



# IGCSE BOOKLET

(2011 – 2012)

# THE EXCELSIOR VISION

We at Excelsior believe education is all about preparing students to face global challenges, to produce autonomous citizens with a lifelong respect for learning and democratic values and to have respect for human diversity.

Our planet and its citizen residents are facing a growing number of issues related to the world. Education is the key. From universal consciousness to producing scientists, politicians, international relations experts, media producers, and others, our schools will assist students in finding the answers to our multifarious global problems.

We need to prepare 21st century citizens with a strong sense of community and with an international perspective, thereby creating **“A world better led, A world better served and A world better governed”**.

## The IGCSE Programme

### (The International General Certificate of Secondary Education)

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14-16 year olds, leading to globally recognized and valued Cambridge IGCSE qualifications. Schools worldwide have helped develop Cambridge IGCSE, which provides excellent preparation for the Cambridge Advanced stage including Cambridge A/AS Levels as other progression routes. It incorporates the best in international education for learners at this level. It develops in line with changing needs, and is regularly updated and extended.

The IGCSE is a comprehensive two year programme for Grades IX & X. It is a balanced mix of practical experience and theoretical knowledge. It is a universally recognized qualification among international schools and universities worldwide. Various educational skills like recall of knowledge, teamwork, problem solving etc., are developed in this course. The course offers the best in international education and, being in pace with the changing needs, it regularly updates and extends the curriculum. It lays an excellent foundation for students who wish to continue with the IB Curriculum at the pre -university level.

Cambridge IGCSE encourages learner-centered and enquiry-based approaches to learning. It develops learners' skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving learners excellent preparation for the next stage in their education. Clearly defined learning outcomes and content, mean Cambridge IGCSE is compatible with other curricula and is internationally relevant and sensitive to different needs and cultures. Cambridge IGCSE develops learner knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- Subject content
- Applying knowledge and understanding to familiar and new situations
- Intellectual enquiry
- Flexibility and responsiveness to change
- Working and communicating in English
- Influencing outcomes
- Cultural awareness

## Benefits

### **International benchmark**

Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme gives parents extra trust in feedback on their child's progress - by using internationally benchmarked tests. Tests for Cambridge Checkpoint are standardised, set and marked by CIE, so they provide an international benchmark of student achievement enabling teachers to advise learners and parents of the suitability of different progression routes.

### **Monitoring student progress**

Cambridge progression tests and analysis software provide detailed feedback on learners' strengths and weaknesses in the core skills of English, Mathematics and Science at the end of each stage. Schools can use this feedback to improve teaching, support learning and report student progress to parents.

### **Flexible programme, flexible assessment**

Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme can be used with other curricula. No part of it is compulsory, so teachers can use the materials to suit their own situation. Teachers can use the progression tests at the end of the year; or at any point during the year and as many times as they require. Teachers can continue to follow a local curriculum, to meet the statutory requirements of their national system - and at the same time, use Cambridge Primary progression tests to enhance their teaching and reporting.

A variety of assessment techniques are used, appropriate to the various subjects, such as oral and listening tests, practical and coursework which look at overall performance over this two-year period, and contribute 30-50% of the final grade in all subjects, in addition to written examinations.

### **Links to other stages**

Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme has been developed to link seamlessly with Cambridge Primary and provides standardised tests to allow careful monitoring of progress from primary to lower secondary phases. It also provides excellent preparation for learners embarking on Cambridge Secondary 2; both for Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level courses.

At the end of the programme, Cambridge Checkpoint assessments are available to provide detailed feedback on learners' strengths and weaknesses. These tests are standardised, marked by teachers and moderated by CIE, providing an international benchmark of student achievement and enabling teachers to advise learners and parents of the suitability of different progression routes.

### **Worldwide Recognition**

The IGCSE Programme has worldwide recognition and is equivalent to the Certificate of Secondary Education from Indian education boards, General Certificate of Secondary Education, and O Levels.

### **Problem Solving Approach**

The IGCSE curriculum emphasizes the development of habits of critical enquiry and individual research and encourages a problem-solving approach - applying what one has learnt. The assessment process goes beyond just knowledge recall and emphasizes other skills like a student's ability to use and apply knowledge appropriately, to handle information and use it to solve problems, and to acquire experimental and investigative

skills. This encouragement to go beyond rote learning or memorization is the key in all IGCSE syllabi. This approach recognizes that 'recall' becomes a relatively less useful skill for individuals in today's world of rapid change. Instead, the development of skills of application, analysis, evaluation and creation become important in encouraging students who are able to take their learning beyond the confines of the classroom and examination hall.

### **Recognised by Boards and Universities in India**

The IGCSE Programme is recognized by CBSE, CISCE and state education boards in India as a qualification for entry to class XI or for other higher secondary education courses. It is also treated as a class X qualification for admission to undergraduate courses in India. It is also recognized by schools and universities world wide.

### **Subjects at a Glance**

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Child Development
- Computer Studies
- Design and Technology
- Development Studies
- Drama
- Economics
- English - Literature
- Enterprise
- Environmental Management
- Food and Nutrition
- French - Foreign Language
- Geography
- Global Perspectives
- Hindi as a Second Language
- History
- Information and Communication Technology
- India Studies
- International Mathematics
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Spanish - Foreign Language

## **Overview of the above subjects**

### **Art and Design**

The IGCSE Art and Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability. Students 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. Students also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, IGCSE Art and 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.

### **Biology**

As well as a focus on biology, and with an emphasis on human biology, the IGCSE Biology syllabus enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Students learn about the basic principles of biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Students also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level, which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, students 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.

### **Business Studies**

The IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops students' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Students learn 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. Through their studies, students not only learn about business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry. The syllabus provides both a foundation for further study at A Level, and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

### **Chemistry**

As well as a subject focus, the IGCSE Chemistry syllabus enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Students learn about the basic principles of Chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Students also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, students 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.

## **Child Development**

Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the IGCSE Child Development syllabus covers all stages of child development from conception to 5 years. Students learn about currently accepted developmental norms, and about the complex range of factors that can affect child development, including genetics, and the prenatal and early environment. Students undertake the structured observation of young children, learning to apply scientific methods in the collection, analysis and interpretation of the data they generate. Students are also encouraged to develop an empathy with young children, and to apply their knowledge to their relationships with babies, children and parents.

## **Computer Studies**

By following the Computer Studies syllabus, students foster an interest in, enjoyment of, and confidence in the use of computing. They develop an appreciation of the range and power of computer applications and solve problems using computing; their studies include systems analysis, algorithm design and programming concepts. IGCSE Computer Studies students consider a broad range of computer applications, so as to provide an understanding of the power and versatility of the computer and the benefits of its use, but also its limitations and potential disadvantages. IGCSE Computer Studies is an ideal foundation for further study at A Level, and the skills learnt can also be used in other areas of study and in everyday life.

## **Design and Technology**

The IGCSE Design and Technology syllabus enables students to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools. As a result, students gain greater technical and design awareness, while developing skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity. They also develop the communication skills central to design making and evaluation. IGCSE Design and Technology provides an ideal basis for further study, and prepares students for their future within a rapidly changing technological society.

## **Development Studies**

Focusing on issues of particular relevance to less economically developed countries, the IGCSE Development Studies syllabus looks at the changes in society that encourage or hamper human development. By emphasizing the interaction among economic, geographical, social and political processes, students gain a greater awareness of the local, regional and national issues that affect development. As a result, students will become more informed about their own local context, and can participate positively in the shaping of their own society.

## **Drama**

Through practical and theoretical study, students develop an understanding and enjoyment of drama, developing group and individual skills and studying ways to communicate ideas and feelings to an audience. Students learn how to discover the performance possibilities of a text and other stimuli, and devise dramatic material of their own. Students also develop their performance skills, the demonstration of which will form part of the final assessment.

## **Economics**

The Economics syllabus will develop an understanding of economic terminology and principles and of basic economic theory. Students will learn about the economics of developed and developing nations and how these interrelate. They will also learn to handle simple data and undertake economic analysis, evaluate information and discriminate between facts and value judgements in economic issues. A foundation for further study at A Level, the syllabus also encourages a better understanding of the world in which students live, and helps them play an active part in the decision-making process, whether as consumers, producers or citizens of the local, national and international community.

## **English Literature**

The syllabus enables students to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. They develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, students 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 students' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

## **Environment Management**

IGCSE Environmental Management is concerned with education for sustainable development in a world where the security of resources and life-sustaining systems is endangered by human impact. The syllabus draws upon disciplines such as biology, earth science, geography, economics and anthropology. The syllabus starts with the interdependence of the Earth's natural systems and how people use natural resources. It moves on to examine the impact of development on the environment. Such issues as environmental pollution and resource depletion are examined, but the view of them is forward looking, to see how we may change the nature of development towards future sustainability.

### **Enterprise**

Cambridge IGCSE Enterprise is a lively and innovative trans-disciplinary course to help students understand how enterprises succeed and what it means to be enterprising. Working with businesses and organisations, students will develop their knowledge and skills in creativity, financial planning, focus, team working and problem-solving. Students will set-up and run an enterprise, applying classroom learning to a real business environment, gaining hands-on practical experience.

### **Food and Nutrition**

The IGCSE Food and Nutrition syllabus introduces both the theoretical and practical aspects of buying and preparing food. Dealing with diet and health in everyday life, students study the nutritional value of basic foods and develop the skills required to produce a balanced family meal. Consumer awareness is encouraged, as are high standards of personal and kitchen hygiene, especially when students put their knowledge into practice in order to produce creative and enjoyable dishes.

### **French- Foreign Language**

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

### **Geography**

Through the IGCSE Geography syllabus, students will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Students will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and learn about 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.

### **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 students are pursuing through the Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives course.

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives is a groundbreaking new course that is cross-curricular, stretching across traditional subject boundaries. It taps into the way today's

students enjoy learning – including group work, seminars, projects, and working with other students 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.

### **Hindi as a Second Language**

IGCSE Second Language Hindi is designed for students who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their academic or professional career. The qualification reflects the widespread use of Hindi in education and commerce, and also in entertainment. Through their studies, students will learn how to use Hindi effectively in the type of situations, and Hindi-speaking environments, they will encounter in their daily lives. 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.

### **History**

The History IGCSE 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. Students learn about 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. IGCSE History will stimulate any student already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject. Both coursework and non-coursework options are available.

### **India Studies**

Cambridge IGCSE India Studies offers students the opportunity to understand the emergence of contemporary India and the achievements, challenges and opportunities facing the nation that is destined to be one of the great powers of the 21st century.

Political systems and democracy, economic development, contemporary society and culture, and India's relationship with the wider world, are the core areas of study. By building their own portfolio of research, students develop skills in enquiry and learn how to plan their work. The syllabus builds on existing good practice in international education and area studies to provide a lively and innovative cross-curricular course.

### **Information and Communication Technology**

The Information Communication Technology syllabus combines theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software, e-mail, web browsers and website design. Students will develop a greater awareness of how applications are used in the workplace, and consider the impact of new technologies on

methods of working and on social, economic, ethical and moral issues. The skills learnt will be useful to them in their work across the curriculum, and will prepare them for future employment. Assessment of the practical tests is hardware and software independent. Any hardware platform, operating system, and applications packages can be used, providing that students have the opportunity to demonstrate the full range of skills in the syllabus.

### **International Mathematics**

Cambridge IGCSE International Mathematics has been developed for schools offering an international curriculum. It complements the IB curriculum, offering an assessment and certification at the end of the Middle Years Programme.

Cambridge International Mathematics reflects the way today's students like to learn: they will acquire a solid foundation of mathematical skills and learn how to develop strategies for solving open-ended problems. The course also allows students to develop and sharpen their investigation and modelling skills, and introduces them to the use of graphical calculators – a necessary part of the IB Diploma.

### **Mathematics**

An essential subject for all students, IGCSE Mathematics is a fully examined course which encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build students' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Students also learn how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

### **Music**

When studying the IGCSE Music syllabus, students will listen to, perform and compose music, encouraging aesthetic and emotional development, self-discipline and, importantly, creativity. As a result, students enhance their appreciation and enjoyment of music, an achievement that forms an ideal foundation for future study and enhances life-long musical enjoyment. Students study music of all styles; each style is placed in its historical and cultural context, and students 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 syllabus provides candidates with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of physical education. It is designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity by providing students with an opportunity to take part in a range of physical activities. By following the course students will be able to develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance and to appreciate the necessity for sound

understanding of the principles, practices and training that underpin improved performance, better health and well-being.

### **Physics**

As well as a subject focus, the IGCSE Physics syllabus enables students to better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments. Students learn about the basic principles of Physics through a mix of theoretical and practical studies. Students also develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study at A Level, skills which are useful in everyday life. As they progress, students 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.

### **Spanish - Foreign Language**

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

**IGCSE – Subject Groups**  
**EXCELSIOR AMERICAN SCHOOL**  
**SUBJECT CHOICE FORM**  
**IGCSE 2011 -2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please select ONE subject from each group)

**Group 1**

- First language English with literature
- English as a second language with literature

**Group 2**

- Hindi as second language
- French- foreign language
- Spanish- foreign language

**Group 3**

- Mathematics
- Additional Mathematics
- Cambridge International Mathematics( Approval required from the Mathematics

**Group 4**

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Environmental Management

**Group 5**

- India Studies
- Economics
- History
- Geography
- Environmental Management
- Global Perspectives

**Group 6**

- Design and Technology
- Information and Communication Technology
- Computer Studies
- Business Studies
- Art and Design
- Drama
- Music
- Physical Education

### **Group 7**

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Economics
- History
- Geography
- Environmental Management
- Computer Studies
- Design and Technology
- Information and Communication Technology
- Business Studies
- Art and Design
- Drama
- Music
- Physical Education
- Food and Nutrition
- Enterprise

### **Group 8**

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Economics
- History
- Geography
- Environmental Management
- Computer Studies
- Design and Technology
- Information and Communication Technology
- Business Studies
- Art and Design
- Drama
- Music
- Physical Education
- Food and Nutrition
- Enterprise
- Child Development



## FAQs-IGCSE

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Is the IGCSE Programme recognized by schools and universities worldwide?**

All Indian Boards / universities accept IGCSE as equivalent to Xth standard.

**Is the IGCSE Programme recognized by higher secondary boards and universities in India?**

Yes, it is recognized by CBSE, CISCE and state education boards in India as a qualification for entry to class XI or for other higher secondary education courses. It is also treated as a class X qualification for admission to undergraduate courses in India and an entry to IB's Diploma Programme.

**What are the benefits of IGCSE, when compared with other examinations that might be taken in classes IX and X?**

- 1) It is an international examination with world-wide status and credibility.
- 2) It encourages the questioning and discovery method of learning.
- 3) It provides excellent foundation for the preparation of pre university courses.
- 4) The coursework and practicals provide a strong skill development and application orientation.

**Which modern foreign languages will be available?**

We currently offer French/Spanish as a foreign language.

**What options are available after completing the IGCSE Programme?**

To follow the proposed IB Diploma Programme in classes XI and XII. Other options include GCE A Levels, the Advanced International Certificate of Education and the North American Advanced Placement Test. It is pertinent to note that students, who pursue programmes like the IB Diploma, GCE A Levels and so on, after their IGCSE class X, will also have the option to study at universities in India.

**FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE IGCSE PROGRAMME  
MAY BE FOUND AT [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)**