

Gulf English School

مدرسة الخليج الإنجليزية



OPTIONS A LEVEL BOOKLET

2024 - 2025



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Introduction

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child is about to begin the first stage in deciding what to do after his/her IGCSEs. This is an important step in his/her life, as the wrong choice could limit what they are able to do in the future. One part of the process is deciding which subjects to choose to study at AS/A2. The following pages offer guidance on where and how to seek help and explanations of the different subjects available.

Dear Students,

This booklet will help to provide you with the information you need to make an informed choice – please read it well and share the process of choosing subjects with your parents, form tutors, and teachers. Once chosen and agreed, there is an obligation for you to study the option subjects for the duration of the course. This makes your choices very important. They must be the right choices for you.

Online Option Forms must be completed by –
Thursday 25th April 2024

Failure to submit the completed options form by this date may mean your preferred choices are not possible. We endeavour to offer all subjects at AS/A2, but should we not meet the minimum requirement, a different subject would need to be selected. Subjects offered are dependent on a certain number of students enrolling to the course.

***all students are required to take three AS levels**

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About Your Choices

It is essential that you know what requirements you need to fulfil.

In all cases:

Kuwaiti students should make sure they understand the requirements of Kuwait University, Scholarships, and the Secondary School Certificate.

Students wishing to travel to the UK to study Medicine/Dentistry are expected to take 3 A Levels or attend a Foundation Degree programme.

It is your responsibility to research the specific major and universities of your choice. Failure to do so, may result in you not being accepted into the university or the major of your choice.

You should conduct your research as follows:

- a) Country – where will you be studying?
- b) University – which universities will you want to apply to?
- c) Major – what do you want to study at university?

*University websites have the entry requirements for each major.

Who to Contact

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Arabic

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Code: WAA01

What you will study:

The aims and objectives of this course are to enable students to develop:

- an understanding of a wide variety of complex reading texts
- an understanding of standard written language on both unfamiliar and familiar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational contexts
- the ability to write clear, well-structured texts using an appropriate style, highlighting relevant salient issues, expanding and supporting points of view with supporting arguments
- the ability to express themselves fluently, spontaneously and appropriately in a range of written contexts
- the skills necessary for further study or employment, either in Arabic-speaking countries or where Arabic is used as the main medium of communication for business and commerce
- an understanding of the nature of language in different cultural contexts in order to build up competence in written communication.

How you will be assessed:

Unit 1: Understanding and Written Response

Unit 2: Writing and Research

All exams are assessed externally.

Art and Design

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9479

What you will study:

Students will develop skills in the following areas: recording their own experiences and observations; collecting, recording and responding to visual information using a range of techniques; selecting, giving context to and organising information collected in a coherent way; effectively use a wide range of resources and using the information to develop their own practice; the ability to make personal investigations; the application of a range of skills to produce art and design work; a critical awareness of their own work in a contextual framework and the ability to review it; the ability to reflect, refine and adapt. The areas of study are Fine Art, Graphic Communication; Three-dimensional Design; Textiles and fashion.

How you will be assessed:

AS Component 1: Candidates research, develop and realise a project from one area of study in the syllabus content. There are two parts to this component, a portfolio and a final outcome.

AS Component 2: Candidates choose one starting point to develop into a personal response. There are two parts to this component, supporting studies created during the preparation period and a final outcome

A2 Component 3: Candidates investigate a theme, idea, concept or process that is personal to them. There are two parts to this component, practical work and a written analysis.

All exams are assessed externally.

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Biology

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Codes: XBI11 AS
YBI11 A2

What you will study:

Characteristics and classification of living organisms, organisation of the organisms, movement in and out of cells, biological molecules, enzymes, plant nutrition, human nutrition, transport in plants, transport in animals, diseases and immunity, gas exchange in humans, respiration, excretion in humans, coordination and response, reproduction, drugs, inheritance, variation and selection, organisms and their environment, biotechnology and genetic engineering and human influences on ecosystems.

How you will be assessed:

AS Unit 1: Molecules, Diet, Transport and Health

AS Unit 2: Cells, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation

AS Unit 3: Practical Skills in Biology 1

A2 Unit 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity

A2 Unit 5: Respiration, Internal Environment, Coordination and Gene Tech

A2 Unit 6: Practical Skills in Biology 2

All exams are assessed externally.

Business Studies

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9609

What you will study:

The capacity to analyse characteristics and activities of business organisations and how they respond to the changing demands of their environments, an understanding of how effective managers and leaders develop successful organisations in terms of customer focus and the products/services they offer. The opportunity to reflect on how successful business organisations engage in financial and accounting practices to maximise value for stakeholder's value. Development of knowledge that relates to strategic planning and decision-making to ensure business survival, change, and sustainable success.

How you will be assessed:

AS Paper 1: Short answer and essay questions

AS Paper 2: Data response questions

A2 Paper 3: Questions based on case studies

A2 Paper 4: Essay questions based on case studies

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Chemistry

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Codes: XCH11 AS
YCH11 A2

What you will study:

Formulae, equations and amounts of substance, energetics and enthalpy changes, atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, organic chemistry, the alkanes and alkenes, shapes of molecules and ions, intermediate bonding and bond polarity, intermediate forces, redox, the Periodic Table –groups 2 & 7, kinetics and chemical equilibria, mechanisms, mass spectra and IR absorption, green chemistry.

How you will be assessed:

AS Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry

AS Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols

AS Unit 3: Practical Skills in Chemistry 1

A2 Unit 4: Rates, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry

A2 Unit 5: Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry

A2 Unit 6: Practical Skills in Chemistry 2

All exams are assessed externally.

Computer Science

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9618

What you will study:

Throughout the course, students will use and develop skills in Java, Visual Basic and Python. At AS level, the course content includes: information representation; communication; hardware; processor fundamentals; system software; security, privacy and data integrity; ethics and ownership; databases; algorithm design and problem-solving; data types and structures; programming; software development

How you will be assessed:

AS Paper 1: Theory Fundamentals

AS Paper 2: Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills

A2 Paper 3: Advanced Theory

A2 Paper 4: Practical

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Economics

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9708

What you will study:

Students will investigate the fundamental problem in economics is that resources are scarce and wants are unlimited, so there is always a choice required between competing uses for the resources. They will examine the decision making by individuals, firms and governments, which is based on choices at the margin; that is, once behaviour has been optimised, any change will be detrimental if conditions remain the same. They will see that prices are set by markets, are always moving in to and out of equilibrium, and can be both efficient and inefficient in different ways and over different time periods.

Students will recognise there is a trade-off between, on the one hand, freedom for firms and individuals in unregulated markets and, on the other hand, greater social equality and equity through the government regulation of individuals and markets. Economics studies how societies can progress in measurable money terms and develop in a wider more normative sense.

How you will be assessed:

AS Paper 1: Multiple Choice questions

AS Paper 2: Data response and essays

A2 Paper 3: Multiple Choice questions

A2 Paper 4: Data response and essays

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English Language

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9093

What you will study:

This programme could be studied as one-year stand-alone course (AS) or a two-year course for the candidates who wish to obtain the full A Level certificate.

The AS Level part constitutes the first half of the course, therefore provides a suitable foundation for the study of English Language at Cambridge International A Level and thence for related courses in higher education. The English Language course provides candidates opportunities to make critical and informed responses to texts which are wide ranging in their form, style and context. Candidates will also produce their own imaginative writing and will demonstrate their ability to produce writing for given audiences and purposes.

Those who also opt for studying the full A Level programme will develop a strong foundation in the study of linguistics, focusing on spoken language, English as a global language and language acquisition.

How you will be assessed:

AS Paper 1: Passages

AS Paper 2: Writing

A2 Paper 3: Text analysis

A2 Paper 4: Language topics

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English Literature

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9695

What you will study:

This programme could be studied as a one-year stand-alone course (AS) or a two-year course for the candidates who wish to obtain the full A Level, similar to the Language course.

The AS Level part provides a suitable foundation for the study of English Literature. Candidates study various set texts and answer questions on a range of poems, prose and plays, with options from the canon of English Literature to modern texts in English.

How you will be assessed:

AS Paper 1 Drama and Poetry

AS Paper 2 Prose and Unseen

A2 Paper 3 Shakespeare and Drama

A2 Paper 4 Pre- and Post-1900 Poetry and Prose

All exams are assessed externally.

French

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Codes: XFR01 AS
YFR01 A2

What you will study:

The A Level French course enables learners to achieve greater fluency, accuracy and confidence in the language as it is spoken and written, and improve their communication skills. Students will learn how to improve their use of French in a variety of situations, understanding how to read texts and other source materials, extract information, initiate conversations and respond to questions both orally and in writing.

At AS level, students will cover content from topic areas looking at youth matters, lifestyle, health and fitness, environment and travel, and education and employment.

At A2 level, students will investigate technology, society and ethics in the French-speaking world.

How you will be assessed:

AS Unit 1: Spoken expression and response

AS Unit 2: Understanding and written response

A2 Unit 3: Understanding and spoken response

A2 Unit 4: Research, understanding and written response

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Geography

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9696

What you will study

Students will further develop the skills and subject knowledge from IGCSE. They will study 6 topics at AS level, and 6 topics at A2 level. AS level core physical geography topics include: hydrology and fluvial morphology; atmosphere and weather; rocks and weathering. The AS level core human geography topics include: population; migration; settlement dynamics.

At A2 level, the advanced physical topics include coastal environments and hazardous environments, and the advanced human topics include environmental management and global interdependence.

How you will be assessed:

AS Paper 1: Core Physical Geography

AS Paper 2: Core Human Geography

A2 Paper 3: Advanced Physical Geography

A2 Paper 4: Advanced Human Geography

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History

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Codes: XHI01 AS
YHI01 A2

What you will study:

Students will investigate a range of historical topics and points in time. At AS level, the first unit is the depth study, and students will look at revolutions that occurred within Russia between 1881 and 1917. The second unit is a breadth study with source evaluation, students will study the transition of South Africa from the apartheid state, born in 1948. Gaining an understanding of the changing relationship between the races of South Africa and South Africa's relationship and position in the world.

At A2 level, the third unit explores developments that have shaped contemporary America and remain a fundamental issue in US society, investigating Civil Rights and Race Relations between 1865 and 2009. The fourth unit, The World in Crisis from 1879-1945, looks at the lead up to the break out of war in Europe in 1914, the interwar period, and the breakout of conflict and its end in 1945.

How you will be assessed:

AS Unit 1: Depth Study with Interpretations; Russia in Revolution 1881-1917

AS Unit 2: Breadth Study with Source Evaluation; South Africa 1948-2014

A2 Unit 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation; Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA 1865-2009

A2 Unit 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations; The World in Crisis 1879-1945

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ICT

Exam Board: Cambridge

Syllabus Code: 9626

What you will study:

At AS level, students enhance skills from IGCSE, by studying: data processing and information; hardware and software; monitoring and control; algorithms and flow charts; e-security; the digital divide; expert systems; spreadsheets; modelling; database and file concepts; sound and video editing.

At A2 level, students will develop skills and content in: IT in society; new and emerging technologies; communications technology; project management; system life cycle; mail merge; graphics creation; animation; programming for the web.

How you will be assessed:

AS Paper 1: Theory

AS Paper 2: Practical

A2 Paper 3: Advanced theory

A2 Paper 4: Advanced practical

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Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Codes: XMA01 AS
YMA01 A2

What you will study:

At AS level, students will complete Pure Maths 1, Pure Maths 2, and either Mechanics 1 or Statistics 1.

Topics studied include: algebra and functions; coordinate geometry in the (x,y) ; trigonometry; differentiation; integration; proof; sequences and series; exponentials and logarithms; mathematical models in mechanics; vectors in mechanics; kinematics of a particle moving in a straight line; dynamics of a particle moving in a straight line or plane; statics of a particle; moments; mathematical models in probability and statistics; representation and summary of data; probability; correlation and regression; discrete random variables; discrete distributions; the normal distribution.

How you will be assessed:

AS Unit 1 – Pure Maths 1

AS Unit 2 – Pure Maths 2

AS Unit 3 – Mechanics 1

A2 Unit 4 – Pure Maths 3

A2 Unit 5 – Pure Maths 4

A2 Unit 6 – Statistics 1

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Physics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Codes: XPH11 AS
YPH11 A2

What you will study:

Scales and vectors; motion; forces; work, energy and power; waves; particle nature of light; electric circuits; circular motion; electric fields; capacitors; magnetic fields; nuclear and particle physics; thermodynamics; nuclear radiation; oscillations; gravitational fields; space; exponential decay; investigation techniques in Physics practical experiments.

Physics will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. With these skills you will be able to test out new ideas plus question and investigate other people's theories, which is useful for any kind of job that involves research or debate.

How you will be assessed:

AS Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials

AS Unit 2: Waves and Electricity

AS Unit 3: Practical Skills in Physics 1

A2 Unit 4: Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles

A2 Unit 5: Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology

A2 Unit 6: Practical Skills in Physics 2

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Psychology

Exam Board: Edexcel

Syllabus Codes: XPS01 AS
YPS01 A2

What you will study:

Psychology aims to investigate the workings of human behaviour. During the course, students will have the opportunity to learn, analyse and critique aspects of modern psychology. They will develop a specialist vocabulary, an understanding of self and their role in society. At AS level, the course comprises of topics that delve into the idea of obedience, conformity, and models of memory, and the structure of the human brain and body. At A2 level, students will develop an understand of developmental and criminological/health psychology, and clinical psychology.

In addition to these topic areas, students will also learn how to conduct and evaluate their own psychological research applying scientific skills and statistical data analysis, and will look at important theories from a range of psychologists.

Students that embark on a Psychology course will develop their debating skills, reasoning skills and scientific skills to apply to the complex world of the human mind.

How you will be assessed:

AS Unit 1: Social and cognitive psychology

AS Unit 2: Biological psychology, learning theories and development

A2 Unit 3: Applications of psychology

A2 Unit 4: Clinical psychology and psychological skills

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