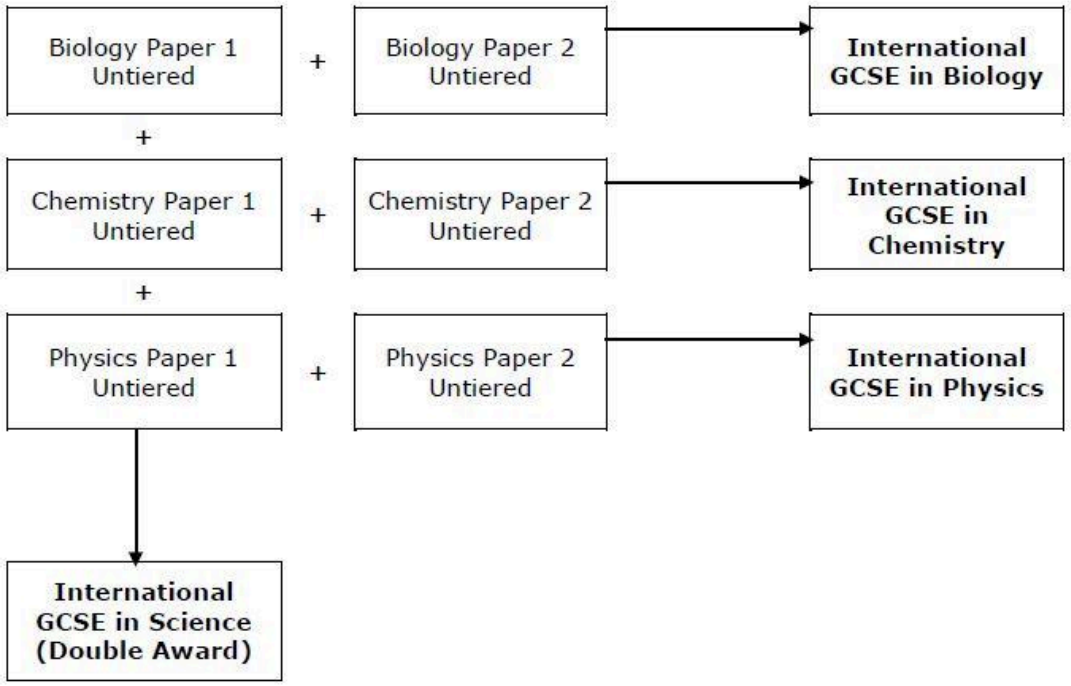
Science (Double Award) 9-1 Edexcel 4SD0

For students who do not see themselves following a Scientific/Engineering/Medical career path we offer Science Double Award. This will take up 2 options on the timetable and students will be awarded 2 IGCSE grades for science at the end of the 2 year course. Students study biology, chemistry and physics equally but only need to learn about two thirds of the material required for each subject compared to the single science subjects.Students will sit only one examination for each of the sciences. This is not the best preparation for students who wish to do science A levels in the sixth form but it will not exclude them from doing so should they change their minds about A level choices in the future. By only taking up 2 option blocks to study the three sciences, students are able to select an additional option as well as studying three sciences, albeit in less depth than for the separate sciences.

The exam structure for the science looks like this:



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Special Subject - *For selected students only.*
Further Pure Mathematics Edexcel 4PM1

This is not an option choice but is available in certain circumstances if the students fit the criteria.

Some students 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. 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 Further Mathematics but it is not a requirement for any other course or future career. IGCSE Mathematics will be taught and examined in Year 10. Only students who achieve a Grade 8 or 9 will continue on to study IGCSE Further Pure Mathematics in Year 11. If students are interested they should speak to their Maths teacher who will discuss their suitability and there will be an entrance assessment at the end of year 9.

Option Subjects.

Students can choose up to 5 additional subjects, depending on their science option, to make a total of 6 (not including Maths & English).

Languages

We recommend that students choose at least one language subject and all Malaysian citizens are required, by law, to study BM. This includes all students who are enrolled at POWIIS with their Malaysian i/c.

Where there are different levels of qualification these will be decided by the relevant teachers. It is possible for some students to combine Bahasa Malay (BM) and Mandarin or Spanish, taking BM at the end of year 10 and the other language in year 11. Any student interested in this option should speak to their language teacher.

Bahasa Malay CAIE

Foreign Language 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 Foreign Language Malay (0546) 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 CAIE

First Language 0509
Second Language 0523
Foreign Language 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, Mandarin Chinese is also spoken in the important and influential Chinese communities of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and beyond. 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).

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Spanish CAIE 0530

Cambridge IGCSE Spanish develops a set of transferable skills for understanding and communicating in everyday situations in Spanish. Learners begin to develop cultural awareness of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. They acquire the essential linguistic skills required for progression to further studies or employment.
Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE Spanish encourages learners to be: Confident, using new and familiar structures and vocabulary to communicate with others in everyday situations. Responsible, seeking opportunities to use and develop their language skills. Reflective, considering how to communicate different ideas and attitudes. Innovative, applying language to a variety of situations. Engaged, developing learning strategies which help them to express their ideas and their understanding of other cultures.

Art and Design Edexcel 1FA0

The course aims to give students the experience of expressive and experimental work; observational drawing; experimentation and problem solving; photography 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. You will make artwork that is of interest to you. Assessment is through a practical portfolio (60%) and an externally set project which includes a 10 hour practical assignment (40%).

Business Studies CAIE 0264

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 organisations 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. This subject is ideal for students considering careers such as; Actuarial Analyst, Arbitrator, Business Adviser, Business Analyst, Business Development Manager, Chartered Management Accountant, Corporate Investment banker, Data Analyst, Forensic Accountant, Insurance Underwriter, Management Consultant, Project Manager, Risk Manager, Stockbroker and Supply Chain Manager, to name a few.

Computer Science CAIE 0478

Learners studying the Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science syllabus develop their understanding of the main principles of problem solving using computers. They 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. Students will also develop a detailed understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communications and people.

Design and Technology CAIE 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, medical technology and research and development.

Drama CAIE 0411

The Cambridge 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 written examination of two and a half hours. Drama also provides other important life and transferable skills which can be used in other fields of study; Energy Policy Professional Christopher Lavallee writes a great article on the benefits of hiring someone with a theatre background.

Economics Edexcel 4XEC1

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Economics (Modular) specification develops an understanding of economic concepts and their application to real-life situations. Learners study both microeconomic and macroeconomic themes, exploring how consumers, producers, and governments in mixed economies make choices amidst the problem of scarcity. They also learn to calculate, interpret, and evaluate economic data to make reasoned arguments and informed judgements regarding developing and developed economies. The subject is ideal for students considering progression to Level 3 qualifications, such as International A Levels, and careers in fields such as Management, Finance, Government Service, and International Trade.

Geography Edexcel 4GE1

Geography occupies a central position in understanding and interpreting issues affecting people, places and environments. Through the study of IGCSE geography, students will develop knowledge and understanding of different views and attitudes towards the world, its environments and its issues. The course is fun, varied and will provide students with the opportunity to take learning outside of the classroom on adventurous fieldwork assignments. Students will also develop data analysis skills, and will be exposed to the visual stimuli of photographs, maps, graphs and Geographical Information Systems.The Syllabus will help develop a student's awareness of global issues and recognise the need for a sustainable future.

History History 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. Students will have a more global outlook and can play a role in shaping the world they live in. History is also regarded as a foundation subject for students pursuing law, journalism, media and politics careers. Students will sit three papers, accounting for 100% of their overall grade. Papers 1 and 2 examine International Relations, 1918- 1991 and Germany, 1918-1945. Paper 4 examines Germany 1918-1945

ICT Edexcel 4IT1 Specification

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 an 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. This qualification gives you the ability to work in nearly any industry for which ICT is becoming a more important role and underlying aspect in any job.

Music CAIE 0410

Studying the Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus offers students a rich and balanced musical education, combining practical performance, creative composition, and critical listening skills. The course nurtures musical confidence and creativity while developing discipline, teamwork, and analytical thinking. Students explore a wide range of styles and traditions from around the world, gaining both cultural appreciation and technical proficiency. With its blend of practical coursework and academic study, the IGCSE Music course provides an excellent foundation for further musical study at A Level or beyond, while also equipping students with transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Physical Education CAIE 0413

The IGCSE in Physical Education is a theoretical and practical course, split 50/50, 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. It is 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.

Psychology Edexcel 1PSO

Psychology allows you the chance to study the interconnection between mind and behaviour. In our first year we will study development, memory, neuroscience, psychological problems and social influence through historical studies and theories which are as relevant now as they have ever been. We will tackle issues and debates such as reductionism and determinism, whilst all the time considering how research methodology must be planned with care to ensure the results are valid, reliable and ethical. During our second year, we take a journey into the world of criminal psychology along with theories regarding language and communication. Psychology lessons are upbeat and thought provoking and will suit an individual with strength in written communication, knowledge of biological processes and, most importantly, a genuine interest in what makes us human.