



MERITTON
BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (IGCSE)

**COURSE DETAILS FOR YEARS 10-11
COMMENCING AUGUST 2024/5 ACADEMIC YEAR**

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VISION AND MISSION

Our Vision

To provide an outstanding, values-based education which nurtures happy, responsible and successful members of society.

Our Mission

- A school where universal values like respect, kindness, responsibility and resilience are prioritised and cherished.
- World class learning through the UK Early Years Framework and Cambridge International Curriculum.
- A safe, family-based environment where every child is known and valued.
- Young learners who can think, create and achieve.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome!

Meritton British International School is proudly offering, for the first, a new 2 year programme. We are offering the International General Certificate for Secondary Education (IGCSE) for our Year 10-11 students.

This programme of learning has been developed by Cambridge International Education (CIE) and has been running for some 30 years. It has high academic standards, is highly regarded and has global recognition. It will provide our students with the opportunity to gain internally recognized qualifications. Below is a diagram of the 'Cambridge Pathway'.

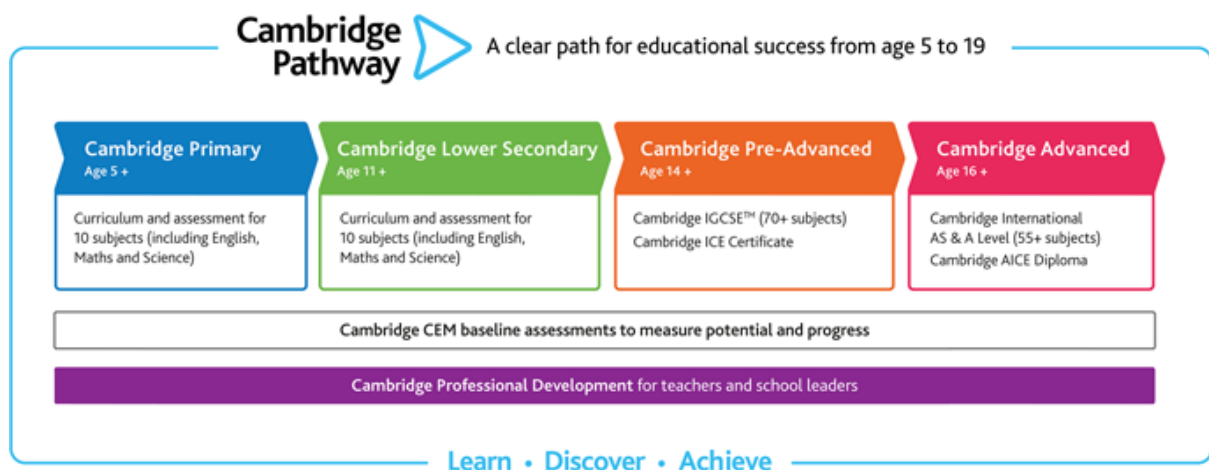


image source: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/usa/about-cambridge-international-us/the-cambridge-pathway>

SUBJECTS 2024/25

Programme of Study 2024/5

In our first year of offering IGCSE we have carefully selected a broad range of subjects that provide students with an excellent foundation for their future learning. As Meritton continues its journey with IGCSE, we will be offering more subject choices in the years to come.

Year 10 – Year 11 Subjects					
Core IGCSE Subjects	Periods per week	Other IGCSE Subjects	Periods per week	Non-IGCSE Subjects	Periods per week
English	5	Geography	4	Thai	3
Maths	5	Computer Science	4	PE	2
Science	6	Global Perspectives	4	Values	1
		Business Studies	4	The Arts *	2

*Arts includes: Music, Art and Performing Arts

This academic year, we offer seven IGCSE subjects with Science considered to be a double award. To provide a balanced programme of study, learners will also be studying four non-IGCSE subjects.

Path to Success

As we have already mentioned, IGCSE is an academically rigorous programme of learning. It does require our learners to be committed through high attendance and punctuality to class. All of our values 'come into play' but in particular the values below can help learners to achieve to their potential:

- **Diligence** – “My goal is to complete all my homework.”
- **Responsibility** – “I need to be responsible for my own learning.”
- **Positive attitude** – “I may not be sure but will give it my best go.”
- **Resilience** – “I’m not going to let it beat.”
- **Cooperation** – “I need to be a positive team member.”

English - First Language (0500)

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

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.

Skills

The skills covered are outlined below.

Reading

- Demonstrate understanding of written texts, and of the words and phrases within them
- Summarise and use material for a specific context
- Develop, analyse and evaluate facts, ideas and opinions
- Demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve their effects and influence readers
- Select appropriate information for specific purposes
- Recognise and respond to linguistic devices, figurative language and imagery.

Writing

- Express what is thought, felt and imagined
- Organise and convey facts, ideas and opinions effectively
- Demonstrate a varied vocabulary appropriate to the context
- Demonstrate an effective use of sentence structures
- Demonstrate an understanding of audience, purpose and form
- Demonstrate accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Speaking and Listening

- Describe and reflect on experience, and express what is thought, felt and imagined
- Organise and convey facts, ideas and opinions effectively
- Understand and convey complex ideas
- Communicate with clarity, focus and purpose
- Communicate appropriately for the context
- Engage appropriately in conversation.

Assessment overview

All candidates take two papers. Paper 1, and one of Paper 2 or Component 3. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G. 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.

All candidates take:

and:

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

Grading and reporting

Grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, F or G indicate the standard a candidate achieved at Cambridge IGCSE.

A* is the highest and G is the lowest. 'Ungraded' means that the candidate's performance did not meet the standard required for grade G. 'Ungraded' is reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

MATHEMATICS (0580)

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

The aims are to enable students to:

- develop a positive attitude towards mathematics in a way that encourages enjoyment, establishes confidence and promotes enquiry and further learning.
- develop a feel for number and understand the significance of the results obtained.
- apply their mathematical knowledge and skills to their own lives and the world around them.
- use creativity and resilience to analyse and solve problems.
- communicate mathematics clearly.
- develop the ability to reason logically, make inferences and draw conclusions.
- develop fluency so that they can appreciate the interdependence of, and connections between, different areas of mathematics.
- acquire a foundation for further study in mathematics and other subjects.

Content overview

All learners study the following topics:

- Number
- Algebra and graphs
- Coordinate geometry
- Geometry
- Mensuration
- Trigonometry
- Transformations and vectors
- Probability
- Statistics

Core and Extended

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics is tiered to enable effective differentiation for learners. The Core subject content is intended for learners targeting grades C–G, and the Extended subject content is intended for learners targeting grades A*–C. The Extended subject content contains the Core subject content as well as additional content.

Core assessment

Core candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 3. The questions are based on the Core subject content only:

Paper 1: Non-calculator (Core)
1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks | 50%
Structured and unstructured questions
Use of a calculator is not allowed
Externally assessed

Paper 3: Calculator (Core)
1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks | 50%
Structured and unstructured questions
A scientific calculator is required
Externally assessed

Extended assessment

Extended candidates take Paper 2 and Paper 4. The questions are based on the Extended subject content only:

Paper 2: Non-calculator (Core)
2 hours
100 marks | 50%
Structured and unstructured questions
Use of a calculator is not allowed
Externally assessed

Paper 4: Calculator (Extended)
2 hours
100 marks | 50%
Structured and unstructured questions
A scientific calculator is required
Externally assessed

CO-ORDINATED SCIENCE - DOUBLE AWARD (0654)

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

The aims are to enable students to:

- acquire scientific knowledge and understanding of scientific theories and practice
- develop a range of experimental skills, including handling variables and working safely
- use scientific data and evidence to solve problems and discuss the limitations of scientific methods
- communicate effectively and clearly, using scientific terminology, notation and conventions
- understand that the application of scientific knowledge can benefit people and the environment
- enjoy science and develop an informed interest in scientific matters which support further study.

Content overview

The subject content is divided into three sections: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Learners must study all three sections.

Biology

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Characteristics of living organisms• Cells• Movement into and out of cells• Biological molecules• Enzymes• Plant nutrition• Human nutrition• Transport in plants• Transport in animals• Diseases and immunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gas exchange in humans• Respiration• Coordination and response• Drugs• Reproduction• Inheritance• Variation and selection• Organisms and their environment• Human influences on ecosystems
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Chemistry

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• States of matter• Atoms, elements and compounds• Stoichiometry• Electrochemistry• Chemical energetics• Chemical reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acids, bases and salts• The Periodic Table• Metals• Chemistry of the environment• Organic chemistry• Experimental techniques and chemical analysis
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Physics

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion, forces and energy• Thermal physics• Waves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electricity and magnetism• Nuclear physics• Space physics
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Assessment Summary: Core and Extended

All candidates take three papers.

Candidates who have studied the Core syllabus content, or who are expected to achieve a grade DD or below, should be entered for Paper 1, Paper 3 and either Paper 5 or Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades CC to GG.

Candidates who have studied the Extended syllabus content (Core and Supplement), and who are expected to achieve a grade CC or above, should be entered for Paper 2, Paper 4 and either Paper 5 or Paper 6. These candidates will be eligible for grades A*A* to GG.

Core assessment

Core candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 3. The questions are based on the Core subject content only:

<p>Paper 1: Multiple Choice (Core) 45 minutes 40 marks 30% 40 four-option multiple-choice questions Externally assessed</p>	<p>Paper 3: Theory (Core) 2 hours 120 marks 50% Short-answer and structured questions Externally assessed</p>
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Extended assessment

Extended candidates take Paper 2 and Paper 4. The questions are based on the Core and Supplement subject content:

Paper 2: Multiple Choice (Extended)
45 minutes
40 marks | 30%
40 four-option multiple-choice questions
Externally assessed

Paper 4: Theory (Extended)
2 hours
120 marks | 50%
Short-answer and structured questions
Externally assessed

Practical assessment

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

Either Paper 5: Practical Test
2 hours
60 marks | 20%
Questions will be based on the
experimental skills
Externally assessed

Or Paper 6: Alternative to Practical
1 hour 30 minutes
60 marks | 20%
Questions will be based on the experimental
skills
Externally assessed

BUSINESS STUDIES (0450)

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding business activity• People in business• Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations management• Financial information and decisions• External influences on business activity
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Assessment overview

All candidates take two components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates take:

and:

<p>Paper 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes Short Answer and Data Response 80 marks 50% Four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses Candidates answer all questions Externally assessed</p>	<p>Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 minutes Case Study 80 marks 50% Four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper Candidates answer all questions Externally assessed</p>
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COMPUTER SCIENCE (0478)

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

The aims are to enable students to develop:

- computational thinking skills
- an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers
- the skills necessary to solve computer-based problems using a high-level programming language
- an understanding of the component parts of computer systems and how they interrelate
- an understanding of the internet as a means of communication and its associated risks
- an understanding of the development and use of automated and emerging technologies.

Content Overview

Computer systems	Algorithms, programming and logic
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data representation• Data transmission• Hardware• Software• The internet and its uses• Automated and emerging technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algorithm design and problem-solving• Programming• Databases• Boolean logic

Assessment Overview

All candidates take two components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates take:

and:

<p>Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes Computer Systems 75 marks 50% Short-answer and structured questions Questions will be based on Topics 1–6 of the subject content All questions are compulsory No calculators are permitted Externally assessed</p>	<p>Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minutes Algorithms, Programming and Logic 75 marks 50% Short-answer and structured questions and a scenario-based question Questions will be based on Topics 7–10 of the subject content All questions are compulsory No calculators are permitted Externally assessed</p>
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GEOGRAPHY (0460)

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

The aims are to enable students to:

- 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

The subject content is arranged into the three themes:

Population and Settlement	The Natural Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population Dynamics• Migration• Population Structure• Population Density and Distribution• Settlement (Rural and Urban) and Service Provision• Urban Settlement• Urbanisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earthquakes and Volcanoes• Rivers• Coasts• Weather• Climate and Natural Vegetation
Economic Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development• Food Production• Industry• Tourism• Energy• Water• Environmental Risks of Economic• Development	

Assessment Overview

All learners take three components. All learners take Paper 1 and Paper 2, and either Component 3 or Paper 4. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All learners take

and:

Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes Geographical Themes 75 marks, weighted to 100 marks 45% 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 60 marks 27.5% Candidates answer all the questions. Externally assessed.
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and

or

Component 3 Coursework 60 marks 27.5% Teachers set one centre-based assignment of up to 2000 words.	Paper 4 - 1 hour 30 minutes Alternative to Coursework 60 marks 27.5% Candidates answer two compulsory questions, completing a series of written tasks. Externally assessed.
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GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES (0457)

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

The aims are to enable students to:

- become independent and confident about taking their place in a changing, information-rich and connected world
- develop an analytical and evaluative grasp of global issues and their causes and consequences, leading to the suggestion of possible evidence-based courses of action
- consider the concept of sustainability when analysing issues and proposing courses of action
- engage with and reflect on issues, both independently and in collaboration with others and from a variety of different perspectives
- work independently as well as part of a team, showing responsibility for much of their own learning including using diverse and varied sources to support reasoning
- consider important issues from a variety of perspectives and reflect on the links between these
- critically assess information available to them and support judgements with lines of reasoning in order to communicate to others effectively and appropriately.

Skills overview

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is interdisciplinary in nature. The syllabus gives learners the opportunity to develop the skills they need to face global challenges in a connected and information-rich world and to think about how best to live in a sustainable way. These challenges include how to cope with changes that will have an impact on their life chances and choices and how to gain a sense of their own active place in the world.

To support learners in facing these challenges, Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives develops a range of skills, including:

- researching, analysing and evaluating information
- developing and justifying a line of reasoning
- reflecting on processes and on own learning
- communicating information and reasoning
- collaborating to achieve a common outcome.

These skills are transferable and useful for future study. They will help learners become active citizens of the future.

Learners are encouraged to explore ideas from others' communities, countries and cultures. Through stimulating topics they will explore issues of global significance. They will learn to direct their own study and develop independent thought.

Assessment overview

All candidates take three components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates take:

and:

<p>Component 1 - 1 hour 25 minutes Written Exam 70 marks 35% Written examination consisting of four compulsory questions, based on a range of sources provided with the question paper. Sources will present an issue of global significance from a range of different perspectives – personal, local and/or national, global – and will be on a topic from the topic list.</p> <p>Externally assessed</p>	<p>Component 2 Individual Report 60 marks 30% Candidates research a significant global issue of their choice from the topic list. They research a range of different perspectives – local and/or national and global – on the global issue and reflect on their own personal perspective. Candidates devise their own title and write a report. The report must be 1500–2000 words and be written in continuous text.</p> <p>Internally set and externally marked</p>
<p>and:</p> <p>Component 3 Team Project 70 marks 35% Candidates work in teams to choose from the topic list and identify a local issue. They devise and develop a collaborative project on an aspect of the issue considered from a range of perspectives.</p> <p>The Team Project has two elements.</p> <p>Team Element (25 marks)</p> <p>Each team produces one Explanation of Research and Planning and one Evidence of Action. The Explanation of Research and Planning must be 300–400 words.</p> <p>Personal Element (45 marks)</p> <p>Each candidate writes a Reflective Paper on their research, their contribution to the Team Element and their personal learning. The Reflective Paper must be 750–1000 words.</p> <p>Internally assessed and externally moderated</p>	

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What is IGCSE?

IGCSE is an internationally recognised qualification which has been developed by Cambridge International for 14-16 year olds (Years 10 - 11). It is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide. It is a tried and tested programme that has been in existence for some 30 years.

2. How long is the programme of learning?

IGCSE is designed to be a two year programme of learning starting at Year 10 and completing by the end of Year 11.

3. At the end of Year 10 can a learner change subjects for Year 11?

IGCSE is a two year course of study and this means that each subject is programmed to run over two years so this does not allow for learners to change subjects at the end of Year 10.

4. How is IGCSE assessed?

IGCSE is assessed at the completion of the second year of study. Most assessment is by way of a written exam but in some subjects areas assessment can take the form oral assessment and practical course work. Grades are benchmarked using 8 grade levels A* to G.

5. When do formal assessments take place?

Cambridge provides schools with a schedule for examinations. Exams are usually scheduled towards the end of April and run through to June.

6. What does core and extended curriculum mean?

All subjects are grade A* to G, however, some subjects offer a differentiated approach to learning and the final assessment.

The core curriculum is considered to be in the ability range of most learners. It provides a full overview of each subject and is targeted to 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 and leads naturally into higher education or professional training. It is targeted at those expected to achieve grades A* to E. Science and Maths offer the choice of core or extended.

7. Who marks and grades the assessments?

Cambridge International examiners and teachers set the exams and they mark the exam papers. Where there some subjects have assessed coursework this is either assessed by Cambridge staff or by the learners' teacher and moderated by Cambridge staff.

8. What comes after IGCSE?

Cambridge International A Level is typically a two-year course, and Cambridge International AS Level is typically one year. Some subjects can be started as a Cambridge International AS Level and extended to a Cambridge International A Level.