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Welcome Letter from the Head of Sixth Form

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Sixth Form Information Evening and I hope you find tonight useful as you make decisions about post-16 education.

The Sixth Form at St. Stephen's International School provides students with the opportunity to develop their academic, personal, and social skills in a supportive environment. The school aims to prepare students for their transition to adulthood by equipping them with essential knowledge, skills, and personal attributes that young people will require in the modern world. We want our students to graduate at the end of Year 13 as confident, responsible, innovative and reflective citizens.

St. Stephen's provides its Sixth Form students with an education that has academic rigour through the British A Level curriculum, in addition to an enrichment programme that aims to support personal, social and emotional development. We support our Sixth Form students by teaching them in small class sizes, providing them with a Common Room for them to socialise together and a Study Room where each has their own work desk. The Head of Sixth Form and tutoring team are available for the individual guidance or help the students need throughout the year.

The academic programmes offered at the school to our Sixth Form students are from Cambridge International Examinations. The A Level programme is split into two components over a two year course. The Advanced Subsidiary, (AS), level is a qualification that is obtained after the completion of examinations at the end of Year 12. It represents the first half of an A level course, but is a qualification in its own right. The Advanced, (A2), level is a qualification that is obtained after the completion of examinations at the end of Year 13.

The enrichment programme comprises weekly classes focusing on developing leadership and personal skills in communication, critical thinking, and self-awareness. These skills are brought on through preparation for IELTS and SAT's in Year 12, as well as a study skills course developed by the school. In Year 13 we spend a lot of time preparing for university entrance, interviews and completing statements of purpose. We also have developed a critical thinking course based on part of the International Baccalaureate course.

Our students are strongly encouraged to take on senior roles within the school community such as leading CAS activities, being actively involved in charitable events and the opportunity to be a Prefect or Head Prefect. We recognise the value of such positions in building a community

spirit within the school as well as supporting the development of our students' self-confidence and their sense of responsibility.

The Sixth Form is also a time when students must make important decisions regarding their future educational pathways and career options. The Head of Sixth Form and tutors support students through this process through individualised guidance. Our Sixth Form students are provided with information on university courses both nationally and internationally, and they have many opportunities to meet with representatives from different local and overseas universities.

I hope that I have provided an overview of the Sixth Form programme at the school and the opportunities that this programme can offer to our students. If you require any further information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact me at alison.w@sis.edu

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Alison Weeks

Head of Sixth Form

What our current students say about the Sixth Form as SIS

'A Level subjects are very interesting and sometimes difficult but I always enjoy the challenges of each subject'. **Eye, Year 12**

'I really enjoy learning at A level because I get to stretch myself much more and also to have time to spend with my friends in school'. **Mew, Year 12**

'The Sixth Form provides me with various opportunities to improve and to try out new challenges and learn new skills which are a huge advantage for university study and for life'. **Jijang, Year 13**

'It is a big step up, both academically as well as managing yourself efficiently'. **Todd, Year 13**

'We get more time for each subject, which is a great opportunity to keep up with the independent work we need to do.' **Stam, Year 13**

'It helps you realize how much work is required to succeed and do well in your future life. I think Sixth Form is an essential part in growing up.' **Michael, Year 13**

'Being a prefect gives us great opportunities for preparing for university through giving us responsibilities that require you to show leadership and initiative.' **Moss, Year 13 and Sports Prefect**

'I enjoy facing the challenges set by A Level subjects and the responsibility of being a Sixth Form student leader.' **John, Year 13 and Head Prefect**

Frequently Asked Questions about the Sixth Form at SIS

1. What is the role of the Head of Sixth Form?

The Head of Sixth Form is responsible for academic and pastoral support for students. The Head of Sixth Form is also responsible for managing the Sixth Form enrichment programme, careers education for Sixth Form Students, and the university application process.

2. Will students in Year 11 be supported in selecting subjects to study in Year 12?

Yes. The Head of Sixth Form will meet with each Year 11 student individually to discuss his/her subject options in relation to future university course and career plans. Parents are welcomed to join this meeting or speak to the Head of Sixth Form at any time.

3. Is there an entry criterion to enter the Sixth Form?

Yes. Students will need to have passed, with a grade C or above, at least five subjects at IGCSE or equivalent. These five subjects must include English. The subjects they wish to take in Year 12 must be a B grade or above.

4. May a student begin to study a new subject in Year 12 that he/she has not studied before?

Yes, this is possible but such a decision must be reached through discussions between the student, the Head of Sixth Form, and the subject teacher. Some of the important factors in making this decision will be the student's previous grades and work ethic.

5. Are Sixth Form students given careers education?

Yes. The school is supported with up to date resources by the UK's Independent Schools Careers Organisation (ISCO). Their representatives visit the school on an annual basis and all students are offered the 'Futurewise' careers service as well as one to one sessions with the Head of Sixth Form.

6. Are Sixth Form students given guidance on Thai and overseas university courses, and the application process?

Yes. The Head of Sixth Form advises student on suitable Thai and overseas university courses and university options in one to one sessions and in PSHE lessons.

7. Where can I find information on the Cambridge International AS and A2 Level Programmes?

Information on the Cambridge International AS and A Level programmes may be found at: <http://cie.org.uk>. However, subject teachers will be able to provide detailed information regarding the delivery of the syllabus at SIS.

8 How many subjects must a student study in Years 12 and 13?

A Year 12 student will usually study four subjects at AS level and a Year 13 student will usually study three subjects at A2 level.

9 Will students have free periods to study during the school day?

Yes. Students will usually have one or two periods each day when they are not in lessons. However, these lessons are for students to study or to work on their university research and applications. Students can also use the Sixth Form Common Room sometimes when they do not have lessons to relax with others.

10 What can I do, if I do not want to study A Levels?

SIS offers the High School Diploma and will also help students who wish to resit their IG in November of Year 12.

Art & Design

Art and Design actively seeks to develop:

- the ability to perceive, understand and express concepts and feelings
- the ability to record from direct observation and personal experience
- the ability to communicate by using appropriate materials and techniques in a disciplined way
- experimentation, innovation and the use of intuition and imagination
- critical and analytical faculties, the ability to identify research and evaluate problems in a systematic way
- confidence, initiative and a sense of adventure and achievement
- the acquisition of a relevant working vocabulary
- an awareness and appreciation of the interdependence of Art & Design and the individual within cultural contexts

Types of Learning Experience

Students will study and submit work within two components during Year 12 to qualify for the Advanced Subsidiary level award. A further two components are completed in Year 13 to achieve an Advanced Level award in Art and Design.

Individual and collaborative skills, techniques and knowledge are acquired through lectures, discussions, demonstrations, practical work, videos, gallery visits, seminars, books and contact with local art colleges.

Subject Combinations

Art and Design may be studied alongside any other subject but it would be beneficial if studied alongside ICT if you are considering a career in a technology based industry like media or graphic design.

Career Opportunities

Though this list is not exhaustive, careers especially relevant for those wishing to pursue a career in the Arts after studying A Level Art and Design including Fine Art, Fashion Design, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Textiles, Printmaking, Theatre Production,

Media, Multimedia, TV, Photography, Animation, Teaching, Gallery Curating, Cartoon Design as well as careers in Architecture, Engineering and Product Design.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Controlled test	Develop a visual response. Observe directly from primary sources. Record, analyse and develop their ideas in two and/ or three dimensions.	15 Hours	30%
2	Coursework	The coursework project can be either two or three dimensional and is defined as ' <i>anything produced from the conception to the completion of the final item</i> '. It should be the candidate's individual response, produced in the one area of study which is considered most appropriate.	N/A	20%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Coursework	Candidates should focus on research, development and realisation in depth. Unlike Component 2, equal emphasis is placed on the resolution of the final piece and on the development of ideas and the use of processes.	N/A	30%
4	Personal study	Students will produce a detailed study of any aspect of the visual arts that relates to their work for Component 2 or Component 3: Coursework. First-hand experience of the work(s) should form at least part of the study.	N/A	20%

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=733

Biology

The study of Biology will enable students to have:

- Confidence in a technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- An understanding of the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and its application in other subjects and in everyday life
- An understanding of how scientific theories and methods have developed, and continue to develop, as a result of groups and individuals working together
- An understanding that the study and practice of biology are affected and limited by social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural factors
- An awareness that the application of biological science in everyday life may be both helpful and harmful to the individual, the community and the environment
- Knowledge that biological science overcomes national boundaries
- The ability to communicate effectively using universal scientific conventions
- An awareness of the importance of ICT within the subject
- A concern for accuracy and precision
- An understanding of the importance of safe practice
- Improved awareness of the importance of objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- An interest in, and care for, the local and global environment and an understanding of the need for conservation

Types of Learning Experience

Lessons will vary in format but will generally be based on the following:

- Experimental skills: practical work will include the use of microscopes, dissection (optional), projects, model-making, fieldwork
- Written work: essays, practice exam questions, data-handling, and investigation reports
- Discussion, 'lecture' style presentations, small group work
- Reading, research and individual learning
- Drawing and interpreting difficult concepts through modelling.

Students are expected to keep a folder of notes and their practical book up to date throughout the course. Background reading should be done on a regular basis as well as keeping up to date with current trends by watching TV programmes and reading science magazines.

Useful websites include: Science Daily, TED talks, BBC Science, doc.brown (for revision) along with **many** others.

Link Subjects

Biology is a good partner for any subject but links particularly well with Chemistry, Physics, Geography and PE.

Career Opportunities

Needed or useful for: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Marine Biology, Nature Conservation, Pharmacy, Physiology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Medical and Research Laboratory Technician, Forensic Sciences, Dietician and many others.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

Component	Weighting	
	AS Level	A Level
Paper 1 Multiple Choice 1 hour This paper consists of 40 multiple choice questions, all with four options. All questions will be based on the AS Level syllabus content. Candidates will answer all questions. Candidates will answer on an answer sheet. [40 marks]	31%	15.5%
Paper 2 AS Level Structured Questions 1 hour 15 minutes This paper consists of a variable number of questions, of variable mark value. All questions will be based on the AS Level syllabus content. Candidates will answer all questions. Candidates will answer on the question paper. [60 marks]	46%	23%
Paper 3 Advanced Practical Skills 2 hours This paper requires candidates to carry out practical work in timed conditions. This paper will consist of two or three experiments drawn from different areas of the AS Level syllabus. Candidates will answer all questions. Candidates will answer on the question paper. [40 marks]	23%	11.5%
Paper 4 A Level Structured Questions 2 hours This paper consists of a variable number of structured questions each with a variable mark value (Section A) and a choice of one free response style question worth 15 marks (Section B). All questions will be based on the A Level syllabus but may require knowledge of material first encountered in the AS Level syllabus. Candidates will answer on the question paper. [100 marks]	–	38.5%
Paper 5 Planning, Analysis and Evaluation 1 hour 15 minutes This paper consists of a variable number of questions of variable mark value based on the practical skills of planning, analysis and evaluation. Candidates will answer on the question paper. [30 marks]	–	11.5%

Structure of the syllabus

Cambridge International AS Level candidates will study and be assessed on the first eleven sections. Cambridge International A Level candidates will study and be assessed on all 19 sections.

AS LEVEL MODULES

1 Cell Structure	2 Biological Molecules
3 Enzymes	4 Cell Membranes and Transport
5 The Mitotic Cell Cycle	6 Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis
7 Transport in Plants	8 Transport in Mammals
9 Gas exchange and Smoking	10 Infectious Disease
11 Immunity	

A2 LEVEL MODULES

12 Energy and Respiration	13 Photosynthesis
14 Homeostasis	15 Control and co-ordination
16 Inherited Change	16 Selection and evolution
17 Biodiversity, Classification and Conservation	19 Gene Technology

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef_id=734

Business Studies

The study of Business Studies will enable students to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the local, national and international environment within which business operates
- develop an understanding, through a problem solving approach, of the nature and working of business and industry
- understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and its role in society
- develop critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value
- develop consideration for the internal workings and management of organisations and, in particular, the process of decision making in a dynamic external environment
- be aware that business behaviour can be studied from the perspective of a range of stakeholders including customer, manager, creditor, owner/shareholder and employee
- be aware of the economic, environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and technological issues associated with business activity
- develop skills in decision making and problem solving in the light of evaluation
- develop skills in the quantification and management of information
- develop skills in effective communication

Types of Learning Experience

Students will study 5 topic areas in Year 12 to achieve AS level and these topics are developed further in Year 13 and an addition topic of Strategic Management introduced. Facts, figures and research evidence are gained through classroom discussion, personal reading of journal articles, newspapers and videos. Complex business scenarios are introduced and solutions to specific business problems are addressed using a variety of decision making techniques, both quantitative and qualitative.

Link Subjects

Business studies links well with English and other humanities as well as with Mathematics and ICT.

Career Opportunities

A level Business Studies is undoubtedly an asset whether students decide to seek employment or decide to proceed to Higher Education. With reference to employment, Business Studies provides valuable background understanding to careers in the private or public sector such as Finance, Banking, Local Government, Travel, Charities, Media, Industry, Marketing and International Affairs.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Core Curriculum	Business and the Environment People in Organisations Marketing Operations and Project Management Business Finance and Accounting	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%
2	Data Response		1 Hour 30 Minutes	30%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Extended Curriculum- Case Study	Business and the Environment People in Organisations Marketing Operations and Project Management Business Finance and Accounting Strategic Management	3 Hours	50%

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef_id=73

Chemistry

The study of Chemistry will enable students to:

- become confident citizens in a technological world, able to develop an informed interest in matters of scientific importance
- acquire an appreciation and understanding of the nature and importance of chemical theories and principles
- acquire an appreciation of the contribution that chemicals make to society through their work
- gain an understanding of the technological applications of chemistry and their social, economic and industrial implications
- develop a scientific approach to problem solving
- develop the skills to work safely with apparatus and chemicals in the laboratory
- develop attitudes relevant to science such as accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and insight
- experience a scientific training, either as an end in itself, or as a foundation for more advanced study

Types of Learning Experience

Lessons will vary in format from lecture style to research and individual learning, though there will be a large emphasis on experimental skills.

Students are expected to keep a folder/book of notes and ensure their practical write-up is also up to date throughout the course. Background reading should be done on a regular basis as well as keeping up to date with current trends by watching TV programmes and reading science magazines.

Link Subjects

Chemistry may be taken with a range of other subjects, including, but not limited to: Biology, Physics, Mathematics and Geography.

Career Opportunities

An A-level Chemistry qualification is essential for some courses including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Chemical Engineering. Chemists and Chemical Scientists work in a large number of key areas. Possible careers in addition to those mentioned above include:

- teaching and lecturing
- science Journalism

- careers in Industry (Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology industries) working in areas such as Research and Development, Production, Marketing and Sales, and Management
- commerce e.g. Accountancy or Banking. Employers recognise the key skills of numeracy, problem-solving and communication that are an integral part of all chemistry courses
- careers in specialist areas of law

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting for AS	Weighting for A2
1	Multiple Choice	Physical Chemistry Inorganic Chemistry Organic Chemistry	1 Hour	31%	15%
2	Structured Questions		1 Hour 15 Minutes	46%	23%
3	Advanced Practical Skills		2 Hours	23%	12%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
4	Structured and Free Response Questions	Physical Chemistry Inorganic Chemistry Organic Chemistry Applications of Chemistry	2 Hours	38%
5	Planning, Analysis and Evaluation		1 Hour 15 Minutes	12%

Further information is available at:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-international-as-and-a-level-chemistry-9701/>

Computer Science

The study of Computer Science will enable students to:

- provide a general understanding and perspective of the development of computer technology and systems, which will inform their decisions and support their participation in an increasingly technologically dependent society
- provide the necessary skills and knowledge to seek employment in areas that use computer science
- develop their knowledge and understanding of computer science through entry to higher education, where this qualification will provide a useful foundation for further study of computer science or more specialist aspects of computer science.

Types of Learning Experience

The course introduces students to the fundamental and advanced theory of how computers work. This includes information representation, internet technologies, data modeling, encryption protocols, circuit switching, logic gates and circuit design. The other half of the course involves learning to program. Students will learn problem solving skills, algorithm design, file processing, stages of software development.

Link Subjects

Computer Science is a suitable combination for most subjects but is especially relevant to Mathematics and Physics.

Career Opportunities

Computer Science A-level can lead to entry into wide range of university and Higher Education courses. Computer Science can be studied as a degree on its own or in combination with other subjects. It is often a constituent component of many other degree courses, for example Engineering, Bio-Medical Science and Business.

Computer Science provides you with the skills relevant for a wide range of careers including Software Developer, Systems Analyst, System Tester, IT Technician, Network Engineer, Project Manager, System Administrator and Database Administrator

Syllabus Content and Assessment

Components	Weighting %	
	AS	A
<p>Paper 1 Theory Fundamentals This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. There is no choice of questions. 75 marks Externally assessed 1 hour 30 minutes</p>	50	25
<p>Paper 2 Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. There is no choice of questions. Topics will include those given in the pre-release material. 75 marks Externally assessed 2 hours</p>	50	25
<p>Paper 3 Advanced Theory This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. There is no choice of questions. 75 marks Externally assessed 1 hour 30 minutes</p>	-	25
<p>Paper 4 Further Problem-solving and Programming Skills This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. There is no choice of questions. Topics will include those given in the pre-release material. 75 marks Externally assessed 2 hours</p>	-	25

Further information available is available at:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications>

English

Students have the choice of studying one of three English AS/A Levels:

- English Language
- Literature in English
- English Language and Literature

➤ The **AS and A Level English Language** syllabus aims to develop:

- A critical and informed response to texts in a range of forms, styles and contexts
- The interdependent skills of reading, analysis and research
- Effective, creative, accurate and appropriate communication
- A firm foundation for further study of language and linguistics.

Year 12 AS Level English Language students will sit two exams assessing reading and writing skills.

Year 13 A Level English Language students will sit four exams assessing reading, writing and skills of analysis.

➤ The **AS and A Level Literature in English** syllabus aims to develop:

- Appreciation of and informed personal response to literature in English in a range of texts in different forms, and from different periods and cultures.
- The interdependent skills of reading, analysis and communication.
- Effective and appropriate communication.
- Wider reading and an understanding of how it may contribute to personal development.

Year 12 AS Level Literature in English students will sit two exams assessing analysis of poetry, prose and drama.

Year 13 A Level Literature in English students will sit four exams/a combination of three exams and one piece of coursework assessing analysis of drama, Shakespeare and pre and post 20th Century writing.

➤ The **AS Level Language and Literature** aims to develop:

- A critical and informed response to writing in a range of forms, styles and contexts.
- The interdependent skills of reading, analysis and communication.
- Effective and appropriate communication.
- Appreciation of and informed personal response to literature in English.
- Wider reading and an understanding of how it may contribute to personal development.

Year 12 AS Language and Literature Level students will sit one exam assessing writing skills and one exam assessing analysis of poetry, prose and drama.

Year 13 students will sit either A Level Literature in English or A Level English Language.

2016 – 2018 AS Level Literature texts include:

	Candidates study one poetry and one prose text:
Poetry Wilfred Owen	<i>Selected Poems</i>
Ted Hughes	<i>Selected Poems</i>
Songs of Ourselves	<i>The University of Cambridge International Examinations Anthology of Poetry in English</i>
Prose Edith Wharton	<i>The House of Mirth</i>
Jhumpa Lahiri	<i>The Namesake</i>
Stories of Ourselves	<i>The University of Cambridge International Examinations Anthology of Stories in English</i>
	Candidates study two of the following:
Drama Ama Ata Aidoo	<i>The Dilemma of a Ghost and Anowa</i>
William Shakespeare	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
William Shakespeare	<i>Anthony and Cleopatra</i>
Robert Bolt	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i>
Alan Ayckbourn	<i>Absurd Person Singular</i>

2016 – 2018 A Level Literature texts include:

Section A	Candidates study one text from each section:
Shakespeare	<i>Measure for Measure</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Othello</i>
Section B	
Ted Hughes	<i>Selected Poems</i>
Jane Austen	<i>Emma</i>
Geoffrey Chaucer	<i>Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i>
George Eliot	<i>The Mill on the Floss</i>
John Keats	<i>Selected Poems</i>
Charles Dickens	<i>Great Expectations</i>
Christina Rossetti	<i>Selected Poems</i>

➤ **Did you know that...**

Andrea Jung, former Avon CEO, studied English literature at Princeton University?

Harold Varmus, Nobel Laureate (in medicine), studied English at Amherst College?

Steven Spielberg, film director, studied English at California State University?

Anne Mulcahy, former Xerox CEO, studied English and journalism at Marymount College?

Judy McGrath, Former MTV CEO, received an English degree at Cedar Crest College?

Michael Eisner, former Disney CEO, studied English and theatre at Denison University?

James Franco, actor, filmmaker and author, has a PhD in English from Yale University?

Geography

The study of Geography will enable students to:

- develop awareness of the relevance of geographical analysis to understanding and solving contemporary human and environmental problems
- introduce to the main elements of Physical and Human Geography and the interrelationships between these components
- develop a sense of relative location, including an appreciation of the complexity and variety of natural and human environments
- demonstrate and explain the causes and effects of change over space and time on the natural and
- human environments
- develop ability to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information
- develop ability to think logically and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways
- promote their awareness of the need for understanding, respect and co-operation in conserving the environment and improving the quality of life both at a global scale and within the context of different cultural settings

Learning experience

You will experience all six Key Skills: Communication, Application of Number, Information Technology, Problem Solving, Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance. Knowledge is gained through lectures, seminars, classroom discussion, videos and newspapers.

Link Subjects

Geography combines equally well with humanities including English, History or Business Studies. Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as Business, Law, Media, Biology, Environmental sciences, Politics and Philosophy.

Career Progression

Students with AS or A2 Geography have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include analysing and interpreting data, communicating your findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject.

These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and universities as being of high value. Career paths include Teaching, Tourism, the Armed Services, NGO officer, Risk

Assessment, Hazard Management, Weather Forecasting, Environmental Impact Assessment, Cartography, Urban Planning, Environmental Management and becoming a GIS specialist.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Human Environments	Population Dynamics Settlement Dynamics	3 Hours	50%
2	Physical Environment	Hydrology (rivers and flooding) Atmosphere and Weather Rocks and Weathering		

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Human Geography	Tropical Environments Coastal Environments Hazardous Environments Arid and Semi Arid Environments	3 Hours	50%
4	Physical Geography	Production, Location and Change Environmental Management Global Interdependence Economic Transition		

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=747

History

The study of History will enable students to

- acquire and effectively communicate knowledge and understanding
- develop their understanding and expertise of historical skills, terms and concepts
- explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in world history
- understand the nature of evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation of that evidence
- develop their understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented by different historians at different times

Types of Learning Experience

A variety of methods are employed to develop independent study skills. Students are expected to take a full part in group discussions, prepare in advance of lessons and to present research findings to the rest of the class.

Link Subjects

History combines equally well with humanities including English, Geography or Business Studies.

Career Progression

Students with A Level History go on to read a wide range of subjects ranging from Law, English and Languages to Theology, Economics and Psychology.

History graduates have a good track record of employment ranging from journalism and the Civil Service to industry and commerce via law, politics and accountancy.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Modern European History, 1789-1917	Two topics are studied: The French Revolution 1789-1814 and the Russian Revolution, 1905-1917. You will then answer 2 essay questions on each topic.	1 ½ hours	30%
2	Source-Based Study: The Origins of the American Civil War, 1820-1861	There are two questions set with between 5-6 sources. One asks you to compare two sources; the other asks you to use all the sources to argue for and against a controversial statement.	1 hour	20%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Interpretations of the Holocaust	This component focuses on the debates around the origins and nature of the Holocaust. The exam is a discussion and analysis of one excerpt from a historian.	1 hour	20%
4	Depth Study: Europe of the Dictators, 1918-1941	You will study the rise and domestic policies of Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler. You will also assess how far they were totalitarian rulers and answer 2 essays from a choice of 4.	1 ½ hours	30%

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef_id=751

Information Technology

The study of IT will enable students to:

- develop a broad range of IT skills
- develop an understanding of the parts, use and applications of IT systems within a range of organisations, including the use of basic computer networks
- develop an understanding of how IT systems affect society in general
- develop an understanding of the main system life cycle and apply this understanding to workplace situations
- develop a broad knowledge of the use of IT in workplace situations
- develop an understanding of project management skills (A Level only)
- be aware of new and emerging technologies
- be aware of the role of the internet and its potential but also its risks
- apply their knowledge and understanding of IT to solve problems

Types of Learning Experience

The course introduces students to advanced business features of spreadsheet packages and database management systems. It also features more 'Creative Computing' content by introducing Video and Audio Editing, Web Design, Graphic Design, Animation and Web Programming. It also allows students to develop their IT skills by solving real world problems, in one or more of these areas.

Link Subjects

Information Technology is a suitable combination for most subjects but is especially relevant to Business Studies or Art.

Career Opportunities

IT A level can lead to entry into wide range of university and Higher Education courses. IT can be studied as a degree on its own or in combination with other subjects. It is often a constituent component of many other degree courses, for example Business, Engineering, Design and Education.

IT provides you with the skills relevant for a wide range of careers including Business, Management, Media, Law, Education, Software Analyst, Programme Development, Multimedia and Web Design.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Theory	1. Data, information, knowledge and processing 2. Hardware and software 3. Monitoring and control 4. E-safety and health and safety 5. The digital divide 6. Using networks 7. Expert systems	1 Hour 45 Minutes	25%
2	Practical work	8. Spreadsheets 9. Database and file concepts 10. Sound and video editing	2 Hours 30 Minutes	25%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Theory	1. Emerging technologies 2. Role and impact of IT in society 3. Networks 4. Project management 5. System life cycle	1 Hour 45 Minutes	25%
4	Practical work	6. Graphics creation 7. Animation 8. Mail merge 9. Programming for the web	2 Hours 30 Minutes	25%

Further information is available at:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-international-as-and-a-level-information-technology-9626/>

Mandarin Chinese

The study of Mandarin Chinese will enable students to:

- develop the ability to understand the language from a variety of registers
- enable the student to communicate confidently and clearly
- form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- develop insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where the language is spoken, including the study of literary texts where appropriate
- encourage positive attitudes to language learning and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- further intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills

Types of Learning Experience

Mandarin students at AS and A2 will encounter a wide variety of learning experiences with great emphasis upon the development of linguistic competence and their knowledge of contemporary society.

Students will research topics and give presentations; they will receive guidance in interpreting and responding to current text written in Chinese from a variety of sources such as magazines, newspapers, reports, books and the internet.

Presentations will be given by staff and students throughout the course. Students will be encouraged to understand Chinese culture, traditions, history and the important role that China is playing in today's rapidly changing world.

Link Subjects

Mandarin is especially relevant to other languages and Business Studies due to the growing economic power of China.

Career Opportunities

Mandarin can be studied as a degree on its own or in combination with other language subjects.

Mandarin provides students with skills relevant to a wide range of careers including Interpretation, International Business, Marketing, Education, HR Services, Transportation services and Tourism.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Reading and Writing	Candidates answer specific and general comprehension questions on the two passages, and respond to a task requiring a summary or comparison of issues raised.	1 Hour 45 Minutes	45%
2	Topical Essay	Students will discuss topical issues and will prepare and present written essays based on the topics pre-release by the examination board.	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Extended Curriculum-Case Study	Students complete a series of essay questions based on predetermined texts from influential Chinese authors'.	2 Hours 30 minutes	35%

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=737

Mathematics

The study of Mathematics will enable students to:

- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them to solve more difficult unstructured problems
- recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically
- understand the relationship between real world problems and standard mathematical models and how these can be refined and improved
- use mathematics as an effective means of communication
- develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general
- take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development

Types of Learning Experience

The course content is delivered through teacher exposition, classroom discussion, practical activities and the use of ICT.

Link Subjects

Mathematics may be taken with any other subjects but is particularly valuable to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, ICT, Geography and Business Studies students.

Career Opportunities

Mathematics develops problem solving skills and the ability to tackle tasks logically. This makes Mathematics relevant to many subjects at University. Mathematics is a useful stepping stone to Engineering, the Sciences, Computing and Business related subjects.

Mathematics is especially relevant to those wishing to pursue careers in Business, Economics, Actuarial Science, Education, Engineering, ICT, Software Engineering, Data Analysis and Scientific Research.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Mechanics	Students will study the following topics; Forces & equilibrium, Kinematics of motion in a straight line, Newton's laws of motion and Energy, work and power.	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%
2	Pure Mathematics	Coordinate Geometry, Quadratics, Functions, Circular Measures, Trigonometry, Vectors, Series, Differentiation and Integration.	1 Hour 45 Minutes	30%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Statistics	Representation of data, Permutations & Combinations, Probability, Discrete random variables, Normal distribution.	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%
4	Pure Mathematics 2/3	Algebra, Logarithmic & exponential functions, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical solution of equations, Vectors, Differential equations and Complex numbers.	1 Hour 45 Minutes	30%

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=755

Music

The study of Music will enable students to:

- foster a discriminating aural appreciation of, and an informed critical response to, music of the Western tradition from at least two representative genres and periods
- encourage the development of creative and interpretative skills through the disciplines of composing and performing in Western and/or non-Western traditions
- deepen an understanding of music in its wider cultural context
- communicate understanding, supporting judgments by arguments based on evidence

Types of Learning Experience and Skills Development include:

- an ability to listen attentively and responsively
- understanding of the processes at work in music
- an ability to communicate clearly knowledge, understanding and musical insight
- technical and interpretative competence in performing (depending on options)
- musical invention in composing (depending on options)
- an ability to work independently

Career Opportunities

An A level in Music is desirable in order to gain entry to University, Music College or a College of Higher Education in order to obtain a qualification for a career in music or the performing arts. The disciplined and self-disciplined nature of the study of music makes musicians highly sought after for a wide ranging variety of careers and a qualification in music could be regarded as an asset for any higher education course.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

The AS and A-Level Music course is very flexible and you can select options to suit your skills. If you do not like performing, you can select options in composition and harmony. Or if you do not like composing you can opt to learn more about the history of music or perform in various styles.

Syllabus 8663

This syllabus is only available as a stand-alone AS qualification. Results in this syllabus **cannot** be used to contribute towards the Cambridge International A Level qualification.

Syllabus 9703

This can be taken as a stand-alone AS qualification. In addition, results in this syllabus

can be carried forward, within a 13 month period, to contribute to Cambridge International A Level Music (9703).

Component	Description	AS Level 8663	AS Level 9703	A Level 9703
1	Listening (100 marks)	☐	☐	☐
2	Practical Musicianship (100 marks)		☐	☐
3	Performing (100 marks)			Two components from 3, 4 and 5
4	Composing (100 marks)			
5	Investigation and Report (100 marks)			
6	Investigation and Report (100 marks)	☐		

Further Details on Components

Component 1 – Listening

Section A: The First Viennese School (1770-1827)

Section B: Love and Loss

Section C: Wider Context

Component 2 – Practical Musicianship

Students must select two options from the following:

- Solo Performance on first instrument
- Ensemble Performance / Performance on second instrument / Accompaniment / Improvisation
- Harmony
- Composition

Physics

The study of Physics will enable students to:

- develop an interest in, and care for, the environment in relation to the impact of Physics and its applications
- encourage individual learning
- develop a sustained interest in Physics so that the study of the subject is exciting, enjoyable and satisfying
- develop an awareness of the relationship of Physics to everyday life and of the interaction of Physics with engineering and technology
- develop an experimental approach to Physics and link this approach both with the theoretical and quantitative aspects of the subject

Types of Learning Experience

A high level of commitment is required from all students throughout the course. Students work individually or in small groups. Teaching uses a wide variety of methods but also draws on students' experiences and knowledge. Practical work forms an important element of the course.

Link Subjects

Physics may be taken with any other subject but has especially strong links with Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology.

Career Opportunities

Physics is a challenging and rewarding subject which is relevant and important for life in a technologically advanced society. There are many degrees available combining Physics with, for example, Mathematics, Astronomy, Electronics and Music.

A qualification in A-level Physics opens up a wide range of careers with a scientific basis. Universities are now producing Physics degree courses linked to the financial centres such as London where the analytical skills possessed by graduates are in great demand. The possibilities encompass research and manufacturing industries such as Space Technology, Electronics, all forms of Power Generation, Management, Accounting, the Armed Services, Technical Sales and Education. Students typically go on to university to study Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Astronomy, Aeronautics, Telecommunications, Medicine and Dentistry.

Syllabus Content and Assessment

AS Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Multiple Choice	General Physics: Physical Quantities and Measurement Techniques Mechanics: Equations of Motion, Newton's Laws, Work and Energy, Linear Momentum Electricity: Uniform Electric Fields, Current Electricity, DC Circuits Matter: Phases of Matter, Deformation of Solids Waves: Wave Theory, Superposition, Interference and Diffraction. Nuclear Physics: The Nucleus, Isotopes, Ionising Radiation	1 Hour	15%
2	Structured Questions		1 Hour 15 Minutes	23%
3	Advanced Practical Skills		2 Hours	12%

A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
4	Structured Questions	Circular Motion & Gravitation: Motion in a Circle, Gravitational Fields Electric Fields and Capacitors: Coulomb's Law, Electric Potential, Capacitance Simple Harmonic Motion: Oscillations, Damping, Resonance Thermodynamics: Ideal Gases, Temperature, Thermal Properties of Materials Magnetic Effects and AC: Magnetic Fields, Electromagnetic Induction, Alternating Currents Modern Physics: Charged Particles, Quantum Physics, $E = mc^2$, Radioactive Decay Electronics & Communication: Sensors, Operational Amplifiers, Digital Technology, AM/FM radio, Fibre Optics Medical Physics: X-rays, Ultrasound, CT Scanning	1 Hour 45 Minutes	38%
5	Planning, Analysis and Evaluation		1 Hour 15 Minutes	12%

Further information is available at:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef_id=758