



King's College  
DOHA

# GCSE Options

2024 - 2026

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## Why study GCSE Qualifications at King's?

Rooted in over 140 years of heritage, King's College Doha is a community in which academic excellence is admired and individuality is celebrated. We seek to develop young people who embrace what we call The King's Identity: confidence, creativity, commitment, care for others and curiosity.

In the Senior School, we expect your child to do well, and the expectations are high, but they are set appropriately for each pupil as we want your child's

education to be fun and enjoyable. That is why we provide a huge range of opportunities for development outside the classroom to support our challenging and inspiring academic education, which culminates in pupils sitting GCSE and A-level examinations in readiness for their attendance at world-class universities.

At King's, we continue to value emotional and social development as much as academic and intellectual

development. We take pride in knowing each child as an individual, stretching them, encouraging them and appreciating them for every contribution they make to our school community. Characteristics such as kindness towards one's peers and commitment through adversity are developed just as much as creative, academic or sporting prowess.

We believe that our rounded approach, inspired by our famous sister school in the UK, is what will make

a difference to your child's life journey, both within and beyond the classroom, as we aspire to become a standard-setting British school in the Middle East.



# What are My Choices?

Your child has now reached an exciting point in his or her educational path, with the opportunity to start to focus more closely on the disciplines that they find most interesting and enjoyable.

GCSE provision at King's follows a broad and balanced programme. The GCSE qualifications comprise of a series of public examinations to be completed at the age of 16. IGCSEs are the international adaptations of these qualifications and carry the same significance with educational institutions worldwide, but may differ in content, approach or style of assessment. We have selected the best possible courses for King's pupils; some are GCSE qualifications and others are IGCSEs.

The information within this booklet will give you an idea of what each subject entails, how each one will be assessed and the potential degrees and careers that will be available if you choose to study the various subjects on offer. Pupils should also speak to their teachers to ask their opinion of them taking these subjects at GCSE level. Subject selections are structured to ensure that pupils



study a range of subjects to provide a strong foundation for the A-level choices they will make and study in Years 12 and 13.

The **Gold** subjects in the diagram below make up the core and all pupils must study these. They are accompanied by non-examined courses in the centre of the circle. The optional subjects are shown in **Blue**.

**In the centre:** PE core/PSHE/Study Skills/Islamic Studies (for Muslim pupils)

**Gold:** English Literature/English Language/Mathematics/ Biology, Chemistry, Physics/Arabic (for Arabic passport holders)

**Blue:** Arabic/Biology/Chemistry/Physics/Computer Science/French/Spanish/ICT/Art and Design/Geography/ History/Music/Physical Education/Drama/Business Studies/Psychology/Design and Technology/Engineering



# Making the Right Choices

Some pupils may find it difficult to choose their optional subjects and others will find it simpler. Pupils should make sure that they discuss their options and make solid academic decisions. For example, choosing a subject because your friend has opted for it, or because you like the current teacher, is not a good reason. If your child knows what they want to aim to study at university they should make sure that they are taking subjects that will support them in their future degree and career aspirations. If your child is less certain of what the future holds, we would recommend that they opt for a range of subjects to develop a variety of skills. It is also important that they are good at the subjects they choose and that they will enjoy them too.

The Head of Senior School, Mrs Jackson, and the Head of Upper School (Years 9-11), Mr Walton, are available to offer academic counselling to your child about their proposed subject combinations or the breadth of choices on offer. Please contact them at [katejackson@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:katejackson@kingscollegedoha.com) and [davidwalton@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:davidwalton@kingscollegedoha.com) for further details.

Most pupils study for eight-to-ten GCSE qualifications in Year 11, three of which are English Literature, English Language and Mathematics. The science subjects make up a further three qualifications, but pupils do have the option to study two of these depending on their preferences.

## The option blocks

In order to ensure that all pupils have the best opportunity to study their favourite subjects whilst following a broad and balanced curriculum, we have created the option blocks below. Each pupil will be required to choose one subject from each block:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Biology	Physics	Physical Education
ICT	Spanish	Chemistry	History	Business Studies	History
Geography	Business Studies	Engineering	Art	Psychology	Geography
Music	French	Drama	Computer Science	Physical Education	Arabic



## GCSE /IGCSE Assessment

In some subjects, the final grade is achieved solely by sitting written examinations, whereas others use a combination of written examinations and coursework completed during the two years of study. Coursework demands vary between subjects. Pupils are awarded levels on the 9-1 scale (9 being the highest, 1 being the lowest). Levels 9-4 are considered pass grades. The examinations boards that King's are registered with are:

- Edexcel - Pearson Qualifications - [qualifications.pearson.com](http://pearson.com)
- CIE - Cambridge International Examinations - [cie.org.uk](http://cie.org.uk)

Additional information about subject specifications can be viewed on the websites listed above or by using the link on each subject page.



## Examination Fees

Examination fees are payable upon confirmation of the examinations being taken by the pupil. Parents will be invoiced by the school (as an additional component of the school fee invoice) in Term 3 in Year 11. The fee is

currently QAR 500 per subject. Variation in fee structure is dependent on the nature of the course and is controlled by the examining body.



## Science

At King's we deliver the separate sciences, which enables pupils to achieve an individual grade in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The separate science courses cover more material and do so in a more rigorous manner than the combined course, and so provide

better preparation for pupils who wish to study any of the sciences at A-level. Should your child only wish to only study two out of the three sciences, this is also an option. Our Science teachers will advise your child on the best pathway on an individual basis.



## Arabic and Islamic Studies

Arabic A is provided for pupils with a registered GCC and Arabic passport. This is a compulsory course in Qatar and follows an IGCSE curriculum. Pupils who follow this programme can complete an IGCSE in Arabic at any time up to Year 12. Islamic Studies also forms part of our curriculum and is studied by those pupils who are of Muslim faith. There is an optional examination in this subject at the end of Year 11 or Year 12.

Arabic B (Non-Native) is provided for pupils with non-GCC or Arabic passports and is not compulsory. This course will continue throughout Year 11 for those pupils who select this as an option, allowing them an opportunity to complete an IGCSE qualification in Arabic. Pupils may wish to opt to no longer study Arabic if they are not a GCC or Arabic passport holder and instead can choose French, Spanish or simply opt to no longer study an additional language.



## Access Arrangements

The purpose of access arrangements is to remove barriers that may prevent pupils with specific needs reaching their full potential. Examination boards must authorise individual access arrangement applications where a pupil meets their specific criteria. Examples of the arrangements available include extended time, a scribe, a prompt, or rest breaks. The Learning Support Department monitors the needs of pupils on an individual basis and contacts parents if a pupil is entitled to access

arrangements. We can run an adapted curriculum to accommodate the time to support these pupils if it is appropriate for them. To fit this, one of the option choices is used for a programme of Directed Studies, which is different for each pupil. This is considered on an individual basis and should be discussed with the Head of Learning Support, Mrs Dolinsek ([dariadolinkse@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:dariadolinkse@kingscollegedoha.com)).



# King's College Mentoring Programme

To support the transition into the GCSE curriculum in Year 10, your child's Year 9 Form Tutor is there to guide and provide additional support for their academic and pastoral needs. Their mentoring meetings follow a programme devised by the Head of Year to support pupils in their academic progress as well as mirroring the Life Skills programme as your child navigates the teenage years.



## Academic Tracking & Intervention

During Year 9, pupils will continue to complete end-of-topic tests and end-of-term assessments. In addition to these, the CAT4 and GL Progress Tests in English, Mathematics and Science will take place. These assessments will provide a suggested GCSE grade for pupils and teachers to work towards. Parent consultation events take place in Terms 1 and 2 and, in these meetings, progress is discussed to provide a steer towards the most appropriate GCSE courses to follow.

Interventions will also take place where a pupil has gaps in his or her knowledge or may need extra challenge to reach the best possible academic outcomes.

The aforementioned mentoring programme will also provide support and guidance for pupils and so will contribute to them attaining their potential academically and pastorally.

We pride ourselves in taking the academic journey of each pupil very seriously and tailor support and guidance to the needs of everyone. Creating a personalised programme for each pupil promotes the best possible academic outcomes for all.



# New GCSE Grading

A mentor supports their mentees not only in their academic work, but also in their social and co-curricular activities by helping them to ensure that they are making the best of the numerous opportunities on offer at King's.

### NEW GRADING STRUCTURE

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

U

### OLD GRADING STRUCTURE

A\*

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

U

The new **grade 9** represents a new level of attainment and has been introduced to differentiate your top performing pupils.

The bottom of the **grade 7** aligns with the bottom of the grade A.

There's greater differentiation in the middle of the scale, with grade **6**, **5** and **4** being equivalent to the old grades B and C.

The bottom of the grade **4** aligns with the bottom of the grade C.

The bottom of the grade **1** aligns with the bottom of the grade G.



# The learning journey at King's

## **University (Aged 18+)**

Pupils apply to a university to specialise in 1 subject and typically gain a degree after 3 years of studying

## **6<sup>th</sup> Form-A-Levels (Years 12-13)**

Pupils select 3 (or 4) subjects to study for 2 years

English/Maths/Biology/Chemistry/Physics /French/Spanish/Computing/Art and Design/ Geography/History/Business studies/ICT/Psychology/Photography/Global perspectives and Thinking skills

## **Senior School (Years 9-11)**

In Year 10 pupils study 3 options from the subjects below in addition to the core GCSE subjects

Arabic/Biology/Chemistry/Physics/Computer Science/French/Spanish/ICT/Art and Design/Geography/History/Music/Physical Education/Drama/Business Studies/Psychology/Design & Technology/Engineering

## **Prep (Years 5-8)**

Specialist Teaching

English/Maths/Science/ Arabic/Islamic Studies/Qatar History /Computing/Art & Design/ French/Geography/History/Music/PE/Drama/PSHE/Design technology

## **Pre-Prep (Years 1-4)**

Years 1-4 National Curriculum

English/Maths/Science/ Arabic/ Islamic Studies/Qatar History/Computing/Art & Design/French/Geography/History/Music/PE/PSHE

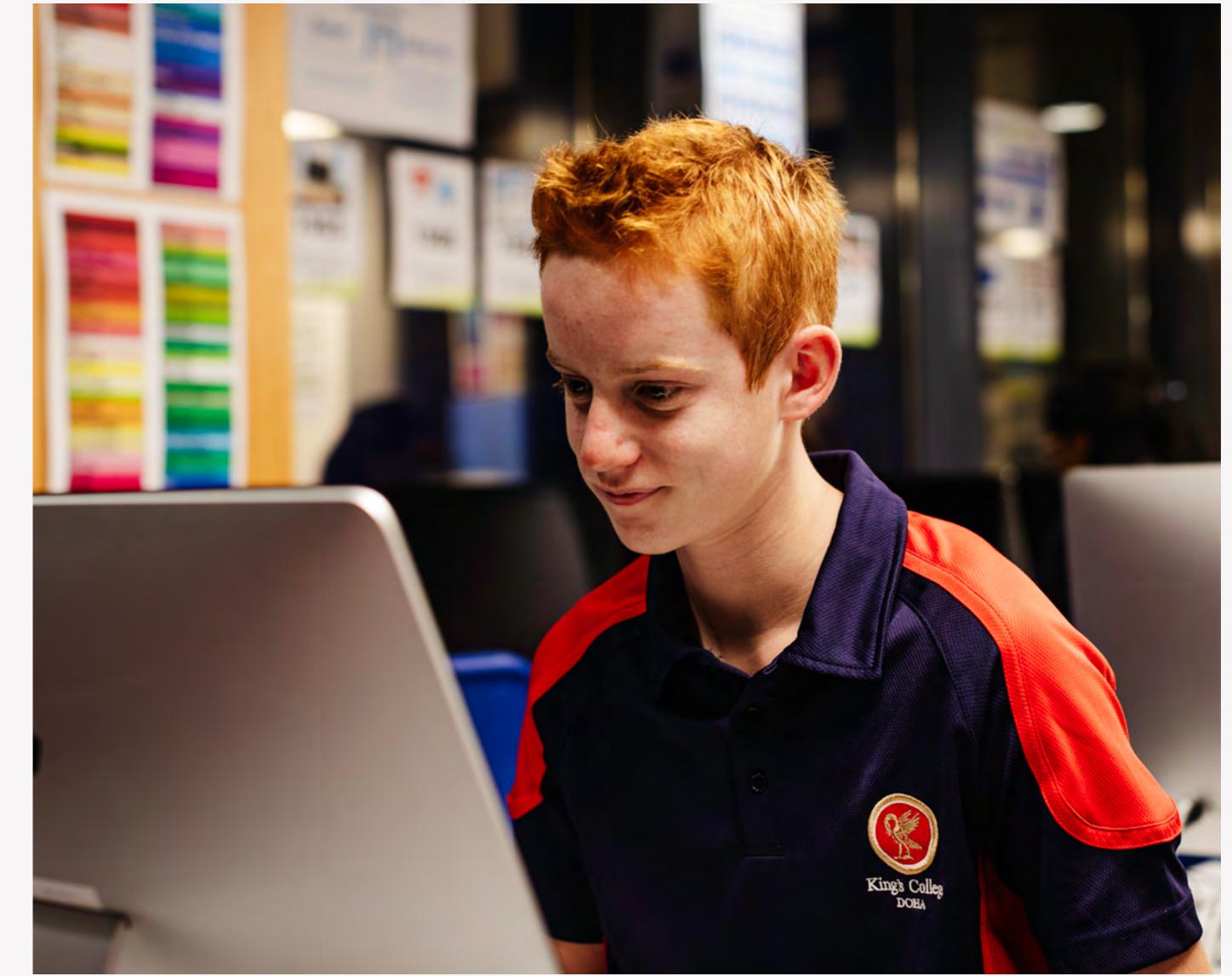
## **EYFS (Pre-school and Reception)**

Pre-school and Reception work towards the Early Learning Goals (ELG)

Communication and Language/Personal, Social, Emotional Development/Physical development/Literacy/Mathematics/Understanding the world/ Expressive art and design



# Core GCSE Subjects



## English Literature

Exam board – Edexcel – [English Literature Specification](#)

### What will I study?

- Of Mice and Men (novella)
- Studied and Unstudied Poetry
- An Inspector Calls (Coursework)
- Macbeth (Coursework)

### Why should I study English Literature?

Studying English Literature will help pupils develop the ability to think critically and creatively, to express themselves with confidence and coherence, and to combine deep understanding with personal engagement in their responses to literature. The course is designed to promote excellent achievement within the skill areas of reading and writing. As a result of their analysis of a variety of stimulating texts, our pupils develop a critical understanding of how meaning is shaped both in works from the literary heritage of diverse cultures, and in non-fiction. It will also support cross-curricular achievement and provide an excellent skills base for lifelong learning.

## How will pupils be assessed?

### Assessment objectives and weightings

		% in International GCSE
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate a close knowledge and understanding of texts, maintaining a critical style and presenting an informed personal engagement.	30
<b>AO2</b>	Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects.	40
<b>AO3</b>	Explore links and connections between texts.	10
<b>AO4</b>	Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.	20

<b>Component 1: Poetry and Modern Prose</b>	<b>*Paper code 4ET1/01</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Externally assessed</li> <li>◦ Availability: January and June</li> <li>◦ First assessment: June 2018</li> </ul>	60% of the total International GCSE
<p><b>Content summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The <b>poetry collection</b> from Part 3 of the <i>Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology</i>.</li> <li>◦ One <b>modern prose</b> text from the list of set texts (page 8).</li> <li>◦ Develop skills to analyse unseen poetry.</li> <li>◦ Develop skills to analyse how language, form, structure and contextual factors can be used to create meanings and effects.</li> <li>◦ Develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response.</li> <li>◦ Develop comparison skills.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Section A – Unseen Poetry: one 20-mark essay question exploring the meaning and effects created in an unseen poem. The poem will be reproduced in the question paper.</li> <li>◦ Section B – Anthology Poetry: one 30-mark essay question from a choice of two, comparing two poems from Part 3 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.</li> <li>◦ Section C – Modern Prose: one 40-mark essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts.</li> <li>◦ The total number of marks available is 90.</li> <li>◦ The assessment duration is 2 hours.</li> <li>◦ Closed book: texts are not allowed in the examination. However, pupils will be provided with the anthology poems in the examination.</li> </ul>	

\*See Appendix 1: Codes for a description of this code and all the other codes relevant to this qualification.

### Pupils must complete either Component 2 or Component 3.

<b>Component 2: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts</b>	<b>*Paper code 4ET1/02</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Externally assessed</li> <li>◦ Availability: January and June</li> <li>◦ First assessment: June 2018</li> </ul>	40% of the total International GCSE
<p><b>Content summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ One <b>modern drama text</b> from the list of set texts (page 8).</li> <li>◦ One <b>literary heritage text</b> from the list of set texts (page 8).**</li> <li>◦ Develop skills to analyse how language, form, structure and contextual factors can be used to create meaning and effect.</li> <li>◦ Develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Section A – Modern Drama: one 30-mark essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts.</li> <li>◦ Section B – Literary Heritage Texts: one 30-mark essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts.</li> <li>◦ The total number marks available is 1 hour and 30 minutes.</li> <li>◦ Open book: prescribed editions of set texts are allowed in the examination.</li> </ul>	

\*See Appendix 1: Codes for a description of this code and all the other codes relevant to this qualification.

<b>Paper 3: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts</b>	<b>*Paper code 4ET1/03</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Externally assessed</li> <li>◦ Availability: January and June</li> <li>◦ First assessment: June 2018</li> </ul>	40% of the total International GCSE
<p><b>Content summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ One <b>modern drama text</b> from the list of set texts (page 8).</li> <li>◦ One <b>literary heritage text</b> from the list of set texts (page 8).**</li> <li>◦ Develop skills to analyse how language, form, structure and contextual factors can be used to create meaning and effect.</li> <li>◦ Develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The assessment of this component is through two coursework assignments, internally set and assessed, and externally moderated by Pearson.</li> <li>◦ Assignment A – Modern Drama: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the studied text.</li> <li>◦ Assignment B – Literary Heritage Texts: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the studied text.</li> <li>◦ The total number of marks available is 60 (30 marks for each assignment).</li> </ul>	

## Nature of assessment

### Examined Assessment (60%)

Section A – Unseen Poetry: one 20-mark essay question exploring the meaning and effects created in an unseen poem.

Section B – Anthology Poetry: one 30-mark question from a choice of two questions. Pupils will compare two poems from Part 3 of the Pearson Edexcel International IGCSE English Anthology.

Section C - Modern Prose: one 40-mark essay question based on the novella 'Of Mice and Men'.

The examination is two hours long and is a closed book exam, meaning that pupils will not be given the novella in the exam.

## What skills will pupils develop?

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable pupils to:

- engage with and develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world.
- develop an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve their literary effects.
- to develop the skills needed for literary study.
- explore, through literature, the cultures of their own and other societies.
- find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study?

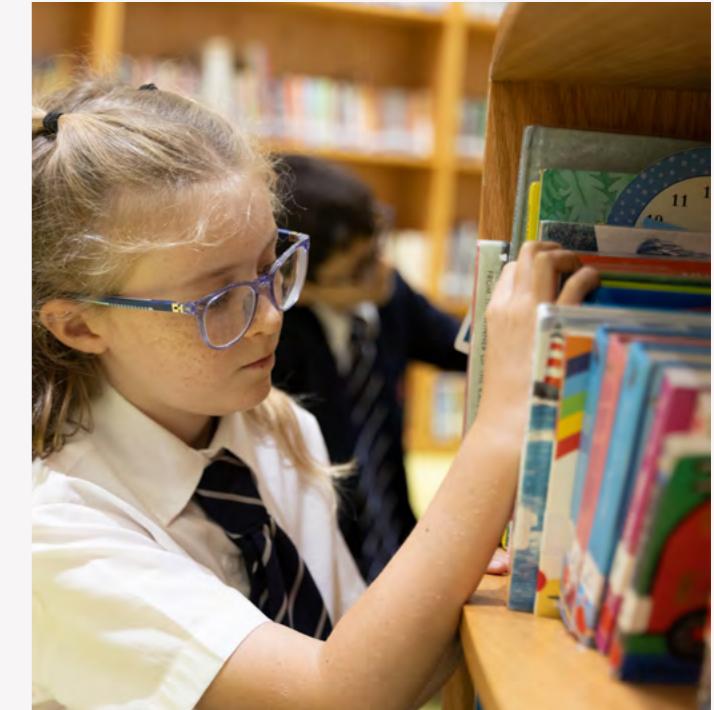
English Literature will provide an excellent grounding for any arts or humanities-based degree. Literature will complement further studies in higher education courses such as literature, philosophy and law, while Language and Literature lend themselves well to media and journalism.

## Component 2 and Component 3 Section A

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology

### Part 2: Poetry and Prose Texts

<i>Disabled</i>	Wilfred Owen
<i>'Out, Out-'</i>	Robert Frost
<i>An Unknown Girl</i>	Moniza Alvi
<i>The Bright Lights of Sarajevo</i>	Tony Harrison
<i>Still I Rise</i>	Maya Angelou
<i>The Story of an Hour</i>	Kate Chopin
<i>The Necklace</i>	Guy de Maupassant
<i>Significant Cigarettes (from The Road Home)</i>	Rose Tremain
<i>Whistle and I'll Come to You (from The Woman in Black)</i>	Susan Hill
<i>Night</i>	Alice Munro



## How will pupils be assessed?

### Assessment objectives and weightings

### Pupils must complete either Component 2 or Component 3.

Component: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing	*Paper code 4EA1/02
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Externally assessed</li><li>Availability: January and June</li><li>First assessment: June 2018</li></ul>	40% of the total International GCSE
<b>Content summary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <b>poetry and prose texts</b> from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.</li><li>Develop skills to analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects.</li><li>Develop imaginative writing skills to engage the reader.</li><li>Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately.</li></ul>	
<b>Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Section A: Reading: one 30-mark essay question on a poetry or prose text from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.</li><li>Section B: Imaginative Writing – one 30-mark imaginative writing task from a choice of three.</li><li>The total number of marks available is 60.</li><li>The assessment duration is 1 hour and 30 minutes.</li><li>Pupils will be provided with the anthology text in the examination.</li></ul>	

# English Language

**Exam board:** Edexcel IGCSE English Language - [English Language A Specification](#)

## Why should I study English Language?

Studying English Language will help pupils develop the ability to think critically and creatively, to express themselves with confidence and coherence, and to combine deep understanding with personal engagement in their responses to language. The course is designed to promote excellent achievement within the skill areas of reading and writing. As a result of their analysis of a variety of stimulating texts, our pupils develop a critical understanding of how meaning is shaped in non-fiction. It will also support cross-curricular achievement and provide an excellent skills base for lifelong learning.

## What will I study in English Language?

- Ten anthology texts
- Creative Writing and Poetry and Prose coursework
- Transactional Writing

### Set texts at a glance

#### Component 1 Section A

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology

##### Part 1: Non-fiction Texts

<i>From The Danger of a Single Story</i>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
<i>From A Passage to Africa</i>	George Alagiah
<i>From The Explorer's Daughter</i>	Kari Herbert
<i>Explorers, or boys messing about?</i>	Steven Morris
<i>Either way, taxpayer gets rescue bill</i>	
<i>From 127 Hours: Between a Rock and a Hard Place</i>	Aron Ralston
<i>Young and dyslexic? You've got it going on</i>	Benjamin Zephaniah
<i>From A Game of Polo with a Headless Goat</i>	Emma Levine
<i>From Beyond the Sky and Earth: A Journey into Bhutan</i>	Jamie Zeppa
<i>From H is for Hawk</i>	Helen Macdonald
<i>From Chinese Cinderella</i>	Adeline Yen Mah

## Assessment objectives and weightings

		% in International GCSE
READING	<b>AO1</b>	Read and understand a variety of texts, selecting and interpreting information, ideas and perspectives.
	<b>AO2</b>	Understand and analyse how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects.
	<b>AO3</b>	Explore links and connections between writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed.
WRITING	<b>AO4</b>	Communicate effectively and imaginatively, adapting form, tone and register of writing for specific purposes and audiences.
	<b>AO5</b>	Write clearly, using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, with appropriate paragraphing and accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation.

### Nature of assessment

Pupils will complete two pieces of English Language coursework. Each piece of coursework is worth 20%. Pupils will compose their own creative writing story and complete coursework related to poetry and prose.

### What skills will pupils develop?

The courses build on the skills which have been embedded in Key Stage 3 in a continuum of learning. Pupils are encouraged to respond to fiction and media texts, and understand the impact of their cultural contexts, and the effect of stylistic techniques. They are given opportunities to write for a wide range of purposes and audiences, in tasks which promote expressive fluency as well as ensuring a firm foundation of technical accuracy.

### What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study English Language?

English Language will provide an excellent grounding for any arts or humanities-based degree. Language will complement further studies in higher education courses such as literature, philosophy and law, while Language



and Literature lend themselves well to media and journalism.

For further questions relating to IGCSE English, please contact Miss Fitzgerald: [niamhfitzgerald@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:niamhfitzgerald@kingscollegedoha.com)



## Mathematics

**Exam board** – Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics A – [GCSE-in-Mathematics-Spec-A.pdf](https://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/2016/mathematics-a/specification)

### Why should I study Mathematics IGCSE?

Whilst Mathematics is a compulsory subject, it is also a subject which all pupils should have the desire to explore. A knowledge and understanding of mathematics is proven to offer characteristics such as problem solving skills and logical reasoning abilities, both of which contribute significantly throughout each individual's education and work life. Mathematics is a subject guaranteed to make you more employable in every industry.

Beyond this, pupils who excel in mathematics and display resilience when facing challenging problems will open up a world of opportunities, having one of the essential qualifications to access further studies in all fields (not limited to Mathematics).

### What will I study?

Throughout their Mathematics IGCSE, pupils will study six key areas. These include:

- Number – including ratio and proportion
- Sequences, functions and graphs
- Algebra - Equations, formulae and identities
- Geometry and trigonometry
- Vectors and transformation geometry
- Statistics and probability

This will offer our pupils the opportunities to delve into the world of trigonometry, algebraic functions, vectors and much more. All of which will provide a strong basis for anyone looking to continue into Further or A-Level mathematics.

### How will the pupils be assessed?

Within the IGCSE Mathematics course, pupils are assessed through two papers. Both papers will be weighted as 50% of the qualification, with a range of topics appearing in both assessment papers. Each paper is two hours long. Pupils will be able to use their scientific calculators.

**Recommended Scientific Calculator**  
[Casio fx-991 EX ClassWix](https://www.casio.com/ex-classwix)

### Tier of Entry

IGCSE Mathematics is offered at both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

Tier of Entry	Grades Awarded
Foundation	Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 There will be approximately 40% of questions targeted at Grades 5 and 4 to aid standardization.
Higher	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Approximately 60% of the marks are distributed evenly across Grades 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Each paper will be divided into three Assessment Objectives:

Assessment Objective	Descriptor	IGCSE Weighting %
A01	Demonstrating knowledge, understanding and skills in number and algebra	57-63%
A02	Demonstrating knowledge, understanding and skills in shape, space and measure	22-28%
A03	Demonstrating knowledge, understanding and skills in handling data	12-18%

### What skills will pupils develop?

The qualification on offer has been designed to offer transferable skills to all pupils. These have been broken down into three categories;

- Cognitive Skills.
- Intrapersonal Skills.
- Interpersonal Skills.

This is structured to offer pupils the problem solving ability, initiative and communication skills needed to enhance future employability.

### What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Mathematics?

Most jobs and careers will need you to use mathematics in some way and it is particularly useful in areas of work such as accountancy, banking and finance, management, environmental sciences, construction, engineering and manufacturing, medical technology, and science and research.

For further questions regarding IGCSE Maths, please contact the Interim Head of Mathematics, Mrs Yasmin Jan: [yasminjan@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:yasminjan@kingscollegedoha.com)

# Optional GCSE Subjects



## Biology

**Exam Board** – Pearson Edexcel - IGCSE Biology - [Biology IGCSE specification](#)

### Why should a pupil study Biology?

Biology has content and assessments that will both stimulate pupils' interest in and enthusiasm for Biology and provide an excellent grounding for further study. This specification contains a broad range of topics that are designed to engage pupils whilst providing the knowledge and understanding required for progression to A – level and further education. Biology is an enquiry-based discipline involving practical and investigational skills as well as knowledge. The specification emphasises scientific knowledge, the application of science and the scientific process.

### What will I study?

This course covers a range of accessible science content. There is a huge variety in the concepts covered and something for all interests.

1. The nature and variety of living organisms
2. Structures and functions in living organisms
3. Reproduction and inheritance
4. Ecology and the environment
5. Use of biological resources

### How will the pupils be assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Biology comprises of **two** externally assessed papers:

- **Biology Paper 1** (2-hour written examination paper with a total of 110 marks available)
- **Biology Paper 2** (1-hour 15-minute written examination paper with a total of 70 marks available)

International GCSE		
<b>AO1</b>	Knowledge and understanding of biology	38-42%
<b>AO2</b>	Application of knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation of biology	38-42%
<b>AO3</b>	Experimental skills, analysis and evaluation of data and methods in biology	19-21%
		100%

### What skills will pupils develop?

By choosing to study Biology, skills such as critical thinking will be developed by making judgements based on experimental observations. Problem solving skills will also be developed by applying these concepts in different contexts. There will be many opportunities for data analysis in which reasoning, and interpretation skills can progress. There will also be chances to become innovative and develop creativity when faced with situations in an unfamiliar context. These skills are very sought after in higher education and employment.

### What higher education/careers are available to pupils who study Biology?

By obtaining a IGSCE in Biology the opportunities that become open to you are endless. Employers love problem solvers, and your GCSE in Biology will prove that you have these skills. Industries employing biologists include scientific and medical research, forensics, medicine, nursing, pharmacology, dentistry, veterinary science, physiology, paramedic, ecologist, nutritionist, personal trainer, sport and exercise science, biochemical engineer, environmental conservation and education.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Science, please contact Mrs Nadeem: [komalnadeem@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:komalnadeem@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Chemistry

**Exam Board** – Edexcel International GCSE Chemistry – [Chemistry IGCSE specification](#)

## Why should a pupil study Chemistry?

Chemistry gives an in-depth view of a range of Chemistry concepts. Studying the composition, behaviour, and properties of matter, and of the elements of the Earth and its atmosphere, helping you to gain a better understanding. You will learn about the key concepts in Chemistry and gain a vast knowledge of the principles of chemistry, supplying you with the right building blocks for your future. Chemistry is an enquiry-based discipline involving practical and investigational skills as well as knowledge. The specification emphasises scientific knowledge, the application of science and the scientific process.

## What will I study?

This course covers a range of accessible science content. There is a huge variety in the concepts covered and something for all interests.

1. Principles of Chemistry
2. Inorganic Chemistry
3. Physical Chemistry
4. Organic Chemistry

## How will the pupils be assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Chemistry comprises of **two** externally assessed papers:

- **Chemistry Paper 1** (2-hour written examination paper with a total of 110 marks available)
- **Chemistry Paper 2** (1-hour 15-minute written examination paper with a total of 70 marks available)

For further questions relating to IGCSE Science, please contact Mrs Nadeem: [komalnadeem@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:komalnadeem@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Physics

**Exam Board** – Edexcel International GCSE Physics – [Physics IGCSE specification](#)

## Why should a pupil study Physics?

Studying Physics takes you on a journey that predates humanity, as the basic elements that make up the universe in which our planet exists are uncovered. The IGCSE Physics course is designed to help pupils to develop a broad understanding of the facts, concepts and principles that bind this discipline together, while simultaneously enabling pupils to harness their investigative skills and the ability to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of modern scientific developments.

## What will I study?

This course covers a range of accessible science content. There is a huge variety in the concepts covered and something for all interests.

1. Forces and motion
2. Electricity
3. Waves
4. Energy resources and energy transfer
5. Solids, liquids, and gases
6. Magnetism and electromagnetism
7. Radioactivity and particles
8. Astrophysics

## How will the pupils be assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Physics comprises of **two** externally assessed papers:

- **Physics Paper 1** (2-hour written examination paper with a total of 110 marks available)
- **Physics Paper 2** (1-hour 15-minute written examination paper with a total of 70 marks available)

International GCSE
AO1 Knowledge and understanding of physics
AO2 Application of knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation of physics
AO3 Experimental skills, analysis and evaluation of data and methods in physics
100%

## What skills will pupils develop?

Skills such as critical thinking are developed in IGCSE Physics as pupils are required to make judgements based on experimental observations. Problem-solving skills are also developed as pupils apply these concepts in different contexts. There will be many opportunities for data analysis in which your reasoning and interpretative skills can progress. There will also be chances to become innovative and develop your creativity and technical ability when faced with situations in an unfamiliar context. These skills are very sought after in higher education and employment.

## What higher education/careers are available to pupils who study Biology?

Physics can lead to careers in areas such as aerospace and defence, education, energy and renewable energy, engineering, health and medicine, instrumentation, manufacturing, meteorology and climate change, nanotechnology, oil and gas, telecommunications and architecture.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Science, please contact Mrs Nadeem: [komalnadeem@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:komalnadeem@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Design Technology

**Exam Board** – Edexcel GCSE Design Technology – [GCSE Design Technology Specification](#)

## Why should I study Design Technology?

Product designers try to solve real problems for real people by using empathy and knowledge of their prospective customers' habits, behaviours, frustrations, needs, and wants.

Product design is essential in creating the initial user experience and product prototype, from user research to concept development and usability testing.

Examples of great product design that have become part of everyday life are the Coca-Cola bottle, the iPod, and the Vespa scooter. Studying Design Technology gives pupils a clear grounding in the understanding and skills required in design, business and project management.

## What will I study?

In this course, pupils are required to study both common content and specialist optional content:

Common Content – Product Design

Pupils will study the following phases of product design:

- Observing the need/requirement
- Design the brief/specification
- Identification/research
- Generation of possible ideas
- Selection/organisation
- Evaluation
- Implementation and realization

In doing so, pupils will examine the following areas:

- Health and safety
- Initiation and development of ideas, and recording data
- Communication of design ideas
- Use of technology in design and making
- Design and technology in society
- Practical design application
- Environment and sustainability

## Specialist Option Content

Pupils will develop their understanding of the following areas:

- Types of material
- Preparation of materials
- Setting, measuring, marking out and testing
- Shaping
- Joining and assembly
- Finishing

## How will the pupils be assessed?

The course features a range of internally assessed coursework, which is moderated by the exam board, and externally assessed examinations, which are taken at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 – Product Design (25%)
- Paper 2 – Specialism Paper in Resistant Materials (25%)
- Coursework – A design and manufacture project (50%)

## What skills will the pupils develop?

The aims of the course are to enable participants to:

- develop creative thinking in areas relevant to design and technology;
- apply problem-solving skills to practical and technological problems;
- develop the communication skills central to design, realisation and evaluation
- gain knowledge and understanding of design and technology
- develop skills in research and investigation
- design and make products, taking into consideration sustainability and the wider impact on society
- develop the ability to make aesthetic, economic, ethical and technical value judgements.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Design Technology?

The study of Design Technology can lead to careers in a plethora of areas, including engineering, product design, architecture, interior design and graphics.

For further questions regarding the IGCSE Design Technology course, please contact Mr Hussey: [davidhussey@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:davidhussey@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Art and Design

**Exam Board**: Edexcel GCSE Art and Design - [GCSE Art and Design Specification](#)

## Why should I study Art?

Art is not concerned merely with great artists, with genius or with prodigious skills. It is fundamentally the outward form of a discovery and, in school, provides pupils with opportunities to redefine the skills and boundaries of their creative limits.

To participate in this process, irrespective of your level of ability, is to be a King's College artist. The most valuable aspect of Art is not always the final product but the journey itself. Art has a vital role to play in developing creativity, sensibility and sensory motor coordination in everyone. Our philosophy at King's is that evolution is integral to a creative, inspiring and thriving department.

## What will I study?

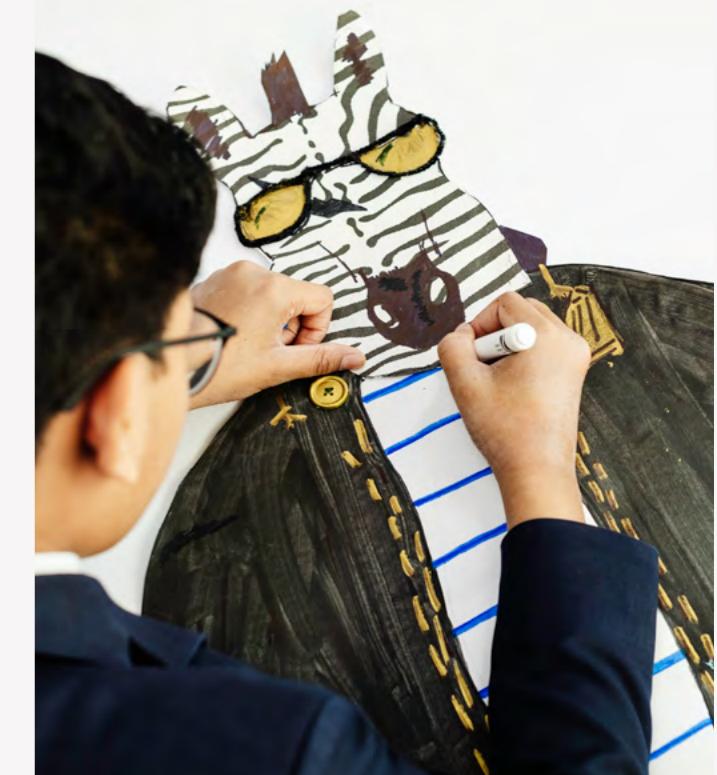
The course focuses on many avenues including fine art, textiles, graphics, photography, design, critical analysis and visual literacy. Creativity is rooted in critical thinking, which is taught within the GCSE Art course. Throughout all projects, pupils are taught how to process their ideas from initial findings through to final fruition.

## How will the pupils be assessed?

Coursework makes up 60% of the final grade and the remaining 40% is based on the results of a practical exam in which pupils follow the same processes that they have developed throughout the coursework period of Year 10 and the beginning of Year 11.

## What skills will the pupils develop?

Along with practical skills such as drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and mixed media, pupils will gain a very strong insight into the world of art. Rendering a 3D form onto a 2D surface is something that requires very different skill sets to those which are required in many subjects. Art reflects each pupil's direct and indirect understanding of society; studying the subject enables them to develop a critical and questioning approach to everything that happens around them. In short, Art teaches pupils to question beyond what they know – a skill that they will keep for the rest of their lives.



## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Art?

The creative industries are huge and make billions of pounds per year in the UK alone. Personal research into this will give you a clear idea of this ever-growing industry.

Pupils can continue to study across the world in highly acclaimed institutions associated within the Arts. We have strong links to local universities, such as the University of Aberdeen here in Doha, as well as abroad, and have recently linked with a University in the United States.

We encourage you to watch the film linked below and read all about the 150-plus possible careers pathways to gain an insight into the importance of art and how valuable and important it is to the way we function today:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/talking-point/why-study-art> (video link)  
<https://www.pupilartguide.com/articles/art-careers-list> (webpage link)

For further questions relating to GCSE Art and Design, please contact Mrs Donlevy: [brioneydonlevy@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:brioneydonlevy@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Engineering

**Exam Board:** Pearson BTEC International Level 2 - [BTEC Level 2 Engineering Specification](#)

## Why should I study Engineering?

Studying Engineering at school provides individuals with a solid foundation in science, mathematics, and problem-solving skills, while also offering several practical benefits. The course offers pupils the opportunity to experience hands-on learning and the practical application of their developing skills and understanding. It also offers a grounding into the skills required for a range of careers, encouraging creativity and innovation.

## What will I study?

The course will cover a wide range of engineering sectors, with two mandatory units to be undertaken:

1. Working Safely and Effectively in Engineering
2. Engineering Thinking Skills to Create Solutions

There is also a range of optional units that participants can study, including 3D Printing, Engineering, Drawing, Materials, CAD and Mathematics for Engineers. These will be selected in the coming months.

## How will the pupils be assessed?

BTEC International Level 2 qualifications are assessed using a combination of internal assessments, set and marked by our teachers, and Pearson set assignments, which are set by the exam board but are also marked by our teachers.

Mandatory units have a combination of internal and Pearson set assignments, whereas most optional units are externally assessed.

## What skills will the pupils develop?

This course will develop a range of skills, which encompass a combination of technical, analytical, interpersonal and problem-solving abilities. Pupils will gain exposure to a number of key skills that engineers need, including applied mathematical skills, report writing skills, project management, design skills and communication/interpersonal skills.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Engineering?

The study of Engineering can lead to degrees and ultimately careers in a plethora of areas, including electrical, mechanical, digital, manufacturing, aeronautical and mechatronic engineering.

For further questions regarding BTEC Level 2 Engineering at King's, please contact David Hussey: [davidhussey@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:davidhussey@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Arabic Native (MOEHE Curriculum)

**Exam Board:** Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar

## Why should I study Arabic (MOEHE Curriculum)?

Studying Arabic (MOEHE Curriculum) will enable pupils to:

- increase their knowledge of Arabic vocabulary and structures
- develop transferable language learning skills
- communicate better in Arabic

## What will I study?

Studying Native Arabic (MOEHE Curriculum) will help pupils to explore various grammar rules and reading topics about both the Arabic and outside worlds, whilst develop their ability to write articles, stories and reports in Arabic.

## How will the pupils be assessed?

Pupils will take three internal examinations (one per term) in the first year of the course, followed by a further two internal examinations the following academic year.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Arabic?

Pupils who do not wish to study this subject in isolation at university may choose to add it as part of an accompanying course (e.g. Business Management with Arabic). Studying Arabic opens up a wide range of opportunities for pupils interested in either teaching the language, working in countless jobs here in the Middle East or working in translation services.

For further questions relating to Native Arabic (MOEHE Curriculum), please contact Mr Ahmed: [amrahmed@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:amrahmed@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Arabic First Language IGCSE

**Exam Board:** Edexcel IGCSE Arabic - [IGCSE Arabic \(1st Language\) Specification](#)

## Why should I study IGCSE Arabic First Language?

Studying Arabic First Language will enable pupils to develop:

- an understanding of Arabic in a variety of contexts;
- a knowledge of Arabic vocabulary and structures;
- transferable language learning skills;
- the ability to communicate effectively in Arabic;
- awareness and understanding of countries and communities where Arabic is spoken.

## What will I study?

IGCSE Arabic First Language helps you to explore a wide range of topics, including celebrations and festivals, getting by as a tourist in Arabic-speaking countries, international campaigns and events. You will learn about Arabic culture through a range of interesting topics that will add to your understanding of the language and country.

The five themes of the course are:

1. Topic Area F - Travel and Tourism
2. Topic Area G – Business, Work and Employment
3. Topic Area H – Environment
4. Topic Area I - Health
5. Topic Area J - Technology

## How will the pupils be assessed?

Pupils will take two examinations as part of this course:

- Paper 1: Reading, Summarising and Grammar (60%)
- Paper 2: Writing (40%)

## What skills will the pupils develop?

Pupils who complete IGCSE Arabic First Language will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem-solving strategies and write coherently. This qualification will certainly add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile, which will impress anyone who reads your CV. This will put you in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links and improve your employability if you would like to work abroad.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Arabic?

Pupils who do not wish to study this subject in isolation at university may choose to add it as an accompanying course (e.g., Business Management with Arabic). Studying Arabic opens up a wide range of opportunities for pupils interested in either teaching the language, working in countless jobs here in the Middle East or working in translation services.

# Arabic Non-Native GCSE

**Exam Board:** Edexcel IGCSE Arabic -[GCSE Arabic \(Non-Native\) Specification](#)

## Why should a pupil learn Arabic?

Studying Arabic Non-Native will enable pupils to develop:

- an understanding of Arabic in a variety of contexts
- a knowledge of Arabic vocabulary and structures
- transferable language learning skills
- the ability to communicate effectively in Arabic
- awareness and understanding of countries and communities where Arabic is spoken

## What will I study?

GCSE Arabic Non-Native helps you to explore a wide range of topics, including celebrations and festivals, getting by as a tourist in Arabic-speaking countries, international campaigns and events. You will learn about Arabic culture through a range of interesting topics that will add to your understanding of the language and country.

The five themes of the course are:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday, travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study and work
5. International and global dimensions

## How will the pupils be assessed?

Pupils will take four examinations at either Foundation or Higher Level: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each of which are worth 25%. Pupils must complete their speaking assessment in April and all other assessments are in May-June.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Arabic First Language, please contact Mr Ahmed: [amrahmed@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:amrahmed@kingscollegedoha.com)



## What skills will the pupils develop?

Pupils who complete a GCSE in Arabic Non-Native will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem-solving strategies and write coherently. This qualification will certainly add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile, which will impress anyone who reads your CV. This will put you in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links and improve your employability if you would like to work abroad. It is an obvious advantage to being able to work or study in an Arabic-speaking country in later life, but you will also find it easier to learn other languages. Completing a GCSE qualification in Arabic Non-Native is the foundation for studying Arabic courses in Sixth Form to further your knowledge of the language and culture.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Arabic?

Pupils who do not wish to study this subject in isolation at university may choose to add it as an accompanying course (e.g. Business Management with Arabic). Studying Arabic opens up a wide range of opportunities for pupils interested in either teaching the language, working in countless jobs here in the Middle East or working in translation services.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Arabic, please contact Mr Ahmed: [amrahmed@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:amrahmed@kingscollegedoha.com)

## Business Finance

This explores the use of accounting and financial information as an aid to decision making.

## Marketing

This section focuses on identifying and satisfying customer needs in a changing and competitive international environment.

## Business Operations

This unit examines the ways in which organisations use and manage resources to produce goods and services.

## What skills will pupils develop?

This IGCSE helps pupils to gain lifelong skills, including the ability to calculate and interpret business data, the communication skills needed to support arguments with reasons and the ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements. The course provides an opportunity to gain a thorough knowledge and understanding of business and helps to develop the skills learners need for their next steps in education or employment.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Business Studies?

The current top universities for studying business-related degrees in the UK are Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Warwick and the London School of Economics. Further afield, Harvard, Yale, MIT, Stanford in the USA and Bocconi University in Italy and HEC Paris, in France, are excellent for Business courses.

Studying Business Studies at IGCSE level provides a foundation for many degree specialisms including Business Management, International Business and qualifications in accounting and finance. Business Studies can put you on the pathway to a wide variety of potential careers, including accountancy, banking, investment and financial services, general management, personnel management, management consultancy, public relations, retail management, sales and marketing.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Business Studies, please contact Mrs Shah: [manishashah@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:manishashah@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Business Studies

**Exam Board –** Edexcel international Business – [IGCSE Business specification](#)

## Why choose Business Studies?

Business Studies involves discovering why and how businesses are set up, what they aim to achieve and how they do it. It is designed to provide a grounding in the world of business, develop the ability to calculate and interpret business data, and enhance the communication skills that are needed to create reasoned arguments.

## What will I study?

The course is made up of five units:

### Business Activity and Influences on Business

This unit covers the various objectives of a business, changing business environments and the criteria for judging success. The focus is on the importance of having clear business objectives and how the business environment provides opportunities for, and imposes constraints on, the pursuit of these objectives.

### People in Business

This unit examines people in organisations, focusing on their roles, relationships and management in business.



# Computer Science

**Exam board:** Edexcel IGCSE Computer Science - [IGCSE Computer Science specification](#)

## Why study GCSE Computer Science?

The Edexcel GCSE in Computer Science is an engaging qualification that equips pupils with the knowledge and practical skills to thrive in the fast-changing world of Computer Science.

## What will I study?

### Topic 1: Problem Solving

Pupils are expected to develop a set of computational thinking skills that enable them to understand how computer systems work, and design, implement and analyse algorithms for solving problems.

### Topic 2: Programming

Learning to program is a core component of the Computer Science course. Pupils should become competent at designing, reading, writing and debugging programs. They must be able to apply their skills to solve real problems and produce robust programs.

### Topic 3: Data

Computers can store and manipulate large quantities of data. They use binary to represent different types of data. Pupils are expected to learn how different types of data are represented in a computer.

### Topic 4: Computers

Pupils become familiar with the hardware and software components that make up a computer system and recognise that computers take many forms, from embedded microprocessors to distributed clouds.

### Topic 5: Communication and The Internet

Computer networks and the internet are now ubiquitous. Many computer applications in use today would not be possible without networks. Pupils develop their understanding of the key principles behind the organisation of computer networks. Ideally, they should be able to experiment by setting up a simple network. Our increasing reliance on computer networks makes us vulnerable to a range of attacks from cyber criminals. As IT system security defences become more robust, attack methods become more sophisticated. Pupils taking this course develop a good understanding of the current IT security threats and how to apply appropriate protection methods.

### Topic 6: The Bigger Picture

Pupils become more aware of the influence of computing technology, recognising that computing has an impact on

nearly every aspect of the world in which they live.

## How will the course be assessed?

The Computer Science IGCSE course at King's comprises two examinations. A written examination of 90 minutes (Paper 1) and a two-hour onscreen examination (Paper 2). Each is worth 50% of the qualification and 80 marks.

### Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science

This is assessed through a two-hour written examination, which is set and marked by Pearson. The paper is weighted at 50% of the qualification. The paper consists of multiple-choice, short open-response, open-response and extended open-response answer questions.

### Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking

This is assessed through a three-hour practical examination, which is set and marked by Pearson. The paper is weighted at 50% of the qualification.

## What skills will you develop?

Pupils who study GCSE Computer Science will develop the following skills throughout the course of the two years:

- Programming skills
- Data Science
- Mathematics
- Communication skills
- Problem-solving techniques
- Critical thinking skills
- Analytical skills
- Teamwork

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Computer Science?

These include:

- Application analyst
- Applications developer
- Cyber security analyst
- Data analyst
- Database administrator
- Forensic computer analyst
- Game designer
- Games developer
- Software developer
- AI Engineer

For further questions relating to IGCSE Computing, please contact Miss Ali: [sheharbanoali@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:sheharbanoali@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Drama

**Exam board:** Edexcel - [Edexcel GCSE Drama \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

## Why should I study Drama?

- To develop performance skills
- To develop an understanding of different roles within theatre
- To consider ways in which feelings can be communicated to an audience
- To discover opportunities and design elements in performances
- To devise material and develop different ways of being creative

## What will I study?

### Component 1: Devising

This is worth 40% of the overall grade and comprises:

- a portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process (45 marks - 30 marks assessing AO1 and 15 marks assessing AO4);
- a devised performance/design realisation (15 marks, assessing AO2).

### Component 2: Performance from Text

This is worth 20% of the overall grade. Pupils perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text. The component is externally assessed.

### Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

This is worth 40% of the overall grade and comprises:

- a written examination (1 hour 45 minutes);
- a practical exploration and study of one complete performance text;
- a live theatre performance.

## How will the pupils be assessed?

- AO1: Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning Component 1
- AO2: Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance Component 1 and 2
- AO3: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed Component 3
- AO4: Analyse and evaluate your own work and that of others Component 1 and 3



## What skills will the pupils develop?

- Creativity
- Planning and organisation
- • Confidence
- • Teamwork
- • Leadership
- • Vocal skills
- • Physical skills
- • Evaluation

What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Drama?

- Acting
- Directing
- Theatre design/production
- Law
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Events management
- Radio/TV presenter
- Costume design
- Make up design
- Teaching

For further questions relating to GCSE Drama, please contact Mrs Judge: [justinejudge@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:justinejudge@kingscollegedoha.com)



# French

Exam board – International Edexcel – [IGCSE French specification](#)

## Why should I study French?

- A world language: More than 300 million people speak French on the five continents.
- A language for the international job market: The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. France is a key economic partner.
- The language of culture
- A language for travel
- A language for higher education
- The other language of international relations
- A language that opens up the world
- A language that is fun to learn
- A language for learning other languages
- The language of love and reason

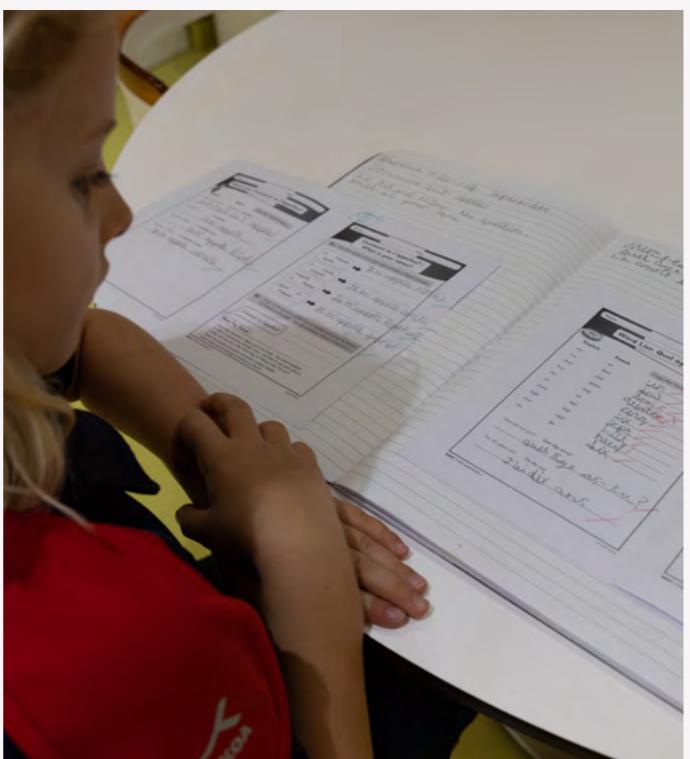
## What will I study?

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.

The five themes are:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities, fitness and health.

For listening and reading assessments, the majority of contexts are based on the culture and countries where the assessed language is spoken. Pupils may also refer to the culture of the assessed language country/countries or communities in the speaking and writing papers. It is,



## Breakdown of Assessment Objectives

Paper	Assessment Objectives				Total for all Assessment Objectives
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	
Paper 1: Listening and understanding French	25	0	0	0	25%
Paper 2: Speaking in French	0	25	0	0	25%
Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French	0	0	25	0	25%
Paper 4: Writing in French	0	0	0	25	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The pupils are assessed on 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

## What skills will pupils develop?

### Cognitive skills

- Non-routine problem solving – expert thinking, metacognition, creativity.
- Systems thinking – decision making and reasoning.
- Critical thinking – definitions of critical thinking are broad and usually involve general cognitive skills such as analysing, synthesising and reasoning skills.
- ICT literacy – access, manage, integrate, evaluate, construct and communicate. [3]

### Intrapersonal skills

- Adaptability – ability and willingness to cope with the uncertain, handling work stress,
- adapting to different personalities, communication styles and cultures, and physical
- adaptability to various indoor and outdoor work environments.
- Self-management and self-development – ability to work remotely in virtual teams,
- work autonomously, be self-motivating and self-monitoring, willing and able to acquire
- new information and skills related to work.

Transferable skills enable young people to face the demands of further and higher education, as well as the demands of the workplace, and are important in the teaching and learning of this qualification.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study French?

French is the second most widely spoken language in the world after English. French is the official language or one of the official languages in 29 countries. By comparison, English is the official language or one of the official languages in 45 countries.



French plays a significant role in several countries, even when it isn't one of the official languages. In countries like India, Egypt, Lebanon, Greece, Poland and Brazil, French is an important language in administrative and commercial contexts.

French is the one of the official working languages of many international organisations. Organisations such as Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), Amnesty International, The United Nations and the African Union, to name but a few, conduct business in French along with English.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of jobs you could consider when learning French at university. Jobs including doing business, interacting and exchanging between countries are not listed below.

1. Translator
2. Interpreter

3. Publishing
4. Editor
5. Hospitality, Tourism and Travel
6. Tour guide
7. Flight attendant
8. Casino, resort or hotel staff
9. Consul, ambassador or diplomat
10. French teacher
11. English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher
12. Voice-over artist
13. Non-governmental organisation (NGO) staff

For further questions relating to IGCSE French, please contact Mr Kerzerho: [sylvainkerzerho@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:sylvainkerzerho@kingscollegedoha.com)

# Spanish

**Exam board** - International Edexcel - [IGCSE Spanish-Specification](#)

## Why should I study Spanish?

- Communicate with 350 million native Spanish speakers worldwide
- Communicate with Spanish-speaking people at home
- Learn Spanish to enhance your travel experiences
- Learn Spanish to improve your knowledge of your own language
- Learn Spanish to prepare for opportunities to study abroad
- Better appreciate Spanish-speaking cultures
- Learn Spanish to make lifelong friends
- Learning Spanish makes acquiring the next foreign language easier
- Gain access to Spanish art, music, literature and film

## What will I study?

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.

The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

For listening and reading assessments, the majority of contexts are based on the culture and countries where the assessed language is spoken. Pupils may also refer to the culture of the assessed language's country or its wider

communities in the speaking and writing papers. It is, therefore, important that pupils are exposed to materials relating to Spanish-speaking countries throughout the course.



## How will the pupils be assessed?

### Assessment Objectives What skills will pupils develop?

Pupil must:		% in GCSE
AO1	Listening – understand and respond to different types of spoken language	25
AO2	Speaking – communicate and interact effectively in speech	25
AO3	Reading – understand and respond to different types of written language	25
AO4	Writing – communicate in writing	25
Total		100%

## Breakdown of Assessment Objectives

Paper	Assessment Objectives				Total for all Assessment Objectives
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	
Paper 1: Listening and understanding Spanish	25	0	0	0	25%
Paper 2: Speaking in Spanish	0	25	0	0	25%
Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Spanish	0	0	25	0	25%
Paper 4: Writing in Spanish	0	0	0	25	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The pupils are assessed on 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

### Cognitive skills

- Non-routine problem solving – expert thinking, metacognition, creativity.
- Systems thinking – decision making and reasoning.
- Critical thinking – definitions of critical thinking are broad and usually involve general cognitive skills such as analysing, synthesising and reasoning skills.
- ICT literacy – access, manage, integrate, evaluate, construct and communicate.

be self-motivating and self-monitoring, willing and able to acquire new information and skills related to work.

### Interpersonal skills

- Communication – active listening, oral communication, written communication, assertive communication and non-verbal communication.
- Relationship-building skills – teamwork, trust, intercultural sensitivity, service orientation, self-presentation, social influence, conflict resolution and negotiation.
- Collaborative problem solving – establishing and maintaining shared understanding, taking appropriate action, establishing and maintaining team organisation.

### Intrapersonal skills

- Adaptability – ability and willingness to cope with the uncertain, handling work stress, adapting to different personalities, communication styles and cultures, and physical adaptability to various indoor and outdoor work environments.
- Self-management and self-development – ability to work remotely in virtual teams, work autonomously,

### What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Spanish?

Spanish pupils gain expertise in Spanish linguistics and culture. Learners build knowledge and skills applicable to careers in tourism, education, business, and sales. Jobs for graduates in Spanish language studies are in abundance thanks to the high demand for bilingual employees across economic sectors. According to a New American Economy report, Spanish-language proficiency ranks among the top three in-demand languages that employers seek in potential recruits.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Spanish, please contact Mr Kerzerho: [sylvainkerzerho@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:sylvainkerzerho@kingscollegedoha.com)





# Geography

**Exam Board:** IGCSE Edexcel [IGCSE Geography \(Modular\) Specification](#)

## Why should a pupil study Geography?

*'In our changing world, nothing changes more than Geography.'* - Pearl S. Buck

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands-on, it is relevant, and it is fun! Geography courses offer a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards, to name but a few. The IGCSE course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions that affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical processes which occur. Pupils who have demonstrated a keen interest in Geography throughout their Key Stage 3 years, and are well organised with their studies, will be suited to studying Geography at IGCSE level. In the modern world, where there are increasing opportunities to use geographical skills and knowledge in work and daily life, there are numerous career opportunities associated with geographical study.

## What will I study?

A variety of topics, case studies and field studies outside the classroom will be selected for study in Years 10 and 11. Pupils will also take part in an overseas trip depending on travel restrictions. The course focuses on two main elements:

Physical Geography	Human Geography	Environmental Geography
River Environments Coastal Environments Hazardous Environments	Economic Activity and Energy Rural Environments Urban Environments	Fragile Environments and Climate Change Globalisation and Migration Development and Human Welfare

Pupils are required to undertake geographical investigations, involving fieldwork and research, in one human and one physical environment. This will take

place throughout the course and pupils will learn how to gather, record, analyse and evaluate geographical data effectively.

## How will the pupils be assessed?

The assessment consists of two papers and there is no written coursework. Fieldwork-related questions are included in the formal assessments below:

### Paper 1

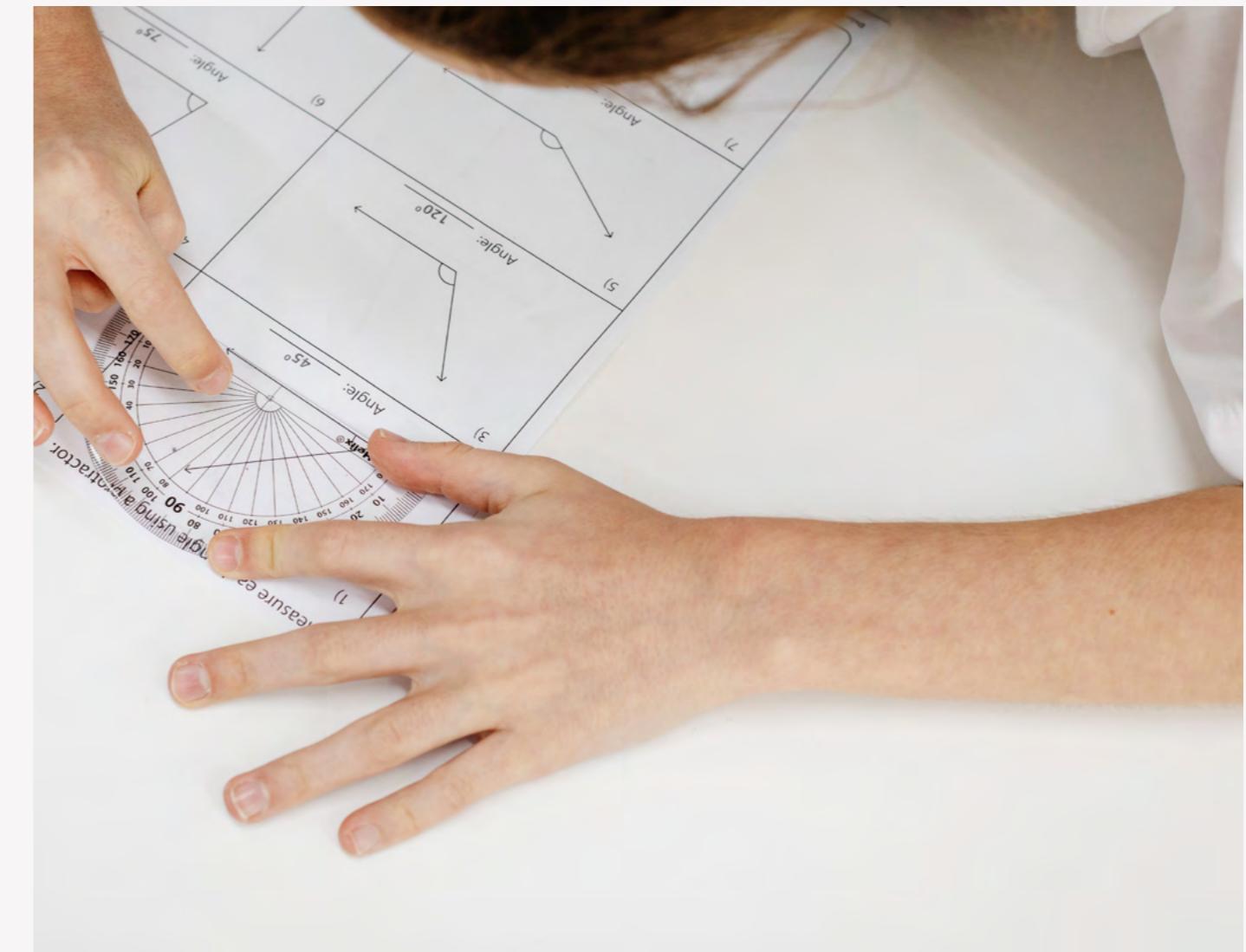
- 70-minute examination consisting of two sections (worth 40% of total marks)
- Questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions
- In Section A, candidates choose two out of three questions on river environments, coastal environments and hazardous environments
- In Section B, candidates choose one out of three fieldwork-related questions on river environments, coastal environments and hazardous environments

### Paper 2

- 1 hour 45 minutes examination consisting of three sections (worth 60% of total marks)
- Questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions
- In Section A, candidates choose two out of three questions on economic activity and energy, rural environments and urban environments
- In Section B, candidates choose one out of three fieldwork-related questions on economic activity and energy, rural environments and urban environments
- In Section C, candidates choose one out of three questions on fragile environments and climate change, globalisation and migration, development and human welfare.

## What skills will pupils develop?

Geography pupils will obtain a variety of interdisciplinary skills. Some of the subject-specific skills include the ability to think 'spatially' across multiple scales, preparing effective maps, diagrams and visualisations, conducting



fieldwork and field data collection. Your studies in Geography will also develop more general skills which will be useful in the future. These include the ability to develop a reasoned argument, critical thinking, an ability to think about moral and ethical issues, teamwork, communication, project management and problem solving.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Geography?

Geography pupils are amongst the most employable in the job market, meeting many of the criteria employers are looking for. These include the ability to interpret data, make evaluative decisions and address the need to think internationally in an ever more globalised world. Studying Geography opens up access to a wide range of degrees and career options. Jobs can be found in sectors

including town planning, law and finance, environment and sustainability, business, architecture, teaching, development and global affairs, demographics, travel and tourism.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Geography, please contact Mr Mitchell: [matthewmitchell@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:matthewmitchell@kingscollegedoha.com)



# History

**Exam board** – Edexcel IGCSE History – [International GCSE History \(Modular\) specification](#)

## Why should I study History?

*'Those who do not learn History are doomed to repeat it.'*  
- George Santayana.

History is not just what happened in the past, but the way to see where we come from. If you don't know where you've come from, it's hard to find out where you're going. Only by looking at the past can one make sense of the present and then strive towards a better future. The idea of argument, debate and critically questioning information presented to us is increasingly being lost beneath a sea of quick replies and clickbait headlines. IGCSE History will give you the ability to evaluate the world around you, sort the true claims from the false and see both justice and injustice. It will also help you to become comfortable with the idea that there isn't always a definitive answer to something – there are often multiple answers depending on your perspective.

## What will I study?

- A World Divided: Superpower Relations 1943-72
- A Divided Union: Civil Rights 1945-74
- The USA 1918-41
- The changing nature of warfare and international conflict 1919-2011

## How will the pupils be assessed?

There are two assessments in IGCSE History, each worth 50% of the marks. The 4 topics are split equally between the two papers as follows:

Paper 1: Depth Studies 1h 30min	Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies 1h 30min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ A World Divided: Superpower Relations 1943-72</li> <li>◦ A Divided Union: Civil Rights 1945-74</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The USA 1918-41</li> <li>◦ The changing nature of warfare and conflict 1919-2011</li> </ul>



# Psychology

**Exam Board**: Edexcel GCSE Psychology - [GCSE Psychology Specification](#)

## Why should I study GCSE Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind and behaviour. It is both a thriving academic discipline and a vital professional practice. Psychology is particularly relevant to any job that involves working directly with people or requires the use of problem-solving skills. You could ultimately become involved in a range of exciting careers, ranging from the worlds of sport, occupational health, education or criminal psychology to a career in the Armed Forces.

## What will I study?

The GCSE Psychology course at King's will enable you to gain knowledge and understanding of the key features of the subject through undertaking both compulsory and optional topics.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable pupils to:

- use specialist vocabulary, psychological concepts, terminology and convention to engage in the process of psychological enquiry
- acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- present information, develop arguments and draw conclusions through a critical approach to psychological evidence, developing as reflective thinkers
- develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society

The GCSE Psychology examinations comprise three sections:

### Section A: Compulsory Topics

- Pupils must study all topics in this section, which will be examined in Paper 1
- The contexts in these topics will also be used in Paper 2 for research methods

### Section B: Optional Topics

- Pupils must study two of the topics in this section, which will be examined in Paper 2.

### Section C: Research Methods

- Paper 1: Pupils may be asked to apply their knowledge and understanding of research methods and how studies are conducted in new contexts. Any detail pupils need to know about a study will be detailed in the question.
- Paper 2: Pupils' knowledge and understanding of research methods will be assessed in depth in this section. The contexts used in question papers for this topic will draw on the contexts used in the compulsory topics for Paper 1.

### Topics covered

- Development – *how did you develop?*
- Memory – *how does your memory work?*
- Psychological Problems – *how would psychological problems affect you?*
- The Brain and Neuropsychology – *how does your brain affect you?*
- Social Influence – *how do others affect you?*

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study GCSE Psychology?

Pupils may progress from this qualification to:

- A-levels in subjects such as Psychology, Biology and Geography
- A Psychology degree
- Wide-ranging careers including sport, occupational health, education or criminal psychology, the Armed Forces, human resources, medicine, the emergency services and media

For further information on this subject, please contact Ms Patterson: [clairepatterson@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:clairepatterson@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Information Communication Technology



**Exam board** – International Edexcel ICT – [International GCSE ICT](#)

## Paper 2

**Written examination:** 3 hours worth 50% of the qualification

Content overview - This paper will assess Topic 5 and 6.

Assessment overview - Pupils are assessed through a three-hour practical examination, that will be set and marked externally by Edexcel.

## Why should I study GCSE Information Communication Technology?

This qualification provides pupils with the opportunity of operating confidently in today's digital world. It is a useful, practical qualification which will provide skills needed in further education and work.

## Course content

- Topic 1: Digital Devices
- Topic 2: Connectivity
- Topic 3: Operating Online
- Topic 4: Online Goods and Services
- Topic 5: Applying Information and Communication Technology
- Topic 6: Software

## How will the course be assessed?

### Paper 1

**Written examination:** 1 hour and 30 minutes worth 50% of the qualification

Content overview - This paper will assess Topics 1 to 4.

Assessment overview - This paper consists of four compulsory questions, each one focused on one of the topic areas. The questions consist of multiple-choice, short-, medium- and extended-open response, tabular and diagrammatic items.

## What skills will pupils develop?

Pupils who study GCSE ICT will develop the following skills throughout the course of the two years:

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Analysis
- Interpretation
- Digital hardware and software skills

## Future careers?

Potential careers that are available to pupils that study ICT include:

- Application analyst.
- Applications developer.
- Cyber security analyst.
- Data analyst.
- Database administrator.
- Forensic computer analyst.
- Game designer.
- Games developer

For further questions relating to IGCSE Computing and ICT, please contact Miss Ali: [sheharbanoali@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:sheharbanoali@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Music

**Exam board:** Edexcel - [Pearson Edexcel GCSE Music Specification](#)

## Why should I study Music?

GCSE Music is an engaging course that allows pupils to study content through the Areas of Study and Set Works. If you enjoy playing an instrument and performing, exploring and creating, listening to music from a range of styles and have an interest in Music Technology, then you will find Music a rewarding and worthwhile subject.

## What will I study?

**Component 1: Performing** 30% Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

Pupils are expected to prepare a performance time of 4 minutes. Students will perform as a soloist and in an ensemble.

**Component 2: Composing** 30% (NEA)

Pupils will compose two compositions with a total duration of 3 minutes. One piece will be based on one set brief; the second will be one free composition.

**Component 3: Appraising** 40% (1 hour 45-minute examination)

Pupils will analyse 4 Areas of Study with 2 set works in each including: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Stage and Screen, Fusions.

## How will the pupils be assessed?

Pupil must:		% in GCSE
AO1	Perform with technical control, expression, and interpretation. <b>Component 1</b>	30
AO2	Compose and develop musical ideas with technical control and coherence. <b>Component 2</b>	30
AO3	Demonstrate and apply musical knowledge. <b>Component 3</b>	20
AO4	Use appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about music. <b>Component 3</b>	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>



## What skills will the pupils develop?

Pupils will develop skills in performance, composition, and music analysis through the exploration of classical and world musical cultures. In addition to this, pupils will learn the rudiments of music including standard notation, harmony, melody, and rhythm. Also, integral to the course, is the development of confidence.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study GCSE Music?

The GCSE Music course provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for Higher Education courses in Music. A Bachelor of Music (BMus) offers undergraduates the opportunity to major in Performance, Composition (film, television), Music for Gaming, Music Production, Musicology, Ethnomusicology, Sound Engineering, Music Technology, Conducting, Popular Music, Jazz Studies and Music Education.

For further questions relating to GCSE Music, please contact Mr Young: [markyoung@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:markyoung@kingscollegedoha.com)



# Physical Education

**Exam board:** Edexcel - [GCSE-Physical-Education-2016-Specification.pdf](#)

## Why should I study Physical Education GCSE?

The GCSE Physical Education course is one of the option subjects and so is an additional course to the Core PE that all pupils in Senior School follow.

GCSE PE is a theoretical subject that develops your knowledge of sport, physical activity and how the human body works. In this way, the subject has clear alignment with the study of Biology. In this course, we investigate the benefits of leading a healthy and active lifestyle, so having an interest in this would ensure a greater appreciation of the theoretical content of the subject.

GCSE PE builds on practical performances of a variety of sports, as developed in your younger years, and introduces a new theoretical component that links the two together.

## What will I study?

The Pearson Edexcel Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Physical Education consists of two externally-examined papers and two non-examined assessment components. Components 1 and 2 will be assessed in May/June in any single year. Components 3 and 4 may be assessed at any point during the course, with marks submitted by the school prior to moderation. Moderation will take place in the same year as the written examinations.

The syllabus provides candidates with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education. It is also designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity. The knowledge gained should enable candidates to develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance.

Candidates will study all the following topics:

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Movement analysis
3. Physical training
4. Use of data

## How will the pupils be assessed?

The assessment consists of pupils completing three physical activities from a set list. One must be a team activity, one must be an individual activity and the final activity can be a free choice. Pupils will be assessed against set assessment criteria found in the Pearson Edexcel Level 2 GCSE (9-1). These will be assessed by the teacher and moderated by Pearson.

<b>Component 1</b>	Written exam worth 36% of the final grade
<b>Component 2</b>	Written exam worth 24% if final grade
<b>Component 3</b>	Practical performance worth 30% of the final grade
<b>Component 4</b>	Personal Exercise Programme worth 10% of final grade (Coursework)

## What skills will the pupils develop?

If you only want to take part in the practical side of Physical Education, GCSE PE is not for you! This is a theoretical, classroom-based subject and you will need to demonstrate that you can learn key definitions and have enough sporting knowledge to be able to apply the information.

Physical Education can have an enormous influence on a person's life. Once pupils have a greater understanding of health, wellbeing, fitness and body systems, it can shape their future and inspire them to lead a healthier and more active lifestyle.

## What careers/degrees are available to pupils who study Physical Education?

There are a range of careers that pupils undertaking GCSE PE can aspire towards, including sports physiotherapy, personal training, sports journalism, coaching and PE teaching. The subject can also help to make you a better athlete as having a great understanding of how the body works can lead to improvements in individual performance.

Physical Education promotes more than just physical activity - it also improves confidence, social skills, knowledge, self-esteem, teamwork and friendships.

For further questions relating to IGCSE Physical Education, please contact Mr Judge: [dannyjudge@kingscollegedoha.com](mailto:dannyjudge@kingscollegedoha.com)

# Frequently Asked Questions



## If different exam boards set the examinations, will subjects clash on the final exam timetable?

Examining groups work together to draw up common examination timetables to avoid possible clashes for candidates taking subjects from different boards. On the odd occasion that a clash occurs, examinations for that pupil can be reorganised without compromising the security of the examination paper.

## Do my choices have to fit into blocks for timetabling?

No, your initial choices have no restrictions so you can pick any language, humanity and additional subjects and we will try to build a timetable to fit all choices. If this is not possible then we will speak with you directly. Around the middle of the Term 2, we will formally confirm your subject choices. Some subjects will not be offered if they are not viable to deliver.

## Can I change my mind after the November deadline?

Yes, you can request to change your option choices after the deadline, but it may not be possible if it does not fit on the timetable or if the class you want to go into is full. Once you start the subject next academic year, you will have a two-week window to swap if you realise that you have made a mistake in your options choice. Again, however, your proposed change in option may not be possible if it does not fit on the timetable or the class you want to go into is full.

## How do coursework grades tie into the final examination grade?

From the individual subject information, you will see that different subjects allocate different marks to examinations and coursework. The coursework is marked by the class teacher but is moderated by an external examiner. Examinations are all marked by external examiners. The final percentage is arrived at according to the percentage breakdown of course and examination work for that subject.

## Do I have to do English Language and English Literature?

Yes. Our pupils will complete both English Language and English Literature courses, achieving two separate IGCSE grades.

## Do I have to take Arabic?

All Arabic passport holders are obliged to study Arabic (Native) as this is a Ministry requirement in Qatar. Pupils will be able to opt out of Arabic B in Year 10 and 11 or can continue with Arabic, even getting a chance to sit IGCSE Arabic. If you choose not to study Arabic B, you will be able to choose another option instead.

## Do I have to do a Foreign Language?

No, although it is worth careful consideration as numerous Russell Group universities in the UK favour prospective students who have achieved GCSE qualifications that include an additional language.

## What if I feel that nine subjects are too many?

If this is the case, you should speak with Mr Walton, your Head of Year or Mrs Dolinssek about whether Directed Studies would be more appropriate than one of the option choices, in order to give you additional time to complete your work.

## Can I get more than 9 GCSE qualifications?

Whilst most pupils study for nine GCSEs in Years 10 and 11, additional qualifications can be achieved if you are bilingual or study Further Maths. Other subjects such as Drama, Music and PE can be studied as additional subjects if appropriate to the individual.





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