



(I)GCSE Subjects for
September 2017

A Guide for Pupils and Parents

CHARTERHOUSE

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The Curriculum

REMOVE OPTIONS 2017

In the Remove and Fifth Form the compulsory examined core of the curriculum includes English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, in English Literature pupils follow Charterhouse's own literature course, which concludes with a prize examination at the end of the Oration Quarter in the Fifth Form.

Four additional subjects are chosen from the list below; at least one of these choices must be French, German or Spanish.

Art, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Design and Technology, Geography, History, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Music and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.

Public examinations in all subjects are taken at either GCSE or IGCSE at the end of the Fifth Form. Departments choose the best course for their subject and the two qualifications are viewed as equivalent for the purposes of university entrance. The Remove option arrangements are planned according to demand and, although it is usually possible to accommodate all requested subject combinations, we do occasionally need to revisit a boy's options where it has simply not been possible to construct the timetable to provide his particular choices.

Boys are divisioned separately by ability in English, Mathematics and the combined sciences; all other subjects are typically mixed ability groups.

Some information about the available (IGCSE) courses in all subjects is given below. Further information is available from the Head of Department of the subject concerned or from the subject teacher. Boys will be asked to make their subject choices during the week following the Fourth Form Parents' Briefing that is held on Saturday, 29 April 2017.

The Core Subjects

English Language

(Edexcel IGCSE – Specification A, EA1)

All Carthusians complete an English Language IGCSE designed to develop their oral and written responses to material that is taken from a variety of sources. The course hones their ability to respond to the ways in which writers construct ideas and achieve their effects. Pupils are taught how to convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose.

Two pieces of written coursework are submitted, comprising 40% of the overall grade: one assesses their analysis of either poetry or prose from the board's anthology; the other requires a piece of imaginative writing. The examination, worth 60%, tests pupils' understanding of an unprepared passage and their evaluation of writers' use of linguistic devices. It also includes a persuasive or informative writing task which rewards accurate, well-structured and engaging written communication.

A separate grade (Pass, Merit or Distinction) is awarded for Speaking and Listening, assessed through an internally-assessed individual presentation.

Literature in English

(Charterhouse Literature Certificate)

We follow an internal literature course, the Charterhouse Literary Certificate, which provides a richer and more varied diet of literature than that offered by any current examination syllabus. The minimum reading requirements over the course during the Remove and Fifths are to study at least two individual collections of poetry or anthologies, at least two novels (one modern and one published before 1914), at least two plays (including one by Shakespeare) and a range of non-fiction.

The scheme of assessment involves pupils producing one extended coursework essay (up to 2,500 words) on one or more of the texts studied, and then sitting two examinations: the first requires an unseen analysis of a poem, followed by a question on a play studied; the second assesses the poetry and prose texts studied. All literature examinations are closed book.

Pupils who pass the certificate receive one of three grades: Pass, Merit or Distinction. The qualification is recognised by UCAS and the grade can be recorded in the 'Additional Qualifications' section of the university application form.

Science

All three IGCSE sciences are taught throughout the Under School (to the Fourths, Remove and Fifths). Assessment is linear and single tier, consisting of two examination papers for each science. There is no coursework. Practical and investigative skills are incorporated within the written papers.

All of the science courses act as suitable preparation for further studies in the relevant subject, whatever the future course of study.

Biology

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4BI0)

The course aims to provide pupils with knowledge and understanding of biological facts, principles and concepts, as well as the ability to use their new found knowledge in new and changing situations. An evaluation of the nature of biology in the modern world – the social, environmental and economic considerations that must temper the desire to expand our biological horizons – is discussed, as pupils come to realise the importance of this subject in their daily lives. Although there is no formal coursework or practical requirement, biology is a practical course, with pupils expected to carry out experimental work on a frequent basis.

Chemistry

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4CH0)

The course aims to introduce pupils to the unifying patterns and themes of chemistry, to appreciate the investigative and practical nature of the subject and to develop a logical approach to problem solving in a wider context. The emphasis of the course lies in a rigorous treatment of elementary chemistry and fundamental practical skills. The assessment of practical and investigative skills within the written papers, rather than by a practical coursework component or modular practical assessments, allows the department to deliver a wide range of practical teaching appropriate to the ability of the pupils.

Physics

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4PH0)

The aims of this course are to learn about a wide range of physics topics and ideas, as well as some of the guiding principles that allow for the accurate description and prediction of the universe; in the process, mathematical and problem solving skills are developed. Additionally we aim to emphasise the role of physics in terms of its social, economic and environmental importance.

Mathematics

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4MA0)

The Edexcel IGCSE in Mathematics (Specification A) qualification enables pupils to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques
- acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas
- enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident to use mathematics to solve problems
- appreciate the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

The course covers four main areas of Mathematics: Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics as well as introducing Calculus.

The course is examined by two written papers both requiring a calculator and there is no coursework. All pupils take the Higher Tier papers of this qualification.

Beveridge Studies

(Removes only – no assessment)

Beveridge Studies is exclusively for pupils in the Remove (in the Fifth Form, these hashes become supervised Private Study periods in order to allow pupils to focus on coursework and examination preparation). Named after Lord Beveridge (OC), the notable social scientist, the year-long course aims to develop pupils' appreciation of the value and role of commercial, economic and political activity, in preparation for their entry into the increasingly globalised world in which they will be operating in the future. The underlying objective of these lessons is to help this year group develop a degree of awareness in the social sciences that will underpin and enhance their understanding: this will inform their outlooks and perspectives, as well as influencing their subsequent career subject choices, more immediately ensuring that they maximise the potential benefit from their work placement opportunities.

The course begins with an introduction to the role and understanding of business. The format adopted is interactive and relies on a wide range of approaches from quizzes, videos and role plays as well as straight forward question and answer sessions. Each Quarter varies in content, with OQ focusing on introducing pupils to business, then LQ aims to place such knowledge within an economic and political context. The culmination of the course is in the form of a Business Challenge activity in CQ, where pupils transfer their learning to a simulated business challenge. This task will involve collaborative team working and so build communication (both verbal and written), time management and leadership skills and, importantly, personal presentation skills.

The Option Subjects

Art

(AQA GCSE – 4202)

This is a forward thinking course which promotes self-expression, problem solving and creativity underpinned by a knowledge of traditional as well as new and emerging media. Pupils produce practical and critical / contextual work across a wide range of disciplines, including drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, installation, printmaking, ceramics, lens-based media, film, animation, video and photography.

During the first year, pupils are taught to explore new ideas and techniques and to build a portfolio, with sketchbooks and final outcomes showing an increasingly personal direction in creative output. Visits to London as well as local exhibitions inform and inspire their work with pupils studying a wide range of artists, designers and architects from around the globe. In the second year, pupils continue to develop their portfolio; in January, they receive an externally set task which they have unlimited time to prepare, building on the skills they have learnt in their portfolio unit; pupils then produce a final piece of work in their chosen media, undertaken over ten hours.

The course culminates with a final exhibition in Studio which is an opportunity for pupils to showcase the wide range of artwork they have developed over two years.

Classical Civilisation

(OCR GCSE – J280)

This course is concerned with the society, culture and literature of Ancient Greece and Rome. Four topics are chosen for study in depth: the city of Athens, which looks at religion, daily life and entertainment in the leading city of Classical Greece; Greek Epic – and in particular Homer's *Odyssey*, examining the heroic code and values of the early Greek world; Pompeii and Herculaneum, which is concerned with public and private life in these two Roman cities; and Virgil's *Aeneid* – an epic poem which is the Roman equivalent of Greek poetry where the hero Aeneas is tasked by the gods to settle his people in Italy and to establish a new race of men. The first three topics are examined by written papers at the end of the Fifth Form, but the last is examined by controlled assessment. No prior knowledge of Classical Greek, Latin or Classical Civilisation is required to take this course; there are annual visits to Greece or Italy that can further inform and enrich the pupils' experience of the classical world.

Classical Greek

(OCR GCSE – J292)

This course requires pupils to demonstrate their linguistic competence in two units by translation of unprepared passages of Greek into English and by comprehension exercises. A further two units of study provide opportunities for pupils to encounter some of the great works of classical literature, both prose and verse, in the original language; set texts are studied in detail, and in the examination, passages are given for translation and comment on context, background and literary content. All exam papers are marked externally and there is no coursework. It is not possible to start study of Greek in the Remove.

Design and Technology: Resistant Materials

(CIE IGCSE – 0445)

Over the two years of study, pupils are introduced to a range of design techniques, workshop practice and an education about how designers affect our world today. Pupils work on coursework that expects them to respond to real-world design briefs and, in the second year, they spend their time designing and developing a product of their choosing. Creativity and originality are central to this course and experimentation with a wide range of both materials and techniques is encouraged.

Pupils' final ideas are created in the department's well-equipped workshop using CAD/CAM technology, as well as traditional manufacturing techniques. Packaging, labelling, advertising and instructions are also encouraged to be part of the complete design proposal as this helps to create products that can be evaluated for commercial appeal. The course aspires to mirror contemporary design practice and allow pupils to design and make quality products.

Museum trips and lectures given by well-known product designers are an important aspect of the study of this course. 50% of the final assessment is coursework-based with a two-part external examination paper making up the remaining 50%.

Geography

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4GE0)

The IGCSE Geography course provides an opportunity for pupils to gain an understanding of the world in all its guises; it is a broad-based subject which develops a number of intellectual skills, including literacy, numeracy, diagrammatic representation, oral presentation skills and the application of ICT. The course encourages the use of fieldwork to underpin knowledge and understanding.

The IGCSE is assessed through two external examinations; there is no coursework. In Section A (The Natural Environment and People), pupils complete two of the following three topics: River Environments, Coastal Environments and Hazardous Environments. In Section B (People and their Environments), they again complete two of the following three topics: Economic Activity & Energy, Ecosystems & Rural Environments and Urban Environments. In Section C (Practical Geographical Enquiry), pupils are tested on the development of practical geographical enquiry skills related to fieldwork (most of which will take place on a residential field trip in North Yorkshire) on each selected topic from Sections A and B. In Section D (Global Issues), pupils study one topic chosen from: Fragile Environments, Globalisation & Migration and Development & Human Welfare.

IGCSE Geography is not a prerequisite for Specialist study in Geography.

History

(CIE IGCSE – 0470)

The IGCSE History course covers International Relations from 1919 to 1989, complementing the course in the Fourth that traces the development of conflict in the twentieth century. It begins with a study of the attempts at peacemaking after the First World War, followed by the collapse of peace in the 1930s. The Cold War is traced from its origins to the collapse of the Soviet Union and its satellite states. In addition the history of a single country (Germany 1918-45) is studied in more depth: one piece of coursework on Nazi Germany is also undertaken, amounting to 27% of the final grade. Emphasis is placed on a variety of skills, especially the ability to analyse documentary material and communicate relevant information effectively.

IGCSE History is not a prerequisite for Specialist study in History.

Latin

(OCR GCSE – J282)

Pupils are required to demonstrate their linguistic competence in two units by translation of unprepared passages of Latin into English and by comprehension exercises. A further two units of study provide opportunities for pupils to encounter some of the great works of classical literature, both prose and verse, in the original language; set texts are studied in detail, and in the examination passages are given for translation and comment on context, background and literary content. All exam papers are marked externally and there is no coursework. It is not possible to start study of Latin in the Remove.

Modern Languages

French

(CIE IGCSE – 0520)

German

(CIE IGCSE – 0525)

Spanish

(CIE IGCSE – 0530)

Boys who study foreign languages at Charterhouse will be taught to express themselves confidently and accurately. Considerable emphasis is placed upon the regular acquisition and practical use of new vocabulary. A broad range of topical listening and reading material is covered in hash, in conjunction with thorough grammatical explanations and exercises. To study any of these languages as a Remove, the language must have been studied in the Fourth Form.

Music

(CIE IGCSE – 0410)

Music IGCSE allows pupils to develop skills in listening, performing and composing. The written examination tests pupils' understanding and perception of a wide range of music, in a variety of styles and genres. Pupils also have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability in performance and composition, which is examined as coursework.

Music IGCSE is not considered to be a prerequisite for Specialist study in Music.

Religious Studies

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4RS0/01)

The IGCSE Religious Studies courses allows for the investigation of fundamental philosophical, ethical, and religious questions. In Part 1 of the course (62%) questions are asked, for example, as to how the meaning and purpose of our lives can be understood; what arguments there are for and against a God; why is there suffering and evil if there is a God; and whether individuals really do have free will – and, if not, whether that means people can be held morally responsible. In addressing these questions exploration is made of non-religious responses as well as religious ones. In Part 2 (38%) the key aspects of Christianity are addressed by: asking what types of authority there are; considering the life of Jesus and the extent to which he should be a role model; exploring how Christians should be expected to live their lives; and also looking at aspects of worship.

Emphasis is placed on the development of a variety of skills, including analysis, evaluation of evidence and objective presentation of different viewpoints, as well as a capacity for coherent and informed thought about these issues which do so much to mould contemporary society.

This specification does not require coursework.

The specification is accessible to pupils of any religious tradition or none.

Contact Details

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