



# IGCSEs at Blossbury



IGCSE Studies

2018

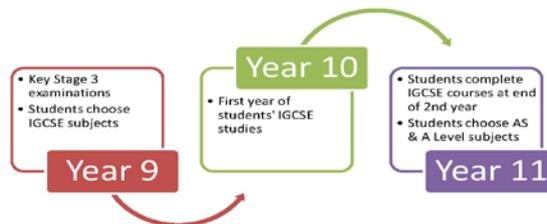




# IGCSEs at Bloomsbury

## WHAT ARE IGCSEs?

An IGCSE is an International General Certificate in Secondary Education. The IGCSE courses offered by CIE (Cambridge International Examinations) are the world's most popular international qualification for 14 - 16 year-olds preparing for Key Stage 4. IGCSEs are normally taken at the end of Year 11 after a 2-year course (although it may be possible in exceptional circumstances for students to complete them in shorter periods). Bloomsbury International School Hatyai is an approved CIE centre; its IGCSE courses therefore culminate in the issuing of IGCSE certificates by CIE



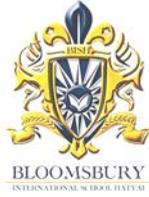
## WHAT DO IGCSEs LEAD TO?

Most IGCSE students go on to study A Levels: Bloomsbury International School Hatyai is also a recognised CIE (Cambridge International Examinations) centre for delivery of the latter—further information about Bloomsbury International School Hatyai's A Level programmes is available in its A Level prospectus. IGCSEs also confer entry to other advanced pre-university courses such as the IB Diploma and the US' Advanced Placement Diploma.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

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## WHAT IS BLOOMSBURY'S IGCSE PROGRAMME BASED ON?

Bloomsbury International School Hatyai's IGCSE preparation programme builds on the skills students have developed at Key Stage 3 (at the end of Year 9). The IGCSE offered by Cambridge International Examinations ('CIE') – for which Bloomsbury International School Hatyai is an approved centre – is the world's most popular international qualification for 14-16 year-olds.



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## WHY ARE YEARS 10-11 SO IMPORTANT?

When Bloomsbury International School Hatyai students enter Years 10-11, they begin the important processes of personalising and specialising in their studies (processes that continue at A and university levels later). Preparing for IGCSE in Years 10-11 is thus academically vital and lays the foundations for entrance to Bloomsbury's Sixth Form and subsequently to university.



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## WHAT DO BLOOMSBURY STUDENTS STUDY IN YEARS 10-11?

Year 10-11 students at Bloomsbury International School Hatyai take a combination of core and optional IGCSE examination subjects. The core subjects are English, Mathematics and Science; all Year 10 and 11 students at Bloomsbury also have Physical Exercise (PE) included in their timetables, although this is not an examined subject. As well as imparting new knowledge, the IGCSE curriculum also helps students develop and refine important skills. These include learning independently, thinking critically, undertaking investigations, using initiative in tackling and solving problems, reasoning and proving, applying skills, knowledge and understanding academically and in practice, assuming responsibility for individual project work, participating in collaborative teamwork exercises and honing various oral and practical skills.



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## WHY ARE SKILLS SO IMPORTANT AT KEY STAGE 4?

Independent learning is an especially important skill for students preparing for IGCSEs. The National Curriculum of England (upon which the CIE curriculum is based) expects students at Key Stage 4 to show autonomy and initiative in their studies. It places less emphasis on what students know and seeks instead to encourage, promote and reward intellectual attributes such as the ability to understand, analyse and explain data, to express and communicate knowledge and to look critically at and assess the credibility of information sources. These aptitudes become even more important at the AS and A Level stages of education which follow the successful completion of IGCSEs



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## ARE STUDIES IN YEARS 10-11 CONFINED TO THE CLASSROOM?

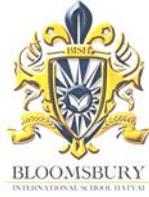
No. An essential aspect of IGCSE studies is the ability to relate classroom- based learning to knowledge of life outside the school environment and to apply this in practice when appropriate. For this reason, Bloomsbury organises activities such as external visits and field trips for IGCSE students from time to time to help them conceptualise and appreciate such relationships and thus to extend and broaden the range of their intellectual and personal interests.



## WHO MARKS & GRADES IGCSES?

GCSEs are set, assessed and certified by CIE (Cambridge International Examinations); during the preceding 2 years, internal IGCSE assessments are conducted by Bloomsbury's team of qualified teachers and academic managers in accordance with CIE protocols. IGCSE examinations have been formulated to ensure they are accessible to a wide range of academic abilities. They are graded from A–G (with A grades awarded for outstanding performance). Students who fail to reach the required standard receive a U ('Ungraded') mark.





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## WHICH IGCSE GRADES SHOULD STUDENTS AIM FOR?

To study a subject at A Level, students are normally to secure an A or B grade in its equivalent at IGCSE.

A Level studies involve concentrating on a smaller number of subjects in greater detail and depth, and the IGCSE is generally regarded as an effective preparation for A Level. Bloomsbury encourages all students to complete A Level studies before applying to study for a BA or BSc degree at university; Ministry of Education rules in Thailand now require applicants for international undergraduate university degree programmes to hold A Levels (or equivalent qualifications) from 2019.

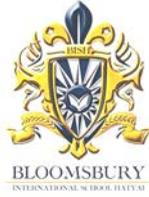
## DO IGCSE STUDENTS PRACTISE TESTS AT BLOOMSBURY?

At the end of Terms 1, 2 & 3 of Year 10, all Bloomsbury students sit examinations in the IGCSE subjects that they have been studying. These examinations assess what they have learned throughout the year. At the end of Term 1 in Year 11 students sit mock IGCSE examinations which cover as much of their syllabuses as possible at that time. These mock examinations are intended to be summative in nature — they give students and their parents/ guardians a clear picture of what has been achieved thus far. They also have a formative function in the way results highlight strengths and weaknesses to provide guidance, direction and focus for improvement during the remainder of Year 11.



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## HOW DOES BLOOMSBURY PROVIDE FEEDBACK & COUNSELLING DURING STUDENTS' IGCSE STUDIES?

Bloomsbury teachers provide regular feedback to IGCSE students during their studies; they also liaise regularly with parents and guardians at significant points during Years 10-11 to provide an indication of current attainment and suggestions for future targets to co-ordinate efforts enabling students to achieve longer-term goals. Bloomsbury seeks to unite all interested parties in securing the best results for all students.

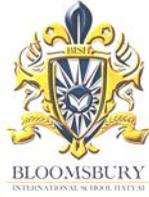


## WHAT SUBJECTS DO IGCSE STUDENTS FOLLOW AT BLOOMSBURY?

Core IGCSE subjects at Bloomsbury consist of English Language, Mathematics and Science (with the latter being taken as a single or double general award subject). Optional subjects are chosen from a range of Humanities and other areas based on a student's interests and aptitudes, the preferences of parents / guardians, the advice of Bloomsbury teach and academic managers and timetabling practicalities.

## WHAT IS COURSEWORK?

Coursework is a body of work developed by the students and is assessed as part of the final marks. Subjects offering at Bloomsbury with coursework components include: History, English and Art & Design



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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR IGCSE STUDENTS AT BLOOMSBURY

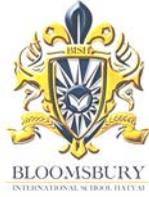
Cambridge IGCSE First Language English learners develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in both speech and writing. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed. They refine traditional English language skills, accessed through various international and multicultural texts.

Their studies also encourage them to read widely both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, empathy, précis, inference, familiarity with a range of genres and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively (all of which are essential aptitudes for IGCSE students).

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language programme may be considered by none native speakers. The qualification reflects the widespread use of English in education and commerce and also in entertainment. The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.

Non-native English speaking Bloomsbury students who are not ready to enter for the IGCSE English Language programmes are recommended to prepare instead for a Cambridge English Language Assessment qualification such as Cambridge English: First (FCE). Such a qualification demonstrates that its holders can communicate effectively face-to-face, express opinions and presenting arguments, follow the news, write clear and detailed English, explain the advantages and disadvantages of different points of view and write letters, reports, stories and other types of text.

In all the scenarios outlined above, Bloomsbury teachers and academic managers will advise students and parents as to the most suitable studying option for each individual candidate.



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## IGCSE MATHEMATICS AT BLOOMSBURY

All IGCSE students at Bloomsbury study Mathematics. As students' mathematical abilities vary, Bloomsbury Mathematics teachers and academic managers will offer each student (and parent/guardian) advice as to whether the core, extended or additional syllabus is appropriate and – if it is – what the relevant timescales and practicalities are.

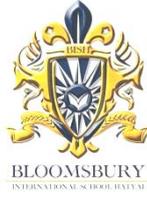


## IGCSE SCIENCE AT BLOOMSBURY

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

They learn how science is studied and practised and become aware that the results of scientific research can have positive and negative effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.





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## IGCSE INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AT BLOOMSBURY

The Information Communication Technology syllabus encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, which will be useful to them in their work across the curriculum and prepare them for future employment. They will develop understanding of the implications of technology in society, including social, economic and ethical uses and awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments.

The syllabus combines theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications to solve problems, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software, web browsers and website design. Learners analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose.



## IGCSE BUSINESS STUDIES AT BLOOMSBURY

Bloomsbury students interested in studying business follow the Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus. This develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors and the importance of innovation and change. Learners discover how the major types of business organisation are established, financed and managed and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence.

Learners not only study business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy, enquiry and writing business reports. The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study at Cambridge International A Level and an ideal preparation for the world of work, commerce and finance.



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## IGCSE HISTORY AT BLOOMSBURY

Bloomsbury students with an interest in the past follow the Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus. This examines some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth century's, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and the skills required for historical research.

Learners develop an understanding of how the concepts of cause and effect, continuity and change and similarity and difference operate in historical studies. They also learn how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study and also encouraging a lifelong interest in History.

IGCSE History comprises of two compulsory written papers.

Students then have the option of selecting, Component 3 – Coursework assignment or Paper 4 – Alternative to coursework which is also a written paper.



## IGCSE ART AND DESIGN

Artistically inclined students at Bloomsbury have the opportunity to follow its CIE IGCSE Art and Design syllabus. This aims to encourage a personal response on the part of each learner by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two- and three-dimensional form and composition and master the ability to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.



An important practical element in this course is the development of students' personal art portfolios, which they may take with them later to university if they decide to specialise in this area at degree level. Art and Design is a popular subject; it requires a great deal of hard work on students' part but confers a range of immediate, medium-term and long-term rewards of an academic, practical and aesthetic nature.

IGCSE Art & Design comprises of four components of which students take two: Component 1 – Is a broad based assignment and is compulsory for all students. Students then have the option of selecting, Component 2 – A design based assignment, Component 3 – A critical and historical assignment or Component 4 – A coursework assignment .



### IGCSE MUSIC AT BLOOMSBURY

When studying the Cambridge IGCSE Music syllabus, learners listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, learners enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment. Learners study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and they 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.

