



IGCSE INFORMATION BOOKLET

for students sitting examinations in 2023



Si Harry Johnston International School

IGCSE Information Booklet

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Dear Parents and Students,

As a school, we are delighted to be able offer the prestigious Cambridge IGCSE programme for students in years 10 and 11. Our students can study up to nine different subjects. Some of these are compulsory subjects and others are optional.

Compulsory Subjects

1. First Language English
2. Mathematics
3. Biology
4. Information and Communication Technology
5. Business Studies
6. Geography

Options

7. Literature in English **OR** Economics
8. Chemistry **OR** French Foreign Language
9. Physics **OR** History

All students will also have a compulsory weekly P.E. and Life Skills lesson, which are not examinable but a core element of the curriculum.

This IGCSE Information booklet has been collated to help families make the best possible subject choices. Students will need to consider each option carefully in discussion with teachers and parents before making a final selection. Once chosen, students are expected to commit themselves to the courses and to see them through to examination in 2023. Option changes, once the courses begin, will not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

In making their choices, students must consider their strengths and weaknesses, their interests and possible future plans. Students should spend time reading the course requirements and outlines in this booklet carefully, discussing them with their teachers and also their parents.

Should you require any advice, please do not hesitate to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely

James Elford (Principal)

IGCSE Core and Extended Curriculum

What is the difference between IGCSE Core and IGCSE Extended?

To take account of differing abilities, there is a choice between Core and Extended papers in some IGCSE subjects. This allows teachers to decide on the most appropriate level of papers for their students.

The Core curriculum in each subject is within the ability range of a large majority of students. It provides a full overview of the subject and is targeted at students expected to achieve grades C to G.

The Extended curriculum, made up of the Core curriculum and the Supplement, has been designed for the more academically able. It is targeted at those expected to achieve grades A* to E. The Supplement describes the extra topics or depth which must be added to the Core curriculum to produce the Extended curriculum.

Students do not need to enter for the same level of curriculum in all subjects.

Target Grades	Grades Available
Core Curriculum	C D E F G
Extended Curriculum	A* A B C D E

The overlap of three grades (C, D and E) is designed to accommodate students who perform either better or worse than their teachers expect. Students who fail to meet the minimum satisfactory standard for either the Core curriculum (Grade G) or the Extended curriculum (Grade E) will be ungraded.

In some subjects, the exam covers the complete ability range and there is no choice of Core and Extended papers. For these subjects, the full range of grades is available.

It is important to remember that Core covers grades C to G and Extended covers grades A* to E. If a student is securely in the 'middle' of the range, only the Extended tier will offer the grades the student may be capable of achieving. Students are not able to achieve above a C for their syllabus grade if they are entered for the Core curriculum.

**IGCSE First Language
English
0500**

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

- Read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding, enjoying and appreciating a variety of language.
- Read critically, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.
- Write accurately and effectively, using Standard English appropriately.
- Work with information and with ideas in language by developing skills of evaluation, analysis, use and inference.
- Listen to, understand, and use spoken language effectively.
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English offers candidates the opportunity to respond with understanding to a rich array of reading texts during the course as a whole. Candidates will use these texts to inform and inspire their own writing and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

Candidates will develop both their speaking and their listening skills, delivering a presentation, and responding to questions and engaging in conversations.

Candidates are encouraged to become appreciative and critical readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

ASSESSMENT

Students will sit for two papers:

Paper 1 (2 hours) Reading (50%) 80 marks Structured and extended writing questions. Questions will be based on three reading texts. Students will use the material read and be able to present this in a different form. They will show they understand how writers achieve their effects. Externally assessed

Paper 2 (2 hours) Directed Writing and Composition (50%) 80 marks Extended writing question and a composition task. Externally assessed

Pupils may also take: **Component 4 Approx. 10–12 minutes Speaking and Listening Test** 40 marks Separately endorsed Individual Talk and Conversation Internally assessed and externally moderated

IGCSE Mathematics

0580

Students will follow either the Core curriculum only or the Extended curriculum. The Extended curriculum goes into greater depth and includes some topics not covered at Core level.

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics is therefore assessed at two levels: Core (where students are graded from C to G) and Extended (where students can achieve grades A* to E).

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to

- Develop an understanding of mathematical principles, concepts and methods in a way which encourages confidence, provides satisfaction and enjoyment, and develops a positive attitude towards mathematics.
- Develop a feel for numbers and understand the significance of the results obtained.
- Apply mathematics in everyday situations and develop an understanding of the part that mathematics plays in students' own lives and the world around them.
- Analyse and solve problems, present the solutions clearly, and check and interpret the results.
- Recognise when and how a situation may be represented mathematically, identify and interpret relevant factors, select an appropriate mathematical method to solve the problem, and evaluate the method used.
- Use mathematics as a means of communication in other subjects, particularly science and technology.
- Develop the ability to reason logically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
- Appreciate patterns and relationships in mathematics and make generalisations.
- Appreciate the interdependence of different areas of mathematics.
- Acquire a foundation for the further study of mathematics or for other disciplines.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

- Algebra
- Arithmetic
- Geometry
- Probability
- Problem solving
- Statistics
- Trigonometry

ASSESSMENT

All candidates take two papers.

- Candidates who have studied the Core syllabus content, should be entered for Paper 1 and Paper 3. These candidates will be eligible for grades C to G.
- Candidates who have studied the Extended syllabus content should be entered for Paper 2 and Paper 4. These candidates will be eligible for grades A* to E.

Core Assessment

Paper 1 – Core : 1 hour, 56 marks

Candidates answer all questions.

This paper consists of short-answer questions based on the Core curriculum.

This is a compulsory component for Core candidates.

Paper 3 – Core 2 hours, 104 marks

Candidates answer all questions.

This paper consists of structured questions based on the Core curriculum.

This is a compulsory component for Core candidates.

Extended Assessment

Paper 2 – Extended: 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 marks

Candidates answer all questions.

This paper consists of short-answer questions based on the Extended curriculum.

This is a compulsory component for Extended candidates.

Paper 4 – Extended: 2 hours 30 minutes, 130 marks

Candidates answer all questions.

This paper consists of structured questions based on the Extended curriculum.

This is a compulsory component for Extended candidates.

IGCSE Biology

0610

Students will follow either the Core curriculum only or the Extended curriculum. The Extended curriculum goes into greater depth and includes some topics not covered at Core level.

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

- Provide an enjoyable and worthwhile educational experience for all students, whether or not they go on to study science beyond this level.
- Enable students to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding to:
 - Become confident citizens in a technological world and develop an informed interest in scientific matters.
 - Be suitably prepared for studies beyond Cambridge IGCSE.
- Allow students to recognise that science is evidence based and understand the usefulness, and the limitations, of scientific method.
- Develop skills that:
 - Are relevant to the study and practice of Biology.
 - Are useful in everyday life.
 - Encourage a systematic approach to problem solving.
 - Encourage efficient and safe practice.
 - Encourage effective communication through the language of science.
- Develop attitudes relevant to biology such as:
 - Concern for accuracy and precision.
 - Objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative, and inventiveness.
- Enable students to appreciate that:
 - Science is subject to social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural influences and limitations.
 - The applications of science may be both beneficial and detrimental to the individual, the community and the environment.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The three main domains in Biology are:

- Knowledge and understanding.
- Handling information and solving problems.
- Experimental skills and investigations.

ASSESSMENT

All candidates take three papers:

Core Assessment

Core candidates take the following papers that have questions based on the Core subject content only:

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice (Core) 45 minutes, 40 marks

Forty compulsory multiple-choice items of the four-choice type.

Paper 3 – Theory (Core) 1 hour 15 minutes, 80 marks

Short-answer and structured questions.

Extended Assessment

Extended candidates take the following papers that have questions based on the Core and Supplement subject content:

Paper 2 – Multiple Choice (Extended) 45 minutes, 40 marks

Forty compulsory multiple-choice items of the four-choice type.

Paper 4 – Theory (Extended) 1 hour 15 minutes, 80 marks

Short-answer and structured questions.

Practical Assessment

All candidates take one practical component from a choice of two:

Paper 5 – Practical Test: 1 hour 15 minutes, 40 marks

OR

Paper 6 – Alternative to Practical Test: 1 hour, 40 marks

Whichever practical paper students choose:

- They test the same assessment objective
- They require the same experimental skills to be learned and developed
- The same sequence of practical activities is appropriate.

IGCSE Information and Communication Technology

0417

AIMS

The aims are to help students to:

- Understand and use applications.
- Use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to solve problems.
- Analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose.
- Understand the implications of technology in society, including social, economic and ethical uses.
- Develop an awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The syllabus can be broken down into six content areas:

- Computer components and operations
- Networking, the internet, safety and security
- The systems lifecycle (analysis, design, creation and documentation)
- Audiences, the law and ethics
- Word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and databases
- Image manipulation and website authoring

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 1 hr 30 minutes: Theory (40%, 75 marks)

Paper 2 2 hr 15 minutes: Practical - Document Production, Databases and Presentations (30%, 70 marks)

Paper 3 2 hr 15 mins: Practical – Spreadsheets and Website Authoring (30%, 70 marks)

IGCSE Business Studies

0450

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

- Apply their knowledge and critical understanding to current issues and problems in a wide range of business contexts.
- Make effective use of relevant terminology, concepts and methods, and recognise the strengths and limitations of the ideas used in business.
- Distinguish between facts and opinions, and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data in order to help build arguments and make informed judgements.
- Appreciate the perspectives of a range of stakeholders in relation to the business environment, individuals, society, government and enterprise.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the major groups and organisations within and outside business, and consider ways in which they are able to influence objectives, decisions and activities.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of how the main types of businesses are organised, financed and operated, and how their relations with other organisations, consumers, employees, owners and society are regulated.
- Develop skills of numeracy, literacy, enquiry, selection and use of relevant sources of information, presentation and interpretation.
- Develop an awareness of the nature and significance of innovation and change within the context of business activities.
- Acquire a foundation for further study of business or other subjects.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

- Understanding business activity, including the classification of businesses, business growth, and business objectives.
- People in business, their motivations, organisation and management, recruitment and selection, and communication.
- Marketing, competition and the customer, market research, marketing mix, and marketing strategy.
- Operations management, production of goods and services, break even analysis and scale and quality of production and location decisions.
- Financial information and decisions, including cashflow forecasting and working capital, balance sheets and income statements.
- External influences on business activity, government policies, international economy, environmental and ethical issues.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 (1 ½ hours) – 50%

Written examination consisting of four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data Responses. Candidates answer all questions. 80 marks.

Paper 2 (1 ½ hours) – 50%

Written examination consisting of four questions based on a case study, provided as an Insert with the paper. Candidates answer all questions. 80 marks.

IGCSE Geography

0460

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to develop:

- An understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale.
- An awareness of the characteristics, distribution and processes affecting contrasting physical and human environments.
- An understanding of the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environment.
- An awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints presented by different environments.
- An appreciation of and concern for the environment.
- An appreciation of the earth including its people, places, landscapes, natural processes and phenomena.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

- Population.
- Urbanisation and settlement.
- Farming systems.
- Industry.
- Weather, climate and natural vegetation.
- Plate tectonics.
- Weathering.
- Drainage basins and rivers.
- Energy and water.
- Maps and map reading.
- Environmental risks and benefits.
- Leisure activities and tourism.
- Land forms and landscape processes.
- Enquiry and investigation skills.

ASSESSMENT

All candidates will take Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 4.

Paper 1: Geographical themes (45%) – Structured questions - 1 hour 45-minute exam

Paper 2: Geographical Skills (27.5%) – Analysis and interpretation - 1 hour 30-minute exam

Paper 4: Alternative to coursework (27.5%) - Cartographic and statistical techniques and enquiry skills - 1 hour 30-minute exam

IGCSE
Literature in English
0475

This is an **optional** subject. Students can choose to study Literature in English **OR** Economics.

AIMS

The syllabus aims, which are not listed in order of priority, are to encourage and develop candidates' ability to:

- enjoy the experience of reading literature
- understand and respond to literary texts in different forms and from different periods and cultures
- communicate an informed personal response appropriately and effectively
- appreciate different ways in which writers achieve their effects
- experience literature's contribution to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth
- explore the contribution of literature to an understanding of areas of human concern.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The syllabus enables students to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Students 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 materials they have studied. The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting students' better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 (1hr 30 mins) Poetry and Prose (50%): Two questions on two texts: one poetry and one prose. Externally assessed.

Paper 2 (1hr 30 mins) Drama (50%): Two questions on two drama texts. Externally assessed.

IGCSE Economics

0455

This is an **optional** subject. Students can choose to study Economics **OR** Literature in English.

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

- know and understand economic terminology, concepts and theories.
- use basic economic numeracy and interpret economic data.
- use the tools of economic analysis.
- express economic ideas logically and clearly in a written form.
- apply economic understanding to current economic issues.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The syllabus can be broken down into six content areas:

- The basic economic problem
- The allocation of resources
- Microeconomic decision makers
- Government and the macroeconomy
- Economic development
- International trade and globalisation

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 (45 minutes) Multiple choice (30%) – Candidates answer all 30 questions.

Paper 2 (2 hours and 15 minutes) Structured questions (70%) – Candidates answer one compulsory question and three questions from a choice of four.

IGCSE Chemistry

0620

This is an **optional** subject. Students can choose to study Chemistry **OR** French.

Students will follow either the Core curriculum only or the Extended curriculum. The Extended curriculum goes into greater depth and includes some topics not covered at Core level.

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

- Provide an enjoyable and worthwhile educational experience for all students, whether or not they go on to study science beyond this level.
- Enable students to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding to:
 - Become confident citizens in a technological world and develop an informed interest in scientific matters.
 - Be suitably prepared for studies beyond Cambridge IGCSE.
- Allow students to recognise that science is evidence based and understand the usefulness, and the limitations, of scientific method.
- Develop skills that:
 - Are relevant to the study and practice of Chemistry.
 - Are useful in everyday life.
 - Encourage a systematic approach to problem solving.
 - Encourage efficient and safe practice.
 - Encourage effective communication through the language of science.
- Develop attitudes relevant to biology such as:
 - Concern for accuracy and precision.
 - Objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative, and inventiveness.
- Enable students to appreciate that:
 - Science is subject to social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural influences and limitations.
 - The applications of science may be both beneficial and detrimental to the individual, the community and the environment.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The three main domains in Chemistry are:

- Knowledge and understanding.
- Handling information and solving problems.
- Experimental skills and investigations.

ASSESSMENT

All candidates take three papers.

Candidates who have studied the Core subject content are entered for Paper 1, Paper 3 and either Paper 5 or Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades C to G.

Candidates who have studied the Extended subject content (Core and Supplement) should be entered for Paper 2, Paper 4 and either Paper 5 or Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades A* to E.

Core Assessment

Core candidates take the following papers that have questions based on the Core subject content only:

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice (Core) 45 minutes, 40 marks forty compulsory multiple-choice items of the four-choice type. This paper tests assessment objectives of Knowledge with understanding

Paper 3 – Theory (Core) 1 hour 15 minutes, 80 marks Short-answer and structured questions testing assessment objectives on Knowledge with understanding and Handling information and problem solving.

Extended Assessment

Extended candidates take the following papers that have questions based on the Core and Supplement subject content:

Paper 2 – Multiple Choice (Extended) 45 minutes, 40 marks forty compulsory multiple-choice items of the four-choice type. This paper tests assessment objectives on Knowledge with understanding and Handling information and problem solving.

Paper 4 – Theory (Extended) 1 hour 15 minutes, 80 marks Short-answer and structured questions testing assessment objectives Knowledge with understanding and Handling information and problem solving.

Practical Assessment

All candidates take one practical component from a choice of two:

Paper 5 – Practical Test

1 hour 15 minutes, 40 marks

This paper tests assessment objective of Experimental skills and investigations in a practical context

Or

Paper 6 – Alternative to Practical Test

This paper tests assessment objective of Experimental skills and investigations in a written paper.

Whichever practical paper students choose they should be aware that:

- they test the same assessment objective of Experimental skills and investigations
- they require the same experimental skills to be learned and developed
- the same sequence of practical activities is appropriate.

IGCSE French Foreign Language 0520

This is an **optional** subject. Students can choose to study French **OR** Chemistry.

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

- Develop the ability to communicate effectively using French
- Offer insights into the culture and society of countries where the French language is spoken
- Develop awareness of the nature of language and language learning
- Encourage positive attitudes towards speakers of other languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- Provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- Develop transferable skills (e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum
- Form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for progression to work or further study, either in the French language or another subject area.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

The subject content is organised around five broad topic areas which provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. Through the study of these topic areas, candidates gain insight into target language countries and communities. The topic areas are: Everyday activities, Personal and social life, The world around us, The world of work and The international world.

ASSESSMENT

All candidates take four papers.

Paper 1—Listening

Approximately 45 minutes (25%) 40 marks

Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions. (Externally assessed)

Paper 2—Reading

1 hour (25%) 45 marks

Candidates read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice and matching questions as well as questions requiring short answers. (Externally assessed)

Paper 3—Speaking

Approximately 10 minutes (25%) 40 marks

Candidates complete one role play and conversations on two topics. (Internally assessed and externally moderated)

Paper 4—Writing

1 hour (25%) 50 marks

Candidates complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email/letter or article/blog. (Externally assessed)

IGCSE Physics 0625

This is an **optional** subject. Students can choose to study Physics **OR** History.

Students will follow either the Core curriculum only or the Extended curriculum. The Extended curriculum goes into greater depth and includes some topics not covered at Core level.

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

- Provide an enjoyable and worthwhile educational experience for all students, whether or not they go on to study science beyond this level.
- Enable students to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding to:
 - Become confident citizens in a technological world and develop an informed interest in scientific matters.
 - Be suitably prepared for studies beyond Cambridge IGCSE.
- Allow students to recognise that science is evidence based and understand the usefulness, and the limitations, of scientific method.
- Develop skills that:
 - Are relevant to the study and practice of Physics.
 - Are useful in everyday life.
 - Encourage a systematic approach to problem solving.
 - Encourage efficient and safe practice.
 - Encourage effective communication through the language of science.
- Develop attitudes relevant to biology such as:
 - Concern for accuracy and precision.
 - Objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative, and inventiveness.
- Enable students to appreciate that:
 - Science is subject to social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural influences and limitations.
 - The applications of science may be both beneficial and detrimental to the individual, the community and the environment.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

- General physics.
- Thermal physics.
- Properties of waves, including light and sound.
- Electricity and magnetism.
- Atomic physics.

ASSESSMENT

All candidates take three papers.

- Candidates who have studied the Core subject content, will be entered for Paper 1, Paper 3 and either Paper 5 or Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades C to G.
- Candidates who have studied the Extended subject content (Core and Supplement), will be entered for Paper 2, Paper 4 and either Paper 5 or Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades A* to E.

Core Assessment

Core candidates take the following papers that have questions based on the Core subject content only:

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice (Core) 45 minutes, 40 marks

Forty compulsory multiple-choice items of the four-choice type. This paper tests assessment objectives on Knowledge with understanding and Handling information and problem solving.

Paper 3 – Theory (Core) 1 hour 15 minutes, 80 marks

Short-answer and structured questions testing assessment objectives on Knowledge with understanding and Handling information and problem solving.

Extended Assessment

Extended candidates take the following papers that have questions based on the Core and Supplement subject content:

Paper 2 – Multiple Choice (Extended) 45 minutes, 40 marks

Forty compulsory multiple-choice items of the four-choice type. This paper tests assessment objectives on Knowledge with understanding and Handling information and problem solving.

Paper 4 – Theory (Extended) 1 hour 15 minutes, 80 marks

Short-answer and structured questions testing assessment objectives on Knowledge with understanding and Handling information and problem solving.

Practical Assessment

All candidates take one practical component from a choice of two:

Paper 5 – Practical Test: 1 hour 15 minutes, 40 marks

This paper tests assessment objective on Experimental skills and investigation in a practical context.

OR

Paper 6 – Alternative to Practical Test: 1 hour, 40 marks

This paper tests assessment objective on Experimental skills and investigation in a written paper.

Whichever practical paper is chosen:

- they test the same assessment objective on Experimental skills and investigation
- they require the same experimental skills to be learned and developed
- the same sequence of practical activities is appropriate.

IGCSE History

0470

This is an **optional** subject. Students can choose to study History **OR** Physics.

AIMS

The aims are to:

- Stimulate an interest in and enthusiasm for learning about the past.
- Promote the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of individuals, people and societies in the past.
- Ensure that students' knowledge is rooted in an understanding of the nature and use of historical evidence.
- Promote an understanding of key historical concepts: cause and consequence, change and continuity, and similarity and difference.
- Provide a sound basis for further study and the pursuit of personal interest.
- Encourage international understanding.
- Encourage the development of historical skills, including investigation, analysis, evaluation and communication skills.

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Section A – The 20th Century: international relations since 1919:

- The Versailles Settlement (1919 to 1933)
- The League of Nations
- The Inter-war Years
- The Cold War
- The containment of Communism
- USSR control of Eastern Europe (1948 to 1989)
- Events in the Gulf (1970 to 2000)

Section B – Depth study:

In addition, all candidates must study at least one of the following Depth Studies:

- Russia, 1905–41
- Germany 1918-45
- The USA 1919-41

ASSESSMENT

All candidates will take Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 4.

Paper 1: Core content and in-depth study (40%) - Candidates answer two questions from Section A (Core Content) and one question from Section B (Depth Studies) – 2 hour exam

Paper 2 – Prescribed topic (33%) - Candidates answer six questions on one prescribed topic taken from the Core Content – 2 hour exam

Paper 4 – In-depth study (27%) - Candidates answer one question on a Depth Study – 1 hour exam