



Year 10, 2011-2012
Your future, Your Choices

A GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE YEAR 10 STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS



Welcome to Year 10

Life in Year 10 is full of challenges, but we can guarantee that you will have an interesting and rewarding time. Obviously, over the next two years, preparing for your IGCSEs will be very important, but you will also have the opportunity to play in sports teams, perform Music and Drama pieces, participate in new activities, make new friends and have fun in preparation for your Sixth Form International Baccalaureate Diploma studies in Years 12 and 13. This guide will help answer some of your questions about what lies ahead for you in addition to help you make solid choices for your studies. Do speak to your teachers, tutors and parents so that you make informed choices. But, remember that these are your choices about your future and this thought should form the basis of your decision making for a challenging and rewarding time in Years 10 and 11.

Academic Studies

It is compulsory to study Maths, English, Science and a Modern Foreign Language, but you will be able to choose your other subjects from the variety of options that we offer. All IGCSE subjects are taught by qualified and experienced members of staff who will be able to help and guide you throughout the courses.

In each of your IGCSE subjects you will take external exams in May and June of 2012. In many subjects, your final grade is determined not just by your performance in this exam, but also by the quality of coursework that you have produced over the two year course. It is therefore vital that you work with commitment and motivation right from the start of Year 10. Listen to your teachers and ask about any aspect of your studies that you are uncertain about. The more **YOU** put in, the more **YOU** get out of the experience.

The Personal, Social and Health Education Programme

The aim of the PSHE programme is to help you to develop moral, social and cultural awareness as well as prepare for University and Career choices; helping you to make informed choices, form effective relationships and develop into a more responsible and thoughtful citizen who is ready for the challenges of university and a career beyond this. Through discussion, role play, external presenters and group work activities, the programme will tackle topics that affect you and your peers not just in Repton School but also throughout the world.

We hope you are looking forward to your time in Years 10 and 11 as the teaching staff here are looking forward to welcoming and supporting you through the next 2 years.

Good luck with your choices and with your future studies.

David Flint
Director of Studies

The Courses

Courses Offered

For most subjects, students follow Cambridge IGCSE courses. All courses are offered subject to available resources and appropriate class size numbers.

What is Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge was the first exam board to develop the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) 20 years ago based on "O" Level course. The IGCSE is now the world's most popular international qualification for 14-16 year olds. More than 2,000 schools across the world teach Cambridge IGCSE. Internationally recognised and suitable for schools worldwide, Cambridge IGCSE brings out the best in students and develops successful learners through a skills-based approach to teaching and assessing. By working with schools and educators globally, Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) has created a balanced international curriculum that develops successful students through a practical approach to teaching and learning.

What are external exams?

When the students sit the exam papers at the end of Year 11, neither the teachers nor the students will know exactly which questions are going to be on the exam papers. For each subject, the teacher will ensure that over the two year course, the students cover the syllabus; this means that they will be taught all the factual information that they need. The IGCSE exam papers are marked not by teachers in school, but by examiners in the UK. The marks and the grades that the students obtain are not decided by their teachers, but by the exam board. This means that IGCSE grades are an internationally recognised measure of academic ability.

What is coursework?

For some IGCSE subjects the final grade awarded is not just based on a student's performance in the final exam, but also takes into account the quality of the coursework that they have produced over the two years. Some subjects have coursework and some don't. If students need to produce coursework for a particular subject they will be given a lot of guidance on exactly what needs to be done, and they will be given plenty of time in which to complete the work.

What grades are available at GCSE / IGCSE level?

The grades awarded at IGCSE level range from A* (the highest) to G (the lowest). However, for entry to Universities and Colleges, only grades of C or above are considered to be pass grades. For entry into our IB programme at Repton Dubai, students need 6 passes at grade B or above.

The Curriculum

Core Subjects: All Year 10 students must study the following core examination subjects.

English

All students will obtain 2 IGCSE grades, one for English Language and one for English Literature. Five lessons per week will be allocated to English. English pupils will be put into sets from September 2011, allowing pupils to be optimally placed and challenged based on their abilities.

Mathematics

Five lessons a week will be allocated to Maths. Students will be put into sets appropriate to their ability. Sets are constantly reviewed to ensure that students are placed optimally based on their ability and progress.

Science

Students are able to study all three Sciences as discreet subjects (Biology, Physics and Chemistry). A Coordinated Science option is available for students who find Science challenging. This allows students to gain a double award in Science in addition to studying an additional subject. Twelve lessons a week will be allocated to Science for those studying all three sciences and 6 lessons for those studying for the Coordinated Science Double Award programme.

In addition, it is compulsory for all students to study at least one Modern Foreign Language. For Arab nationals, it is compulsory to study Arabic. The languages available in Year 10 are:

- Spanish
- German
- French
- Mandarin
- Arabic

Language options are available for students with previous language experience as well as for beginners. Muslim students must follow the Islamic Studies course as prescribed by the Ministry of Education. There will be two lessons per week for Islamic Studies.

Optional Subjects: Students will need to choose options from the list of subjects below:

- History
- Geography
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Design and Technology
- Physical Education
- ICT
- Drama
- Art and Design
- Music
- Textiles
- Psychology (pending confirmation)

Four lessons per week will be allocated to each optional subject. All students are also required to follow non-examined courses in Physical Education, (two lessons per week) and Personal, Social and Health Education, (one lesson per fortnight on average). In addition, students have the opportunity to pursue many other interests and activities during the daily extra-curricular activities session.

Choosing Your Options Wisely

How should I decide which optional subjects to study?

It is important that you choose subjects for the right reasons. You need to feel confident that you are able to make progress in your chosen subjects, that you will enjoy them, and that they will enable you to fulfil your career aspirations.

The following section contains a brief summary of factors that are worth considering prior to making your selection. If you are in any doubt as to which subjects you should take, then talk your options through with your parents and teachers. If you are currently a Repton student, your Tutor and your Housemaster will be able to help you. If you are joining us from another school, please don't hesitate to contact us here at Repton if you need advice or information regarding option choices.

1. Which career or university course are you interested in? If you have a particular career in mind for the future, then it is important that you check which subjects are required, or strongly favoured, by universities offering the appropriate courses.
2. Which subjects do you find interesting? Read this booklet carefully and find out as much as you can about the IGCSE courses on offer. Motivation is vitally important at this level of study, particularly when it comes to coursework, so choose subjects that you find interesting.
3. Where do your strengths lie? Different subjects may suit different learning styles. If you have been getting good grades for the past few years in a subject, then that should give you confidence in your selection.

We are very keen that every student at Repton Dubai should fulfil his or her academic potential. This means getting the best IGCSE grades of which you are capable. Your results really can have a big impact on your life. Making the right choice at this stage is very important.

What should I do now?

You should read through all the information in this booklet very carefully. You should start discussing your option choices with your parents and your subject teachers.

What happens next?

If you are a current Repton student, you will have received a school report with grades and comments from your teachers at the end of last half term. This document should help you to identify your current strengths and weaknesses. You and your parents will also be invited to attend a Parent Teacher Meeting in the near future. This meeting provides an opportunity for you to learn more about the Year 10 curriculum, find out more information about the different optional subjects, and discuss your option choices with your subject teachers.

When do I need to complete the "Option Choices Form"?

The Option Choices Form is included in this booklet, however, you don't need to fill it in yet. The deadline for completing and submitting this form is Tuesday 29 March, after the Year 9 Parent Teacher Meeting. Please note that, if this form is received late, you are less likely to be able to study your first choices of optional subjects.

When will I find out whether I am able to study my first choices of optional subjects?

When all the "Option Choices Forms" have been returned, the information will be analysed. Within two working weeks, you should be told whether your first choices can be accommodated. If your first choices do not fit in with the option blocks, you will be asked to select again.

Option Choices Form - 2011

Family Name _____ Given Name _____ House _____ Signature _____

Tick **one** option from each block from Choice 3 onwards.

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Tick	Choice 4	Tick	Choice 5	Tick	Choice 6	Tick	Choice 7	Tick	Choice 8	Tick	Choice 9	Tick	
Maths	English	Biology		Chemistry		Physics		French		Spanish		Geography		Economics		
		Coordinated Science					Textiles		Spanish		Mandarin		History		Business	
		Note: If you choose Biology and Chemistry you must choose Physics as the third option.					Drama		Mandarin		Arabic B		Economics		ICT	
				PE		Arabic A		German		DT		Music				
				Business		Arabic B		Islamic A*		PE		DT				
						Beginners' Spanish		Islamic B*		Art						
								Business		ICT						
								History								
								Geography								

**Both courses fulfil the criteria for the UAE's Ministry of Education and offer the option for a GCSE or "O" Level qualification.*

Now take the Form to your Form Tutor for signature and comment (if necessary).

Signature of Form Tutor _____

Now take the Form to your parents for signature and comment (if necessary).

Signature of Parent _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO YOUR FORM TUTOR BY TUESDAY 29th MARCH 2011

English

Course Summary

All pupils at Repton will study both English Language and English Literature at IGCSE level. Although they are two distinct qualifications – and, therefore, represent two IGCSE passes – groups will be taught each subject by the same English teacher.

English Language

Language qualification consists of an examination (Directed Writing and Composition, with a weighting of 50%) plus a Coursework Portfolio (3 assignments, each of around 500-800 words, with a weighting of 50%).

The examination will require pupils to use and develop given information in a different form (for example, a letter, a report, a speech). In addition, it will test a number of Writing Objectives, including the presentation of facts and opinions, the understanding and use of a range of appropriate vocabulary, and the use of language in different registers. There will also be the opportunity to write a Composition. One of the Coursework pieces will require a response to a literary text; the other two will reflect responses to more technical and imaginative tasks.

English Literature

The Literature qualification consists of an examination (3 set texts, with a weighting of 70%) plus a Coursework Portfolio (2 assignments, each of about 600-800 words, with a weighting of 30%). The examination will test pupils' responses to the three literary texts. Three genres are represented and pupils will have to tackle one text from each section. The three sections are fiction, drama and poetry. The Coursework requires responses to two literary texts.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

The obvious link to IB courses is English A1, though there are clear associations with other essay-based subjects such as History and Geography. The study of English and English Literature at IGCSE will also be of great benefit to all pupils who wish to study subjects that require reading and interpretation skills and the ability to process information in an efficient, imaginative and accessible manner.

Pupils who study English and English Literature could embark on a wide range of careers, from Law to Journalism. It is not a restrictively vocational course and allows students the chance to acquire skills without necessarily committing themselves to a particular career.

Where to find more information

More information about English Language and Literature can be found on the CIE website <www.cie.org.uk> or by contacting the Head of English, Dr. Stephen Jacobi at stephen.jacobi@reptondubai.org

Mathematics

Course Summary

IGCSE Mathematics is a basic Mathematics course which equips students with the necessary skills to become numerate citizens of the world. The course covers four major areas of mathematical study: Algebra, Statistics, Number and Geometry.

Course Content

The course is divided into the following sections:

Algebra: Set Language and Notation, Algebraic Manipulation, Linear Algebra, Graphs in practical situations, Graphs of functions, Functions (Quadratic, Straight Line), Simultaneous Equations and Polynomial Factorization

Geometry: Circular measure, Geometrical terms and relationships, Geometrical constructions, Symmetry, Angle properties, Loci, Vectors in 2 dimensions, Matrices, Transformations, Mensuration and Trigonometry (both Planar and Three Dimensional)

Number: Squares, square roots and cubes, Directed Numbers, Vulgar and decimal fractions and percentages, Ordering, Standard form, The four rules, Estimation, Limits of accuracy, Ratio, proportion, rate, Use of an electronic calculator, Measures, Time, Personal and household finance, Indices and Surds.

Statistics: Graphical and Numeric, Probability.

Assessment

Two levels of entry are available:

- Extension level is suitable for the most able candidates, grades A* - E are available.
- Core level is suitable for candidates who find Mathematics challenging; the highest grade available is a C grade

At the end of the two year course, students will take two exams. Students are not required to submit any coursework.

Requirements to begin studying the course

There are no requirements for entry to this course.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE Mathematics is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take either Mathematical Studies at Standard Level or Mathematics at either Higher or Standard level as part of the IB programme. (For Higher Level, a grade A or above would usually be expected.)

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in mathematics, engineering, medicine or healthcare will find the course particularly useful.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=872

Or contact Tim Hollis at timothy.hollis@reptonDubai.org

The Sciences

Physics

Course Summary

Students following the IGCSE Physics will be taught by subject specialists and have separate lessons for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course leads to a single GCSE award. The course encourages students to consider Science within an international context, to recognise links between the different scientific disciplines, and to understand the applications of Science to everyday life.

Course Content: The course is divided into 4 Physics topics. These topics are: General physics, Thermal physics, Properties of waves, including light and sound, Electricity and magnetism and Atomic physics.

As well as a subject focus, the IGCSE Physics syllabus enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Students learn about the basic principles of Physics through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Students also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, students learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

Great value is placed on the importance of experimental work in Science, and students will be given many opportunities to design investigations, collect and analyse data, and draw conclusions from experiments.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take three exams.

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice – One hour – Worth 30% of final mark

Paper 3 – Theory paper – One hour 15 minutes – Worth 50% of final mark

Paper 6 – Alternative to practical- worth 20% of the final mark

Two levels of entry are available. Extension level is suitable for most candidates, grades A* - D are available. Core level is suitable for candidates who find Biology very challenging; the highest grade available is a C grade.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied Science previously. It is expected that the student will be academically strong at KS3.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE Physics is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take Physics at Higher or Standard level as part of the IB programme.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=879

Or contact Mr Geoff Mitchell at Geoffrey.Mitchell@reptonDubai.org

Chemistry

Course Summary: Students following the IGCSE Chemistry will be taught by subject specialists and have separate lessons for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course leads to a single GCSE award. The course encourages students to consider Science within an international context, to recognise links between the different scientific disciplines, and to understand the applications of Science to everyday life.

Course Content: The course is divided into 14 Chemistry topics. These topics are: The particulate nature of matter, Experimental techniques, Atoms, elements and compounds, Stoichiometry, Electricity and chemistry, Chemical changes, Chemical reactions, Acids, bases and salts, The periodic table, Metals, Air and Water, Sulphur, Carbonates and Organic chemistry.

As well as a subject focus, the IGCSE Chemistry syllabus enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Students learn about the basic principles of Chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Students also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at IB and A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, students learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and environments.

Great value is placed on the importance of experimental work in Science, and students will be given many opportunities to design investigations, collect and analyse data, and draw conclusions from experiments.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take three exams:

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice – One hour – Worth 30% of final mark

Paper 3 – Theory paper – One hour 15 minutes – Worth 50% of final mark

Paper 6 – Alternative to practical- worth 20% of the final mark

Two levels of entry are available. Extension level is suitable for most candidates, grades A* - D are available. Core level is suitable for candidates who find Biology very challenging; the highest grade available is a C grade.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied Science previously. It is expected that the student will be academically strong at KS3.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE Chemistry is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take Chemistry at Higher or Standard level as part of the IB programme.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=840

Or contact Mr Geoff Mitchell at Geoffrey.Mitchell@reptonDubai.org

Biology

Course Summary: Students following the IGCSE Biology will be taught by subject specialists and have separate lessons for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course leads to a single GCSE award. The course encourages students to consider Science within an international context, to recognise links between the different scientific disciplines, and to understand the applications of Science to everyday life.

Course Content: The course is divided into 17 Biology topics: As well as a focus on biology, and with an emphasis on human biology, the IGCSE Biology syllabus enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Students learn about the basic principles of biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Students also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at IB or A level, which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, students learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

Topics studied include: Cell Structure and Organisation, levels of organisation, Size of specimens, Movement in and out of cells, Enzymes, Nutrition, Transportation, Excretion in humans, Coordination and response, Reproduction, Growth and development, Inheritance, Energy flow, Food chains and food webs, Nutrient cycles, Population size and Human influence in the ecosystem,

Great value is placed on the importance of experimental work in Science, and students will be given many opportunities to design investigations, collect and analyse data, and draw conclusions from experiments.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take three exams.

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice – One hour – Worth 30% of final mark

Paper 3 – Theory paper – One hour 15 minutes – Worth 50% of final mark

Paper 6 – Alternative to practical- worth 20% of the final mark

Two levels of entry are available. Extension level is suitable for most candidates, grades A* - D are available. Core level is suitable for candidates who find Biology very challenging; the highest grade available is a C grade.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied Science previously. It is expected that the student will be academically strong at KS3.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE Biology is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take Biology at Higher or Standard level as part of the IB programme.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=837

Or contact Mr Geoff Mitchell at Geoffrey.Mitchell@reptonDubai.org

Co-ordinated Science

Course Summary

Students following the IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences course will study all three Science subjects. They will be taught by subject specialists and have separate lessons for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course leads to a 'double award' of two identical IGCSE grades, such as A*A*, or BB or CC. The course encourages students to consider Science within an international context, to recognise links between the different scientific disciplines, and to understand the applications of Science to everyday life.

Students who, from the start of Year 10, excel at this course and immediately perform at a very high level, will, after consultation with the student's Science teachers and parents, be given the opportunity to move to the Triple Science course

Course Content

The course is divided into 17 Biology topics, 17 Chemistry topics and 20 Physics topics. Students must study ALL 3 sciences for the Double Award.

Topics studied include: all the major body systems e.g. digestive, reproductive and circulatory systems, the effects of humans on the environment, genetics and evolution, the elements of chemistry, acids and alkalis, dyes and drugs, atoms, bonding and the periodic table, oxidation and reduction, motion, the strengths of solids, using electricity, waves, gravity, radioactivity and electronics.

Great value is placed on the importance of experimental work in Science, and students will be given many opportunities to design investigations, collect and analyse data, and draw conclusions from experiments.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take three exams.

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice – One hour – Worth 30% of final mark

Paper 2 or 3 – Theory paper – One hour 15 minutes – Worth 50% of final mark

Paper 6 – Practical component – Worth 20% of final mark

Two levels of entry are available. Extension level is suitable for most candidates, grades A* - D are available. Core level is suitable for candidates who find Science very challenging; the highest grade available is a C grade.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied Science previously. However, this option is open to all and there are no specific entry requirements.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE Coordinated Science is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take any Science at Higher or Standard level as part of the IB programme. (For Higher level, a grade B or above would usually be expected.).

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/CIE/WebSite/UCLESData/Documents/SyllabusPDF08/0654_y08_sy.pdf

Or contact Mr Geoffrey Mitchell at Geoffrey.mitchell@repotondubai.org.

Modern Foreign Languages

Course content

We are pleased to be able to offer the IGCSE in French, Spanish, German, Mandarin and Arabic. The IGCSE is a challenging course which builds upon, and develops the knowledge learnt previously in Key Stage 3. The IGCSE can be taken at both Core and Extended level. In addition we also offer beginners Spanish Edexcel GCSE. The GCSE works in the same way as the IGCSE in that it builds upon skills taught in KS3. However, the principal difference between the two is that whereas the IGCSE is assessed entirely through examinations at the end of the 2 year course, the GCSE is largely assessed through coursework (60%).

The core topics are: Personal information; Out and about; Customer service and transactions; Future plans, education and work; Media and culture; Sport and leisure; Travel and tourism Business, work and employment.

Assessment

IGCSE: The IGCSE is assessed entirely through examinations at the end of the 2 year course. Students are assessed in the four attainment areas of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Those students taking the Core examination will complete Paper 1: speaking, Paper 2: Listening and Paper 3: Reading and Writing. Those doing the Extended examination will complete the three aforementioned papers as well as Paper 4: Continuous Writing.

GCSE: The EdExcel GCSE Spanish is comprised of 60% coursework and 40% final examination. Speaking (30%) and Writing (30%) are both assessed across four coursework pieces throughout the two year course. Listening and understanding (20%) and Reading and Understanding (20%) are assessed in exams at the end of the two year course.

Requirements to begin studying the course

We would normally require students to have studied their chosen language(s) for a minimum of two years in order to embark upon IGCSE, although bright and motivated linguists who have studied the language in Year 9 will be accepted. These courses are Language B courses and therefore not intended for native speakers of the language. For students who have no prior experience of learning any of the languages that we offer, a Spanish course for beginners will be provided. Students who make sufficient progress on this course will be entered for the GCSE Spanish exam at the end of Year 11.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

The IGCSE prepares students for continuing with their preferred modern foreign language for the IB Diploma (Group 2, Language B). People with language skills are highly thought of in the modern world. They stand out as talented and successful people with broad horizons. A language I/GCSE will enhance your CV and improve your job prospects, especially with companies with international links.

Where to find more information

Talk to your current language teacher(s) about taking one or even two of your modern foreign languages for IGCSE or email the Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Miss Adele Minter at Adele.Minter@reptonDubai.org

Arabic

Course Summary: Arabic IGCSE is designed to provide students with an internationally recognised qualification in Arabic language. Students who take this course will be able to enhance their ability in reading, understanding and responding to material from a variety of sources. They will also learn to communicate accurately in Standard Arabic, both orally and in writing, using various forms and styles and for different purposes. Above all, students will be able to appreciate the richness, beauty and diversity of the Arabic language.

Course Content: This IGCSE in Arabic (First Language) course covers three major areas in language: Reading Comprehension, Writing and Grammar. In Reading Comprehension students will be exposed to a variety of texts from Arabic literature, newspapers and magazines and trained on analyzing and making summaries to reflect their understanding.

The study and practice of grammar is also important, as the specification states that students should be able to identify, describe and write accurately morphemes or distinctive features of words, with regard to their context and grammatical functions. Students will also be trained on modern Arabic writing in different styles and for different purposes.

Assessment: At the end of the two year course, students will take two exams:

Paper 1

Section 1 – Reading comprehension exercise

Section 2 – Summarising a short piece of text and producing a short piece of directed writing, on the same theme

Section 3 – Grammar exercises

Paper 2

Students are required to produce two pieces of continuous writing. They choose two titles from a choice of six and write about 300 words on each. The six titles may include a range of writing styles and purposes, such as discursive, narrative, persuasive, descriptive, explanatory and informative.

A form of writing can be specified, such as a letter, a report, a journalistic article or a speech.

A readership for the piece of writing may also be specified, such as the student's classmates, a teacher or local people.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied an Arabic national curriculum, and have covered and understood all the basic grammatical topics (See Edexcel Web site). This course is only intended for students who speak Arabic as their first language.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

Arabic IGCSE is designed to strengthen students' ability and competence in the use of Standard Arabic as a native speaker. At the end of the course students who intend to take Arabic Higher level for the IB are expected to score no less than B grade in their IGCSE exam. Others may take Arabic A2 as long as they take A1 in another language to meet the IBO requirements.

Where to find more information

Additional information about IGCSE Arabic and related resources can be obtained from the Edexcel International website www.edexcel.com

Or contact Mrs. Rima Tamim, the Head of Senior Arabic, via rima.tamim@reptonDubai.org

Art

Course Summary

Art and Design is very different from any other subject on the curriculum. It is the only subject which is about you, developing your own ideas and your own, individual way of expressing yourself. Skills and techniques will be included in the structure of the course but in essence it is about being able to express yourself, the world and what is around you.

The IGCSE course consists of four lessons a week, plus a task work (which is an additional two hours a week) and we are very happy to see students at other times too. The Art department has an open door policy, which will enable students to work in the department during their free time and eventually opening twice a week if boarders would like to use the facilities during evening prep.

The unique way with which the IGCSE is structured will enable students to work towards their own strength. There are opportunities to work using a wide variety of materials and techniques, including Painting, Ceramics, IT, fabric printing and costume design, and any other 3D materials including plaster, metal work and wood.

Students should to be ambitious in their ideas and we will give you all the help and encouragement you need to do some really excellent work. The working environment is second to none and benefits from truly outstanding facilities.

Course Content

Students are expected to:

1. Identify and research a particular aspect of art & design
2. Carry out relevant exploration of materials, media and appropriate processes
3. Document and evaluate ideas and concepts against aims and objectives as the work proceeds
4. Develop these into a cohesive outcome.

Assessment

Students are expected to produce a body of course work and prepare for an Art exam. Both components will represent 50% of their final mark. This can be done with a variety of options working with the student's strengths and interests.

Requirements to begin studying the course

No previous experience is required to take IGCSE Art but an interest in the subject is essential.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

If you are interested in taking the Visual Art component as one of your options for the IB, it is perfect preparation for what lies ahead. If you are thinking of a career in Graphic Design, Photography, Fashion and Textiles, Interior Design, Architecture or Product Design, Art is essential. Studying Art at this stage will also develop your own visual aesthetic, which is a transferable skill and of great benefit in many professions.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website <http://www.cie.org.uk>
Or contact Michael Cooper at michael.cooper@reptondubai.org

Business Studies

Course Summary

IGCSE Business Studies is a varied and interesting course that covers all aspects of starting and running a business. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about such fundamental topics as business organization, production, marketing, finance, human resources, as well as finding out more about how businesses are affected by government legislation and policies. At Repton, we always endeavour to apply theory to real world examples and to this end we make good use of recent newspaper articles and relevant, reliable web-sites.

Course Content

The course is divided into the following sections:

- Business and the environment in which it operates.
- Business structure, organisation and control.
- Business activity to achieve objectives.
- People in business.
- External influences on businesses, including government regulation and international trade.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take two exams:

- Paper 1 Short Answer and Structured questions –one hour and 45 minutes – Worth 50% of final mark.
- Paper 2 Case study type question – one hour and 45 minutes – Worth 50% of final mark
Students are not required to submit any coursework.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is not expected that students will have any prior knowledge of business given that it is a Key Stage 4 subject and, therefore, not taught lower down the school.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE Business Studies is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take Economics or Business Management at either Higher or Standard level as part of the IB programme. (For Higher level, a grade B or above would usually be expected.)

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in finance or business will find the course particularly useful.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=839

Or contact Jonathan Medcraft at jonathan.medcraft@reptondubai.org

Drama

Course Summary: IGCSE Drama is a practical subject which offers students the opportunity to learn through active participation. Students learn how to act, direct and design for the theatre. Most lessons are practical in nature, allowing students to develop their practical performance skills, directing ability and understanding of how to approach set and costume design. Performance work is either text based or in response to a range of stimuli such as pictures or poetry.

Course Content: The course is as follows: Year 10 primarily focuses on developing performance and technical skills in preparation for Year 11. You will undertake a range of practical work experiencing a range of theatrical genres (e.g. physical theatre, naturalism and tragedy) using scripts and devising original theatre. Year 11 primarily focuses on preparing practical performance work for assessment and working with pre-released material from the examination board in preparation for the written examination.

Assessment The assessment focuses on:

- Understanding performance
- Devising original theatre
- Performance skills

At the end of the two year course, students will take two exams.

Paper 1 – 2 ½ hour written paper (writing about practical work undertaken in lesson time) – Worth 40% of the final mark
Paper 2 – Practical Coursework Assessment – Worth 60% of final mark
For Paper 2 you will take part in one individual performance and two group performances which are performed and recorded, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Requirements to begin studying the course: There are no specific entry requirements but It is an advantage to have had some Drama experience during KS3 and or extra curricular involvement in any aspect of Theatre.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers: IGCSE Drama is for all students interested in developing their performance and technical skills further or who like working collaboratively with others engaging in practical work. Not only is it good for people who would like to pursue a career in the Arts. It also helps to develop confidence in presenting yourself in any chosen future career. IGCSE Drama provides a suitable foundation for students wanting to study IB Theatre Arts.

Where to find more information: You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=837

Or contact Fiona Mullin at fiona.mullin@reptondubai.org

Design Technology

Course outline

Design & Technology is a subject where students learn how to solve real problems. They will develop the skills they have learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9 and start to work more independently. Students will be encouraged to think about global issues when designing and learn about the responsibility of the designer.

Course content

During Years 10 and 11 students will learn how to explore needs, wants and opportunities in the context of designing for a real client. They will further develop flexible and independent thinking and draw upon a wide range of information sources from first and second hand sources.

Students will learn how to modify and transform ideas as they go along and make accurate judgments on material selections, manufacturing processes, form and function. They will also appreciate and consider environmental issues both locally and globally. The facilities available to the students are outstanding, offering a mix of traditional hand tools and machines along with state of the art computer controlled equipment. Computer aided design will also play an important roll in the scheme of work as a direct link to the design industry.

In Year 10 student will undertake a series of projects incorporating two and three dimensional work as well as designated design theory lessons in preparation for Year 11. Year 11 will be dominated initially by a major design project of the student's choosing following discussion with their teacher. In term two more emphasis will be put on design theory in preparation for the IGCSE exam in the summer. At this point design theory will run parallel with the major project.

Assessment

Students' work will be assessed at regular intervals during Year 10 in an effort to enthuse and encourage the student as well as give them, their parents and staff an understanding of their progression. During Year 11 feedback on coursework will be regular and detailed. Theory work will also be assessed and mock exams will be carried out.

Links to IB and career opportunities

The IGCSE course structure has been developed very much with the IB and its ethos in mind. During the course students will be encouraged to think about and consider global issues, other cultures and users as well as consider the environment they are living in.

Studying IGCSE Design & Technology can open up opportunities in a broad range of careers. As well as in the broad range of design disciplines (product design, industrial design, graphic design, fashion design, textile design, interior design etc.) it can lead to a career in areas such as architecture, engineering, marketing and design management. The skills used in Design & Technology are far reaching - developing practical skills, understanding materials and their properties, industrial techniques, market appreciation, methods of communication and ethical consideration.

Where to find more

Websites include Cambridge IGCSE - www.cie.org.uk and IB - www.ibo.org.

For any further information on the course please feel free to contact Mr Adam Shaw Head of Department of Design and Technology at adam.shaw@reptondubai.org

Economics

Course Summary

IGCSE Economics is a varied and interesting course that covers both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about Economics topics that are often in the news such as economic growth, unemployment and inflation, as well as finding out more about how prices are determined and the effects of government intervention. At Repton, we always endeavour to apply theory to real world examples and to this end we make good use of recent newspaper articles and relevant, reliable web-sites.

Course Content

The course is divided into the following sections.

- The basic economic problem and the allocation of resources.
- The individual consumer and the private firm.
- The role of government and economic indicators.
- International trade and the economics of development.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take three exams.

Paper 1 – Multiple Choice – 45 minutes – Worth 20% of final mark

Paper 2 – Structured questions – Two hours – Worth 50% of final mark

Paper 3 – Analysis and Critical Evaluation – One hour 30 minutes – Worth 30% of final mark

Students are not required to submit any coursework.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is not expected that students will have any prior knowledge of Economics given that it is a Key Stage 4 subject and, therefore, not taught lower down the school.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE Economics is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take Economics or Business Management at either Higher or Standard level as part of the IB programme. (For Higher level, a grade B or above would usually be expected.)

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in finance or business will find the course particularly useful.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=851

Or contact Jonathan Medcraft at jonathan.medcraft@reptondubai.org

Geography

Course Summary

The central aims of the IGCSE Geography course are to encourage students to develop: a sense of place, an awareness of the characteristics and distribution of contrasting physical and human environments, an understanding of processes affecting the development of these environments, an understanding of how humans interact with their environment and an understanding of different communities and cultures throughout the world.

Course Content

The course is divided into the following units of study.

- Population and settlement
- Climate and vegetation
- Plate tectonics, weathering, rivers and flooding, coastal landforms and processes
- Agricultural and industrial systems
- Leisure and tourism
- Energy and water resources

These themes will be covered on a local, regional and global scale and consider various important, contemporary world issues. An emphasis is placed on the use of exemplars and case studies. Pupils will use and apply geographical knowledge to maps and in verbal, numerical, diagrammatic, pictorial, photographic and graphical form.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take three exams:

- Paper 1 – Core themes – 1 hour 45 minutes – 45% of final mark
- Paper 2 – skills based – 1 hour 30 minutes – 27.5% of final mark
- Paper 4 – Alternative to coursework – 1 hour 30 minutes – 27.5% of final mark

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied Geography at Key Stage 3 (through Years 7 – 9) providing a solid grounding prior to commencing the IGCSE course.

Links to IB courses and future careers

IGCSE Geography prepares students for the IB Geography Diploma, studied at both Higher and Standard level. (For Higher level, a grade B or above would usually be expected at IGCSE).

Career opportunities may include: Cartographers, surveyors, forestry and environmental consultancy, civil engineers, market researchers, travel agents, conservation, geologists, archeologists, landscape architects, town planner.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed course information at the following website:

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=859

Or contact Mark Hutchings at mark.hutchings@reptonDubai.org

History

Course Outline: IGCSE History introduces students to skills and concepts that provide a bridge between Keystage 3 and the International Baccalaureate. They are introduced to political and philosophical concepts, as well as studying international relations, war, and conflict resolution. In doing so they develop strong research skills, and they learn how to write critically and analytically.

Course Content: IGCSE History has three main components. For the core content, students study the Cold War from 1945 to 1991: its causes, effects, and its end. This covers concepts like the ideological differences between communism and capitalism, and looks at major incidents like the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. Students also study the work of the UN through two examples: the Korean War, and the Congo. There are two depth studies, the first of which is Russian history from 1905-41. The second, Southern African history in the twentieth century, is studied for coursework in Year 11.

Assessment

There are two examination papers, and two coursework exercises:

- Paper 1:** Core Content (International relations 1945-91), and Depth Study (Russia 1905-1941). This is a two hour, essay-based exam.
- Paper 2:** Source investigation of an aspect of the Core Content. This is prescribed by the CIE board, and changes each year. For 2012, students will investigate the question "To what extent was the League of Nations a success?" This is a two hour exam, consisting of a series of source analysis questions.
- Coursework:** Depth Study on Southern Africa. This consists of one essay (approximately 750 words) and one source investigation (again, 750 words). This is internally moderated and then submitted to the CIE board.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied History previously, perhaps as part of a general Humanities course. However, this option is open to all and there are no specific entry requirements. It is worth keeping in mind that a good amount of reading and research is necessary, and students with a good awareness of current affairs are well suited to the course.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE History provides rigorous preparation for the IBDP. It would give any student a good grounding for Group 3 Individuals and Societies, as it provides the skills and experience needed for both Standard and Higher Level. It is recommended that at least a grade C is necessary to take History at Standard Level, and at least a B (but preferably an A) would be needed for Higher Level.

History is an excellent route for students interested in careers that involve using research and analytical skills. This covers a wide range of careers, such as journalism, the civil service, law, economics and finance, and working with charities and NGOs.

More information

If more information is required, you can view the specific course content at <http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/history>, or you can e-mail robin.macpherson@reptondubai.org.

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Course Summary: The Information Communication Technology syllabus combines theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software, e-mail, web browsers and website design. Students will develop a greater awareness of how applications are used in the workplace, and consider the impact of new technologies on methods of working and on social, economic, ethical and moral issues. The skills learnt will be useful to them in their work across the curriculum, and will prepare them for future employment.

Course Content: We follow the IGCSE (international GCSE) syllabus from the Cambridge board (Syllabus Code 0417). The course is designed to be as practical as possible. The main software packages the pupils will become proficient on are:

- Word-processing (Microsoft Word)
- Spreadsheets (Microsoft Excel)
- Databases (Microsoft Access)
- Presentations (Microsoft PowerPoint)
- Internet usage and e-mail (Microsoft Internet Explorer/Mozilla Firefox)
- Web page design and building (HTML programming and Dreamweaver)

There is an element of theory work; this covers all of the basic theory and such useful topics as viruses, Systems Analysis, and how to apply IT in business, industry and science, amongst other things.

The course syllabus is in Adobe Acrobat format and can be downloaded from www.cie.org.uk.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will take three exams.

Paper 1 – Written Paper – Two hours – Worth 40% of final mark

Paper 2 and 3 – Practical Papers – Both are 2 hours 30 minutes long, and are sat in the ICT labs under examination conditions – Worth 60% of final mark

Students are not required to submit any coursework.

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied ICT previously, however, this option is open to all, and there are no specific entry requirements.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

IGCSE ICT is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take either IT in a Global Society or Computing as part of the IB programme. (For Higher level Computing, a grade A or above would usually be expected.)

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/middlesec/igcse/subject?assdef_id=969

Or contact Clare Kelly at clare.kelly@reptondubai.org

Music

Course Summary

Edexcel GCSE Music is an academic and vocational course that investigates all the main facets of Music. Students will have the opportunity to learn about Music from a world, technological and historical perspective as well as examining music within the context of the Arts in general. The course caters for different types of musical learner and fosters individual creativity through listening, performance and composition.

Course Content

The course is divided into the following sections.

- Performing Music: Select, rehearse and perform solo and ensemble pieces for the student's chosen instrument.
- Composing Music: Create two original compositions or arrangements in a workshop environment using the latest music technology.
- Listening and Appraising: Learn to listen, discriminate, analyse and contextualise Music.

Assessment

At the end of the two year course, students will enter three components.

Unit 1: Performing Music – worth 30% of the final mark.

Unit 2: Composing Music - worth 30% of the final mark

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising – worth 40% of the final mark

Requirements to begin studying the course

It is expected that students will have studied Music previously, perhaps as part of a Key Stage 3 Music course and, ideally, will be working towards grade 4 instrumental and theoretical music qualifications.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers

Edexcel GCSE Music is a suitable preparation for students who wish to take Music at either Higher or Standard Level as part of the IB programme. (For Higher Level, a grade B or above would usually be expected.)

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in the Performing Arts will find the course particularly useful.

Where to find more information

You will find more detailed information at the following website

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/music/Pages/default.aspx>

Or contact Stephen Fantom at stephen.fantom@reptonDubai.org

Physical Education (PE)

Course Summary: IGCSE Physical Education provides students with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education. It is also designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity. The knowledge gained should enable students to develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance.

Course Content: Students undertake a wide variety of sports in order to improve their ability to plan, perform, analyse and improve, and evaluate physical activities. Students study 3 units for the theoretical aspect of the course;

- a) Factors affecting Performance
- b) Health Safety and Training
- c) Reasons and Opportunities for Participation in Physical Activity.

Assessment: Students are assessed through coursework and a terminal examination. The examination: At the end of the two year course, students will take one exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. The question paper has a weighting of 40% of the syllabus total. The question paper consists of short and long answer questions on each of the three units. Coursework: Coursework has a weighting of 50% of the syllabus total. Coursework assesses each student's physical performance in four practical activities. The 4 practical activities must be chosen from a minimum of two of the six categories outlined:

- Games
- Gymnastic Activities
- Dance (Various styles).
 - Athletic Activity
 - Outdoor and Adventurous Activities
 - Swimming

In addition, students are assessed on their ability to analyse and improve their own or another's performance in **one** of their chosen practical activities, worth 10% of the syllabus total.

Requirements to begin studying the course It is expected that students will;

- Have demonstrated a positive approach towards Physical Education in Year 9.
- Be involved in extra curricular sport/out of school sport
- Be a strong sportsman/woman
- Be a member of school sports squads.

Links to IB courses and possible future careers Students who are interested in pursuing a career in coaching, physiotherapy or education (e.g. PE teacher) will find the course particularly useful.

Where to find more information You will find more detailed information at the following website <http://www.cie.org.uk> Or contact Miss J Phillips at jane.phillips@reptonDubai.org