



**THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PENANG (UPLANDS)**

*Respect for self, Respect for Others*

# **IGCSE CURRICULUM HANDBOOK 2019-2020**





## GUIDING STATEMENTS

The International School of Penang (Uplands) is a not-for-profit, co-educational and non-denominational day and boarding school for students aged between 4 – 18 years old.

## VISION

To provide an exemplar international education in a dynamic multi-cultural environment, encouraging all school members to be active learners and engage with the local and wider community.

## MISSION

To be an international community that upholds the School's values, nurturing its members to become globally minded citizens.

## VALUES

Respect, Inquiry, Collaboration,  
Resilience, Balance, Diversity, Integrity

We live by our motto,

Respect for Self.  
Respect for Others.

## WELCOME TO UPLANDS SECONDARY

Welcome to the International School of Penang, Uplands. We proudly offer our families an international education that values excellence, integrity, and encourages students to live by our motto: Respect for Self, Respect for Others.

Our IGCSE programme is a rigorous programme of academic study designed to prepare students at a high level across a range of subjects. It is a broad programme that offers students experiences in science, maths, languages, humanities, physical edu-

cation and the arts. It is underpinned by an excellent system of pastoral care, known as our RESPECT programme. Learning in Years 10-11 is designed to create a strong and successful foundation for students' continued academic, social and emotional growth and development and leads to the internationally-renowned International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in Years 12-13.

**Jo Loiterton**  
**Head of Secondary**

## IGCSE CURRICULUM

At upper secondary level, students will undertake the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) IGCSE syllabus (Years 10 & 11), a two-year course, taught by experienced international teachers, leading to external examinations.

While conducted in school, these examinations are marked externally in the United Kingdom. The IGCSE is globally recognised as an excellent foundation for study at higher level, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Uplands is proud of its record at IGCSE, consistently obtaining results clearly above the global average.



## SUBJECTS

Subjects taken in Years 10 and 11: IGCSE

### Core:

English / English as a Second Language CIE  
Combined Science, CIE  
Mathematics (including Additional Mathematics) CIE  
Global Perspectives  
Physical Education (non-examined)

### Options

Students must select 7 subjects from options designed based on students' subject preferences. Subject offerings vary each.

### Languages

Malay CIE IGCSE  
Spanish CIE IGCSE  
French CIE IGCSE  
German CIE IGCSE  
Mandarin CIE IGCSE Foreign Language

\* First Language Options are examined by CIE at IGCSE level.

Design Technology  
Computer Science  
Economics CIE IGCSE  
Geography CIE IGCSE  
History CIE IGCSE  
Art CIE IGCSE  
Drama CIE IGCSE  
Music CIE IGCSE  
Psychology (Edexcel)  
Information Technology IGCSE  
Physical Education Edexcel GCSE (examined)  
\* Students who hold a Malaysian passport must take Malay CIE IGCSE First Language.

## ENGLISH

### First Language English

We offer two tiers of study at Uplands, with the majority of our students following a course that prepares them for the extended tier of entry (grades A\* – E). The core tier examination is also available, with students working towards grades in the C – G range in the final examination.

We approach this course in a dynamic way at Uplands, and our hope is that by providing a range of teaching styles we are able to find a way to engage all students in their study of the English language.

IGCSE First Language English allows learners to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analy

### Assessment

All candidates take two papers. Paper 1, and one of Paper 2 or Component 3. Component





4 is optional and assesses speaking and listening skills. This component is separately endorsed and marks will not contribute to a candidate's overall grade.

Paper 1 2 hours

Reading 50%

80 marks

Structured and extended writing questions  
Questions will be based on three reading texts

Externally assessed

Paper 2 2 hours

Directed Writing and Composition 50%

80 marks

Extended writing question and a composition task

Externally assessed

OR

Component 3

Coursework Portfolio 50%

80 marks

Three extended writing assignments

Internally assessed and externally moderated

## Literature in English

The aims of this course are to build on the foundations of literary study that are established in the years 7-9 curriculum. Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English offers learners the opportunity to read, interpret, evaluate and respond to a range of literature in English. The range includes drama, prose and poetry from the works of Shakespeare to contemporary literature. This course enables



learners to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the ways in which writers use English to express meaning and achieve effects. Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English will stimulate learners to read for pleasure and to explore wider and universal issues, promoting a better understanding of themselves and the world.

The aims are to develop learners who:

- 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.

### Assessment

All candidates take Paper 1 Poetry and Prose, and EITHER Paper 2 Drama, OR Paper 3 Drama (Open Text) and Paper 4 Unseen, OR Paper 3 Drama (Open Text) and Component 5 Coursework.

Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes

Poetry and Prose 50%

50 marks

Two questions on two texts: one poetry and one prose. Externally assessed  
AND EITHER

Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes

Drama 50%

50 marks

Two questions on two texts

Externally assessed

OR

Paper 3 45 minutes

Drama (Open Text) 25%

25 marks

One question on one text

Externally assessed

AND

Component 5

Coursework 25%

25 marks

Portfolio of two assignments, each on a different text. Internally assessed and externally moderated



### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE English gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including IB Diploma Literature or Language and Literature.

## English as an additional Language

The Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language course is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their education or career. Through their studies, learners will improve their ability to understand and use English in a range of

situations.

The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study. For the Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language course, there is not a set list of knowledge that must be acquired. Instead, students learn practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

### Assessment

Students are assessed at the end of the course (Y11) using three components: Paper 2 (Extended) – Reading and writing (70%)

Candidates complete six exercises testing a range of reading and writing skills.

Paper 4 (Extended) - Listening (30%)

Candidates listen to several short extracts and longer texts, and complete a range of



task types, including short-answer questions, gap filling, matching, multiple choice and note-making.

Internal Assessment (Externally moderated)  
Component 5 - Speaking

Marks for the Speaking component do not contribute to the overall grade candidates receive for the written components, as certificates record separately the achievements of candidates, with grades 1 (high) to 5 (low) for speaking. Following a 2–3 minute warm-up conversation, candidates engage in a 6–9 minute discussion with the examiner on a given topic.

### Where does this subject lead?

Cambridge IGCSEs are accepted and valued by leading universities and employers around the world as evidence of academic achievement.

## SCIENCES

### Combined Sciences

Cambridge IGCSE Combined Sciences (0653) gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each covered in separate syllabus sections. It is a single award qualification, earning one grade. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

They learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learn-





ers to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

### Assessment

Cambridge IGCSE Combined Sciences is a single-award syllabus. This means that the final papers sat are the equivalent of one IGCSE subject. Students can either sit for the IGCSE Core Biology or the IGCSE Extended Biology and for each there are three externally assessed components:

- i) Core students will sit Papers 1, 3 and 6.
- ii) Extended students will sit Papers 2, 4 and 6.

Papers 1 and 2 are multiple choice papers and are 45 minutes long. They assess the ability of students to recall their understanding and use their analytical skills to narrow down the possible options based on the data given.

Papers 3 and 4 consist of short answer and structured questions. Both papers are 1 hour and 15 minutes long. They assess the ability of students to apply their knowledge

and problem-solving skills in order to extract and manipulate given data.

Paper 6, which is the alternative to practical paper, is a 1 hour paper. It assesses the ability of students to use apply their experimental, analytical and investigative skills. These papers usually feature questions based on practicals students have completed in class. Candidates who have studied the Core subject content, or who are expected to achieve a grade D or below, will usually be entered for Paper 1, Paper 3 and Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades C to G.

### Where does this subject lead?

Combined Sciences is an excellent option for those students who enjoy science but do not want to pursue it in the same amount of depth as they would with single award or 'pure' sciences. Students opting for this pathway will have far more time to develop conceptual understanding and the content of the syllabus is reduced significantly. Cambridge IGCSE Combined Science gives learners the opportunity to study biology,

chemistry and physics within a scientifically coherent syllabus and is accepted by universities and employers as proof of essential knowledge and ability. Students who complete this course will have covered a wide-range of scientific content and will have developed important scientific skills which will be of benefit in further education. This option provides a pathway for students who need additional support in science. If a student is looking to pursue one or even two sciences at IBDP then they ought to be considering taking single award ('pure') sciences. The Combined Science qualification is recognised by universities and will allow students to grasp the basics of science that are important in the current technological world in which we are living. Students can access the IB full diploma with this qualification, but would not

be recommended to study SL or HL Biology, Chemistry or Physics IB courses.

## Biology

With an emphasis on human biology, the Cambridge IGCSE Biology syllabus (0610) helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. They also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at Cambridge International A Level, which are useful in everyday life.

As they progress, learners understand how science is studied and practised, and become



aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

### Assessment

Students can either sit for the IGCSE Core Biology or the IGCSE Extended Biology and for each there are three externally assessed components:

- i) Core students will sit Papers 1, 3 and 6.
- ii) Extended students will sit Papers 2, 4 and 6.

Papers 1 and 2 are multiple choice papers and are 45 minutes long. They assess the ability of students to recall their understanding and use their analytical skills to narrow down the possible options based on the data given.

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Paper 6, which is the alternative to practical paper, is a 1 hour paper. It assesses the ability of students to use apply their experimen-

tal, analytical and investigative skills. These papers usually feature questions based on practicals students have completed in class. Candidates who have studied the Core subject content, or who are expected to achieve a grade D or below, will usually be entered for Paper 1, Paper 3 and Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades C to G.

### Where does this subject lead?

Taking 'Pure Sciences' (as single-award Sciences are often referred to) will put a student at an advantage if he or she wants to pursue that science at IBDP or A Level. The IGCSE Biology syllabus explores topics to a greater depth than the Combined Sciences and provides excellent preparation for post-16 studies.

Biology is an extremely popular science at Uplands, with many students going on to select Biology as a Group 4 subject at IB Diploma level. There is a large practical component to the course, and many opportunities arise for students to develop their inquiry and practical skills through fun and engaging laboratory work.



## Chemistry

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry (0620) enables learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of Chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. They also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at Cambridge International A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, learners understand how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

The main areas covered in the Chemistry course are:

- Analytical Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

### Assessment

Students can either sit for the IGCSE Core Chemistry or the IGCSE Extended Chemistry and for each of them the assessment consists of three components.

- i) Core students will take components 1, 3 and 6.
- ii) Extended students will take components 2, 4 and 6.

Component 1 or 2 which is the multiple choice paper is a 45 minutes paper. It assesses the ability for the students to recall





their understanding and use their analytical skills to narrow down the possible options based on the data given.

Component 3 or 4 which is the short answer and structured paper is a 1 hour and 15 minutes paper. It assesses the ability for the students to apply their knowledge and problem-solving skills in order to extract and manipulate given data.

Component 6 which is the alternative to practical paper is a 1 hour paper. It assesses the ability for the students to use apply their experimental, analytical and investigative skills.

### Where does this subject lead?

Chemistry is often referred to as the central science because it joins together physics and mathematics, biology and medicine, and the earth and environmental sciences. Knowl-

edge of the nature of chemicals and chemical processes therefore provides insights into a variety of physical and biological phenomena. Knowing something about chemistry is worthwhile because it provides an excellent basis for understanding the physical universe we live in. Studying Chemistry at IGCSE level builds a strong foundation for the IB Diploma as it helps develop problem-solving skills as well as mathematical and analytical skills which are all key skills for most subjects at IBDP.

## Physics

Cambridge IGCSE Physics (0625) enables learners to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding to recognise that science is evidence based and understand the usefulness, and limitations, of scientific method.



It allows students to develop skills that are relevant to the study and practice of physics as well as skills that are useful in everyday life and encourages a systematic approach to problem solving. While studying physics, students develop concerns for accuracy and precision, they build up their problem solving, research and analytical skills. They learn to appreciate that physics is about investigating and developing other people's theories and that it is an ongoing science.

The main areas covered in the physics course are:

General physics measurement, motion, forces and energy.

Thermal physics

Properties of waves, including light and sound

Electricity and magnetism

Atomic physics

### Assessment

Students can either sit for the IGCSE Core Physics or the IGCSE Extended Physics and

for each of them the assessment consists of three components.

i) Core students will take components 1, 3 and 6.

ii) Extended students will take components 2, 4 and 6.

Component 1 or 2 which is the multiple choice paper is a 45 mins paper. It assesses the ability for the students to recall their understanding and use their analytical skills to narrow down the possible options based on the data given.

Component 3 or 4 which is the short answer and structured paper is a 1 hour and 15 minutes paper. It assesses the ability for the students to apply their knowledge and problem-solving skills in order to extract and manipulate given data.

Component 6 which is the alternative to practical paper is a 1 hour paper. It assesses the ability for the students to use apply their experimental, analytical and investigative skills.

### Where does this subject lead?

Physics is a science that open doors to most careers. It is the core of every sector and it is the science that makes the use of technology possible and makes sense to the study of atoms and universe. It is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including: engineering, astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology, research including medical research.

Studying physics at IGCSE level builds a strong foundation for the IB Diploma as it helps develop problem-solving skills as well as mathematical and analytical skills which are all key skills for most subjects at IBDP.

## MATHEMATICS

### Mathematics (Core)

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics supports learners in building competency, confidence and fluency in their use of techniques and mathematical understanding. This course helps learners to develop a feel for quantity, patterns and relationships. Learners will develop their reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills in a variety of abstract and real-life contexts. All candidates will study the following topics: Number; Algebra and graphs; Coordinate geometry; Geometry; Mensuration; Trigonometry; Vectors and transformations; Probability and Statistics.

#### Assessment

Assessment is based on written examination.

Paper 1: 1 hour (35%)

Short-answer questions

Paper 3: 2 hours (65%)

Structured questions

These candidates will be eligible for grades C to G.

### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE Core Mathematics provides a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge for candidates who will require mathematics to support skills in other subjects.

### Mathematics (Extended)

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics supports learners in building competency, confidence and fluency in their use of techniques and mathematical understanding. This course helps learners to develop a feel for quantity, patterns and relationships. Learners will develop their reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills in a variety of abstract and real-life contexts. All candidates will study the following topics: Number; Algebra and graphs; Coordinate geometry; Geometry; Mensuration; Trigonometry; Vectors and transformations; Probability and Statistics.

#### Assessment

Assessment is based on written examination.

Paper 2: 1.5 hours (35%)

Short-answer questions

Paper 4: 2.5 hours (65%)

Structured questions

These candidates will be eligible for grades A\* to E



### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE

Extended Mathematics provides a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge both for candidates studying mathematics at a higher level and those who will require mathematics to support skills in other subjects.

### Additional Mathematics

Cambridge IGCSE Additional Mathematics supports learners in building competency, confidence and fluency in their use of techniques and mathematical understanding. This course helps learners to develop a feel for quantity, patterns and relationships. Learners

will develop their reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills in a variety of contexts. All candidates will study the following topics: Functions; Quadratic functions; Equations, inequalities and graphs; Indices and surds; Factors of polynomials; Simultaneous equations; Logarithmic and exponential functions; Straight line graphs; Circular measure; Trigonometry; Permutations and combinations; Series; Vectors in two dimensions; Differentiation and integration.

#### Assessment

Assessment is based on written examination.

Paper 1: 2 hours (50%)

Paper 2: 2 hours (50%)

These candidates will be eligible for grades A\* to E



### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE Additional Mathematics provides a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge both for candidates studying mathematics at a higher level and those who will require mathematics to support skills in other subjects. Candidates who perform well should be able to progress to the advanced study of mathematics.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Cambridge IGCSE Modern Foreign Languages aims to develop the ability to communicate effectively using the target language. It offers insights into the culture and society of countries where the language is spoken, develops transferable skills (e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum, and forms a sound base of the skills, language, and attitudes required for progression to work or further study, either in the target language or another subject area.

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.

Everyday activities  
Personal and social life  
The world around us

The world of work  
The international world.

### Assessment

Assessments are to be completed in four skills::

Paper 1 Listening (25%)

Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer questions testing comprehension.

Paper 2 Reading (25%)

Candidates read a number of texts and answer

questions testing comprehension.

Paper 3 Speaking (25%)

Candidates complete two role plays, a topic presentation/conversation and a general conversation.

Paper 4 Writing (25%)

Candidates respond in the target language to three tasks.

### Where does this subject lead?

Cambridge IGCSE MFL is recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career. It also provides the foundation for further studies, such as the IB Diploma Language B and other similar courses elsewhere.

## Modern Foreign Languages Malay

Cambridge IGCSE Foreign Language Malay is designed for learners who are learning Malay as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is



based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of Malaysia, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.

The syllabus 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
- the international world.

### Assessment

All candidates take the following three components:

Paper 2 Reading (1 hour)  
(approximately 33%)

Candidates read a number of texts and answer questions testing comprehension.

Paper 3 Speaking (approximately 15 minutes)  
(approximately 33%)  
Candidates complete two role-plays, a topic presentation / conversation and a general conversation.

Paper 4 Writing (1 hour) (approximately 33%)  
Candidates respond in the target language to three tasks.

### Where does this subject lead?

Cambridge IGCSE Malay is accepted by universities and employers as proof of linguistic ability and understanding. The course encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, including:

- the ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication
- insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken
- a positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages, and towards other cultures and civilisations
- techniques which can be applied to other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills
- a sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

## Modern Foreign Languages Malay

First Language Malay syllabus is for learners whose first language is Malay. This First Language syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging various skills of more general application.

### Assessment

All candidates take two components. Candi-

dates will be eligible for grades A\* to G.  
Paper 1 (2 hours) Reading and directed writing (50%) (50 marks)  
Structured and extended writing questions  
Questions are based on three reading texts  
Externally assessed  
Paper 2 (2 hours)  
Composition (50%) (50 marks)  
Composition tasks Externally assessed

### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE First Language Malay gives learners a solid foundation for further study or to enable them to progress directly to employment. Candidates who achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses.

## ART & DESIGN

The Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Students gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three-dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. Students are taught how to research the work of artists and how this research can inspire their own ideas. Crucially, students are encouraged to pursue their own ideas and reflect on their progress.. They also learn how to develop their initial ideas

towards a final outcome.

### Assessment

50% of the available marks are for the Coursework Assignment. This requires students to pursue a theme of their choice. They are required to produce up to eight A2 preparatory sheets. As a culmination of their ideas, they produce one final outcome. Coursework is internally assessed by teachers and externally moderated.  
50% of the available marks are for the Broad-Based Assignment. Students choose from a list of externally-provided titles. Students are required to produce up to four A2 preparatory sheets. Their final outcome is completed in an eight-hour examination. The Broad-based assignment is externally assessed.

### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including IB Diploma Art.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

IGCSE Computer Science aims are to develop:

- computational thinking, that is thinking about what can be computed and how, and includes consideration of the data required
- understanding of the main principles of solving problems by using computers
- understanding that every computer system is made up of sub-systems, which in turn consist of further sub-systems







- understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate, including software, data, hardware, communications and people
- skills necessary to apply understanding to solve computer-based problems using a high-level programming language.

### Assessment

Candidates are assessed on two compulsory written papers.

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes Theory 60% 75 marks Short answer and structured questions Questions will be based on section 1 of the Subject content

Paper 2 1 hour 45 minutes Problem-solving and 40% Programming 50 marks Short answer and structured questions Questions will be based on section 2 of the Subject content All questions are compulsory 20 marks are from questions set on the pre-release material

With the ever increasing use of technology pervading all areas of life. Technology courses are becoming the must have skills set for the future.

### Where does this subject lead?

Computer Science may lead to higher education in this area and ultimately to jobs in exciting technology fields such as AI, engineering, system design, programming and many more.

## DRAMA

Through practical and theoretical study, the IGCSE Drama syllabus encourages students to understand and enjoy drama by developing their performance skills, both individually and in groups; understanding the role of actor, director and designer in creating a piece of theatre; discovering the performance possibilities of plays and other dramatic stimuli;

and devising dramatic material of their own. They rehearse and perform a monologue, a devised piece and an extract from a published play. They also develop the skills needed to write about their understanding of drama, and the ways that are used to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience.

### Assessment

Assessment is based on Coursework (60%) and a Written Examination (40%). Coursework includes a five-minute individual performance from a play, a fifteen-minute group performance from a play and a fifteen-minute group performance of an original devised piece. Coursework is internally assessed and externally moderated. The two and a half hour Written Examination Paper consists of a number of short answer questions and two longer, essay-style questions based on

a supplied extract from a play and a further devised group performance piece. Assessment criteria are Understanding Repertoire, Devising, and Acting Skills.

### Where does this subject lead?

The performance and writing skills developed in Cambridge IGCSE Drama give learners a solid foundation for further study of a wide range of courses, including IB Diploma Theatre in particular.

## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The study of Design and Technology is offered in two components. Students choose from either Graphic Products or Resistant Materials.

### Graphic Products

Students in the Graphic Products course





learn the techniques necessary to design and manufacture projects relating to packaging, product design, graphic design, interior design, and fashion. They use drawing and design software, tools, and problem-solving techniques needed to create unique design solutions.

#### **Resistant Materials.**

The Resistant Materials course combines scientific information with materials and manufacturing technologies to create a series of workshop-based practical projects. Students will design and manufacture products made from a wide variety of materials such as wood, metal, and plastic.

#### **Assessment**

Assessment methods are the same for each course:

25% is tested through written examination based on Product Design

25% is tested through written/ drawing examination based on option specific knowledge

50% of the grade is attainable through the coursework component, which is completed in the first two terms of the second year.

It is important for students to note that most of the second year of the course is coursework. It requires students to use their initiative, manage their time effectively and work independently, often at home.

#### **Where does this subject lead?**

The combination of knowledge and skills in IGCSE Design and Technology gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including IB Diploma Design Technology.

## **ECONOMICS**

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Economics syllabus candidates are exposed to global economic policies and issues and gain life-long skills, including:

- an understanding of economic theory, terminology and principles
- the ability to apply the tools of economic analysis
- the ability to distinguish between facts and value judgements in economic issues
- an understanding of, and an ability to use, basic economic numeracy and literacy
- the ability to take a greater part in decision-making processes in everyday life
- an ability to use examples from a variety of economies
- an excellent foundation for advanced study in economics.

#### **Assessment**

Candidates are assessed on two compulsory components that are externally examined. There is no internal assessment component. Paper 1 – Multiple Choice worth 30% of the final grade. Multiple-choice paper, 45 minutes, 30 marks.

Candidates answer all 30 multiple-choice questions. Candidates indicate their answers on the multiple choice answer sheet provided. The questions are based on all six sections of the syllabus content. The questions may include calculations.

Paper 2 – Structured Questions worth 70% of the final grade. Written paper, 2 hours 15 minutes, 90 marks

Candidates answer one compulsory question in Section A and three questions from a



choice of four in Section B.

Candidates write a mixture of short and long structured answers depending on the nature of the question and the specific marks assigned to each question.

### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE Economics gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including the IB Diploma or the Cambridge International AS & A Level Economics courses. Cambridge IGCSEs are accepted and valued by leading universities and employers around the world as evidence of academic achievement in a rigorous humanities subject.

## GEOGRAPHY

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, learners will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. They will also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world. The subject content is arranged into the three themes:

- Population and settlement

- The natural environment
- Economic development.

### Assessment

All candidates take three papers. All candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 2, and either Component 3 or Paper 4.

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes  
Geographical Themes 45%  
75 marks, weighted to 100 marks  
Candidates answer three questions, each worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer one question from each section  
Externally assessed

Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes  
Geographical Skills 27.5%  
60 marks  
Candidates answer all the questions  
Externally assessed

Component 3  
Coursework 27.5%  
60 marks  
Teachers set one centre-based assignment of up to 2000 words  
Centre-based assessment\*

Paper 4 1 hour 30 minutes  
Alternative to Coursework 27.5%  
60 marks  
Candidates answer two compulsory questions, completing a series of written tasks  
Externally assessed

### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in IGCSE Geography gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who



achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including IB Diploma Geography.

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Global Perspectives is a two-year course that emphasises the development of interdisciplinary understanding and skills. Students are encouraged to inquire into current issues, both local and global. They will evaluate information critically, from a range of perspectives and sources, and explore lines of reasoning. Students will take control of their own learning and develop independence and leadership through individual and collaborative projects.

### Assessment

Global Perspectives is assessed using a range of individual and group projects.

These include a team-based community project, individual activity and capstone project based on the DP Extended Essay.

### Where does this subject lead?

The skills taught, modelled and mastered within Global Perspectives prepares students for success in the IB Diploma courses, particularly in Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and Community Activity Service, and beyond.

## HISTORY

The Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills

required for historical research. Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

### Assessment

Assessment structure and objectives  
IGCSE History at Uplands is assessed externally and coursework is not offered as an option at this time.

Candidates are entered for three examination papers:

Paper 1 (2 hours – 40%) Candidates choose three questions to answer – Two on Core Content and one on Depth Studies.

Paper 2 (2 hours – 33%) Candidates answer six questions on a selected topic that has been provided beforehand. Each option will include a collection of source material relating to the topic, and a series of questions based on the material.

Paper 3 (1 hour – 27%) Candidates must answer a series of questions based on their Depth Study. The questions are both content and source based.

### Where does this subject lead?

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE History gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including IB Diploma History.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Information and Communication Technology course encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, including:

- understanding and using applications
- using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to solve problems
- analysing, designing, implementing, testing and evaluating ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose
- understanding the implications of technology in society, including social, economic and ethical uses
- awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments.

### Assessment

Assessment is in the form of 3 Papers  
Paper 1 2 hours Theory  
40% 100 marks Questions will be based on sections 1–21 of the subject content  
Paper 2 2 hours 30 minutes  
Document Production, Data Manipulation and Presentations. 30% 80 marks This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 17, 18 and 19 of the subject content  
Candidates use knowledge-based practical skills from sections 1–16

Paper 3 2 hours 30 minutes  
Data Analysis and Website Authoring 30% 80 marks This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 20 and 21 of the subject content

Candidates use knowledge-based practical skills from sections 1–16

### Where does this subject lead?

With the ever increasing use of technology pervading all areas of life. Technology courses are becoming the must have skills set for the future.

The ICT course leads the students to further study and specialisation in different fields of technology. Almost all profession will use technology and those with higher technology skills will be in demand.

## MUSIC

IGCSE Music is accepted by universities and employers worldwide as providing proof of musical skills, knowledge and understanding. This syllabus offers students the opportunity

to develop their own practical musical skills through performing and composing. They also develop their listening skills by studying music from the main historical periods and styles of Western music as well as from selected non-Western traditions. The emphasis of the syllabus is as much on developing lifelong musical skills as on acquiring knowledge.

Learners studying IGCSE Music are given the opportunity to:

- listen to and learn about music from a wide range of historical periods and major world cultures
- develop their skills in performing music, both individually and in a group with other musicians
- develop their skills in composing music in a style of their own choice.

### Assessment

Component 1 c.(1 hour 15 minutes)







Listening 40% 70 marks  
 Written examination based on CD recordings supplied by Cambridge International  
 Externally assessed  
 Component 2 Coursework  
 Performing 30%  
 50 marks  
 Two prepared performances, one individual and one ensemble  
 Internally marked/externally moderated  
 Component 3 Coursework  
 Composing 30%  
 100 marks scaled to 50 marks  
 Two contrasting compositions  
 Internally marked/externally moderated

#### **Where does this subject lead?**

The combination of knowledge and skills

in Cambridge IGCSE Music gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including IB Diploma Music.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The CIE IGCSE Physical Education syllabus provides candidates with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education. It is also designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity. The knowledge gained should enable candidates to develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. Candidates will study all of the following

theory topics:

- 1: Anatomy and physiology
  - 2: Health, fitness and training
  - 3: Skill acquisition and psychology
  - 4: Social, cultural and ethical influences
- Candidates will also undertake four different physical activities chosen from at least two of the seven categories listed in the practical coursework outline.
- Physical activities make a significant contribution to syllabus aims and objectives, serving as a source of material to facilitate learning.

#### **Assessment**

Assessment is based on Practical Coursework (50%) and a Written Theory Examination (50%).

##### **Practical Coursework**

Candidates undertake four physical activities from at least two of the seven available categories. All evidence is internally assessed, filmed and then externally moderated.

##### **Theory Examination**

Paper 1 is a 1 hour and 45-minute written examination covering all 4 theory top

#### **Where does this subject lead?**

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE Physical Education gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A\* to C are well prepared to follow a range of courses including IB Sports Science and Biology or CIE A-Level PE Course.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

Edexcel (9-1) Psychology provides young psychologists with the opportunity to sys-

tematically study the underlying causes of human behaviour.

The core divisions of Psychological exploration covered in the syllabus for Paper 1 include: Biological Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Social Psychology, and Developmental Psychology.

Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods are also explored. Students gain an understanding of data collection and interpretation as it applies to the field of Psychology.

Students will also study two optional topics from the list below:

Criminal Psychology  
 Sleep & Dreaming  
 Language Thought & Communication  
 The Self  
 Perception

#### **Assessment**

Candidates are assessed on two compulsory components that are externally examined.

There is no internal assessment component. Written examination Paper 1: Core Content  
 1 hour and 45 minutes

55% of the qualification

Written examination Paper 2:

Options and Research Methods

1 hour and 20 minutes

45% of the qualification

Both exams include multiple-choice, short-answer and open-response questions, and one extended open-response question.

#### **Where does this subject lead?**

The course is also accepted by universities and employers worldwide as proof of introductory studies in Psychology and is excellent preparation for DP Psychology.



**THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PENANG (UPLANDS)**

*Respect for self, Respect for Others*