



**SIR
MANASSEH
MEYER**

International School

Secondary School

**CICSE
Grade 9
Curriculum**

May 2026



CICSE Grade 9 Curriculum

Core Subjects

First Language English with English Literature or English as a Second Language

Mathematics or Mathematics with Additional Mathematics¹

Co-ordinated Science

Option Subject Groups

Modern Foreign Languages

Mandarin

Modern Hebrew

Home Language

Humanities and Social Sciences

Geography

History

Environmental Management

Creative and Professional

Art and Design

Music

Physical Education

Global Perspectives

Business Studies



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Core: English

First Language English

First Language English is designed for learners whose first language is English. The course enables learners to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

English as a Second Language

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their education or career. Through their studies, learners will improve their ability to understand and use English in a range of situations.

The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study

Literature in English

The Literature in English syllabus enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Learners develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Core: Mathematics

Mathematics

An essential subject for all learners, iGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a strong basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop competence and fluency with mathematical concepts, methods and skills, as well as a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships.

The syllabus also places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results.

Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts:

Additional Mathematics

Optional and offered subject to teacher assessment of Mathematical ability, ambition and commitment

iGCSE Additional Mathematics supports learners in building competency, confidence and fluency in their use of techniques and mathematical understanding. This course helps learners to develop a feel for quantity, patterns and relationships. Learners will develop their reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills in a variety of contexts.

It provides a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge both for candidates studying mathematics at a higher level and those who will require mathematics to support skills in other subjects. It is designed to stretch the most able candidates and provides a smooth transition to Cambridge AS & A Level Mathematics.



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Core: Science

Sciences – Co-ordinated (Double Award)

Students study all 3 Sciences, and are awarded 2 grades

iGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award qualification, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

They learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Humanities/Social Sciences

Geography

Through the iGCSE Geography syllabus, learners will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. They will also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world.

History

The iGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

Environmental Management

The syllabus is designed to teach learners about sustainable development in a world where the security of resources and life-sustaining systems is endangered by human impact. It draws upon disciplines such as biology, Earth science, geography and economics.

Learners gain an understanding of the Earth's natural systems and how people use natural resources; they then investigate the impact of human development on the environment and learn how the environment can be managed sustainably in the future, from a local as well as a global perspective.



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Options: Languages

There are three different pathways available from Cambridge in iGCSE Chinese. These are Chinese - First Language, Chinese – Second Language and Chinese (Mandarin) Foreign Language. We will recommend the pathway most suited to a student’s ability based on teacher assessment of their Chinese Language ability.

Chinese (Mandarin) Foreign Language

This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture of countries where Mandarin Chinese is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of other languages.

Chinese - Second Language

iGCSE Chinese as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding to progress their education or career. Through their studies, learners achieve a thorough understanding of a wide range of registers and styles and learn to communicate appropriately in different situations.

The syllabus focuses on the linked language skills of reading, writing, listening and oral communication. Through their study of Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language, learners can achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.



Chinese- First Language

The Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese syllabus is designed for learners whose first language is Chinese. The syllabus develops learners' ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and in order to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects. The syllabus also complements other areas of study by encouraging skills of more general application.

Chinese - Second Language

There is currently no iGCSE Hebrew available from Cambridge. We teach the UK based AQA GCSE Modern Hebrew curriculum. We teach this specification and award students with, an internally examined and assessed, SMMIS G10 Modern Hebrew qualification. This is assessed against the AQA GCSE grade thresholds and is equivalent in standard to the CAIE IGCSEs.

AQA's GCSE Modern Hebrew specification has been created with teachers to ensure assessments are clear and accessible, with a range of topics which aim to expand students' cultural knowledge.

Students will be tested in listening, reading, speaking and writing and will develop transferable skills, relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in the culture of Modern Hebrew speaking countries.

Home Language

If students have a mother tongue or home language additional to the above options, and there is a Cambridge iGCSE available in that subject, we offer the option for home study of the language, and we will facilitate the taking of the exam in school.

We would advise that students are actively reading and writing in their home language if they're interested in this. It would also be encouraged to find a language tutor, especially in grade 10, to effectively prepare the student for the requirements of the exam.

Cambridge offer iGCSEs in the following languages spoken by our students:

- French (Foreign Language)
- Spanish (Foreign Language)
- Hindi (Second Language)



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Creative and Professional

Art and Design

The iGCSE Art & Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

Our aim is to develop aesthetic values by providing students with the technical skills needed to perceive and interpret visual images in various media through realism and by using their imagination. Students will be exposed to the design process, creative problem solving, and to help them to see the connections beyond the art studio. Student will be able to recognize, distinguish and appreciate art and cultural influences of different cultures and historical periods and to analyse, compare, interpret, and evaluate one's own art, the art of other students and of major artists. This is with the aim of enhancing creativity and to develop an awareness of each student's inherent creative potential.

Music

When studying the iGCSE Music syllabus, learners listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, learners enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment.

Learners study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and they are encouraged to be perceptive, sensitive and critical when listening. Although the majority of the syllabus examines Western European music, the music of other cultures is always represented.



Physical Education

The iGCSE Physical Education syllabus provides learners with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to encourage enjoyment in physical activity by providing learners with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities and develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance. This helps learners to develop an appreciation of the necessity for sound understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

Business Studies

The Cambridge IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organisation are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence.

Learners not only study business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry. The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study at Cambridge International A Level and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

Global Perspectives

Meeting government ministers, organising a local river clean-up project and writing to the United Nations about climate change, are just some of the activities learners are pursuing through the Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives course.

iGCSE Global Perspectives is a groundbreaking and stimulating course that stretches across traditional subject boundaries and develops transferable skills. It is both cross-curricular and skills-based and taps into the way learners of today enjoy learning, including team work, presentations, projects, and working with other learners around the world. The emphasis is on developing the ability to think critically about a range of global issues where there is always more than one point of view.



Robotics & Coding (G9 & G10)

Across Grades 9 and 10, Robotics & Coding develops computational thinking, programming, and engineering design through block-based and text-based coding platforms. Students design, build, and program robots to solve real-world challenges, progressing from basic algorithms to AI concepts. This hands-on course fosters collaboration, innovation, and digital literacy for both year groups.

Biology

Grade 9 Biology introduces students to fundamental life processes, including cell structure, human physiology, and ecosystems, through hands-on investigations and real-world applications. Learners develop scientific inquiry skills by conducting experiments and analyzing biological data. The course emphasizes sustainability and health, preparing students for advanced study.

Chemistry

In Grade 9 Chemistry, students investigate matter, atomic structure, chemical reactions, and bonding through practical laboratory work and problem-solving activities. The curriculum highlights the periodic table and basic stoichiometry to build conceptual understanding. It equips learners with skills for safe experimentation and scientific reasoning.

Physics

Grade 9 Physics covers foundational concepts like forces, energy, waves, and electricity, using models and experiments to explain natural phenomena. Students apply mathematical skills to analyze motion and electrical circuits. This course nurtures curiosity about the physical world and prepares for IGCSE examinations.



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Non-Examined Subjects

PE

In PE activities, the aim is to promote student-led learning in order to encourage students to become independent thinkers and creative performers. Therefore, assessment will focus on the following:

- Interest
- Collaboration
- Cooperation
- Skill
- Fitness level

Through a skills centred approach, we aim to provide students with an opportunity to acquire advanced sports skills and strategies focusing on effective performance (attacking, dribbling, teamwork) through a broad range of physical activities:

- Interest
- Collaboration
- Cooperation
- Skill
- Fitness level

By the end of CICSE Grade 9, pupils are expected to perform a broad range of advanced sports skills, including the monitoring and evaluation of their own performance and that of their peers.



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

Jewish Education

Overview

This course provides students with opportunities to learn about Judaism and to learn from Judaism. The curriculum covers 4 key areas: Jewish Values/ Tikun Olam; Jewish History; Israel/ Zionism, and the Holocaust. The curriculum has been designed for SMMIS by our team of international educators.

Students are encouraged to respond to and reflect on the lessons being taught with a strong emphasis on an understanding of the impact that Jewish History has had on the Jewish People today. Jewish values have a central focus in this curriculum where students are encouraged to explore Jewish values from different perspectives that are thought provoking and meaningful. Each class focuses on Jewish values in a way that highlights the distinctive contribution Judaism makes to the challenges of modern life.

This course is taught in an interactive and dynamic way with students being expected to involve themselves in research projects and presentations.

Key Outcomes

Jewish/Universal Values – Tikun Olam

- To know and understand how the Jewish People have engaged in Social Action throughout the ages
- To understand that Jews have a responsibility to have a positive impact on the world
- To understand the many similarities Judaism has with other cultures and shared values
- To develop a lifelong commitment to engaging with the universal values and integrating them into their lives
- To engage in Social Action, as an expression of Jewish values, both inside and outside of the Jewish community



Jewish History and the Jewish People

- To know about and understand the origins and the development of Jewish History and the Jewish People
- To identify with the diversity of individuals and groups that make up the Jewish People
- To understand the impact Jewish History has had and continues to have on the Jewish People today

Israel- Zionism

- To know about and understand the history and development of the modern State of Israel
- To appreciate Israel as central to the Jewish People
- To develop a meaningful and lifelong relationship with the State of Israel

Holocaust Studies

- To know and understand the causes of World War Two and the Holocaust (Shoah)
- To identify the evolution and spread of antisemitism, Anti-Jewish policies and propaganda
- To identify the consequences of the Holocaust
- To understand the impact the Holocaust has had and continues to have on the Jewish People today
- To develop a meaningful way to remember and ensure that history doesn't repeat itself

Tefilah

Each morning, Grade 9 students participate in Tefilla, focusing on Shacharit prayers including the Shema, Amidah, and Psalms to build spiritual connection and Hebrew fluency. The session incorporates guided reflection on prayer themes like gratitude and community, fostering personal growth within a pluralistic international school setting. Students engage actively through responsive reading and short discussions to deepen their understanding of Jewish tradition.

Religious Studies

Grade 9 Religious Studies focuses on the core beliefs, practices, and sacred texts of Judaism and Islam, fostering an appreciation for their historical and cultural significance. Students explore key themes such as worship, ethics, and community life, encouraging respectful dialogue and personal reflection. This course builds critical thinking skills through comparative analysis in an international school context.



CICSE GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

PSHE (Personal Social, Health Education)

PSHE is a developmental program of learning through which children in all grades acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to manage their lives now and in future. PSHE builds on the skills for students to develop effective relationships, assume greater responsibility and manage personal safety. It will introduce the students to a wider world and enable them to make an active contribution to their communities.