



IGCSE OPTIONS 2026 – 2028

The Next Step....



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THE NEXT STEP!

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 at TSI International School.

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.

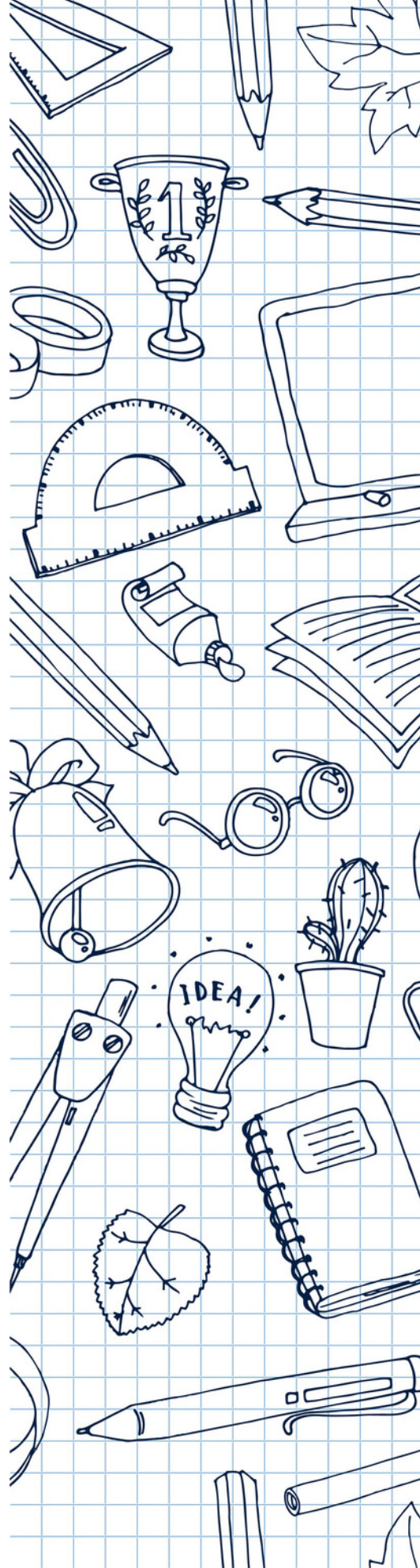
The IGCSE is globally recognised. Schools in over 100 countries have chosen to teach Cambridge and AQA IGCSE courses at Key Stage 4.

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. (There is an option to take Religious Studies as an examined subject instead of Global Perspectives if a student is interested in pursuing that.)

The breakdown is as follows:

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



IGCSE OPTIONS

Our 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.

Alongside their core subjects, students will soon select six IGCSE subjects to study over the next two years, one from each of the designated subject groups (A–F) below. We expect students to take external IGCSE examinations in **all** of their chosen subjects. We would like to make clear that ALL subjects are considered essential components of the academic programme, and students are expected to fully engage in lessons, coursework, and class activities throughout the two-year course. “Dropping” subjects in Years 10–11 is not an option.

A	B	C	D	E	F
Physics	Biology	Chemistry	Computer Science	Art and Design	Thai IGCSE
					Thai (non Exam)
Psychology	Economics	Business	Travel and Tourism	IGCSE PE	Hindi or Panjabi
		English Literature	Additional Mathematics (INVITE ONLY)	Computer Science	Mandarin

****Thai (non exam) is offered to students who have recently arrived in Thailand. It is to teach basic communicative Thai language skills and the basics of Thai culture. This is a non-examined subject.***

Why have our option blocks been designed this way?



Informed by student voice

Built around student survey data and the most popular pathways feasible at TSI.

Keeps future pathways open

Flexible combinations support STEM, business and academic progression.

Ensures curriculum balance

Each block offers a mix of academic, creative and applied subjects.

Values language learning

A dedicated language block safeguards home and additional languages, essential in an international school context.

LESSON ALLOCATION (30 PERIODS PER WEEK)

Subject	No. per week
All examined IGCSE subjects (each)	3
Non-examined Global Perspectives (or examined Religious Studies if a student opts for this)	2
Non-examined PE	3
PSHE	1

MATHEMATICS: CORE OR EXTENDED

In Mathematics, 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, although on the final transcript it will not be stated whether the student took Core or Extended. TSI aims to enter the majority of our students for Extended examinations; however, where it is more beneficial to a student, Core will be the preferred option.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

All students **must** choose either Global Perspectives **or** Religious Studies. These subjects will be taught twice per week.

Religious Studies is an examined subject and includes formal assessments. Students may choose this subject if they are interested in exploring different religions, beliefs, and moral issues, and if they enjoy structured learning leading to an examination. All Sikh students must choose Religious Studies.

Global Perspectives is a non-examined subject. Students may choose this subject if they prefer developing critical thinking, research, and teamwork skills through discussion and project-based learning without the pressure of exams.

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS

Art & Design – 0400

Description:

A practical and creative course developing visual awareness, technical skill and the ability to communicate ideas through a range of artistic media. Students explore their own artistic voice, experiment boldly with materials and create a personal portfolio that reflects imagination, originality and confidence.

Areas of Study:

Fine art, photography and related media (route dependent).

Assessment:

Component 1: Coursework (50%) – Portfolio produced during the course.
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (50%) – Preparatory period plus timed final piece.

Biology – 0610

Description:

Study living organisms and life processes, developing scientific knowledge and practical investigative skills. From the microscopic world of cells to global ecosystems, students discover how life functions, adapts and survives.

Areas of Study:

Characteristics of living organisms, cell structure, biological molecules, movement of substances, coordination and response, reproduction, inheritance, ecology and human influences on ecosystems.

Assessment:

Paper 2: Multiple Choice (30%)
Paper 4: Theory (50%)
Paper 6: Alternative to Practical (20%)

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS

Business – 0264

Description:

An introduction to how businesses operate, make decisions and respond to changing economic environments. Students explore real-world companies, analyse entrepreneurial ideas and learn how successful businesses grow, compete and innovate.

Areas of Study:

Business activity, people in business, marketing, operations management, financial information and external influences.

Assessment:

Paper 1 (50%) – Short-answer and structured questions.

Paper 2 (50%) – Case study with structured and extended responses.

Chemistry – 0620

Description:

Explore the properties of matter, chemical reactions and the role of chemistry in industry and everyday life. Students uncover the science behind materials, medicines, fuels and environmental solutions, developing both analytical thinking and practical skills.

Areas of Study:

States of matter, atomic structure, bonding, stoichiometry, chemical reactions, acids and bases, periodic table, metals, organic chemistry.

Assessment:

Paper 2: Multiple Choice (30%)

Paper 4: Theory (50%)

Paper 6: Alternative to Practical (20%)

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS

Computer Science – 0478

Description:

Develop computational thinking, problem solving and programming skills alongside knowledge of computer systems. Students learn how technology works behind the scenes and gain the tools to design programs, solve complex problems and understand the digital world shaping modern life.

Areas of Study:

Data representation, hardware and software, networks and cybersecurity, algorithms, programming, problem solving.

Assessment:

Paper 1 (50%) – Computer systems and theory.

Paper 2 (50%) – Algorithms, programming and problem solving.

Economics – 0455

Description:

Understand how individuals, businesses and governments make economic decisions in local and global contexts. Students explore real-world issues such as inflation, unemployment and international trade, developing analytical skills to interpret global events.

Areas of Study:

The basic economic problem, supply and demand, government intervention, macroeconomic aims, international trade and development.

Assessment:

Paper 1 (50%) – Multiple choice and short-answer questions.

Paper 2 (50%) – Structured and data-response questions.

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS



English – First Language: 0500

Description:

Develop confident reading, writing and analytical skills across a variety of text types. Students refine their ability to craft compelling narratives, present persuasive arguments and respond critically to challenging texts.

Areas of Study:

Reading comprehension, summary, directed writing, descriptive and narrative composition.

Assessment:

Paper 1 (50%) – Reading.

Paper 2 (50%) – Directed writing and composition.

Literature in English – 0475

Description:

Study prose, poetry and drama, developing literary analysis and personal response. Students explore powerful themes, complex characters and different perspectives, deepening their understanding of human experience through literature.

Areas of Study: Set texts and unseen passages.

Assessment:

- Paper 1 Poetry & Prose (50%)
- Paper 2 Drama & Prose (50%)

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS



Hindi as a Second Language – 0549

Description:

Develop communication skills in Hindi for practical and academic contexts. Students build confidence in speaking and writing while gaining cultural insight and real-world language skills.

Areas of Study:

Listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Assessment:

- Reading & Writing (50%)
- Listening (25%)
- Speaking (25%)

Chinese (Mandarin) – Foreign Language – 0547

Description:

Develop effective communication skills in spoken and written Mandarin. Students gain confidence interacting in everyday situations while exploring Chinese culture and global connections.

Areas of Study:

Listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Assessment:

Each skill assessed equally (25% each).

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS



Mathematics – 0580

Description:

Strengthens mathematical fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills. Students learn to think logically, analyse patterns and apply mathematics to real-life situations, building a foundation for further study in a wide range of careers.

Areas of Study:

Number, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and probability.

Assessment:

- (Extended) Paper 2 (50%)
- (Extended) Paper 4 (50%)
- (Core) Paper 1 (50%)
- (Core) Paper 3 (50%)

Additional Mathematics – 0606

Description:

An advanced course extending algebra, functions and introductory calculus. Ideal for students who enjoy mathematical challenge, this course develops deeper analytical thinking and prepares students strongly for A Level Mathematics.

Areas of Study:

Algebra, coordinate geometry, trigonometry and calculus.

Assessment:

- Paper 1 (50%)
- Paper 2 (50%)

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS



Physical Education – 0413

Description:

Combines theoretical knowledge of physical activity with practical performance. Students explore how the body and mind work together in sport, while developing leadership, teamwork and performance skills.

Areas of Study:

Anatomy, physiology, health, training, psychology and socio-cultural influences.

Assessment:

- Paper 1 Theory (50%)
- Coursework Practical Performance (50%)

Physics – 0625

Description:

Study energy, motion, waves, electricity and atomic physics through theory and experimentation. Students investigate the fundamental laws that govern the universe and apply scientific reasoning to explain how the world works.

Areas of Study: Forces, energy, waves, electricity and magnetism, atomic physics.

Assessment:

- Paper 2 Multiple Choice (30%)
- Paper 4 Theory (50%)
- Paper 6 Alternative to Practical (20%)

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS



Psychology – 8182 (AQA)

Description:

Scientific study of behaviour and mental processes. Students explore why people think, feel and behave as they do, using research evidence to investigate memory, social influence and mental health.

Areas of Study:

Memory, perception, development, research methods, social influence, brain and neuropsychology, psychological problems.

Assessment:

- Paper 1 (50%)
- Paper 2 (50%)

Panjabi – 8683 (AQA)

Description:

Develop practical language skills and cultural understanding. Students build fluency and confidence while deepening their connection to language, heritage and identity.

Areas of Study:

Listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Assessment:

Each skill assessed equally (25% each).

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS



Religious Studies – 8062 (AQA)

Description:

Study religious beliefs, practices and ethical issues. Students explore philosophical questions and contemporary debates, developing critical thinking and respectful discussion skills.

Areas of Study:

Religion, philosophy and thematic studies.

Assessment:

- Paper 1 (50%)
- Paper 2 (50%)

Thai – First Language – 0518

Description:

Develop advanced reading and writing skills in Thai. Students analyse texts in depth and refine their ability to express complex ideas clearly and effectively.

Areas of Study:

Comprehension, summary and extended writing.

Assessment:

Paper 1 (50%)
Paper 2 (50%)

SYLLABUS OVERVIEWS

Travel & Tourism – 0471

Description:

Learn how the global travel and tourism industry operates and the importance of sustainability and customer service. Students explore destinations, marketing strategies and real industry challenges, gaining insight into one of the world's fastest-growing sectors.

Areas of Study:

Industry structure, destinations, marketing, customer care and sustainability.

Assessment:

- Paper 1 (50%)
- Paper 2 (50%)



YEAR 9 SUPPORT TEAM

We want Year 9 students to make informed decisions that not only challenge them academically and align with their future goals, but also support them in a positive and encouraging way.

At TSI, we strongly believe that every member of staff plays an important role in the development and wellbeing of our students. However, if students are unsure who to turn to, here is our dedicated Year 9 support team, who are always available to help.



Mr Paul

9P HOMEROOM
TEACHER



Mr Fabio

9F HOMEROOM
TEACHER



Ms Michelle

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Mr Adam

PRINCIPAL



Ms. Dora

School Councillor
(Starting in March)

Students will submit their IGCSE option choices via this link:

<https://forms.gle/7TKH48jh3GrUXb6u6>

This link has been emailed to all parents, as well as being available to click on via the digital copy of this booklet.

DEADLINE: THURSDAY 5th MARCH