

Watershed College



A GUIDE TO FORM 3 SUBJECT CHOICES, 2026



CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Cambridge International School

Form 3 subject choices

3AS	3AA	3B1 and 3B2
Geography	Geography	Geography
Chemistry	History	Core Biology (B2)
Biology	Co-ordinated Sciences	Combined Science (B1)
Physics	Accounting/ Business Studies	Accounting/ Business Studies
Option Subjects His/French/ Lit/ Travel & Tourism	Option Subjects: French/ Lit/ Travel & Tourism	Option Subjects His/French / Lit Travel & Tourism

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

1. Mathematics
2. First Language English/O' level English Language
3. Computer Science/ICT
4. Practical Subject

- Please note that once a student has been accepted or registered in a particular subject, they cannot change until he/she write their IGCSE examination. Maximum class sizes apply in all subjects, and the school has the right to move a student to a class best suited for her/him.
- Students/parents may seek advice from any teacher at the school about the choice of subjects, but in the first instance should speak to Mrs Mugomo (Head of Academics) and /or the relevant Head of Department.

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES – SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAI EXAMINATIONS.

If you know that your child has a learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia) which will hamper their ability to show their true ability in public examinations, please make sure you arrange to have an Educational Psychologist's assessment done late in their Form 3 year or very early in the Form 4 year. A copy of the Psychologist's report should be brought to the school counselor. The College will need to have to make any special arrangements (most frequently, extra time) that the Educational Psychologist may recommend, and an application must be made to Cambridge Assessment International Examinations for approval. The College reserves the right to ask the students' parents to provide evidence that remedial help has been sought to address the learning difficulty in the past.

ACCOUNTING

This is a two-year course for the IGCSE examination, and it is required if the student wishes to attempt Advanced Level Accounting.

AIMS

The aims are to enable students to:

1. Develop an understanding of the principles and purposes of accounting in providing information systems for monitoring and decision-making, appropriate to the needs of individuals, businesses, and non-trading organizations, and society as a whole.
2. Develop an understanding of accounting principles, policies and procedures, and terminology.
3. Develop knowledge and understanding of the aims and activities of business and non-trading organizations, their accounting implications, and accounting techniques and procedures appropriate to them.
4. Develop skills of numeracy, literacy, communication, enquiry, presentation, and interpretation.
5. Encourage attitudes of accuracy, orderliness, and logical thought.

PREREQUISITES

Students who want to study this course should be numerically literate and confident in dealing with numbers. It does not require complex mathematical skills.

Career options

These include: - Chartered Accounting, Stock Broking, Chartered Management Accounting, and Forensic Accounting.

BIOLOGY

Why do Biology?

It is a basic life skill, and it touches every aspect of our lives.

To do the following, your child must have at least “middle years” (IGCSE level) Biology and, in some cases, A level:

Medicine	Agriculture	Dentistry
Horticulture	Pharmacy	Food Sciences/Technology
Environmental Management	Laboratory Technology	
Conservation	Veterinary work	Nursing
Physiotherapy	Microbiology	Biotechnology in Industry

In addition, businessmen often have to make decisions and control funds, which have far-reaching effects on local and global ecology and therefore need at least a basic understanding of the problems involved.

Biology allows a person to understand what his doctor/dentist/pharmacist tells him. He can make informed decisions about his health management.

Biology ensures that your child is adequately instructed in topics that include sex education, HIV/AIDS, and drug misuse. Many universities (e.g., in S.A. UK and Australia) now require Biology at least at the IGCSE level. Depending on what your plans are, you should be aware of institutional requirements NOW.

CORE BIOLOGY

The subject has all the background as given for Biology. However, the candidates will not be able to study Biology at A 'A-level. It is an advantageous science to have if one is to be an assistant or technician in all the fields mentioned for extended Biology above.

BUSINES STUDIES

The IGCSE Business Studies syllabus provides a broad background to several topics and is a highly beneficial area of study for students considering a business career, as it provides the foundation for further business studies. For those who are not, it equips them with the fundamentals that all people find useful, irrespective of their vocation.

Syllabus topics include:

- ❖ Purpose and types of business activity.
- ❖ Forms of business organizations; organizational structure.
- ❖ Government impact on business, employee, and employer organizations.
- ❖ Financial business activity; business costs and revenue; business accounting; cash flow planning.
- ❖ Managing a business; communication; recruitment selection and training.
- ❖ Motivation and leadership.
- ❖ Market research and marketing (product, price, promotion, place).
- ❖ Location and production decisions.
- ❖ Business in the international community (globalization, e-commerce, international trade).

There is no coursework component. Students write two examination papers of an hour and forty-five minutes each. Both papers are case-study-based, and students are required to apply their knowledge to cases given.

There are no entrance prerequisites to taking this course, although proficiency in the English Language and mathematics is beneficial.

Possible Careers include Advertising, Public Relations, Human Resources, Banking

CHEMISTRY

Why study Chemistry at the IGCSE level?

Chemistry can be defined as using our knowledge of matter, how different forms of matter can be combined, how they can interact to solve confusing problems and to make our lives more interesting. At its core, Chemistry is about finding solutions to new and existing challenges- from giant challenges such as how to reduce the level of pollution in the atmosphere or how stars form, to more immediate challenges such as how to get a bigger bang from the fireworks or how to improve the flavour of your juice.

Chemistry at the IGCSE level is a start for all of this, and it leads to opportunities both at A level and beyond in university degrees and subsequent jobs. For some jobs, it is essential to study Chemistry; jobs involving plants or animals; those involving medicine and drugs; and many forms of engineering. For other jobs, it is not essential, but it does provide you with a considerable advantage in analytical jobs. Many people, with chemical education for instance, are involved in banking and finance! So, to study Chemistry at A level, you must study it at the IGCSE level, and it is helpful, but not essential, to study Physics too.

Possible Careers are in: Analytical Chemistry, Biotechnology, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacology and Medicine.

COMBINED SCIENCE

The IGCSE syllabus is designed as a two-year course. The students who are beginning this course should have a science syllabus at a previous lower secondary level. They should have adequate Mathematical skills. The syllabus content is divided into three sections: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students must study all three sections. All the concepts studied are relevant to everyday life, and to the natural and man-made worlds. The syllabus will be offered at the Core level.

Aims

The syllabus aims to: -

1. Provide an enjoyable and workable educational experience for all learners
2. enable learners to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding to be confident citizens
3. allow learners to recognize that science is evidence-based and understand the usefulness and the limitations of the scientific method
4. Develop skills that are useful in everyday life

Assessment

Students must sit for three papers, namely Paper 1, Paper 3, and Paper 6(Alternative to Practical)

Career options include Science Journalism, Health Service Manager, Teaching, and Water Conservation Officer

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

In Form 3, students study IGCSE First Language English or O Level English Language. Literature in English is also introduced at Form 3 as an option subject. Another change after Form 2 is that the Language classes are in sets based on the individual student's learning pace, determined by the

Language examination at the end of Form 2. Being in a lower set does not, however, prejudice a student's chances, as all classes write the same Cambridge papers for either First Language English or O Level English Language.

IGCSE First Language English or O Level English Language and Literature in English are two-year Cambridge courses which begin in Form 3 and are completed in Form 4.

Facility in the use of English is essential for everyone in life and for almost any career. Even scientists must write cogent, correct, well-expressed essays and papers. Accountants, moreover, are not mere 'number crunchers but must be able to communicate effectively with their clients. In addition, studying Literature in English, as well as encouraging effective use of language, provides not only general knowledge essential for an educated person but also understanding of self and of others, and critical thinking skills. Furthermore, studying literature should promote a lifetime love of reading and of the arts. First Language English and O Level English Language can be considered the key subjects for all IGCSE students.

FRENCH

IGCSE French is a two-year course, building on work done in Forms One and Two.

The course aims to develop the ability to use the language effectively for the purpose of practical communication and to offer insights into the culture and civilization of the countries where the language is spoken. Equal emphasis is given to the four skills of language learning: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Apart from providing enjoyment and intellectual stimulation, the French teachers encourage a positive attitude to foreign language learning and a sympathetic approach to other cultures.

Pupils who consider choosing French in Form Three should have achieved a satisfactory standard at the end of Form Two and should understand that if they continue with the subject, it is of their own choosing, and they are committed to writing the final examination.

On a practical note, parents and pupils should investigate if a second language is required by the universities to which they are applying.

Career options include social work, international affairs, diplomat, Resort staff, and Editor

GEOGRAPHY

The IGCSE syllabus is designed as a two-year course. The syllabus enables students to cover a large amount of content matter by the end of Form 4. The three themes are as follows:

1. Population and Settlement.
2. The natural Environment.
3. Economic development and the use of resources.

The student will write three examination papers

Paper 1: Candidates will answer three questions (3 x 25 marks) – Six questions will be set – two on each of the three themes. Questions will be resource-based and involve problem-solving and free response writing.

Paper 2: Candidates will answer all questions. This paper will be skills-based and will test a candidate's ability to handle various ways of depicting geographical information.

Paper 4: Alternative to Coursework: Candidates will be sent a series of tasks in a written examination on issues relating to one or more of the syllabus themes. Candidates must answer all questions.

Possible Careers

Environmental Science/ Management	Oceanography
Meteorology	Travel and Tourism
Geology	Surveying

HISTORY

The History syllabus offers students the opportunity to study some of the major international issues of the 20th century, as well as to look in greater depth at the history of a particular region.

AIMS

The aims are to:

- stimulate interest in and enthusiasm for the past
- promote the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of human activity
- promote an understanding of the nature of cause and consequence
- encourage international understanding

Candidates will be entered for the following papers:

Paper 1(2 hours) consists of two sections.

Section A (Core content). Candidates must answer two questions.

Section B (Depth Studies) contains two questions on each of the Depth Studies. Candidates must answer one question.

Paper 2(2 hours)

Candidates answer all the questions on one option.

Paper 4 Alternative to Coursework (1 hour)

On each of the Depth Studies, two questions will be set. Candidates must answer one question.

Possible Careers: Journalism, Broadcasting, Law, Editorial Work, Archaeology, and Intelligence Service

COMPUTER SCIENCE/ICT

What Is Computer Science?

Computer science is a broad field that focuses on understanding and using algorithmic and mathematical processes that are applied to computer systems. Artificial intelligence, software engineering, language theory programming, computer engineering, computer security, and computer graphics are all subfields within computer science.

Computer science majors may work in a variety of fields, such as software engineering, research and development, scientific computing, and software development. Computer scientists design and develop software for end users, embedded systems, and IT professionals. In addition, they work with computer architecture and operating systems and are passionate about writing computer programs. Students earning a computer science qualification gain valuable knowledge about the principles of computation and the problem-solving process.

What Is Information Technology?

Those who earn an IT qualification aim to meet the technological needs of organizations. In ways, information technology addresses the business side of computer science. It focuses on computers and software to store, protect, process, transmit, and retrieve data. In addition, technology infrastructures like networks, servers, and databases are also a focus of IT.

Information technology majors learn to identify, create, build, and configure complex computing systems and platforms to solve human and business problems. For example, they learn to keep a business's technology up to date so they can be efficient in their practice.

What Is the Difference Between Computer Science and Information Technology?

The primary difference is that computer science professionals use mathematics to develop and improve computer programs.

IT professionals install, implement, and maintain these programs and apply them to businesses. Computer science professionals use skills in mathematics and theories to make information technology possible, and IT professionals use skills to communicate with businesses to meet their needs through technology.

So, what's the difference between computer science and IT? If you are interested in learning the behind-the-scenes of computer software development, consider a qualification in computer science. If you enjoy working with others and finding technological solutions to problems, consider a qualification in information technology. The future is promising for both computer science and IT professionals.

ICT

The Information and Communication Technology syllabus encourages students 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 an 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, etc. Students analyze, design, implement, test, and evaluate ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose.

AIMS

The syllabus aims to develop:

1. knowledge of ICT, including new and emerging technologies
2. autonomous and discerning use of ICT
3. skills to enhance work produced in a range of contexts
4. ICT-based solutions to solve problems
5. the ability to recognize potential risks when using ICT, and use safe, secure, and responsible practice

Assessment

The examination comprises three components in which candidates are tested in both theoretical and practical skills.

Possible Careers:

Analyst Programmer, Business Analyst, IT Sales Professional, Web Developer, Database and Systems Administrator.

MATHEMATICS

A compulsory subject.

A pass in Mathematics at IGCSE is important and highly regarded. The department strives to make the subject passable and enjoyable for all levels of ability. Hence, set one and two study the 'extended' syllabus, while set three studies the 'core' syllabus. The department prides itself on having few failures.

Students who study the core syllabus do not proceed to study the A Level Mathematics course.

Possible Careers: Engineering, Medicine, Actuarial Sciences, Computer Programming, Investment Analysis

CO-ORDINATED SCIENCES

Choosing IGCSE Coordinated Science (0654) is a popular and strategic choice for many students. It offers a unique blend of depth, breadth, and flexibility.

Here are the key advantages of a student doing IGCSE Coordinated Sciences (0654)

1. A Balanced and Holistic Scientific Understanding

This is the core benefit of the "coordinated" approach. Instead of studying Biology, Chemistry, and Physics as separate subjects, the course highlights the links between them.

- i. **Interdisciplinary Connections:** Students learn how principles from one science apply to another. For example, they might study the physics of pressure in relation to blood circulation in biology, or the chemistry of carbon compounds in the context of fossil fuels and climate change (which also involves biology and physics).
- ii. **Real-World Context:** This integrated approach mirrors how science works in the real world, where problems are often multi-disciplinary. It helps students see the bigger picture and understand that science is not confined to separate boxes.

2. Excellent Depth and Breadth

Coordinated Sciences strikes a fantastic balance between the less detailed Combined Science and the very intensive Separate (or Triple) Sciences.

- **More Depth than Combined Science:** It goes into significantly more detail than a standard Combined Science course, providing a much stronger foundation for future study.

- **More Manageable than Triple Science:** While still rigorous, it has a smaller volume of content and fewer exams than taking three separate IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. This can reduce student stress and allow for a deeper, more focused understanding of the topics covered.

3. Keeps Future Options Wide Open

Choosing Coordinated Sciences does not close any doors for post-IGCSE study. In fact, it keeps them all open.

- **Pathway to A-Levels:** It provides more than enough foundational knowledge for a student to successfully study Biology, Chemistry, or Physics at A-Level or in the IB Diploma Programme. Universities do not require Triple Science to study a science at A-Level; a strong grade in Coordinated Sciences is perfectly acceptable and often preferred.

- **No Early Specialisation:** A student aged 14 doesn't have to decide which science they like best. They can study all three in a meaningful way and then make a more informed choice about which to pursue at a higher level.

4. Strong, Internationally Recognised Qualification

- **Rigorous Assessment:** The double-award nature demonstrates a high level of scientific competence. Achieving two good grades in Coordinated Science is a clear signal of a student's ability and work ethic.

- **Develops Key Skills:** The course develops not just scientific knowledge but also practical skills (through required experiments), problem-solving, data analysis, and critical thinking, all of which are essential for any future career.

Who is IGCSE Coordinated Sciences (0654) Ideal For?

1. The student who enjoys all three sciences but wants the flexibility to study other subjects as well.

2. The future scientist or engineer who wants a strong foundation but prefers a less intense workload than Triple Science to allow for mastery and cocurricular.
3. The student who is undecided on which science to pursue at A-Level and wants to keep their options open.

Career options: - These include Systems Engineer, Software Engineer, Laboratory Technician, Air Traffic Controller, and Architect.

PHYSICS

Physics is the foundation of all Science, so it is vital for any profession based on science. This includes fields like Engineering, IT, and Medicine.

To be accepted in the above fields, one needs A at A-level in Mathematics.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Students beginning this course are not expected to have studied Travel and Tourism previously.

Aims

The IGCSE Travel and Tourism syllabus aims to provide students with:

1. Understanding of the Travel and Tourism industry
2. Theoretical knowledge of the industry and related sectors
3. Practical ability in a range of skills and procedures related to working in the Travel and Tourism industry
4. Critical awareness of the physical, social and economic environments in which Travel and Tourism take place.

Assessment

A student will write Paper 1(Core Paper) and either Paper 2 (Alternative to Coursework) or Paper 3, Coursework.

Career Options: - These include

Tourism Manager, Airline Staff, Tourist Guide, Travel Agent, Travel Consultant.

LIFE SKILLS

Your child will have Life Skill lessons every cycle/ seven days. This subject covers all aspects of a teenager's life, encouraging them to make healthy choices that will positively impact them for the rest of their lives. Topics include communication skills, relationship management, the danger of substance abuse, study skills, morals and ethics, and anger management. The lessons are as interactive as possible. Videos and outside speakers who are experts in particular topics are used whenever necessary. The subject is not examinable.

WHY ACCESS ACCOMMODATION?

Preamble

When students join high school, it is a major transition in terms of how they learn and adapt to new environments.

Academically, some show glaring gaps in foundational skills from their primary schools.

There are indicators that teachers and parents should be worried about when they show in learners, and early intervention is recommended. Here is a list, which is by no means exhaustive.

1. Lack of organisational skills in class and hostel.
2. Inability to complete work or failure to do the assignments.
3. Reading without understanding (barking at print)
4. Reversal of words. (b is written as d)
5. Distortion of words when reading.
6. Failure to track sentences while reading, spell correctly, and leaving some letters either the initial, middle or final letter.
7. Lack of focus during lessons.
8. Refusal to read, especially in class.
9. In Maths, confusion of operation signs.
10. Miscalculation of one- or 2-digit numbers.
11. Avoidance behaviour manifesting as illness that creates a pattern of visiting the San during a particular subject.
12. Disruptive behaviour
13. All the challenges in Maths can be summed up as Dyscalculia.

Frequently asked questions and answers (FAQs) regarding Cambridge Examinations Access Accommodation:

1. What is Access Accommodation?

Access Accommodation refers to adjustments made to the examination process to support candidates with specific needs, ensuring they can demonstrate their knowledge and skills fairly.

2. Who is eligible for Access Accommodation?

Candidates with disabilities, learning difficulties, or other specific needs may be eligible. This includes conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, physical disabilities, and mental health issues.

3. How do I apply for Access Accommodation?

Applications typically involve submitting a request through the examination centre. You need to provide evidence of your condition and how it affects your ability to take exams.

4. What types of accommodation are available?

Common accommodation includes extra time, the use of a scribe or reader, modified papers, and access to assistive technology. The specific accommodation will depend on individual needs.

5. When should I apply for Access Accommodation?

It's advisable to apply as early as possible, ideally several months before the examination date. This allows sufficient time for assessment and arrangements to be made.

6. Will I need to provide medical evidence?

Yes, candidates usually need to provide medical or psychological evidence to support their application for accommodation. This documentation should outline the nature of the condition and its impact on exam performance. We collaborated with Educational Psychologists to get the learners assessed, and the assessment reports are submitted to Cambridge Examinations.

7. Can accommodation be applied for all types of exams?

Most Cambridge examinations allow access accommodation, but the specifics can vary. It's essential to check the guidelines with the exams officer for each exam type.

8. How will I know if my application for accommodation is approved?

Your school will inform you of the decision regarding your application. The exam officer should also provide details about the accommodation that will be available during the exam.

9. What if I need accommodation during the exam itself?

If you require additional support during the exam, inform your invigilator or the examination officer. They will be able to brief you on the accommodation you are entitled to.

10. Can I appeal against the decision regarding Access Accommodation?

Yes, if your application is denied, you can discuss the reasons with your school. They can advise on the possibility of appealing the decision or submitting further evidence.

Conclusion

Access Accommodation is designed to ensure that all candidates have an equitable opportunity to succeed in their examinations. If you have specific needs, it's crucial to communicate them early and clearly with your school.