



مدرسة جيمس متروبول
GEMS Metropole School
MOTOR CITY



GCSE
CURRICULUM
OPTIONS
2020-2022

#community

GEMS
EDUCATION

Dear Parents and Students,

A warm welcome to you from the students, staff and community of GEMS Metropole. I do hope that the information contained within this GCSE course choice booklet will help to introduce you to the happy, safe and inclusive community based environment of our school, where every child is valued as a unique individual.

GEMS Metropole school provides excellent education for students from Foundation Stage 1 (age 3) to Year 13 (age 17), offering a variety of iGCSE and A-Level qualifications. The school also supports growth in Heritage subjects linked to the Ministry of Education subjects of Arabic, Islamic, Social Studies and Moral Education, these subjects help our students develop an understanding of the local and regional heritage, learn about the language of the country and its values.

As a National curriculum for England School, our current Year 9 students have been following the broad and balanced curriculum that has been designed by our school that inspires them to grow them to grow, develop and succeed. As students move into Year 10 the next stage of their learning journey to excellence and global citizenship requires them to make a number of decisions around the subjects that will define their learning journey for the next two years. I understand that this is an important time for you so this booklet has been created to support you through this. It provides you with information on the examination subjects that are being offered to you. Each subject being offered has a full page of information in this booklet.



Whilst I do believe that academic success helps to give every child the best opportunities in life, I also believe there is a responsibility to help students develop strong character, apply skills learnt in school life and the wider world which is our key purpose at GEMS Metropole. We strive to support knowledge, help students to acquire skills and develop a strong character to help prepare them for their future aspirations. Metropole is usually a place central to the city, country or community, this is what our school is; the hub of our community and will support all aspects of community life inside and outside school. Our school welcomes all into our central hub.

At GEMS Metropole we expect very high standards of work and behaviour from all our students and more importantly we expect every young person to try to achieve beyond their potential, we will strive to support and push every learner. We are here to serve the community, but also to challenge it, in order to maintain high standards and improve on all areas in line with the Dubai's educational vision to create the best possible learners. We will ensure there is effective teaching and learning for every student, every day in every classroom and I will be working hard to ensure that this is the reality at our school.

As the central hub, GEMS Metropole is a diverse community representing 120 Nationalities and 63 languages spoken. Culture, heritage, diversity and tolerance are common strengths of our school community, with parents are partners in all aspects of life in school and outside of school. GEMS Metropole will promote these great partnerships at its core aims, helping to bringing the wider community together into our central hub.

GEMS Metropole is a warm and welcoming school which is happy to invite any prospective parents and students to visit the school, to meet the staff and students. Education is about making a real positive difference, providing every opportunity for all learners to be successful, helping them to achieve beyond their potential and developing life-long learning skills. We would be privileged if you would like to come and join us.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Seeley
Head of Secondary School

ENGLISH NATIONAL CURRICULUM SECONDARY EDUCATION

Key Stage 3 :	Years 7, 8 and 9	Broad and balanced curriculum provided to all pupils
Key Stage 4 :	Years 10 and 11	Introduction of personalised pathways in GCSE and IGCSE certificated courses.
Key Stage 5 :	Years 12 and 13	Focused career pathways in AS and A Level certificated courses.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (GCSE)

There are different exam boards offering certificated courses in both GCSEs and International GCSEs. As an international school we have the opportunity to present pupils for either course from the range of exam boards.

Staff in MTS have carefully analysed course content and exam requirements to ensure that the selected board and course are right for our pupils, our school and our international context. As a result, we are currently presenting students for a mixture of GCSE and IGCSE exams with AQA and Edexcel exam boards.

As with all National Curriculum Courses the GCSE / IGCSE courses are undergoing change. The majority of subjects are now running new courses while others are still being finalised by the examination boards and UK Government.

The old grading system of G to A* is still being used in some courses but many are moving towards the new scoring system of 1 - 9. The diagram below from Pearson gives a comparison of the two grading systems.

G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

A "good pass" in the new system will be classes as a grade 5 or above. 5 GCSEs at Grade A* - C or 9 - 4 are often used as a benchmark for comparisons and entry into Key Stage 5, with many expecting English and Mathematics to be included.

Each GCSE/IGCSEs course is unique and has its own course requirements and examination procedures. Many require the submission of coursework, in the form of independent work or as a controlled assessment. Students cannot be presented for the final examination if the course work or controlled assessment has not been completed in the set time.

In some subjects students are entered for a "tier". The Foundation tier targets grades 5 to 1 and the Higher tier grades 9 - 4. The decision about the appropriate tier for presentation will take into consideration class work, assessment results and pupil ability. Pupils and parents will be made aware of the level of presentation when decisions are made.

Examinations will take place at the end of year 11. We are required to follow the UK examination timetable, which may result in final exams on Fridays and during religious celebrations. Results will be published in August.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

Physical Activity is extremely important in supporting our students and keeping them healthy and in a good state of mind. All Year 10 and Year 11 students will have 2 lessons of Physical Activity per week. This will be increasingly important in Key Stage 4, where academic demands on students are far greater than lower down in the school. Students interested in this subject can also select GCSE Physical Education as an option.

All students who hold an Arabic passport must study Arabic MOE as one of their options.

During Moral Education, Arabic MOE and Islamic Studies, students will be studying the ministry approved Curriculum. This is a requirement from the KHDA.

All Muslim students have to study Islamic. Non-Muslim students will use this time for Career's enrichment to help support decisions further in their education.

KEY INFORMATION *continued*

KEY STAGE 4 IN GEMS METROPOLE SCHOOL

We understand that creating a focused curriculum at this early stage in education can be a difficult process. In MTS we believe that a broad and balanced education is still important in KS4 to prepare students for future studies in whichever system of education or career path they enter. We find that many students will change their career focus as they continue through education and want them to keep a variety of options open. We are proud to offer a wide range of courses to meet the interests and needs of our students.

To ensure breadth and balance and to meet UAE requirements all students will study the following core subjects:

- GCSE English – Language, or Language and Literature, or 2nd Language English
- GCSE Mathematics – Foundation or Higher
- GCSE Science – a minimum of one discreet science, i.e. Chemistry, Biology or Physics
- Arabic A students will study the MOE course
- Physical Education – core subject
- Islamic Studies for Muslim students
- UAE Moral and Social Education

Students who excel in English will also follow the English Literature course in their allocated English periods.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Students are required to select 4 additional courses, which must include UAE Ministry of Education (MOE) Arabic A for all Arabic passport holders. They should select 1 subject from each option column. We will strive to meet the requests of students however there are limited spaces in each subject and option subjects will only run if there is sufficient uptake.

The option subjects we offer are:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Arabic A | 12. Geography |
| 2. Arabic B | 13. History |
| 3. Art, Craft and Design | 14. ICT |
| 4. Art and Design – Graphic Communication | 15. Media Studies |
| 5. Art and Design – Textiles | 16. Modern Languages – French |
| 6. Computer Science | 17. Modern Languages – Spanish |
| 7. Business Studies | 18. Music |
| 8. Double Science | 19. Physical Education |
| 9. Dance | 20. Psychology |
| 10. Drama | 21. Sociology |
| 11. Economics | |

In choosing a subject at GCSE students should think carefully about the following points:

- What subjects do you enjoy?
- What subjects are you good at?
- Have I selected a broad range of subjects?
- Which subjects are important for my chosen career path?

Key Stage 4 students will be expected to take full responsibility for their choices and learning. Throughout the two year courses there will be great demands and expectations placed on students. To reach success, pupils have to be disciplined and committed to their courses. Submission deadlines will have to be met or presentation and qualifications will be at risk.





Compulsory Subjects	Science Option	Option 1 (Pick 1 subject)	Option 2 (Pick 1 subject)	Option 3 (Pick 1 subject)
iGCSE English (+ English Literature as an additional iGCSE if required *) Mathematics Non-GCSE Subjects required by the MOE (1 or 2 periods per week depending on MOE compliance) • Moral Education • UAE Social Studies • PE • Islamic**	Double / Combined Science	Art, Craft & Design Arts (textiles)	Art and Design - Graphic Communication	Art, Craft & Design Arts (Fine Arts)
		Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies
		Computer Science	History	Computer Science
		PE	Media Studies	Drama
		Dance	Geography	History
		Arabic A	Psychology	ICT
		Arabic B	Sociology	Music
	Spanish	Economics	PE	
Triple Science			French	Arabic A

- All students will take the compulsory subjects.
- Students will pick 1 option in each option block (with a maximum of 3 options).
- *Entry to English Literature GCSE will be based on student ability and the decision will be made by the student's English Teacher. Students will study for both English and English Literature in the allocated English periods.
- **Only Muslim students have to take Islamic. Non-Muslim students will use this time for Enrichment.
- All students holding passports from Arabic speaking countries must take Arabic A as one of their options. These are taught as both MoE and iGCSE. Non-arab students may choose Arabic A iGCSE as one of their options if they are fluent.
- Physical Education, Islamic Studies, Moral Education and UAE Social Studies are not iGCSE subjects at MTS
- Courses will only be run where there is sufficient student uptake. The courses choice structure may be subject to change at any time - full information will be given about this.
- Final decisions about options will be made after an interview with a member of the Secondary Leadership Team, the student and the parents.

EXAMINATION FEES AND PAYMENT

Our school will be an independent examination centre for the British examination boards of Edexcel, AQA and Oxford AQA. We must follow the examination board regulations which will require our students to follow the Monday to Friday schedule and timings, even if this falls during Ramadan.

Pupils will be entered for course examinations at the end of the 2 year period. Families are expected to meet the costs of all examinations. Examination costs are published in September of the new Academic Year following release by the respective examination boards. All fees will be collected by our school cashier before students are entered for any examinations.

Levels of presentation will be decided before entries are made. This decision will be made by teachers based on evidence gathered throughout the course and preliminary grades.

Further Advice

Students should make the most of opportunities to speak with their subject teachers, heads of departments, LEAD teacher, family and friends in order to gain a range of suggestions and support. Read through each course description, considering the course content and examination requirements. Consider all of the options and chose a combination that is right for you.

Links for further information:

Edexcel Examination Board www.edexcel.org.uk	UK University Applications www.ucas.com
AQA Examination Board www.aqa.org.uk	Curriculum support - bbc bitesize www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
Career support http://www.careers-gateway.co.uk	

Please note that exam boards are reviewed at the end of every academic year as part of our quality assurance process and may be subject to change.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This revised specification is designed to extend students' knowledge of English language by broadening and deepening skills through a range of engaging texts that include poetry and prose as well as literary non-fiction.

The texts studied are suitable for all students, and include a diverse range of writers enabling them to develop the ability to:

- read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing;
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately;
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language;
- listen to and understand spoken language, and use spoken Standard English effectively.

This is a two year, linear course: students will be formally assessed at the end of Yr 11 through an external examination (60%) and an internally assessed (and externally moderated) NEA component (40%).

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Component 1: Non-fiction texts and transactional writing	60%	Exam of 2 hours 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: Reading – a mixture of short- and long-answer questions related to a nonfiction text from Part 1 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology and one previously unseen extract. • Section B: Transactional Writing – one 45-mark writing task, from a choice of two involving a given audience, form or purpose.
Component 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing	40%	Internally assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment A: Poetry and prose texts – one 30-mark essay question based on any two poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology, including a 6-mark commentary on why these texts were selected. • Assignment B: Imaginative writing – one 30-mark imaginative writing task.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This two-year course is designed for students for whom English is not their first language. The aim of the Edexcel International GCSE in English as a Second Language (ESL) is to test English language competence through realistic and contextualised tasks based on authentic texts.

Students will be expected to communicate formally and informally in a range of contexts, and to understand a wider range of texts, styles and registers than they can produce themselves. Reading, writing and listening skills are tested through two examination papers.

This qualification has been benchmarked to the CEFR, which is recognised globally. High achievement in this qualification is broadly equivalent to many of the benchmarks of Levels B1 to C1 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework (CEFR) of Reference for Languages.

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Paper 1: Reading and Writing	66 ² / ₃ % of the total	Exam of 2 hours	<p>Section A: Reading – This paper assesses reading and writing skills in separate exercises. Reading Passages will be taken from a variety of sources, including fiction, and may include factual information, explanation, opinions and biographical writing.</p> <p>Section B: Transactional Writing – Three writing tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short piece of writing in response to a given situation. The writing can take the form of a letter, email or postcard • Factual piece of writing based on own knowledge and interests. The writing can take the form of a report or article. • Response to one or two short texts, approximately 500 words in total, and produce a summary for a given purpose and reader
Paper 2: Listening		Exam of 50 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 – Listening to short extracts; identifying the item, place or event being described. • Part 2 – Listening for detailed information. • Part 3 – Following a discussion or argument; identifying attitude and opinions of speakers; following instructions. • Part 4 – Listening to a complex argument or discussion; understanding the overall message; identifying attitudes and opinion

International GCSEs enable successful progression onto level 3 qualifications (such as A levels) and beyond in other subjects, as well as further study in English.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This two-year linear course is designed to developing students' comprehension, critical reading and comparison skills, as well as their ability to produce clear and coherent writing using accurate Standard English.

The set poetry, prose and drama texts are engaging, popular and suitable for all learners including a diverse range of writers and poets.

This course will help enable students to:

- engage with and develop the ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world
- develop an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve their literary effects
- to develop the skills needed for literary study
- explore, through literature, the cultures of their own and other societies
- find enjoyment in reading literature and understand its influence on individuals and societies

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Component 1: Poetry and Modern Prose	60% of the total	Exam of 2 hours Closed book, although students will be provided with anthology poems in the exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A – Unseen Poetry: one essay question exploring the meaning and effects created in an unseen poem. • Section B – Anthology Poetry: one essay question from a choice of two, comparing two poems from Part 3 of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology. • Section C – Modern Prose: one essay question from a choice of two on each of the set texts.
Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts	40% of the total	Internally assessed - NEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment of this component is through two coursework assignments, internally set and assessed, and externally moderated by Pearson. • Assignment A – Modern Drama: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the play, <i>An Inspector Calls</i>. • Assignment B – Literary Heritage Texts: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on either Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> or <i>Macbeth</i>

International GCSEs enable successful progression onto A-Level and beyond.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The GCSE course covers the following content headings:

- Number
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
- Algebra
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics
- Probability

There are two tiers of entry:

Higher (Grades 3 to 9) and Foundation (Grades 1 to 5).

The course starts in Year 9 and continues through to Year 11. The course covers all work students have learnt since Year 7. The tier of entry is based on the student's baseline assessment, as well as their KS3 result and their progress subsequent to that. The final decision as to which tier the student will sit is not made until after the mock GCSE exams have taken place in Year 11.

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Paper 1 Calculator	50%	Written exam 2 hours	Number Ratio, proportion and rates of change Algebra Geometry and measures Probability Statistics
Paper 2 Calculator	50%	Written exam 2 hours	

Further Opportunities:

On successful completion of this course, students can continue their study of Mathematics by undertaking the two year International A Level Mathematics course, the prerequisite for this course is a Grade 7 at IGCSE. Students can study further by undertaking the two year Further Mathematics International A Level Mathematics course, the prerequisite for this course is a Grade 7 at IGCSE. Furthermore, another course we are offering post-16 is Core Mathematics which looks more at functional skills, the prerequisite for this course is a Grade 5 at IGCSE.

Students who have studied Mathematics may go on to study and work in fields such as engineering, statistics, financial markets, research, teaching and economics due to their strong understanding of number and problem solving skills and its effects.

TRIPLE SCIENCE - CHEMISTRY - EDEXCEL EXAMINATIONS

Course code 4CH1

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Chemistry qualification includes key concepts allowing students to gain a sound base of knowledge and develop scientific skills through investigation style practical work and research activities. Students will cover:

- Principles of chemistry
- Inorganic chemistry
- Physical chemistry
- Organic chemistry

The course starts in Year 9 and continues through to Year 11. The course covers all work students have learned since year 7.

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Chemistry	61.1% of the total International GCSE	2-hour written examination (Paper 1)	All Units
	38.9% of the total International GCSE	1-hour and 15-minute (Paper 2)	

Further Opportunities:

Students attaining a GCSE grade 6 or above can progress onto A-level Chemistry in Year 12

TRIPLE SCIENCE - BIOLOGY - EDEXCEL EXAMINATIONS

Course code 4BI1

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This International GCSE qualification prepares students for further study in biological sciences and provides a thorough grounding in the practical skills needed to be a working scientist. Students undertaking this qualification will study aspects of:

- The nature and variety of living organisms
- Structures and functions in living organisms
- Reproduction and inheritance
- Ecology and the environment
- Use of biological resources

The course starts in Year 10 and continues through to Year 11. The course covers all work students have learned since year 7.

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Biology	61.1% of the total International GCSE	2-hour written examination (Paper 1)	All Units
	38.9% of the total International GCSE	1-hour and 15-minute (Paper 2)	

Further Opportunities:

Students attaining a GCSE grade 6 or above can progress onto A-level Biology in Year 12

TRIPLE SCIENCE - PHYSICS - EDEXCEL EXAMINATIONS

Course code 4PH1

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Physics qualification includes key concepts from Physical Science allowing students to gain a sound base of knowledge and develop scientific skills through investigation style practical work and research activities. The GCSE course includes:

- Forces and motion
- Electricity
- Waves
- Energy resources and energy
- Solids, liquids and gases
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Radioactivity and particles
- Astrophysics

The course starts in Year 9 and continues through to Year 11. The course covers all work students have learned since year 7.

HOW WILL THE COURSE BE ASSESSED?

iGCSE Physics has its own exam paper which does not directly affect the outcome of any other Sciences sat at GCSE.

Unit	Weighting	Assessment	Content
Physics	61.1% of the total International GCSE	2-hour written examination (Paper 1)	All Units
	38.9% of the total International GCSE	1-hour and 15-minute (Paper 2)	

Further Opportunities:

Students attaining a GCSE grade 6 or above can progress onto A-level Physics.



