

Arabic

Art and Design

Biology

Business Studies

IGCSE Business

Chemistry

Computer Science

Drama

English Language

English Literature

French

Geography

History

Mathematics

Physics

Physical Education



EL ALSSON SCHOOL

Since 1982

GCSE Options Booklet 2018

Type Of Qualification

GCSE (1-9) Art & Design: Fine Art 1FA0

Course Content

The Edexcel GCSE (1-9) 2016 Fine Art course develops students' practical and theoretical Art skills. It encourages students to look at the world from different people's perspectives. The students learn how artists interpret experiences and ideas and express them through their art. Students are assessed throughout the two years, through work produced in class and at home; work produced under controlled conditions in school; and a final 10 hour examination. Pupils are guided throughout, securing a foundation of skills at the beginning of Year 10. They work with a variety of 2D and 3D materials, methods and techniques. Alongside this practical work they study and learn from a range of artists, some of whom will visit the school.



The course comprises of two main strands:-

Component One: Coursework/personal portfolio (**worth 60% of the qualification**) Throughout year 10/11 student's work is based around a central theme. Each pupil will produce 3-4 assessed pieces exploring sculpture, paint and observation responses.

Component Two: Externally Set Assignment by Edexcel (**worth 40% of the qualification**) Within an 8-10 week period students are expected to explore the exam question/ theme externally set by Edexcel.

How the work is assessed

Edexcel Art & Design: Fine Art (1AF0 -01/02) The course is assessed by the teachers throughout both components. Students have regular formative and summative assessment in relation the course assessment objectives (AO1-4). 1:1 guidance, support and encouragement from the subject teacher is paramount. Students work is externally moderated by a visiting (Edexcel) examiner from the UK. Lastly, all GCSE Art work is exhibited at the end of Year 11 to celebrate the student's achievement over the 2 year period.

Type Of Qualification

Cambridge IGCSE Biology

Course Content

It should be noted that in El Alsson, students are only offered separate science GCSEs. This is mainly for the reason that most Egyptian universities do not recognise courses such as 'Additional Science' or 'Science' GCSEs. Despite it not being obligatory, all students in El Alsson usually opt for at least 1 or 2 of the GCSE Science courses (very often all 3!). All GCSE Science subjects are assessed in a linear fashion i.e. all external assessment takes place at the end of the two year course. There are of course, frequent assessments taking place by teachers in classrooms.

Year 10 students choosing to study Biology will be following the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) 2019 iGCSE syllabus for biology, sitting their final examinations in May/June 2020.

Biology is popular, having seen the number of students choosing the subject increase each year for the past 3 years.

Biology

Characteristics and classification of living organisms

Organisation and maintenance of the organism

Development of the organism and the continuity of life

Relationships of organisms with one another and their environment

How the work is assessed (extended papers rather than core)

Paper 2—Externally assessed — Multiple Choice Questions (30%)

Paper 4—Externally assessed — Structured Questions (50%)

Paper 6— Externally assessed — Written Alternative to Practical (20%)

Type Of Qualification

GCSE Edexcel Business Studies

Course Content

The GCSE Business Studies course examines key areas of business activity.

Unit 1, "Introduction to Small Business" covers the key issues and skills involved in enterprise. The emphasis is on starting and running small businesses. The unit provides the framework for looking at key functions within small businesses.

Unit 2, "Building a Business" expands on Unit 1. Unit 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

How the work is assessed

There is no longer a Controlled Assessment element to the course. All examinations will take place at the end of Year 11.

Units 1 and 2 are assessed by external examinations.

Unit 1 50% - 1hr 30mins Written Exam

Unit 2 50% - 1hr30mins Written Exam



Type Of Qualification

Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry

Course Content

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Year 10 students choosing to study Chemistry will be following the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) 2019 iGCSE syllabus for chemistry, sitting their final examinations in May/June 2020.

Chemistry is popular, having seen the number of students choosing the subject increase each year for the past 3 years.

Chemistry

The particulate nature of matter - Experimental techniques - Atomic structure and the Periodic Table

Stoichiometry - Chemical energetics - Rate (speed) of reaction - Redox

The characteristic properties of acids and bases - Noble gases - Properties of metals - Extraction of metals

Air and water- Organic chemistry

How the work is assessed (extended papers rather than core)

Paper 2—Externally assessed — Multiple Choice Questions

Paper 4—Externally assessed — Structured Questions

Paper 6— Externally assessed — Written Alternative to Practical

Type Of Qualification

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science

Course Content

Learners following the IGCSE Computer Science syllabus develop their understanding of the main principles of problem solving using computers.

They can apply their understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language.

Learners also develop a range of technical skills, as well as being able to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions. Studying Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science will help learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use and recognise their potential risks.

IGCSE Computer Science helps learners develop an interest in computing and gain confidence in computational thinking. It is an ideal foundation for further study at AS and A Level, and the skills learnt can also be used in other areas of study and in everyday life.

Assessment:

For IGCSE Computer Science, candidates take two components: Paper 1 and Paper 2.

Paper 1: Theory (1 hour 45 minutes)

This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. All questions are compulsory. No calculators are permitted in this paper.

75 marks—Externally assessed. 60%

Paper 2: Problem-solving and Programming (1 hour 45 minutes)

This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. All questions are compulsory.

20 of the marks for this paper are from questions set on the pre-release material 1

No calculators are permitted in this paper.

50 marks—Externally assessed. 40%



Type Of Qualification**GCSE Drama****Course Content**

The GCSE Drama course has 3 main components

Devising: 40%

Performance From Text: 20%

Exam (1.5hrs): Theatre Makers in Practice 40%

Students develop their practical skills, working as part of an ensemble as well as an individual focus. The course develops vocal and physical skills, characterization and communication with an audience, and style, genre & theatrical conventions. Students work from text, as well as exploring the techniques involved in devising original material. Alongside the practical work, students study and analyse set texts, through the eyes of a director and designer, in preparation for the final exam. Students are also expected to watch and analyse at least one live performance during the course, and this is also included in the final exam

How the work is assessed

Coursework is assessed through portfolio evidence (for devising), through live performance in front of a visiting examiner as well as videoed evidence, and through a final exam exploring the roles of director & designer with reference to the set text, and including a live theatre evaluation.



Type Of Qualification

IGCSE Edexcel Economics

Course Content

Students are required to study all four areas.

A The Market System

Demand and supply

The role of the market in solving the economic problem

The labour market

B Business Economics

Production

Competition

Public and private sectors

C Government and the Economy

Macroeconomic objectives

Policies

Relationship between objectives and policies

D The Global Economy

Globalisation

International trade

Exchange rates

How the work is assessed

100% examination. 2 exams set and marked by Edexcel.

Paper 1—1.30h, Paper 2—1.30h



Type Of Qualification

IGCSE English Literature

Course Content

The literature course requires students to study a contemporary drama text, a modern novel, a Shakespeare play and a collection of poetry. They will explore character, theme and setting in these texts and learn to analyse the ways in which writers use these tools to express their ideas. Students will be able to explore, through literature, different societies and cultures and understand the influence of literature on individuals and societies.

**How the work is assessed**

Unit 1 - examination, 2 hours, 60% of the IGCSE qualification

Section A – Analysis of unseen poetry

Section B – Comparison between two poems from the studied anthology

Section C – Analysis of a modern novel

Unit 3 – written coursework, two pieces, 40% of the IGCSE qualification

One essay responding to the contemporary drama text

One essay responding to the Shakespeare play

Type of Qualification

GCSE French

Course Overview

The GCSE French course consists of four units on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. It requires students of their knowledge of vocabulary and structures in a range of settings which are relevant and of interest to them and reflect the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken. Over the 2 years of the course they use the text book endorsed by Edexcel, Studio GCSE French Higher.

The topics covered include:

Identity and culture—Who am I, Daily life, Cultural life

Local area, holiday and travel—Holidays, Travel and Tourism, town region and country

Holidays: preferences, experiences and destinations

Travel and tourist transactions:

School—What school is like, school activities, school trips, events and exchanges

Future aspirations, study and work—Using languages beyond the classroom, Ambitions, Work

International and global dimension

Bringing the world together: sports events; music events; campaigns and good causes

Environmental issues: being 'green'; access to natural resources

How the work is assessed:

Paper 1– Listening and understanding (40 minutes) : 25%,

Paper 2– Oral (10-12 min + 12 min preparation time): 25%.

Paper 3– Reading and understanding (45 minutes): 25%,

Paper 4– writing (1h10): 25%,

Exams are conducted by El Alsson teachers. All exams take place at the end of year 11 and are marked externally.



Type Of Qualification: Cambridge IGCSE Geography

Successful Cambridge IGCSE Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including:

- An understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments;
- An understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale;
- The ability to use and understand geographical data and information;
- An understanding of how communities around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.

Topics Covered:

Theme 1—Population and Settlement = Population dynamics, Migration, Population Structure, Population density and distribution, Settlements and Service Provision, Urban Settlements and Urbanisation.

Theme 2—Natural environments = Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Rivers, Coasts, Weather , Climate and Natural vegetation.

Theme 3—Economic development and the use of resources = Development, Food Production, Industry, Tourism, Energy ,Water and the Environmental Risks of Economic Development.

Paper 1—Geographical Themes— Duration 1hr 45 min (45%)

Questions are structured with gradients of difficulty and combine resource based tasks and free response writing, both requiring place specific information. Candidates should refer to appropriate case studies to illustrate the individual themes.

Paper 1 consists of three sections each containing two questions, there are a total of six questions on the paper. Only **three** questions are to be selected, one from each of the three sections.

Paper 2—Geographical Skills—1hr 30 min (27.5%)

The paper is based on testing skills of application, interpretation and analysis of geographical information, e.g. topographical maps, other maps, diagrams, graphs, tables of data, written material, photographs and pictorial material, and on the application of graphical and other techniques as appropriate. The questions in Paper 2 do not require specific information of place and candidates must answer all questions.

Paper 4—Alternative to coursework—1hr 30 min (27.5%)

As an alternative to coursework, candidates will be set a series of tasks on this paper on issues relating to one or more of the syllabus themes (syllabus content). Questions test the methodology of questionnaires, observation, counts, measurement techniques, and will involve hypothesis testing appropriate to specific topics. The processing, presentation and analysis of data will be tested. Candidates must answer all the questions on the paper.

Type Of Qualification

IGCSE Information and Communication Technology

Course Content

Cambridge IGCSE Information and Communication Technology encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, including:

- understanding and using applications
- using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to solve problems
- designing, implementing, testing and evaluating ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose
- understanding the implications of technology in society, including social, economic and ethical uses
- awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments



Aims:

To develop knowledge of ICT including new and emerging technologies.

The autonomous and discerning use of ICT. Use skills to enhance work produced in a range of contexts skills to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems.

Use skills to consider the impact of current and new technologies on methods of working in the outside world and on social, economic, ethical and moral issues and use ICT-based solutions to solve problems.

Demonstrate the ability to recognise potential risks when using ICT, and use safe, secure and responsible practice.

Assessment:

All candidates take:

Paper 1 2 hours
Theory 40%
100 marks
Questions will be based on sections 1–21 of the subject content
All questions are compulsory
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 2 hours 30 minutes
Document Production, Data Manipulation and Presentations. 30%
80 marks
This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 17, 18 and 19 of the subject content
Candidates use knowledge-based practical skills from sections 1–16
All tasks are compulsory
Externally assessed

and:

Paper 3 2 hours 30 minutes
Data Analysis and Website Authoring 30%
80 marks
This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 20 and 21 of the subject content
Candidates use knowledge-based practical skills from sections 1–16
All tasks are compulsory
Externally assessed

Type Of Qualification
IGCSE Mathematics

Course Content

The Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics course forms an important bridge between KS3 and AS/A2, as well as providing valuable support for the Sciences, Geography, Computing and Business Studies. It develops personal thinking, learning and problem solving skills and students apply these to real life situations.

The qualification builds on the content, knowledge and skills developed in the Key Stage 3

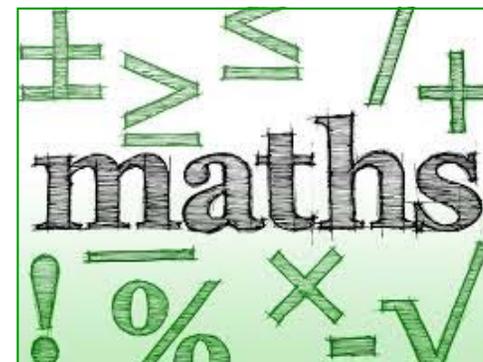
Programme of Study (ages 11–14) or international equivalences for Mathematics.

The IGCSE Mathematics course comprises of six areas of study which are all examined in two papers at the end of Year 11. These are: Numbers, Algebra, Ratio, proportion and rates of change, Geometry and measures, Statistics and Probability.

How the work is assessed

The International GCSE qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total subject mark where 9 is the highest grade. The qualification consists of two equally-weighted written examination papers. Each paper is externally assessed and carries a total of 100 marks. The examination duration for each paper is 2 hours and contributes 50% of the final grade. Calculators are allowed in both papers. The assessments are available in January and June.

- First assessment: June 2018,
- Two papers: 3H and 4H
- Questions will assume knowledge from the Foundation Tier subject content.
- Each paper will assess the full range of targeted grades at Higher Tier (9–4).
- Each paper will have approximately 40% of the marks distributed evenly over grades 4 and 5 and approximately 60% of the marks distributed evenly over grades 6, 7, 8 and 9.



Type Of Qualification

IGCSE Music

Prior learning

Learners beginning this course are expected to have as a minimum some background in practical music making.

Course Content

Listening: written examination based on CD recordings 40%

Performing: two internally marked performances 30%

Composing: two internally marked compositions 30%

How the work is assessed

The examination rewards candidates for positive achievement in the following areas:

AO1 Listening

- Aural awareness, perception and discrimination in relation to Western music.
- Identifying and commenting on a range of music from cultures in different countries.
- Knowledge and understanding of one World Focus from a non-Western culture and one Western Set Work.

AO2 Performing

- Technical competence on one or more instruments.
- Interpretative understanding of the music performed.

AO3 Composing

- Discrimination and imagination in free composition.
- Notation, using staff notation and, if appropriate, other suitable systems.



Type Of Qualification

Cambridge IGCSE Physics

Course Content

Year 10 students choosing to study Physics will be following the Cambridge iGCSE syllabus.

The course is delivered over two years. In Year 10, students build on their understanding of physical phenomena developed at Key Stage 3. Many of the topics will be familiar to them, but in greater depth; others will be entirely new.

Physics is an excellent means by which to develop an understanding of the world around us. It breaks things down in to both simple and more complex formulae and allows us to predict behavior of moving objects, the flow of energy and heat, how energy travels as a wave, how electricity behaves in circuits and also how it is generated and used, and also about the structure of the atom and nuclear physics.

Physics is an excellent choice for anyone who may be considering a career in engineering or architecture but it is also of great benefit to potential medical students given the nature of modern medicine which includes optics and medical imaging. It has also been recognize in a number of fields that a student who performs well in physics is able to use models and formulae in a way that has great benefits in other areas such as economics and business.

Students who preform well at IGCSE Levels have an excellent grounding to allow further study at AS and A2.

Physics is a challenging and worthwhile choice and is highly valued as a qualification by all higher education establishments.

Physics sub-topics

General Physics/Thermal Physics/Properties of waves, including light and sounds/

Electricity and Electro Magnetism/Atomic Physics

Electronics

How the work is assessed (extended papers rather than core)

Paper 2— Multiple Choice, Externally assessed (30%)

Paper 4— Extended Theory, Externally assessed (50%)

Paper 6— Alternative to Practical, Externally assessed (20%)