



Taman Rama School – Bali

Cambridge International Fellowship Centre

A Level & AS Level Study

What are international A Levels and AS Level qualifications?

A Levels are internationally recognised qualifications. For over 50 years, A Levels have been accepted as proof of academic ability for entry to universities and institutes of higher education. All A Levels subjects are two year courses started in Year 11 and completed in Year 12.

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level represents the first half of an A Level. Examinations for AS are usually taken at the end of Year 11. Students gain an AS qualification which they can use to complete the remaining second year of the A Level course in Year 12. Advanced Subsidiary subjects are considered for university entrance at 50% of the full A Level value.

We strongly advise that all students follow this 'staged' approach to A Level studies for all subjects where it is available as it enables a more focused study of specific material and keeps students motivated over the duration of the two year course. It is also inherently more flexible as students gain independent certification of studies completed in year 11, even if the subject is not continued on to year 12.

Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma (AICE Diploma)

The AICE Diploma provides a high-quality, English-medium qualification which prepares young people for general degree programmes. It is a 'group' certificate which requires the study of subjects drawn from three curriculum areas. The AICE Diploma offers students the opportunity to tailor their studies to their individual interests, abilities and future plans within an international curriculum framework.

To enter for the AICE Diploma students must study of subjects drawn from three curriculum areas.

- Mathematics and Science
- Languages
- Art and Humanities

A Level subjects offered:

English Language, English Literature, Accounting, Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, AS Environmental Management, ICT, Mathematics, Physics and Thinking Skills.

*Note: subjects can change dependent on the number of students; this is at the discretion of the school management.

Compulsory Subjects

English Language	AICE	
English Literature	AICE	} Equivalent to 1 A Level
Environmental Management^	AS	
Physical Education	School-based Assessment	
AS Mathematics or IGCSE Mathematics		

English Language, English Literature, Environmental Management, Physical Education and Mathematics are all compulsory subjects in Year 11. This automatically qualifies each student for the AICE Diploma award, regardless of whether these subjects will be taken for examination.

Depending on academic ability students must attend either AS Mathematics or IGCSE mathematics classes

School-based assessment scores from these compulsory subjects will appear on the school report card.

Students are then required to choose at least 2 from the following options

Option Subjects

Option 1	Biology	Accounting
Option 2	Chemistry	Business Studies
Option 3	Physics	Thinking Skills
Option 4	Art and Design	Applied ICT

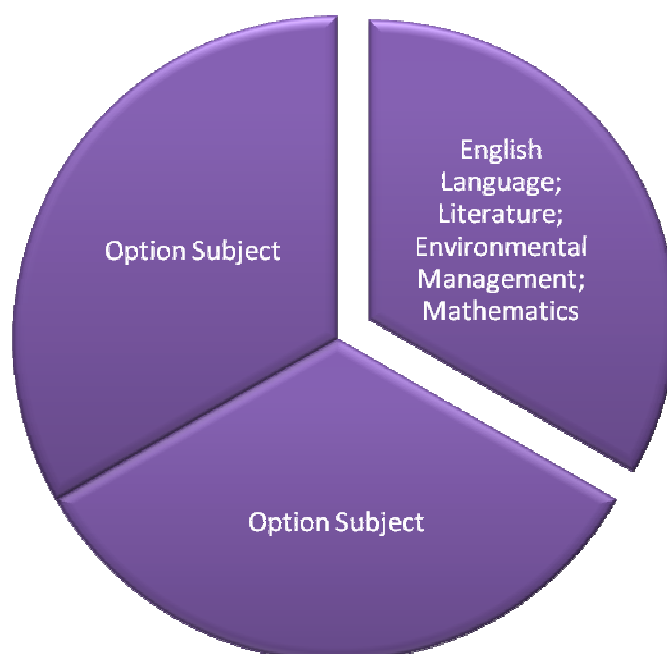
Only one subject can be chosen from each of these options. These groups have been arranged to provide every student the opportunity to receive a good balanced education. A minimum of two option subjects must be taken.

The process of choosing a suitable course for each individual is one of negotiation between student, parents, subject teachers and form teachers. It is important that students are motivated to achieve the highest possible standards, but are not over burdened with a work load or academic level which is inappropriate for them.

Results from IGCSE also determine whether a student is capable of taking that particular subject at the Advanced Level.

For each option there must be a minimum number of students enrolled for the subject to be offered. Some courses may be withdrawn if insufficient students enroll. This is dependent on the discretion of the Director.

Illustration: Minimum set of subjects needed in Year 11



All A Level students in Year 11 will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Environmental Management, plus a minimum of two option subjects.

Description of the Compulsory Subjects

English Language

English is an important compulsory subject in years 11 and 12.

Apart from the specific aims of the English Language and Literature courses in themselves, it is obvious that a good proficiency in English will have a positive impact on both the students' understanding of all the other subjects and on his ability to write papers and do exams for those subjects. As many of the students at Taman Rama School are non-native speakers or bi-lingual speakers of English, the importance of acquiring a near-native level of English in both reading and writing cannot be over-estimated.

The AIMS of the English Language course are to encourage:

- A critical and informed response to writing in a range of forms, styles and contexts
- The interdependent skills of reading, analysis and communication
- Effective and appropriate communication

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Candidates for English Language will be required to demonstrate:

- Ability to read with understanding written material in a variety of forms, and to comment on its effectiveness
- Knowledge and understanding of features of English language
- Ability to write clearly, accurately and effectively for a particular purpose or audience

There are two types of English Language qualifications: **an AICE English Language (Half Credit)** or an **AS English Language**.

The Half-Credit examination must be taken in conjunction with English Literature Half-Credit. English Language is only available as an AS subject and does not extend to a full A Level. In combination with English Literature there is a third option called **AS Level Language and Literature in English**

English Literature

English Literature perfectly complements English Language and both are compulsory subjects in Years 11 and 12.

In its literature the English language comes to life and demonstrates the richness and variety of cultures within the English-speaking world.

Also through literature the students are confronted with an abundance of styles, idiom, and vocabulary as well as ideas, which in turn will have a great impact on their own language and outlook upon life.

The AIMS of the English Literature course are to encourage students to

- Enjoy the experience of reading literature
- Experience literature's contribution to aesthetic, imaginative and intellectual growth
- Explore the contribution of literature to areas of human concern

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Candidates are required to be able to:

- Understand and respond appropriately to literary texts in different forms and from different periods and cultures
- Form links between English and literature
- Explore how language, structure and forms contribute to the meaning of texts

English Literature is available for examination as an **AICE English Literature (Half Credit)** and as either **AS** or **A Level Literature in English**.

The Half Credit examination must be taken in conjunction with English Half Credit.

In combination with English Language there is a third option called **AS Level Language and Literature in English**.

N.B. AS Level stands for Advanced Subsidiary Level, A level for Advanced Level, and AICE for Advanced International Certificate of Education

Mathematics

In Years 11 & 12, all students will continue to study mathematics. Their results from IGCSE determine whether they will study AS and A Level Mathematics or whether they will take IGCSE Mathematics or IGCSE additional Mathematics.

The syllabus has been designed to allow Centres flexibility to construct Mathematics courses appropriate to their candidates, in terms of both the content studied and the depth

of study. Thus the syllabus enables shorter courses to be constructed leading to the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) qualification and longer courses to be constructed leading to the Advanced Level qualification. The AS Mathematics syllabus has been designed to be suitable for candidates who would formerly have studied for Additional or Subsidiary Mathematics.

The content has been divided into two roughly equal halves with candidates taking two papers for AS Mathematics and four papers for the Advanced Level qualification.

Candidates for A Level Mathematics take four papers of which two may have been taken at an earlier examination session for an AS Mathematics qualification. Alternatively, candidates may take all four papers for an Advanced Level qualification at the same session. Candidates may take the AS Mathematics qualification only.

The syllabus allows Centres flexibility to choose from three different routes to AS Mathematics – Pure Mathematics only or Pure Mathematics and Mechanics or Pure Mathematics and Probability and Statistics.

The aims are to enable students to:

- develop their mathematical knowledge and skills in a way which encourages confidence and provides satisfaction and enjoyment;
- develop an understanding of mathematical principles and an appreciation of mathematics as a logical and coherent subject;
- acquire a range of mathematical skills, particularly those which will enable them to use applications of mathematics in the context of everyday situations and of other subjects they may be studying;
- develop the ability to analyse problems logically, recognise when and how a situation may be represented mathematically, identify and interpret relevant factors and, where necessary, select an appropriate mathematical method to solve the problem;
- use mathematics as a means of communication with emphasis on the use of clear expression;
- acquire the mathematical background necessary for further study in this or related subjects.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES:

- understand relevant mathematical concepts, terminology and notation;
- recall accurately and use successfully appropriate manipulative techniques;
- recognise the appropriate mathematical procedure for a given situation;
- apply combinations of mathematical skills and techniques in solving problems;
- present mathematical work, and communicate conclusions, in a clear and logical way.

Environmental Management (AS only)

Environmental Management is concerned with environmental issues and their management and is designed to recognise the internationally diverse nature of its client group. By learning about the details and principles of environmental processes, students are led to an understanding of the causes of key issues affecting the environment on a variety of scales. These topics extend to developing an understanding of the possible ways of managing the environment in the context of the pressures, which both encourage and constrain effective environmental management. The syllabus is designed to encourage learning through suitable case studies, which can be local and global; allowing courses to satisfy a diverse range of interests.

Environmental Management is a Group A: Mathematics and Science subject. It is a compulsory AS subject in Year 11 and assists students in qualifying for the AICE group award.

Physical Education

PE develops pupils' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities that become a central part of their lives, both in and out of school.

A high-quality PE curriculum enables all pupils to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity. They develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. When they are performing, they think about what they are doing, analyse the situation and make decisions. They also reflect on their own and others' performances and find ways to improve them. As a result, they develop the confidence to take part in different physical activities and learn about the value of healthy, active lifestyles. Discovering what they like to do, what their aptitudes are at school, and how and where to get involved in physical activity helps them make informed choices about lifelong physical activity.

PE helps pupils develop personally and socially. They work as individuals, in groups and in teams, developing concepts of fairness and of personal and social responsibility. They take on different roles and responsibilities, including leadership, coaching and officiating. Through the range of experiences that PE offers, they learn how to be effective in competitive, creative and challenging situations.

Description of the Option Subjects

The key to selecting optional subjects begins with knowing the entry requirements or prerequisites of the university courses that students are interested in pursuing in subsequent tertiary study. We advise all students and parents to begin investigating and researching Universities, courses and course requirements as early as possible (year 10) to ensure that the option subjects selected are appropriate and meet the requirements for preferred course enrolment. Each year we have universities and university agents come to the school to make presentations to students but we strongly advise all students and parents to check university web sites and contact their admissions departments.

Not all students will have a clear idea of where their future academic direction lies but early research on courses and institutions can help students decide. It also gives parents and students adequate time to prepare applications, collect required documentation and be informed of any scholarship options that may be available and how to apply for them.

Biology

A Level Biology places considerable emphasis on the conceptual understanding and use of scientific ideas and principles in a variety of situations, including those which are well-known to the learner and those which are new to them. A Level Biology deepens and extends skills, knowledge and understanding that students develop whilst studying IGCSE Biology and a sound knowledge of basic biological principles is essential for candidates taking up A Level Biology.

The programme of study based on this syllabus features a variety of learning experiences designed to enhance the development of both skills and understanding. This approach focuses teachers and learners on the development of transferable life-long skills relevant to the increasingly technological environment in which people find themselves. It will also prepare candidates for an assessment that will test expertise, knowledge, understanding and insight into the developing fields of biological sciences.

A Level Biology requires candidates to complete 5 examinations in total, with the option of taking 3 of these examinations at the end of year 11 as AS Level, and the remaining 2 examinations at the end of year 12. We strongly advise this 'staged' approach to A Level studies for all subjects where it is available as it enables a more focused study of specific material and keeps students motivated over the duration of the two year course.

Accounting

The key to A Level Accounting is application; turning business functions and ideas into numerical data for the purpose of decision making. Some examples include recording stock, calculating profit and understanding cash flow.

Students need to be able to record numbers accurately and logically and form conclusions that are consistent with the results they have created.

The aims of this subject are to:

- (a) develop an ability to apply accounting concepts, principles and practices;
- (b) understand the role of accounting as an information system for monitoring, problem solving and decision making and the place of accounting in changing economic, social and technological environments;
- (c) develop a critical and analytical approach to examining and evaluating accounting policies and practices;
- (d) develop skills of communication, analysis, interpretation and presentation of both qualitative and quantitative accounting information.

Chemistry

A Level Chemistry is a demanding subject; however, students who want to study medicine, biological science studies, or to do industrial research, will benefit from an in-depth study of chemistry. The rigorous analytical and thinking skills developed in the study of chemistry are transferable and applicable to a broad diversity of future studies and career choices. Students who choose to study Chemistry at the AS or A Level will need to have an above-average to high grade on the IGCSE Chemistry (or equivalent) examination.

As with all A Level science subjects A Level Chemistry assumes a sound foundation and working knowledge of basic chemistry, concepts, principles and techniques.

The aim of A Level chemistry is to prepare students for further tertiary studies in analytical sciences. Chemistry studies to year 12 (A Level) are a requirement for most university medical courses.

Business Studies

In a business, one organizes a group of people in creative and productive ways to generate profit. This course examines all the components of a business: the interactions between people, finance, marketing, operations, the economic environment. Students at the AS and A Levels will increase their base knowledge about Business Studies; however, they will also be able to use this knowledge to analyze the options, evaluate the situation, and make conclusions.

The aims of this subject are to:

- (a) understand the nature of business and its role in society
- (b) examine the environmental, ethical, governmental, social, and technological issues surrounding businesses
- (c) impart awareness that a business affects several stakeholders: the customers, manager, creditor, shareholders, and employees
- (d) understand organizational behaviour and the constantly changing markets
- (e) develop decision-making and problem-solving skills; information management; effective communication skills

Physics

The A/AS level Physics, a 2-year course has been developed for students who wish to continue with a study of Physics after grade 10. Some students may wish to follow a Physics course for only one year (grade 11) as an AS GCE, in order to broaden their curriculum or continue for a further year (grade 12), extending their course to Advance (full A-level) GCE.

A/AS Level Physics reinforces the skills acquired at IGCSE (grade 9 and 10). The syllabus includes the main theoretical concepts which are basic to the subject, a section on some current applications of physics, and a strong emphasis on advanced practical skills. The emphasis throughout is on the understanding of concepts and the application of basic physics ideas as well as the acquisition of knowledge. The course will develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills which will be useful to any future career path, particularly for those students who want to study physics or a wide variety of related subjects at university like engineering, architecture and other science related courses, Physics-dependent vocational courses or to enter employment where knowledge of Physics would be useful.

Thinking Skills

Thinking Skills involves the learning of a specific set of intellectual skills independent of subject content. This reflects the need to encourage students to develop more mature and sophisticated ways of thinking. By taking a course in Thinking Skills and applying these skills to their wider academic learning, it is hoped that students will approach their other subjects with an improved ability to understand, analyse and resolve problems.

The Thinking Skills syllabus has two aspects: **Problem Solving and Critical Thinking**

The problem solving component is designed to assess a student's ability to analyse numerical and graphical information in the context of real life situations and apply appropriate numerical techniques in order to find new information or derive solutions.

Central to Critical Thinking is the notion of argument. From the start students should learn to recognise when someone is engaged in reasoned argument, as distinct from quarrelling, disputing, reporting or explaining.

Art and Design

Art and Design is a mode of expression and communication. It is concerned with visual perception and aesthetic experience, and forms a language in addition to those used by literary, mathematical, scientific and factually based subjects.

Most of the work for this syllabus is of a practical nature or studio based so that candidates can develop their abilities of observation and analysis of the visual world, sensitivity, skill,

personal expression and imagination. Students should also learn to relate their skills to an enhanced knowledge of their own cultures, past and present, as well as an appreciation of practical design problems.

A Level Art and Design has four components: candidates for AS Level take Papers 1 (Controlled Test) and 2 (Coursework). Candidates for A Level will take these papers and Papers 3 (Coursework) and 4 (Related Study).

Applied Information Communication Technology

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an applied subject and all candidates will require frequent access to computer and Internet facilities to develop their skills. The syllabus aims to give Centres the flexibility to cope with a wide variety of resources and ever-changing technology. The practical sections of this course can be accomplished using any software packages that will allow the candidates to demonstrate ALL of the skills listed in the relevant sections of this syllabus. For this reason CIE does not prescribe particular software packages or particular hardware. Candidates will learn to use particular packages, but they should be encouraged to realise that, with the aid of a manual, they can transfer their skills to other packages.

Text books

Text books can be purchased from the school bookstore after students have decided on their Option Subjects.

Study and Homework

All AS and A Level students must do regular homework of at least two hours each day. Regardless of whether homework has been set there is always homework to be done. This could be completing unfinished class work, reviewing a completed topic and making tidy study notes, reading and making notes for Literature, researching a future topic or working on Art projects.

Students must write down all set homework in a Homework Diary.

Through-out A Level, students will be expected to make their own study notes, diagrams and summaries of topics covered in the classroom. It is important that students have exercise books (notebooks) for each subject that are clearly labeled with Name, Class and Subject. In addition plastic sleeves are needed to keep handouts given by the teacher. The school does not permit the use of ring-binder folders.

Internet

A Level students are only allowed to bring in their laptop computers and use the free wireless Internet to research topics with a permission slip issued by the director.

Examination and Assessment

School Report Card grades are based on monthly tests and End of Semester School Examinations.

The academic year has two semesters: Semester 1 from July – December and Semester 2 from January – June.