



**Baleares  
International  
College, Sa Porrassa**  
an Orbital Education School



# IGCSE OPTIONS GUIDE 2025-2026

EXCELLENCE · RESPECT · RESPONSIBILITY · INTEGRITY · COMPASSION

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## About our School

### Welcome to Balears International College

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Balears International College welcomes students aged 2 to 18 from over 40 different countries. Our school blends the highest quality, rigorous British education through the English National Curriculum, within a learning environment that is positive, constructive and a happy place to spend the day.

Our teaching staff are fully UK trained and experienced, and bring with them the latest educational methodologies and approaches. Our campuses feature a wide range of facilities, and we make excellent use of outdoor learning spaces as well.



## Orbital Education

### Bringing the best of British education to the world

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Orbital Education is completely dedicated to the service of advancing international education based on the British model. The company's head office in Manchester, England is staffed by a highly qualified team who support and direct the schools throughout the world.

The team are experienced educationalists, and all are united in the belief that the quality of education and the welfare of students is their greatest concern.

For more information go to:

[www.orbitaled.com](http://www.orbitaled.com)



# Welcome to Key Stage 4

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Key Stage 4, a pivotal moment in your educational journey! As students embark on this exciting phase, they will find themselves at the heart of a transformative period that shapes not only their academic development but also their personal growth and future aspirations.

Key Stage 4, covering the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) curriculum, is a crucial stage in the educational trajectory. It marks a transition towards more specialised studies, allowing students to delve deeper into subjects that resonate with their interests, passions, and career aspirations. At this stage, education becomes more personalised, fostering a sense of ownership and autonomy in learning.

Our school takes great pride in offering a diverse range of IGCSE options, carefully designed to cater to the unique strengths and interests of each student. Whether it's exploring the intricacies of mathematics, unravelling the wonders of the natural sciences, or honing language skills to articulate thoughts with precision, Key Stage 4 provides a platform for students to cultivate their intellectual curiosity and acquire a solid foundation for future academic pursuits. We offer students a range of IGCSE courses to follow from the [Cambridge Examination Board](#) and [Pearson Edexcel](#).

Beyond academics, Key Stage 4 is a time for personal development and self-discovery. Students will encounter challenges that encourage resilience, teamwork, and critical thinking. As they navigate through a variety of subjects, they will not only acquire knowledge but also develop essential life skills that will serve them well in the years to come.

We invite students to embrace this exciting journey with enthusiasm and an open mind. Key Stage 4 is not just a bridge to higher education; it is a stage where students begin to shape their individual identities and chart their courses for the future. Our dedicated educators are here to guide and support each student, fostering an environment that nurtures both academic excellence and personal growth.

Welcome to Key Stage 4 – a time of exploration, growth, and endless possibilities. Together, let's embark on a journey that will lay the foundation for success and fulfilment in the years ahead.

Kind regards,

Philip Brown

Head of Secondary

Gemma Austin

Deputy Head of Secondary - Academic

Share in our successes

## We think some things are worth celebrating!

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### Superb Exam Results

This past summer we were proud to see 78% of our students' IGCSE grades at level A\*-C or 9-4, which is almost 8% above the UK National average. Over a third of those grades were at the highest level (A\*/A or 7-9). We were also delighted that our exam results continued to show students showing higher than expected progress.

### Excellent Specialist Teachers

At Key Stage 4, it is crucial to have an expert teaching faculty who know every intricacy of their subject as we prepare students to specialise. At BIC, our staff team is our pride and we continue to ensure that our expert teachers are at the forefront of best practice and latest developments in their subjects.

### PSHE and Careers

Exam results and qualifications are important, but so too is making sure our students have the right advice and guidance for the various other developments and demands they will need to cope with during this period in their lives. With our wider curriculum, our pastoral team ensures that every student engages with well-researched advice on the world we live in, building the foundations for a future career, for making positive life choices, and living by the values of our school.

### The Tutor

As with previous years, the tutor is an essential part of our students' academic journey and will continue to support students in their academic and personal development throughout their time in Key Stage 4.

### PE

Whether or not PE is chosen as an option, we continue to give students dedicated sports sessions every week. Taking care of our physical health is crucial to achieving our best throughout the school and we continue to encourage students to foster good habits for their physical and mental wellbeing.



## Choose the right course for you

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Selecting the right GCSE options is a pivotal decision that can significantly influence your academic journey and future career choices. It's a process that requires thoughtful consideration, as the subjects chosen at this stage will not only shape the next two years of study but can also play a crucial role in shaping your post-secondary path.

First and foremost, it's essential to recognise your strengths, interests, and aspirations. Consider subjects that genuinely captivate your curiosity and align with your long-term goals. Reflect on your favourite subjects, those in which you excel, and areas that spark your passion. This self-awareness will guide you towards a set of options that not only complements your talents but also keeps you engaged and motivated throughout the demanding GCSE years.

Equally important is to maintain a balance between breadth and specialisation. While it's crucial to pursue subjects that align with your interests, it's also beneficial to have a well-rounded set of skills and knowledge. Strive for a mix of subjects that encompass different disciplines, ensuring a holistic education that prepares you for diverse challenges in the future.

Don't forget to seek advice from your teachers, tutor, Head of House, family members and anyone else whose advice you value. Their insights can provide valuable perspectives and help you make informed decisions. Additionally, consider the prerequisites for potential future paths, such as university courses or specific careers, to ensure your chosen GCSE options align with your broader ambitions.

In the end, the key is to make decisions that reflect your individuality and aspirations. Embrace the opportunity to explore new subjects, challenge yourself, and discover the strengths that will serve as the bedrock for your academic and professional endeavours. By choosing your GCSE options thoughtfully, you pave the way for a fulfilling and successful educational journey.

And most importantly, if you get stuck, reach out and talk to us and we can help you form your path into the future.

# Which subjects are optional and which do I have to do?

Every student needs to study:

- English (combinations of First Language, Second Language and Literature, according to ability)
- Mathematics (Foundation, Extended and Further Maths according to ability)
- 2 of the 3 Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Spanish

You must also choose 3 'Options' from the following subjects:

- Art
- Business
- Catalan
- Computer Science
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- Physical Education IGCSE
- Psychology
- A third Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Every student will also attend:

- Global Citizenship
- PE
- Assemblies





# Pearson Edexcel International Art & Design (4FA1)

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## Course Overview

During your two years studying Art & Design at IGCSE level, you will learn a range of fine art techniques, including drawing, painting, photography and Photoshop. You will learn to develop your ideas by learning from other artists and being inspired by the world around you. Students can progress from this qualification to A Levels in Art and Design and other creative subjects.

## IGCSE Syllabus Content

Students will complete Component 1 (coursework) and Component 2 (exam). Both components give students opportunities to:

- Develop and explore ideas
- Research primary and contextual resources
- Experiment with media, materials, techniques and processes
- Present personal response(s) to theme(s) set by the centre.

## Assessment Details

For assessment, Component 1 (coursework) and Component 2 (exam) are equally weighted to form the final mark. Both components will be externally assessed.

## Careers

Interior design, animation, fashion, film, game design, graphic design, illustration, professional artist, photography, art teacher, university lecturer, art curator.

**Link to Syllabus**  
[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel International Biology - Modular (4XBI1)

## Course Overview

During Years 10 and 11 you will be able to delve deeper into the world in which we live. You will learn about ecological systems, stem cells, genetic engineering and food security, to name just a few.

This is a new course where students have the opportunity to sit half their GCSE in Year 10 and half in Year 11. This structured approach helps to spread the assessment load and supports ongoing learning.

## IGCSE Syllabus Content

### Year 10

- The nature and variety of living organisms
- Structures and functions in living organisms

### Year 11

- Reproduction and inheritance
- Ecology and the environment
- Use of biological resources

## Assessment Details

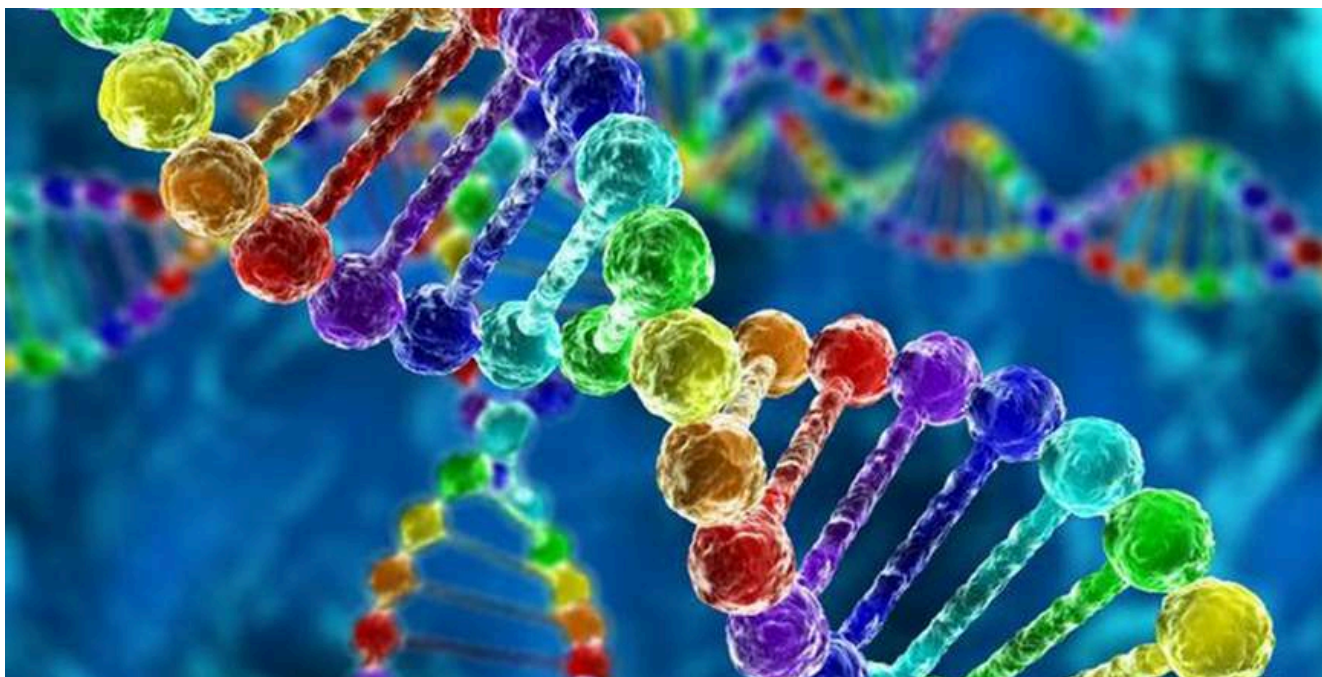
Students will sit two exams, each lasting 1 hour and 40 minutes. The first exam will take place at the end of Year 10, and the second at the end of Year 11.

## Careers

Biology is a key subject for many STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. The list is pretty long and includes nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics and research.

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel International Business (4BS1)

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## Course Overview

Business is a very exciting subject to study as it helps prepare students for their futures in the world of work. All the topics that are covered relate to the real world and issues that impact all of us. Edexcel IGCSE Business 9-1 is accepted by universities, colleges and employers as evidence of a foundation knowledge of the world of business and everything connected with commercial activity. Students will gain an insight into the workings of the modern world and how resources and materials are converted into the consumer products and services that make up our society.

## The IGCSE syllabus provides the opportunity to explore some of the following:

- Business basics, how they are set up, the different types of business, and how they can grow into successful multinational companies.
- The people in business and the importance of having good people in a business, how to organise the people within a business, motivate them and communicate with them in order to make a business successful.
- Basic business finance of how and from where businesses source money and how they keep track of all the money flowing in and out of a business, ensuring that they are profitable.
- How businesses decide what to produce, how they develop these products and then sell to their customers, whether they should charge a high or low price, where they should sell their products, and how should they inform their customers about their product.
- Production methods that businesses undertake in order to produce a high quality product in an efficient way and distribute it to their customers, how technology impacts on their production and what they are producing, and how they are producing their products.

Students will also be encouraged to develop skills of analysis and evaluation so that they can assess and explain situations from evidence provided and arrive at their own conclusions using reason and advanced thinking skills. Students will be challenged to think for themselves and be able to discuss what they would want in a business and how they would handle different business situations.

## Assessment Details

At the end of Year 11 there are two written examination papers including multiple choice, data and essays.

## Careers

The IGCSE course is an excellent foundation for studying Business Studies or Economics at A level and continuing further studies at university. Business is often combined with other areas of study from Law to Politics and Fashion to Hotel or Sports Management.

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)

# Pearson Edexcel International Chemistry - Modular (4XCH1)

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## Course Overview

During Years 10 and 11 you will have the opportunity to carry out many different laboratory practicals in the contexts of the different topics. You will learn about the science of explosions, how to electroplate objects, and organic chemistry.

This is a new course where students have the opportunity to sit half their GCSE in Year 10 and half in Year 11. This structured approach helps to spread the assessment load and supports ongoing learning.

## IGCSE Syllabus Content

Students will learn part 1 of each of the following units in Year 10, and part 2 of each unit in Year 11.

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Principles of chemistry | 3. Physical chemistry |
| 2. Inorganic chemistry     | 4. Organic chemistry  |

## Assessment Details

Students will sit two exams, each lasting 1 hour and 40 minutes. The first exam will take place at the end of Year 10, and the second at the end of Year 11.

## Careers

Chemistry is an important subject for careers in medicine, environmental science, engineering, toxicology, developing consumer products, metallurgy (studying how metals behave), space exploration, developing perfumes and cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, software development and research.

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel International Computer Science (4CP0)

## Course Overview

Edexcel IGCSE Computer Science helps students develop an interest in computational thinking and an understanding of the principles of problem-solving using computers. This understanding is applied to create computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. Learners also develop a range of technical skills and the ability to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions.

Studying Computer Science helps learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use, and recognise their potential risks.

## IGCSE Syllabus Content

- |                    |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Problem solving | 4. Computers                      |
| 2. Programming     | 5. Communication and the internet |
| 3. Data            | 6. The bigger picture             |

## Assessment Details

IGCSE Computer Science will be examined through two written papers:

- Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science
- Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking

## Careers

The constant development of new technologies means that there's a constant demand for brilliant tech minds who can create, maintain, and fix both gadgets and code. According to the US Bureau of Labour Statistics, there will be a 13% increase in computer science jobs by 2026. You can notice a similar trend in the EU, where the number of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) specialists grew by 36.1% over 10 years (2007–2017).

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel

## Drama (1DR0)

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### Course Overview

Over the course of two years, students will develop skills in performance, devising original pieces of theatre, and theatre appreciation. They will study play texts and learn about different theatre practitioners and the influence they have had over the development of performance styles and genres. Students will develop several cross curricular skills through their study, including communication, teamwork, presentation, problem solving, creativity, research and leadership.

### IGCSE Syllabus Content

The course is split into three areas of study:

- Devising, where students create their own original piece of drama and accompanying written portfolio.
- Performing, where students perform two extracts from a play.
- Theatre makers in practice, where students study 'An Inspector Calls' as well as reviewing live theatre.

### Assessment Details

There are three elements to assessment:

**Component 1:** 40% of overall course. Students must submit a video of their final performance and accompanying portfolio, this is marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel.

**Component 2:** 20% of overall course. Students will perform their play extracts to an audience (which will be filmed) and must submit a short written explanation of their performance. This is sent off to be marked by an examiner.

**Component 3:** 40% of overall course. One written exam in two sections: 'An Inspector Calls' and live theatre review.

### Careers

There are a range of careers within theatre, including, but not limited to, performer, designer, stage manager, director, front of house and technician. Drama promotes the development of transferable skills, useful in several areas of a student's academic life and beyond. Some professions that largely benefit from the skills built in drama include teaching, law, project management, first responders, hospitality, media and politics. According to a study of Russell Group universities, 100% of students who applied for a law degree at three of their universities and studied Drama and Theatre at A Level were successful in their application, which demonstrates the cross curricular value of the subject.

### Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)

# Cambridge IGCSE

## English First Language (0900)

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### Course Overview

Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) First Language English offers candidates the opportunity to respond with understanding to a rich array of reading texts. Candidates will use these texts to inform and inspire their own writing, and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

Candidates are encouraged to become appreciative and critical readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

### IGCSE Specification

Cambridge IGCSE (9-1) English First Language 0990

### Assessment Details

All candidates are assessed for two components:

- Paper 1: Reading
- Paper 2: Directed Writing and Composition

All students will be eligible for grades 9 to 1.

### Careers

A qualification in English is necessary for most careers where English is spoken, and the GCSE or IGCSE in English Language is necessary to study most A Levels. The Cambridge IGCSE is internationally recognised as an English Language qualification.

### Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)

# Pearson Edexcel International English Literature (4ET1)

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## Course Overview

The IGCSE in English Literature exposes students to a range of literary texts from around the world. The course enables students to develop the ability to read, understand and respond to these texts with an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve their literary effects. Students will develop the skills needed for literary study while exploring the relationships between literature and different cultures and societies.

## IGCSE Specification

4ET1 (Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English Literature)

## Assessment Details

All candidates are assessed for two components:

- Poetry and Modern Prose
- Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts

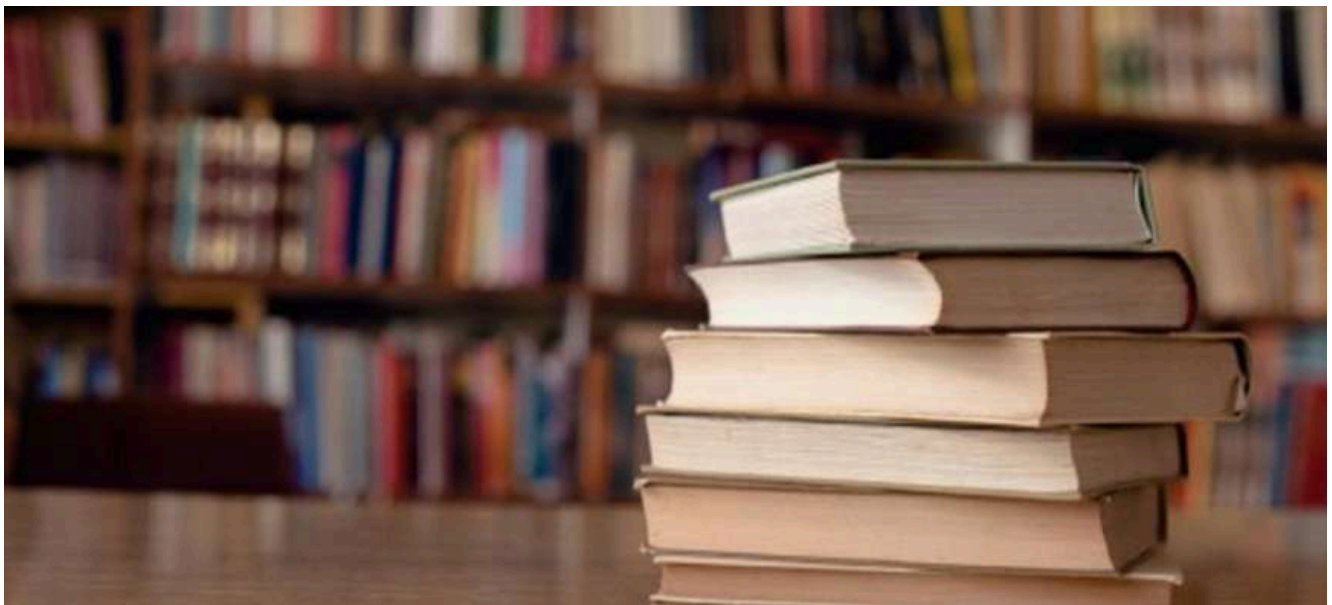
All students will be eligible for grades 9 to 1.

## Careers

The IGCSE in English Literature is an excellent foundation for further study in any essay-based subject, and there are many careers open to students who take traditional subjects such as English Literature. Careers include those in publishing, journalism, writing, editing, learning resource management, and education.

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)





# Pearson Edexcel International French Foreign Language (0520)

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## Course Overview

The IGCSE Foreign Language French course is designed for students who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies.

The course also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where French is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

Students wishing to choose French must meet the minimum proficiency level required to ensure they can fully engage with the course content.

## Assessment Details

All candidates take four papers: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. All students will be eligible for grades A\* to G.

## Careers

As well as being a working language, French is an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. More than 300 million people speak French across 29 countries and five continents. Holding an IGCSE qualification in this language is a mark of distinction highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers alike.

[Link to Syllabus](#)  
[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel International Geography (4GE1)

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## Course Overview

Geography is not just memorising countries' names. We are living at a very exciting time in human history. Geography offers us a unique way to make connections between coasts, exploding volcanoes and urban areas, and to consider how flooding and natural disasters affect food and transportation systems. Are you capable of making decisions in a global world? Are you current with the events that matter most? Come and explore in IGCSE geography!

## IGCSE Syllabus and Content

In this class you learn about the awesome power of wind and waves; the crisis of climate change and extreme weather; how our cities get the power they need; and the realities of globalisation. If you want to gain a better sense of place and a stronger sense of self, geography is a good subject to start with.

## Assessment Details

All candidates take two papers: Paper 1 (Physical Geography) and Paper 2 (Human Geography). All students will be eligible for grades 9 to 1.

## Careers

There are a range of careers open to geographers and these include disaster planning, travel and tourism, marketing, ecology guide, urban planner and climatologist. Previous students have gone on to study marine biology, law, politics, business studies, ecology and international relations.

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



## Cambridge IGCSE

### German First Language (0505)

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#### Course Overview

Cambridge IGCSE First Language German is designed for learners whose first language is German. The course develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. Students learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and awareness of the audience being addressed. Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The course also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.

Students wishing to choose German must meet the minimum proficiency level required to ensure they can fully engage with the course content.

#### Assessment Details

All candidates take two papers: Reading, and Directed Writing and Composition. All students will be eligible for grades A\* to G.

#### Careers

With 120 million native speakers, German is Europe's most widely spoken mother tongue and it is the second most spoken second language in Europe (behind English). Holding an IGCSE qualification in this language is a mark of distinction highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers alike.

[Link to Syllabus](#)  
[Click here](#)

## Cambridge IGCSE

### German Foreign Language (0525)

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#### Course Overview

This course is designed for students who are learning German as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies. The course also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where German is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

Students wishing to choose German must meet the minimum proficiency level required to ensure they can fully engage with the course content.

#### Assessment Details

All candidates take four papers: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. All students will be eligible for grades A\* to G.

#### Careers

With 120 million native speakers, German is Europe's most widely spoken mother tongue and it is the second most spoken second language in Europe (behind English). Holding an IGCSE qualification in this language is a mark of distinction highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers alike.

[Link to Syllabus](#)  
[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel International History (4HI1)

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## Course Overview

Studying History at IGCSE helps to develop an enquiring mind and gives you a much better understanding of how your world evolved. The subject helps to develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to ask questions properly, and to express your own opinions. History students are rounded individuals who develop an understanding of both past and present. The pursuit of historical events and people is fun - a form of time travel.

## IGCSE Syllabus Content

Students follow a modern world history course, looking at these major events that shaped the 20th century:

- A world divided: superpower relations, 1943-1972
- Germany: development of dictatorship, 1918-45
- The USA 1918-1943
- China: conflict, crisis and change 1900-89 or Changes in medicine, c1848-c1948

## Assessment Details

The final exam consists of two papers at the end of Year 11.

## Careers

Professions which look for a History qualification include Politics, Law, Journalism, the Civil Service and local government, teaching, and heritage-related careers. A History qualification is also widely respected in the world of business, marketing and human resource management, and increasingly in medicine and other scientific fields. Previous students have gone on to study law, politics, business studies, journalism and international relations.

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel International Mathematics (4MA1)

## Course Overview

IGCSE Mathematics is a wide ranging and interesting course that is taught over three years at Balears International College. Students can study the foundation tier or higher tier course. Concepts will appear in both courses; however, the maximum grade in the foundation tier is a 5 so on this course students do not study the more complex content. In the foundation tier, students develop essential number and problem-solving skills that they will use on a daily basis in their future lives. The higher tier course challenges and stretches the students' mathematical understanding with higher level algebra and trigonometry. This course is the perfect preparation for A Level Mathematics.

## IGCSE Syllabus Content

IGCSE Mathematics covers the four key strands of mathematics: number, algebra, geometry, and statistics in detail. There is a focus on application and problem-solving questions throughout the four strands.

## Assessment Details

Both tiers are assessed in the same manner. Students sit two written examinations at the end of Year 11. Each is worth 50% of the overall grade. Both papers allow the use of a calculator.

## Careers

Achieving a grade 5 or higher in your GCSE Mathematics is a prerequisite for many courses in sixth form and university. One of the top grades in Mathematics can lead to high level jobs in finance, data analytics, engineering, education, management, and computer science. Highly qualified mathematicians are known for their ability to solve problems and their attention to detail; this ensures that they are a very sought-after commodity in the working world.

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel

## Music (1MU0)

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### Course Overview

The Edexcel GCSE Music course focusses on three main components:

1. Performing: Students are required to perform both solo and ensemble piece.
2. Composing: Students must compose two pieces—one based on a set brief and another free composition.
3. Appraising: This component assesses students' understanding of musical elements, contexts, and language through the study of set works and unfamiliar pieces.

### IGCSE Syllabus Content

The curriculum covers four areas of study:

- Instrumental Music 1700–1820: Exploring works by composers like Bach and Beethoven.
- Vocal Music: Including pieces from Purcell and Queen.
- Music for Stage and Screen: Featuring works from 'Wicked' and 'Star Wars'.
- Fusions: Examining pieces that blend different musical traditions, such as Afro Celt Sound System and Esperanza Spalding.

### Assessment Details

- Component 1: Performing (30%): Students submit recordings of one solo and one ensemble performance, internally marked and externally moderated.
- Component 2: Composing (30%): Submission of two compositions—one to a brief and one free composition. These are internally marked and externally moderated.
- Component 3: Appraising (40%): A written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes assessing knowledge of set works and ability to analyse unfamiliar music, focusing on elements like form, instrumentation, and context.

### Careers

Studying GCSE Music can lead to various career paths, including:

- Performing as a solo artist, ensemble member, or session musician.
- Composing and arranging for films, games, theatre, or commercial music.
- Music education: Teaching in schools, colleges, or private tutoring.
- Music production and technology: Roles in recording, mixing, and sound design.
- Music therapy: Using music to support health and wellbeing.

### Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)

# Pearson Edexcel

## Physical Education (1PE0)

### Course Overview

The Edexcel GCSE Physical Education (PE) course combines practical performance with theoretical knowledge, helping students develop an understanding of physical activity, health, fitness, and performance. The course is split into two key areas: practical assessment and theoretical study.

### IGCSE Syllabus Content and Assessment

#### 1. Practical Performance (30%)

Students are assessed in three different activities (10% per sport): one team sport; one individual sport; and one additional sport (team or individual). Sports can include football, netball, athletics, badminton, swimming, dance, etc., and skills are assessed in both isolation (drills) and competitive situations.

#### 2. Theoretical Components (60%) assessed via two exams

- Paper 1: Fitness and Body Systems (36%): applied anatomy and physiology (the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems); movement analysis (levers, planes, and axes of movement); and physical training (components of fitness, principles of training, and fitness testing).
- Paper 2: Health and Performance (24%): sports psychology (skill classification, goal setting, motivation, and mental preparation); socio-cultural influences (factors affecting participation, commercialisation of sport, e.g. sponsorship and media, and ethical issues, e.g. drugs, conduct); and health, fitness and wellbeing (diet, nutrition, and the benefits of an active lifestyle).

#### 3. Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) (10%): Students design, carry out, and evaluate a Personal Exercise Programme based on their fitness and sport.

### Careers

A GCSE in PE can lead to a wide range of careers in the sports and fitness industry, including sports science, medicine and psychology; physiotherapy and sports rehabilitation; coaching, teaching and performance analysis; fitness and performance; sports journalism and media; sports event management, entertainment, marketing, international business, entrepreneurship and law; and the armed forces and emergency services.

### Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel International Physics - Modular (4XPH1)

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## Course Overview

If you really want to get under the skin of how the universe works, this subject is for you. With a strong mathematical foundation, you will enjoy learning about how and why our world works as it does.

This is a new course where students have the opportunity to sit half their GCSE in Year 10 and half in Year 11. This structured approach helps to spread the assessment load and supports ongoing learning.

## IGCSE Syllabus Content

### Year 10

1. Forces and motion
2. Electricity
3. Energy resources and energy transfer
4. Solids, liquids and gases: Part 1

### Year 11

5. Waves
6. Solids, liquids and gases: Part 2
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Radioactivity and particles
9. Astrophysics

## Assessment Details

Students will sit two exams, each lasting 1 hour and 40 minutes. The first exam will take place at the end of Year 10, and the second at the end of Year 11.

## Careers

Physics is especially helpful for jobs that involve building things and developing new technologies, including engineering (flight, buildings, space, you name it...), astronomy, robotics, renewable energies, computer science, communications, space exploration, science writing, sports and games technology, research and nanotechnology (that's engineering on a seriously tiny molecular scale).

## Link to Syllabus

[Click here](#)



# Pearson Edexcel

## Psychology (1PS0)

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### Course Overview

GCSE Psychology is a fascinating subject that explores the science behind human thoughts, emotions, and behaviour. If you've ever wondered why people behave the way they do, how memory works, or what influences our personality, this course is for you!

### IGCSE Syllabus Content

The GCSE syllabus provides the opportunity to explore some of the following:

- Memory: how we remember and forget information.
- Development: understanding early brain development and how we learn.
- Research methods: how psychologists design and conduct experiments.
- Social influence: why we conform, obey, and resist pressure.
- Brain and neuropsychology: learn about the structure and functions of the brain
- Psychological problems: understanding mental health conditions.
- Criminal psychology: explaining reasons why people become criminals.
- Sleep and dreaming: understanding why we need to sleep and why we dream.

### Assessment Details

At the end of Year 11 there are two written examination papers including multiple choice, data analysis and open response questions.

### Careers

GCSE Psychology provides a strong foundation for a range of careers that involve understanding human behaviour, critical thinking, and research skills such as: psychology and mental health (clinical psychologist, therapist, counsellor); healthcare and medicine (psychiatrist, nurse, doctor, social worker); law and criminology (criminal psychologist, lawyer, forensic scientist); education and research (teacher, or university lecturer); business and marketing (human resources (HR), consumer psychologist); and sports and performance (sports psychologist, coach, or motivational consultant).

**Link to Syllabus**  
[Click here](#)

## Cambridge IGCSE

### Spanish First Language (0502)

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#### Course Overview

The IGCSE First Language Spanish course is designed for learners whose first language is Spanish. The course enables learners to develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing; use a wide range of vocabulary, and correct grammar, spelling and punctuation; and to 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 Spanish can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language Spanish also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

#### Assessment Details

All candidates take two papers: Reading and Directed Writing and Composition. All students will be eligible for grades A\* to G.

#### Careers

A qualification in Spanish is necessary for most careers where Spanish is spoken. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, and holding an IGCSE qualification in this language is a mark of distinction highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers alike.

[Link to Syllabus](#)  
[Click here](#)

## Cambridge IGCSE

### Spanish Foreign Language (0530)

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#### Course Overview

The IGCSE course in Spanish as a Foreign Language allows the students to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies. The course also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

#### Assessment Details

All candidates take four papers: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. All students will be eligible for grades A\* to G.

#### Careers

A qualification in Spanish is necessary for most careers where Spanish is spoken. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world, and holding an IGCSE qualification in this language is a mark of distinction highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers alike.

[Link to Syllabus](#)  
[Click here](#)

## ESO - CAIB Catalan Curriculum

### Certificació ESO en Llengua Catalana

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### Course Overview

The Catalan programme is part of the Spanish National Curriculum and allows students to meet requirements set out by the Conselleria d'Educacio Balears and the Ministry of Education of Spain. It allows students to learn the Catalan Language and Humanities of the Balearic Islands through a combination of communicative and content-based teaching methods and appreciation of the unique culture of the Balearic Islands.

Once the pupils have completed Year 11 and have passed a minimum of four UK GCSE subjects and the three obligatory Spanish subjects (Lengua Castellana y Literatura, Llengua catalana i Literatura and Ciències Socials), their studies are recognised by the Spanish Education authorities as being equivalent to the Spanish Certificate of Secondary Education (ESO).

The course develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in Catalan. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and develop a personal style and awareness of the audience being addressed. Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their enjoyment and to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects.

### Assessment Details

All candidates will be evaluated on Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing skills. All students will be eligible for grades EX (Excel·lent) to IN (Insuficient).

### Careers

Catalan is an official language in the Balearic Islands and other Catalan speaking regions of Spain (Catalunya, Valencia). Catalan is required to access all state universities in the Catalan-speaking regions and is necessary to access employment opportunities in the public sector (health, politics, education, among others). Holding a qualification in this language is highly valued by employees in the private sector on the Balearic Islands.

### Link to Syllabus

[Click here for Llengua Catalana i Literatura](#) and [here for Geografia i Història](#)

# What do I do now?

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## Internal applicants

Once you have read through all of the materials in this booklet and had all the conversations you need to have, please fill out this form before 26th March. Once we have taken in your choices, we will then create option blocks from these. In the vast majority of cases we can offer every student all of their first choices. If there is a reason why your particular combination of courses proves difficult, then we will be in touch to discuss the issue further.

## External applicants

Please contact [secondary@admissions.balearesint.net](mailto:secondary@admissions.balearesint.net) and our admissions team will get back to you as soon as possible.

