

IGCSE

Curriculum Booklet



Belong - Be Happy - Be Excellent



Why choose

RENAISSANCE FOR YOUR IGCSE STUDIES?

- Our IGCSE students are considered for our IB Diploma scholarships
- We offer a wide range of subjects
- We have an experienced and friendly University & College Counselor
- Our Renaissance Lions sports teams are multiple City Champions
- Students engage in community-oriented service activities
- Studying at Renaissance is an exciting experience, enriched with numerous trips and events

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Key points

- The subjects are split into six groups.
- Students will be required to take a minimum of five IGCSE qualifications and a maximum of ten.
- The IGCSE is a two-year programme of study.
- It is essential that students select subjects that reflect their current interests, ability and English proficiency.
- IGCSE subject choices will not automatically limit choices in the IBDP. Students and parents should have conversations with teachers, the counselor, and the coordinator to make choices that are best suited to each individual child's profile, language ability and future aspirations. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the IBDP Coordinator.

English Pathways

- First Language English
- World Literature in English
- English as a Second Language

First Language English (0500)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English offers candidates the opportunity to respond with understanding to a rich array of reading texts during the course. 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 Overview

External examination	100%
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Could this subject be for you?

If you are reading at grade level, or above, in English and want to develop your skills – this is the course for you. A strong focus on improving your language use, reading comprehension, speaking, listening and writing skills. It will prepare you for English A or B English courses in the IBDP.



English Pathways

English Literature (0475)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English (0475) provides learners with the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of international literature, originally written in English. Candidates study poetry, prose and drama.

At Renaissance students take the examined route, for which they will study three set texts and prepare for one unseen text.

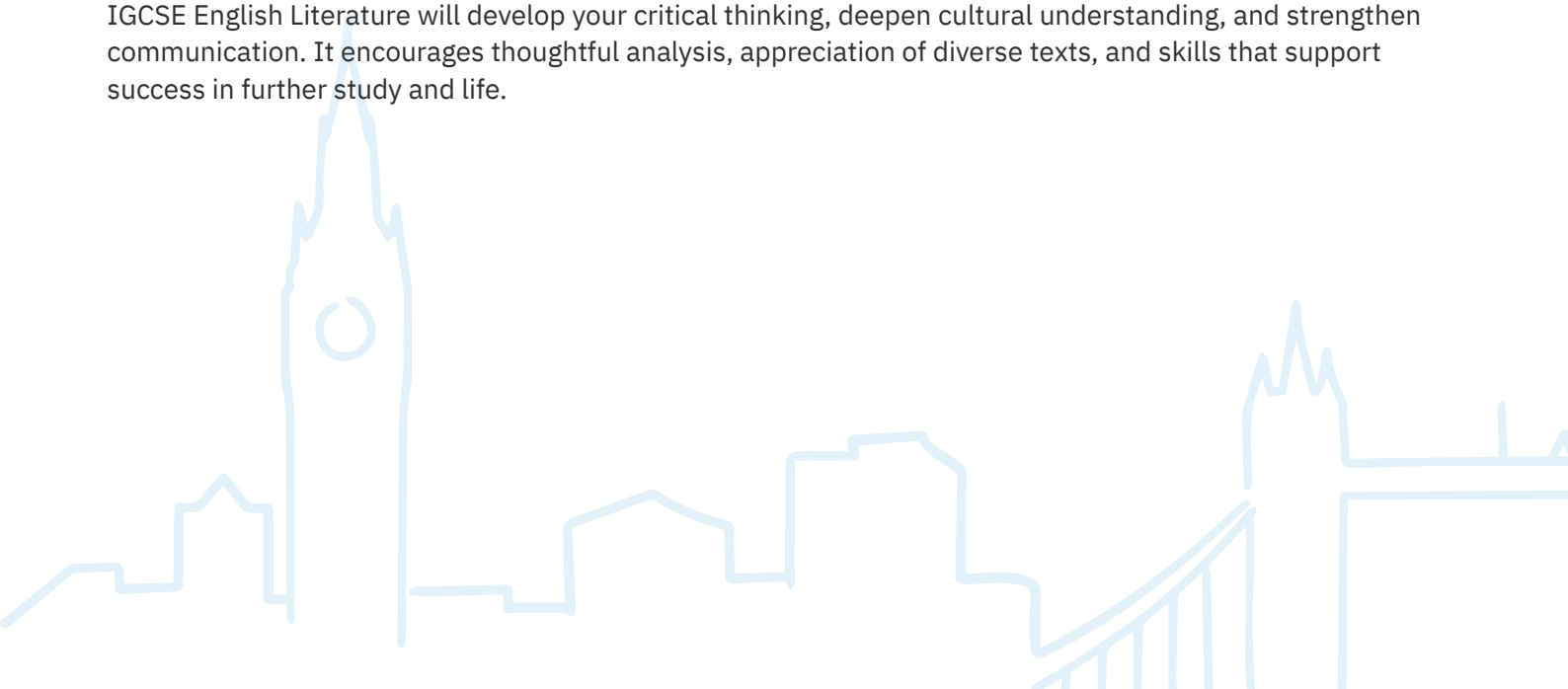
Throughout the IGCSE course, learners will learn to recognise and appreciate the ways writers use English to achieve a range of effects. They will do this through a combination of the study of complete novels, plays and poems in addition to literary extracts and unseen texts, developing their analytical skills and ability to interpret texts, alongside a personal response to the texts studied.

Assessment Overview

External examination	100%
Paper 1: Poetry & Prose	50%
Paper 2: Drama & Unseen	50%

Could this subject be for you?

IGCSE English Literature will develop your critical thinking, deepen cultural understanding, and strengthen communication. It encourages thoughtful analysis, appreciation of diverse texts, and skills that support success in further study and life.



English as a Second Language (0511)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Learners will be presented with a variety of stimuli that will build up their skills in reading and writing, listening and speaking. Learners will engage in conversations on a variety of topics, and develop their skills in responding to different situations and audiences.

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language will enable learners to become independent users of English, and to be able to use English to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts. Candidates will get opportunities to practice English in real-world contexts and to develop English that supports their learning in many other areas. This course is also good preparation for IBDP English B.

Assessment Overview

External examination	75%
Internally Assessed Speaking Test	25%

Could this subject be for you?

Need to build your vocabulary, grammar and English skills? Then this course will develop your ability to communicate effectively in English. It will support your learning in all subjects and prepare you for the IBDP Language B course.



Language Courses

Vietnamese as a First Language (0695)

Content Overview

What's this course about?

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Vietnamese offers learners the opportunity to respond knowledgeably to a range of reading texts during the course as a whole. Learners will use some of these texts to inform and inspire their own writing and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

The reading texts cover a range of genres and types, including fiction and non-fiction, and may also include other forms of writing, such as plays, essays, reviews and articles.

Learners are encouraged to become appreciative and critical readers and writers of Vietnamese. The syllabus tests standard Vietnamese.



Assessment Overview

Paper 1 (2 hours): Reading and Directed Writing	50%
Paper 2 (2 hours): Writing	50%

Could this subject be for you?

If Vietnamese is your mother-tongue then you will have to choose this subject. It is the perfect preparation for IBDP Vietnamese A course and also helps you to understand the concepts of literature, that you can apply to any IBDP Language and Literature Courses.

Note: If you are a Vietnamese national and choose to opt out of Language A (Vietnamese), we offer the opportunity to attend the government-mandated classes during ECA time.

Korean as a First Language (Internally assessed)

Content Overview

What's this course about?

The course will provide your child with a better understanding of Korean culture, language and history and create a platform of knowledge and understanding with them that is crucial for effective communication.

Students are encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which the language can be used. The Korean Language and Literature course also develop more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference and the ability to order and present opinions effectively.

Assessments and reports in this course are designed in accordance with the school Assessment Policy.

Evidence will be collected to assess your progress towards achievement of the learning goals throughout this course. Formative assessments will be used by the student and teacher as on-going evidence. Formative assessments may include (but are not limited to) daily work, homework, quizzes, in-class observation, interviews, etc.). Summative assessments will be used as a summary of the student's achievement in an area. Summative assessments may include (but are not limited to) tests, projects, presentations, and essays.



Assessment Overview

Internally assessed

100%

Could this subject be for you?

If Korean is your mother-tongue then you will have to choose this subject. It is the perfect preparation for the IBDP Korean A course and also helps you to understand the concepts of literature, that you can apply to any IBDP Language and Literature courses.

Language Courses

Chinese as a First Language (0509)

Content Overview

What's this course about?

Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese offers candidates the opportunity to respond knowledgeably to a range of reading passages. Candidates will use some of these passages to inform and inspire their own writing and write in a range of text types for different audiences.

The passages cover a range of genres, including fiction and non-fiction, and may also include other forms of writing, such as essays, reviews and articles.

Learners will have the opportunity to read Classical Chinese prose texts to help to deepen their knowledge of Chinese culture.

We encourage learners to become appreciative, critical readers and writers of Chinese.



Assessment Overview

Paper 1: Reading, Directed Writing and Classical Chinese	50%
Paper 2: Writing	50%

Could this subject be for you?

If Chinese is your mother-tongue, then you will have to choose this subject. It is the perfect preparation for IBDP Chinese Course A and helps you to understand the concepts of literature, that you can apply to any IBDP Literature courses.

Chinese Mandarin as a Foreign Language (0547)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

The subject content is organised in five broad topic areas. These provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. The study of these topic areas enables students to gain an insight into countries and communities where Chinese is spoken.

- Everyday activities (e.g., daily routines, food and drink, health, etc.)
- Personal and social life (e.g., family, hobbies, celebrations, etc.)
- The world around us (e.g., travel, environment, public services, etc.)
- The world of work (e.g., future plans, employment, etc.)
- The international world (e.g., global issues, cultural diversity, etc.)

The syllabus gives students opportunities to develop and apply a wide range of foreign language skills.

Candidates will be expected to read and understand a variety of written and spoken texts on familiar topics.

Candidates will be required to demonstrate understanding of the main ideas, opinions and attitudes, as well as select and extract relevant details and deduce the meaning of occasional unknown words from context.

They will also have opportunities to write in Chinese on familiar, everyday topics, and to speak the language by taking part in everyday conversations.

Assessment Overview

External Examination	75%
Internally Assessed Speaking Test	25%

Could this subject be for you?

IGCSE Mandarin Chinese provides a comprehensive introduction to the language, covering pronunciation, basic grammar, character recognition, and everyday vocabulary. This foundation is crucial for IBDP Chinese B, which builds upon these skills by exploring more complex grammatical structures, analysing authentic texts, and developing your ability to engage in nuanced discussions on a range of topics related to Chinese culture, society, and current affairs.

Language Courses

French as a Foreign Language (0520)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

The Cambridge IGCSE Foreign Language French course aims to develop students' language proficiency with a focus on practical communication in everyday situations. Through engaging topics and interactive learning, students will acquire essential vocabulary, grammar, and structures that enable them to understand and express themselves confidently in French.

The curriculum is structured around five broad topic areas that provide meaningful contexts for language learning while fostering an appreciation of French-speaking cultures:

- Everyday activities (e.g., daily routines, food and drink, health, etc.)
- Personal and social life (e.g., family, hobbies, celebrations, etc.)
- The world around us (e.g., travel, environment, public services, etc.)
- The world of work (e.g., future plans, employment, etc.)
- The international world (e.g., global issues, cultural diversity, etc.)

Students will develop their skills in reading, listening, writing, and speaking. They will be exposed to a variety of written and spoken texts, learning to identify main ideas, opinions, and key details while also practicing strategies to deduce the meaning of unfamiliar words in context. Additionally, they will refine their ability to write clearly on familiar topics and engage in spoken communication through role-plays, conversations, and presentations.

Assessment Overview

Internally Assessed Speaking Test	50%
External Examination: paper 1 (reading and listening)	25%
External Examination: paper 2 (writing)	25%

Why Choose French?

French is spoken in around 30 countries and is an official language of many international organizations (United Nations, European Council, UNESCO, International Court of Justice, etc.). Studying French at the IGCSE level not only enhances students' linguistic abilities but also broadens their cultural awareness and global opportunities. French is widely used in diplomacy, international trade, scientific research, the fashion industry, gastronomy, and the arts. This course is particularly beneficial for students considering careers in these fields, as well as in international relations, business, and tourism.

Humanities



Business Studies (0264)

Content Overview

Understanding Business

This topic covers key business concepts, including business activity, economic sectors, entrepreneurship, business size, growth factors, types of organisation, business objectives, and stakeholder roles and objectives.

People in Business

This section consists of human resources, workforce motivation, business organisation, recruitment, selection, training, and effective internal and external communication methods for efficient management.

Marketing

This subject matter consists of the role of marketing, niche vs. mass markets, segmentation techniques, market research methods, the four Ps of the marketing mix, and strategies to influence consumer decisions, domestically and internationally.

Operations Management

This section covers production methods, productivity improvement, production costs, break-even analysis, quality management, and business location decisions to enhance operational efficiency and competitiveness.

Financial information and decisions

This topic consists of business finance needs, sources, cash-flow forecasting, income statements, financial position statements, and account analysis for decision-making.

External influences on business activity

This section explores external influences on business activity, including government impacts on economic, environmental, and ethical issues. It covers globalisation, multinational businesses, exchange rates, and the international economy. Legal constraints are also considered in relation to functional areas and business operations.

Assessment Overview

External examination	100%
Paper 1: Short Answer and Data Response	50%
Paper 2: Case Study	50%

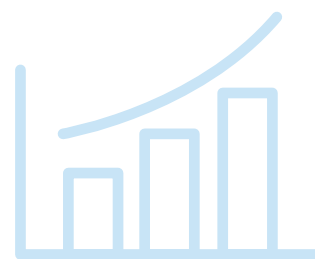
Could this subject be for you?

You should choose Business Studies if you have an interest in the study of organisation and the behavior of people.

New syllabus: first examination in April 2027

Economics (0455)

Content Overview



The basic economic problem

This topic introduces the fundamental ideas and concepts that underpin the study of economics, including the basic economic problem, factors of production, opportunity cost and production possibility curves.

The allocation of resources

This topic considers the fundamental principles of resource allocation through price mechanisms in a market economy. The market forces of demand and supply, market equilibrium and disequilibrium, and elasticity, form the core of this topic.

Microeconomic decision makers

The approach to learning about microeconomies taken in this topic is through the role of the major decision-makers: banks, households, workers and producers/firms.

Government and the Macroeconomy

This topic considers fiscal, monetary and supply-side policy measures used by governments, and examines the measurement, as well as the causes and consequences, of economic growth, unemployment and inflation.

Economic development

This topic explores the effects of changes in the size and structure of population, and other influences on development, in a variety of countries.

This topic explores global trade, specialisation, free trade, MNCs, forex rates, and balance of payments, highlighting causes and effects of globalisation.

Assessment Overview

External examination	100%
Paper 1: Multiple Choice	30%
Paper 2: Structured Questions	70%

Could this subject be for you?

Economics is for you if you are interested in understanding economic theories, principles and issues and how they affect our world.

Psychology (0266)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Cambridge IGCSE Psychology (0266) introduces students to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. The course encourages learners to explore key psychological theories, explanations and research through six compulsory topics: memory and forgetting, sleep and dreams, prosocial behavior, visual perception, motivation and needs, and language development.

Across these topics, students examine different psychological perspectives and learn how psychologists explain behavior using evidence from research studies. The syllabus presents balanced viewpoints by including both arguments supporting and challenging major psychological explanations, helping students develop critical thinking and analytical skills.

Students are also introduced to research methods, including experimental and non-experimental approaches. They learn how psychologists design investigations, collect data and draw conclusions. This builds strong evaluation, reasoning and data interpretation skills that are valuable across many subjects.

Each topic includes selected “named studies,” which provide clear examples of how research supports psychological theories. Students are not required to read original academic papers or evaluate studies in detail, but they will understand key findings and how these findings contribute to psychological knowledge.

Overall, the course develops scientific thinking, communication skills and a deeper understanding of human behavior in everyday life.

Assessment Overview

External examination	100%
Paper 1: Short to medium responses & evaluation	53%
Paper 2: Short to medium responses & evaluation	47%

Could this subject be for you?

You should choose Psychology if you are interested in understanding how people think, feel and behave, and are curious about topics such as memory, dreams, motivation and social behavior.

Co-ordinated Sciences (0654)



The Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, offering a solid foundation for further study in any of the IBDP Sciences. This course enables students to:

- Deepen their understanding of natural phenomena.
- Develop an informed interest in scientific matters and their real-world applications.
- Recognise the value and limitations of the scientific method, learning how to apply it across disciplines and in daily life.
- Cultivate key attitudes, including accuracy, precision, objectivity, integrity, curiosity, initiative, and creativity.
- Foster a sense of responsibility and care for the environment.
- Gain insight into the societal, economic, technological, ethical, and environmental factors that influence and limit scientific studies.
- Build essential scientific skills that are valuable both for further education and everyday life.

A Double Award Qualification

One of the unique aspects of the Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences course is that it is equivalent to two IGCSEs. This reflects the breadth and depth of the content, as students study all three sciences—Biology, Chemistry, and Physics—at a level that prepares them thoroughly for future academic challenges. The Double Award provides added value for students aiming to pursue IB sciences or other science-related qualifications.

Topics Covered

- Biology: Cells, nutrition, and transport; diseases and immunity; ecosystems and inheritance.
- Chemistry: Atomic structure, reactions, and energetics; acids and metals; organic chemistry and analysis.
- Physics: Motion, forces, and energy; waves, electricity, and magnetism; nuclear and space physics.

Practical Laboratory Skills

Practical laboratory work is a vital part of the course, allowing students to:

- Design experiments and analyse data effectively.
- Safely handle scientific equipment and materials.
- Observe results accurately and interpret findings with confidence.

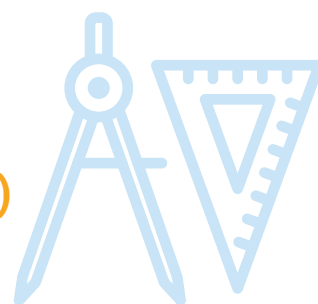
Assessment Overview

External examination	100%
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Is this subject for you?

Renaissance requires all students to take Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences. It is ideal for students who want to explore all three sciences in depth. It provides an excellent foundation for pursuing any of the IBDP sciences, equipping learners with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in further scientific study.

Mathematics



International Mathematics (Year 1 and 2) (0607)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

All candidates will study the following topics:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Functions
4. Coordinate geometry
5. Geometry and mensuration
6. Vectors and transformations
7. Trigonometry
8. Sets and probability
9. Statistics

Assessment Overview

External examination	100%
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Could this subject be for you?

This is an excellent foundation for IB DP SL Mathematics and beyond, giving a broad range of skills and knowledge.



Mathematics

Accelerated Course Mathematics (2 IGCSEs)

- International Mathematics (Year 1) (0607)
- Additional Mathematics (Year 2) (0606)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Year 1: (See International Mathematics)

Year 2: All candidates will study the following topics:

1. Functions including quadratic, logarithmic and exponential.
2. Equations, inequalities and graphs
3. Indices and surds
4. Factors of polynomials
5. Simultaneous equations
6. Circular measure
7. Trigonometry
8. Permutations and combinations
9. Series
10. Vectors in two dimensions
11. Differentiation and integration

The content of Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics is assumed as prerequisite knowledge for this qualification.



Assessment Overview

External examination

100%

Could this subject be for you?

When you enjoy Mathematics and have high ability, this is the course for you. It will prepare you for IBDP HL Mathematics and beyond.

Electives



Drama (0411)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Learners develop an understanding and enjoyment of drama through practical and theoretical study. Candidates will study:

- the elements of practical drama
- how to work with extracts from published plays as an actor, director and designer
- how to devise, develop and structure their own original dramatic material from stimuli such as short titles, poems, pictures, songs, historical events and stories
- how to evaluate their contribution to the devising process and the success of the final piece
- how to use staging and design as part of a dramatic performance
- individual and group performance skills and how they are applied to create character and communicate meaning to an audience.

Assessment Overview

External Examination Written Exam. Candidates answer questions on plays they have studied practically during the course and on their own devised drama piece completed as part of their practical coursework.	40%
Coursework Candidates submit three pieces of practical work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• individual performance based on an extract from a play• group performance based on an extract from a play• group performance based on an original devised piece. (Internally assessed and externally moderated.)	60%

Could this subject be for you?

Creating theatre and performing to audiences demands and develops a range of skills: solving problems, working with others and working to performance deadlines. These and a host of other skills are valuable for any form of employment not just for a role in the fast-growing creative industries.

Chinese Crafts: On Labour & the Working



Electives

Art and Design (0400)



Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design encourages a range of skills, stimulates aesthetic awareness, knowledge and critical understanding of art, and provides opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills. Crucially, a personal and independent perspective is encouraged. The syllabus is designed to accommodate a wide range of abilities, materials and resources.

The broad areas of study are:

- painting and related media
- print making
- three-dimensional design
- photography, digital and lens-based media
- graphic communication
- textiles and fashion.



Candidates can respond to either component using any of the media above.

Assessment for the IGCSE Art and Design program is divided into two components: coursework and a final examination. The coursework component makes up involves the creation of a portfolio of artwork that demonstrates students' skills and creativity. The final examination consists of a practical examination that tests students' ability to apply their knowledge and skills to a specific task.

Assessment Overview

External examination	50%
Coursework	50%

Could this subject be for you?

If you are creative and have a critical mind, this one is for you. IGCSE Art and Design gives you opportunity to work with a range of materials and explore many different artists and styles, giving you all the tools you need to support you in IBDP Visual Arts.

Electives



Music (0410)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

When studying the Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus, learners listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, learners enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances lifelong musical enjoyment. Learners study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and learners are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive and critical when listening. Although the majority of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is always represented.

Assessment Overview

Listening Skills: Students engage with a diverse range of music, focusing on Western European music while exploring global musical traditions. They develop critical listening skills.

Performance: The course requires individual and ensemble performances, with a total performance time of no less than four minutes and no more than ten minutes.

Composition: Students create original works, encouraged to experiment with different styles and techniques, including unconventional instruments and arrangements.

External examination	40%
Coursework	60%

Could this subject be for you?

If you already have a passion for music, this subject is for you. It is an internationally recognised qualification as proof of your musical skills, knowledge and understanding. The syllabus focuses on developing lifelong musical skills and setting a strong foundation for further studies in IBDP Music.





Computer Science (0478)

Content Overview

What does Cambridge International say about the course?

Candidates study the following topics:

Computer Systems

1. Data representation
2. Data transmission
3. Hardware
4. Software
5. The internet and its uses
6. Automated and emerging technologies

Algorithms, Programming and Logic

7. Algorithm design and problem-solving
8. Programming
9. Databases
10. Boolean logic

Assessment Overview

Assessment for the IGCSE Computer Science program is divided into two written tests. Both are assessed externally. Details are as follows:

Paper 1: covers the Computer Systems content (points 1-6)	50%
Paper 2: covers Algorithms, Programming and Logic (points 7-10)	50%

Could this subject be for you?

If you enjoy problem solving and are eager to explore the world of technology, IGCSE Computer Science might be the right choice for you. It offers you the opportunity to delve into computational thinking, applied problem-solving, and programming, equipping you with essential skills for the digital age. You will learn to create computer-based solutions using algorithms and programming languages, setting a solid foundation for pursuing IBDP Computer Science.



EAL/Learning Support

We offer personalised programmes taught by specialists to meet the diverse needs of all of our learners.

Our specialist EAL and Learning Support teachers design programmes that meet the fundamental learning or language needs of our students to support their ability to access their learning across all of the subjects and increase their independence.



Sports and Health

Sports are a major part of school life at Renaissance. They play an essential role in the physical, emotional, and social development of every student. It is imperative that students understand the importance of adopting a healthy and active lifestyle through the enjoyment of varied physical activities throughout the broad, balanced, and varied curriculum. Year 10 and 11 will have 2 lessons of core PE a week, even if they do not choose to continue to study PE as an IGCSE option. We also have a wide range of clubs and sports teams in which students can participate.

Pastoral Programme

Renaissance International School provides a high standard of pastoral care. Alongside our day-to-day care services, we offer a pastoral curriculum designed to aid the social and emotional development of our students. Pastoral care is the essential foundation upon which learning can take place. We pride ourselves on knowing every student and addressing their individual needs. This pastoral curriculum sits alongside our academic curriculum to support the development of each of our students. Students will enjoy a programme that is targeted and informative. Our personal aim is to equip each student with the necessary skills to tackle life with confidence and positivity, enabling them to realise their full potential.



A great school where
great things happen together



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