



The Royal Grammar School Guildford Qatar

IAS BOOKLET

Year 12

2024 - 2025



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Introduction from the Deputy Head of Secondary School

Our Year 11 students at RGSGQ are about to embark on an exciting journey as they begin to think about and choose the AS courses that they wish to study in Year 12.

This booklet aims to provide further information about the choices your child can make and to explain the thinking behind the school's view of the curriculum across Year 12.

We hope you find this booklet both informative and useful. If you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email the subject teachers or me at f.scott@rgsgq.com



Exam Centre

At RGSGQ, we are currently a registered Pearson Edexcel International Exams Centre and a registered Cambridge International Education Exams Centre. This enables the school to deliver both Pearson Edexcel academic qualifications and Cambridge International Education qualifications, including IGCSE, BTEC and International AS/A2 Levels (IAL). We are currently undergoing approval from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to deliver BTEC courses.

Explanation of A-Levels

Pearson Edexcel and Cambridge International Education Exam International Advanced Levels (IAL) are widely recognised by universities in the UK and worldwide for entry onto undergraduate degree programmes, hence they remain a popular choice for schools across the world. Students are able to choose from a variety of subjects that they will specialise in. This will be a minimum of 3 subjects and a maximum of 4 subjects.

The MoEHE stipulates that students can complete their Secondary education at the end of Year 12, therefore, the IAS will form the basis of entry onto their chosen university courses. Students can of course opt to take the IA2 and leave school at the end of Year 13, with a full A-Level.

Some International AS/A2 levels (IAL) use the popular and flexible modular approach, which means exams are taken at the end of each unit of study, or throughout the programme of study when a student feels prepared and ready, or all together at the end the course. This flexibility, together with exam series in January, June and October, for most subjects, in particular Maths and the Sciences, means that students have more opportunities to get feedback to improve their performance and get the grade they need to progress.

At RGSGQ, our exams are conducted using the Pearson Edexcel examination board and Cambridge International Exams. They are an organisation that sets examinations and are responsible for marking exam papers, distributing results, and awarding qualifications.

Explanation of BTEC

We are currently undergoing approval to offer BTEC courses. BTEC are internationally recognised qualifications offered at different levels in many different subjects. BTEC is not an exam-based route, instead students will complete assignments throughout the year in the classroom. The benefits of BTEC are that they are vocational courses designed to develop the skills future employers seek.

The level 3 BTEC, studied in Year 12, is the equivalent to 1 AS Level.

Qatar University do not currently accept BTEC courses.

Useful links

[Modular exams with Pearson Edexcel](#)

[Pearson Edexcel BTEC](#)

[Pearson Edexcel AS Level](#)

[Cambridge AS Level](#)

[Pearson Edexcel IAL intro video](#)

English Literature

Course Code: Edexcel English Literature XET01



The Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level English Literature comprises two mandatory units. It is a subsidiary qualification and it is recommended that all units for AS study are examined at the end of the Year 12. There are set compulsory texts to read and study, but students should also complete wider reading to broaden their knowledge of literary texts. Reading has a huge range of academic benefits but it is also an excellent way to relax, de-stress and take care of one's mental health. It is recommended that you have attained at least a grade 5 at IGCSE if you would like to take English Literature.

The course aims to enable students to:

- read widely and independently set texts and others that they have selected for themselves.
- engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them.
- develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation.
- explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.
- undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English Literature, and its changing traditions.

Students must complete unit 1 and unit 2:

Unit 1	Post-2000 Poetry and Prose (Examined)
Unit 2	Post-1900 Drama and Pre-1900 Drama (Examined)

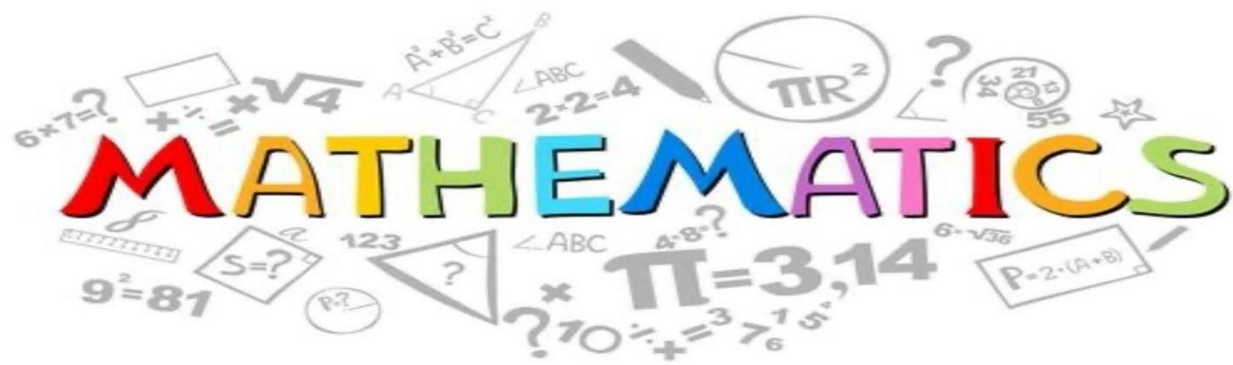
Career Pathways

The study of Literature is a study into the human psyche, human experience and social influences across history. Studying literature is to study literary texts as a product of their time; teaching students to read in context and to understand the influences over an author. The ability to read any content with a deeper appreciation and investigation is an essential skill recognised globally. Studying English Literature at A Level is widely recognised by many university courses as an excellent development of critical skills needed at undergraduate level.

Further information can be found here: [A-Level English Literature](#)

Mathematics

Unit Codes: Edexcel Pure Maths 1 WMA11; Pure Maths 2 WMA12; Statistics 1 WST01



To progress successfully in International Advanced Level Mathematics, students will benefit from gaining at least a Grade 5 after following IGCSE Higher Mathematics. The higher a student's grade at IGCSE Mathematics, the more secure they will be in the prior knowledge needed to access the A Level content. The A Level Mathematics Units include the following:

Pure Mathematics 1	Pure Mathematics 2
Algebra and Functions Coordinate Geometry in the (x, y) plane Trigonometry Differentiation Integration	Proof Coordinate Geometry in the (x, y) plane Sequences and Series Exponentials and Logarithms Trigonometry Differentiation Integration

Statistics 1
Mathematical Models in probability and statistics Representation and Summary of Data Probability Correlation and Regression Discrete Random Variables The Normal Distribution

Use this link to read more details about each A Level Unit.

[International A Level Mathematics Course Details](#)

Unit results

Students will receive a uniform mark between 0 and the maximum uniform mark for each unit. The uniform marks at each grade threshold for each unit are:

Unit grade	Maximum uniform mark	A	B	C	D	E
	100	80	70	60	50	40

Career Pathways

Students can progress from these qualifications to:

- A range of different, relevant academic or vocational higher education qualifications
- Employment
- Further training.

Biology

Course code Edexcel WBI11/WBI12/WBI13



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Biology is a qualification of three externally examined units. The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level qualification and consists of three IAS units, Units 1, 2 and 3. This qualification can be awarded as a discrete qualification or can contribute 50 percent towards the International Advanced Level qualification.

Assessment

All 3 units have the same assessment model, as they may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations, and extended-writing questions- as well as questions that target mathematics at Level 2 or above. Students who apply to iAS Biology must be keen problem solvers, an additional **prerequisite IGCSE in Mathematics, at a grade 5**. At least 10% of this unit is awarded by assessing mathematical skill.

Unit 1: Molecules, Diet, Transport and Health	Unit 2: Cells, Development, Biodiversity and Conservation	Unit 3: Practical Skills in Biology
This unit is 40% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 80 marks. The assessment's duration is 1 hour and 30 minutes.	This unit is also 40% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 80 marks. The assessment's duration is also 1 hour and 30 minutes.	This unit is 20% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 50 marks. The assessment's duration is 1 hour and 20 minutes.
This unit covers molecules, transport and health, membranes, proteins, DNA and gene expression	This unit covers cell structure, reproduction and development, plant structure and function, biodiversity and conservation.	This unit assesses candidates' knowledge and understanding of experimental procedures and techniques that were developed in Units 1 and 2.

Further details and the full specification can be accessed by clicking: [Biology iAL Specification](#)

Career Pathways

This qualification enables successful progression to iAL and higher education courses in Biological Sciences. Students who study Biology will gain knowledge and understanding to enable them to engage as informed citizens and make sense of the world around them. The ability to think independently, ask questions, and draw conclusions are key attributes of a scientist. These critical thinking skills are used to discover new phenomena, prove theories and make scientific breakthroughs. Critical thinking, planning, adaptability, creativity, data analysis and communication skills are all imperative to success in Biology. These skills are highly prized in many industries, such as medicine, research and engineering. Studying Biology will be useful if you are interested in continuing to A-Level Biology or a Science related degree.

Chemistry

Course code Edexcel WCH11/WCH12/WCH13



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Chemistry is a qualification that consists of three externally examined units. The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level qualification and consists of three IAS units, Units 1, 2 and 3. This qualification can be awarded as a discrete qualification or can contribute 50 percent towards the International Advanced Level qualification.

Assessment

All 3 units have the same assessment model, as they may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations, and extended-writing questions- as well as questions that target mathematics at Level 2 or above. Students who apply to iAS Chemistry must be keen problem solvers, an additional **prerequisite IGCSE in Mathematics, at a grade 5**. At least 40% of this unit is awarded by assessing mathematical skill.

Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry	Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols	Unit 3: Practical Skills in Chemistry
This unit is 40% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 80 marks. The assessment's duration is 1 hour and 30 minutes.	This unit is also 40% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 80 marks. The assessment's duration is also 1 hour and 30 minutes.	This unit is 20% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 50 marks. The assessment's duration is 1 hour and 20 minutes.
This unit covers formulae, equations and amount of substance, atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding and structure, introductory organic Chemistry and alkanes, alkenes	This unit covers energetics, intermolecular forces, redox chemistry and groups 1, 2 and 7, introduction to kinetics and equilibria, organic chemistry: alcohols, halogenoalkanes and spectra	This unit assesses candidates' knowledge and understanding of experimental procedures and techniques that were developed in Units 1 and 2.

Further details and the full specification can be accessed by clicking : [Chemistry iAL Specification](#)

Career Pathways

Students who study Chemistry will gain knowledge and understanding to enable them to engage as informed citizens and make sense of the world around them. The ability to think independently, ask questions, and draw conclusions are key attributes of a scientist. These critical thinking skills are used to discover new phenomena, prove theories and make scientific breakthroughs. Critical thinking, planning, adaptability, creativity, data analysis and communication skills are all imperative to success in Chemistry. These skills are highly prized in many industries, such as energy, recycling, food science and engineering. Studying Chemistry will be useful if you are interested in continuing to A-Level Chemistry or a Science related degree.

Physics

Course code Edexcel WPH11/WPH12/WPH13



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Subsidiary in Physics is a qualification of three externally examined units. The International Advanced Subsidiary is the first half of the International Advanced Level qualification and consists of three IAS units, Units 1, 2 and 3. This qualification can be awarded as a discrete qualification or can contribute 50 percent towards the International Advanced Level qualification.

Assessment

All 3 units have the same assessment model, as they may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations, and extended-writing questions- as well as questions that target mathematics at Level 2 or above. Students who apply to iAS Physics must be keen problem solvers, an additional **prerequisite IGCSE in Mathematics, at a grade 5**. At least 40% of this unit is awarded by assessing mathematical skill.

Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials	Unit 2: Waves and Electricity	Unit 3: Practical Skills in Physics
This unit is 40% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 80 marks. The assessment's duration is 1 hour and 30 minutes.	This unit is also 40% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 80 marks. The assessment's duration is also 1 hour and 30 minutes.	This unit is 20% of the total IAS and is externally assessed via a written examination, worth 50 marks. The assessment's duration is 1 hour and 20 minutes.
This unit covers further mechanics, electric and magnetic fields, nuclear and particle physics.	This unit covers waves and the particle nature of light as well electrical circuits.	This unit assesses candidates' knowledge and understanding of experimental procedures and techniques that were developed in units 1 and 2.

Further details and the full specification can be accessed by clicking : [Physics iAL Specification](#)

Career Pathways

Students who study Physics will gain knowledge and understanding to enable them to engage as informed citizens and make sense of the world around them. The ability to think independently, ask questions, and draw conclusions are key attributes of a scientist. These critical thinking skills are used to discover new phenomena, prove theories and make scientific breakthroughs. Critical thinking, planning, adaptability, creativity, data analysis and communication skills are all imperative to success in Physics. These skills are highly prized in many industries, such as energy, transport, space exploration, product development and engineering. Studying Physics will be useful if you are interested in continuing to A-Level Physics or a Science related degree

Arabic

Course code: Edexcel Arabic XAA01



The Advanced Subsidiary specification requires students to:

- read and respond to a variety of Arabic-language written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres
- adapt their written Arabic language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- use the Arabic language accurately to express facts and ideas, and to present explanations, opinions and information in writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures of the Arabic language as detailed in Arabic unit content: Grammar list.

Course Content

Section A: Reading

Students will need to understand, retrieve and convey information from a short series of different Arabic-language texts. They will be required to provide a mix of non-verbal and Arabic-language responses. In addition, marks will be given for vocalisation of text produced in response to one of the questions.

Section B: Grammar

Students will be assessed on their ability to manipulate Arabic language, grammar and lexis. They will be assessed on their ability to vocalise Arabic vowels and select the right word form over three distinct tasks focusing on a topic area to provide contextualisation.

Section C: Essay

Students will write a 240–280 word essay, in Arabic, in response to a short Arabic language stimulus and related bullet points. The assessment rewards learners for communicating relevant information effectively as well as for the quality of the Arabic language produced.

Course assessment: Externally assessed Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes

Career Pathways

The IAS Arabic course will allow students to gain entry onto most University courses and is widely accepted by all Universities in Qatar and the GCC. Students will find this IAS valuable for careers in government and politics, as well as a wide range of career pathways.

Please click here for more information: [IAS Arabic](#)

Business

Course Code: Edexcel Business Studies XBS11



The course enables students to:

- Develop a holistic understanding of business – the assessment culminates with a final paper that draws on the knowledge and skills students developed from Units 1, 2 and 3.
- Develop quantitative skills – students develop these skills throughout the course and must apply them to relevant business contexts within the assessment.
- Reflect on today's global world – students develop an understanding of current global issues that impact on business, preparing them for their next steps in today's global world.
- Gain a real business focus – students are encouraged to contextualise theory and respond to real-life international business case studies and stimulus material.

Course content and assessment:

Unit 1 course content	Unit 2 course content
<u>Marketing and people</u> • Meeting customer needs • The market • Marketing mix and strategy • Managing people • Entrepreneurs and leaders	<u>Managing business activities</u> • Planning a business and raising finance • Financial planning • Managing finance • Resource management • External influences
Assessment overview – students will sit 2 exams both are 2 hours each. Section A: Short- and extended-response questions based on sources (30 marks). Section B: Same format as Section A, based on different sources (30 marks). Section C: One 20-mark essay question, based on one or more sources (20 marks).	

Click here for more information on the course: [IAS Business](#)

Career Pathways

Business Studies can lead to a wide range of careers such as marketing, HR, finance and law. Studied alongside math's it can open doors into careers related to marketing, finance or running your own business.

Geography

Course code: Cambridge International AS & A Level Geography (9696)



Cambridge learners will develop:

- an understanding of the principal processes operating within physical geography and human geography
- an understanding of the causes and effects of change on natural and human environments
- an awareness of the usefulness of geographical analysis to understand and solve contemporary human and environmental problems
- the ability to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information
- the skills to think logically, and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways
- an excellent foundation for studies beyond Cambridge International AS Level in Geography, in further or higher education, and for professional courses.

Topics

Candidates for Cambridge International AS Level Geography study the following topics:

Core Physical Geography

Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology

Atmosphere and weather

Rocks and weathering

Core Human Geography

Population Migration

Settlement dynamics

Assessment

Paper 1 Core Physical Geography 1 hour 30 minutes 50% of the course

Paper 2 Core Human Geography 1 hour 30 minutes 50% of the course

Click here for more information on the course: [IAS Geography](#)

Career pathways

Cambridge International AS Level Geography provides a suitable foundation for the study of Geography or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for candidates intending to pursue careers or further study in Planning, Environmental Subjects, Development, Tourism, etc., or as part of a course of general education.

History

Course Code: Cambridge International AS & A Level History 9489



The **key concepts** for Cambridge International AS & A Level History are:

- Cause and consequence The events, circumstances, actions and beliefs that have a direct causal connection to consequential events and developments, circumstances, actions or beliefs. Causes can be both human and non-human.
- Change and continuity The patterns, processes and interplay of change and continuity within a given time frame.
- Similarity and difference The patterns of similarity and difference that exist between people, lived experiences, events and situations in the past.
- Significance The importance attached to an event, individual or entity in the past, whether at the time or subsequent to it. Historical significance is a constructed label dependent on the perspective (context, values, interests and concerns) of the person ascribing significance and is therefore changeable.
- Interpretations How the past has been subsequently reconstructed and presented by historians

Topics

International option: International history, 1870–1945

- Empire and the emergence of world powers, 1870–1919
- The League of Nations and international relations in the 1920s
- The League of Nations and international relations in the 1930s
- China and Japan, 1912–45

Assessment

Two written papers externally assessed.

Paper 1

Document paper

AS 40%

Paper 2

Outline Study

AS 60%

Click here for more information on the course: [IAS History](#)

Career pathways

A history qualification allows students to gain a wealth of skills like critical reasoning, research and analytical thinking. It's a challenging academic subject, and employers regularly see a lot of value in it. Possible future careers include academic researcher, journalism, politics, historian, museum curator and many more.

BTEC Information Technology

Course code: Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Information Technology



Equivalent to 1 AS Level

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in a basic introduction to the study of information technology alongside other fields of study, which may include other vocational or general qualifications, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education and employment opportunities, not necessarily in information technology.

BTEC courses enable a learner-centered approach to education, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied to project-based assessments. BTECs focus on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be successful in employment and higher education.

BTEC offers internationally relevant content, which is closely aligned with employer and higher-education needs. The assessments and projects chosen are to help learners progress; this means that some assessments and projects are set by the school to meet local needs, while others are set by Pearson, ensuring a core of skills and understanding common to all learners.

Assessment

BTEC does not have any exams but has assignments that are completed in the classroom. Level 3 has 2 assignments;

1. A mandatory unit Information Technology Systems – Strategy, Management and Infrastructure the assignment is set by Pearson and internally assessed. It is worth 66.7% of the course.
2. An optional unit to be chosen by the teacher from a choice of 18 units. The teacher will decide based on the needs of the class. The assignment is designed by the teacher and internally assessed. It is worth 33.3% of the course.

Click here for more information on the course: [BTEC Level 3 Certificate Information Technology](#)

Career pathways

A BTEC in Information Technology will be a good stepping stone for anyone wanting to enter any career or industry which uses computers or IT. The BTEC course develops skills that are much sought after by prospective employers.

Other timetabled lessons:

Careers and Higher Education

Throughout the curriculum and the academic year, there will be opportunities for students to develop their knowledge and understanding of various careers, through guest speakers and events to educate and inspire students. This will help students develop a greater understanding of the choices and their individual career aspirations. Students will be given opportunities to go to Career Fairs as well as visit universities to find out about Higher education courses on offer.

Islamic Studies

Islamic Studies curriculum is set and guided by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Qatar. It is compulsory for all Muslim students but is not assessed through any external international examinations.

Choosing your options

Students can choose their IAS courses now, but entry onto the course will be determined once they have received their I/GCSE course results. Students should aim to achieve 7 I/GCSEs with a grade 3 or above to gain promotion to Year 12 and onto the IAS course.

RGSQ Options Form Students will complete an online form with their Y12 options in the week beginning 24th March

