



Cambridge Assessment International Education

International General Certificate for Secondary Education



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
BUDAPEST

Smart Education.
Smart Life.

Understanding the IGCSE

What is the IGCSE?

The **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)** is an internationally recognized qualification for students in **Grades 9 and 10**. It's designed to build a solid academic foundation and prepare students for the next stage of their education, such as the **IB Diploma Program (IBDP)** (offered by ISB), A Levels, or other post-16 studies.

Why is it important?

Even though our school follows the **IB curriculum in Grades 11 and 12**, the IGCSE can still play an important role for some students:

- **For admissions:** we may accept students into our **Grades 11 and 12 IB courses** based on their IGCSE results, as these show academic readiness and subject knowledge.
- **For universities:** some universities, especially in the UK and Commonwealth countries, may ask to see IGCSE (or equivalent) results, particularly in **English** and **Mathematics**.

Core subjects

All exams are taken **at the end of Grade 10** (April-May).

At our school, all IGCSE students take the following core (mandatory) subjects:

- **English Language and Literature / English as a Second Language**
- **Mathematics** (we offer core and extended level exams)
- **Co-ordinated Sciences** (a combined course covering **Biology**, **Chemistry**, and **Physics**)

Optional exam subjects

In addition to the core subjects, students can choose to take exams in the following subjects.

These courses are offered **in parallel**, so students will **select one option from each pair when starting Grade 9**:

- **Geography** or **History**
- **Business Studies** or **Psychology**
- **German** or **Spanish**

Additional elective options

We also offer creative and practical subjects that students can enjoy alongside their exam courses:

- **Art & Design** or **ICT (Information and Communication Technology)**

As a result, all students in Grade 9 and 10 study 9 subjects in total.

How are IGCSEs graded?

IGCSE results are awarded using one of two grading scales: **A (highest)* to G (lowest)** for Mathematics and **9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)** for other subjects. A grade of C (or 4/5) and above is generally considered a good pass and an A/7 and above an outstanding result.