



BRIGHTON COLLEGE  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
BANGKOK

# IGCSE CHOICES 2020



**BRIGHTON COLLEGE BANGKOK**  
*A member of the Brighton College family of schools*

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# IGCSE OPTIONS 2020

## The Year 10 and 11 IGCSE Course

The curriculum in Years 10 and 11 builds on topics studied during Year 9. In some subjects, pupils have already completed work towards the IGCSE syllabus and, in others, they have developed skills required to begin the course in Year 10. In addition to the Core Curriculum followed by all Brighton College Bangkok pupils in Years 10 and 11, there is the opportunity to choose option subjects. We are, therefore, able to design a curriculum that reflects pupils' particular strengths and interests. We offer advice on choices but there may also be practical considerations during the process, such as the number of pupils who opt for subjects and whether or not we can physically timetable the combinations of choices. However, wherever possible, pupils' choices are accommodated.

## The Core Curriculum

All pupils study a group of subjects that ensures a rigorous set of transferable skills and knowledge. This is very much in keeping with best practice in schools that offer an IGCSE curriculum. These subjects are:

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

In accordance with Ministry of Education regulations, all Thai nationals are required to study Thai. All pupils in Years 10 and 11 follow core Physical Education and Wellbeing programmes in order to promote regular exercise and a healthy, happy lifestyle. (Note: the core Physical Education course is separate from the IGCSE Physical Education option and does not result in a qualification.)

## IGCSE Subject Options

In addition to the core subjects listed above, pupils choose four additional subjects (three for Thai nationals) from the following options:

- Art and Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mandarin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

These choices provide sufficient range for pupils to be able to pursue a curriculum that is both useful and interesting, whilst providing suitable breadth and academic rigour. Guidance on choices is provided overleaf.



# CHOOSING OPTIONS

When choosing subjects to complement the core curriculum, it is important to consider a variety of factors, both educational and practical. Consequently, it is likely that, in making choices, it may be necessary to make certain compromises. It is also important to make choices as early as possible, as this gives us time to try to adjust the timetable to accommodate the subjects chosen. Once the timetable has been written, it may still be possible to make changes but choices are likely to be more restricted at this stage. Please consider the following key points:

## Breadth of Education

At this early stage of their education, it is important that pupils continue to develop the widest possible range of skills and keep as many options open for their future education and careers as possible. It is for this reason that our recommendation, unless there are strong reasons otherwise, is to include one subject from the humanities (Business, Economics, Geography and History), one language (Thai, Mandarin, French and Spanish), one creative subject (Art, Drama and Music) and one more applied subject (Computer Science, Design & Technology and Physical Education). The exception is for pupils with a particular interest or area of strength, for example languages, who may wish to skew their choices in that direction.

## Strengths

It is important that pupils' choices prepare them to succeed in their IGCSEs and obtain the best possible set of qualifications. For the majority of the subject options, pupils have already experienced work at IGCSE level or close to it. As such, we suggest they try to choose those subjects they are best at and try to avoid those they have struggled with in the past.

## Interests

Pupils study these subjects for the next two years and are likely to enjoy the experience much more, and be more willing to work with greater endeavour, if they have an interest in the subjects they are studying.

## Usefulness

Some pupils already have an idea of the subjects they wish to study at A Level and university, and even the kind of career they may want to go into. If this is the case, it is particularly important to make sure the subjects chosen now do not preclude these possibilities in the future. For example, if pupils want to study History or Geography at A Level, they need the corresponding IGCSE. Similarly, those wishing to study languages at a higher level will find it useful to study more than one language at IGCSE. However, it is not necessary to have IGCSE Economics in order to study the subject at A Level.

Choosing options may seem a daunting prospect and it is important to get help and advice. Discuss things with parents, Tutors and current teachers. Please feel free to contact Dr. Julie Cocker and members of the Senior Leadership Team if you need any help and advice before making any decisions.



## CORE SUBJECTS

### English Language and English Literature

In Years 10 and 11, English is taught as an integrated course of language and literature, leading to examination entry in both areas, that is two separate IGCSE certificates. Pupils currently follow the Edexcel First Language English Specification A and the Edexcel IGCSE English Literature specification.

The study of English Language and English Literature allows pupils to develop their ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively whilst also promoting intellectual curiosity. They are encouraged to explore a wide range of issues and topics, promoting a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

During the course, pupils read a wide range of texts, developing their understanding and ability to read critically. Over the two years, pupils study a complete Shakespeare play, a variety of poetry from the literary tradition and modern age, a modern play and a modern novel, as well as becoming familiar with a variety of non-fiction texts. Debate and discussion play an important part in lessons as pupils acquire an understanding of how texts work and how we respond to them.

In conjunction with reading the set texts, pupils are actively encouraged to develop their writing skills. They acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language. Pupils develop their ability to write effectively using Standard English appropriately and with correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.

In order to succeed in both language and literature, pupils need to show proficiency in all aspects of personal writing, develop sound comprehension skills, and respond imaginatively and critically to aspects and contexts of literature.

### ESL IGCSE

As Brighton College grows, we are adding more courses that allow us to tailor our instruction to meet each of our pupils' needs. This year, we are also offering the English as a Second Language (ESL) IGCSE designed specifically for pupils whose first language is not English. The ESL IGCSE increases pupils' academic English, focusing on reading and writing about personal, social, academic, and vocational texts, benefiting future career and Further Education choices.

### Mathematics

An essential subject for all pupils, Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill and as a basis for more advanced study. The syllabus builds pupils' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Pupils also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

For high ability pupils who have achieved, or are likely to achieve, grade A\* or A in the IGCSE Mathematics examination, Edexcel IGCSE Further Pure Mathematics enables pupils to extend the mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics course and use skills in the context of more advanced techniques. The syllabus contains Pure Mathematics only, enabling pupils to acquire a suitable foundation in mathematics for further study in the subject.

## The Sciences

Science at IGCSE is taught as three distinct subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) by specialist teachers. Each results in the awarding of a full IGCSE qualification. The Edexcel IGCSE Science syllabi help pupils understand the technical world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. They learn about the basic principles of Biology, Chemistry and Physics through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Pupils develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level - skills that are also useful in everyday life.

As they progress, pupils gain an understanding of how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

Pupils may be entered for either the Triple Award at the end of Year 11 or the Dual Award. This decision is made in consultation with parents and pupils as the course progresses, and aims to ensure the best possible grades are achieved by each pupil.

## Thai (First Language)

The Cambridge IGCSE First Language Thai course is for pupils whose first language is Thai. The syllabus develops pupils' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. Pupils learn how to employ wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and awareness of the audience being addressed.

Pupils are encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and in order to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.



# OPTION SUBJECTS

## Art and Design

The Edexcel IGCSE Art and Design syllabus enable us to offer pupils the opportunity to study either Art and Design or Photography. It encourages a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Pupils gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills whether in drawing, painting, Photoshop or composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual forms. Successful pupils demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary art and design or photography practice, and produce artwork that embraces a range of ideas. IGCSE Art and Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

In addition to developing a range of technical skills, the Art and Design course enables pupils to explore and develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. Work produced for the qualification demonstrates the use of formal elements and creative skills, and gives form to individual thoughts, feelings, first-hand observations and ideas. Pupils show evidence of trying to extend their own way of seeing the world and that of others. They use the language of the subject sensitively and thoughtfully to support their intentions, using a variety of media and techniques.

## Business

The IGCSE Business course develops pupils' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Pupils develop an understanding of business concepts and techniques across a range of different types of businesses. The course covers the different forms of business organisations; the environments in which businesses operate; and various business functions such as marketing, operations and finance. Pupils also develop an understanding of the crucial role of people in business success. Throughout the course, pupils develop transferable skills valued by universities and employers: the ability to calculate and interpret business data; the communication skills required to deliver reasoned arguments; and the ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements.

Pupils study business concepts and techniques as well as improving related skills such as numeracy and enquiry. The syllabus provides the foundation for further study at A Level and is ideal preparation for the world of work.

## Computer Science

Computational thinking skills and critical thinking have been listed in the top ten skills needed by employers in a recent survey by the World Economic Forum. There is currently a skills shortage in Computer Science and high demand for people who can create the digital tools we have all come to depend on, rather than simply use them. As well as being an exciting and innovative subject, Computer Science leads to a wide range of employment opportunities.

Computer Science gives pupils the opportunity to be creative in ways not possible in other fields of study. They can create and publish things for the whole world to see. Pupils can modify existing structures to suit their needs. They can create something nobody has ever thought of and develop a greater understanding of the digital world around us.

Pupils following the Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science syllabus develop their understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science - abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation – in order to become competent computational thinkers. Pupils analyse problems in computational terms through the practical

experience of solving problems, including designing, writing and debugging programmes. Studying IGCSE Computer Science helps pupils appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, such as artificial intelligence and automation, and analyse the benefits of their use and impact on society, including their potential risks.

IGCSE Computer Science helps learners think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically, all crucial skills for the 21st century. It is an ideal foundation for further study at A Level, and the skills learned can also be used in other areas of study and everyday life.

## Dance

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject that encourages pupils to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience of the subject. The AQA IGCSE Dance specification recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and pupils study a range of dance styles and style fusions. Apart from the solo performance, they can choose any style in which to perform and choreograph, providing it meets the assessment criteria.

The course focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the symbolic use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through the interrelated processes of performance, choreography and appreciation. Dance is a powerful and empowering form of non-verbal communication and is both physical and expressive, which makes it similar to and different from other art forms and physical activities.

In addition to the practical element of the course (which constitutes 60% of the IGCSE) pupils study an anthology of professional works that develops their ability to critically appraise professional dance works and provides a springboard for engaging in practical tasks.

## Design & Technology

The Cambridge IGCSE Design & Technology syllabus enables pupils to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools. As a result, pupils gain greater technical and design awareness, whilst developing skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity. They also develop the communication skills central to design making and evaluation. Design & Technology is a subject that enables pupils to draw on the skills and knowledge developed in other subject areas, such as Mathematics and Physics, and use them to solve 21st century problems. The IGCSE provides an ideal basis for further study, and prepares pupils for their future in a rapidly changing technological society.

## Drama

Through practical and theoretical study, pupils develop an understanding and enjoyment of drama, developing group and individual skills and studying ways to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience. They learn how to discover the performance possibilities of a text and other stimuli, and devise dramatic material of their own. Pupils also develop their performance skills, the demonstration of which forms part of the final assessment. Cambridge IGCSE Drama enables pupils to develop their confidence and communication and analytical skills in addition to nurturing a sense of creativity, all of which are invaluable for Higher Education and beyond. In addition to promoting involvement in drama and theatre, pupils have the opportunity to study and analyse texts in order to provide greater insight and enable them to be more informed and appreciative audience members.

## French

The Edexcel IGCSE syllabus is designed for pupils who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as pupils progress through their studies. The syllabus also offers insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where French is

spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards both language learning and speakers of foreign languages.

A language spoken by 220 million people on five continents, French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and the international courts. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium and continental Africa). Perhaps the best reason for studying French, however, is the culture. French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. Furthermore, it is the language of Victor Hugo, Molière, Edith Piaf, Alain Delon and Zinedine Zidane. IGCSE French at Brighton College enables you to experience the pleasure of learning a beautiful, rich and melodious language.

## Geography

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, pupils develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. They examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes that affected their development. They also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world. The study of geography helps pupils develop an understanding of the physical and human world, covering areas as diverse as landscapes, plate tectonics, inequalities and economic development, global climate change, migration, agriculture, environmental degradation and social cohesion. Geography is the perfect bridge between the Arts and the Sciences in that, to excel, it requires pupils to be both literate and numerate, to debate and analyse, to describe, represent and report, and to develop an in-depth understanding of crucial contemporary issues. Geography appeals to those pupils who are curious and open-minded, to those who wish to discover the world beyond their

current home, and to those who wish to get out and explore, both literally and metaphorically. All IGCSE Geography pupils are required to complete fieldwork on which their coursework is based. There will be a charge associated with this (approximately 10,000 THB).

## History

The Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and the skills required for historical research. Pupils develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, and similarity and difference, and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History stimulates any pupil already interested in the past, provides a basis for further study, and encourages a lifelong interest in the subject. Developing an understanding of past events and eras that have shaped and crafted our world is both fascinating and thought-provoking for pupils. The study of history helps pupils develop a wide range of transferable skills, including excellent communication and writing skills, the ability to construct and unpick an argument, investigative and problem solving skills, and analytical and interpretation skills. Learning about the past and the people who have influenced it also helps pupils to set the contemporary world in context, allowing them to question, understand and predict how it may develop in the future.

## Mandarin

The Cambridge IGCSE syllabus is designed for pupils who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as pupils progress through their studies. The syllabus also offers insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where Mandarin Chinese is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards both language learning and speakers of foreign languages.

The need to learn Chinese is driven by economic and political demands around the world. With increased international trade and cultural

exchange, learning Chinese as a second language is becoming more popular and even essential. The ability to speak Chinese, together with an understanding of Chinese culture, creates many more opportunities in the field of work. Furthermore, it helps prepare for a future in which China will continue to play an important role.

We also offer the Cambridge IGCSE Mandarin (First Language).

## Music

The Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus requires pupils to listen to, perform and compose music, and encourages aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, pupils develop their appreciation and love of music, an outcome that forms the ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment. Pupils study music of all styles, with each style placed in its historical and cultural context, and they are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive and critical when listening. Although the majority of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is also represented. Performance forms an important part of the syllabus and pupils have the opportunity to perform both solo and as an ensemble. In preparation for the listening exam, pupils study and analyse a wide variety of music. Performing and composing music takes the form of coursework, allowing time to prepare and refine work. To take IGCSE Music, it is essential to play an instrument or sing to a minimum of Grade 4 standard. It is also essential to possess theoretical music skills and being able to read music is highly advantageous.



## Physical Education

The Cambridge IGCSE Physical Education syllabus provides pupils with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing pupils with the opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. This helps pupils develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and wellbeing. IGCSE PE is a great choice for all pupils who are passionate about sports performance, health, psychology, physiology and biomechanics. It is essential that young adults understand how to lead a healthy, active lifestyle and how to get the most from their body, and IGCSE PE gives each pupil a clear perspective on this. It offers a unique opportunity to combine a range of subjects (Biology, Mathematics, English, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and History) within the key focus of sport. Much of the learning is done practically and pupils carry out experiments, complete training programmes, and train in a number of different sports. The course covers two key areas: health and the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle; and sports performance - what makes a top athlete? The course is examined both practically and theoretically, and pupils are expected to train and compete in at least four different sports during curriculum time, after school and at weekends in order to improve their performance and skills.

## Spanish

The Edexcel IGCSE syllabus is designed for pupils who are learning Spanish 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 pupils progress through their studies. The syllabus also offers insight into the culture and civilisation of countries where the language is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards both language learning and speakers of foreign languages.

Spanish is the third most spoken language in the world and the most spoken language in

the Americas. It is the official language in 22 countries and the second most spoken language in the United States. As such, speaking this language makes pupils hugely employable and enables them to conduct business with Spanish or Latin American firms, improving career prospects significantly. Spanish combines well with other university subjects such as Law, Business, Economics, Journalism and Politics to name just a few. Spanish is the most 'fun' language to learn - sing along and dance to music such as Spanish Flamenco, Argentinian Tango, and Puerto Rican Salsa; experience real passion by watching 'telenovelas' and news in Spanish; explore magical literature through Cervantes, Garcia Marquez and Allende; and connect through artists and architects such as Frida Khalo and Gaudi. The IGCSE Spanish course allows pupils to experience the flavours and rhythms of the infamous Hispanic passion.





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