



iSP International
Schools
Partnership

Star International School, Mirdif Options Booklet

Secondary IGCSE / GCSE / BTEC Options Booklet

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International Schools Partnership

At International Schools Partnership, we commit to helping students develop **self-confidence** and **lifelong skills** that will help them **thrive** well beyond their time at school. Unlike other educational groups, we champion a **transformative, holistic way of learning** inside and outside of the classroom.

Unlike other educational groups, we champion a **transformative, holistic way of learning** inside and outside of the classroom.

That's why we design learning experiences that always put learners and their **learning first** as the most powerful thing we can do for our students.

**We call it iSP Learning.
First. Methodology.**



100
Schools



23
Countries



24
Curricula



10.000+
Colleagues



80.000+
Students

Message from the Head of Secondary



Ms. Sarah Findlater
Head of Secondary School

WELCOME TO KEY STAGE 4

Dear Students and Parents,

This booklet contains the details of our world-class IGCSE, GCSE and Vocational option choices for study in Years 10 and 11 at Star International School Mirdif. Within these pages, you will find the skills and information around each course as well as possible future careers and pathways these subjects could lead you to in the future.

Whether you hold aspirations to be a Doctor, Engineer, Pilot, Teacher, or Artist we have qualifications to enable you to reach your aspirations. There is no pathway in the future that you cannot access while studying at Star International School Mirdif. We have ensured we offer qualifications available at top schools in the UAE and the UK. You may even find some courses more unique to our school such as IGCSE Economics and Food Technology.

You might be reading through this booklet as a parent or a student unsure of what the future holds. This is perfectly normal, as it is an ever-changing world out there and a balanced set of qualifications will provide you with everything you need to prepare for when you do decide what you really want to do in life. We have excellent pastoral support in place to help you make these important decisions around your subject option choices alongside a passionate and dedicated group of subject teachers who will support you every step of the way.

Remember that in the British curriculum, IGCSE/GCSE qualifications are studied until the end of Year 11 and from there you specialise in A Level choices or you may continue with vocational courses. This means you can choose a wide variety of qualifications so that you do not close off possible options in the future. It is also important to choose courses that you are interested in and will enjoy, not just those that are tailored to particular career options. It is also important not to choose subjects on the basis of friends' choices. This process must be seen as an individual exercise and selection.

Thank you for your time reviewing the options choices at Star International School Mirdif. We are confident you will find a broad range of world-class qualifications suitable for all future aspirations and phases of your education and future career.

I am available too, as Head of the Secondary School, to support in any way I can.

“

For my GCSEs, I chose French, Triple Science, Economics, and Fine Art—subjects I love and enjoy.

Choosing between French and Business was tough, but with the guidance of my teachers, I knew French was right for me. Triple Science was an easy pick because of my passion for science, and Economics was a great alternative to Business. I believe having a "creative" subject is important, so I picked one of my favorite hobbies: Fine Arts as an innovative outlet.

I am grateful to my teachers for their support in helping me follow my passions and plan for the future.

”

Sally

Student at Star International School, Mirdif





The Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of 'Core curriculum' subjects, and additionally, four 'Option' subjects.

All students will study the following subjects

- IGCSE English Literature
- IGCSE English Language
- IGCSE Mathematics

And

- IGCSE Double Award Science (Worth 2 x IGCSE)

Or

- IGCSE Triple Science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics).

Kindly note that IGCSE Triple Science will be invite-only due to the high academic demands of the subject. The Head of Science will invite those students who may choose to opt for this option choice. However, students are not required to opt for Triple Science they may still choose to stick with Double Award Science



Additional Information:

Students opting for Triple Science will gain IGCSE Biology, IGCSE Chemistry and IGCSE Physics. They will have up to 8 Science lessons a week. These will be split across the three disciplines.

All students are required to study Arabic language as per KHDA regulations and the curriculum specified by the KHDA; for Arabic B students this is to the end of Year 10, and Arabic A students have to continue through Year 11. Students will have the option of sitting the Arabic, first and second language, IGCSE qualification as well as the MOE examinations.

Muslim students will study Islamic Education.

All students will also study Moral, Social and Culture studies and PE through to Year 11.

MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

There are 2 common approaches for students when selecting their options:

- IGCSE/GCSE Route
- Blended Route with BTECs

↘ IGCSE Route

Students taking an IGCSE route will choose from any of the IGCSE/ GCSE subjects on offer across all four option blocks.

↘ Blended route

Students may also decide to choose BTEC subjects alongside their core options. BTEC subjects are vocational subjects that allow students to apply theory to real-world scenarios. Students can choose IGCSEs alongside BTEC subjects, as per the option blocks. The BTEC subjects help build interpersonal skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership. Furthermore, BTEC subjects are all assessed through coursework and help reduce exam pressure in Year 11.

UAE MOE Equivalency

- For students looking to study in UAE-based universities, equivalency depends on studying at least five IGCSE/GCSEs considered equivalent by the UAE MOE.
- Core subjects are worth four of the five IGCSEs so students must choose at least one equivalent IGCSE/GCSE from the options choices.
- Triple science is only worth two IGCSEs*. Triple Science students must choose at least one additional equivalent IGCSE.
- Non-Equivalent IGCSEs/ GCSEs and BTECs are still internationally recognised and lead to A-Levels and Post-16 options. They, however, do not count as part of the five required IGCSE/ GCSE options for UAE study at University.

KS4 Examination Fees



GCSE/ IGCSE

- Fees for external GCSE examinations are the responsibility of the parent. Parents will receive an invoice for each examination cycle their child is entered for, including re-sits. The typical fees for each examination is between 500 and 650AED depending on the course.

BTEC

- Registration fees for BTEC courses are paid in full at the beginning of Year 10 for the full duration of the two-year course. The fee charges will cover the entry fees for the course as well as moderator visits from the UK for each subject. Any re-sit of units within the course does not incur additional charges over and above the fee paid. The typical fee for a Level 2 BTEC ranges from 1750-2250 AED but is subject to slight changes per the exam board fee list each Academic Year.

Other Costs

- Examination re-sit fees and late entry fees are also applicable in certain circumstances and incur extra charges. Students that require additional access arrangements during examinations, for example, the use of a reader or a scribe, will incur additional costs for invigilation.

Examination Costs

- All figures are based on current published exam fees and converted against current exchange rates.
- Final entry costs will be shared by the exam boards before invoicing.
- Certificates may be withheld if school or examination fees are outstanding and not cleared.
- Exam entries will not be processed and students may be withdrawn from the course entry should tuition fees and exam fees are not cleared by the set deadline.

Examination Course Overview

SUBJECT	EXAMINATION BOARD	CODE	% Internal Assessment	% External Assessment
GCSE Psychology	Pearson Edexcel	1PS0	0	100
IGCSE Art and Design: Graphic communication	Pearson Edexcel	4GC1	100	0
IGCSE Art and Design : Fine Arts	Pearson Edexcel	4FA1	100	0
IGCSE Business Studies	Pearson Edexcel	4BS1	0	100
IGCSE English Literature	Pearson Edexcel	4ET1	40	60
IGCSE Modular Economics	Pearson Edexcel	4WEC1	0	100
IGCSE French	Pearson Edexcel	4FR1	25	75
IGCSE Geography Modular	Pearson Edexcel	4WGE1	0	100
IGCSE History Modular	Pearson Edexcel	4WHI	0	100
IGCSE Mathematics	Pearson Edexcel	4MA1	0	100
IGCSE Science Double Award	Pearson Edexcel	4SD0	0	100
IGCSE Triple Science - Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Pearson Edexcel	4BI1 4CH1 4PHI	0	100
IGCSE Arabic Foreign Language	Cambridge	544	25	75
IGCSE History Modular	Pearson Edexcel	4WHI	0	100
IGCSE Design and Technology	Cambridge	0445	50	50
IGCSE Computer Science	Cambridge	0984	0	100
IGCSE Food Tech	Cambridge	648	50	50
Business Pearson Btec International Level 2 Award	Pearson Edexcel BTEC	HLCW6	100	0
IT Pearson Btec International Level 2 Certificate	Pearson Edexcel BTEC	HGWZ3	100	0
BTEC Drama	Pearson Edexcel BTEC	1DR0	100	0
BTEC Travel and Tourism	Pearson Edexcel BTEC	HLKG4	100	0
Sports Studies Pearson Btec International Level 2 Award	Pearson Edexcel BTEC	HLHR5	100	0

MEET THE KS4 TEAM



Ms. Sarah Findlater
Head of Secondary
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Ms. Reena Oates
Deputy Head of Secondary
Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Mr. Adnaan Mukhtar
Assistant Head of Secondary
Deputy Safeguarding Lead /
Head of Sixthform and Pastoral



Ms. Zoe Sutcliffe
Assistant Head of Secondary
Learning & Teaching



Mr. Keelan Gallagher
Assistant Head of Secondary
Curriculum & Data



Mr. Mark Macinnes
Assistant Principal for
Assessments, Recording &
Reporting



Mr. Clive Gibson
Assistant Principal Technology for
Learning



Mr. Mahmoud Abdallah
Assistant Principal – MOE



Ms. Rihab Omer
Head of Arabic & Islamic



Ms. Nicola Salt
Head of Expressive Arts



Mr. Richard Sinclair
Head of P.E



Ms. Katherine Bruce
Head of Science



Ms. Meriem Rachdi
Head of Business and Economics



Mr. Paul Kenny
Head of English



Mr. Rehan
Head of Maths



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CORE IGCSE/GCSE SUBJECT PROFILES

Course Outline

English Language will enable you to confidently: communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing, using a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation both write and speak in a personal style with an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Course Details:

- Reading: demonstrate understanding of explicit and implicit attitudes; analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions, using appropriate support from the text; demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve effects and influence readers; select and use the information for specific purposes.
- Writing: articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined; organise and structure ideas and opinions for deliberate effect; use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context; use register appropriate to context; make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Speaking and Listening: articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined; present facts, ideas and opinions in a cohesive order which sustains the audience's interest; communicate clearly and purposefully using fluent language; use register appropriate to context; listen and respond appropriately in conversation.

Assessment

Paper 1- Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing 60% of IGCSE

Coursework- 40% of IGCSE
Poetry and Prose & Imaginative Writing

Future Prospects

Journalism, Writer, Education,
Publishing, Marketing and Advertising.

Course Outline

Through the study of English Literature, you will be able to confidently: read, interpret and evaluate texts have an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects present an informed, personal response to the material you have studied.

Course Details

Show detailed knowledge of the content of literary texts in the three main forms (drama, poetry and prose), supported by reference to the text. Understand the meanings of literary texts and their contexts, and explore texts beyond surface meanings to show deeper awareness of ideas and attitudes. Recognise and appreciate ways in which writers use language, structure and form to create and shape meanings and effects. Communicate a sensitive and informed personal response to literary texts.

Assessment

Paper 1 - 60% of IGCSE
Poetry and Modern Prose

Coursework - 40% of IGCSE
Modern Drama and Literary Heritage

Future Prospects

Journalism, Writer, Education, Publishing, Marketing and Advertising.

Course Outline

The Mathematics course will help develop a wide variety of transferable skills. The course will develop cognitive and interpersonal skills that higher education institutions and employers require. It is vital for students to study Mathematics for the following reasons:

- Develop logical, critical & creative thinking processes and improve problem solving skills
- Pick up the mathematical skills necessary for everyday life
- Develop a skills base for further study of mathematics or for a career involving higher level mathematics
- To obtain qualifications which are vital for certain careers or further study

Course Details

The assessments will cover the following course headings:

1) Number	2) Algebra	3) Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4) Geometry and measures	5) Probability	6) Statistics

Assessment

Candidates are entered at either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier. Questions in the Foundation Tier papers are targeted at grades 5 to 1. The highest grade which will be awarded at Foundation Tier is grade 5. Questions in the Higher Tier papers are targeted at grades 9 – 4. Some examination questions will be common to both tiers. Calculators are permissible for all papers in the foundation and higher tiers.

Foundation (grades 1–5)	Paper 1 Calculator	Paper 2 Calculator
	50% weighting 2 hour	50% weighting 2 hour
Higher (grades 4 –9)	Paper 1 Calculator	Paper 2 Calculator
	50% weighting 2 hour	50% weighting 2 hour

Future Prospects

- Engineering, Statistician, Mathematics teacher, Financial Advisor, Credit Analyst, Banker, Actuary, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Research Mathematics, Computer Science, Biomathematics, Cryptography
- Support your appreciation and the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.



Course Outline

The Edexcel IGCSE Double Award Science course is designed to equip students with a broad understanding of key scientific principles and their applications in the real world. This course integrates the study of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, offering students the opportunity to explore scientific concepts in depth while developing transferable skills that are highly valued in further education and employment.

Purpose and Objectives: The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Explore unifying patterns and themes across Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, applying them to new and changing contexts.
- Develop a comprehensive knowledge of scientific facts, terminology, and principles, alongside practical techniques essential for scientific investigations.
- Build the ability to critically evaluate scientific data and methods, drawing logical conclusions based on experimental evidence.
- Enhance their practical skills, emphasizing the importance of accurate and safe laboratory techniques.
- Cultivate the mathematical skills necessary to analyze scientific data effectively, bridging the gap between theoretical and applied science.
- Prepare for advanced scientific courses and careers by fostering logical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Course Details

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
The nature and variety of living organisms	Principles of chemistry	Forces and motion
Structures and functions in living organisms	Inorganic chemistry	Electricity
Reproduction and inheritance	Physical chemistry	Waves
Ecology and the environment	Organic chemistry	Energy resources and energy transfers
Use of biological resources		Solids, liquids, and gases
		Magnetism and electromagnetism
		Radioactivity and particles
		Astrophysics

How will you be assessed

Candidates are entered at either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier. Questions in the Foundation Tier papers are targeted at grades 5 to 1. The highest grade which will be awarded at Foundation Tier is grade 5. Questions in the Higher Tier papers are targeted at grades 9 – 4. Some examination questions will be common to both tiers. Calculators are permissible for all papers in the foundation and higher tiers.

Untiered (grades 9-1)	Biology Paper 1	Chemistry Paper 1	Physics Paper 1
	33.3% weighting 2 hour 110 marks	33.3% weighting 2 hour 110 marks	33.3% weighting 2 hour 110 marks

Future Prospects

The Edexcel IGCSE Double Award Science qualification opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities. In healthcare and medicine, students can pursue roles such as doctor, nurse, pharmacist, dentist, veterinarian, medical laboratory scientist, radiographer, biomedical scientist, physiotherapist, or public health officer. Engineering and technology pathways include careers as a mechanical, electrical, civil, chemical, or software engineer, robotics specialist, renewable energy engineer, aerospace engineer, or materials scientist.

Course Outline

The Edexcel IGCSE Triple Award Science course is designed to equip students with a broad understanding of key scientific principles and their applications in the real world. This course integrates the study of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, offering students the opportunity to explore scientific concepts in depth while developing transferable skills that are highly valued in further education and employment. This option is made of three separate IGCSE courses. However, this option gives as extension to the Science Double Award allowing students to receive an individual IGCSE for each of the three Sciences. Selecting this option means that you will have to study and be examined on all three disciplines.

Purpose and Objectives: The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

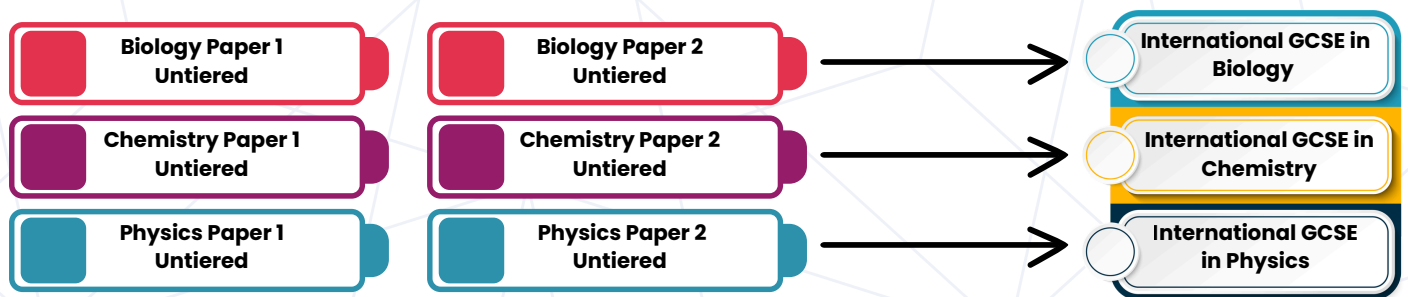
- Explore unifying patterns and themes across Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, applying them to new and changing contexts.
- Develop a comprehensive knowledge of scientific facts, terminology, and principles, alongside practical techniques essential for scientific investigations.
- Build the ability to critically evaluate scientific data and methods, drawing logical conclusions based on experimental evidence.
- Enhance their practical skills, emphasizing the importance of accurate and safe laboratory techniques.
- Cultivate the mathematical skills necessary to analyze scientific data effectively, bridging the gap between theoretical and applied science.
- Prepare for advanced scientific courses and careers by fostering logical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Course Details

The assessments will cover the following course headings:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
The nature and variety of living organisms	Principles of chemistry	Forces and motion
Structures and functions in living organisms	Inorganic chemistry	Electricity
Reproduction and inheritance	Physical chemistry	Waves
Ecology and the environment	Organic chemistry	Energy resources and energy transfers
Use of biological resources		Solids, liquids, and gases
		Magnetism and electromagnetism
		Radioactivity and particles
		Astrophysics

Assessment



Future Prospects

The Edexcel IGCSE Triple Award Science qualifications open doors to a wide range of career opportunities. In healthcare and medicine, students can pursue roles such as doctor, nurse, pharmacist, dentist, veterinarian, medical laboratory scientist, radiographer, biomedical scientist, physiotherapist, or public health officer. Engineering and technology pathways include careers as a mechanical, electrical, civil, chemical, or software engineer, robotics specialist, renewable energy engineer, aerospace engineer, or materials scientist.

“

Choosing my IGCSE options was easy with the school's incredible support. Their guidance gave me the confidence to explore different subjects and follow my passions.

I chose French to connect with other cultures, Psychology to understand human behaviour, and Triple Science to deepen my knowledge of the natural world.

The school's encouragement helped me make informed choices and grow into the best version of myself.

”

Hala

Student at Star International School, Mirdif



Course Outline

The IGCSE Business studies course will look at the fundamentals of starting a small business. In Year 10, students will learn about the key functions such as HR, Marketing and Finance. In Year 11, students will take that knowledge and apply it to large multinational businesses such as Amazon and Starbucks.

Course Details

- Unit 1: Investigating Small Businesses
- Unit 2: Investigating Large Businesses

Assessment

There will be two examination papers that students will sit at the end of Year 11. They will both be one hour and 30 mins long and contain a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions. The two papers will be:

Year Group	Exam	Exam Weighting
Year 10	Investigating small business	50%
Year 11	Investigating large businesses	50%

Future Prospects

- Chartered management accountant
- Corporate investment banker
- Human resources officer
- Management consultant
- Operational researcher
- Risk manager
- Business analyst
- Financial analyst
- Academia (Lecturing and Teaching)
- Account manager
- Sales manager
- Marketing Manager
- Trading

Course Outline

Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Computer Science provides an ideal foundation in computer science. Learners gain confidence in computational thinking and programming, an appreciation of automated and emerging technologies and the benefits of their use. They develop an understanding of the main principles of problem-solving by creating computer-based solutions using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills including the ability to test effectively and to evaluate solutions.

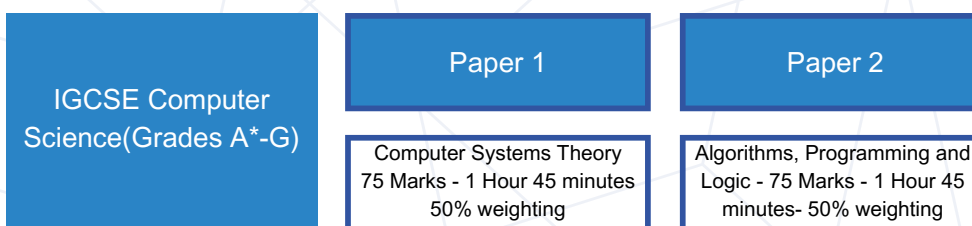
Course Details

The course builds upon the topics studied in Years 7-9 and is organised into two parts.

- Computer systems covers how computers store, process and transmit information. The architecture of digital systems is explored including how data is transferred between systems along networks and the Internet. Students will examine how types of software are developed and managed. Lastly, cutting-edge technologies including digital currencies, cybersecurity, automation, robotics and artificial intelligence will be studied.
- Algorithms, programming and logic develops students' software-development skills, from planning data structures, writing algorithms, programming software and debugging their code. Students will learn how to interact with databases, the backbone of most large-scale systems, and the Boolean logic that is fundamental to all computer systems.

Assessment

The examinations for this course are at the end of Year 11. There are two written papers that are each worth 50% of the final grade and are one hour and 45 minutes long.



Future Prospects

Computer Scientists are in huge demand across the world, particularly in the UAE. The subject develops critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills which will benefit all subjects and careers.

- The increasing importance of information technologies means there is already a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. This IGCSE is very highly regarded and will be useful to you, whatever career you eventually embark upon.
- Engineering, financial and resource management, multimedia, games design, science and medicine.

Course Outline

You will start the course by learning about the basic economic problem and basic economic assumptions. Following on from this, the course will then focus on Microeconomics in Year 10. Microeconomics is the study of individual markets. You will learn about the supply and demand model, which will give you a toolkit to explore how changes in the economy will affect supply, demand, price and quantity. In Year 11, we will study Macroeconomics, which is the study of all the markets combined in a country. We will look at how governments use policy to achieve their key economic objectives.

Course Details

Students will study both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, in Year 10 and Year 11 respectively.

Assessment

Paper 1:
Microeconomic

Paper 2:
Macroeconomic

50% weighting

50% weighting

Future Prospects

In industry, Economists are hired in all areas of business, for example:

- Stock Markets
- International Law
- Banking and Finance
- Research and Statistical Analysis
- Academia (Lecturing and Teaching)
- International Trade
- Politics
- Diplomatic services
- Government Agencies

Course Outline

The Edexcel IGCSE Arabic course (4AA1/01) aims to enhance students' proficiency in reading, summarizing, and writing in Arabic. The course is designed to strengthen communication skills, increase cultural awareness, and develop an understanding of Arabic literary texts. Students will explore diverse topics, including everyday communication, personal and social life, education, and employment, with a focus on improving overall language skills. The course also emphasizes critical thinking and oral expression by analyzing texts and presenting content, which helps students boost their confidence and communicate effectively in well-structured language.

Course Details

The Arabic Edexcel course consists of two main components:

1. Reading, Summarizing, and Grammar: Students are trained to read and analyze various texts, including literary articles and non-fiction. They are encouraged to identify key ideas and extract relevant information while applying grammatical rules in different contexts.
2. The training also focuses on employing skimming and analytical reading strategies to enhance the ability to understand texts accurately and efficiently.
3. Writing: Students are trained to write various types of essays, ranging from narrative to descriptive and argumentative, with a focus on linguistic organization and accuracy.
4. The course includes teaching students how to plan their writing using detailed outlines and idea-organizing tools, which contributes to producing clear and logically sequenced texts.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Duration: 2 hours and 15 minutes, covering reading, summarizing, and grammar, with a total of **75 marks**.

This paper evaluates students' ability to analyze texts accurately, summarize content in an organized manner, and test their understanding of grammar and its correct usage in context.

Paper 2 - Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes, requiring students to write two essays from three proposed topics, with a total of **50 marks**.

The assessment focuses on creative writing skills, clarity of ideas, coherence, writing style, and the ability to use appropriate vocabulary in context.

Future Prospects

Completing the IGCSE Arabic course opens up a wide range of opportunities for students:

1. Pursuing advanced studies in Arabic language and literature
2. Securing job opportunities in various fields such as translation, journalism, and education
3. Enhancing cultural understanding in multicultural environments
- Building a strong foundation for professional development in Arabic media, language teaching, or academic research

Course Outline

The Cambridge IGCSE Arabic - Foreign Language (0544) course is designed to enable students to develop an ability to use Arabic effectively for practical communication. Emphasis is placed on communication skills in various contexts and on building a foundation of language skills for further study and enjoyment. The syllabus is appropriate for students learning Arabic as a second or foreign language.

Course Details

1. Reading and Comprehension: Understand written texts in Arabic on various topics, including personal life, society, and culture.
2. Writing: Develop the ability to write structured, accurate, and appropriate text for different purposes.
3. Listening and Understanding: Recognize and understand spoken Arabic in various practical scenarios.
4. Speaking: Gain confidence in speaking Arabic through structured oral assessments, developing fluency and pronunciation.
 - Everyday Activities: Introductions, family, school routine, meals, and traditions.
 - Social Life: Hobbies, special occasions, family relationships.
 - The World Around Us: Environment, weather, travel, and culture.
 - World of Work: Careers, ambitions, work etiquette.
 - International World: Environmental issues, news, tourism.

Assessment

The IGCSE Arabic (0544) assessments are divided into four components, with varied weightages:

Paper 1: Listening (25%) Multiple-choice and short-answer questions based on audio recordings.	Paper 2: Reading (25%) Reading comprehension tasks on topics covered in the syllabus.
Paper 3: Speaking (25%) A structured oral assessment covering general topics and personal responses.	Paper 4: Writing (25%) Shorter written tasks, such as emails and structured essays on specified topics.

The IGCSE Arabic course is graded from A* to G, with A* being the highest. Students are encouraged to regularly practice with sample papers and engage in interactive language exercises to strengthen their skills across all areas.

Future Prospects

- Provides a strong foundation for advanced Arabic courses.
- Enhances employability in fields where Arabic is a valuable skill
- Builds cross-cultural communication skills and broadens students' global perspectives.
- Academic Recognition

Course Outline

This course promotes a bold and inquisitive approach to Art and Design, emphasising Fine Art practices. It combines practical skills in drawing, printmaking, textiles, sculpture, and painting with theoretical knowledge to encourage personal, creative responses. Critical thinking and visual literacy are central, guiding students to develop ideas from initial concepts to final outcomes.

Course Details

The IGCSE Art course builds on the practical skills learned at KS3, including drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media. It also deepens students' understanding of the art world, encouraging them to analyse and evaluate visual materials and make independent judgments. Through creating a portfolio and sketchbook, students develop critical thinking and questioning skills, gaining insights into society and exploring the work of other artists to inform their own. This course nurtures a lifelong ability to question and interpret the world around them.

Assessment

Y10 -Y11 Component (Project) 1	Y11 Component 2 (Project) (Exam unit)	Overall
50% coursework (1 project) AO1 - 12.5% Research AO2 - 12.5% Drawing and Recording AO3 - 12.5% Development AO4 - 12.5% Final outcome/s Each AO is marked out of 18 marks - 72 marks in total	50% externally set exam unit (1 project) AO1 - 12.5% Research AO2 - 12.5% Drawing and Recording AO3 - 12.5% Development * AO4 - 12.5% Final outcome/s Each AO is marked out of 18 marks - 72 marks in total	Two projects over two years - both assessed externally by Pearson. Overall both components are marked out of 144. *Pupils sit a 10-hour exam in school at the end of component 2 for their final outcome/s

Future Prospects

This is a gateway to A-Level in Art and Design.

There may be opportunities to have a career in the Arts, for example, Visual Artist, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Art Director, Animator, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Set and Exhibition Designer, Art Teacher or Art Therapist, Illustrative Technical Designer, Art Conservator or Restorer, Curator or Gallery Manager, Concept Artist, Art Critic or Journalist, Product Designer, and Advertising Creative.

Course Outline

IGCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course that focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance, and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or food industries.

Course Details

During this course students will:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices.
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

Assessment

1 Component 1 - 50% Paper 1 - Theory paper - 2 hours 100 marks Short, structured, and extended questions These questions will assess AO1, AO2 and AO3 AO1 - Knowledge with understanding AO2 - Handling information and solving problems AO3 - Experimental Skills and Investigation	2 Component 2 - 50% Paper 2 (split into a planning session and a practical exam) Planning session - 1.5 hours Candidates are allocated a test question and complete the preparation sheets for the practical exam Practical exam - 2.5 hours Candidates will prepare, cook and serve 5 dishes chosen in the planning session Combined marks - 100
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Future Prospects

Dietitian, Food Technologist, Product Development Scientist, Chef, Sports Nutrition, Animal Nutrition and Process Development Scientist, Nutritional Therapist, Teacher.

“

Choosing Computer Science, Triple Science, Business, and Economics for my IGCSEs has been an exciting step towards my future.

Computer Science fuels my passion for problem-solving in a tech-driven world. Triple Science sharpens my curiosity about how the world works. Business and Economics deepen my understanding of financial systems and decision-making.

These subjects not only align with my ambitions but also give me the versatility to pursue my dreams with confidence.

”

Tareq

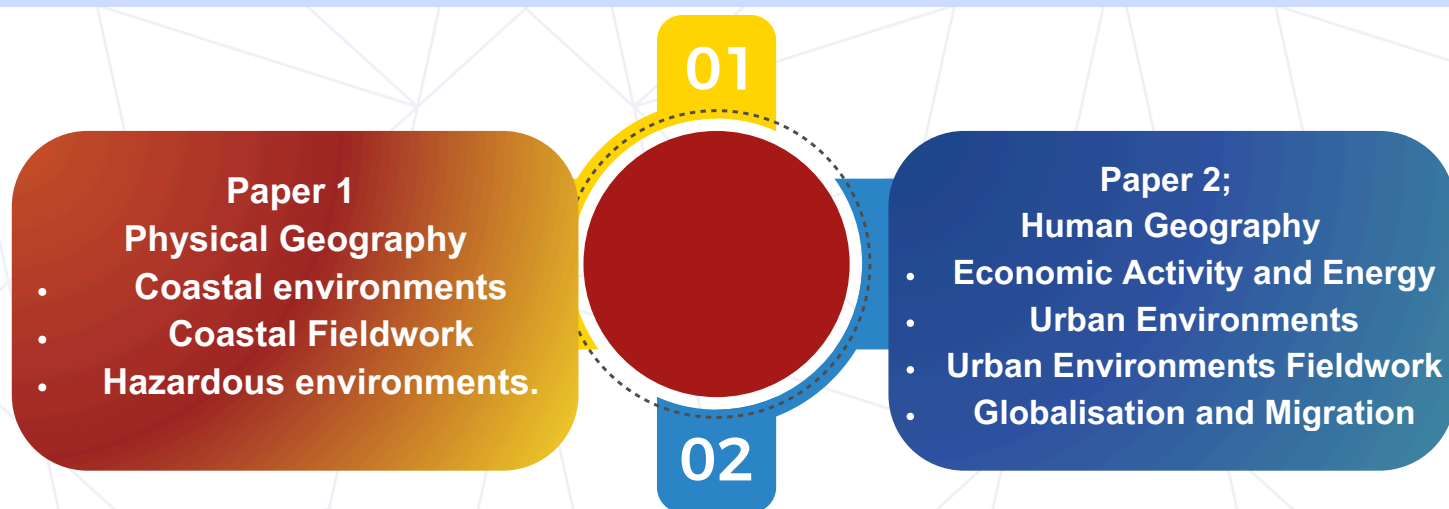
Student at Star International School, Mirdif



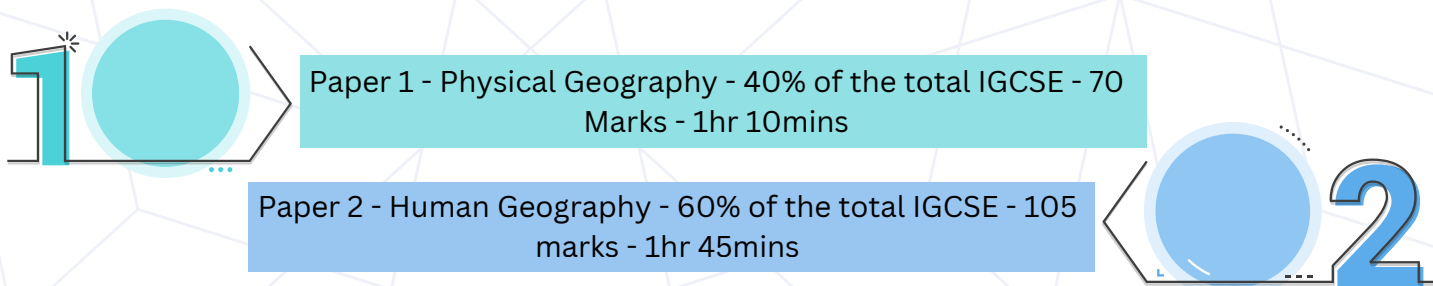
Course Outline

Geography provides students with a unique perspective of the world around them, we combine knowledge of the physical and human environment to encourage students to form their own opinions about geographical concepts and ideas. This interdisciplinary subject allows students to develop their analytical skills through data interpretation, map reading, and spatial analysis. It also fosters research abilities, critical thinking, and problem-solving, which are valuable in many fields and desired by universities

Course Details



Assessment



Due to following the modular route, students are offered the opportunity to complete paper 1 on Physical Geography in the Summer exam series of Year 10

Exam questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

Future Prospects

Geography equips students with transferable skills to engage in global scientific and political discussions, leading to diverse careers such as environmental law, town planning, and climate analysis.

Course Outline

The Edexcel IGCSE History course is designed to deepen students' understanding of historical periods, events, and figures, emphasising the analysis of significant changes, issues, and their impacts. Students will develop critical skills in evaluating historical sources, recording important information, and forming well-founded conclusions. Through this course, students will learn to effectively organise and communicate their understanding of history, enabling them to draw reasoned conclusions and make informed historical judgements.

Course Details

Paper 1: Depth Studies

Students will undertake two focused depth studies, covering:

- Germany: Development of Dictatorship, 1918–1945
- A Divided Union: Civil Rights in the USA, 1945–1974

Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies

Students will complete one historical investigation and one thematic breadth study:

- Historical Investigation: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905-1924
- Breadth Study: Changes in Medicine, c1848-c1948

Assessment

Paper 1- Depth Studies	Paper 2- Investigation and Breadth Studies
1 hour and 30 minutes 60 marks 50% weighing	1 hour and 30 minutes 60 marks 50% weighing

Future Prospects

This course equips students to become independent, analytical thinkers and effective communicators with strong judgement skills. It lays an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers, including roles in Archaeology, Museum Curation, History, Education, Documentary Filmmaking, Academic Research, and Law.

Course Outline

The IGCSE PE course is a dynamic two-year program that combines theoretical and practical aspects of physical education. It aims to foster enjoyment in physical activity, encourage safe and effective performance, and build foundational knowledge of principles and training methods that enhance health and well-being.

Course Details

The syllabus covers four key areas:

1. Anatomy and Physiology – Structure and function of body systems in physical activity.
2. Health, Fitness, and Training – Benefits of fitness, training methods, and principles of health.
3. Skill Acquisition and Psychology – Learning and applying skills, and understanding psychological factors affecting performance.
4. Social, Cultural, and Ethical Influences – The role of sports in society, cultural impacts, and ethical considerations.

Assessment

The practical element is crucial, accounting for half of the final grade. Students must demonstrate technical skill, performance quality, and tactical understanding in their chosen activities.

IGCSE Physical Education (grades 9–1)



Future Prospects

IGCSE PE lays the groundwork for careers in physiotherapy, sports science, coaching, and nutrition, supporting progression to A-level PE or sports-related qualifications in the health and fitness industries.

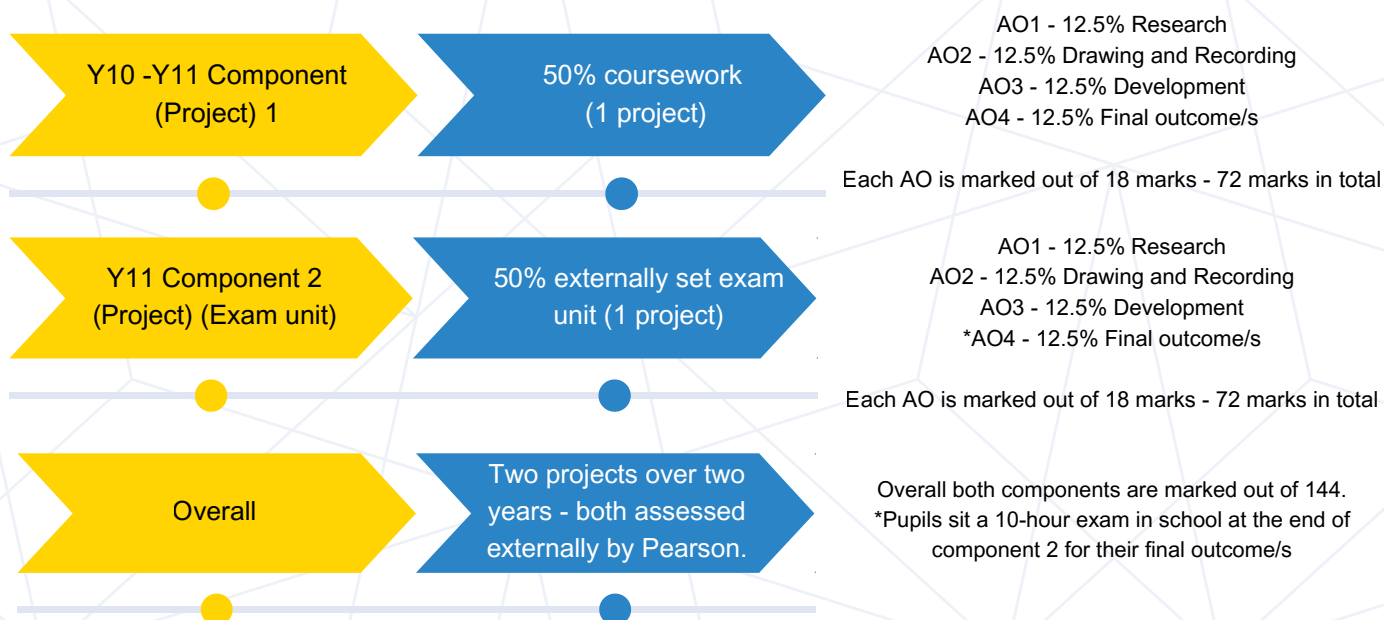
Course Outline

Graphic Communication teaches students to visually communicate information, ideas, and emotions through various media, techniques, and design elements like color, icons, images, typography, and photographs. In developing their designs, students conduct both primary and secondary research, exploring traditional and modern technologies. They learn to consider the use of symbols and signs, balancing aesthetic qualities with commercial intent.

Course Details

Graphic Communication equips students with essential skills in using visual elements and techniques to communicate ideas. They develop observational skills, work with traditional and digital graphics, explore colour properties, and combine two- and three-dimensional media creatively. Through primary and secondary research, students record observations and transform ideas into refined outcomes, exploring and modifying solutions as needed. They also gain practical experience with various materials and technologies, while learning from contemporary, historical, and cultural practices, broadening their understanding of the field.

Assessment



Future Prospects

Graphic Communication offers a pathway to A-level Art and Design or employment with a strong portfolio. It leads to careers such as graphic design, illustration, animation, branding, and web design.

Course Outline

The Pearson Edexcel IGCSE in French is an engaging and practical course aimed at equipping students with essential language skills for both personal growth and future opportunities. Through diverse and culturally relevant themes, the course covers listening, speaking, reading, and writing, laying a solid foundation for higher-level French studies or professional use. This course is ideal for students eager to build language proficiency and explore the rich diversity of Francophone culture.

Course Details

The course themes are designed to help students develop practical language skills while gaining insights into French-speaking cultures. These themes cover a wide range of daily experiences and social contexts, preparing students to confidently express themselves on topics they might encounter in real-life situations such as Home and Abroad, Education and Employment, Personal Life and Relationships.

Assessment

All assessments are external, with exams scheduled at the end of the course. Each component emphasises the development of critical language skills, ensuring students are ready for real-life communication and academic progression.

Grades 1 - 9	Paper 1 Listening	25% of the qualification 30 minutes, plus 5 minutes' reading time
	Paper 2 Reading and Writing	50% of the qualification 1 hour 45 minutes
	Paper 3 Speaking	25% of the qualification 8–10 minutes

Future Prospects

- A career in journalism, Education, Marketing, International Aid Work, Translating, Politics and Business Development.
- A sense of global awareness and a broader perspective on the world.
- An appreciation of human diversity and multilingual communities.

Course Outline

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. During this course, students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. In GCSE Design and Technology students will study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Course Details

3.1 Core technical principles new and emerging technologies
energy generation and storage developments in new materials systems
approach to designing mechanical devices
materials and their working properties

3.2 Specialist technical principles selection of materials or components
forces and stresses
ecological and social footprint sources and origins
using and working with materials stock forms, types and sizes
scales of production specialist techniques and processes
surface treatments and finishes

3.3 Designing and making principles investigation, primary and secondary data
environmental, social and economic challenge the work of others
design strategies
communication of design ideas
prototype development
selection of materials and components
tolerances
material management
specialist tools and equipment
specialist techniques and processes

Assessment

There are two components of assessment in the GCSE Design and Technology course.

50% of marks are allocated to the end-of-course Examination

50% of marks are allocated to the Design and Make task completed during the final year of the course

Future Prospects

Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Teaching, Interior Design, Video Game Designer and Web Developer, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Apprenticeships

Course Outline

GCSE Psychology engages students in many areas of study such as cognitive development, clinical and social behaviour. Students will develop their scientific skills and acquire knowledge and understanding of how the human mind works. This will allow them to develop an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena.

Course Details

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of key features of the following core areas of psychology through the study of the compulsory and optional topics in this specification, including research methods:

- biological – an understanding of biological concepts in psychology, including neuroscience and genetics as contributors to behaviour
- cognitive – an understanding of thought, information and mental processing as contributors to behaviour
- social – an understanding of the social area of psychology, the impact of social and environmental factors on behaviour and the influence of groups
- developmental – an understanding of how individuals change throughout their lives, with a particular focus on childhood and how both nature and nurture can affect individuals
- individual differences – an understanding of the complex nature of human behaviour and experiences and why and how people are different.

Assessment

The examinations for this course are at the end of Year 11. There are two examinations both worth 50% of the final grade.

Paper 1	1 hour 45 minutes	Five Topics: Development, Memory, Psychological problems, The brain and neuropsychology, and Social influence.
Paper 2	1 hour 20 minutes	Psychological research methods and two topics chosen by students. it will also cover mathematical questions .

Future Prospects

Clinical Psychologist, Counselling Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Forensic Psychologist, Further Education Teacher, Health Psychologist, High Intensity Therapist, Occupational Psychologist, Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, Sport and Exercise Psychologist, Human Resources Officer, Life Coach, Market Researcher, Mediator, Neuroscientist, Play Therapist, Policy Officer, Psychotherapist and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)



BTEC SUBJECT PROFILES

Course Outline

The course combines practical, creative and analytical skills. Students will learn the skills for independently developing their own drama for performance. Students will also be required to write about their performances, developing their ability to justify their choices and opinions. The course involves studying practitioners and plays in detail. The BTEC International Performing Arts course will allow students to study play texts, theatrical practitioners and dramatic theory, whilst utilising them within a performance context.

Course Details

The course combines practical, creative and analytical skills. Students will learn the skills for independently developing their own drama for performance. Students will also be required to write about their performances, developing their ability to justify their choices and opinions. The course involves studying practitioners and plays in detail. The BTEC International Performing Arts course will allow students to study play texts, theatrical practitioners and dramatic theory, whilst utilising them within a performance context.

Unit 1 - Introduction to Performing and Production Arts

Learners will explore the performing arts industry, developing skills and collaborative working practices through workshops, classes and rehearsals.

In this unit you will:

- A: Develop skills in a performing arts industry role
- B: Develop collaborative and professional working practices
- C: Review your own practice.

Unit 2 - Performing Arts Production

In this unit, you will plan and take part in the preparation for a performing arts production. You will learn and develop the skills needed for your role either as a performer or as part of the production team.

In this unit, you will:

- A: Prepare for a professional role during rehearsal
- B: Refine skills needed for a professional role during rehearsal
- C: Apply skills to a performance.

Assessment

Learners will participate in classes, workshops and rehearsals to develop skills and good working practices, collating a portfolio of evidence.

Future Prospects

Drama has many transferable skills, whether you prefer performing or being backstage Drama can develop your confidence, communication and teamwork skills. If you are involved in planning or organising a performance then these skills can be useful in many jobs. The skills you gain from studying Drama can lead to careers in performing arts, media, business, law, advertising, sales, hospitality, teaching and tourism.

Course Outline

BTEC Business is a 'hands on' practical qualification which will allow students to apply business theory to real world practical situations. In Year 10, students will learn how a small business is set up and how it operates.

They will study what impacts the set up of a business such as laws and regulations. Other units of study will be Human Resource Management as well as Business Finance. Following on from this, students will also be expected to carry out work experience in Year 11 as well as set up their own business as part of the Tycoon Enterprise competition.

Course Details



Assessment

100% coursework which will be internally assessed and then externally verified by Edexcel once a year.

Future Prospects

You will be able to work in any business-related field such as advertising, finance and human resource management. A business qualification would also help with careers in law, journalism and sports management. A business qualification could take you in any direction

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Choosing my GCSE options was a chance to shape my learning and follow my passion.

Business Studies helps me understand how businesses work and sharpens my decision-making.

Geography expands my view on global issues like climate change.

Triple Science deepens my understanding of the world around me.

Graphic Design allows me to combine creativity with problem-solving.

My choices reflect who I am and where I want to go.

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Youssef

Student at Star International School, Mirdif



Course Outline

In BTEC IT, students will develop an understanding of the practical importance of IT in different businesses and organisations. Students will learn the different uses of IT in organisations, and how its effective use can contribute to an organisation's success and improvement. Students will gain a practical understanding of how IT is used by different parts of an organisation and how it can improve engagement and add value. Students will focus on a specific business and plan and develop an information campaign aimed at marketing the business.

Alongside this, students will develop their technical skills through the Website Development unit. They will explore how websites can play a crucial role in the profitability of an organisation and the importance of the design and functionality of the website to maximise this. Students will research, plan, design and build a website for a business as well as perform industry-standard testing and evaluation.

Students will finish the course with a broad understanding of the role of IT across businesses and have developed their project management and technical development skills.

Course Details

- Unit 1: Using IT to Support Information and Communication in Organisations
- Unit 7: Introduction to Website Development

Assessment

All assessments for BTEC IT are coursework-based. For Unit 1, students will produce a report analysing how a business uses IT. Following this, students will produce a media campaign to market the business. For Unit 7, students will produce a report analysing the design and effectiveness of a business website. Students will research and produce a plan for a new business website and then build, test and evaluate the planned website.

100% coursework which will be internally assessed and then externally verified by Edexcel once a year.

Future Prospects

BTEC IT teaches students the knowledge and skills that are essential for future IT courses and any career they may have. The course also prepares students for a wide variety of IT-related careers, including web designer, systems analyst, computer games developer, user experience developer and many other specialisms.

Course Outline

The BTEC Level 2 Award in Sport is a hands-on qualification designed for students passionate about sports, fitness, and leadership. It equips learners with practical skills and knowledge to excel in the sports sector while developing transferable skills like teamwork, leadership, and communication. Students will refine sports techniques, tactics, and strategies while learning to analyse and improve performance effectively.

Course Details

1. Principles of Fitness & Fitness Testing

- Learn components of fitness, conduct fitness tests, and evaluate results to assess individual fitness profiles.

2. Training for Personal Fitness

- Design and follow a four-week personalised training program, set SMART goals, and reflect on progress.

3. Practical Sport

- Study rules, officiating, and gameplay for selected sports, enhance performance, practice leadership, and provide feedback on performance.

Assessment

100% coursework which will be internally assessed and then externally verified by Edexcel once a year.

Unit	Assessment Method	Weighting	Grading
Principles of fitness	Written booklet, practical testing	30%	Pass/Merit/Distinction
Training for personal fitness	Training plan, reflective journal	35%	Pass/Merit/Distinction
Practical sport	Performance and review	35%	Pass/Merit/Distinction

Future Prospects

- Sports Coaching and Development
- Physical Education Teaching
- Personal Training and Fitness Coaching
- Event Planning in Sports
- Sports Nutrition and Wellness

It also supports progression to further studies in sports-related fields like biomechanics, sports psychology, and physical therapy. Perfect for students keen on an active lifestyle and helping others achieve their potential.

Course Outline

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice provides students with an introduction to the music industry through three components.

In Component 1, students explore musical styles, genres, and production techniques, analyzing different music products.

Component 2 focuses on building practical skills in two areas, such as performing, composing, or producing, while tracking their progress.

In Component 3, students apply their skills to create a music product in response to a brief.

Assessment involves internal assignments for Components 1 and 2, and an externally set task for Component 3, combining theory with hands-on practice.

Course Details

The assessments will cover the following course headings:

Exploring Music Products and Styles Overview of Musical Styles and Genres Analysis of Music Products and Techniques	Music Skills Development Selection of Musical Disciplines (e.g., Performance, Composition, Production) Skill-Building Activities and Progress Tracking	Responding to a Music Brief Planning and Developing a Music Product Presentation and Professionalism in Music
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Assessment

100% coursework which will be internally assessed and then externally verified by Edexcel once a year.

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 12 hours of supervised assessment. 60 marks

Component 2: Music Skills Development

Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 15 hours of supervised assessment. 60 marks.

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief

Task set and marked by Pearson completed under supervised conditions. Learners will be given the set task in January, 12 weeks before the supervised assessment period, in order to carry out the development of creative ideas and rehearsal for the final music product. The set task will be completed in 3 hours within the period timetabled by Pearson. 60 marks.

Future Prospects

Completing the **Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice** can lead to various educational and professional pathways in the music and creative industries. Here's a list of potential career and further study options:

1. Further Education and Training

- BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Music or Music Technology
- A Levels in Music, Performing Arts, or Music Technology
- Diploma programs in Music Production, Sound Engineering, or Performing Arts
- Apprenticeships in Music Production or Media

2. Professional Pathways in the Music Industry

- Music Performer, Music Producer, Sound Engineer, Songwriter or Composer, DJ or Electronic Music Artist.

3. Careers in Media and Production

- Audio Technician, Music Promoter or Event Manager, Music Teacher or Tutor.

4. Creative Arts and Multidisciplinary Fields

- Multimedia Specialist, Music Therapist, Broadcast and Media Roles.

5. Entrepreneurial Ventures in Music

- Independent Artist or Producer, Record Label Assistant or Manager, Freelance Sound Designer.

Course Outline

IBTEC Travel and Tourism Level 2 allows students to investigate one of the biggest employers both locally and globally - the Travel and Tourism sector. The course gives students the opportunity to understand the inner working of this industry and thus how businesses and locations succeed or fail. Students will be able to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. Students will be guided but will have to work independently to develop excellent researching skills in order to complete the different assignments.

Course Details

Students will complete 3 Units of Work throughout the Course

The Travel and Tourism Sector

Understanding the Nature and Effects
of World Travel

Worldwide Holiday
Destinations

Assessment

The course is 100% internally assessed, so there is no examination.

For each of the 3 Units there will be 3 big assignments. Students will be guided with their research and application and will then have to submit their work. Students will get 1 chance to re-submit their work if they have not met all of the unit criteria.

Future Prospects

- BTEC Travel and Tourism Level 3
- A great many jobs in the Travel and Tourism sector

NOTES

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