

Ghana International School
Lower Secondary School Academic Programme and
Curriculum:

A. EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

Art

Students are taught the various forms of art and art vocabulary. They are also taught to scrutinise and analyse objects and to solve basic problems in drawing, painting, design and craft. They learn various techniques and explore traditional methods as well as computer art.

Computer Studies

The aim of this course is to make all students computer literate. Basic keyboard skills are taught in Form 1 followed by application software such as word processing, spreadsheets etc. Students are then encouraged to apply what they have learned to their studies.

English Language

The aim of the syllabus is to help students develop effective oral and written communication skills in standard English and to lay the foundation for the IGCSE course. Teaching concentrates on equipping students with basic reading and writing skills. As part of this process, the mechanics of the language including spelling, grammar and punctuation are covered.

English Literature

The aim of the course is to develop the habit of reading texts other than for academic purposes, thus broadening the scope of comprehension, self-expression and appreciation of literary works and their authors.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

English as a Second Language offers intensive English instruction designed for students newly arrived in Ghana with little or no knowledge of English. Students are encouraged to join the regular class for subjects such as Art and Physical Education, and others as soon as they have a reasonable command of English. Normally, students stay in ESL for one to three terms.

French

Equal attention is given to both written and oral work in the language, and assessments will be based on these two aspects. Students entering Form 1 do not need any background in French although it is an advantage. ***New students in Forms 2 and 3 without previous work in French will find it difficult to catch up, as the course is continuous. In such cases, exemption may be granted in consultation with parents.***

Geography

The course introduces the basic concepts in Geography and their applications to spatial organisation.

History

The course covers an overview of the history of mankind from its origins to the present time, to equip students with skills for understanding and analysing historical information.

Mathematics

In Forms 1, 2 and 3, students begin preparation for the IGCSE syllabus. The course covers the basic concepts in arithmetic, algebra, geometry, set theory, graphs, probability and statistics. It aims at helping students to acquire these concepts, the basic skills in handling them and their application in practical tasks and real life problems, and to investigate mathematics itself in order to make predictions. Calculators are used at all stages.

Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

In Forms 1 to 3, students take Biology, Chemistry and Physics using an experimental and practical approach to the subjects. At the end of Form 3, students select the science subjects that they wish to continue studying at IGCSE.

Spanish

This is the second modern foreign language offered by the School. As with French, equal attention is devoted to both oral and written skills at all levels. It is an alternative to French, and is available to new students from Form 2 and up who are unable to catch up with French. Students coming into Form 1 as well as native French speakers may request to take Spanish in lieu of French.

B. NON- EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

Physical Education

The emphasis is on fitness and learning of the skills to play various games such as hockey, basketball, soccer, handball, etc. as well as prepare for track and field events at our annual

Sports Day held at the end of term two. ***Only those with a written medical excuse are exempt from PE.***

Music

The course is currently focusing on generating student interest. It seeks to teach students some music theory and how to play an instrument. It will incorporate the three strands of listening, performing and composing.

PSHE (Life Skills)

Personal Social Health Economic Education, together with study skills, are delivered to Forms 1 to 3 by a team consisting of the Form Teachers, Nurse, the Guidance Counsellor and the Librarian.

Health Studies

This course educates students on general health matters including healthy relationships, teenage sexuality and its related problems; drug and alcohol abuse, some first aid, etc. Basically, it is aimed at sensitizing students to teen-related health problems and also to counsel them as to how to avoid them, or deal with them. Health education is delivered through a series of talks, group discussions, role-play and audio-visual aids.

Library Studies

Students are taught library skills such as how libraries catalogue books and the different methods of accessing information and books in the library. They are taught reading skills and encouraged to use the resources available in the library. Research skills and the problem of plagiarising also form part of the curriculum.

Developmental and Studying Skills

These are taught by the Counselling Department. The course teaches social skills such as how to build healthy interpersonal relationships including teamwork, peaceful co-existence, and conflict resolution. It also teaches students learning skills such as how to plan the day to accommodate both academic and non-academic work. Generally this course seeks to help students deal with both emotional and social problems commonly associated with pre-teenage years.