



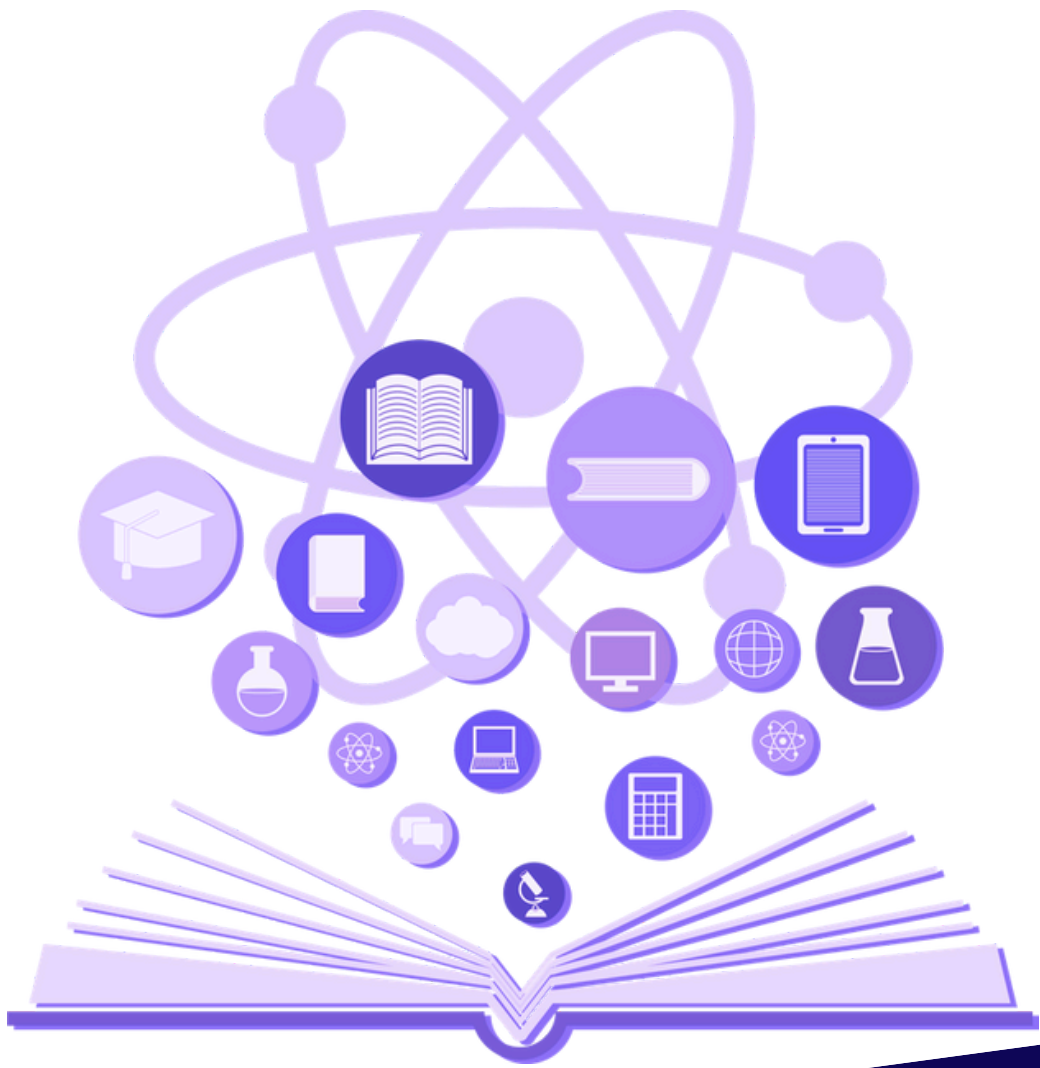
**AMERICAN
ACADEMY
LARNACA**
PRIVATE SCHOOL



CURRICULUM & GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET

Year 4 & 5

2026 - 2028



Education is not confined to classrooms. It's a lifelong process. It keeps your mind active and engaged, ensuring you continue to learn and grow throughout your life.





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FORWARD BY THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students,

Year 3 marks a pivotal stage in your educational journey, as it is the year when you begin making choices and decisions that may have significant consequences—not only for the remainder of your time at school but also for your future studies and career aspirations. It is crucial to approach this process thoughtfully and with a clear understanding of its importance.

Key Considerations When Selecting Your GCSE Subjects

Maintain a Broad Range of Courses

While you may have a specific career in mind now, it is important to remember that your ambitions and interests could evolve over time. By keeping your subject choices broad, you will retain the flexibility to adapt to changes in your goals and future opportunities.

Align Choices with Your Ambitions

The subjects you select should help you achieve your educational and career aspirations and contribute to your training and future employment opportunities.

Reflect on Your Strengths and Future Pathways

Your choices should reflect subjects in which you are likely to succeed, as this will impact your ability to pursue certain courses in Years 6 and 7, as well as your eligibility for university studies.

Core Compulsory Subjects

The core subjects provide a solid foundation, ensuring you maintain a balanced education while satisfying the requirements for future studies and career options.

Seek Advice and Guidance

- The Academic Counsellors are available to assist you with any questions or concerns. You are advised to arrange an appointment as early as possible and to avoid waiting until the deadline to seek advice.
- Teachers can provide valuable insights into the demands and expectations of each subject, helping you determine whether you are suited for a particular course.
- Speak with older students (Years 4–7) to gain first-hand perspectives on the subjects you are considering.
- Remember, if you fail a subject in Year 3, you will not be permitted to take it as an option in Year 4.

Choose Wisely

- Select subjects that are both useful and enjoyable as you are more likely to excel in courses that align with your interests and strengths.
- Avoid choosing a subject solely because a friend has chosen it, as you may end up in different groups.

By taking the time to carefully evaluate your options and seek appropriate guidance, you can make decisions that will set the foundation for a successful and fulfilling academic and professional future.

Sincerely,

Margarita Constantinidou
Senior School Principal

CURRICULUM FOR YEARS 4 & 5



In years 4 & 5, students study a mixture of compulsory and elective subjects, as shown in the table below.

	In Year 4	In Year 5
COMPULSORY SUBJECTS		
	Periods per week	
Double English IGCSEs	5	7
¹ Mathematics IGCSE and P1/ Statistics IGCSE	4	3
Physical Education	1	2
² Religious Studies GCSE and Ethics	3	1
³ Combined Science GCSEs	4	4
TOTAL COMPULSORY SUBJECTS PERIODS	17	17
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS - Choose four (4) from the below		
Accounting IGCSE	4	4
Art & Design GCSE	4	4
Computer Science GCSE	4	4
Economics IGCSE	4	4
French IGCSE	4	4
German IGCSE	4	4
Geography IGCSE	4	4
History IGCSE	4	4
⁴ Greek GCSE / Greek GCSE and MOEC curriculum	4	4
Music GCSE	4	4
Physical Education GCSE	4	4
Triple Science GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry, Physics	4	4
TOTAL ELECTIVE SUBJECTS PERIODS	16	16
GRAND TOTAL	33	33



1. At the end of Year 4 all students will sit the Mathematics IGCSE examination. In Year 5 students will cover part of the Mathematics AS syllabus (module P1) in preparation for Year 6 or study for the IGCSE in Statistics. The course that each student follows depends on his / her Year 4 external examination result in the IGCSE in Mathematics.

2. Students will finish off the material for the GCSE short course in Religious Studies, which they began in Y3, and will sit the external exam in Y4. In Y5, students will study for an internally assessed ethics course.

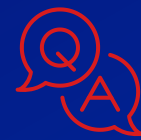
3. Students who study Combined Science sit the GCSE in Combined Science, which is a double GCSE. This means that students taking Combined Science will receive the equivalent of two GCSE grades. The Combined Science GCSE covers topics in all three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Students who take Triple Science will sit the GCSE in Biology, the GCSE in Chemistry and the GCSE in Physics. This means that students taking Triple Science will receive three GCSEs.

4. a) Students of Cypriot or Greek origin must take the GCSE in Modern Greek.
b) Students of any other origin may choose any of the Greek classes, if they want to.

-
- *The American Academy Larnaca reserves the right to change the above curriculum whenever it feels that this would be in the best interest of its students.*
 - *The information in this booklet is accurate at the time of print.*
 - *Please note that syllabi may be subject to change, as dictated by the Examination Boards.*



CHOOSING YOUR YEAR 4 & 5 SUBJECTS



In order to make decisions that will affect your future career, education and life in general, you must ensure that you consider all relevant factors.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE

1. Do I like the subject?

Obviously this is an important question because students usually do better at subjects they like.

2. Am I good at a subject?

The majority of the GCSEs are a continuation of subjects you are already studying, so you should be able to judge your ability in the subject. Do not choose a subject which you have problems with. If the course was not taught at a lower level, then ask teachers and the academic counsellors for guidance.

3. Does my teacher advise me to choose the subject?

Teachers, with their extensive experience, can give you expert advice on your suitability for a course. Please ask them for advice.

4. Does the course interest me?

Subjects in Years 4 and 5 introduce new ideas and work, which have not been taught yet. The Taster sessions delivered in class were meant to give you an overview of what will be taught in the next two years. Ask teachers if you want to find out more about any particular course. Detailed Syllabi are found on the Exam Boards' Websites. Ask Year 4 and Year 5 students who are studying these courses currently for their opinion.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE

1. What is my career goal?

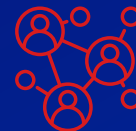
You should investigate all the possible career paths you are considering. Take advantage of all the available resources such as the Taster Sessions and the Resources Folder, and speak to professionals, in order to gather valuable information, opening up your horizons to consider new paths and have your questions answered.

2. Will choosing this subject limit my career choices?

Make sure that you are not choosing a subject at the expense of another that you may need more. This is especially true for those subjects that are required for your future career plans.

3. What are Universities looking for?

Universities are usually looking for three good A-Level passes (preferably in traditional subjects) and a good group of passes at GCSE level including Mathematics and English. Remember that when you apply to University, your GCSE grades are used as an indicator of your academic abilities for admission to competitive courses, such as Medicine, and to top ranking Universities worldwide. You should investigate all of the Universities / countries that you are interested in, in order to make an informed decision. Ask the Academic Counsellors for guidance and use the websites located at the end of this booklet.



Academic Counsellors

The School Counsellors are available (by appointment) to discuss your subject choices and check that you have a good balance and the right subjects required to meet your career goals. Parents are encouraged to attend.

People

Teachers, Heads of Faculty, older students, University personnel (by email).

Taster Sessions

Delivered for every subject during lessons in the month of January, these sessions aim to provide students with an overview of what each course will cover, how it will be taught and what kind of assignments it requires.

Presentations

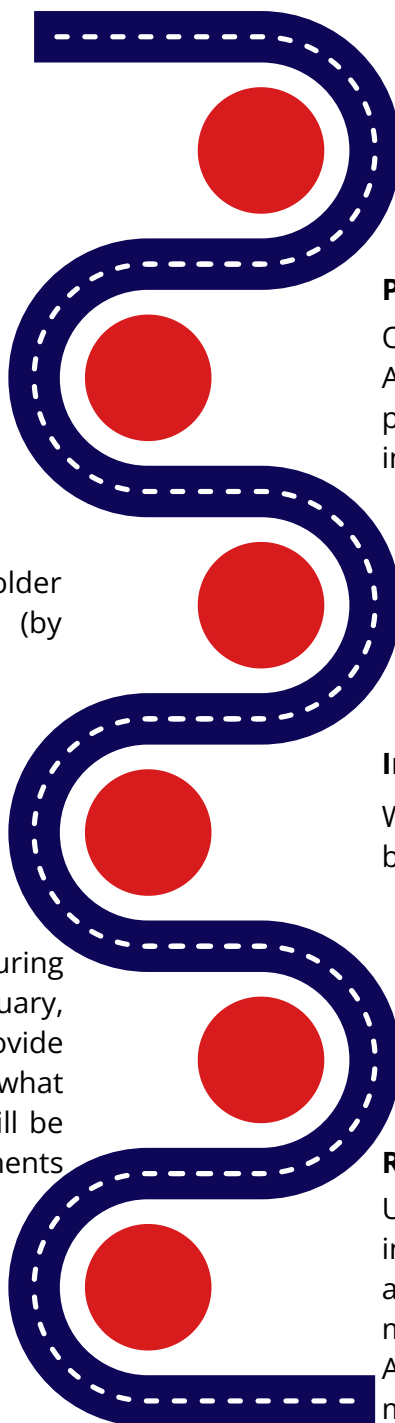
Options presentations delivered by the Academic Counsellors and Assembly presentations delivered by inspirational guests.

Internet

Websites given at the back of this booklet, University websites.

Resources Folder

Uploaded on Teams with useful information about researching careers and Universities. These include the material delivered in class by the Academic Counsellors during the months of November and December.



You are strongly encouraged to select a balanced programme. It is possible for you to specialise but you must bear in mind that future demands of Higher Education and employment require breadth in addition to depth (specialisation).

THE OPTIONS PROCEDURE



- This booklet describes all the subjects it is possible to take at the Academy. You must make your choices from these subjects.

- You must choose FOUR GCSE subjects. Restrictions apply to students of Cypriot / Greek origin. [See note *4 on page 6]

- It must be clearly noted that those subjects that do not attract enough students will not run. As a general rule, courses should have at least 12 students interested in them. Once the options forms are submitted, an initial review will eliminate these courses, and students will be asked to make another choice.

- The Academic Counsellors, the Assistant Principal Curriculum and the appropriate Heads of Faculty will monitor your choices. If it is considered that any unsuitable choices have been made, you will be called in for further counselling.

- When this process is complete, we will then arrange student choices onto the options grid. This may again affect some students who may need to rethink their choices.

- When the blocks have been finalised there will be some limited movement within the blocks, but the timetable will prevent major changes. It is essential to remember that when you have chosen your subjects for years 4 & 5, they are not negotiable! Only in exceptional circumstances will students be allowed to alter the options.

- The school allows changes in options during the teaching week of September, subject of course to timetable and class size constraints. Students will test their chosen subjects for a week and determine, to some extent, if they should follow through with them. After this week, Heads of Faculty must approve requests for changes and may request a placement exam.

- Please note that the school cannot accommodate requests for specific teachers.

OPTIONS GRID

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
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COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Combined Science



ENGLISH

IGCSEs

(Double Award)

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1)

English Language (4EB1)

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9-1)

English Literature (4ET1)

COURSE AIMS

- Two rigorous and empowering IGCSE qualifications in English Language and English Literature
- Transferable critical and analytical thought
- Confidence in spoken language skills

Course Description

A carefully constructed subject designed to develop, enhance and refine students' written, analytical and spoken skills, whilst promoting creativity, cultural/worldly awareness and critical/independent thought—all indispensable skills for individual development.

The students will sharpen their skills in:

a) **Creative and transactional writing.** The students will be asked to prove their accuracy in Standard English in producing coherent and organised pieces of writing, applying their knowledge of effective skills and techniques.

b) **Close reading, analysis and comparison of texts from different genres, fiction and non-fiction.** The students will be exposed to a large number of texts in order to sharpen their analytical and critical skills. They will need to evaluate how writers use language, structure and techniques in order to produce meaningful and engaging writing.

c) **Appreciation and critical analysis of literary texts, through poetry, prose and drama, including Shakespeare.** With close guidance, students will study a selection of 15 poems portraying themes such as conflict, love and relationships.

Students will refine their language skills and develop their critical thinking by engaging in diverse texts from a range of international authors and poets.

d) **Spoken language skills will be developed throughout the 2 years culminating in an internally assessed presentation of a student's area of interest in Year 5.** Students will receive a spoken language endorsement grade that is indicated separately as part of their final IGCSE.

External Exam

For English Language:

Topic	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written Paper	100%

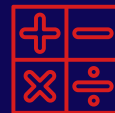
For English Literature:

Topic	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written Paper	60%
Paper 2	Written Paper	40%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Chrystoulla Mosfiliotis.

Career Opportunities

There are many career opportunities and can range from obvious ones like teaching, journalism and media, to less obvious ones like law, politics, psychology and business. The skills learnt when studying English are valuable for any occupation which requires analysis, critical thinking, linguistic skills, decision making, dealing with people etc. It is regarded as a good academic subject and is valued internationally, as it is the most important language world-wide.



MATHEMATICS

IGCSE

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Mathematics (4MA1)

COURSE AIMS

- Development of knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquisition, selection and application of mathematical techniques to solve all types of problems
- Comprehension, interpretation and communication of mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

Course Description

Mathematics uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulas, to develop crucial skills for life. Practically, maths helps us put a price on things, create graphics, build skyscrapers and generally understand how things work or predict how they might change over time and under different conditions.

The study of Mathematics IGCSE began in Year 3 and will finish at the end of Year 4. During this two-year cycle, you will deepen your understanding and develop your reasoning and problem-solving in the following topics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry
- Measure, Probability, Statistics

Teachers follow a spiral teaching programme in which students will continuously revisit earlier areas of knowledge to strengthen their critical thinking.

Career Opportunities

The IGCSE provides a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques necessary for progression into A Level.

Career opportunities for students who study Mathematics include: industry, accountancy, economics, healthcare, medicine, veterinary science and engineering.

This spiral process allows for continual development to challenge the most able learners, while reinforcing previous learning for those who may struggle with maths.

In Year 5, following the publication of IGCSE results, students will be placed in appropriate classes to commence their studies in Mathematics. Normally, students obtaining grade 5 or better in the IGCSE will be placed in the A-Level beginner course, whereas students obtaining a grade of 4 or below will be placed in the IGCSE Statistics class. The beginner A-Level class will cover most of module P1 and will allow students to select any of the Mathematics A-Levels in Year 6, whereas the Statistics class will allow students to obtain an additional IGCSE; the latter does not, however, allow students to choose any of the Mathematics A-Levels as an option in Year 6.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written Paper	50%
Paper 2	Written Paper	50%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Athena Antoniou.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE AIMS

- Maintain your physical and mental health
- Learn to work as a member of a team
- Appreciate the value of discipline, perseverance and good sportsmanship

Course Description

Physical Education offers students an active lifestyle through a variety of games and other activities. It enables them to learn the rules and regulations of the activities they engage in and thus develop both their knowledge and skills.

Through Physical Education students learn how and why they exercise and they also learn to work as individuals or as part of a team.

Physical Education promotes self-confidence as well as team spirit. The aim of Physical Education is to teach students to love exercise and understand that it must become a lifestyle for them.

The course includes the following sports:

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Football
- Athletics
- Futsal
- Gymnastics
- Handball
- Badminton
- Fitness



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Emese Meszaros.

“ I have always believed exercise is a key not only to physical health but to peace of mind. ”

-Nelson Mandela



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCSE

AQA GCSE Short Course in Religious Studies (8061)

COURSE AIMS

- Learn how to conduct independent research
- Develop your critical thinking, analytical skills and empathy
- Present your ideas in front of an audience and improve your public speaking skills

Course Description

A fascinating subject that explores a range of religions and philosophical and ethical topics. Religious Studies is a short GCSE course that is compulsory in Years 3 and 4. In this course, students will be given the opportunity to explore upon the beliefs, values, meaning and purpose of Christianity and Judaism in order to enable them to develop their own values and attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will be able to explore how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, and investigate these areas by looking at thematic studies such as relationships and family, and peace and conflict.

In Year 3 students will be looking at the beliefs and teachings of Judaism.

In Year 4 students will study Christianity and Judaism and learn to distinguish between the similarities and differences between the 2 religions. In addition, they will also look at how the two religions affect people's relationships and attitudes towards family issues, marriage and sexuality.

They will study how Christianity and Judaism have affected people's attitudes towards war, peace and conflict. Students will be examining and analysing contradicting views and mindsets in regards to how beliefs and religious practices influence peoples' choices.

In Year 5, Religious studies will be taught for 1 period a week and will cover purely philosophical and ethical issues such as the origins of human kind in regards to evolution, abortion, cloning and the problem of evil.

External Exam

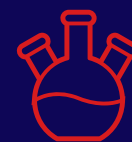
Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written Paper	100%



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mr. George Michael.

Career Opportunities

The course encourages students to develop the critical and evaluative skills which will enable them to progress to Higher Education to study a wide range of courses, including Religious Studies, Philosophy, Law, Sociology and the Social Sciences, Arts/ Humanities and Classics. Religious Studies complements many other popular A Levels including Philosophy, Law, History, History of Art, Government and Politics, Sociology, Psychology and English Literature.



COMBINED SCIENCE GCSE

Double Award

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Pearson Edexcel Double Award GCSE in
Combined Science (1SC0)

COURSE AIMS

- Develop your scientific knowledge and understanding.
- Develop and learn to apply your observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills in the laboratory and elsewhere
- Develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis.

Course Description

A continuation of the Science course you began in Year 3 leading to two GCSEs. Combined Science continues our approach to Science with equal emphases on Biology, Chemistry and Physics giving you sufficient preparation to embark on A-Level science courses.

Biology

- Life processes' dependence on molecules whose structure is related to their function cells as the fundamental units of living organisms which may be part of highly adapted structures including tissues, organs and organ systems.
- Living organisms forming populations of single species, communities of many species and ecosystems, interacting with each other, with the environment and with humans in many different ways.
- The interdependence of living organisms and their adaptations to their environment photosynthesis as necessary for life on Earth.
- Organic compounds being used as fuels in cellular respiration to allow the other chemical reactions necessary for life.
- Chemicals in ecosystems that are continually cycling through the natural world how the characteristics of a living organism are influenced by its genome and its interaction with the environment.

- Evolution as a process of natural selection which accounts both for biodiversity and how organisms are all related to varying degrees.

Chemistry

- Atoms as the tiny particles that matter is composed of and that there are about 100 different naturally occurring types of atoms called elements. That elements show periodic relationships in their chemical and physical properties.
- How these periodic properties can be explained in terms of the atomic structure of the elements.
- How atoms bond by either transferring electrons from one atom to another or by sharing electrons.
- How shapes of molecules (groups of atoms bonded together) and the way giant structures are arranged is of great importance in terms of the way they behave.
- How chemical reactions occur.
- Conservation of energy in chemical reactions.



Course Description

Physics

- The use of models, as in the particle model of matter or the wave models of light and of sound.
- The concept of cause and effect in explaining such links as those between force and acceleration, or between changes in atomic nuclei and radioactive emissions.
- That proportionality, for example between weight and mass of an object or between force and extension in a spring, is an important aspect of many models in science.
- The phenomenon of “action at a distance” to analyse electrical, magnetic and gravitational effects
- That differences, for example between pressures or temperatures or electrical potentials, are the drivers of change.
- That physical laws and models are expressed in mathematical form.

External Exam

Topic	Assessment Type	Weighting
Biology 1	Written paper	16.6%
Biology 2	Written paper	16.6%
Chemistry 1	Written paper	16.6%
Chemistry 2	Written paper	16.6%
Physics 1	Written paper	16.6%
Physics 2	Written paper	16.6%



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Christiana Panayiotou-Mavri.



GCSE Combined Science should not be considered an easier option than Triple Science as although there is a reduction in content the same topics are studied to the same level but in much less time!

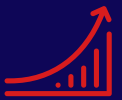
Career Opportunities

Science is essential for many careers (Nursing, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Engineering, Medicine, Information Technology, Technology, Environmental Health, Architecture, Archaeology, Pilots, surveying etc) and is necessary to understand the principles behind many vocations.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

- Accounting
- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Economics
- French
- German
- Geography
- History
- Modern Greek
- Music
- Physical Education
- Triple Science





ACCOUNTING

IGCSE

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Accounting (4AC1)

COURSE AIMS

- Develop a good understanding of the nature and purpose of accounting in business organisations, and the principles on which accounting is based.
- Use accounting as an important aid to business decision- making and a valuable means of assessing the financial position of an organisation.
- Get a sound base on which to build a successful business career.

Course Description

Accounting is the language used to communicate the financial wellbeing of a business to all interested parties in order to help them make important business decisions.

In **Year 4** you will be introduced to the basic principles of accounting. You will learn about all the stages of the accounting cycle: the books of original entry, double entry in the ledger and the preparation of the financial statements. You will also become familiar with some control processes like the trial balance, bank reconciliations, control accounts and the correction of errors.

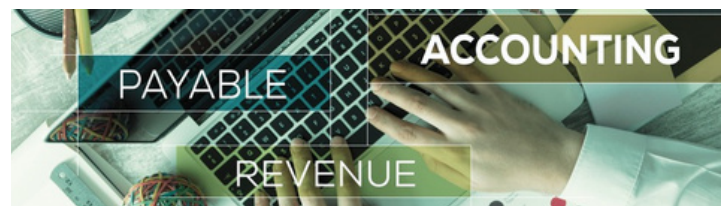
In **Year 5** you will study the end of period adjustments such as depreciation, irrecoverable debts and other receivables and payables. You will learn to prepare the Financial Statements of firms that keep incomplete records.

You will continue to explore in more depth the accounting environment of different types of business organisations, like sole traders, partnerships and manufacturing firms.

By the end of the course you will be able to perform analysis and interpretation using accounting ratios and also apply accounting concepts to various situations and evaluate professional ethics.

External Exam

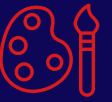
Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written Paper	66.6%
Paper 2	Written Paper	33.3%



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mr. George Georgiou.

Career Opportunities

A pass in GCSE Accounting is a necessary requirement to enter A Level Accounting in Year 6. Accounting is particularly useful to those who intend to study further in the areas of Accounting, Economics, Business Administration, Banking, Hotel Management, Human Resources, Actuarial Sciences, Marketing, Civil Engineering, Financial Services, and a range of other courses. Accounting provides students with a sound basis on which to build a successful business career.



ART & DESIGN

GCSE

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Art & Design: Fine Art (1FA0)

COURSE AIMS

- Explore relevant resources, analyse, discuss and evaluate images, objects and artefacts, make and record independent judgments.
- Record experiences and observations in a variety of ways using drawing or other appropriate visual forms.
- Apply knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts; plan and develop ideas in the light of their own and others' evaluations.

Course Description

Art and Design GCSE equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject.

Students are introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of 2D and 3D media, techniques and processes and also learn to apply a creative approach to problem solving. These examples are shown through practical activities in which students demonstrate their understanding of different styles and movements.

The projects give students the opportunity to develop their own ideas independently and to also develop original ideas from initiation to realisation. Students are also encouraged to express individual thoughts and choices confidently, take risks, experiment and learn from mistakes.

Special emphasis is given to Art History and critical analysis of their own work and the work of others.

In **Year 4** you will study: A coursework project which consists of a personal portfolio (sketchbook/supporting studies) and a final outcome to a theme set by the center. This project will be continued in the first semester of Year 5. This project allows students to develop and explore ideas, research primary and contextual sources and to also experiment with media, materials, techniques and processes.

In **Year 5**, following the completion of the coursework project, students will start working on the exam project, which is based on an externally set theme. The exam project consists of a personal portfolio (sketchbook/supporting studies) and a final outcome in a 10-hour sustained focus period under examination conditions. This project allows students to develop and explore ideas, research primary and contextual sources and to also experiment with media, materials, techniques and processes.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Coursework Project	60%
Unit 2	Exam Project	40%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Emese Meszaros.

Career Opportunities

The course will provide a good basis for further studies at A Level and supports applications made to art colleges and universities.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE

Cambridge IGCSE in (0984) Computer Science

COURSE AIMS

- Fosters essential skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Learn about various areas from software development and cybersecurity to data science and artificial intelligence.
- In high demand across various industries due to the central role of technology in today's world.

Course Description

Become proficient and expand your career opportunities by studying one of the most in-demand courses in current times.

Build upon the fundamentals of computational thinking and programming with this course, as it develops students computational thinking and programming knowledge.

The course brings computer science to life through real-life contexts and applications, including a new 'Introduction to programming scenarios' chapter and case studies from Research® along with introduction to programming paradigms without demanding any prior knowledge as many materials are being taught using visual learning techniques.

A three-tiered approach to programming tasks across the course develops both skills and for students of all levels of understanding which makes this course accessible to students of all capabilities but at the same time challenging and informative.

The course provides opportunity for self-evaluation and peer assessment and also provides exam-style questions to help consolidate learning and provide suitable practice.

The course provides support for students with limited prior learning, helping them keep up with the key concepts and provides accessibility to the recent material of today's technology.

Students will experience in class Virtual Reality, programming in a High-Level language, Internet Security, Hacking, Databases and Boolean logic.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written Paper	50%
Paper 2	Written Paper	50%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Athena Antoniou.

Career Opportunities

A GCSE in Computer Science opens the doors to a whole range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in your future studies and employment. Offers a wide array of well-paying career options and equips students with skills that open doors to numerous job prospects such as game developer, administrator, IT project manager, software development and so much more. If you enjoy the GCSE course, you might want to move on to the A level course in Computer Science. According to a recent study Computing jobs are the #1 source of new wages in the US and the EU.



ECONOMICS

IGCSE

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Economics (4EC1)

COURSE AIMS

- Develop an understanding of economic concepts to real-life situations.
- Gain an awareness of economic change and its impact on developing and developed economies.
- The course facilitates effective participation in society as citizens, producers and consumers.

Course Description

Economics is the study of how resources are allocated to satisfy the unlimited needs and wants of individuals, governments, and firms.

The subject is of great interest and value. It stimulates your interest in discovering how the real world works and how it may affect you and your family. It emphasises on the importance of being able to analyse events and situations and make your own decisions.

Students who successfully follow this course will have a good understanding of economies, an awareness of economic concepts and economic change, and the ability to interpret and handle data in their analysis.

Career Opportunities

A pass in GCSE Economics is a necessary requirement to enter the A-Level Economics course in Year 6. Economics is a suitable subject to complement science, social science, and/or arts subjects. Economics is particularly useful to those who intend to study further in the areas of Economics, Accounting, Business Administration, Banking, Hotel Management, Civil Engineering, Financial Services and a range of other subjects. Economics provides students with a sound base on which to build a successful business career. Many of our students are able to secure employment in a variety of institutions such as government departments, banks, accounting firms and other business organisations.

In **Year 4**, you will study the main basic principles relating to the micro economy such as demand and supply, the role of the market in solving the economic problem of scarcity, the mechanism behind labour markets as well as issues relating to production, competition and business behavior.

In **Year 5** you will study the main principles relating to the macro economy while reinforcing your knowledge of the micro economy. More particularly, the issues of the main macroeconomic objectives will be studied in detail; topics such as inflation, unemployment, balance of payments and economic growth.

Students will have the opportunity to study the main tools of government policy to achieve these objectives. Lastly all these issues will be extended to global economies to study the issues of globalization, international trade, and exchange rates.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written paper	50%
Paper 2	Written paper	50%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mr. George Georgiou.



FRENCH

IGCSE

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in French (4FR1)

COURSE AIMS

- French is a global language spoken by more than 200 million people on all 5 continents.
- You will learn to communicate in French and be able to hold conversations with other French speakers through this modern and interactive course.
- You will develop an awareness and understanding of French culture and be involved in activities and trips which will promote this.

Course Description

IGCSE French helps students of all abilities progress and develop a passion for languages, encouraging enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable students to become part of a multilingual global society.

The course is based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will learn how to communicate through authentic situations which will enable you to see language in context and learn about France's traditions, culture as well as its role in today's society.

In both **Year 4 and 5** you will study five popular topics:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities, fitness and health

In **Year 5** you will be required to produce work of a higher level and there will be more emphasis on exam technique and practice as we move closer to the exam date.

It is an engaging and inspirational course that will enable you to use the language independently and creatively, so that you have a solid foundation in order to progress to A level or employment.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Listening	25%
Unit 2	Speaking	25%
Unit 3	Reading and writing	50%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Thekla Patsalou.

Career Opportunities

French is a key qualification in a united Europe and a globalized world. It is useful for careers in industry, technology, engineering, business, tourism and many more. Since Cyprus is a member of the European Union, French companies on the island will seek to employ people who can speak this language whilst Cypriot companies will also find it valuable. A French qualification will give a definite advantage when seeking employment, either in Cyprus or abroad.



GERMAN

IGCSE

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in German (4GN1)

COURSE AIMS

- Knowledge of German increases your job opportunities with German and foreign companies in your own country and abroad.
- Learning German gives you the opportunity to appreciate the masterpieces of famous authors including Goethe, Kafka, Brecht and Thomas Mann, in their original form.
- Get to know the German culture, customs, traditions.

Course Description

The course will be offered to students who have already completed the first year of the German language course in Year 3. Students undertaking this course will have the opportunity to sit the IGCSE exam at the end of the year 5.

The IGCSE level consists of four assessed skills. These are: Listening, reading, speaking and writing. IGCSE in German allows students to develop their ability to communicate with German native speakers in both speaking and writing. They will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of culture of German speaking communities and countries.

In **Year 4** you will study how to create more complex sentences using past tenses, adverbs, prepositions and how to interact with more confidence.

A lot of emphasis will be given to translation from German to English and from English to German.

In **Year 5** you will study how to prepare for the external IGCSE exam. Past papers will be given so that you will know early in advance what is expected of you. Emphasis will be equally given to all four skills listening, reading, speaking and writing. By the end of the course students will be feeling more confident to use the language in speaking and writing with no hesitation.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Listening	25%
Unit 2	Speaking	25%
Unit 3	Reading and writing	50%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Thekla Patsalou.

Career Opportunities

German is useful for careers in industry, technology and engineering in addition to many aspects of business. Since Cyprus is a member of the European Union, companies from German-speaking countries seek to employ people who can speak this language. The knowledge of German will give a advantage when seeking employment, either in Cyprus or abroad.

GEOGRAPHY



IGCSE

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Geography (4GE1)

COURSE AIMS

- Learn about physical landscapes, how people can impact them, and how we can make our world more sustainable.
- Develop a range of transferable skills needed in undergraduate courses and future careers.
- Learn to work as a member of a team, through collaborative fieldwork investigations.

Course Description

Geography offers students a voyage of discovery of world issues and the landscapes that make our planet unique.

By the time you complete the International GCSE in Geography, you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- Why human and physical environments and landscapes appear as they are.
- How and why patterns of human and physical features differ from place to place across the earth.
- Differences and inequality within the human world: especially the economic, social and political causes of inequality and economic development.

- The importance of spatial scales- global to local- and time scales for physical and human processes, together with their interactions.
- How to observe, describe, analyse, represent, interpret and report information about the world.
- Geography involves a variety of IT such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and is an integral part to GCSE.

In **Year 4** you will study: River Environments, Economic Activity and Energy, Coastal Environments.

In **Year 5** you will study: Rural Environments, Fragile Environments, Climate Change.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written paper	40%
Paper 2	Written paper	60%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mr. George Michael.

Career Opportunities

The GCSE provides a foundation for further study of Geography AS/A2. It can be successfully combined with both arts and science subjects as a foundation for higher education. Opportunities include: Geology, Teaching, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Management, Hazard Management, GIS Specialist, Meteorologist and Climatologist, Journalism, Marketing, Urban and Regional Planning, Real Estate Development, Tourism and Social Science Geography. The skills developed as a Geographer are applicable to a wide range of career opportunities.



GREEK (1)

GCSE

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Greek (1GK0)

COURSE AIMS

- Gain an ability to apply grammar and syntax rules in Greek texts.
- Sharpen your critical thinking and skills.
- A broad course and a solid foundation for a wide range of degree paths.

Course Description

A subject for reinforcing the student's listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

GCSE Greek allows students to develop their ability to communicate with Greek native speakers in both speaking and writing. Students will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of Greek-speaking communities and countries.

Language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes.

The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area holiday, travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

This is a subject that can be taken by non- native speakers of Greek.

Career Opportunities

The course provides a deeper understanding of the Greek language and civilization. The qualification can lead into a range of possible careers such as Law, Comparative Literature, Comparative Linguistics, English Literature, Journalism, Drama, History and Classics. Also, the University of Cyprus has a range of courses and Modern Greek is essential for all of them.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Listening	25%
Unit 2	Speaking	25%
Unit 3	Reading	25%
Unit 4	Writing	25%



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Thekla Patsalou.



GREEK (2)

GCSE

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Greek (1GK0)
Cyprus Ministry of Education curriculum

COURSE AIMS

- Gain an ability to apply grammar and syntax rules in Greek texts.
- Sharpen your critical thinking and skills.
- A broad course and a solid foundation for a wide range of degree paths.

Course Description

The course will enable you to develop your ability to read, understand and respond to a variety of texts and will constantly challenge your understanding of any text in Greek.

The course is designed to enhance your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of different kinds of text genres. It will also help you develop a wide understanding of the world around you, enhance your critical thinking skills and enrich your vocabulary.

It is a broad course and for this reason it is a solid foundation for a wide range of degree paths. It also gives you the chance to express your opinion in an essay on a specific subject.

The students should state their ideas in a very succinct way, thus they learn to organise their thoughts and use the proper vocabulary to express themselves.

This is a subject that can be taken by native Greek speakers.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Listening	25%
Unit 2	Speaking	25%
Unit 3	Reading	25%
Unit 4	Writing	25%



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Thekla Patsalou.

Career Opportunities

The course provides a deeper understanding of the Greek language and civilization. The qualification can lead to a range of possible careers such as Law, Comparative Literature, Comparative Linguistics, English Literature, Journalism, Drama, History and Classics. Also, the University of Cyprus has a range of courses and Modern Greek is essential for all of them.



HISTORY

IGCSE

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in History (4HI1)

COURSE AIMS

- Useful for promoting strong writing skills, expanding one's vocabulary and evaluating interpretations.
- Heighten your skills in organising, selecting and prioritizing information by order of importance or by category.
- Learn to construct opinions effectively by employing evidence and discussing conflicting arguments.

Course Description

An important foundation for writing and thinking skills whilst learning more about workings of the world.

In **Year 4** you will study: Development of dictatorship: Germany, 1918-1945 – An insight into how Germany slipped from parliamentary democracy as a Republic to one of the most formidable and frightening totalitarian states within months. We explore the dynamics of Nazism and its dramatic impact on German society.

The USA 1918-1941 – A look at how the USA became the world's richest and most efficient economic power and then dived into the depths of severe depression following the Wall Street Crash. The election of President Roosevelt and his New Deal policies are an important case study for impressive recovery in the face of disaster.

In **Year 5** you will study: A world divided: superpower relations, 1943-1972 – The Second World War ended with the USA, Britain and USSR united as victors against Nazi Germany.

This topic is a wonderful study of the change from unity to an atmosphere of tension, suspicion and misunderstanding with the rise of the Cold War. We observe the flash points which, at every instance, had everyone in anticipation of a Third World War.

Conflict, crisis and change: the Middle East, 1919-2012 – A broad study of the ongoing tensions between Jews and the Arab communities of the Middle East, beginning with the rise of Zionism and Palestinian nationalism, the creation of Israel and the subsequent retaliatory wars, and the social changes working in parallel to the political instability. We study the refugee problem, the rise of terrorism and the actions of populist movements that add to the complexities of the political turmoil.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written paper	50%
Paper 2	Written paper	50%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mr. George Michael.

Career Opportunities

In particular the top universities look for students with a sound cultural education of which History is certainly an essential part. History provides an excellent background to all arts and social science careers. As a GCSE subject, it is useful for careers in International Relations/Diplomacy, Politics, Architecture, Archeology, Museum work, teaching and all kinds of arts such as Literature, Philosophy, Theology etc. The skills of investigation, critical thinking, weighing arguments and examining evidence which will be developed in History are very valuable in careers like Law, Journalism, Media and Communication Science, Public Relations, Management and many others.



MUSIC

GCSE

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Music (1MU0)

COURSE AIMS

- Form personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge.
- Engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts.
- Develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts.

You will develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used.

In **Year 5** you will study two more areas of study. By now you will be able to recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and you will develop awareness of musical chronology. You will develop as effective and independent learners with enquiring minds and you will be able to reflect on and evaluate your own and others' music. Your performing and composing skills will continue to develop.

Course Description

An exciting course designed for those who love music and enjoy sharing this passion with others who feel the same way.

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language and apply your knowledge through the context of set works and wider listening. You will investigate, analyse and evaluate music and its features, thus taking a more holistic view of your knowledge, performance and compositional skills. The course contains four areas of study, with two set works in each.

In **Year 4** you will focus on two areas of study. You will develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music and develop composing skills to organise musical ideas.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Performing	30%
Unit 2	Composing	30%
Unit 3	Written paper	40%



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Emese Meszaros.

Career Opportunities

You may wish to take a GCSE in Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis for a future interest. Alternatively GCSE Music is a solid basis for Advanced GCE and a preparation for further musical studies at higher levels. GCSE Music can be very useful as the foundation for a career in the music industry, in management, marketing and PR, in any creative role, arts administration and for team building activities, the theatre, publishing, journalism (written and digital), entertainment, teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



GCSE

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Physical Education (1PE0)

COURSE AIMS

- Understand the benefits of physical activity to health, fitness and well-being.
- Improve the knowledge, understanding and skills to develop your own performance in sport.
- Understand the socio-cultural influences on participation in sports.

Course Description

If you already take part in sports outside school, and find yourself always looking forward to the lesson, this course will enable you to stay active, improve your performance and learn the benefits of sport and exercise.

Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body work in relation to performance in physical activity. Students on this course will develop their practical skills in a range of physical activities, while examining the of exercise and how training can improve performance.

One of the main goals of the course is to enable autonomy when it comes to finding ways of developing and maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity, while also promoting the universality of sport, and a “sport- for-all” attitude.

Career Opportunities

Physical education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. Some careers that you could consider following with PE include: Sports science, Sports Management, PE Teacher, Physiotherapist, Professional sportsperson, Sports coach/consultant, Sports Policy at local and national level, Diet and Fitness Instructor, Personal Trainer.

External Exam

Components	Assessment Type	Weighting
Unit 1	Written paper	36%
Unit 2	Written paper	24%
Unit 3	Practical Performance	30%
Unit 4	Personal Exercise Programme	10%



For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Emese Meszaros.

TRIPLE SCIENCE



GCSEs

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Biology (1BI0),
Chemistry (1CH0), Physics (1PH0)

COURSE AIMS

- Learn to apply your observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills in the laboratory and elsewhere.
- Develop your understanding of the scientific method to answer scientific questions about the world around you.
- Enhance your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis.

Course Description

A continuation of the Science course you began in Year 3 leading to three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. GCSE Triple Science is designed to meet the diverse aims and ambitions of students - from those who simply want to understand the world around them to those who want to progress on to further in-depth study.

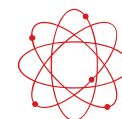
Biology

- Life processes' dependence on molecules whose structure is related to their function cells as the fundamental units of living organisms which may be part of highly adapted structures including tissues, organs and organ systems.
- Living organisms forming populations of single species, communities of many species and ecosystems, interacting with each other, with the environment and with humans in many different ways.
- The interdependence of living organisms and their adaptations to their environment photosynthesis as necessary for life on Earth.
- Organic compounds being used as fuels in cellular respiration to allow the other chemical reactions necessary for life.

- Chemicals in ecosystems that are continually cycling through the natural world and how the characteristics of a living organism are influenced by its genome and its interaction with the environment.
- Evolution as a process of natural selection which accounts both for biodiversity and how organisms are all related to varying degrees.

Chemistry

- Atoms as the tiny particles that matter is composed of and that there are about 100 different naturally occurring types of atoms called elements.
- That elements show periodic relationships in their chemical and physical properties.
- How these periodic properties can be explained in terms of the atomic structure of the elements.
- How atoms bond by either transferring electrons from one atom to another or by sharing electrons.
- How shapes of molecules (groups of atoms bonded together) and the way giant structures are arranged is of great importance in terms of the way they behave.
- That there are barriers to reaction so reactions occur at different rates.
- How chemical reactions occur.
- Conservation of energy in chemical reactions.



Course Description

Physics

- The use of models, as in the particle model of matter or the wave models of light and of sound.
- The concept of cause and effect in explaining such links as those between force and acceleration, or between changes in atomic nuclei and radioactive emissions.
- That proportionality, for example between weight and mass of an object or between force and extension in a spring, is an important aspect of many models in science.
- That physical laws and models are expressed in mathematical form.
- The phenomenon of “action at a distance” to analyse electrical, magnetic and gravitational effects that differences, for example between pressures or temperatures or electrical potentials, are the drivers of change.



Career Opportunities

Science is essential for many careers (Nursing, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Engineering, Medicine, Information Technology, Technology, Environmental Health, Architecture, Archaeology, Pilots, surveying etc) and is necessary to understand the principles behind many vocations.

External Exam

For Biology:

Topic	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written paper	50%
Paper 2	Written paper	50%

For Chemistry:

Topic	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written paper	50%
Paper 2	Written paper	50%

For Physics:

Topic	Assessment Type	Weighting
Paper 1	Written paper	50%
Paper 2	Written paper	50%

For further information, please contact the Head of Faculty, Mrs. Christiana Panayiotou-Mavri.

“ The important thing is to never stop questioning.

-Albert Einstein



United Kingdom

- UK application website - www.ucas.com
- Russell Group Research Universities - www.russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/
- Russell Group Informed Choices - <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/>

United States of America

- US information agency in Cyprus - www.studyusa.com.cy/
- Information on SAT - www.collegeboard.org
- Information on the TOEFL test - www.ets.org/toefl

Germany

- German application website - www.daad.de/en

France

- French Embassy Website - Education Section - <https://ifchypre.org/el/etudes-en-france-el>

Cyprus

- Ministry of Education website - www.moec.gov.cy
- University of Cyprus website - www.ucy.ac.cy
- Technological University of Cyprus website www.cut.ac.cy
- Website listing public and private universities in Cyprus - www.highereducation.ac.cy/index.php/en/citizens-info-serv-he-institutions-en

Netherlands

- Application website - <https://www.studielink.nl>
- Website for English-speaking courses - <https://www.studyinholland.nl/dutch-education/studies>

Australia

- Provides information to study in Australia - www.studyaustralia.gov.au/

Canada

- Provides information to study in Canada - www.universitystudy.ca/

Ireland

- Official education and website - <https://www.ireland.ie/en/study/>
- Application website - www.cao.ie

Sweden

- Official application and course search website - www.universityadmissions.se/intl/start

Italy

- Course in English and information about Italian Universities - <https://www.universityitaly.it/>

GUIDE TO A LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



SUBJECT	MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Accounting AS/AL	Pass Accounting in year 5 and achieve Accounting GCSE grade 4
Art & Design AL	Pass Art in year 5 or achieve Art & Design GCSE grade 4
Biology AS/AL	Triple Science students: Pass Biology in year 5 and Biology GCSE grade 4 Combined Science students: Pass Combined Science in year 5 and achieve Combined Science GCSE grade 4 with 60% in Biology component.
Business AS (Y7 option)	Pass English in year 5 or achieve English GCSE grade 4
Chemistry AS/AL	Triple Science students: Pass Chemistry in year 5 and Chemistry GCSE grade 4 Combined Science students: Pass Combined Science in year 5 and achieve Combined Science GCSE grade 4 with 60% in Chemistry component.
Computer Science AS/AL	Pass Computing in year 5 or achieve Computing GCSE grade 4 or Pass Mathematics (P1 stream) in year 5 or pass Mathematics GCSE grade 4
Economics AS/AL	Pass Economics in year 5 and achieve Economics IGCSE grade 4
English Literature AS/AL	Pass English in year 5 or achieve English Literature GCSE grade 4 or achieve English GCSE grade 4
English Language AS/AL	Pass English in year 5 or achieve English GCSE grade 4 or achieve English Literature GCSE grade 4
French AS/AL	Pass French in year 5 and achieve French IGCSE grade 4
Geography AS/AL	Pass Geography in year 5 or achieve Geography IGCSE grade 4
German AS/AL	Pass German in year 5 and achieve German IGCSE grade 4



SUBJECT	MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
History AS/AL	Pass History in year 5 or achieve History IGCSE grade 4 OR Pass English in year 5 or achieve English GCSE grade 4
Law AS/AL	Pass English in year 5 or achieve English GCSE grade 4
Mathematics Statistics / Mathematics Mechanics / Mathematics Pure / Mathematics Core AS/AL	Pass Maths in year 5 (P1) and IGCSE Maths grade 5
Mathematics Further AS/AL	Pass Maths in year 5 (P1) with 90% and IGCSE Maths grade 7
Media Studies AL	Pass English in year 5 or achieve English GCSE grade 4
Modern Greek AL (Y7 option)	Pass Greek in year 5 and achieve Modern Greek AS grade C
Modern Greek Studies	Pass Greek in year 5 and achieve Modern Greek AS grade C
Music AL	Pass Music in year 5 Music and achieve Music GCSE grade 4 or pass Theory of Music exam grade 5 or above Proficiency in at least one instrument/voice at Grade 5 standard
Physical Education AL	Pass Physical Education (GCSE route) in year 5 or achieve Physical Education GCSE grade 4 or pass Biology in year 5 or achieve GCSE Biology grade 4 or pass Combined Science in year 5 or achieve Combined Science grade 4 with 60% in Biology component
Physics AS/AL	Triple Science students: Pass Physics in year 5 and Physics GCSE grade 4 Combined Science students: Pass Combined Science in year 5 and achieve Combined Science GCSE grade 4 with 60% in Physics component
Politics AL	Pass English in year 5 or achieve English GCSE grade 4
Psychology AS/AL	Pass English and any Science in year 5 or achieve English GCSE grade 4 & any Science GCSE grade 4
Religious Studies AL	Pass Religious Studies in year 5 or achieve Religious Studies Short GCSE grade 4

NOTES:

Students who wish to enter a course and do not have the appropriate subject entry criteria, can request entry via a placement exam.



Those interested in the Greek School, please refer to the Greek School Guide - Αμερικανική Ακαδημία Λάρνακας Ελληνική Σχολή.



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