GEMS Cambridge International School, Abu Dhabi (CIA)

Year 10 **Curriculum Overview**

Academic Year 2026 – 2027

A term-by-term guide for parents and carers to what your child will be learning in each subject this year, including assessment information, recommended resources and subject contacts.

Please note: topics, resources and assessment details may be subject to change as the academic year progresses.

TEACHING IS AN ART. LEARNING IS A SCIENCE.

Contents

This overview brings together the term-by-term curriculum plans shared by each department, so you can see at a glance what your child will be studying, how they will be assessed, and who to contact with any questions.

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Year 10 Term 1 information

Art

Curriculum information

From September to the February half term, learners complete an induction programme introducing the four assessment objectives while developing a broad range of Fine Art skills. They explore drawing, painting, mixed media, photography and Photoshop, sculpture, textiles and printmaking, with a strong emphasis on observational drawing and the effective use of materials. Learners develop ideas through artist research and visual analysis, applying formal elements, mark-making and critical thinking to inform their creative outcomes.

Assessment information

Art is project-based and assessed continually throughout the term. Learners are assessed on the Induction Programme completed during Term 1 and part of Term 2, following the Assessment Objectives marking scheme. As only a small part of the work is completed at this stage and not all objectives are covered, reported grades will be low. Ongoing teacher assessment occurs in every lesson through verbal feedback, and learners are given targets for improvement during Mad Marking.

Recommended websites

Pinterest

Student Art Guide

Contact

Mrs Luzaan Putter, Head of Art
l.putter_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Terms 2 & 3 information

Art

Curriculum information

The Induction Programme runs until the February half term. After this, learners produce one extended collection of work, or project, from a title given by their Art teacher — this is Component 1. They develop design work from primary and secondary sources on their chosen theme, researching the theme and artists who have worked on similar topics to inspire and develop their own work. Using the techniques gained from the Induction, learners experiment with a range of 2D and 3D media while exploring and developing a variety of ideas. Learners can expect regular homework to complete and develop their work.

Assessment information

Art is project-based and assessed continuously throughout the term. Component 1 coursework (a portfolio of work), which is externally assessed, contributes 50% of the final grade and is marked out of 100. This includes work completed in Year 10 and the first term of Year 11, with projects assessed half-termly and at the end of each unit. As only part of the component is completed in Year 10 and not all assessment objectives are covered, reported grades at this stage will be low. Ongoing teacher assessment takes place every lesson through verbal feedback and Mad Marking, with clear targets set for improvement.

Recommended websites

Pinterest

Student Art Guide

Contact

Mrs Luzaan Putter, Head of Art
l.putter_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 1 information

Biology

Curriculum information

Term 1 continues the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Biology course (4BI1). Students develop their understanding of human nutrition, respiration, gas exchange and transport, before progressing to excretion, coordination and response. Emphasis is placed on linking the structure and function of body systems, using biological terminology accurately and applying knowledge to IGCSE-style questions.

Specification points taught this term (Topic 2: Structure and Functions in Living Organisms)

- Nutrition — Humans (2.24–2.33B)
- Respiration (2.34–2.39)
- Gas exchange — Humans (2.46–2.50)
- Transport — Humans (2.59–2.69)
- Excretion (2.70–2.79)
- Co-ordination and Response (2.80–2.95)

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

BBC Bitesize – Concise explanations, quizzes and interactive activities

Cognito – Short, focused videos and practice questions across all three sciences

Seneca Learning – Interactive revision using retrieval practice and spaced repetition

Contact

Ms Zeenat Zahoor, Director of Science
z.zahoor_cia@gemsedu.com

Ms Robyn Scott, Teacher in Charge of Biology
r.scott_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 2
information

Biology

Curriculum information

Term 2 continues the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Biology course (4BI1). Students study the use of biological resources, including food production, selective breeding, genetic modification and cloning. Emphasis is placed on understanding how biological processes can be applied to agriculture and biotechnology, evaluating their uses and applying knowledge to IGCSE-style questions.

Specification points taught this term Topic 5: Use of biological resources (specification points 5.1–5.20)

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

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Contact

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Ms Robyn Scott, Teacher in Charge of Biology
r.scott_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 3 information

Biology

Curriculum information

Term 3 focuses on consolidation and revision of the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Biology course (4BI1). No new content is introduced; instead, revision is embedded into lessons to strengthen knowledge, address misconceptions and develop confidence with IGCSE-style questions.

Assessment information

An End of Year Assessment examining all topics studied, structured to reflect Edexcel iGCSE exam style, alongside continued cumulative end-of-topic assessments and retrieval practice.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

BBC Bitesize – Concise explanations, quizzes and interactive activities

Cognito – Short, focused videos and practice questions across all three sciences

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Contact

Ms Zeenat Zahoor, Director of Science
z.zahoor_cia@gemsedu.com

Ms Robyn Scott, Teacher in Charge of Biology
r.scott_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 1 information

Business Studies

Curriculum information

Year 10 introduces students to how businesses start, grow and operate, building strong foundations for the IGCSE award (Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies 0986) assessed at the end of the course in Year 11. Term 1 covers Section 1: Understanding Business Activity — business activity and enterprise, classification of businesses, business size and growth, and business and stakeholder objectives.

Assessment information

Two teacher-assessed examinations take place in Term 1: one following a Paper 1 short-answer and structured-response format, and the other a Paper 2 case-study format, assessing content from the term. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 1 report. Students are expected to revise regularly using class notes, weekly slides on MS Teams, and the IGCSE Business textbook, and to complete practice questions to strengthen knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation skills.

Recommended websites

Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies 0986 – Official syllabus hub

Cambridge Past Papers & Examiner Reports – Practice papers, mark schemes and examiner reports

Cambridge Syllabus PDF (2023–2025) – Definitive outline of what is assessed and how

Tutor2u — Business – Clear topic summaries for People in Business

Contact

Mr Juan Smit, Head of Business
j.smit2_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 2
information

Business Studies

Curriculum information

In IGCSE Business Studies (0986), students learn about People in Business, covering four areas within Section 2 this term: motivating workers; organisation and management; recruitment, selection and training of workers; and internal and external communication.

Assessment information

Two teacher-assessed examinations take place in Term 2: one following a Paper 1 short-answer and structured-response format, and the other a Paper 2 case-study format. The examinations assess content from both Term 1 and Term 2 to encourage cumulative learning and retention. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 2 report. Students are expected to revise regularly using class notes, weekly slides on MS Teams, and the IGCSE Business textbook, and to complete practice questions to strengthen knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation skills.

Recommended websites

Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies 0986 – Official syllabus hub

Cambridge Past Papers & Examiner Reports – Practice papers, mark schemes and examiner reports

Cambridge Syllabus PDF (2023–2025) – Definitive outline of what is assessed and how

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Contact

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j.smit2_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 3 information

Business Studies

Curriculum information

This term covers marketing fundamentals: how businesses meet customer needs, the difference between niche and mass markets, and how to segment and target customers. Students also learn market research methods and apply the 4Ps marketing mix to business decisions, finishing with strategies that influence consumers in local and international markets.

Assessment information

Two teacher-assessed examinations take place in Term 3: one following a Paper 1 short-answer and structured-response format, and the other a Paper 2 case-study format. The examinations assess content from Term 1, Term 2 and Term 3 to encourage cumulative learning and retention. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 3 report. Students are expected to revise regularly using class notes, weekly slides on MS Teams, and the IGCSE Business textbook, and to complete practice questions to strengthen knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation skills.

Recommended websites

Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies 0986 – Official syllabus hub

Cambridge Past Papers & Examiner Reports – Practice papers, mark schemes and examiner reports

Cambridge Syllabus PDF (2023–2025) – Definitive outline of what is assessed and how

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Mr Juan Smit, Head of Business
j.smit2_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 1 information

Chemistry

Curriculum information

Year 10 Term 1 continues the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Chemistry course (4CH1). Students study the extraction and uses of metals before developing their understanding of ionic, covalent and metallic bonding, including how bonding influences the structure and properties of substances. Emphasis is placed on using scientific terminology accurately, explaining chemical behaviour and applying knowledge to IGCSE-style questions.

Specification points taught this term

- Topic 1: Principles of organic chemistry (specification points 1.37–1.54C)
- Topic 2: Inorganic chemistry (specification points 2.22C–2.27)

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

BBC Bitesize – Concise explanations, quizzes and interactive activities

Cognito – Short, focused videos and practice questions across all three sciences

Seneca Learning – Interactive revision using retrieval practice and spaced repetition

Contact

Ms Zeenat Zahoor, Director of Science
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Ms Alaa Hijazi, Teacher in Charge of Chemistry
a.hijazi1_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 2 information

Chemistry

Curriculum information

Year 10 Term 2 continues the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Chemistry course (4CH1). Students study acids, alkalis and titrations, before developing their understanding of acids, bases and salt preparation. Emphasis is placed on practical skills, understanding chemical reactions and applying knowledge accurately to IGCSE-style questions.

Specification points taught this term Topic 2: Inorganic chemistry (specification points 2.34–2.43)

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

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Ms Alaa Hijazi, Teacher in Charge of Chemistry
a.hijazi1_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 3 information

Chemistry

Curriculum information

Year 10 Chemistry Term 3 develops conceptual understanding of physical chemistry within the Edexcel International GCSE (9–1) Chemistry course (4CH1). Students study energetics, rates of reaction and reversible reactions, applying collision theory and energy profile diagrams to explain chemical change. They interpret graphical data, analyse experimental variables and solve quantitative problems, with emphasis on clear scientific explanations, accurate calculations and structured exam-style reasoning.

Specification points taught this term

- Topic 1: Principles of Chemistry (specification points 1.25–1.36)
- Topic 2: Inorganic chemistry (specification points 2.44–2.50)
- Topic 3: Physical chemistry (specification points 3.1–3.22C)

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior content, plus an End of Year Assessment examining all topics studied, structured to reflect Edexcel iGCSE exam style.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

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Contact

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Ms Alaa Hijazi, Teacher in Charge of Chemistry
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Year 10
Term 1
information

Computer Science

Curriculum information

The Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science (0478) curriculum provides a comprehensive foundation in computational thinking, programming and technical principles, emphasising problem-solving using high-level programming languages and understanding computer systems. Assessment consists of two written papers: Theory (50%) and Practical Problem-solving (50%). In Term 1, students focus on two main theory topics and one practical: Data Representation, Data Transmission, and Algorithm Design and Problem Solving.

Assessment information

Learners are examined through end-of-unit assessments incorporating all material studied in each unit. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 1 report.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor — Computer Science

Papacambridge

Save My Exams

Seneca Learning

Contact

Mrs Shahana Noushad, Head of ICT / Computer Science
s.noushadmammu_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 2
information

Computer Science

Curriculum information

In Term 2, students focus on Key Programming Concepts, Databases, and Boolean Logic.

Assessment information

Learners are examined through end-of-unit assessments incorporating all material studied in each unit. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 2 report.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor — Computer Science

Papacambridge

Save My Exams

Seneca Learning

Contact

Mrs Shahana Noushad, Head of ICT / Computer Science
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Year 10
Term 3
information

Computer Science

Curriculum information

In Term 3, students continue Boolean Logic and move into Programming, focusing on Python.

Assessment information

Learners are examined through end-of-unit assessments incorporating all material studied in each unit. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 3 report, including a mock exam.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor — Computer Science

Papacambridge

Save My Exams

Seneca Learning

Contact

Mrs Shahana Noushad, Head of ICT / Computer Science
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Year 10
Term 1
information

English (ESL)

Curriculum information

The focus this term will be on strengthening the core skills required for success in the Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language examination. Each class will have a tailored focus informed by ongoing assessment and classroom performance. Particular attention will be given to improving reading accuracy, vocabulary range, grammatical control, and structured written responses. Clear guidelines for improvement will be communicated to students on a continuous basis.

Time will be allocated to all components of the IGCSE ESL programme. Students will practise reading a variety of non-fiction texts, focusing on identifying main ideas, supporting details, inference, writer's purpose, and tone. Emphasis will be placed on summary writing skills, including selecting relevant information and expressing it clearly and concisely within word limits.

Writing development will focus on transactional and extended writing tasks, including emails, articles, reports, and discursive compositions. Students will work on organising ideas logically, maintaining appropriate register, developing clear arguments, and improving accuracy in grammar and punctuation. Vocabulary extension will be integrated into all reading and writing activities.

Listening and speaking skills will also be developed through structured practice tasks aligned with the Cambridge speaking and listening assessment criteria. Students will build fluency, pronunciation clarity, and confidence when expressing ideas in both formal and informal contexts.

Assessment information

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the term and aligned with Cambridge IGCSE examination requirements. Students will complete practice tasks modelled on examination papers, including reading comprehension, summary writing, extended writing, and listening activities.

Peer- and self-assessment will be used to support the drafting, editing, and redrafting process, enabling students to refine their responses and improve examination technique. Clear, targeted feedback will be provided to help students understand their strengths and areas for development.

Recommended websites

www.readtheory.org – for independent reading and comprehension development

www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish – for grammar and vocabulary practice

www.esl-lab.com – for listening practice

Contact

Mr Mauritz Lubcker, Director of English
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Year 10
Term 1
information

English (First Language)

Curriculum information

In IGCSE English First Language (0475 and 0500), the focus of Term 1 will include looking at both elements of the English programme, namely Language Analysis, and Short Story Study.

In the first part of the term, learners will engage with some of the requirements of the Language programme, starting with exploring how writers use techniques to shape meaning and achieve specific effects. Learners will then work on emulating these techniques in their own writing by responding to specific prompts. This will address both the creative writing element of the 0500 programme, as well as introduce learners to responding to directives in examinations that require a critical awareness of literary techniques. Learners will use the texts as a base for developing their critical reading skills, reflective writing skills and literary analysis. We will explore characterisation, setting, plot, symbols, themes, motifs and narrative structure and how each of these contribute to meaning.

Assessment information

Assessment will be ongoing, and learners will be encouraged to use peer- and self-assessment to work through the draft, edit, redraft process to refine and enhance their written work.

The term will culminate in an examination where they will be required to write analytically about both poetry and the short stories in order to demonstrate their ability to discuss a text critically.

Recommended websites

www.readtheory.org – a useful website for independent reading development

www.litcharts.com and www.sparknotes.com – both useful resources for assisting with the analysis of literary texts

Contact

Mr Mauritz Lubcker, Director of English
m.lubcker_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 1 information

French

Curriculum information

The Year 10 French course follows the International GCSE specification and is structured around the Studio textbook, with one thematic module studied per half term. Throughout the year, students develop competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing, with a strong emphasis on using French in meaningful contexts, building accurate vocabulary and grammar, and expressing opinions confidently across all five GCSE topic areas: home and abroad; education and employment; personal life and relationships; the world around us; and social activities, fitness and health.

Term 1 modules

- Module 1 — Qui suis-je? (Personal life and relationships): family, personal descriptions, daily routines and role models, using present, past and imperfect tenses
- Module 2 — Le temps des loisirs (The world around us / Social activities, fitness and health): hobbies, sport, media, technology and online life, developing opinions and comparisons

Assessment information

Assessment is ongoing throughout the term and designed to prepare students for the final GCSE examinations, through listening/reading/writing tasks, speaking activities and role plays, vocabulary and grammar tests, and end-of-module assessments focused on Modules 1 and 2.

Recommended websites

Save My Exams — Edexcel IGCSE French Past Papers

Studio online resources and Teams materials

Contact

Madame Karine Selvam, Teacher of French
k.selvam_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 2
information

French

Curriculum information

Students continue building their French language skills through two thematic modules from the Studio textbook, with emphasis on developing accuracy and fluency across all four skills while extending their use of a wider range of tenses and structures.

Term 2 modules

- Module 3 — Jours ordinaires, jours de fête (Home and abroad / Social activities, fitness and health): daily routines, food, celebrations, traditions and festivals, using present and past tenses and expressions of politeness
- Module 4 — De la ville à la campagne (Home and abroad / Social activities, fitness and health): town and rural life, directions, transport, regions and community activities, focusing on describing places and giving opinions

Assessment information

Assessment remains ongoing and formative, including listening/reading/writing tasks, speaking activities and structured conversations, vocabulary and grammar tests, and end-of-module assessments focused on Modules 3 and 4.

Recommended websites

Save My Exams — Edexcel IGCSE French Past Papers

Studio online resources and Teams materials

Contact

Madame Karine Selvam, Teacher of French
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Year 10
Term 3
information

French

Curriculum information

Students move on to topics linked to travel, education and employment, while consolidating their understanding of more complex grammatical structures. Students are encouraged to express opinions, justify ideas and communicate more independently in French.

Term 3 modules

- Module 5 — Le grand large (Home and abroad / The world around us): holidays, travel, accommodation and transport, using a wider range of past, present and future tenses
- Module 6 — Au collège (Education and employment): school life, rules, rights and responsibilities, exchanges and future pathways, developing accuracy and confidence

Assessment information

Assessment remains ongoing and formative, including listening/reading/writing tasks, speaking activities and structured conversations, vocabulary and grammar tests, and end-of-module assessments based on Modules 5 and 6.

Recommended websites

Save My Exams — Edexcel IGCSE French Past Papers

Studio online resources and Teams materials

Contact

Madame Karine Selvam, Teacher of French
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Year 10 Term 1 information

Geography

Curriculum information

During Term 1, students explore how physical processes and human intervention create distinctive coastal landforms. They examine the ecosystems that develop along different stretches of coastline and consider the importance of coastal environments to people. Students also investigate approaches to sustainable coastal management through case studies from a developed country and either a developing or emerging country, and develop geographical fieldwork skills related to coastal environments.

Assessment information

Learners' progress is checked regularly in every Geography lesson. Teachers use questioning, classwork and short tests to identify what students understand and address any misconceptions immediately. Students receive regular verbal feedback and clear targets to help them improve, and complete a series of classroom assessments designed to develop their knowledge and exam skills, practising exam-like questions and reviewing their progress.

Recommended websites

International GCSE Geography — Specification

Edexcel IGCSE Geography 2017 Revision

Seneca Revision Notes for iGCSE

GCSE / IGCSE Geography Past Papers — PMT

Contact

Mr Enock Ichuriza, Teacher in Charge of Geography
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Year 10 Term 2 information

Geography

Curriculum information

During Term 2, learners study the characteristics, distribution and measurement of natural hazards, including tropical cyclones, earthquakes and volcanoes. They explore how these hazards affect people and the environment and consider how their impacts can be managed. Learners investigate earthquake management through case studies from a developed country and either a developing or emerging country, comparing the effects of these events and examining both short-term emergency responses and longer-term recovery strategies.

Assessment information

Learners' progress is checked regularly in every Geography lesson. Teachers use questioning, classwork and short tests to identify what students understand and address any misconceptions immediately. Students receive regular verbal feedback and clear targets to help them improve, and complete a series of classroom assessments designed to develop their knowledge and exam skills, practising exam-like questions and reviewing their progress.

Recommended websites

International GCSE Geography — Specification

Edexcel IGCSE Geography 2017 Revision

Seneca Revision Notes for iGCSE

GCSE / IGCSE Geography Past Papers — PMT

Contact

Mr Enock Ichuriza, Teacher in Charge of Geography
e.ichuriza_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 3
information

Geography

Curriculum information

During Term 3, learners study how the importance and location of different economic sectors vary between places and change over time. They examine the growth and decline of the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors, and the social, economic and environmental impacts of these changes. Learners also explore why many countries experience an energy gap and how they work towards energy security by developing a balanced energy mix and using energy resources sustainably, including case studies of energy resource management in a developed country and either a developing or emerging country.

Assessment information

Learners' progress is checked regularly in every Geography lesson. Teachers use questioning, classwork and short tests to assess understanding and address any misconceptions immediately. Learners receive regular verbal feedback and clear targets to help them improve, and complete a series of classroom assessments designed to strengthen their subject knowledge and exam skills. Learners also sit a mock examination, giving them an opportunity to practise under exam conditions, review their progress and identify areas requiring further improvement.

Recommended websites

International GCSE Geography — Specification

Edexcel IGCSE Geography 2017 Revision

Seneca Revision Notes for iGCSE

GCSE / IGCSE Geography Past Papers — PMT

Contact

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e.ichuriza_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 1
information

History

Curriculum information

Learners study Section B of Paper 2: B2 Changes in Medicine, c1848–c1948, covering changes in medical treatment and understanding of the causes of illness, improvements in public health provision, changes in surgery, the changing role of women in medicine, and the impact of war, science and technology on medicine.

Assessment information

Learners will sit the Pearson Edexcel exam at the end of Year 10: (Modular) (4XHI1) Unit 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies. Ongoing verbal feedback and targets are given during Mad Marking, alongside in-class practice of exam-style questions: (a) 'Explain two ways in which…' (6 marks), (b) 'Explain two causes of…' (8 marks), and (c) 'How far do you agree…' (16 marks).

Recommended websites

Pearson Edexcel International IGCSE (9-1): Changes in Medicine 1848–1948 (Student Textbook)

BBC Bitesize

YouTube revision playlist

MASSOLIT — Changes in Medicine

Contact

Ms Emily Campbell-Scully, Teacher in Charge of History
e.campbellscul_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10 Term 2 information

History

Curriculum information

Learners study Section A of Paper 2: A2 Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905–24, covering Tsarist rule in Russia (1905–14), opposition to Tsarist rule (1914–17) including the impact of war and the February Revolution, the Provisional Government and the Bolshevik Revolution, the Bolshevik consolidation of power and the Civil War, and War Communism and the New Economic Policy (NEP).

Assessment information

Learners will sit the Pearson Edexcel exam at the end of Year 10: (Modular) (4XHI1) Unit 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies. Ongoing verbal feedback and targets are given during Mad Marking, alongside in-class practice of exam-style questions: (a) 'Explain two features of…' (6 marks), (b) 'How far does source A support the evidence of source B about…' (8 marks), and (c) 'How far do you agree with this interpretation?' (16 marks).

Recommended websites

Edexcel International GCSE: The Soviet Union in Revolution, 1905–24 (Student Book)

Pearson Qualifications — Edexcel International GCSE History (2017)

Save My Exams — Edexcel History Past Papers

BBC Bitesize

Contact

Ms Emily Campbell-Scully, Teacher in Charge of History
e.campbellscul_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 3
information

History

Curriculum information

Learners revise their learning from Terms 1 and 2 — Section A: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905–24, and Section B: Changes in Medicine, c1848–c1948 — to prepare for their Pearson Edexcel Paper 2 examination, which takes place in the May/June exam series.

Assessment information

Ongoing verbal feedback and targets are given during Mad Marking, alongside in-class practice of exam skills. Learners sit a mock examination to further practise exam skills and identify areas for improvement ahead of the summer examination.

Recommended websites

Pearson Edexcel International IGCSE (9-1): Changes in Medicine 1848–1948 (Student Textbook)

BBC Bitesize

YouTube revision playlist

MASSOLIT — Changes in Medicine

Edexcel International GCSE: The Soviet Union in Revolution, 1905–24 (Student Book)

Save My Exams — Edexcel History Past Papers

BBC Bitesize

Contact

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Year 10 Term 1 information

ICT

Curriculum information

Year 10 equips learners with an essential understanding of information and communication technology (ICT) concepts, develops practical digital skills through the use of software, builds awareness of the ethical, legal and social impacts of digital technologies, and enables students to apply ICT tools effectively to solve real-world tasks. In Term 1, students focus on one theory unit and one practical unit.

Topics covered this term

- Topic 1: Digital Devices — different types of digital devices, their main components and everyday uses
- Topic 6: Software Skills — Word Processing and Mail Merge: creating, formatting and evaluating professional documents using layout, formatting, tables, images, objects, document conventions and mail merge techniques

Assessment information

Learners are examined on each unit through end-of-unit assessments incorporating all material studied in that unit. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 1 report.

Recommended websites

Save My Exams – Edexcel IGCSE ICT — Past papers and revision resources

Brainscape – IGCSE ICT Flashcards

Pearson – Edexcel International GCSE ICT Overview

Dynamic Papers – IGCSE ICT Past Papers

Contact

Mrs Shahana Noushad, Head of ICT / Computer Science
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Year 10 Term 2 information

ICT

Curriculum information

In Term 2, students focus on two theory topics: Connectivity — how devices connect and communicate, including basic networks and data transmission — and Operating Online — using the internet safely and responsibly, including online communication and digital safety.

Assessment information

Learners are examined on each unit through end-of-unit assessments incorporating all material studied in that unit. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 2 report.

Recommended websites

Save My Exams – Edexcel IGCSE ICT — Past papers and revision resources

Brainscape – IGCSE ICT Flashcards

Pearson – Edexcel International GCSE ICT Overview

Dynamic Papers – IGCSE ICT Past Papers

Contact

Mrs Shahana Noushad, Head of ICT / Computer Science
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Year 10
Term 3
information

ICT

Curriculum information

In Term 3, students focus on one theory and one practical topic: Online Goods and Services, and Software Skills covering Graphics and Presentation.

Assessment information

Learners are examined on each unit through end-of-unit assessments incorporating all material studied in that unit. Assessment dates and weightings are communicated in class and on MS Teams, and results contribute to the Term 3 report.

Recommended websites

Save My Exams – Edexcel IGCSE ICT — Past papers and revision resources

Brainscape – IGCSE ICT Flashcards

Pearson – Edexcel International GCSE ICT Overview

Dynamic Papers – IGCSE ICT Past Papers

Practical video tutorials

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Year 10 Term 1 information

Mathematics

Curriculum information

In Term 1, Year 10 learners continue their journey through the 9-1 IGCSE syllabus, learning a wide range of topics throughout the year with continuous assessment at the end of each unit and end-of-term tests.

Topic 1: Linear Graphs

- Calculate the midpoint of a line
- Recognise, generate points and plot graphs of linear functions
- Understand and use y = mx + c to find the equation of a line
- Calculate the gradient and find the equation of a line
- Find the equation of parallel and perpendicular lines
- Represent linear inequalities on rectangular Cartesian graphs, including harder regions

Topic 2: Quadratic Equations & Graphs

- Recognise, generate points and plot graphs of quadratic functions
- Solve quadratic equations by factorisation, the quadratic formula and completing the square
- Solve quadratic inequalities

Topic 3: Area, Perimeter & Volume

- Calculate the area of a triangle, parallelogram and trapezium
- Calculate the area and circumference of a circle, and the area and arc length of sectors
- Find the surface area of a cylinder
- Find the volume of prisms, including cuboids and cylinders
- Find the surface area and volume of a sphere and a right circular cone

Topic 4: Constructions & Bearings

- Construct the perpendicular bisector of a line segment
- Construct the bisector of an angle
- Calculate the bearing from one point to another

Topic 5: Pythagoras & Trigonometry

- Calculate missing sides and solve problems using Pythagoras' Theorem
- Use trig ratios to find lengths and angles in a right-angled triangle
- Use trig ratios to solve problems

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and an End of Term Assessment.

Recommended websites

Dr Frost Maths – Videos, practice questions and exam-style tasks

Maths Genie – Topic-based revision, exam questions and model answers

Corbett Maths – Practice questions, videos and 5-a-day retrieval tasks

Save My Exams

Contact

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Year 10 Term 2 information

Mathematics

Curriculum information

Term 2 strengthens algebra, graph skills and geometric reasoning in preparation for the Edexcel iGCSE (4MA1). Students study transformations, advanced graphs and simultaneous equations, linking algebra to graphical representation, develop structured problem-solving through probability (including tree diagrams and algebraic methods), and apply upper and lower bounds in degree-of-accuracy problems, with emphasis on precision, clear working and exam-style reasoning.

Topic 6: Transformations

- Rotation of shapes about a given point (90°, 180°, 270°)
- Reflection in horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines
- Translation of shapes using vector notation
- Enlargement using scale factor and centre of enlargement
- Identifying and giving full descriptions of single and combined transformations

Topic 7: Harder Graphs

- Recognise, plot and draw cubic and reciprocal graphs
- Apply transformations to linear, quadratic, sine and cosine graphs
- Find intersection points of two graphs (one linear and one non-linear)

Topic 8: Simultaneous Equations

- Solve simultaneous equations using elimination and substitution (two linear equations)
- Solve simultaneous equations where one equation is linear and the other quadratic

Topic 9: Probability

- Calculate probabilities of single events and apply the probability scale (0 to 1)
- Construct and use tree diagrams
- Calculate probabilities with and without replacement
- Solve algebraic probability problems

Topic 10: Degree of Accuracy

- Identify upper and lower bounds for values given to a degree of accuracy
- Solve problems involving upper and lower bounds
- Apply bounds to real-life measurement contexts

Assessment information

End-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content, plus an End of Term Assessment (mid-February) structured to reflect Edexcel iGCSE (4MA1) exam style.

Recommended websites

Dr Frost Maths – Videos, practice questions and exam-style tasks

Maths Genie – Topic-based revision, exam questions and model answers

Corbett Maths – Practice questions, videos and 5-a-day retrieval tasks

Physics & Maths Tutor – Past papers, topic questions and revision notes

Contact

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Year 10 Term 3 information

Mathematics

Curriculum information

Term 3 builds on algebraic, geometric and trigonometric knowledge developed earlier in the year and introduces higher-level geometric reasoning and advanced problem solving. Students deepen their understanding of formal mathematical notation, proof, 3D problem solving and proportional reasoning, with a strong focus on exam-style questions and structured reasoning to prepare for the end-of-year mock examination and the final IGCSE course in Year 11.

Topic 11: Sequences

- Understand and use common difference (d) and first term (a) in an arithmetic sequence
- Know and use nth term = a + (n − 1)d
- Find the sum of the first n terms of an arithmetic series (Sn)

Topic 12: Circle Theorems

- Recall and apply all required circle theorems accurately
- Use circle theorems in multi-step geometric problems
- Justify answers clearly using mathematical reasoning
- Combine circle theorems with algebra and similarity where required

Topic 13: Advanced Trigonometry

- Use the Sine Rule and Cosine Rule in any triangle
- Calculate the area of a triangle using ½ab sin C
- Solve 3D problems using Pythagoras and trigonometry
- Find angles between lines and planes

Topic 14: Similar Shapes

- Use scale factors to calculate lengths in similar shapes
- Apply squared scale factors to find area ratios
- Apply cubed scale factors to find volume ratios
- Solve complex problems involving area and volume of similar figures

Assessment information

End-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content, plus an End of Term Assessment (June mock examination) — a full mock covering all Year 10 topics, structured to reflect Edexcel iGCSE (4MA1) exam style.

Recommended websites

Dr Frost Maths – Videos, practice questions and exam-style tasks

Maths Genie – Topic-based revision, exam questions and model answers

Corbett Maths – Practice questions, videos and 5-a-day retrieval tasks

Physics & Maths Tutor – Past papers, topic questions and revision notes

Contact

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Year 10 Term 1 information

Music

Curriculum information

Term 1 introduces the three units of GCSE Music. In Performing, students are introduced to ensemble performing, with all students performing at the Winter Music Festival, the Sheikh Al Nahyan Festival of Knowledge, the Conrad Winter Tree Lighting, and Berklee Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Nights, before an introduction to solo performing. In Composing, students receive discrete lessons on how to compose, develop, mix, arrange and produce their own pieces based on the Areas of Study, sharing music technology skills on Logic Pro and beginning their Free Composition coursework. In Listening & Appraising, students study the vocal music set work 'Killer Queen' and wider vocal music listening, alongside melodic and rhythmic dictation, Question 9 (AoS3 and AoS4), the vocal music set work by Henry Purcell, and unfamiliar listening tasks.

Assessment information

A Term 1 baseline assessment, a topic test each half term, weekly written listening and written homework tasks, and exam-style question assessments, culminating in the Year 10 exam — one written paper set by Edexcel, a nine-question paper using the Listening & Appraising skills learnt in Year 10.

Recommended websites

Edexcel GCSE Music Specification

BBC Bitesize

Contact

Mr Gavin Greenaway, Head of Performing Arts
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Year 10 Term 2 information

Music

Curriculum information

In Performing, students continue to develop solo and ensemble performing, with all students performing at the Four Notes Solo Concert in February and ADYM in April. In Composing, students receive further discrete lessons on composing, developing, mixing, arranging and producing their own pieces, continuing to share music technology skills on Logic Pro and develop ideas for their Free Composition coursework. In Listening & Appraising, students study the instrumental music set works Beethoven's Sonata (first half of term) and J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto (second half), alongside wider music listening, further melodic and rhythmic dictation practice, and Question 9 (AoS3 and AoS4).

Assessment information

A Term 2 assessment based on the instrumental set works, a topic test each half term, weekly written listening and written homework tasks, and exam-style question assessments, culminating in the Year 10 exam — one written paper set by Edexcel, a nine-question paper using the Listening & Appraising skills learnt in Year 10.

Recommended websites

Edexcel GCSE Music Specification

BBC Bitesize

Contact

Mr Gavin Greenaway, Head of Performing Arts
g.greenaway_cia@gemsedu.com

Year 10
Term 1
information

Physical Education

Curriculum information

Term 1 begins with a baseline assessment to establish students' current knowledge and understanding of Physical Education. Students then begin Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology, developing their understanding of the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems, alongside Biomechanics, including movement, forces, levers, balance and stability. Alongside the theory programme, students develop their practical performance, primarily through football and netball; practical performances are filmed and reviewed to build students' practical evidence, which contributes 50% of their overall IGCSE PE grade, developing skills, decision-making and application of tactics within competitive situations.

Assessment information

Chapter examinations following key areas of learning, alongside regular MAD marking assessments to develop examination skills and respond to feedback. An end-of-unit examination assesses students' understanding across the key content covered during the term, including knowledge, application and extended-response questions, building familiarity with the Cambridge iGCSE PE examination style.

Recommended websites

iGCSE PE Complete (YouTube) – Recommended alongside the Cambridge iGCSE Physical Education Coursebook and study workbook

Contact

Mr James Laird, Director of Sport
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Year 10
Term 2
information

Physical Education

Curriculum information

During Term 2, students continue to develop their practical performance in football and netball, with volleyball integrated into their assessed activities. Filming of practical performances continues throughout the term, with selected footage contributing towards the final evidence submitted to the examination board at the end of the course. In theory lessons, students continue working through Unit 1, focusing specifically on Chapters 4 and 5, developing their understanding of anatomy and physiology, particularly how the body systems respond to exercise and support performance in sport.

Assessment information

Ongoing practical performance evaluation alongside continued filming, assessed through MAD marking assessments, structured chapter assessments, and regular exam-style questions designed to strengthen written responses and technical accuracy.

Recommended websites

iGCSE PE Complete (YouTube) – Recommended alongside the Cambridge iGCSE Physical Education Coursebook and study workbook

Contact

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Year 10
Term 3
information

Physical Education

Curriculum information

In Term 3, the practical curriculum introduces weight training and fitness-based activities within the gym environment. Students learn safe lifting techniques, principles of training, and how to structure effective training programmes — this practical unit provides valuable performance evidence and directly supports theoretical learning. The content aligns closely with Chapters 6 and 7 of Unit 1, which complete the Health, Fitness and Training section of the course, focusing on components of fitness, principles of training, methods of training, and applying fitness knowledge to improve performance.

Assessment information

Continued practical assessment throughout the term, while theory assessments include MAD marking assessments and end-of-chapter tests. At the end of Term 3, students complete a Unit 1 mock examination under formal exam conditions, providing valuable experience of examination expectations ahead of Year 11.

Recommended websites

iGCSE PE Complete (YouTube) – Recommended alongside the Cambridge iGCSE Physical Education Coursebook and study workbook

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Year 10 Term 1 information

Physics

Curriculum information

Year 10 Term 1 continues the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Physics course (4PH1). Students study waves, including wave properties, the electromagnetic spectrum, light and sound, before progressing to energy resources and energy transfers, including work, power and electricity generation. Emphasis is placed on applying equations accurately, interpreting scientific information and developing confidence with IGCSE-style questions.

Specification points taught this term

- Topic 3: Waves (specification points 3.1–3.29)
- Topic 4: Energy resources and energy transfers

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

BBC Bitesize – Concise explanations, quizzes and interactive activities

Cognito – Short, focused videos and practice questions across all three sciences

Seneca Learning – Interactive revision using retrieval practice and spaced repetition

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Year 10 Term 2 information

Physics

Curriculum information

Year 10 Term 2 continues the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Physics course (4PH1). Students complete energy resources and energy transfers, including work, power and electricity generation, before beginning astrophysics, exploring motion in the Universe, stellar evolution and cosmology. Emphasis is placed on applying equations accurately, interpreting scientific evidence and developing confidence with IGCSE-style questions.

Specification points taught this term

- Topic 4: Energy resources and energy transfers (specification points 4.1–4.19)
- Topic 8: Astrophysics (specification points 8.1–8.18)

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

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Year 10 Term 3 information

Physics

Curriculum information

Year 10 Term 3 continues the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Physics course (4PH1). Students study electricity, including mains electricity, energy and voltage in circuits, and electric charge. Emphasis is placed on understanding electrical principles, applying equations accurately and developing confidence with IGCSE-style questions.

Specification points taught this term Topic 2: Electricity (specification points 2.1–2.28)

Assessment information

Cumulative end-of-topic assessments, exam-style problem-solving tasks under timed conditions, and retrieval practice covering prior Year 10 content, plus an End of Year Assessment examining all topics studied, structured to reflect Edexcel iGCSE exam style.

Recommended websites

Physics & Maths Tutor – Topic-by-topic notes, past paper questions, mark schemes and model answers

Save My Exams – Clear revision notes, structured topic questions and exam-style practice

BBC Bitesize – Concise explanations, quizzes and interactive activities

Cognito – Short, focused videos and practice questions across all three sciences

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Year 10 Term 1 information

Psychology

Curriculum information

Term 1 sees students complete several Paper 1 topics. In Memory, learners explore how memory works and why we recall and forget information. In Development, learners explore the role of nurture and nature and how development transitions from birth to adulthood, including brain development. Research Methods runs continuously throughout Year 10, starting with aims, hypotheses and variables, before looking at types of experiments and how data is collected through sampling methods. On the return from winter break, students complete a model of the brain and present this to parents in a showcase-style event.

Assessment information

Assessment follows the requirements of the AQA GCSE Psychology specification, developing students' knowledge, application and evaluation skills against three Assessment Objectives — AO1: Knowledge and Understanding, AO2: Application, and AO3: Analysis and Evaluation — through end-of-topic tests (Memory and Development), regular retrieval quizzes, extended exam-style questions, data interpretation tasks, and homework and independent practice.

Recommended websites

AQA GCSE (9–1) Psychology – Hodder Education, Cara Flanagan et al., 2017, ISBN 978-911208-04-4 — written specifically for the AQA GCSE (8182) specification

Contact

Ms Mea Jean du Plooy, Psychology Teacher
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Year 10 Term 2 information

Psychology

Curriculum information

Term 2 sees students continue to complete additional Paper 1 topics. In Perception, learners explore how we perceive the world around us and how culture, emotion and motivation affect us. Research Methods continues throughout Year 10, studying qualitative and quantitative data, experimental designs, interviews and questionnaires, including general maths skills.

Assessment information

Assessment follows the requirements of the AQA GCSE Psychology specification against the same three Assessment Objectives (AO1–AO3), through end-of-topic tests (Development, Perception & Research), regular retrieval quizzes, extended exam-style questions, data interpretation tasks, and homework and independent practice.

Recommended websites

AQA GCSE (9–1) Psychology – Hodder Education, Cara Flanagan et al., 2017, ISBN 978-911208-04-4 — written specifically for the AQA GCSE (8182) specification

Contact

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Year 10 Term 3 information

Psychology

Curriculum information

Term 3 sees students continue Paper 1 topics and begin their first Paper 2 topic. Research Methods continues, studying case studies, correlations and statistics. In Social Influence, learners look at how humans behave in regard to conformity and obedience, and complete a research project of their choosing. Students also work on the two key studies for each unit completed in Year 10 — specific scientific studies carried out to support or refute an idea or theory, which examiners can ask direct questions about.

Assessment information

Assessment follows the requirements of the AQA GCSE Psychology specification against the same three Assessment Objectives (AO1–AO3), through end-of-topic tests (Perception), regular retrieval quizzes, extended exam-style questions, data interpretation tasks, and homework and independent practice. In May/June, students sit their end-of-year exam covering all four units of Paper 1 — Memory, Development, Perception and Research Methods — marked out of 100.

Recommended websites

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