



Year 10-11
GCSE/iGCSE
Options Booklet

Welcome to your iGCSE Options Booklet.

This is the first really big decision you have to make about what to study.

This is where you are able to choose which subjects you want to study and which you will drop.

Choosing subjects for Year 10 allows you to:

- Choose courses and subjects that match your interests, abilities and talents;
- Choose courses that will help you prepare for your chosen career;
- Take new subjects.

There are subjects that you must study, and you will gain iGCSEs in these:

English Language

Mathematics

Science

There are other subjects that you will study but you won't have an exam at the end:

PSHE/Mindfulness

Physical Education (unless iGCSE PE)

Portuguese (unless Portuguese GCSE)

You will then have 3 option subjects.

Who can help me decide?

Talk to your parents, your teachers and older students who have opted for these courses. We will hold meetings to help you find out more about subjects and for you and your parents to ask questions.

What should I consider?

Choose options that you know that you will enjoy or that you feel passionate about; you are more likely to succeed if you enjoy what you're doing.

Don't do subjects just because the teachers or your parents say you should.

Of course, you should listen to what they have to say, but make your own decisions. After all, you will be the one who has to do the work!

And *don't* do subjects just because your friends are doing them! You will have plenty of time to socialise outside the lessons and having your best friend next to you in class can sometime make it difficult to concentrate.

Mathematics

Compulsory

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 1 - 2 years



Method of Assessment:

End of course exams are chosen between two tiers to provide the best possible outcomes for the individual student.

1. Foundation tier grade 1-5
2 x 2 hour exams covering all aspects of Mathematics at Foundation level.
2. Higher tier grade 4-9
2 x 2 hour exams covering all aspects of Mathematics at Higher level.

Why Study Mathematics?

You will:

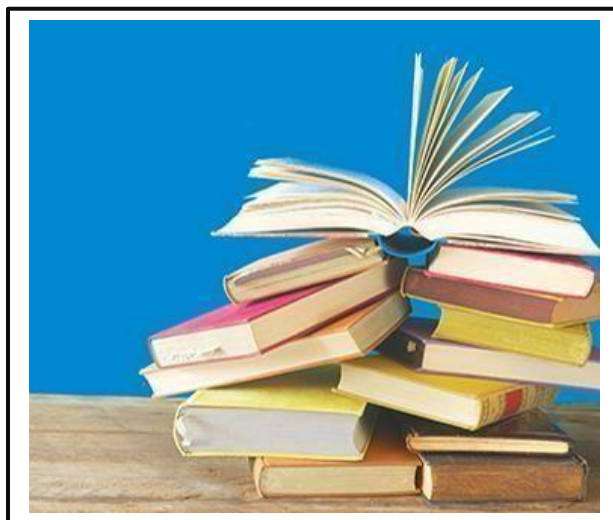
- Encounter new techniques to solve problems, becoming confident in a range of approaches to find solutions,
- Discuss ideas with peers and develop more rigorous language to communicate thoughts across a range of media,
- Approach real life and abstract situations in a more logical manner, using evidence and knowledge as a foundation to build answers,
- Develop skills which are used across a wide spectrum of subjects and prepare for the future in an increasingly numerate world.

English Language

Compulsory

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 1 – 2 years



Method of Assessment:

1. Examination worth 60% of final grade.
Section A – Reading Skills (non-fiction)
Section B – Writing Skills (non-fiction)
2. Coursework worth 40% of final grade
Assignment A – Essay on two texts (short stories, extracts, poems) from an anthology supplied by Edexcel
Assignment B – Creative Writing

Why Study English Language?

You will:

- read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding;
- read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing;
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately;
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately;
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary.

In almost any field that you choose to study or job that you would like to do at the end of your studies, good skills in reading comprehension and an ability to write clearly and expressively will be a prerequisite.

Sciences

Compulsory/Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years

All students will study all 3 sciences:
Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



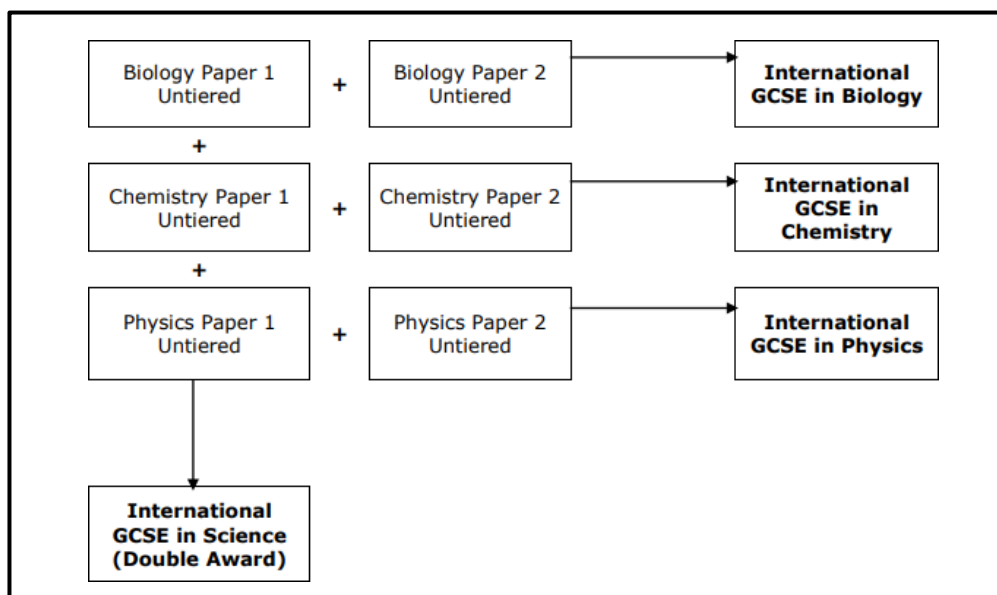
Method of Assessment:

Double Award Science

(all 3 sciences are studied but the result is two iGCSE grades)

- Biology Exam 33.3% of final grades
- Chemistry Exam 33.3% of final grades
- Physics Exam 33.3% of final grades

Pupils will also be able to select, as one of their option choices, to study the sciences individually in order to gain a full iGCSE in each science subject. They will receive one extra lesson in Biology, Chemistry and Physics a week. They will then sit the above exams (which will each account for 61% of the final grade) as well as an additional 1 hour, 15 minute paper in each science that will account for the remaining 39% of the grade.



Why Study the Sciences?

- acquire knowledge and understanding of scientific facts, terminology, concepts, principles and practical techniques
- appreciate the practical nature of science, developing experimental and investigative skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques
- analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods, drawing conclusions that are consistent with evidence from experimental activities and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations
- recognise the importance of accurate experimental work and reporting scientific methods in science
- select, organise and present relevant information clearly and logically using appropriate vocabulary, definitions and conventions
- develop a logical approach to problem solving in a wider context

Art & Design

Fine Art / Textile Design /
Three-dimensional Design

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Component 1: Personal Portfolio 50%

Internally Set - Externally Marked.

Students create a personal portfolio of artwork that demonstrates knowledge, understanding and skills in a chosen topic.

Component 2: Externally-set Assignment 50%

Externally Set - Externally Marked.

A portfolio of development work based on the externally-set assignment and 10- hour sustained focus period under examination conditions (to take place over multiple sessions)

Why Study Art & Design?

You will:

- actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as an effective and independent thinker.
- develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical and technical study.
- learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques.
- Develop work in at least one of the following areas of study; Drawing, Painting, Mixed Media, Printing, Sculpture, Constructed Textiles, Textile Design, Fashion Design, Soft Furnishings, Stitching and fabric embellishment, Architecture, Interior design, Product design, Environmental/Landscape design, Theatrical design, Ceramics and Jewellery.

Art & Design

Graphic Communication / Photography

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Component 1: Personal Portfolio 50%

Internally Set - Externally Marked.

Students create a personal portfolio of artwork that demonstrates knowledge, understanding and skills in a chosen topic.

Component 2: Externally-set Assignment 50%

Externally Set - Externally Marked.

A portfolio of development work based on the externally-set assignment and 10- hour sustained focus period under examination conditions (to take place over multiple sessions)

Why Study Art & Design – Graphic Communication / Photography?

You will:

- Convey information, ideas and emotions, using a range of graphic media, processes, techniques and elements such as colour, icons, images, typography and photographs.
- Conduct primary and secondary investigations during design development and explore traditional and/or new technologies.
- Develop work in at least one of the following areas of study; Photography, Photojournalism, Advertising, Graphic media, Design for digital technology - web, app or game, Motion graphics, Animation, Digital video production, Package design, Signage and Typography.

Business

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

1. Examination paper 1 worth 50% of final grade
 - Investigating small businesses
 - 4 compulsory questions of 20 marks each
2. Examination paper 2 worth 50% of final grade
 - Investigating large businesses
 - 4 compulsory questions of 20 marks each

Why Study Business?

You will:

- develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the study of business
- develop an understanding of business concepts, business terminology, business objectives and the integrated nature of business activity
- understand how the main types of business are organised, financed and operated
- develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary business issues in a wide range of businesses from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global context

Is business the right choice for you?

The ideal business student is interested in all forms of real-life business, including those who exist for reasons other than profit-maximisation.

Drama

Optional

Edexcel GCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Component 1 – Devising

40% of final grade

Create and perform/design a devised piece from a stimulus.

Component 2 – Performance from Text

20% of final grade

Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.

Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice

40% of final grade

Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.

Live theatre evaluation

Why Study Drama?

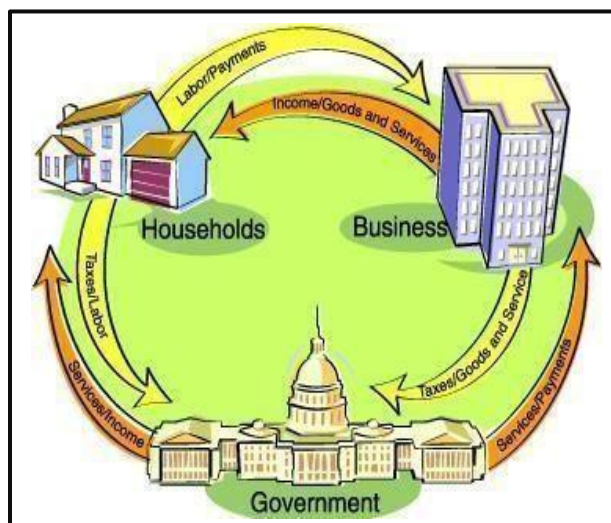
- | explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created
- | develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- | work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- | develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective students able to make informed choices in process and performance
- | contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance

Economics

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

1. Examination paper 1 worth 50% of final grade
Microeconomics and business economics
1 hour and 30 minutes
4 compulsory questions of 20 marks each
2. Examination paper 2 worth 50% of final grade
Macroeconomics and the global economy
1 hour and 30 minutes; 4 compulsory questions of 20 marks each

Why Study Economics?

You will:

- develop an understanding of economic concepts and apply these concepts to real-life situations,
- develop an awareness of economic change and its impact on developing and developed economies,
- understand economic issues, problems and possible solutions that affect mixed economies,
- calculate, interpret and evaluate economic data in order to make reasoned arguments and informed judgements.

Is economics the right choice for you?

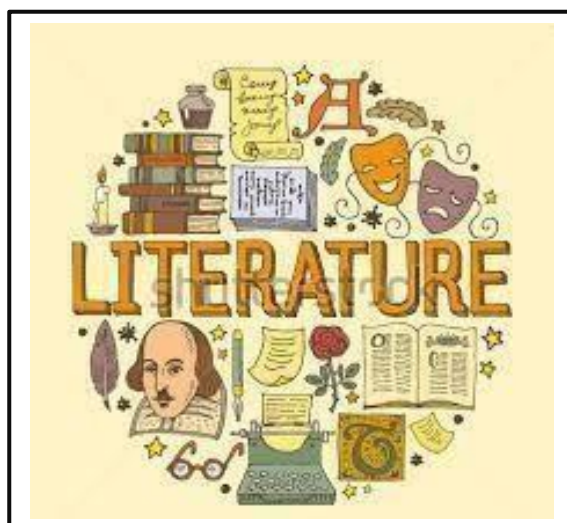
The ideal economics student is interested in the world around them and how resources are shared among households, firms and nations.

English Literature

Compulsory/Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 1 – 2 years



Method of Assessment:

3. Examination worth 60% of final grade.
 - Section A – Unseen Poetry
 - Section B – Comparison Question (Poetry Anthology)
 - Section C – Essay Question (Modern Novel)
4. Coursework worth 40% of final grade
 - Assignment A – Modern Drama
 - Assignment B – Literary Heritage Text

Why Study English Literature?

You will:

- engage with and develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world,
- develop an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve their literary effects,
- explore, through literature, the cultures of your own and other societies,
- find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies.

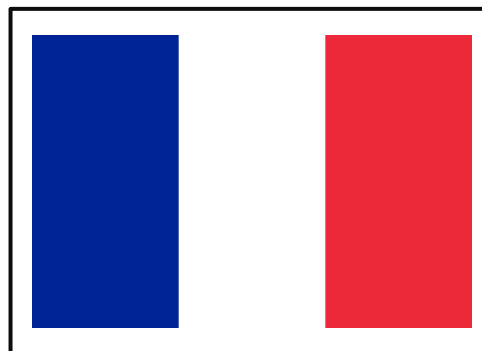
Although English Literature is optional, the course is structured so that all pupils have the opportunity to pass the English Language exam in Year 10. Having obtained a good pass, they will then go on to study English Literature in Year 11.

French

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

The exam has 3 papers:

Paper 1: Listening skills (25%)

Paper 2: Reading and writing (50%)

Paper 3: Speaking (25%)

Topic areas:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities
- Fitness and health

Why study French?

You will:

- understand and use of written and spoken forms in French, in a range of familiar and practical contexts, and for a variety of purposes
- be able to communicate effectively in French through the written and spoken word, using a range of vocabulary and structures
- have a knowledge and understanding of French grammar and its practical application
- have a knowledge and understanding of French speaking countries and communities
- develop positive attitudes towards modern foreign language learning

Geography

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Paper 1: Physical Geography 40% of the course

Section A: Candidates choose two out of three questions on:

- river environments,
- coastal environments,
- hazardous environments.

Section B: Candidates choose one out of three fieldwork-related questions on the above topics.

Paper 2: Human Geography 60% of the course

Section A Candidates choose two out of three questions on:

- economic activity and energy,
- rural environments,
- urban environments.

Section B Candidates choose one out of three fieldwork-related questions on the same three topics as section A.

Section C Candidates choose one out of three questions on:

- fragile environments and climate change,
- globalisation and migration,
- development and human welfare.

Why study Geography?

Geography encourages you as a student to investigate key topics such as Climate Change, Globalisation, Urban and Rural environments in the Human Geography paper. The study of Physical Geography teaches you about the structure and construction of the environment around you, how dramatic weather systems bring about disasters as well as historically, the new geographical layout of the world.

German

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

The exam has 3 papers:

Paper 1: Listening skills
(25%)

Paper 2: Reading and
writing (50%)

Paper 3: Speaking (25%)

Topic areas:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities
- Fitness and health

Why study German?

You will:

- understand and use of written and spoken forms in German, in a range of familiar and practical contexts, and for a variety of purposes
- be able to communicate effectively in German through the written and spoken word, using a range of vocabulary and structures
 - have a knowledge and understanding of German grammar and its practical application
- have a knowledge and understanding of German speaking countries and communities

Global Citizenship

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Examination: worth 100% of final grade

Section A – Community Project

Section B & C – will both combine any two of the following themes

- Politics and Governance
- Economic Development and the Environment
- Culture and Community
- Technology

Assessment includes sources and a combination of multiple choice, short and longer written answers.

Section D – Synoptic Essay

(bringing together all the strands of the course in one question)

Global Citizenship introduces students to key issues and changes affecting societies around the globe while developing skills of enquiry, analysis and evaluation. Students will explore global issues they are interested in and passionate about while growing in their understanding of how communities interact locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Students are also enabled to lead and participate in local community-based activity through a community citizenship action project of their own design.

History

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Paper 1: Depth Studies, 1 hour 30 mins, 60 marks

You answer two questions, one on each of the depth studies you have studied.
Covers a variety of topics, e.g.: Apartheid in South Africa, the Civil Rights movement in the United States, the French Revolution, Unification of Italy

Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies, 1 hour 30 mins, 60 marks

Section A: you will study one area and answer one question.

Some of the areas covered are World War One, its origin and course, Russia and the Soviet Union, The USA from 1918-41

Section B: you will study one area and answer one question.

Some of the topics are Change in Medicine 1848-1948, the Changing role of international organisations: The League & UN 1919-2011.

Why Study History?

You will:

- read and analyse a wide variety of resources, developing critical thinking skills as you assess bias and reliability
- develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context
- develop skills to explain, analyse and make judgements about historical events and periods studied
- develop an awareness that different interpretations of historical events have been constructed by different people and how and why
- organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions

Music

Optional

Edexcel GCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment

Component 1 – Performance

30% of final grade

Pupils will perform one solo and one ensemble piece which will be internally marked and sent for external moderation.

Component 2 – Composition

30% of final grade

Students create two compositions, of at least a combined 3 minute duration, one according to a brief set by the exam board and the other a free composition.

Component 3 – Appraising

40% of final grade

Exam appraising music consisting of both set and new pieces.

Why Study Music?

- develop performing skills individually and in groups
- develop composing skills
- recognise links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising
- broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster
- develop as effective and independent learners with enquiring minds
- engage with and appreciate the diverse heritage of music, in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

Physical Education



Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years

Method of Assessment:

	Content Overview	Assessment	% of grade
1.	Fitness and Body Systems Applied anatomy and physiology Movement analysis Physical training Use of Data	Written exam	36%
2.	Health and Performance Health, fitness and well-being Sport Psychology Socio-cultural Use of data	Written exam	24%
3.	Practical Performance Skills during specific activities General performance skills	3 physical activities	30%
4.	Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) Aim and planning analysis Carrying out and monitoring the PEP Evaluation of PEP	Production, analysis and evaluation of PEP	10%

Why study Physical Education?

- A fun, mainly practical course.
- Improve your physical fitness and practical performance in a number of activities.
- Improve your knowledge and understanding of many social and scientific aspects of taking part in physical activity.
- Develop skills for life!!

Portuguese

Optional

Edexcel GCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 1 - 2 years



There is also an option available to study iGCSE Portuguese as a first or native language.

Method of Assessment:

The exam has 4 papers:

Paper 1: Listening (25%)

Paper 2: Speaking (25%)

Paper 3: Reading (25%)

Paper 4: Writing (25%)

Topic areas:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday, travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study and work
5. International and global dimension.

Why study Portuguese?

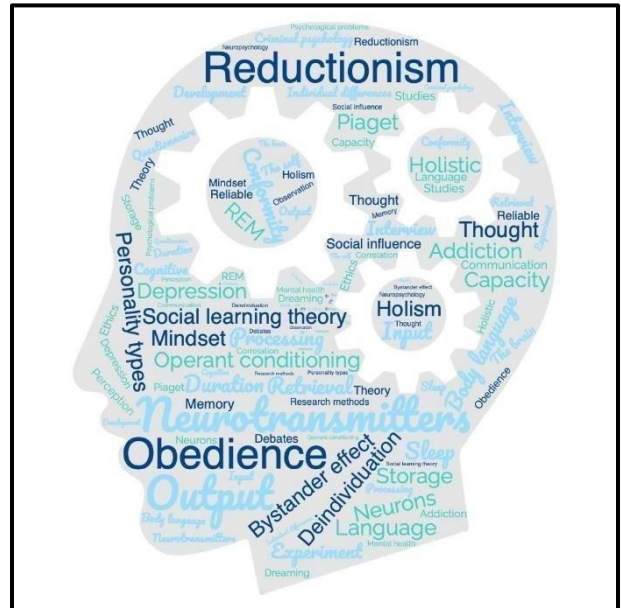
- ▮ develop your ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing, conveying what you want to say with increasing accuracy
 - ▮ express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
 - ▮ listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
 - ▮ deepen your knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary
 - ▮ acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking
 - ▮ develop language-learning skills both for immediate use and to prepare you for further language study and use in school, higher education or employment
- **it's the language of the country in which you live!**

Psychology

Optional

Edexcel GCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of assessment:

Paper 1 • 55% of the course

- Development – how do we develop from babies to adults?
- Memory – how do we make and recall memories?
- Psychological problems – how do mental health issues affect people?
- The brain & neuropsychology – how does our brain affect how we act?
- Social influence – how do others affect how we act?

Paper 2 • 45% of the course

Research methods – how do we carry out research in psychology?

And 2 options:

- Criminal psychology – why do some people become criminals?
- The self – what makes you who you are?
- Perception – how do you interpret what you see?
- Sleep & dreaming – why do you need to sleep & dream?
- Language, thought & communication – how do we communicate with others?

Is Psychology the right choice for you?

An ideal psychology student is interested in understanding why people behave like they do. It will give you a wider understanding of yourselves and the world you live in. It will help you develop critical thinking skills and ask questions about why we behave as we do.

Technology

Computing

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Paper 1 - 50% 2

hrs

This paper will primarily assess knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of computer science, including some coverage of how these principles are applied when solving problems that relate to a particular situation.

The paper consists of multiple-choice, short open-response, open-response and extended open-response answer questions.

Paper 2 - 50% 3

hrs

This is a practical examination, primarily assessing the application of computational thinking, whereby learners will create, use and adapt existing algorithms to solve problems in a particular situation. The task-based questions will be carried out using a computer system under supervision. A choice of three programming languages will be available (Python, C# or Java)

Why Study Computing?

This course is for the technically minded student that seeks to enhance their knowledge of software development with:

- Logical Problem Solving (Algorithms),
- Programming (Python, Java),
- Digital Data (Storage and Encryption), Computer
- Structures (Hardware electronics) and Networking.

The skills acquired can be used further in higher academic studies or as the foundation for careers in Software Development or Computer Engineering.

Technology

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

Paper 1 - 50%

90 mins

The examination comprises a mixture of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions.

Paper 2 - 50%

3 hrs

This is a practical examination, set and marked by Pearson Edexcel (includes printing time).

Why Study ICT?

This course focuses on a generalist study of ICT covering its many uses and applications:

- Digital Devices (Electronics),
- Networking (Communications),
- Operating Online (Ethics),
- Online Goods and services (Business Solutions)
- Software Skills (DB Management, Graphics Presentations plus Web Development).

The knowledge and skills acquired can be used further in both business and higher academic environments or as the foundation for more advanced studies in Information and Communication technology.

Spanish

Optional

Edexcel iGCSE – graded 9-1

Length of Course: 2 years



Method of Assessment:

The exam has 3 papers:

Paper 1: Listening skills (25%)

Paper 2: Reading and writing (50%)

Paper 3: Speaking (25%)

Topic areas:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities
- Fitness and health

Why study Spanish?

You will:

- understand and use of written and spoken forms in Spanish, in a range of familiar and practical contexts, and for a variety of purposes
- be able to communicate effectively in Spanish through the written and spoken word, using a range of vocabulary and structures
 - have a knowledge and understanding of Spanish grammar and its practical application
 - have a knowledge and understanding of Spanish-speaking countries, communities and cultures
 - develop positive attitudes towards modern foreign language learning

