



COURSES OF STUDY AT IGCSE

THE BRITISH SCHOOL

New Delhi, India

Dr. Jose P. Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021
Tel +91 11 24102183, 24678524, 24671006, 24104931 Fax +91 11 26112363
Email admissions@british-school.org Website www.british-school.org

Art and Design

The personal response encouraged by the Art and Design syllabus will stimulate the imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability of the individual. Students will develop confidence and enthusiasm in the practice of art and design as they gain the technical skill necessary to form, compose and communicate in two and three dimensions and the ability to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile form. Students are expected to show the development of ideas from initial attempts to final solutions.

Biology

The Biology syllabus offers a combination of theoretical and practical studies leading to an understanding of the concerns and basic principles of Biology, with emphasis on human biology. Students will develop scientific abilities and skills relevant to the study of Biology in relation to the four main areas of syllabus content. These are characteristics and classification of living organisms, organisation and maintenance of the organism, development of the organism and continuity of life, and relationships of organisms with one another and with their environment.

Chemistry

The Chemistry syllabus offers a combination of theoretical and practical studies leading to an understanding of the basic principles of Chemistry. Students will develop scientific abilities and skills relevant to the study of Chemistry. These will be of use in everyday life and if desired, will form a basis for more advanced study.

Physics

The Physics syllabus offers a combination of theoretical and practical studies leading to an understanding of the basic principles of Physics. Students will develop scientific abilities and skills relevant to the study of Physics. These will be of use in everyday life and if desired, will form a basis for more advanced study. Students will gain an awareness of the study and practice of science and will understand that scientific applications have both beneficial and detrimental effects on the individual and the environment.

Business Studies

Students will develop an understanding of the role and purpose of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. They will learn how the major types of business organisations are set up, financed and operated and how their activities are regulated. The factors which influence business decisions, activities and outputs will also be considered. Along with introducing the concepts and techniques used in business, the course will facilitate the development of other skills, such as numeracy and enquiry.

Geography

Students will be encouraged to develop a sense of place and an understanding of relative location on a local regional and global scale. Through a study of the characteristics and distribution of a selection of contrasting physical and human environments, students will come to understand some of the processes which effect the development of these environments. They will gain an insight into the spatial effects of the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environment.

Environmental Management

This subject is concerned with education for sustainable development in a world where the security of resources and life-sustaining systems is endangered by human impact. It is wide-ranging in its scope, topical in its coverage and targeted on important skills that young people need for life. As a syllabus it draws upon disciplines like Biology, Earth Science, Geography, Economics and Anthropology.

As in most schools preparing students for IGCSE, the students spend two and a half hours per week, over two years, studying each subject. On an average every student studies 8 subjects, and takes the final exam of the University of Cambridge (CIE) or London's EDEXCEL. Enjoyment and interest come as high priorities in choosing subjects. The students are encouraged to keep a variety of options open for further study. Formal assessment is in the form of mid year exams at the end of the first six months followed by a final examination in May/June every year. A mock examination is set in the month of January, prior to their final IGCSE examination.

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First Language English

The First Language English syllabus will develop the student's abilities to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in speech and writing. Students will be encouraged to use relevant vocabulary, to employ correct grammar, spelling and punctuation and to display a sense of style and audience. While there is a strong emphasis on reading and writing skills, a test or school-based assessment in speaking/listening is available.

English as a Second Language

Students will learn to use English effectively as a means of practical communication. Work will be related to the kinds of situations students are likely to encounter later in life, and the kinds of topics and interests about which they are likely to need to communicate. There is a strong emphasis on the ability to understand and impart information.

Hindi as a Second Language

In Hindi, the topics relate to the interests and needs of the candidates in using Hindi as a second language e.g. education, current affairs, health and welfare, travel and school affairs. The syllabus assesses the student's ability to use Hindi as a medium of practical communication and is aimed at students for whom Hindi is not a first language but is a language of study.

Foreign Language (French/German/Spanish)

In studying French or German, the emphasis is on developing the ability to communicate effectively in practical situations in all countries where the language is spoken. The four linked skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing are encouraged and expanded throughout the course.

The course for Spanish, however will be an intense course, as students will start from the basics and then come up to the IGCSE level in 18 months. This will only be applicable for the 2008 batch of IGCSE students after which, students joining Year 10 will need to have done at least 2-3 years of Spanish.

Computer Studies

Students will learn the use of computing such as word processing, spreadsheets and databases. They will discover how these tools are used in industry and commerce and study the principles that enable information technology to assist in solving problems. Issues such as confidentiality of data, hacking and the use of viruses form part of the syllabus dealing with the social implication of computing. Students will learn to be critical of the claims made on behalf of computer manufacturers.

History

The History syllabus offer students the opportunity of studying some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as looking in somewhat greater depth at the history of particular regions. However, the emphasis within the syllabus is as much on the development of historical skills as on the acquisition of knowledge. The syllabus aims to stimulate student interest in and enthusiasm about the past.

Drama

Through Drama, students gain an understanding of themselves and the relationship between people. The syllabus is divided into four areas: improvisation (executed without a formal scripted framework); text (the exploration of a variety of texts in a practical way); evaluation (a qualitative judgement concerning form and content) and performance.

Economics

The Economics syllabus will develop an understanding of economic terminology and principals of basic economic theory. Students will gain an awareness of the economics of developed and developing nations and how these interrelate. They will learn to handle simple data and carry out economic analysis, evaluate information and discriminate between facts and value judgements in economic issues.

English Literature

Through the study of Literature students are encouraged to read, interpret and evaluate literary texts. They will develop an understanding of texts in terms of literal meaning, relevant contexts and deeper themes or attitudes. They will learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use the language to achieve their effects and to communicate an informed personal response.

Mathematics

Students will be encouraged to develop their mathematical knowledge and skills in a way which encourages confidence and provides satisfaction and enjoyment. They will develop a feel for number and for patterns and relationship in Mathematics. There will be strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Students will be encouraged to communicate clearly and reason logically using mathematical concepts.

Music

The Music syllabus will encourage learners to make use of their artistic and creative talents along with stimulating their imagination, utilising their problem solving skills and developing their self-confidence. Students will learn practical skills allowing them to compose and play several different genres of music as well as develop their aural awareness and learn how to complete the creative process from an initial idea to a finished product.