



**Garden International School**  
Eastern Seaboard, Ban Chang

## A Guide to Years 10 and 11



Your choice. Their future. Our family.



## **A Guide to Years 10 and 11**

During Year 10 and 11, students at Garden International School (GIS) have the opportunity to study a wide range of subject courses. Upon successful completion of each course, an International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) will be awarded. The IGCSE is an internationally recognised qualification which schools will accept as entrance criteria for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

The examining body currently used by GIS for all our IGCSE courses is Cambridge International, this body is an accredited organisation, and their courses are studied in over 10,000 schools in over 160 countries.

### **IGCSE Assessment**

IGCSE courses are normally studied over a two-year period, and are assessed in different ways from subject to subject. The most common form of assessment is the controlled conditions written examination, which will take place during May and June of Year 11. Other forms of assessment include coursework and practical examinations.

Once a student has completed all of the assessment criteria for a course, they will be awarded an IGCSE from Cambridge International, with a grade to show the level of ability the student showed in the assessment. The grades awarded range from A-G, with an A\* grade awarded to students who show a particularly strong ability in a subject. It is important to note that although any grade represents a pass grade, many schools and organisations consider only A\*-C grades as valid pass grades.

### **Entrance Criteria**

Although GIS welcomes all of our Year 10 and 11 students to study IGCSE courses, we insist that a student's English ability must be strong enough for them to have passed a Cambridge Key English Test.

### **Mathematics, English and Science**

GIS students must study a course in Mathematics, English and Science. Cambridge Assessment offer a range of courses for each subject, so that students of varying abilities are able to study a course that they will find both challenging and rewarding. The course(s) that a student studies in Mathematics, English and Science will be determined by the set that they are placed in by each department.

## **Mathematics and Additional Mathematics**

IGCSE Mathematics enables students to gain skills that will be used every day and last a lifetime. It gives students an excellent preparation for further study. Students not only gain confidence about the knowledge they have acquired, but also gain satisfaction and enjoyment in both their learning and use of mathematics.

Students either follow the 'core' curriculum or the 'extended' curriculum.

Some students who follow the extended curriculum are given the opportunity to take the 'extended' examination at the end of Year 10. Those students scoring a B grade or above can then study for and take in Year 11 the IGCSE Additional Mathematics examination. This course is an excellent preparation for those planning to start the IB Diploma the following year and wish to study Mathematics at Higher Level. Please note that students need A\*-B in IGCSE Additional Mathematics in order to study Mathematics HL for the IB Diploma.

Final Assessment: Students sit two examinations papers.

## **English Language and Literature**

A variety of essential cognitive skills including analysing, speaking, listening, reading, evaluating and appreciating different forms of literature are developed through either of the IGCSE courses studied. Both Set 1 and Set 2 Literature courses expose students to a range of different forms of literature from different times and cultures.

The beauty of the subject of English is its diversity and subjectivity. Characters in literature are mouthpieces through which provocative ideas on eternally relevant aspects of life are conveyed. Books are inspiring, thought-provoking and integral to students developing their own philosophies and interpretations on life, society, relationships, morals; how they view themselves, others and the world. Literature is a fantastically stimulating means to incite independent thought, critical thinking and learning.

The First Language course offered in Set 1 develops a student's ability to interpret both explicit and implicit information and identify how the writer has created specific effects on the audience. Students also adapt their language to create effective texts for specific purposes and audiences.

Set 1: IGCSE First Language English (two final examinations) and IGCSE World Literature (Coursework portfolio, including an oral presentation, plus two examinations).

Set 2: IGCSE English as a Second Language (three examinations - see the information below) and IGCSE Literature (two final examinations).

Set 3: IGCSE English as a Second Language (three examinations - see the information below).

## **English as a Second Language**

English as a Second Language (ESL) is a course designed specifically for students whose mother tongue is not English.

In ESL students learn how to effectively and creatively use the grammar and vocabulary they already know in a variety of situations. Students learn how to write magazine articles, draft informal letters, summarise what they have read in newspapers, take notes from radio reports and other media and talk at length about what interests them.

ESL is strongly skill based and is taught through topics that are both fun and relevant. These can include themes such as music, fashion and crime.

Final Assessment: Students sit three examinations; a two-hour written examination, a fifty minute listening examination, and a fifteen minute speaking examination.

## **Science**

At GIS, we offer four IGCSE Science courses: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Co-ordinated Sciences. Please note that Co-ordinated Sciences cannot be studied in conjunction with Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

## **Biology**

The single award IGCSE in Biology is aimed at students who have a real love for, and wish to study this branch of the sciences to a much greater level of depth than is covered in the Co-ordinated Sciences course. They will gain more understanding of the problems that biologists face in a rapidly changing world and their roles in developing new technologies and monitoring systems to improve not just human existence, but also our coexistence with all the other organisms and environments in the natural world.

The course is designed so that students will develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness. The subject material is divided into core and extended level and these are the two tiers of examination entry. This course will provide the best foundation to lead students into the IB Biology course.

The course content includes topics on human and plant physiology, inheritance, biotechnology, drugs, and environmental issues, including food supply.

The assessment for this course is made up of three components: *either* Paper 1 (core multiple choice) *or* Paper 2 (extended multiple choice); *either* Paper 3 (core theory) *or* Paper 4 (extended theory) and Paper 6 (practical knowledge and skills).

## Chemistry

The single award IGCSE in Chemistry is aimed at students who have a real love for, and wish to study this branch of the sciences to a much greater level of depth than is covered in the Co-ordinated Sciences course. They will gain more understanding of the influences and limitations placed on scientific study by society, economy, technology, ethics, and the community. They will develop an interest in, and care for, the environment and also an understanding of the scientific skills essential for both further study and everyday life.

The course is designed so that students will develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness. The subject material is divided into core and extended level and these are the two tiers of examination entry. This course will provide the best foundation to lead students into the IB Chemistry course.

The course content includes topics on experimental chemistry, the elements, acids and bases, and organic chemistry.

The assessment for this course is made up of three components: *either* Paper 1 (core multiple choice) *or* Paper 2 (extended multiple choice); *either* Paper 3 (core theory) *or* Paper 4 (extended theory) and Paper 6 (practical knowledge and skills).

## Physics

The single award IGCSE in Physics is aimed at students who have a real love for, and wish to study this branch of the sciences to a much greater level of depth than is covered in the Co-ordinated Sciences course. They will gain more understanding of the technological world and develop an informed interest in scientific matters. They will also recognise the usefulness and limitations of the scientific method, applying this to other disciplines, and also in their everyday life.

The course is designed so that students will develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness. The subject material is divided into core and extended level and these are the two tiers of examination entry. This course will provide the best foundation to lead students into the IB Physics course.

The course content includes topics on thermal physics, properties of waves, electricity and magnetism, and atomic physics.

The assessment for this course is made up of three components: *either* Paper 1 (core multiple choice) *or* Paper 2 (extended multiple choice); *either* Paper 3 (core theory) *or* Paper 4 (extended theory) and Paper 6 (practical knowledge and skills).

## **Co-ordinated Sciences**

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

They learn 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. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.

Final Assessment: Three examination papers: either Paper 1 (core multiple choice) or Paper 2 (extended multiple choice); either Paper 3 (core theory) or Paper 4 (extended theory) and Paper 6 (practical knowledge and skills).

## **Languages**

At GIS, we believe that all of our students should study a language as well as English. We currently offer two modern foreign languages as well as Thai, the language of our home country. To help decide which language subject to choose, please read the information below.

### **First Language Thai**

First Language Thai is designed for students whose mother tongue is Thai.

Throughout the course students will learn a wide range of vocabulary, correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. This course will enable students to develop their ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when writing. It will also develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Students are expected to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which Thai can be used.

Cambridge First Language Thai is accepted by universities and employers as proof of knowledge and understanding of language in Thai.

Final Assessment: Students sit two examination papers, equally worth 50% each.

## **Foreign Languages: Mandarin Chinese and Spanish**

*Did you know that a person who speaks three or more languages could increase their income by 40%?*  
In a continuously changing world where work could be anywhere in the world, learning a language is not only essential but also paramount.

This course enables the student to communicate effectively in a second language. The course also broadens the students' horizons by affording students an in-depth knowledge of another culture and a different mindset. For example, students learn about different types of food and drink, different traditions as well as how to deal with emergencies or booking a hotel.

All four language skills, reading, writing, speaking and listening, are developed and used to cover topic areas and issues that are relevant and important to young people. Each is assessed individually in an end of course examination.

Final Assessment: Students sit four examinations: one written examination, one reading comprehension examination, one speaking examination and one listening examination. Each paper is equally weighted at 25% of the final assessment.

## **Humanities**

To provide a pathway to the IBDP, we insist that students study at least one humanities course for IGCSE. Although Information Communication Technology (ICT) is not necessarily a humanities course, we include it in this section because it will provide a pathway to the IBDP Information Technology in a Global Society course. To help decide which humanities subject to choose, please read the information below.

## **Business Studies**

The IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops students' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors and the importance of innovation and change. Students learn how the major types of business organisation are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence. Through their studies, students not only learn about business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry. The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study and an ideal preparation for the world of work. Business studies combines well with almost any subject and is held in high regard by universities and employers. Most students will work in some form of business organisation and an increasing number of students want to set up their own business ventures.

Pupils at IGCSE investigate every aspect of setting up a business and how businesses operate: with particular focus on Marketing, People, Production and Finance. The use of up to date and real life case studies takes students through the skills and theory behind starting up and growing businesses, providing vital training for budding entrepreneurs.

Course Outline & Assessment:

- Understanding business activity
- People in business
- Marketing
- Operations management
- Financial information and financial decisions
- External influences on business activity

Final Assessment: Two written examinations, both worth 50% of the overall mark.

## **Geography**

Did you know?

- The world's population is growing by 9000 people an hour?
- In the time it has taken you to read this paragraph five people will have died from hunger.
- You are standing on a piece of rock that is moving the same speed that your fingernails grow?
- Tourism employs more people than any other industry in the world.

Students will learn why these things are and much more. They will know how to read maps, and interpret information about their local area as well as be given many opportunities to address larger scale problems such as global warming, poverty and pollution. Geography develops independent enquirers who ask the right questions and develop the skills to find the correct answers.

Topics studied include: Population, Settlement, Natural Hazards, Rivers, Development, Coasts, Tourism, Industry and Agriculture, Energy, Weather and Climate.

Final Assessment: Students sit two examinations and complete a coursework component.

## **History**

If you think that History is all about dates and Kings and Queens then think again. The IGCSE History course is an exciting and stimulating course that helps you to think about why things happen and how we got to where we are today. Areas of study include:

- International Relations: Why did the world go from making peace in 1918 to World War in 1939?
- America 1920-1941: How did America go from economic boom to economic bust? What were the social developments that occurred during this time period in the USA?
- The Cold War: The Korean UN Action, The Vietnam War, The Cuban Missile Crisis and the building of a wall across a whole city!

History IGCSE is a subject that develops different skills: research, analysis, critical thinking, logical thinking statistics, synthesis, extrapolation, empathy, evidence analysis and presentation skills.

Final Assessment: Students sit three examination papers.



## **Information and Communication Technology**

### *Why should I choose IGCSE ICT?*

Can you think of a career where you wouldn't have to use a computer in some way? There are very few jobs and careers where a computer related qualification would not give you a significant advantage. IGCSE ICT is an excellent way to develop a knowledge and understanding of things like internet banking and computer viruses, as well as developing skills in using key applications such as word processing, spreadsheet and web editing software.

### *How is IGCSE ICT taught at GIS?*

At Garden International School, you will learn the IGCSE ICT course through the [www.gardenict.net](http://www.gardenict.net) website, which provides you with access to all course materials 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The website means that you are not limited to only being able to complete work in the classroom, you are able to access video tutorials, information links, tasks and homework through your PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone whether you are at home, in the car or even on the beach!

### *How is IGCSE ICT assessed?*

Students sit one written examination which tests your knowledge and understanding of ICT, as well as two practical examinations testing your practical computer skills and ability to use application software.

### *What is IGCSE Computer Science?*

Students who choose to study ICT in their IGCSE options and are studying Extended Mathematics will also have the opportunity to study the IGCSE Computer Science course. This course builds upon the content of the ICT course, to develop students' coding and programming skills, as well as developing students' ability to create computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms.

## **Subject Options**

GIS students have the opportunity to augment their core educational experience during Year 10 and 11 by choosing to study additional subjects. To help decide which additional subjects to choose, please read the information below.

### **Art and Design**

The course introduces students to a more disciplined and refined approach to 2D and 3D art and design processes.

The aims of the course are:

- For students to develop skills in a range of drawing, painting, printmaking and 3 dimensional techniques.
- To gain confidence in applying creative ideas to artistic processes using a range of materials and tools.
- To engage in exploration of artists and art movements through research and gain greater understanding of the artistic process.

Final Assessment:

1. Coursework, plus one final outcome (50%) which is internally assessed and externally moderated.
2. Examination, interpretive theme (50%) preparatory studies plus an 8 hour examination which is externally assessed and moderated.

### **Design and Technology**

Students identify or are given real life problems. They then use the design process to investigate and research the problem, to identify constraints and opportunities for ingenuity. They need to analyse and synthesise their ideas into a specification which is then the basis upon which they can release their imagination to create and develop their own ideas and solutions to the problem. They make decisions based on value judgements of an aesthetic, technical, economic and moral nature with an understanding of social responsibility.

They use a range of drawing techniques, both freehand and technical to communicate their ideas resulting in a fully worked solution that is both functional and imaginative. They then must both plan how to make the product and manufacture it themselves within the workshop.

Final Assessment: Students sit two papers (worth 50%) and complete a coursework component (worth 50%).

## **Drama**

Drama at IGCSE builds on the skills and experiences of Lower Secondary School Drama and is accessible to all. Studying Drama will develop your communication as well as acting skills; it will make you more aware of body language and vocal tones. Studying Drama is not just about becoming a star actor; it is about developing the way that you present yourself to an audience and understanding how theatre and presentation can have a huge impact on an audience.

The IGCSE Drama course aims to develop students' knowledge of theatrical techniques and styles, whilst also developing their physical and vocal skills. It provides students with the tools to reflect on and evaluate both their own work and that of others allowing them to develop their understanding and proficiency further.

Assessment:

The IGCSE Drama course is assessed in two components: Component 1 - Written examination (40%)

This is a 2 hour and 30 minute examination at the end of the course. Questions will be based on the pre-released material that the students will have been studying since the preceding December. This material comprises of an extract from a repertoire script and a stimulus from which to create a devised piece of theatre.

Component 2 - Performing (60%)

Students will prepare three practical performances during the course, two of these will be created in groups of between 2 and 6 and the third will be a monologue from a published play.

## **Music**

Music plays a key role in the life of students at GIS. Music is a truly international language, shared by every culture around the world, and as such, a fantastic method of personal expression. Studying Music at any level has a great impact on a child's development, helping to improve coordination, creativity, literacy, cognitive and listening skills, ICT skills and building self-esteem. Music students are also encouraged to undertake regular solo practice sessions in their own time, helping them to become responsible learners.

IGCSE Music students are encouraged to take full advantage of the extra-curricular activities offered by the music department at GIS. Group music-making has a very positive influence on students' social skills, and students have the opportunity to perform in numerous musical events held throughout the year. They are also encouraged to create music, for at the end of the day, this subject is about learning the art of human expression. We study western music from 1600 to the present, and also explore music from around the world.

Final Assessment:

Listening Examination (40%), and coursework in Composing (30%) and Performing (30%).

## **Physical Education**

Students that choose IGCSE Physical Education (PE) will have an exciting opportunity to improve their existing practical skills and to develop their understanding of selected theoretical aspects of Physical Education.

The syllabus is divided in two components with 50% of the marks awarded for performance and analysis of performance and 50% Theory.

Students must offer four different activities from two groups and at GIS we offer a choice from Games, Athletic Activities and Swimming. Pupils also have the ability to use sports they compete in out of school too if they are on the list of approved sports from CIE and must fulfil the IGCSE criteria. Students will practice and improve skills in their sports and look to apply these skills whilst developing their understanding of tactics and strategies that can be used in competitive situations.

The theory (50%) focuses on anatomy and physiology, health, fitness and training, skill acquisition and psychology and social, cultural and ethical influences. Whilst there are some specific terms to get to grips with, there are links to other subjects and a common sense approach will carry a long way.

Final Assessment: One written paper and a practical coursework component (performance in four sports).

## **Other subjects**

Although the vast majority of a Year 10 and 11 student's time at GIS will be spent on studying for the IGCSE qualifications. We also provide all students with the following lessons:

**Physical Education:** In Year 10 and 11, all pupils will have 1 PE lesson each week. During these lessons, pupils are able to choose their own path of activities. We focus on participation and creating a mindset of lifelong participation. We offer the pupils any sport that we have the equipment for and encourage pupils to play both competitive and non-competitive sport.

**Thai Studies:** At GIS, we offer one Thai Studies lesson per week to students in Years 10 and 11. Students will learn Thai grammar and vocabulary by listening and understanding basic Thai conversation, students will build a stronger foundation to help them to understand the basic structure of Thai language and to ensure they develop a natural feeling for forming and using Thai sentences in their daily life.

Students also learn about the history of Thailand, important days, art and craft, beliefs as well as music, sports and leisure.

**Study Support:** Should we find that a student is struggling to cope with a full portfolio of IGCSE subjects, they will be given the opportunity to discontinue a subject and receive study support sessions instead. This will allow the student to maximise the grades that they achieve from their remaining subjects.