



St. Paul's College

GCE Edexcel Prospectus
2019-2022



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Foreword

Message from the Principal

St. Paul's College is dedicated to providing the best possible educational outcomes for its students. In order to do so, we are constantly revising and updating our curriculum offerings in order to suit the needs of our future graduates. The College has long been considering the possibility of offering alternative curricula to meet the specific requirements of our students.

After considerable review, analysis and examination, we are prepared to implement a new curriculum, which commenced in Form 4 in the 2017-2018 school year. The GCE/IAL curriculum will be offered to the present Form 3 students from next year, culminating in a GCE qualification for students who graduate in 2022. Many of our students, we recognize, have greater facility in maths and science-oriented subjects, and wish to pursue these in great depth. Similarly we recognize that some students prefer not to undertake a curriculum which concentrates on language acquisition skills in preference to a more scientific orientation.

While SPC is, and will remain, an overwhelmingly DSE school, we are also pleased to offer an opportunity for our students to explore alternative pathways. As parents and students are now considering their senior study direction, we would like to present the opportunity of studying the GCE/IAL curriculum as an alternative pathway for their senior education.

By broadening our outlook, we are in position to serve each of our students according to their particular needs and academic orientation. We look forward to remaining strong partners with our students, parents, alumni and community in helping them to choose their pathways for a brighter future!



Background

St. Paul's College is an Anglican school established in 1851. We are endowed with an English teaching tradition within the local curriculum. In 2002, we changed the subsidy mode to the Direct Subsidy Scheme, in order to benefit from the autonomy provided in manpower and resource allocation and student admission. With the advent of the GCE curriculum, our students are free to pursue GCE and International A Level exams in parallel with the DSE exams. To acknowledge the needs of our students, we recognize that GCE and International A Level education gives St. Paul's College a viable alternative to the DSE curriculum, which may allow a more suitable pathway for some of our students.



Benefit of the UK Curriculum

Many SPC students have studied the GCE/IAL curriculum, as well as their DSE (or, indeed, A Levels and CE exams) going back many years. For some students, their preference is to study fewer subjects in depth rather than a broad suite of subjects. It has been the request of many parents, who would prefer their son/ward to study the GCE/IAL curriculum while remaining in Hong Kong, for the College to consider offering the UK based curriculum.

Many of our parents feel that the alternative curriculum would better suit their son/ward's needs, and provide a clearer pathway for tertiary study, whether here in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Canada, or Australia.



Recognition by Local Universities

All Hong Kong UGC universities recognize the GCE and IAL qualification. Hong Kong students can be assessed as a non-JUPAS candidate. Each university has a separate mechanism for evaluating students, just as they do for DSE candidates. In addition, many Hong Kong universities have an early-admission scheme based on prior exam results or predicted grades, as is the case in the United Kingdom.

Recognition by UK Universities

The GCE is a recognised qualification by all universities in the United Kingdom and the European Union, and widely accepted in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as many Asian countries.

Tentative Number of Intake

SPC will remain a DSE-oriented provider. However, one of the classes, of approximately 30 students, will undertake the GCE curriculum. Once a student has declared his preference, then he has committed to that curriculum. Families should consider this decision carefully before expressing their preference.

School Fees

The school fees for the GCE course will be roughly in line with the DSE course. There will be ancillary fees for external GCE and IAL examinations. Textbooks, workbook and supplementary materials would, again, be similar to DSE courses but given that GCE students would be taking fewer courses, the actual cost may be less.



Teaching Staff

We will have some of our teaching staff designated to teach the GCE and IAL Level and some teaching both the UK and DSE curriculum. New teachers will also be recruited on a needs basis. The teachers who will be teaching the courses will be experienced SPC teachers with a background in the courses that they are teaching. The majority of the curriculum is geared towards maths and sciences students, and teachers have analysed the curriculum to ensure that our students will be able to pursue their future interests in the subjects offered.



GCE A Level Courses On Offer

Chinese, Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Centre Guide



Designed for the global learner



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level (IAL) qualifications are popular with teachers and learners alike for many reasons including:

Flexible and modular structure with synopticity:

IAL provides the flexibility to teach a modular A level qualification. This allows learners to take examinations at the right time for them. The modular structure includes a synoptic approach to assessment, which means learners are examined on their learning from each unit and are also able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding across the whole subject.

Multiple examination opportunities:

Examinations are available in January, June and October in most subjects.

As exams are spread throughout the course, revision is broken down into unit-sized chunks, and there are less 'all-or-nothing' exam periods, enabling learners to focus their revision on fewer exams at a time.

Involve and engage learners in examinations from the start:

With exam results providing formal feedback throughout, learners are able to more quickly understand the standard required to reach the level of achievement they are aiming for. This understanding motivates them to improve, and builds a sense of ownership through bite-size, short-term goals.

AS results contribute to A level:

International AS qualifications can be taken separately or used as a stage on the way to completing an Advanced Level qualification. This provides international schools and learners with greater choice and flexibility to meet their needs and aspirations.

Globally recognised qualifications:

IAL qualifications are recognised by top local and international universities across the world.

International focus:

IAL qualifications contain international content, using local contexts where possible, to fully equip the global learner.



100% externally assessed

Learners can resit individual unit examinations.

Supporting you every step of the way



Support with exam preparation and assessment

- › Past papers.
- › Mark schemes.
- › Examiner reports.
- › ResultsPlus Mock Exam Analysis.



Teaching and delivery support

- › Ask the Expert.
- › Subject Advisors.
- › Subject community forums.
- › Training solutions.



Resources

- › Range of free teaching resources including: past exam papers, schemes of work and more.
- › Range of paid-for digital and print resources.



Results/post results support

- › ResultsPlus.
- › Certification.
- › Exam feedback sessions.
- › Grade boundaries.



ResultsPlus

Provides you with instant and detailed analysis of your learners' Pearson Edexcel IAL exam and mock performance. Widely used by teachers across the world, it helps you identify the areas where learners could benefit from extra support and guidance, driving attainment.

Find out more at: qualifications.pearson.com/resultsplus



Pearson Edexcel IAL prepared me so much for university and I was successful in getting offers and a scholarship to the Australian university of my choice.

Hayin Lin, now studying Mathematics at the University of Tasmania

Progress to University

Developed by education specialists specifically for international learners, Pearson Edexcel IAL qualifications are recognised by leading universities across the world - including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia University and Yale University. IAL qualifications provide learners with access to the world's top universities and prestigious employment opportunities.

About Pearson

At the core of everything we do at Pearson is the desire to make a measurable impact on improving people's lives through learning. From primary school to secondary school, through to professional certification; our qualifications help educate millions of people worldwide.

To find out more please visit
[qualifications.pearson.com/ial](https://www.pearson.com/ial)



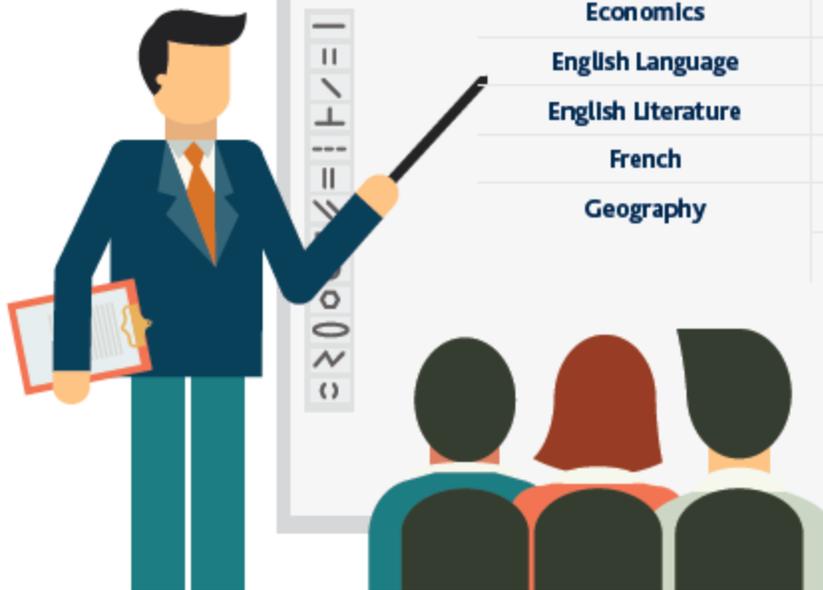
A qualification with an international outlook

Our International Advanced Level qualifications have been developed in consultation with the international school community, including a large number of teachers and university lecturers, to be engaging for international learners and to give them the necessary skills to support progression to higher and further study.

The suite is now available in 21 subjects:

Available in
21 subjects

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Accounting | German |
| Arabic | Greek |
| Biology | History |
| Business Studies | Information Technology (IT) |
| Chemistry | Law |
| Economics | Mathematics |
| English Language | Further Mathematics |
| English Literature | Pure Mathematics |
| French | Physics |
| Geography | Psychology |
| | Spanish |



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and sign up to our monthly newsletter at
qualifications.pearson.com/newsletter-sign-up
to be kept informed of the latest developments.



New updated qualifications

for first teaching in September 2018

Biology

Key qualification features – using feedback from teachers and higher education institutions, we've retained several key features which we know you like including:

- › modular assessment, offered at different times of year, January, June and October, to suit your delivery model
- › practical skills assessed through a dedicated examination Unit both at AS (Unit 3) and at A Level (Unit 6).
- › comparable content with the UK GCE A Level – giving confidence to students, teacher and universities about the comparability between specifications.
- › range of types of questions in exams – testing a breadth of knowledge, as well as allowing depth of understanding to be tested.

Broad and deep development of learners' skills – we designed the International Advanced Level qualifications to extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills. For example learners will:

- › develop their ability to apply mathematical skills to Biology throughout the course.
- › gain experience in a variety of practical techniques and procedures, which will be assessed separately within Unit 3 and Unit 6. The IAL specification includes 18 core practical activities which form a thread linking theoretical knowledge and understanding to practical scenarios.
- › widen their learning through a number of key transferable skills, which may be cognitive, intrapersonal or interpersonal.

Content is divided into six externally marked units:

- › **Unit 1:** Molecules, diet, transport and health
- › **Unit 2:** Cells, development, biodiversity and conservation
- › **Unit 3:** Practical Skills in Biology I
- › **Unit 4:** Energy, the environment, microbiology and immunity
- › **Unit 5:** Respiration, the internal environment, coordination and gene technology
- › **Unit 6:** Practical Skills in Biology II

Chemistry

Key qualification features – using feedback from teachers and higher education institutions, we've retained several key features which we know you like including:

- › modular assessment, offered at different times of year, January, June and October, to suit your delivery model. AS result contribute to overall A level result.
- › practical skills assessed through a dedicated examination Unit both at AS (Unit 3) and at A Level (Unit 6). There are 16 core practical activities in the specification which form a thread linking theoretical knowledge and understanding to practical scenarios.
- › comparable content with the UK GCE A Level – giving confidence to students, teacher and universities about the comparability between specifications.
- › range of types of questions in exams – testing a breadth of knowledge, as well as allowing depth of understanding to be tested.

Clear and straightforward question papers – our question papers are clear and accessible for students of all ability ranges, and use a series of well-defined command words. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of learners' skills – we designed the International Advanced Level qualifications to extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills. For example learners will:

- › develop their ability to apply mathematical skills to Chemistry throughout the course.
- › gain experience in a variety of practical techniques and procedures, which will be assessed separately within Unit 3 and Unit 6.
- › widen their learning through a number of key transferable skills, which may be cognitive, intrapersonal or interpersonal.

The content is divided into 6 externally marked units:

- › **Unit 1:** The core principles of chemistry
- › **Unit 2:** Application of core principles of chemistry.
- › **Unit 3:** Experimental Skills in Chemistry I
- › **Unit 4:** General principles of chemistry I – rates, equilibria and further organic chemistry
- › **Unit 5:** General principles of chemistry II – transition metals and organic nitrogen chemistry.
- › **Unit 6:** Experimental Skills in Chemistry II

Physics

Key qualification features – using feedback from teachers and higher education institutions, we've retained several key features which we know you like including:

- › modular assessment, offered at different times of year, January, June and October, to suit your delivery model. AS result contribute to overall A level result.
- › practical skills assessed through a dedicated examination Unit both at AS (Unit 3) and at A Level Unit 6). There are 16 core practical activities that form a thread linking theoretical knowledge and understanding to practical scenarios in the specification.
- › comparable content with the UK GCE A Level – giving confidence to students, teacher and universities about the comparability between specifications.
- › range of types of questions in exams – testing a breadth of knowledge, as well as allowing depth of understanding to be tested.

Clear and straightforward question papers – our question papers are clear and accessible for students of all ability ranges, and use a series of well-defined command words.

Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of learners' skills – we designed the International Advanced Level qualifications to extend learners' knowledge by broadening and deepening skills. For example learners will:

- › develop their ability to apply mathematical skills to Physics throughout the course.
- › gain experience in a variety of practical techniques and procedures, which will be assessed separately within Unit 3 and Unit 6 .
- › widen their learning through a number of key transferable skills, which may be cognitive, intrapersonal or interpersonal.

The content is divided into 6 externally marked units:

- › **Unit 1:** Mechanics and Materials
- › **Unit 2:** Waves and Electricity
- › **Unit 3:** Practical Skills in Physics I
- › **Unit 4:** Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles
- › **Unit 5:** Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology
- › **Unit 6:** Practical Skills in Physics II

Mathematics

Key qualification features – using feedback from teachers and higher education institutions, we've retained several key features which we know you like including:

- › unitised structure with all units equally weighted, equal available marks of 75 in each unit and each unit examination suitably timed at 1h 30m.
- › 14 units available across Pure Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Maths allowing many different combinations of units and greater flexibility.
- › fully modular assessment, offered at different times of year, January, June and October, to suit your delivery model.
- › AS results contribute to overall A level results.

Clear and straightforward question papers – our question papers are clear and accessible for students of all ability ranges. Our mark schemes are straightforward so that the assessment requirements are clear.

Broad and deep development of learners' skills – we designed the International Advanced Level mathematics to:

- › develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment.
- › develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general.
- › take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development.

Q & A

What is A-level?

A-level is a secondary school leaving qualification offered by educational bodies such as Edexcel. Students can apply to universities worldwide with A-level qualifications. Students in the UK study GCE A-level. Students in Hong Kong can study International A-levels or GCE A-levels, which are equivalent.

Who can study A-level?

Anyone can gain A-level qualifications through self-study. Students do not have to be enrolled in a school and can take A-level examinations as a private candidate (with Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA)) or with a full academic centre, such as ITS Tutorial School (Edexcel Centre Number 92885), in Hong Kong.

What is the difference between GCE A-level and International A-level?

Students in the UK mainly study GCE A-level. International A-level is designed for international students, and is more flexible. For example, there are two exam sessions in a year and laboratory assessment can be conducted in a written format. Both qualifications are widely recognised by universities in Hong Kong including HKU, CUHK and HKUST and by universities in the UK, including, the University of Cambridge, Imperial College, London School of Economics, etc.

How many subjects would a typical student study for A-level?

Most universities require three A-level subjects. There are university courses that might require more than three A-level subjects and we suggest students to check with respective universities. A-level English is not a compulsory subject for university entrance. Students in Hong Kong would typically need to take an additional English proficiency test such as IELTS or hold an English IGCSE.

Why would a student study more than three A-level subjects?

For students using A-level qualifications to apply, Universities in the UK or in HK will give conditional offers to students based on the final grades achieved. For example, a university could give a conditional offer of AAA for any three A-level subjects. Students who do more than three A-levels have an insurance option if three A-levels out of four reach the grade of AAA.

Which A-level subjects should I choose?

Students should choose A-level subjects based on the subjects they hope to study in university. For students applying to an engineering programme, we recommend students take physics, maths and further maths. For students applying to a medicine programme, we recommend students take chemistry, biology and maths. For students applying to an economics programme, we recommend students take maths A-level. Check with the respective universities about their specific entrance requirements.

What is the timeline to apply to Hong Kong universities with A-level qualifications?

With A-level qualifications, students apply to universities in Hong Kong via NON-JUPAS. There are two rounds of admission into universities in Hong Kong, the early round and the main round. Different universities may have different deadlines. The deadlines of the early round are typically around November. The deadlines of the main round are late December and early January. After submitting the application, universities may arrange interviews in December for early round applicants and in the first half of the year for main round candidates. Universities will give offers to candidates or reject the application after the interview. Offers are typically conditional if students have not yet finished exams or unconditional if students have already received the exam results.

What is the timeline to apply to UK universities with A-level qualifications?

Students apply to UK universities via UCAS. UCAS is a joint university admission mechanism like JUPAS in Hong Kong, but they are quite different in many ways. The deadline is the 15th of October the year before if students would like to apply to the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, or to competitive programmes, such as medicine, etc. For candidates in the UK, the deadline is the 15th of January of the year of entrance. For international candidates, there is a later deadline, but we strongly recommend students to submit their application by the 15th of January as universities start giving offers to other applicants by then. A UCAS application includes five course choices (either Oxford or Cambridge), a 4000 character personal statement (around 650 words), references and predicted grades. Students might need to take additional written tests such as TSA, PAT, UKCAT, BMAT, LNAT, MAT, STEP, etc., depending on the course.

Students applying to Oxford or Cambridge may be invited for interviews in December. Offers are typically conditional based on final A-level grades and are given in January. When students have received all the replies from the five universities, they choose one offer as the first choice and another one as the insurance choice. The conditional offer of the first choice should be higher than the insurance choice, so if A-level results do not meet the first choice, there is still a chance to get into the insurance choice. If grades do not meet the insurance offer, students can go through the clearing process. Every year there is a clearing fair hosted by the British Council in August in Hong Kong where Universities from the UK will interview students for the September intake.

Application Procedures (SPC GCE IAL Programme)

| SPC GCE IAL Admissions Process | Date |
|---|---|
| Notice to Parents | September 2018 |
| F.3 Parents Information Evening | 5 th October/ 10 th November, 2018 |
| Parents' Day 2019 Information and Discussion about GCE/IAL course with Careers Club and current GCE/IAL class | 3 rd February 2019 |
| Final Date for Application to GCE/IAL Class | 11 th April, 2019 |
| Decision for Application to GCE/IAL Class Accepted, Rejected or Waitlist Notification to Parents | 30 th April, 2019 |
| Parents' Meeting for GCE/IAL Class 2019-2022 | 28 th June, 2019 |



St. Paul's College
69 Bonham Road
Pokfulam, Hong Kong

www.spc.edu.hk