



BROOKE HOUSE COLLEGE

GCSE PROGRAMME

The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is the examination taken by almost every student in the UK at the end of their compulsory education, at age 16. For these students, the GCSE is a two year course, in which individual examinations are taken, and grades awarded, for every subject, with the possible exception of science in which dual award courses provide two GCSE grades covering a broad science curriculum.

GCSE exams are produced and marked by external examining bodies, namely AQA, Edexcel and OCR, each of which publish specifications and examples of assessment material on their websites. GCSE results range from A to G, with A* awarded for exceptional students. Each of these grades is a pass, though grades A*-C are generally regarded as the most desirable, equivalent to the old O-levels which were replaced during the 1980s. Some of our subjects have a numbered system from 9-1; with 9 being awarded to exceptional students and a 4 considered to be the desired pass mark.

Students applying to study at Brooke House College may opt to study GCSEs as a two year course or as a one year course. The one year course is appropriate for students approaching the age of 16 at the start of the year, who have a good grasp of written and spoken English. All GCSE students will be expected to study Mathematics, English and Science. Students under the age of 16 will also have a compulsory Physical Education lesson once a week. Additional subjects are available as options, subject to demand. The number of subjects studied will depend on the ability and interests of each student, although the total number of subjects is fewer for students on the one year programme. Students who also enrol for Brooke House Football Academy will usually follow a core GCSE curriculum, with a much more limited choice of subjects.

It is expected that GCSE students will attend classes throughout the normal school day, with few, if any, private study periods on their timetable and students will not normally be allowed to “drop” a subject unless there is a need for extra timetabled English language lessons instead. Private Study will take place during the evenings, supervised by the students’ residential tutor in their accommodation. Homework exercises will be set by each subject tutor for the students to complete during this time.

The College operates a two tiered system for GCSE:

G1 (Equivalent to Year 11)

This is a one year course. Some subjects are limited or unavailable. This is a good course for students who are 15 or older and intending to study A levels as soon as possible.

G2 and GS

This is the two-year GCSE course and these are equivalent to years 10 and 11. G2 is the first year of the two year GCSE course and GS is the second year.

Below are the course outlines for each subject. However, if there is a subject that you are interested in which is not offered, please enquire as we may be able to accommodate your request. Brooke House College can be contacted via:

enquiries@brookehouse.com

Social Science Faculty Subjects

Business Studies IGCSE (1-9)

Exam Board: Cambridge International Examinations

Specification Codes: 0986

This qualification is linear – the students will sit all their IGCSE exams at the end of their Level 2 course. Students will study the following topics:

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

Sociology GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Codes: 8192

This qualification is linear – the students will sit all their GCSE exams at the end of their Level 2 course. Students will study the following topics:

-
- The sociological approach
 - Social structures, social processes and social issues
 - Families
 - Education
 - Crime and deviance
 - Social stratification
 - Sociological research methods

Citizenship Studies GCSE

Exam Board: AQA
Specification Codes: 8100

This qualification is linear – the students will sit all their GCSE exams at the end of their Level 2 course. Students will study the following topics:

- Citizenship skills, processes and methods
- Life in modern Britain
- Rights and responsibilities
- Politics and participation
- Active citizenship

Humanities Faculty Subjects

GCSE English Language

AQA 8700 100% exam

Please note that those wishing to undertake this course in one year must be a native speaker, or have a level of upper-intermediate and above to meet the demands of the course.

This course develops students' skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking with two external assessments at the end of the course. Students will be expected to read a wide range of texts, genres and styles outside of the classroom to further enhance their vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Unit 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

In Section A students will be presented with an extract from a 20th Century piece of fiction and respond to four Reading questions (assessing retrieval of information, analysis of language and structure and personal response). In Section B students will be presented with an image and asked to respond creatively (either descriptively or narratively) with close attention to technical accuracy.

Unit 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Students will be provided with two sources: one from the 19th Century, the other either from the 20th/21st Century linked by a theme. In Section A students will be given four reading questions assessing the skills of information retrieval, summarising, language analysis and comparison. Section B will focus their attention onto non-fiction writing.

Unit 3: Spoken Language (Non-examined assessment)

Students will be required to produce a piece of Spoken Language work, which will be filmed during the Spring Term of the examination year.

GCSE English Literature

AQA 8702 100% exam

Please note that only native speakers or those with an advanced level of English and prior knowledge of literature should undertake this course.

Students are encouraged to explore the historical, cultural and social contexts of the texts they will study as well as analysing the characters, language, structures and themes. Students will be expected to annotate texts outside of the classroom and undertake independent reading of the texts throughout the course.

Unit 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel

This exam is extract-based and will require students to consider the extract's place in the text as a whole as well as close analysis. Current texts of study are: Macbeth, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Unit 2: Modern texts and poetry

This exam is divided into three sections with students required to answer a question from each.

Section A: The modern text – J.B. Priestley's An Inspector Calls

Section B: Power and Conflict Poetry from the AQA Anthology

Section C: Unseen Poetry

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language (Count-in speaking) - 0511

Recognition

Cambridge IGCSE is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success. It provides a solid foundation for moving on to higher level studies. The syllabuses provide opportunities for contextualised learning and the content has been created to suit a wide variety of schools, avoid cultural bias and develop essential lifelong skills, including creative thinking and problem-solving.

Assessment (IGCSE English as Second Language- 0511)

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language candidates take **THREE** components: Reading and writing (Component 1 or Component 2), Listening (Component 3 or Component 4) and a speaking component (Component 5 or Component 6). Candidates who study the core curriculum take Components 1 and 3, and candidates who study the extended curriculum take Components 2 and 4. It is not possible for candidates to combine Component 1 with Component 4 or Component 2 with Component 3.

Candidates take either:

A-Component 1 Reading and writing (Core) Written paper

Exam time: 1 hour 30 minutes (70 marks)

There are seven tasks in the paper testing a range of reading and writing skills. Candidates who take this component are eligible for grades C–G. This exam is externally marked.

Or

Component 2 Reading and writing (Extended) Written paper

Exam time: 2 hours (90 marks)

There are seven tasks in the paper testing a range of reading and writing skills. Candidates who take this component are eligible for grades A*–E. This exam is externally marked.

B- Component 3 Listening (Core)

Exam time: Approximately 40 minutes (30 marks)

Candidates listen to several short extracts and longer texts, and complete a range of task types, including short-answer questions, gap filling, matching and multiple choice. Candidates who take this component are eligible for grades C–G. This exam is externally marked.

Or

Component 4 Listening (Extended)

Exam time: Approximately 50 minutes (40 marks)

Candidates listen to several short extracts and longer texts, and complete a range of task types, including short-answer questions, gap filling, matching, multiple choice and note taking. Candidates who take this component are eligible for grades A*–E. This exam is externally marked.

C- Component 5 Speaking- Exam time: Approximately 10–15 minutes (30 marks)

Following a 2–3 minute warm-up conversation, candidates engage in a 6–9 minute discussion with the examiner on a given topic. This exam is internally marked and externally moderated.

Or

Component 6 Speaking coursework (30 marks)

Candidates complete three speaking tasks, chosen by the College. This is internally marked and externally moderated.

1.1 Syllabus aims

The aims of Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language are to:

- develop learners' ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication
- form a solid foundation for the skills required for further study or employment using English as the medium
- develop learners' awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills
- promote learners' personal development.

Art and Design (Exam Board AQA)

Three areas of Art and Design are offered depending on whether it is a one-year or two-year course. Due to the demands of the course a one year student would only be able to study the Short Course (AQA 4211) which is unendorsed, whilst two year students could study the endorsements of Fine Art (painting and Drawing, AQA 4202 and/or Graphic Communication (AQA 4203).

For the Short Course coursework is made up of 1 unit of work and an externally set exam of 10 hours. For the Endorsed Course 2 units of work are required as well as the externally set 10 hour exam. Units of work might include project work that explores Natural Forms or Unusual Viewpoints or for Graphics, Typography and Stamp Design.

Whichever course a student follows, technical skills are required as well as good observation. Students are expected to be able to make critical judgements about the work of artists and designers, both contemporary and from the past, as well as their own work. They should be able to express themselves both visually and with the written word. Anyone who seriously wishes for a career in any aspect of art and design for Graphic Design, Fashion, Architecture or Product Design should study one of these courses before embarking on an A Level course.

GCSE Art also has benefits for those wishing to study biology, geography, medicine or engineering as art courses teach students how to be analytical, to observe, as well as how to work independently.

GCSE Geography (AQA route A)

GCSE Geography offers students engaging and topical content – including both human and physical aspects of Geography. Typical topics include hazards, rivers and flooding, coastal environments, population, tourism and globalisation. It includes a stimulating blend of traditional and contemporary Geography with a variety of case study material available to suit students of all abilities. Both higher and foundation tiers of assessment are available, as well as a fieldwork unit to suit those students who prefer the coursework element.

Study of this course will give students of all backgrounds the opportunity to develop:

- communication skills
- graphical and cartographical skills
- technological skills including ICT and GIS
- interpersonal skills through debate and discussion

- literacy and numeracy skills
- problem-solving skills
- entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career possibilities.

This course has 3 units of assessment:

Unit 1 – Physical Geography. 1 hour 30 minute exam – 75 marks – 37.5% of overall grade.

Unit 2 – Human Geography. 1 hour 30 minute exam – 84 marks – 37.5 % of overall grade.

Unit 3 – Local Fieldwork Investigation. Controlled assessment. 60 marks – 25% of overall grade.

GCSE German

German encourages learners to derive enjoyment and benefit from language learning, and be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. Learners will recognise that their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills help them to take their place in a multilingual global society and will also provide them with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of the language. Successful completion of the course will also enhance their career prospective.

The course enables learners to:

- develop understanding of the German language in a variety of contexts
- develop knowledge of German and language learning skills
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in German
- develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where German is spoken.
- listen and respond to different types of spoken German
- communicate in speech for a variety of purposes
- read and respond to different types of written German
- communicate in writing for a variety of purposes
- use and understand a range of vocabulary and structures
- understand and apply the grammar of the German language, as detailed in the specification.

Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking skills are assessed in the final exam at the end of the course.

The content covers:

- **Theme 1:** Identity and Culture – Me, my family and friends, Technology in everyday life, Free-Time activities, customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries and communities.
- **Theme 2:** Local, National, International and Global areas of interest – Home town, neighbourhood and region, Social issues, Global issues and Travel and Tourism.

- **Theme 3:** Current and future study and employment – My studies, Life at School, Education post-16, Jobs, Career choices and ambitions.

Successful completion of the GCSE course will provide students with suitable basis for further study and a practical use of German and will also enhance future career prospects.

GCSE History

Official Name – Level 3 Advanced GCE in History Level

Level – AS and A Level

Examination Board – Edexcel

Course Code – (9HI0)

Summary – History is a classic academic subject that is well respected by Universities. The subject helps the student to develop skills in analysis, evaluation, interpretation and communication. These skills are vital for success at University and in the work place. The discipline itself provides the student with an understanding of how the world has developed as a result of political, economic, social and military factors. This A Level complements virtually all other subjects. It is no surprise that History graduates can be found in almost all professions including politics, law, law enforcement, business management, teaching, sales, and many others. The AS and A Level course covers the following topics: Britain, c. 1785-c. 1870: democracy, protest and reform; The unification of Germany, c. 1840-1871; Germany, 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited.

Assessment Method – the AS and A Level History of Pearson Edexcel is assessed externally and internally. The external part consists of three exam papers: Paper 1 (Breadth study with interpretations, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes; the pupils must write two essays on the period studied and one essay on evaluating historical interpretations); Paper 2 (Depth study, lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes; the pupils must write two essays – one source-based question and one standard essay question); Paper 3 (Themes in breadth with aspects in depth, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes; the pupils write three essays – one answer to a source-based question, one essay on the period studied in breadth, and one on the period studied in depth). The internal part of the assessment consists of a coursework on a subject chosen by the pupil, marked by the teacher and moderated by an external moderator.

Official Course Name – GCSE (9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World)

Level – GCSE

Examination Board – OCR

Course Code – (J410)

Summary – History is essential for understanding the current situation of our own society by allowing us to inquire into its origins. Therefore it is an indispensable part of every well-rounded course of education. Furthermore, History at the GCSE level serves as the stepping stone towards the A Level and is thus a necessary progression from the KS3, allowing for a deepening of the knowledge of British and international history. More specifically, the course consists of the following – one component from the option ‘Period study and non-British depth study’, one of the three British thematic

studies available, and one of the three British depth studies and studies of the historic environment. The History department has chosen the following topics: 'International Relations: the changing international order 1918–2001' with 'Germany 1925–1955'; 'Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c. 1000 to 2014'; and 'The English Reformation c. 1520–c. 1550' combined with 'Castles: Form and Function c. 1000–1750'.

Assessment Method – all three components of the assessment are externally marked. The period study and the British thematic study will be assessed by four questions each; the British depth and environmental study will be assessed by two questions.

Official Course Name – History KS3

Level – KS3

Examination Board – N/A

Course Code – N/A

Summary – KS3 History will equip pupils with the necessary knowledge on the history of Britain from medieval times to the early 20th century so that they can understand the present state of the country, know what its political and government system are, and be informed on the nature and scope of its relations with the outside world. This will be done during the academic year through a combination of traditional lectures, documentary films, textbook lessons and in-class activities.

Assessment Method – written examination internally developed and assessed by the school. It consists of essay questions and source-based questions as well as questions requiring work with maps. The duration of the examination is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

GCSE Spanish

Awarding Body and Specification: AQA

The aim of the course is to develop and promote effective understanding of, and communication in, the foreign language set in a cultural context, using authentic resources. The syllabus encourages an understanding of the grammar and syntax of the Spanish language and provides enjoyment and intellectual stimulation, as well as the basis for further study. It sets a broad range of different types of tests.

All skills are assessed in a final exam in Year 11.

The content covers:

- **Theme 1:** Identity and Culture – Me, my family and friends, Technology in everyday life, Free-Time activities, customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries and communities.
- **Theme 2:** Local, National, International and Global areas of interest – Home town, neighbourhood and region, Social issues, Global issues and Travel and Tourism.

- **Theme 3:** Current and future study and employment – My studies, Life at School, Education post-16, Jobs, Career choices and ambitions.

Successful completion of the GCSE course will provide students with suitable basis for further study and a practical use of Spanish and will also enhance future career prospects.

Maths Faculty Subjects

Mathematics (Edexcel) Compulsory

The mathematics IGCSE programme aims to help students achieve a qualification that is widely recognised and requested by institutes of further education and employers.

All assessment is at the end of the course and is in the form of two examinations. These exams are equally weighted. There are two levels of assessment, higher and foundation. Any student wishing to study AS or A level mathematics must study the higher tier course. This course is designed to be taken over a one or two year course of study.

Higher level – Grades 9 - 4

Foundation level – Grades 5 - 1

At Brooke House College, we follow the Edexcel specification, 4MA1.

Both tiers cover the same content, with the Higher-level students taking some topics to a more complex level.

The content includes:

- Numbers and the number system
- Equations, formulae and identities
- Sequences, functions and graphs
- Geometry and trigonometry
- Vectors and transformation geometry
- Statistics and probability

For particularly able students, we also offer the **OCR Additional Maths qualification**. The Advanced FSMQ, Additional Mathematics, is worth UCAS points for university admissions, and introduces students to the power and elegance of advanced mathematics.

Science Faculty Subjects

GCSE Sciences

Science education represents a significant contribution to a balanced education, and all students under the age of 16 at the start of the academic year will be expected to follow a science GCSE programme. Whilst not compulsory, it is also highly advisable for older students to benefit from the GCSE science course.

Lessons in science are usually divided into the three disciplines of physics, chemistry and biology, each taught by a specialist in that area. Both the one year and the two year courses have the same content. However, the two year course allows more time to introduce the basic skills for students who have not studied science before, and offers more opportunity to study the subject to a greater depth and breadth than is possible within the one year course.

During the course, the ability, level of interest and progress of the student enables a choice to be made regarding the final examinations to be taken.

Exams available – all externally set by Cambridge International Examinations:

- **iGCSE Combined Science:** A course which covers the basics of science over the course of a year, leading to one iGCSE (grade 1-9)
- **iGCSE Co-ordinated Science:** A course leading to two iGCSE (grades 1:1 – 9:9), typically taken over two years, to provide a more robust overview of scientific topics.

In each case the course will be assessed by a combination of a practical assessment, a multiple choice paper and a written exam. Students should note that the examination papers each contain questions relating to all three science disciplines.

iGCSE Separate Sciences

In certain cases, we can offer the separate science course which treats each science as a separate GCSE:

- **iGCSE Biology**
- **iGCSE Chemistry**
- **iGCSE Physics**

These courses are similar in content to the coordinated science course, but contain greater detail and rigour. If you are considering studying science subjects at A level, they offer the best possible preparation for A level science subjects.

Each science subject is assessed by 3 examinations: Paper 1 Multiple Choice, Paper 2 Core or Paper 3 supplement (higher) short answers, Paper 5 Practical.

Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Science

In order to ensure that all students can attain a good science qualification, we offer the Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Science. This is a two year course which rigorously examines several areas of science, but assessed throughout the year, with a grade awarded based on the portfolio that has been built up over the course.

The course is a Level 2 qualification with Pass, Merit and Distinction grades. Pass is equivalent to a grade C at GCSE.

Information and Communications Technology

Students taking this qualification will study the fundamental knowledge, understanding and skills required in the two IT occupational areas covered by the AQA Tech Award in ICT qualification: creative and data management.

Learning will take place through a mixture of real life case studies, practical tasks and a study of theoretical concepts, enabling learners to develop their IT knowledge, understanding and skills. Learning will be engaging and take place in a vocational context, allowing the learner to create products or artefacts that demonstrate their ability to put theory into practice.

The course is assessed by internal and ongoing assessment and yields a qualification equivalent to a GCSE.

PE Faculty Subjects

Physical Education

In PE, students will gain knowledge and understanding of what constitutes a healthy and active lifestyle. Students will investigate how the body responds and adapts to exercise, the components of physical and skill fitness, and different methods of fitness training. The rationale behind carrying out fitness assessments and the protocols associated with recognised fitness tests will also be considered. Students will learn how a lifelong involvement in sport is encouraged. Future professions in the sports sector include; Fitness Professional, Football Coach, Football Development Manager, Health Promotion Officer, Journalist, Marketing, Performance Analyst, PE Teacher, Physiotherapist, School Sports Coordinator, Sports Development Manager.