



Sage College

The British International School of Jerez



Official Examinations Guide

25/26



Colaboramos con:





1.- UNDERSTANDING IGCSE, AS, AND A LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

IGCSE

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success. Developed over 30 years ago, it is tried, tested and trusted by schools worldwide. Students take their IGCSE examinations at the end of Year 11, marking the completion of their secondary education curriculum. However, due to the particularities of our school, we offer native and fluent Spanish-speaking students the opportunity to take the IGCSE in Foreign Language Spanish in Year 10, which serves both as preparation and as an additional IGCSE qualification.

The IGCSE exams are graded according to the internationally recognised 9–1 scale, which has replaced the traditional A*–G system in most of the subjects. This system is designed to provide a more precise assessment of a student's performance:

- Grades range from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest and 1 the lowest.
- Grade 9 represents exceptional performance, above the old A*.
- Grades 4 and 5 are considered a standard pass and a strong pass, respectively.
- Grades 1–3 indicate performance below the standard pass level.

The 9–1 scale allows universities, employers, and other educational institutions to distinguish more clearly between different levels of achievement. It is important for parents to understand that a higher numerical grade does not necessarily reflect a harder exam, but rather a more precise differentiation of student attainment.

An examination for pupils of all abilities

The IGCSE curriculum offers a variety of routes for learners with a wide range of abilities, including those whose first language is not English.

IGCSE assessment takes place at the end of the course (May-June) and can include written, oral, coursework and practical assessment. This broadens opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning. In many subjects there is a choice between core and extended curricula, making Cambridge IGCSE suitable for a wide range of abilities.

In the following link, you will find more detailed information on our IGCSE curriculum in High School:

- <https://sagecollege.es/education/curriculum/>



AS / A LEVEL

AS (Advanced Subsidiary) and A Levels (Advanced Level) are two stages of post-16 academic qualifications, taken by Year 12 and Year 13 students respectively. They are widely recognised by universities and employers worldwide and provide a pathway for students to specialise in subjects of interest while developing advanced knowledge and skills.

An AS Level usually represents the first half of a full A Level course. It is taken at the end or during Year 12 and allows students to gain a deeper understanding of a subject at an advanced level. AS exams assess students' knowledge, analytical skills, and ability to apply what they have learned. AS Level grades contribute towards the final A Level.

The A Level represents the complete qualification and is usually completed over two years (AS components in Year 12 and A2 components in Year 13). These exams assess not only knowledge but also higher-order skills such as evaluation, synthesis, and problem-solving. A Levels are a crucial part of the university admissions process and are recognised internationally as evidence of academic achievement.

Typically, universities around the world require students to achieve a minimum of three successful A Level or equivalent qualifications in order to be considered for admission. Achieving these passes with a comfortable margin demonstrates that the student has a solid grasp of the subjects and is well-prepared for the demands of higher education. While specific entry requirements vary between institutions and courses, performing consistently well in at least three subjects is generally seen as essential for securing a place at a reputable university.

The marking system is scaled as follows: Grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, U with an A* grade indicating a top performance. In order to achieve a passing grade, students must earn at least an E in their markings.

Examination boards

For IGCSE, AS and A level subjects, we follow the Cambridge and Edexcel-Pearson pathways, always depending on which examination board is considered the most appropriate for each subject based on our professional criteria.



IGCSE, AS, and A Level examinations are offered in two main sessions each year: May–June (Summer) and October–November (Autumn). This provides students with the opportunity to retake subjects if they wish to improve their results. Retakes are always undertaken under the guidance and recommendation of teachers and coordinators, ensuring that students are well-prepared and making informed decisions about their academic progression. This



system allows for flexibility and supports students in achieving their best possible outcomes.

In the following links, you will find more information about Cambridge and Edexcel IGCSE, AS and A levels:

- [Cambridge IGCSE](#)
- [Cambridge AS and A Levels](#)
- [Edexcel IGCSE](#)
- [Edexcel AS and A Levels](#)

Edexcel AS / A Level Modular Assessment

AS and A Level subjects examined through Edexcel follow a modular structure, meaning that the qualification is divided into separate units or modules. Each module covers specific topics or skills within the subject and is assessed individually through exams or coursework. Students earn marks for each module, which are then combined to determine the overall grade for the AS or A Level.

One of the key advantages of this modular system is that it allows students to take examinations for different modules at multiple points throughout the year. For Edexcel AS and A Level subjects, students can sit module exams in January, May–June (Summer), and October, providing flexibility in managing preparation and spreading assessments over time. This structure helps students focus on smaller sections of the syllabus at a time, and gives opportunities to improve grades by retaking specific modules if necessary, in accordance with Edexcel regulations.

Cambridge International AS / A Level Assessment

Cambridge International AS and A Level subjects follow a linear assessment structure. Students complete the AS Level components at the end of Year 12 (May/June session) and the A2 Level components at the end of Year 13 (May/June session). The final A Level grade is determined by combining the results of both the AS and A2 components, each assessing different sets of skills and content areas within the subject.

Cambridge examinations can be resat in the October/November session, provided the subject does not include a coursework component. For subjects with coursework, such as Media or Travel & Tourism, resits must take place in the following May/June session. This structure ensures that assessment opportunities remain consistent with Cambridge International's regulations while maintaining the integrity and standards of coursework-based subjects.

Access arrangements

Access Arrangements are provisions put in place to ensure that all students have fair and equal opportunities to demonstrate their abilities during examinations. These arrangements



are designed for students who may face specific barriers due to learning difficulties, physical disabilities, or other medical conditions.

Examples of Access Arrangements include extra time, rest breaks and the use of modified examination papers. The purpose of these adjustments is not to give an advantage, but to remove obstacles that could prevent a student from performing to the best of their ability.

Any Access Arrangements must be formally approved by the examination boards (Cambridge International or Edexcel) and need to be supported by a medical report in English or with a certified translation and dated within four years of the exam and. Parents of students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) will be informed and advised throughout the application process for these arrangements, ensuring that all students can demonstrate their full potential in examinations without any barriers.

In the following links, you can find all the official information regarding access arrangements by Cambridge and Edexcel:

- [Cambridge Access Arrangements](#)
- [Edexcel Access Arrangements](#)

Access to Spanish Universities - PCE

For students wishing to apply to public universities in Spain, achieving the maximum access score (14) requires taking two PCE (Pruebas de Competencias Específicas) administered by the UNED, in addition to having their grades from 4 A Levels or equivalent qualifications. The PCE allow Spanish universities to assess whether international students meet the specific subject requirements for their chosen degree programs. It should be noted that students can access public universities with only their 4 A Levels, but in this case, the maximum access score they could achieve would be 10.

Typically, students take the PCE in subjects that are directly related to the field they intend to study, and the results are used to calculate the Spanish university entrance score (Nota de Acceso). More information regarding these subjects, exams and convalidations can be found on the following link:

- [UNED](#)

UNED asiss

**2.- SUBJECTS ASSESSED VIA OFFICIAL EXAMS****Year 10**

SUBJECT	EXAMINATION BOARD	LINK
IGCSE SPANISH LANGUAGE (7160) (For native and/or fluent Spanish-speaking students only)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗

Year 11

SUBJECT	EXAMINATION BOARD	LINK
IGCSE ENGLISH – FIRST LANGUAGE (0990)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
IGCSE MATHEMATICS (4MA1)	EDEXCEL	🔗
IGCSE PHYSICS (0972)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
IGCSE BIOLOGY (0970)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
IGCSE CHEMISTRY (0971)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 1*		
IGCSE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (0983)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
IGCSE HISTORY (0977)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 2*		
IGCSE TRAVEL AND TOURISM (0471)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
IGCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (0995)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 3*		
IGCSE DRAMA (0994)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
IGCSE BUSINESS (0774)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
(Optional)		
IGCSE RUSSIAN (IRU0) (For native and/or fluent Russian-speaking students only)	EDEXCEL	🔗

*Students take only one subject from each block

Year 12

SUBJECT	EXAMINATION BOARD	LINK
OPTIONS BLOCK 1*		
AS CHEMISTRY (XCHI1)	EDEXCEL	🔗
AS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (9626)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE (9093)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
AS TRAVEL AND TOURISM (9395)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 2*		
AS PHYSICS (XPHI1)	EDEXCEL	🔗
AS BIOLOGY (XBI11)	EDEXCEL	🔗
AS BUSINESS (XBS11)	EDEXCEL	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 3*		
AS MATHEMATICS (XMA01)	EDEXCEL	🔗
AS HISTORY (9489)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
AS MEDIA STUDIES (9607)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
AS PHYSICAL EDUCATION (9PE0)	EDEXCEL	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 4* (optional)		
A LEVEL SPANISH (YSP01) (For native and/or fluent Spanish-speaking students only)	EDEXCEL	🔗



	A LEVEL RUSSIAN (9RU0) (For native and/or fluent Russian-speaking students only)	EDEXCEL	
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*Students take only one subject from each block





Year 13

	SUBJECT	EXAMINATION BOARD	LINK
OPTIONS BLOCK 1*	A LEVEL CHEMISTRY (YCH11)	EDEXCEL	🔗
	A LEVEL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (9626)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
	A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE (9093)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
	A LEVEL TRAVEL AND TOURISM (9395)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 2*	A LEVEL PHYSICS (YPH11)	EDEXCEL	🔗
	A LEVEL BIOLOGY (YBI11)	EDEXCEL	🔗
	A LEVEL BUSINESS (YBS11)	EDEXCEL	🔗
OPTIONS BLOCK 3*	A LEVEL MATHEMATICS (YMA01)	EDEXCEL	🔗
	A LEVEL HISTORY (9489)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗
	A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES (9607)	CAMBRIDGE	🔗

3.- MOCK ASSESSMENTS

Each year, our students take mock assessments in November, which serve as practice examinations for their IGCSE, AS, A Level and PCE subjects. These assessments are designed to simulate the conditions of the actual official exams, helping students become familiar with the format, timing, and expectations of each paper.

The mocks provide valuable feedback for both students and teachers. They allow students to identify strengths and areas for improvement, while teachers can use the results to tailor instruction and support for the remainder of the academic year. Performance in mock assessments does not contribute to final exam grades, but it is a crucial part of exam preparation, helping students develop exam techniques, time management skills, and confidence.

Parents are encouraged to support their children during this period by providing a balanced study routine and a calm environment, while discussing results constructively to help students plan their revision effectively.

During the MOCK examination period, students follow their normal timetable. The protocol is as follows:

- Students follow their normal school timetables. In this way, are be able to revise and ask doubts to teachers during their lessons. This also reduces the number of students in the same room, contributing to a better study environment.
- Teachers follow a revision plan with students, and also, take into consideration when students have exams to program the workload.
- Once a particular group of students has finished their MOCK exams, or if they do not have MOCK exams, teachers continue with their normal teaching during lessons.

We strongly believe that this dynamic contributes to helping students to reach their maximum potential.



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After MOCK exams, students receive a report with their grades. Based on the grades and attitude shown by the students, and after having a meeting with the family, the school can make some particular recommendations in terms or registrations for official exams, even not allowing a particular student to take exams as a school candidate, always considering the best alternatives for the future of the students.

4.- OFFICIAL EXAMINATIONS TIMETABLE

On the following links, you will find the official examination timetables:

[Cambridge IGCSE, AS and A level timetable](#)

(Click on Administrative Zone 3)

[Edexcel IGCSE timetable](#)

(Click on International Centres – Pearson Edexcel International GCSE)

[Edexcel GCSE timetable \(Only for Russian\)](#)

(Click on International Centres – Pearson Edexcel GCSE)

[Edexcel International AS and A Level timetable](#)

(Click on International Centres – Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels)

[Edexcel AS and A Level timetable \(Only for Physical Education and Russian\)](#)

(Click on International Centres – Pearson Edexcel AS and A Level)

[UNED PCE timetable](#)

The centre timetable with exams start times and rooms will be published and shared with families once the registration period is closed.



5.- OFFICIAL EXAMS TIMELINE

- 1 •**Access arrangements:** Families of SEN students are informed and advised by the SENCo.
- 2 •**Examination entries:** Decisions regarding which subjects to take are made with the support and advice of teachers and coordinators.
- 3 •**Registration letter:** Exams Officer sends the registration letter, which must be signed and returned by the deadline.
- 4 •**Examination fees:** Payment must be completed by the deadline. Payment details can be found on the registration letter.
- 5 •**Statement of entry:** Exams Officer sends families a Statement of entry detailing all exam information. Parents and students should check it thoroughly to ensure there are no spelling errors on the certificates.
- 6 •**Centre timetable:** The exam timetable, including start times and room allocations is published and shared with families by the exams officer.
- 7 •**Exam period:** Official exams are conducted.
- 8 •**Access to results:** Students and families receive login instructions to access the results platform.
- 9 •**Certificates arrival:** Examination boards send certificates approximately two months after the results are released.



Fees

IGCSE
172 Euros per subject
Cambridge/Edexcel AS or A2 component
196 Euros
Cambridge/Edexcel full A Level (AS+A2 components)
306 Euros
Edexcel AS/A Level modules
Subjects with 4 modules: 98 Euros per module (Business)
Subjects with 6 modules: 65 Euros per module (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

Late and very late entry fees will be charged if the payment is not completed in time.

The payment only implies the exam and the certificate given by the exam board (Cambridge/Edexcel) during one examination series.

The fees are subject to change if any change is made in the exam fees by the relevant examination boards.

Families will receive a specific letter for UNED PCE subjects and will make the payment via UNED's platform, using the login details that will be provided by the Examinations Office.

6.- Q&A

The Examinations Officer and the Coordinators will be more than happy to answer any questions related to the different syllabuses, objectives and assessments in their particular subjects, as well as giving advice to study each of the subjects.

If you have any particular questions related to the official exam protocols and registrations, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

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