



Year 9 Options

8th January 2024



HeadStart
International School, Phuket



Cambridge Assessment
International Education
Cambridge International School



Education
Development
Trust

INTRODUCTION

What are GCSE/IGCSEs?

- British model
- GCSE = General Certificate of Secondary Education
- I = International

What are GCSE/IGCSEs?

Taken during Key Stage Four - Years 10 & 11.

- GCSE/IGCSEs are the World's most popular international qualifications for 14 to 16 year olds
- Allow access to Higher education
- Some courses have coursework but main focus is on examination sat at the end of two years.
- IGCSEs prepare students for A-levels and, to a lesser extent, BTECs.
- To study an A-level in a subject a student must obtain a grade B or above.

Cambridge vs. Pearson



- We use two exam boards for GCSE/IGCSE.
- Music and Art are Pearson qualifications.
- All other IGCSEs are Cambridge.

Cambridge vs. Pearson



- A qualification from either board is held in the same regard internationally.
- Cambridge grade from A* (highest) to G (lowest pass). A grade C or above is considered a good pass.
- Pearson grade from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest pass). A grade 4 or above is considered a good pass.

Compulsory vs. options

Key Stage Four - Compulsory subjects (18 lessons a week)

- English (four lessons a week)
- Mathematics (four lessons a week)
- Science (*six or nine lessons* a week)
- Core Physical Education (two lessons a week) - non-exam class
- PSHE (one lesson a week)
- Homeroom/assembly (one lesson a week - last lesson on a Friday)



Compulsory vs. options

Key Stage Four - Compulsory subjects (18 lessons a week)

English (four lessons a week)

- English as a Second Language
- English Language
- English Language and Literature (two IGCSEs); this is a very challenging option for the most able students.

The pathway for English is determined by a student's performance in Y9

Compulsory vs. options

Key Stage Four - Compulsory subjects (18 lessons a week)

Mathematics (four lessons a week)

- Core Mathematics - maximum IGCSE grade of a C
- Extended Mathematics - maximum grade of an A* but much harder. Only advisable for students who are definitely on course to obtain a B or above.

The pathway for Maths is determined by a student's performance in Y9



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Compulsory vs. options

Key Stage Four - Compulsory subjects (18 lessons a week)

Science (six or nine lessons a week)

- Co-ordinated Science. Two IGCSEs with examinations that have questions from all three Sciences. This requires six lessons a week
- IGCSE Chemistry and IGCSE Physics. Two separate IGCSEs that require three lessons a week each.
- IGCSE Chemistry, IGCSE Physics and IGCSE Biology. Three separate IGCSEs that require three lessons a week each. This path takes one of the option blocks! [Triple Award Science]

The pathway for science is based on data and a student's future plans. This will determine if they are entered for Chemistry and Physics or Coordinated Science. Only students who are entered for Chemistry and Physics are able to chose Biology



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Compulsory vs. options

Key Stage Four - Optional subjects (4 x 3 = 12 lessons a week)

Students also choose 4 optional subjects

- Computer Science
- Information and Communication Technology
- Geography
- History
- Business Studies
- Travel and Tourism
- Economics
- Physical education (IGCSE)
- Art and Design
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Music
- Languages (see next slide)
- Biology (from previous slide)



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IGCSE Language Options 2024-2025

- First Language Thai
- First Language Mandarin
- First Language French
- Foreign Language options in Mandarin and French
- Other language options are available to take as IGCSE exams (not taught) in First, Second and Foreign options

Option Blocks 2024

2024 option blocks			Year 10 in 24-25
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
IGCSE Biology (can only be chosen if selected to follow individual sciences)	IGCSE ICT (Information and Communication technology)	IGCSE PE (Physical Education)	IGCSE Computer Science
	IGCSE DT (Design Technology)	IGCSE Drama	IGCSE Business Studies
IGCSE Economics	IGCSE History	IGCSE Computer Science	GCSE Art and Design
BTEC Level 2 Travel & Tourism	IGCSE Business Studies	IGCSE Economics	IGCSE Geography
IGCSE Geography	GCSE Art and Design		IGCSE First language Thai
GCSE Music			IGCSE First or foreign language Mandarin
			IGCSE Foreign language French



Option Blocks 2023

2023 option blocks			Year 10 in 23-24
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Biology (resulting in 9 science lessons a week instead of the standard 6)	First language Thai	Business Studies	ICT (Information and Communication technology)
Drama	First or foreign language Mandarin	Music	History
Economics	Foreign language French	Economics	Travel and Tourism
DT (Design Technology)	PE (Physical Education)	DT (Design Technology)	Art and Design
	Computer Science	Art and Design	Computer Science
	Geography	ICT (Information and Communication technology)	
	Business Studies		



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Option Blocks 2025



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Balance

We encourage students to choose a balanced curriculum but the final decision is made in consultation with the student and the parents.

Think about:

- Fun and Enjoyment
- Academic rigour
- Coursework based and exam based
- Future studies

Key Questions?

- Which subjects are needed for your future dream degree/job (if you have one yet)?
- Which subjects are you good at?
- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- Which subjects are important for your overall development?
- Is coursework a positive or negative in a subject?



What should not influence your choices...

- What your friends are doing.
- Whether you like the teacher.
- What you think will be “easy”.

You will be studying this subject three lessons a week for two years so try to chose wisely!

BROAD

- Education should maximise future opportunities.
- Current trends in education favour a broad education for as long as possible.
- IGCSE is too early to narrow your options or to be set in your ways about your future plans

BALANCED

Include a range from:

- Scientific ✓
- Mathematical ✓
- Humanities
- Practical
- Creative
- Languages
- Physical
- Technical



DIFFERENCES

- All of us have different strengths and weaknesses.
- Do not run away from a challenge, but do not ignore your weaknesses.
- Don't expect to love every subject.
- Don't worry!

Timescale

- Options fair - 8th of January
- Second options choice released via Google form - 8th January. Deadline 16th Jan.
- Meetings with HR teachers, HoFs, PCOs and SLT - by 14th of February

Timescale part 2

- Students submit second options via Google form - 16th of January
- Option blocks created from second options - March
- Third and final options form sent out. This time choosing a subject from each block - 20th March
- Final options sent to parents to be signed - 22nd of April

Exam Success

IGCSE Results 2024

- 37% of all grades were A* - A
- 99.6% pass rate
- 14 subjects from faculties across the school obtained 100% A* - C
- 92% of students obtained 5 x A* to C or higher.

Cambridge IGCSE Results 2024

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Conor Bowens
9 x A*



Berta Palop Roca
8 x A*, 1 x A



India Smuthkochorn
6 x A*, 3 x A



Chutikarn Doowa
6 x A*, 3 x A



Chatchaya Udomkiratak
6 x A*, 3 x A



Yichen Ma
6 x A*, 2 x A



Emma Palop Roca
6 x A*, 1 x A



Federico Solaroli
4 x A*, 3 x A



Ingfah Rongrueangkul
2 x A*, 4 x A



Seungha Lee
2 x A*, 3 x A



Alexandra De Rosa
2 x A*, 1 x A



Petr Drobotenko
1 x A*, 5 x A



Yuet Zheng
1 x A*, 3 x A



Soodpreda Srikatanyoo
1 x A*, 3 x A



Zhiyi Tong
1 x A*, 3 x A



Supansa Promiam
1 x A*, 3 x A



Kanthaya Kongsawad
1 x A*, 2 x A



Jessica Manton
4 x A



Anastasiia Orlovskaja
3 x A



Shira Nagar
3 x A



Yejin Lee
3 x A



Yufei Lin
3 x A



Stefan Fabig
3 x A

Outstanding Learner awards



CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARDS



**1ST PLACE IN THAILAND
BEST ACROSS
8 SUBJECTS**



CONOR BOWENS



YICHEN MA

**TOP IN
WORLD
MATHEMATICS**

HIGHEST GRADES IN THAILAND

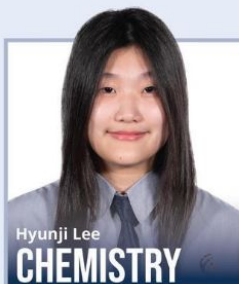
**TOP
IN THAILAND**



Conor Bowens
LITERATURE



Kirill Kochetkov
MATHEMATICS



Hyunji Lee
CHEMISTRY



Krittat Phaisamran
LITERATURE

**HIGH
ACHIEVEMENT**



BERTA PALOP ROCA

PEARSON EDEXCEL
GCSE ART & DESIGN
**HIGHEST
MARK IN ASIA**



University counsellor

- At the fair there is a table with our University counsellors.
- If your child wants to study a specific subject at University please pop by this table and ask him (Mr Neil Roscoe and Mr Simon Thomas) if there are any IGCSEs that would be needed/advised for that University course.



Mr Simon Thomas



Mr Neil Roscoe



HeadStart Year 9



Options Passport

Name:

**Reference files; all three
images are hyperlinked.**

Year 9 Options who to contact



Subjects

Art & Design	3
Biology	5
Business Studies	7
Chemistry	9
Computer Science	11
Co-ordinated Sciences	13
Design & Technology	15
Drama	17
Economics	19
English as a Second Language	21
First Language English	24
First Language Thai	27
French Foreign Language	30
Geography	33
History	35
Information & Communication Technology	37
Literature (English)	39
Mandarin Foreign Language	41
Mandarin First Language	43
Mathematics	45
Music	47
Physical Education	49
Physics	51
Travel & Tourism	53

A person wearing a dark blue suit and a light blue shirt is holding a white rectangular sign with both hands. The sign has the word "QUESTIONS?" written on it in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The person's hands are visible at the bottom of the sign, and their fingers are slightly curled. The background is a plain, light grey color.

QUESTIONS?