



**British International School**  
of Ljubljana  
an Orbital Education School



# IGCSE OPTIONS GUIDE 2021 - 2022

RESPECT · EMPATHY · EXCELLENCE · CHALLENGE

## Our Vision

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We aim to inspire **lifelong learners** and caring global citizens, in a **community** where everyone feels encouraged, supported and challenged.



## Our Mission

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We provide a **high quality British style international education** in English, balancing tradition and innovation.

Our passion is creating a **positive, safe and nurturing learning environment** in which everyone is valued as individuals, empowering them to be versatile, motivated and caring people.

We will endeavour to **create opportunities** to develop creativity, collaboration and critical thinking skills through an **inclusive and personalised experience**.

## Our Values

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### RESPECT

We learn at school by showing respect to everyone in the community.

### EMPATHY

We develop empathy for those around us.

### EXCELLENCE

We strive for excellence in everything we do.

### CHALLENGE

We embrace a challenge as it enriches our learning.

# Welcome to Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

The Key Stage 4 curriculum at the British International School of Ljubljana offers breadth and balance, with courses leading to IGCSE certification from Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE).

All students study a core curriculum, which includes compulsory external examination courses as well as non-examination subjects, and are given a selection of optional examination courses in a variety of subjects to choose from.

These optional subjects are selected by students in close consultation with parents and teachers. Students are encouraged to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum, bearing in mind their pathway after the completion of their IGCSE examinations.

Our students also take part in cross-school activities, which give them the opportunities to challenge their skills beyond the curriculum, such as participation in the International Award for Young People - known in the Slovenia as MEPI and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the UK.

## An overview of Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE)

At BISL, we work with **Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE)**, the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications. CAIE examinations are sat by students at schools in over 160 countries around the world.

Five elements lie at the heart of a Cambridge education:



### 1. INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM

CAIE offer a wide range of subjects and give schools flexibility in how to offer them. They support schools in developing a curriculum that suits their context, culture and ethos, and that we can tailor to our students' particular needs.

### 3. ASSESSMENT

CAIE design their assessments to be fair, valid, reliable and practicable. They assess what they know to be of value: deep subject knowledge, conceptual understanding, and higher level thinking skills.

### 5. GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Cambridge schools belong to a worldwide education community - professional learning communities which connect teachers around the world so that they can share views, information and resources, and learn from one another.

### 2. TEACHING AND LEARNING

CAIE provide professional development for teachers, to help them improve their performance and practice throughout their careers, encouraging teaching practices that develop the ability of students to reflect on their learning.

### 4. INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

CAIE qualifications are widely recognised by universities and employers. You can be confident that your qualifications will be understood and valued throughout their education and career, across the globe.

# Discover your potential

## Choosing the right courses for you

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Key Stage 4 is an important stage in your education. During these two years, you will be studying a range of subjects, some of which are optional and some of which are compulsory.

This booklet is designed to give you further information on what to expect from the next two years and to encourage you to start thinking about the optional subjects you may choose to study when you start Year 10.

### Core Subjects (with examinations) - compulsory

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

### Complementary Subjects (no examinations)

- Physical Education (PE) - compulsory
- Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) - compulsory
- Slovene - optional

### Optional Subjects (with examinations)

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Enterprise
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music

*Students are also able to submit a special request for optional subjects which are not yet listed above based on individual interest. Examples might include: Drama, German, Physical Education.*

***The school will look into offering these, but no guarantees can be made.***

Please note that whilst we endeavour to accommodate all individual subject preferences, you may find that once the final subject timetable is published, you are unable to select the exact combination of subjects you originally listed.

We do our best to ensure that the desires of the entire cohort are met, formulating a timetable that works for all students, making all subjects viable for the students who choose them.

### Need Advice?

If you are unsure of which subjects to choose, please speak to your subject teachers, form tutor and our Head of Secondary School.

We also encourage you to browse through the [Curriculum Plans](#) on our school website for details of what is covered in each subject at IGCSE level.

Whatever your final decision, you will need to consider: what subjects you enjoy, what you are good at, career implications and which university courses you wish to access.

## Attendance

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At BISL, our expectation is that attendance will not fall below 95% in order for you to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to you.

For any requests regarding holidays during term time, parents should refer to the school's Attendance Policy on the school website.



### DID YOU KNOW?

An attendance level of 90% means you are missing **1 day of learning every two weeks...**

Requests for absence during term time should only be made *if absolutely necessary* and are not automatically authorised. Permission should be sought in writing from the Principal using the Leave of Absence Request form.

## Examinations

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The majority of our examinations are sat in May/ June. We provide a carefully controlled environment in which the students can concentrate on their examination and show the examiners what they know.

A personalised exam timetable is created for each candidate and a "master schedule" is posted in school.

Exams start and end at different times. This is because when students sit CAIE examinations, they must be under supervised conditions at 09:00 GMT (for morning exams) or 13:00 GMT (for afternoon exams). The differing lengths of the papers mean that

the start and end times have to vary. More than one examination may take place at a time, either in one room or in separate rooms, as appropriate.

We have no flexibility on exam dates and times; all students in Europe sit the same exams at the same time. If an exam is missed for any reason, the paper cannot be sat at an alternative time and the student may not gain certification in that subject as a result.

**We expect that you continue to observe the normal dress code/uniform during your examinations.**

## Study Leave

Most Year 11 students have exams over a period of four to five weeks.

A modified school timetable will operate during this period to ensure that you use the time in school to continue to revise for your remaining papers.

## International Award

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Engaging our students beyond the curriculum, we also offer the [Duke of Edinburgh's International Award for Young People](#) (known as MEPI in Slovenia).



Further information is available from our MEPI coordinator, [Mr Simon Irving](#).

## Core subjects

# English Language & Literature (0500)

### Why study English Language & Literature?

**IGCSE First Language English** offers you the opportunity to respond with understanding to a rich array of reading texts during the course as a whole. You will also use your knowledge of these texts to inform and inspire your own writing, and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

**IGCSE Literature** offers you the opportunity to read, interpret, evaluate and respond to a range of literary texts. The range includes drama, prose and poetry from the works of Orwell to Miller. You will be encouraged to deepen your understanding and appreciation of the ways in which writers use English to express meaning and achieve effects. The course will encourage you to develop your enjoyment of reading for pleasure and to explore wider and universal issues.

### Course outline

IGCSE English comprises *both* English Language and English Literature.

For the English Language IGCSE you will cover the essential components of linguistic analysis and original writing. You will prepare for two papers: the Reading paper; and the Directed Writing and Composition paper.

The first of these will ask you to respond to texts in a range of formats and to develop comprehension, inference, deduction and analytical skills. The second paper will ask you to write in a range of formats, both fiction and non-fiction.

For English Literature, you will study a selection of poems by a range of writers. You will also study one novel and one drama text. Finally, you will prepare for the unseen exam in which you may be asked to analyse a play, prose or drama extract which you have not studied before.



## Core subjects

# Mathematics (0580)

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### Why study Mathematics?

This course develops students' mathematical knowledge and serves as a strong basis for further study. As part of the course, students develop their skills, their understanding of mathematical concepts and methods, and solve problems and interpret results.

The course also aims to enable you to recognise when and how a situation may be represented mathematically, identify and interpret relevant factors, select an appropriate mathematical method to solve the problem, and evaluate the method used, as well as use mathematics

as a means of communication with emphasis on the use of clear expression and structured argument. It allows you to appreciate the interdependence of different areas of mathematics and other disciplines.

A good grade at IGCSE, grade B or above, will allow you to enter the study of A Level Mathematics and will show your suitability for the course.

A passing grade for IGCSE Mathematics is a common requirement for entry into higher education/university.

### Course outline

The course is tiered to enable effective differentiation for students. The Core content is intended for students targeting grades G–C, and the Extend G–A\*.

The subject content is organised by topic: number, algebra, shape and space, and probability and statistics. The content is not presented in a teaching order.

This structure and the use of tiering allows flexibility for teachers to plan delivery appropriately for their students.

You should be able to both use techniques listed in the content and apply them to solve problems.

## Core subjects

# Biology (0610)

### Why study Biology?

You will learn about unifying patterns and themes in biology and use them in new and changing situations. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of biological facts, terminology, concepts, principles and practical techniques to evaluate biological information and make judgements on the basis of this information.

You will learn to analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods, drawing conclusions that are consistent with evidence from experimental activities and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations.

### Course outline

This is a linear qualification with three assessments that will be taken in the same series at the end of the two year course of study.

The assessments consist of multiple choice, theory and alternative to practical test. The assessments are designed to be accessible to students of all abilities.

Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas studied. Whilst there is no controlled assessment, a successful completion of all the required practicals in the three sciences is a requirement to pass the course.





## Core subjects

# Chemistry (0620)

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### Why study Chemistry?

You will learn about unifying patterns and themes in chemistry and use them in new and changing situations. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of chemical facts, terminology, concepts, principles and practical techniques to evaluate chemical information and make judgements on the basis of this information.

You will learn to analyse, interpret and evaluate data and experimental methods, drawing conclusions that are consistent with evidence from experimental activities and suggesting possible improvements and further investigations.

### Course outline

This is a linear qualification with three assessments that will be taken in the same series at the end of the two year course of study.

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# Core subjects

## Physics (0625)

### Why study Physics?

Studying physics provides you with the foundations for understanding the material world.

Key ideas include:

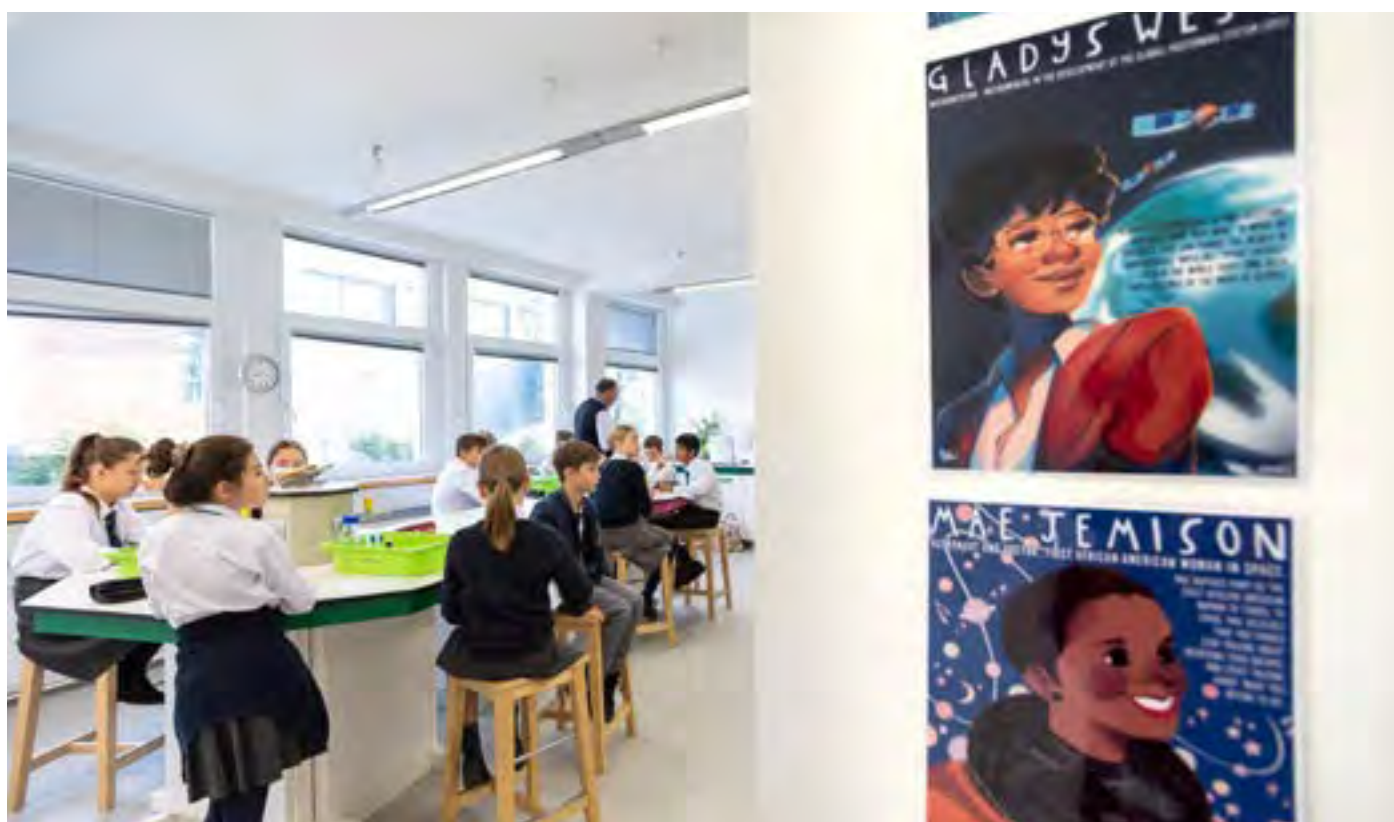
- the use of models, as in the particle model of matter or the wave models of light and of sound
- the concept of cause and effect in explaining such links as those between force and acceleration, or between changes in atomic nuclei and radioactive emissions
- the phenomena of 'action at a distance' and the related concept of the field as the key to analysing electrical, magnetic and gravitational effects
- that differences, for example between pressures or temperatures or electrical potentials, are the drivers of change
- that proportionality, for example between weight and mass of an object or between force and extension in a spring, is an important aspect of many models in science
- that physical laws and models are expressed in mathematical form

### Course outline

This is a linear qualification with three assessments that will be taken in the same series at the end of the two year course of study. The assessments consist of multiple choice, theory and alternative to practical test.

New topics have been included, to enthuse and motivate students further. The exams have fewer words, fewer contexts, and questions that increase in difficulty.

Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas studied. Whilst there is no controlled assessment, a successful completion of all the required practicals in the three sciences is a requirement to pass the course.



# Core non-examination subject

## Physical Education

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### Why study Physical Education?

At BISL, we value the importance of PE in the healthy development of all our students, therefore PE is a mandatory, non-examination subject across the whole school. The benefits of PE include:

- PE and sports improve concentration and focus and have a positive impact on academic life across all subjects.
- Regular physical activity helps you understand the importance of health and wellbeing and is vital in the prevention of child obesity.
- It improves self-discipline.
- Playing different team sports and completing group challenges helps to improve your teamwork and leadership skills.
- PE helps develop your confidence, which in turn also has an impact on all other areas of life, such as the ability to integrate quickly, make friends, be part of a team, and feel more motivated.
- Playing sports helps relieve stress and anxiety levels.
- Developing your motor skills as well as your fitness level, will protect your body and keep it free from injuries and illness.
- Taking part in regular PE lessons will likely improve your overall behaviour in school.

### Course outline

PE lessons includes elements of the IGCSE PE curriculum, making it a rigorous, balanced and demanding course. It is also designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity.

You will develop your knowledge of a variety of sports, including:

- Volleyball
- Tennis
- Soccer
- Floorball
- Ultimate frisbee
- Handball
- Basketball
- Various invasion games

Although this is a non-examination subject, you will be assessed internally throughout the course.



## Optional subjects

### Art & Design (0400)

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### Why study Art & Design?

Throughout the Art and Design course you will be encouraged to foster a sensitivity to and develop your understanding of the subject. You will build on practical skills, knowledge and confidence in each area and develop your enjoyment of Art and Design through an active, practical involvement in the creative elements of each discipline.

Art and Design is an essential element in a balanced education, allowing personal expression, personal development, creativity and practical involvement in the subject. You will gain confidence and a real appreciation of each other's talent. Art and Design is one of the few

areas where students take part in the creation of their own personal items. This adds even more to the aesthetic value of the subject, giving you a healthy channel for your creative talents.

The subject also provides a unique platform to discuss many different cultures, socioeconomic levels and current events. Through Art, you have a place to ask questions and be more informed about the realities of different people and places beyond your own family or community. With this broader awareness, different perspectives can be gained with a greater ability to foster empathy and understanding.

### Course outline

#### **Component 1:** Portfolio (60% of final grade)

A sustained project developed in response to a subject/theme, evidencing the journey from initial engagement with an idea(s) to the realisation of intentions. This will give you the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, your ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across your course of study.

#### **Component 2:** External Set Assignment (40% of final grade)

The externally set assignment will provide seven different project titles. You must select and respond to one title. A preparation period is followed by 10 hours of supervised unaided work in which you are required to realise your intentions in a final project outcome. You must not undertake any further preparatory studies once the first period of supervised time starts.

## Optional subjects

# Computer Science (0478)

### Why choose Computer Science?

Computer Science students study the principles and practices of computing and gain confidence in computational thinking and programming. You'll learn to program by writing computer code and develop your understanding of the main principles of problem-solving using computers.

You'll apply your understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms and a high-level programming language. You also develop a range of technical skills, as well as the ability to test effectively and to evaluate computing solutions.

This qualification helps you to appreciate current and emerging computing technologies and the benefits of their use. You will also learn to recognise the ethical issues and potential risks when using computers.

Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science is an ideal foundation for further study in Computer Science. Understanding the principles of Computer Science provides you with the underpinning knowledge required for many other subjects in science and engineering, and the skills learnt can also be used in everyday life, and in the next steps of your education or employment.

### Course outline

All candidates take two components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A\* to G.

#### Paper 1: Theory

1 hour 45 minutes (60% of final grade)

Short-answer and structured questions

#### Paper 2: Problem-solving and Programming

1 hour 45 minutes (40% of final grade)

Short-answer and structured questions



## Optional subjects

### Enterprise (0454)



### Why choose Enterprise?

Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise is a unique syllabus that brings the world of business into the classroom and gives learners a clear insight into what it means to think like an entrepreneur. This is the first Cambridge IGCSE syllabus which asks learners to adopt the thoughts and actions of entrepreneurs, developing their knowledge and understanding of the practicalities of setting up and running their own new enterprise.

Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise equips learners with a range of vital life skills for use in planning and organisation, communication and financial management.

### Course outline

#### Component 1 Written Paper

*50% of final grade*

This paper is based on a pre-released case study and contains short-answer, structured and open-ended questions

This course aims to enable students to:

- understand what it means to be enterprising, and the skills required to be enterprising
- develop the ability to work in an enterprising and independent way
- develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary enterprise issues in a range of local, national and global contexts
- appreciate the roles and perspectives of a range of other people and organisations involved in enterprise and the importance of ethical considerations
- investigate the world of work and entrepreneurial organisations
- develop the ability to communicate effectively, in a variety of situations, using a range of appropriate techniques

#### Component 2 Coursework

*50% of final grade*

Candidates will be asked to create a portfolio of evidence from tasks based on their own enterprise project.

## Optional subjects

### French (0520)

#### Why choose French?

Speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities. Language skills are in high demand in an extremely competitive job market and an international career can be extremely rewarding. Research has shown that studying a language will also provide you with invaluable communications skills as well as improving your decisiveness, problem-solving ability and negotiation skills.

Cambridge IGCSE French develops a set of transferable skills for understanding and communicating in everyday situations in French. You'll begin to develop cultural awareness of countries and communities where French is spoken. You acquire the essential linguistic skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

#### Course outline

##### **Paper 1 - Listening** (25% of final grade)

Students listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions.

##### **Paper 2 - Reading** (25% of final grade)

Students read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice, matching, and short answer questions.

The course encourages you to be:

- confident, using new and familiar structures and vocabulary to communicate with others in everyday situations
- responsible, seeking opportunities to use and develop your language skills
- reflective, considering how to communicate different ideas and attitudes
- innovative, applying language to a variety of situations
- engaged, developing learning strategies which help you to express your ideas and understanding of other cultures.

##### **Paper 3 - Speaking** (25% of final grade)

Students complete one role play and conversations on two topics.

##### **Paper 4 - Writing** (25% of final grade)

Students complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email, letter, article or blog.





## Optional subjects

### Geography (0460)



### Why choose Geography?

Geography is a wide ranging and challenging subject that fosters and develops an understanding and appreciation for the complexities of the modern world and the challenges we all face.

Geographers are also equipped with many transferable skills that are appreciated and valued by others subjects and employers as well. Not only will you learn about the physical world and our precarious relationship with it, you

will also learn how to think critically and independently and further improve your ability to judge and analyse geographical data and processes.

Above all though, geography helps make you become a more open-minded and responsible global citizen that is ready to take on the challenges of the 21st century, something that is highly valued in our increasingly connected and rapidly changing world.

### Course outline

The course is also divided into three academic themes:

**Theme 1:** Population and settlement      **Theme 2:** The natural environment      **Theme 3:** Economic development

IGCSE geography is also divided into 3 components for assessment:

#### Paper 1: Geographical Themes

1 hour 45 minutes (45% of final grade)

Students answer one question from each of the three sections (Human, Physical and Economic/Environmental geography)

This paper explores the major geographical themes of the IGCSE and is often referred to as the “knowledge” paper.

#### Paper 2: Geographical Skills

1 hour 30 minutes (27% of final grade)

Students answer all the questions, composing of five data response questions and one larger question based on the developed map skills.

#### Paper 4: Alternative to Coursework

1 hour 30 minutes (27% of final grade)

Students answer both questions which replicate a geographical investigation that attempts to test and prove two hypotheses through data collection and analysis.

## Optional subjects

### History (0470)

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#### Why choose History?

The study of History is crucial in understanding a rapidly changing and ever-complex world. Globalisation, the increasing rejection of expert advice, the rise of mass media and the re-emergence of the far right as a significant force in politics make it imperative for you to develop your own critical thinking skills.

History's focus on well-structured discussions and debates ensures that you not only achieve a good grade, but also engage with the world around you, asking poignant questions and learning the lessons of the past.

#### Course outline

Students of IGCSE History focus primarily on the political history of Britain, Europe and the World in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, building on the skills, knowledge and understanding they have developed in Key Stage 3.

The ability to interpret information, to reason, draw conclusions and make historical judgments, make inferences, analyse and evaluate sources are all integral skills that feature throughout the course.

The ability to analyse and interpret information and to construct a balanced argument is valued in any professional discipline. History is particularly of use to those with an interest in Law, Diplomacy, Politics, Journalism, Publishing and Management, but is worth studying in its own right whatever your future holds.

All students complete 3 assessments: *either* 2 written examination papers and 1 piece of coursework; *or* 2 written examination papers and an additional written examination paper.



## Optional subjects

### Music (0978)



### Why choose Music?

When studying Cambridge IGCSE Music, you listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, you enhance your appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment.

You will study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and you are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive and critical when listening. Although the majority of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is always represented.

### Course outline

#### Component 1

*Written paper, 1 hour 15 minutes, 70 marks*

This component is based on CD recordings supplied by the exam board. The extracts or pieces played will be from a wide range of styles and traditions. The questions test understanding and perception of the music and will either require short answers or will be in a multiple-choice format.

#### Component 2 – Performing

*Internally marked/externally moderated coursework, 50 marks*

Component 2 consists of two prepared performances of your own choice, one individual and one ensemble, all of which must be recorded.

#### Component 3 – Composing

*Internally marked/externally moderated coursework, 50 marks*

You will submit two compositions, written for different instruments and/or voices, which must be recorded.

## Optional subjects

### Slovene

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#### Why choose Slovene as a Foreign Language?

Speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities. Over the two-year course, you will study various topics depending on your level of knowledge, including: me and my family, food, my city, my home, healthy lifestyle and others.

*Please note:* Students do not sit an external IGCSE examination. Instead, the course culminated in an internal examination based on IGCSE standards that is prepared by our Modern Foreign Languages department and you'll receive a completion certificate issued by the school.

#### Why choose First Language Slovene?

You will study both Slovene Language and Literature which allows for a wide choice of set texts. You will also use your knowledge of these texts to inform and inspire your own writing, and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences.

Topics include the development of Slovene literature in comparison with European literature, accompanied by a historical background, as well as the formal use of the Slovene language in various context.

### Course outline

#### Slovene as a Foreign Language

Paper 1: Reading comprehension (80% of final grade)

Oral exam: (20% of final grade)

#### First Language Slovene

Paper 1: Essay (80% of final grade)

Oral exam (20% of final grade)





## IGCSE Subject Preference Form

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE HEAD OF SECONDARY  
BY THE END OF BLOCK 4

Student's Full Name:

List all the following currently offered IGCSE subjects in the order of preference using the table below:

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Enterprise
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music

Compulsory Subject	English Language and Literature
Compulsory Subject	Mathematics
Compulsory Subject	Biology
Compulsory Subject	Chemistry
Compulsory Subject	Physics
Compulsory Subject	PE ( <i>non-examination</i> )
Preference 1	
Preference 2	
Preference 3	
Preference 4	
Preference 5	
Preference 6	
Preference 7	

Any other IGCSE subjects not listed above to submit for special request: (*these subjects are not guaranteed*)

Do you wish to study Slovene in Years 10 and 11? YES                  NO

Any additional comments:

Parent Signature:

Date:



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