

The IGCSE as part of the Academic Programme at the Prague British School

	Age	Year	Stage
P R I M A R Y	20 months - 5 years	(Pre) Nursery and Reception	Foundation Stage
	5-6	Year 1	Key Stage 1
	6-7	Year 2	
	7-8	Year 3	Key Stage 2
	8-9	Year 4	
	9-10	Year 5	
	10-11	Year 6	
S E N I O R	11-12	Year 7	Key Stage 3
	12-13	Year 8	
	13-14	Year 9	
	14-15	Year 10	IGCSE Programme
	15-16	Year 11 *	
	16-17	Year 12	IB Programme
	17-18	Year 13	

* PBS also offers a one year 'Pre IB course'

IGCSE - Introduction

Students in Key Stage 4 complete a two-year programme leading to the award of the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). This is an external examination administered by an examining board in the United Kingdom. IGCSE is used by schools in over 80 countries throughout the world.

Who is IGCSE for?

The IGCSE is designed to be accessible to a wide range of abilities. Results are published as grades from A to G with high achieving students gaining an A*. Students at PBS sit the examinations in the third term of Year 11. To ensure that students are properly prepared for the examinations, students will be continually assessed during the course of their studies using the A to G scale of achievement.



Where do IGCSEs lead to?

The subjects available to students in Years 10 and 11 have been carefully selected with the intention of providing a broad and balanced curriculum that allows students to acquire a sound base from which they can progress to the International Baccalaureate or other certified courses in Years 12 and 13.

The IB Diploma is an internationally recognised award which meets university placements criteria at many major universities throughout the world, including those in Europe, Australia and the United States. A separate guide to the IB at PBS is available.

IGCSEs offered at the Prague British School

- English as a First Language
- English Literature
- English as a Second Language
- Mathematics
- Coordinated Science
- Physics, Chemistry and Biology
- Geography
- History
- French
- German
- Russian
- Czech
- ICT
- Business Studies
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- PE

IGCSE Options at the Prague British School 2010/11

Students generally take the following subjects:

- English Language and Literature (double award) **OR** English as a Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Coordinated Science (Double Award) **OR**
- Physics, Chemistry and Biology (Triple Award)
- Geography **OR** History
- ICT
- French **OR** German
- Business Studies **OR** Art **OR** Music
- Business Studies **OR** Drama **OR** PE

(Note: Business Studies cannot be chosen twice!)

Students taking Russian or Czech take these as lunchtime classes, in addition to the regular timetable. This may be in addition to / instead of French / German.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

In years 10 and 11 students follow a course which combines English and Literature and leads to separate IGCSE awards for the two subjects.

During the two years of your IGCSE course, students will be encouraged to become increasingly skilled in reading widely, independently and critically. Students will become more fluent and effective in writing in a range of styles and for a range of audiences. Students will also be sharing their thoughts and ideas with others, sometimes working as part of a team, and sometimes focusing on developing their own individual tastes and styles.

The IGCSE English and Literature course is varied and demanding however it is also enjoyable and rewarding!

Assessment:

Literature - Course work: 25%, Written exam:75%

Students are required to submit two literature pieces on drama, poetry or prose for the course work portfolio.

Language- Course work: 50%, Written exam50%

Students are required to submit three language pieces - imaginative, analytical and argumentative - for the course work portfolio.



ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The rationale for this course is based on the widespread use of English as a medium of instruction and as the language of commerce and entertainment. The subject matter reflects this international perspective. It includes topics like education, current affairs, the world of work, health and welfare, travel and school affairs. It is designed to develop students' ability to use English effectively for practical communication, spoken and written, as well as their ability to analyse and summarise texts in English. It also helps students to develop skills required for further study or employment using English as the medium.

The examination has three sections. There is a reading/writing paper, which involves reading and responding to a number of short and longer texts - of a practical and topical nature - writing short and longer answers to a variety of tasks including description and report writing. The Listening paper includes general and factual comprehension, where the students are required to listen to different samples of formal and informal spoken English and to demonstrate their comprehension by completing true/false statements, filling in missing information or drawing plans. The Speaking examination requires the student to communicate on a given topic for around eight minutes, and assesses their grammatical and vocabulary range, as well as their general level of fluency.

MATHEMATICS

Students will continue to build on their current mathematical knowledge in three broad areas- number and algebra, geometry and measures, and handling data. They will also develop strategies for solving problems and carrying out investigations, making use of ICT for analysis and presentation.

SCIENCE

As the name suggests, the Double Award Science course leads to a double IGCSE grade (e.g. A*A*, AA, BB etc.) on the examination certificate. The course is allocated six periods of curriculum time per week with the Biology, Chemistry and Physics content of the course being taught by subject specialists. Some students will take these subjects as separate sciences in an accelerated course for the final examinations

GEOGRAPHY

Geography at IGCSE develops an appreciation of the physical and human environment in a range of places. Beyond the key ideas, the focus is on the ways in which humans and environments interact. The course concentrates on relevant and topical issues such as overpopulation and famine; refugees and asylum; urban sprawl and the threat to the countryside; tropical rainforest destruction and global warming; the physical challenges of flood management; tourism impacts on the environment and loss of biodiversity.



HISTORY

The IGCSE History course aims to stimulate interest in the study of History, to acquaint the students with significant historical issues, to develop the intellectual skills required by the subject and provide a basis for Sixth Form study. Priorities are to stimulate genuine interest in, and enthusiasm for, history amongst students and enable them to maximise their potential with regard to examination success. The History Department has a very wide range of text books, DVDs and ICT resources with which to explain, illustrate and stimulate interest in Twentieth Century World History.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

We encourage students to study either French or German up to IGCSE. We cover the four attainment targets of listening, speaking, reading and writing and we practise real-life situations such as shopping, travelling, communicating with peers as well as the life and institutions of the French and German speaking world. Students are examined formally in the skills of listening, speaking and reading. Each skill area carries 25% of the final grade.

Students are encouraged to be proactive learners including the use of dictionaries when students privately research their written coursework and the range of topics on the new specification permits in-depth coverage of a more limited range of areas. At PBS we also offer Czech and Russian for native speakers of those languages.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

All pupils will solve problems using applications software such as Word (word processor), Excel (spreadsheet), Access (relational database) and PowerPoint (presentation graphics). The course is strong on acquiring practical skills in the use of standard applications, and the Analysis, Design and Evaluation emphasises the problem solving nature of the subject. Students will also gain an understanding of how ICT is used in organisations and how ICT has changed our society.

BUSINESS STUDIES

The course is designed to stimulate an interest in all aspects of the business environment and the economy. Students are encouraged to view topics from the perspective of the consumer, the shareholder, the employer and the employee. Regular use of case studies and real world thought experiments place the subject in a very practical context.

ART

Students learn to research and develop their own creative ideas from both observation and imagination. They acquire a range of practical skills in different media and experiment with a variety of materials and techniques. Work by contemporary and historical artists is studied within the context of the students' practical projects. Students are encouraged to visit galleries and exhibitions so that works of art can be studied first hand. Drawing is taught as a core skill throughout the course.

Students are required to keep a Sketchbook/Journal for all components of the course. The sketchbook/journal must contain evidence of the development of students' ideas, including reference to the work of others, showing understanding of meanings, contexts and the ability to make informed judgements.

During Year 10 students complete the first coursework project on a set theme taught within the Fine Art disciplines of painting, sculpture, and photography. In Year 11 students will complete the second and third coursework project, and the terminal examination. Following advice from their teacher, students may choose to specialise in painting and drawing, or sculpture for this part of the course. Photography may be studied as a supporting discipline.

MUSIC

GCSE Music is a broad and exciting course which consolidates and develops the three key skills established in Key Stage 3: Performing, Composing and Listening. GCSE Music students at PBS receive three hours of lessons a week and are also required to have a weekly lesson on an instrument of their choice. Note reading skills are essential when studying at GCSE level and keyboard skills are an advantage. Students who are considering taking GCSE music should ensure that they work hard on these skills in Year 9.

Listening (40%)

Students study the History of Western Music from 1600 to the present day and World Music. In addition to the General Listening questions, there are two prescribed areas of focus which change each year. In addition to the work covered in the lessons students keep a listening diary and attend concerts in Prague.

Performing (Solo 15% + Ensemble 15%)

All GCSE students are expected to participate in at least one extra-curricular ensemble each week and are regularly given the opportunity to perform in public in school assemblies, external events and as part of the PBS Concert Programme.



DRAMA

Drama is ideally suited to creative people who can both initiate and respond to ideas. This course requires students to be prepared to listen to the ideas of others and work closely in a group situation as well as to be able to work on their own initiative. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of both Theatre and performance in all aspects: as performers, directors and designers. They will also develop their understanding of the world around them through the study of dramatic texts and their contexts. The course is practical in nature but students are required to show an understanding of the theory behind performance in the written component of the course.

The course is assessed as follows:

- 1) Course work 60% - Three performances are assessed and sent to the examining board on video.
 - (a) Group improvised piece
 - (b) Group scripted piece
 - (c) Individual scripted or improvised piece.

- 2) Written exam 40% - Candidates work practically on three improvisation titles sent by the board, and one act of a published play, also sent by the board. The examination tests their understanding of the texts and performance techniques used in relation to the material.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course will appeal to a wide range of pupils who wish to develop their practical skills and general understanding of the world of sport.

During this two year course pupils will be encouraged to:

- Develop and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of physical education through selected practical activities.
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the different factors that affect participation and performance and demonstrate their relationship.
- Understand the role of rules and conventions in selected activities.
- Promote their understanding of the health benefits and risks associated with taking part in physical activity.
- Develop the skills necessary to analyse and improve performance.
- Support their personal and social development through adopting different roles in selected activities when working with others.

A broad and balanced programme

At PBS students in Year 10 and 11 have a wide range of opportunities. Students are encouraged to get involved in the Student Council, Debating and public speaking and various other extra curricular activities. Students are given clear Careers Guidance at this important stage of their education. PBS students go through a transition program at the end of Year 11 designed to prepare them for the type of work they will be expected to complete in Year 12 and the IB program.

Special Educational Needs At IGCSE.

A major part of the SEN Department's role is to support students in these important Public Examinations to ensure that they have the opportunity to deliver their best performance. In most cases, this will have been an ongoing process, in extra lessons and formal learning support. Appropriate concessions will be negotiated with the Boards for the exams themselves, and these may include 25% extra time, supervised breaks, word-processing and the use of a reader and/or an amanuensis. In all cases the aim is to allow candidates with a range of specific learning difficulties to express their knowledge fully, without giving them an unfair advantage over other candidates. Detailed descriptions of the concessions available, and conditions to be met to qualify for them, are available from the Department.

For further information regarding the IGCSE please contact:

Mr. T Roberts
Head of Senior School
headseneior@pbschool.cz