



# The Way Ahead

*IGCSE Options (2024 - 2026)*



## 1. The Way Ahead

This booklet has been compiled to enable Year 9 students and their parents to make the most appropriate choices for Cambridge and AQA IGCSE courses offered by TSIS International School.

## 2. What is the IGCSE?

The IGCSE programme prepares students for the more academically and organisationally demanding higher level courses, such as A Levels which are offered in Years 12 and 13. The IGCSE is globally recognised. Schools in over 100 countries have chosen to teach Cambridge and AQA IGCSE courses at Key Stage 4.

## 3. TSIS - Curriculum Structure

Years 10 and 11 are collectively called Key Stage 4 (KS4). Our KS4 curriculum contains a combination of compulsory examined subjects, optional examined subjects, and compulsory non-examined subjects - such as Physical Education, PSHE and Global Perspectives.

Subject	Examined at IGCSE
Mathematics	Yes
English	Yes
Options A-F	Yes
PE ( <i>core</i> )	No
PSHE	No
Global Perspectives	No

#### 4. IGCSE Options

The IGCSE subject provision is reviewed regularly in order to ensure that we are offering our students not only an engaging and challenging KS4 experience, but access to valuable and versatile future pathways.

KS4 students study a minimum of 9 subjects (Maths, English, GP & PE - core subjects - plus their chosen options). Students pick one **optional** IGCSE subject to study from each of the following subject groups A-F, in addition to their **core** IGCSE subjects.

A	B	C	D	E	F
Physics	Biology	Chemistry	Computer Science	Art & Design	Punjabi <sup>1</sup> / Hindi
Psychology	Economics	Business	Travel & Tourism	PE (IGCSE)	Thai
					Mandarin

#### 5. Period Allocation (30 periods per week)

Subject	Number of Lessons in a Week
All examined IGCSE subjects	3
Non-examined Global Perspectives / Sikhism	2
Non-examined PE	3
PSHE	1

#### 6. Support with Subject Choices

Year 9 students and parents will be invited to visit the school for an Options Meeting. During (and after) the meeting, subject teachers will be available to discuss their subjects in detail and in relation to a student's particular needs.

Parents will also have the opportunity to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to discuss their child's intended choices, or to make any further enquiries regarding the options process. Parents who wish to talk in more detail about their child's subject choices can make an appointment for an additional meeting.

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- Thai is compulsory for Thai nationals but students are not obliged to sit for actual IGCSE examination.
  - Punjabi is compulsory for Sikh students but students are not obliged to sit for actual IGCSE examination.

## 7. Course Information

In a small number of subjects, candidates are able to sit the IGCSE examinations at one of two levels: Core or Extended. The possible attainment grades for each level are different. Due to our selective nature, TSIS endeavours to enter the majority of our students for Extended examinations.

Possible attainment grades for students who sit Extended Exams	Possible attainment grades for students who sit Core Exams
<b>A*</b>	
<b>A</b>	
<b>B</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>
	<b>E</b>
	<b>F</b>
	<b>G</b>

Included in the following pages is an introduction to each IGCSE subject, along with the relevant syllabus codes and a link to the appropriate section of the CIE and AQA websites for each subject/course. We have also included an outline of the areas of study to be examined in May/June of Year 11.

\* All IGCSE courses are offered by Cambridge (CIE), except for Punjabi and Psychology which are offered by AQA.

## Syllabus Overviews

### IGCSE Art & Design (0400)

The Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two- and three-dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

#### Areas of study:

Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design has been designed to offer a broad choice of media and approaches:

- painting and related media
- graphic communication
- three-dimensional design
- textiles and fashion
- photography

#### Assessment:

All candidates take two externally-assessed components:

<p><b>Component 1 - Coursework (50%)</b></p> <p>Candidates research, develop and realise a project from one or more of the areas of study and should explore a theme.</p> <p>There are two parts to the coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– a portfolio and</li><li>– a final outcome.</li></ul>	<p><b>Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment (50%) – 8 hours</b></p> <p>Candidates respond to one starting point set by Cambridge International. Candidates may produce work from the same areas of study as Component 1, but they do not have to.</p> <p>There are two parts to the assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– supporting studies and</li><li>– a final outcome, produced during a supervised test of 8 hours' total duration.</li></ul>
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## **IGCSE Biology (0610)**

Since careers in Biology are so diverse, the IGCSE course engages students in one of the most varied, interesting and relevant subjects available. Biologists are involved in some of the most exciting areas of research, such as developing cures for diseases or saving environments and species from extinction.

Students develop scientific abilities and skills relevant to the study of biology, in relation to the four main areas of syllabus content: characteristics and classification of living organisms; organisation and maintenance of the organism; development of the organism and continuity of life; and finally, relationships of organisms with one another and with their environment.

### **Areas of study:**

The Biology syllabus offers a combination of theoretical and practical learning, leading to an understanding of the basic principles in biology, with an emphasis on human biology.

### **Assessment:**

- Paper 1: Multiple choice
- Paper 3: Theory
- Paper 6: Alternative to practical

Candidates doing the *Extended* exam will now take:

- Paper 2: Multiple choice
- Paper 4: Theory
- Paper 6: Alternative to the practical.

## **IGCSE Business Studies (0450)**

IGCSE Business studies helps learners to gain and apply their knowledge and critical understanding to current issues and problems in a wide range of business contexts, with the effective use of relevant terminology, concepts and methods, and recognise the strengths and limitations of the ideas used in business. They learn to distinguish between facts and opinions, and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data in order to help build arguments and make informed judgements as well as to appreciate the perspectives of a range of stakeholders in relation to the business environment, individuals, society, government and enterprise and acquire an 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.

The learners also benefit from an 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. In addition to this they develop skills of numeracy, literacy, enquiry, selection and use of relevant sources of information, presentation and interpretation as well as develop an awareness of the nature and significance of innovation and change within the context of business activities.

### **Areas of Study:**

1. Understanding Business Activity
2. People in Business
3. Marketing
4. Operations Management
5. Financial Information and Decisions
6. External Influences on Business Activity

### **Assessment:**

All candidates must enter for two papers.

Paper 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes

- Short Answer and Data Response - 50% weighting or 80 marks
- Four main questions with sub-questions with a mixture of short answers and structured data responses
- Candidates answer all questions. The paper is externally assessed by CAIE

Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 minutes

- Case Study - 50% weighting or 80 marks
- Four main questions with sub-questions that is based on a case study insert the paper.
- Candidates answer all questions The paper is externally assessed by CAIE

## IGCSE Chemistry (0620)

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of chemistry, and a strong emphasis on practical skills and also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further education or a career related to science.

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry enables learners to:

- increase their understanding of the technological world
- take an informed interest in scientific matters
- recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life
- develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative, and inventiveness
- develop an interest in, and care for, the environment
- better understand the influence and limitations placed on scientific study by society, economy, technology, ethics, the community, and the environment
- develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life

### Areas of Study:

- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The particulate nature of matter | 8. Acids, bases and salts |
| 2. Experimental techniques          | 9. The Periodic Table     |
| 3. Atoms, elements and compounds    | 10. Metals                |
| 4. Stoichiometry                    | 11. Air and water         |
| 5. Electricity and chemistry        | 12. Sulfur                |
| 6. Chemical energetics              | 13. Carbonates            |
| 7. Chemical reactions               | 14. Organic chemistry     |

### Assessment:

- Paper 1: Multiple choice
- Paper 3: Theory
- Paper 6: Alternative to practical

Candidates doing the *Extended* exam will now take:

- Paper 2: Multiple choice
- Paper 4: Theory
- Paper 6: Alternative to the practical.



## **IGCSE Computer Science (0478)**

The IGCSE Computer Science course is designed with the aim of equipping students with a wide range of skills and knowledge necessary to become competent problem solvers using computers. The course covers essential topics such as computational thinking, which involves analysing problems and devising algorithms to solve them. Additionally, students gain a deeper understanding of the fundamental principles of computer systems, including their components and how they interact with one another. The course also delves into the use of high-level programming languages to solve computer-based problems, as well as automated and emerging technologies. Alongside this, students learn about the internet, its role as a communication tool, and the associated risks.

### **Areas of Study:**

#### 1. Computer Systems

- Data representation
- Data transmission
- Hardware
- Software
- The internet and its uses
- Automated and emerging technologies

#### 2. Algorithms, Programming and Logic

- Algorithm design and problem solving
- Programming
- Databases
- Boolean logic

### **Assessment:**

All candidates must enter for two papers.

- Paper 1 Computer Systems 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 2 Algorithms, Programming, and Logic 1 hour 45 minutes

## IGCSE Economics (0455)

Economics encourages students to develop a sound knowledge of economic terminology and economic theory. The course covers both microeconomics (the study of individual markets) as well as macroeconomics (the interaction of markets at a national and global level).

In microeconomics, students learn how the concepts of supply and demand help establish equilibrium prices. They then apply this to various markets from oil to housing. Lessons draw upon real world examples enabling students to gain confidence in interpreting diagrams and manipulating statistical data. Such skills allow students to identify and discriminate between differing sources of information and to distinguish between facts and value judgments in economic issues. Macroeconomics allows students to better understand the world around them as well as their place within it. Lessons cover topics such as GDP, inflation and the economic development of countries as they transition from being an LEDC to an MEDC. An understanding of Economics allows students to understand and contribute to important discussions that will affect all of our futures.

### Areas of Study

All candidates study the following topics:

1. Basic economic problem: choice and the allocation of resources
2. The allocation of resources: how the market works; market failure
3. The individual as producer, consumer and borrower
4. The private firm as producer and employer
5. Role of government in economy
6. Economic indicators
7. Developed and developing economies: trends in production, population and living standards
8. International aspects

### Assessment

- **Paper 1: Multiple choice** - 45 mins. Candidates answer thirty multiple questions.
- **Paper 2: Structured questions** - 2 hrs 15min. Candidates answer one compulsory question and three questions from a choice of six.

## IGCSE First Language English (0500)

The 0500 First Language English course aims to enhance the reading, writing and speaking and listening skills of all students. The skills of Reading and Writing are assessed in the final exam. The 0500 programme enables students to develop the ability to read, understand, and respond to a variety of text types; explore how writers achieve their effects and recognise and appreciate themes and attitudes, as well as to construct and convey meaning in written language through a variety of tasks that benefit style, audience and purpose. The students will also consider strategies for how to retrieve information for the purpose of study.

### Areas of Study:

#### Reading

- demonstrate a precise understanding of extended texts
- synthesise, develop, analyse and evaluate facts, ideas and opinions
- effectively summarise, paraphrase and re-express
- demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve their effects
- recognise and respond to sophisticated linguistic devices
- extract appropriate information for specific purposes

#### Writing

- express effectively what is thought, felt and imagined
- order and convey facts, ideas and opinions effectively
- demonstrate a sophisticated use of imaginative and varied vocabulary
- demonstrate a clear sense of audience and context
- demonstrate accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar
- use a variety of sentence structures effectively

### Assessment:

All students sit **Paper 1 – Reading** (2hrs) and **Paper 2 - Writing** (2hrs).

- **Paper 1** consists of 3 main questions, focusing on the following skills: comprehension, summary writing, short-answer questions, language analysis and an extended response to reading.
- **Paper 2** consists of 2 questions: a directed writing question on a passage of 650-700 words, and a composition task from a choice of four titles.

## **IGCSE Literature 0475**

The syllabus enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Learners develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied. The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

### **Areas of Study:**

- enjoy the experience of reading literature
- understand and respond to literary texts in different forms and from different periods and cultures
- communicate an informed personal response appropriately and effectively
- appreciate different ways in which writers achieve their effects
- experience literature's contribution to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth
- explore the contribution of literature to an understanding of areas of human concern.

### **Assessment:**

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

- Paper 1: 1hr 30 mins
- Paper 2: 1hr 30 mins
- Paper 3: 45 mins
- Paper 4: 1hr 15 mins

## **IGCSE English as a Second Language (0510/0511)**

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Learners will be presented with a variety of stimuli that will build up their skills in reading and writing. They will learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practise writing for different purposes and audiences. Learners will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills. Learners will engage in conversations on a variety of topics, and develop their skills in responding to different situations and audiences with a degree of accuracy and clarity.

### **Areas of Study:**

- develop learners' ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication
- form a solid foundation for the skills required for further study or employment using English as the medium
- develop learners' awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills
- promote learners' personal development.

### **Assessment**

All candidates take three components. Candidates who have studied the Core syllabus content should be entered for Paper 1, Paper 3 and Component 5. These candidates will be eligible for grades C to G.

Candidates who have studied the Extended syllabus content should be entered for Paper 2, Paper 4 and Component 5. These candidates will be eligible for grades A\* to E.

- Paper 1 (reading and writing): 1hr 30
- Paper 3 (listening): approx. 1hr
- Component 5: speaking and listening assessment
- Paper 2 (reading and writing): 2hrs
- Paper 4 (listening): approx. 1hr
- Component 5: speaking and listening assessment

## **IGCSE Global Perspectives (0457) – Non examined subject**

Global Perspectives is a ground-breaking and stimulating course that stretches across traditional subject boundaries and develops transferable skills. It is both cross-curricular and skills-based and taps into the way learners of today enjoy learning - teamwork, presentations, projects, and working with other learners around the world. IGCSE Global Perspectives provides opportunities for enquiry into - and reflection upon - key global issues from different perspectives: personal, local/national and global.

The course encourages awareness of global problems and offers a range of opportunities to explore solutions through cooperation and collaboration. It is not about getting everybody to think identically; rather it is a matter of opening minds to the complexity of the world and of human thought, and encouraging empathy for the diversity of human experience and feeling. This course emphasises the development and application of skills rather than the acquisition of knowledge.

Candidates develop transferable skills that will be useful for further study and develop young people as active citizens of the future.

### **Areas of Study:**

- Demographic change
- Education for all
- Employment
- Fuel and energy
- Globalisation
- Law and criminality
- Migration
- Transport systems
- Belief systems
- Biodiversity and ecosystem loss
- Changing communities
- Digital world
- Family
- Humans and other species
- Sustainable living
- Trade and aid
- Conflict and peace
- Disease and health
- Human rights
- Language and communication
- Poverty and inequality
- Sport and recreation
- Tradition, culture and identity
- Water, food and agriculture

## **IGCSE Hindi as a Second Language (0549)**

Cambridge IGCSE Hindi as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. In both written and spoken Hindi, learners will be able to follow factual information as well as abstract ideas, select relevant details, and understand what is directly stated or implied.

Learners will be encouraged to respond effectively to a variety of stimuli. They will be able to express their viewpoints with a degree of accuracy and clarity, in spoken and written form, in order to meet the needs of the given purpose and target audience. This will enable learners to become independent users of Hindi in a range of contexts.

### **Areas of Study:**

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Speaking (optional)

### **Assessment:**

- All candidates take two components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A\* to G.
- Third component: Component 3 Speaking. Component 3 is internally marked and externally moderated.
- Marks for Component 3 do not contribute to the overall qualification grade: this component is separately endorsed. Where candidates perform to an appropriate standard, certificates record separately a grade from 1 (high) to 5 (low) for Speaking.
- All candidates take:
  - Paper 1 -2 hours
  - Reading and Writing 67% 60 marks
  - Paper 2 Approx. 35–45 minutes
  - Listening 33% 30 marks
- and candidates can choose to take:
  - Component 3 Approx. 10–12 minutes (Speaking Separately endorsed) 60 marks

## **IGCSE Mandarin (0547)**

IGCSE Mandarin develops a set of transferable skills for understanding and communicating in everyday situations in Chinese. Learners begin to develop cultural awareness of countries and communities where Chinese is spoken. They acquire the essential linguistic skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

The syllabus gives students opportunities to develop and apply a wide range of foreign language skills. They will also have opportunities to write in Chinese on familiar, everyday topics, and to speak the language by taking part in everyday conversations.

### **Areas of Study:**

- Everyday activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world

### **Assessment:**

- Paper 1 listening - 40 minutes
- Paper 2 reading - 1 hour 15 minutes
- Paper 3 speaking- 10 minutes
- Paper 4 writing - 1 hour 15 minutes.



## **IGCSE Mathematics (0580)**

Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics encourages learners to develop their mathematical ability as a key life skill, and as a strong basis for further study of mathematics or to support skills in other subjects.

The syllabus:

- develops learners' competency, confidence, and fluency in their use of techniques with and without the use of a calculator, cultivating mathematical understanding.
- develops learners' feel for quantity, patterns, and relationships, encouraging learners' reasoning and analytical skills.
- places a strong emphasis on solving problems in mathematics and real-life contexts.
- promotes appropriate presentation and interpretation of results, encouraging learners' understanding of how to communicate and reason mathematically.
- is tiered to allow candidates of all abilities to achieve and progress in their mathematical studies.

### **Areas of study:**

- Number
- Algebra
- Shape and space
- Probability and statistics

### **Assessment:**

All candidates must enter for two papers.

Extended candidates take:

- Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper 4 - 2 hours 30 minutes

Core candidates take:

- Paper 1 - 1 hour
- Paper 3 - 2 hours

## **GCSE Panjabi (AQA 8683)**

GCSE Panjabi objective is to enable students of all abilities to develop their Panjabi language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence.

Students will gain knowledge of Panjabi Language and culture. Learners should recognize their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills help them to take their place in a multilingual global society.

### **Areas of study:**

- Theme 1: Identity and culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

### **Assessments:**

GCSE Panjabi has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

- Paper 1 (Listening): Higher Tier - 45 Minutes, Foundation Tier - 35 Minutes
- Paper 2 (Speaking) : Higher Tier - maximum 12 minutes, Foundation Tier - maximum 9 minutes.
- Paper 3 (Reading) : Higher Tier - 1 hour, Foundation Tier - 45 Minutes
- Paper 4 (Writing) : Higher Tier - 1 hour 20 Minutes, Foundation Tier - 1 hour 5 minutes.

## **IGCSE Physical Education (0413)**

The aim of IGCSE Physical Education is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the theory underpinning physical performance in a modern world. Students will use this knowledge to enhance their performance in a range of physical activities, working on their skills and techniques, and utilising tactics, strategies, and compositional ideas. They will also be taught about safe practices in physical activity and sport, as well as the benefits of physical activity and sport for health, fitness, and well-being. This comprehensive education will provide students with a solid foundation for further study in the field of Physical Education.

### **Areas of Study:**

- Anatomy and physiology
- Health, fitness and training
- Skill acquisition and psychology
- Social, cultural and ethical influences

### **Assessment**

Candidates are assessed in two equally weighted elements:

- Component 1:
  - Paper 1 (50% of overall grade) - 1 hour 45 minutes
  - 100 marks Short and structured questions.
- Component 2:
  - Coursework 50% of overall grade
  - Candidates undertake four physical activities from at least two different categories.

## **IGCSE Physics (0625)**

IGCSE Physics helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. The syllabus includes the basic principles and concepts that are fundamental to the subject, some current applications of physics, and a strong emphasis on practical skills.

Students will gain an awareness of the study and practice of science and will understand that scientific applications have both beneficial and detrimental effects on the individual and the environment. The course will prepare students to become confident citizens in a technological world, and to take an informed interest in scientific matters.

### **Areas of Study:**

- General physics
- Thermal physics
- Properties of waves, including light and sound
- Electricity and magnetism
- Atomic physics

### **Assessment:**

- Paper 1: Multiple choice
- Paper 3: Theory
- Paper 6: Alternative to practical

Candidates doing the *Extended* exam will now take:

- Paper 2: Multiple choice
- Paper 4: Theory
- Paper 6: Alternative to the practical.

## OxfordAQA International GCSE Psychology (9218)

Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind and behaviour. It is both a thriving academic discipline and a vital professional practice (The British Psychological Society).

Psychology is relevant to any job that involves working directly with people, or any job that requires the use of problem-solving skills.

You could become involved in the worlds of clinical, sport, occupational, health, forensic, educational or criminal psychology. Alternatively, a career in education, the Armed Forces, sports management, human resources, medicine, the emergency services, media...any career involving working with people!

Psychology is a remarkably fascinating subject at all levels of study.

### Areas of Study:

#### I. Cognition and behaviour

- Memory
- Perception
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

#### II. Social context and behaviour

- Communication
- Social influences
- Mental health
- Research methods

### Assessment:

International GCSE Psychology has two exam papers, each worth 50% of the overall International GCSE mark.

- **Paper 1:** Cognition and behaviour. 2 hours.
- **Paper 2:** Social context and behaviour. 2 hours.

## **IGCSE Thai - First Language (0518)**

IGCSE Thai helps learners to develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when writing. Learn how to use a wide range of vocabulary, and correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. Develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which Thai can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

### **Areas of Study:**

- Reading and Writing:
  - Thai idiom: Analyse and Explain meaning
  - Write Essays
  - Narrative Writing
  - Narrate from pictures
  - Article Writing
  - Argument writing and Debate writing
  
- Listening Comprehension and Use of Language
  - Important Days of Thailand
  - Thai history: Ayutthaya period
  - Thai poems: Soonthorn Phu

### **Assessment**

- Paper 1: 2 hours
- Paper 2: 2 hours

## **IGCSE Travel & Tourism (0471)**