



ST STITHIANS
ONLINE SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL GCSE

Academic Handbook



Introduction

St Stithians Online School, in collaboration with Valentre Institute, is a private online high school offering a curriculum recognised by the world's leading universities. Our students experience a highly engaging, inclusive and socially rich learning environment which is supported by expert tutors and mentors.

Our unique approach includes integration with worldwide sustainability objectives and encourages the holistic development of every student towards their purposeful and impactful future.

This Handbook may be reviewed, amended or updated at any time. Any changes to this Handbook will come into effect from the date on which the amended Handbook is made available on the St Stithians Online School [website](#). This Handbook should be read in conjunction with the [Qualification Terms and Conditions](#) and the Student Handbook located on the [Handbooks](#) link.

St Stithians Online School has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in its handbooks. However, we reserve the right at any time, if circumstances dictate (for example, if there are not sufficient students registered), to:

- (i) make alterations or changes to any of the published details of the opportunities on offer; or
- (ii) add to or withdraw any of the opportunities on offer.

Our students are given every assurance that changes to opportunities will only be made under compelling circumstances and students will be fully informed as soon as possible.



Contents

Introduction	2
Contents	3
Message from Head of School: Mrs Tessa Venter	6
Important information	7
Cycle Tests	9
Examinations	10
Setting yourself up for success	13
Technology requirements	13
Stationery requirements	13
Afrikaans	14
Art & Design	14
Biology	16
Business	16
Chemistry and/or Physics	16
English	18
French	18
Geography	18
History	18
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	18
Mathematics	19
Load Shedding	19



Matriculation Exemption for South African Students	19
Tertiary Studies	21
Explanation of Codes and Symbols used	21
Curriculum overview	23
Cambridge International GCSE Afrikaans	23
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Art & Design	23
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Biology	24
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Business	24
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Chemistry	24
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English	25
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE French	25
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Geography	25
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE History	26
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	26
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Mathematics Foundation Tier (FT)	27
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Mathematics Higher Tier (HT)	27
Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Physics	28
Faculty Departments and Subject Information	29
Afrikaans	29
Art & Design	31
Biology	34
Business	36



Chemistry	38
English	40
French	42
Geography	44
History	46
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	48
Mathematics	50
Mathematics Higher Tier (HT)	50
Mathematics Foundation Tier (FT)	52
Physics	54
Academic Reports & Progression	56
Progression requirements	59



Message from Head of School: Mrs Tessa Venter

A very warm welcome to all our St Stithians Online High School (SSOS) **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (International GCSE)** students. I am delighted that you have chosen to pursue your academic journey with us.

SSOS is a strongly connected global community that prides itself on offering world class education. Our hope is that, through your time with us, you are empowered to become a global citizen equipped to make the best of your individual and collective future.

At SSOS you will experience an inclusive, socially rich and engaging academic environment. You are encouraged to embrace every academic opportunity that presents itself. Your mentor and teachers are committed to your success and look forward to partnering with you to achieve this.

Please take your time to read through the important information contained in this academic handbook. Please reach out to your mentor should anything be unclear or should you have questions.

I look forward to seeing your success at SSOS and trust you have found the school where you are inspired to achieve excellence and to make a world of difference.

Tessa Venter
Head of St Stithians Online School



Important information

Period of study

- The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualification runs for a total of 18 or 24 months depending on a January or July intake.
- This is broken down into three semesters of 6 months each for the 18 month duration or four semesters* of 6 months each for the 24 month duration.
- The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualification comprises a total of 18 courses.

****Students taking a 24 month International GCSE will still see that their courses are labelled Semester 1, Semester 2 and Semester 3. There is no reference to Semester 4 on the learning path.***

Pearson Edexcel Qualification rules

- The Pearson Edexcel International GCSE qualification is subject to the rules set by Pearson Edexcel as the awarding body. Information relevant to this qualification is available on the Pearson Edexcel website and students are expected to consult these resources and adhere to the rules and processes set out.

What are Open Office Hours?

- Office Hours are time slots that are available to students should they wish to book time with their Teachers to discuss specific issues.
- Each teacher will have Office Hours slots available on their calendar.



- Students will be able to see the availability of a teacher for Office Hours by checking their teacher's calendar.
- Students can book Office Hours directly on their teacher's calendar.
- Office Hours are also used for students' bi-weekly Learning Compass call with their dedicated Student Success Mentors.

What is DP?

- DP (Duly Performed) requirements are participation requirements that are set over and above the general progression requirements for a subject. These requirements are subject-specific and will be communicated to you.

What happens if I don't get my DP?

- In the event that your DP is refused (DPR) your final report will not be released to you.
- Students whose DP is refused may apply for a concession to have their DP status reinstated by contacting their Mentor, who will explain the process to be followed.
- All concession requests will be reviewed by the Faculty Board.

How do I avoid DPR?

- You can avoid DPR by ensuring that you familiarise yourself with the DP requirements for each subject that you are enrolled for and complying with these throughout the duration of your studies.



Cycle Tests

Requirements

Students are required to have the following in order to facilitate the effective running of a cycle test.

- Access to a printer. Cycle tests need to be printed and handwritten unless otherwise directed.
- A working web camera. This allows for test invigilation to take place and ensures academic integrity.
- A means to scan completed cycle tests. Smartphones may be used for scanning.

Deferred cycle tests

- If a student cannot be present for a scheduled **cycle test**, a valid reason must be provided for a special arrangement to be made. Valid reasons:
 - Illness (a doctor's note to be provided)
 - Accident or emergency (email from the parent / guardian to be provided)
 - Compassionate grounds (email from the parent / guardian to be provided)
- If it is decided that there is valid reason to reschedule a cycle test:
 - arrangement must be made with the respective Student Success Mentor/Learning Coach for the student to write the **alternative** cycle test. In a case where a deferred **cycle test** cannot be written, and a valid reason is provided, the student will be granted an 'average' score, calculated as a cumulative grade from all completed summative tasks. This decision would be made by the Head of School.



Special accommodations

- *Should a student require any special accommodations, such as extra time, larger print, or use of a scribe, then the guardian(s) are required to contact the Student Success Mentor/Learning Coach who will advise on the process to follow.*

Examinations

Internal Examinations

Students are required to have the following in order to facilitate the effective running of an examination.

- Access to a printer. Examinations need to be printed and handwritten unless otherwise directed.
- A working web camera. This allows for test invigilation to take place and ensures academic integrity.
- A means to scan completed cycle tests.

Deferred examinations

- If a student cannot be present for a scheduled **Exam**, a valid reason must be provided for a special arrangement to be made. Valid reasons:
 - Illness (a doctor's note to be provided)
 - Accident or emergency (email from the parent / guardian to be provided)
 - Compassionate grounds (email from the parent / guardian to be provided)



- If it is decided that there is valid reason to reschedule an Exam:
 - arrangement must be made with the respective Student Success Mentor/Learning Coach for the student to write the **alternative** exam within the deferred exam block.
- In a case where an **Exam** cannot be written during the deferred exam block, and a valid reason is provided, the student will be granted an 'average' score, calculated as a cumulative grade from all completed summative tasks. This decision would be made by the Head of School.

Special accommodations

- *Should a student require any special accommodations, such as extra time, larger print, or use of a scribe, then the student's guardian(s) are required to contact the Student Success Mentor/Learning Coach who will advise on the process to follow.*

External Examination period

- All external examinations for subjects are to be written in May / June at the end of the International GCSE qualification according to the dates and times set out in the timetable set by Pearson Edexcel.
- Examinations may not be taken at different times without the written approval of the Head of School.

Examination rules

- ALL rules relating to examinations are set by Pearson Edexcel. Valentre Institute and St Stithians College are required to ensure adherence to these rules.
- Students are required to familiarise themselves with the rules pertaining to examinations on the Pearson Edexcel website and must abide by these rules at all times.



- For any special accommodations, such as extra time, larger print, Dyslexie font or use of a scribe, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) is required to contact the Student Success Mentor, who will advise on the process to follow. This needs to be done 6 months before the external examination sitting. This allows sufficient time for the correct procedures to be followed in order to obtain the concessions requested.

Examination venues

- ALL examinations must be written in person at a school exam centre that is approved by Pearson Edexcel.
- Examination venues are secured by St Stithians Online School according to the regional distribution of the student cohort, and details of the venues will be provided to students at least three months prior to their first written examination.
- It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that they make the necessary arrangements to arrive at the respective venue on time.
- Please note that deferred examinations cannot be granted for external examinations.



Setting yourself up for success

Technology requirements

Chromebooks, Notebooks, and most modern desktop computers with peripherals such as a webcam and earphones will do the job. Your main shopping list should include: a laptop, headphones, an additional separate webcam (if your laptop has a camera in the keyboard a separate webcam is essential), uncapped wifi (we recommend a minimum 20Mbps line), TapScanner scanning app (or desktop scanner), printer, **and for our South African students, we highly recommend purchasing an Uninterrupted Power Supply** (UPS) due to sporadic load shedding.

Stationery requirements

We encourage students to make use of the various apps and programmes associated with an online education, but we do also recognise that students may prefer to use physical notebooks, highlighters and other stationery to support their studies. This is a personal preference and up to the student to decide what they will need to be successful. However, there are some subject specific requirements that students will need to purchase. These items can be purchased directly from our [online store](#) (run solely by an external service provider) and items will be delivered directly to the student's home, if they reside within the borders of the RSA. Unfortunately our online store cannot make international deliveries. Guardians are also welcome to source these items independently should they wish to do so.



Afrikaans

- English/Afrikaans dictionary (optional)

Art & Design

- The **SSOS Int. GCSE Art Kit** containing the following items:

Item	Description	Quantity
Visual Diary A4 hard cover (VD SA A4)	Hardcover book with approximately 80 sheets of good quality drawing paper in it, preferably between 90 - 120gram	2 books
White Mount Board 350g A3	Good quality board that can be used for watercolour, charcoal, pencil or acrylic paint due to its thickness and textural quality.	20 sheets
Newsprint A4	Beige/ off-white paper A4 70g	10 sheets
Brown card A4 235g	White board A4 235g	10 sheets
Brown paper A4 80g	Brown paper A4 80g	10 sheets
Black paper A4 80g	Black paper A4 80g	10 sheets
Lyra Robinson Pencil 4B	Drawing pencil 4B	1
Lyra Robinson Pencil 2B	Drawing pencil 2B	2
Woodless charcoal pencil medium	Woodless charcoal pencil medium	1
Cretacolour Sepia Dark pencil	Sepia colour pencil crayon	1
Teddy wax crayon medium white	White wax crayon	1



Nexx Large Eraser	Dust free eraser	1
Cretacolour putty rubber	Putty rubber	1
Sharpener metal single	Metal sharpener	1
Eberhard Faber prinzeessin watercolour set	Watercolour set	1
Dala Acrylic 75ml Lamp black	Lamp black Acrylic paint 75ml	1
Dala Acrylic 75ml Titanium White	Titanium white Acrylic paint 75ml	1
Dala Acrylic 75ml Pthalo Blue	Pthalo blue Acrylic paint 75ml	1
Dala Acrylic 75ml Permanent Yellow	Permanent yellow Acrylic paint 75ml	1
Dala Acrylic 75ml Light Red	Light red Acrylic paint 75ml	1
Dala Acrylic 75ml Burnt Sienna	Burnt sienna Acrylic paint 75ml	1
Dala Acrylic 75ml Paynes Grey	Paynes grey Acrylic paint 75ml	1
Brush set white Taklon 4 piece	Brush set (Size 2 and 10 Round tip brush; Size 6 and 14 Square tip brush)	1
Lyra graduate fineliner black	Black fineliner pen	1
Dala Acrylic Ink 50ml Black	Acrylic ink 50ml black	1
Butcher Paper A4 45gram	Butcher paper or tracing paper A4 45 - 90gram, 30 sheets	30 sheets



Eberhard Farber Pencil Crayons set of 10	Pencil crayon set of 10	1 Set of 10
Staedtler Tri grip Pencil Crayon Single (white)	White pencil crayon	1

Biology

- Casio FX 82ZA PLUS II scientific calculator
- The **SSOS Science Kit** (see itemised list required for Chemistry and/or Physics) ***You will not need to purchase a new science kit if you have previously purchased a science kit for the Junior High Qualification.***
- In addition, the **SSOS Int. GCSE Biology Top Up Kit** which includes the following items:

Item	Quantity
Boiling Tube	6
Hydrogen Carbonate Indicator	50ml
Plastic Beaker 100ml	5
Stoppers for boiling tubes	5
Test Tube Holder (tongs)	1
Test tube rack (6 boiling tubes)	1
FX82ZA plus Casio new generation scientific calculator	1

Business

- Casio FX 82ZA PLUS II scientific calculator

Chemistry and/or Physics

- Casio FX 82ZA PLUS II scientific calculator
- The **SSOS Science Kit**. *You will not need to purchase a new science kit if you have previously purchased a science kit for the Junior High Qualification.* The **SSOS Science Kit** contains the following items:



Item	Quantity
Battery 9V	1
Battery Snap	1
Beaker 250ml	1
Beaker 500ml	2
Buzzer with leads	1
Crocodile Wire	4
Fan Blade	1
Motor	1
Iodine 50ml	1
Iron filings 100g	1
Lab Coat (select your correct size)	1
Led	5
Lime Water 50ml	1
Magnets (pair)	1
Measuring cylinder 100ml	1
Pasteur Pipette	1
Plastic Beaker 100ml	1
Safety Glasses	1
Slinky spring	1
Spatula	1
Switch (for circuits)	1
Test tube 20ml	6
Test tube brush	1
Test tube rack (6 holes)	1
Thermometer	1



Torch bulb holder (bulb holders for circuits)	2
Torch bulbs (for circuits)	4
Triangular Prism	1
Universal indicator 50ml	1

English

- N/A

French

- Collins French Dictionary

Geography

- Ruler
- Mathematical Set
- Casio FX 82ZA PLUS II scientific calculator

History

- N/A

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

- **Operating System:**
 - MS Windows or Mac OS (preferably MS Windows 10)
- **Application Software:**
 - MS Professional
 - i. MS Word
 - ii. MS Excel
 - iii. MS PowerPoint
 - iv. MS Access Database
 - GIMP Graphics Editor ([Download portal](#))
 - Google Web Designer ([Download portal](#))
 - Chrome Browser ([Download portal](#))
- **ICT Hardware requirements:**



- Laptop or desktop device
- Minimum of 4GB RAM, preferably 8GB RAM
- Minimum 256 GB SSD storage, preferably 512GB SSD storage (Solid state hard drives are more resilient and faster than standard harddrives)
- Webcam access
- Microphone access
- Access to a mouse/trackpad
- Keyboard
- Speakers
- Internet Access
- Printer access

Mathematics

- Mathematical Set
- Ruler
- Casio FX 82ZA PLUS II scientific calculator

Load Shedding

For our South African students, load shedding remains a reality. As schedules are usually published* in advance, load shedding will not constitute a valid reason for missing a class, test or examination. We require students to make an alternative plan to be online for their relevant scheduled sessions despite load shedding.

****We appreciate that occasionally load shedding schedules change with little to no warning. We monitor this closely and should this occur the Head of School will make a determination as to whether students may be excused.***

Matriculation Exemption for South African Students

South African students wishing to study at a tertiary institute in South Africa* will need to apply for a matriculation exemption. This exemption is granted
Page 19 of 60



by Universities South Africa (USAf) and a student needs to apply directly to USAf for this. A matriculation exemption is a prerequisite to apply for university study in South Africa.

To qualify for a matriculation exemption a student must fulfill the following criteria:

1. Home language (only English is currently offered at St Stithians Online School) must be taken at International GCSE level and at International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) level.
2. A student must take a second language (either Afrikaans or French) and write the International GCSE external examinations in this subject. A student needs to achieve a grade level 4 for their second language.
3. A student wishing to complete school after International AS Level must take four (4) subjects.

****St Stithians Online School highly recommends that ALL South African studies align their studies to ensure they meet matriculation exemption requirements.***



Tertiary Studies

Prior to embarking on the International GCSE course, SSOS highly recommends that students and guardians research prospective tertiary studies options, including both institutes and specific programmes.

Each tertiary studies institute and programme on offer will have their own set of admission requirements in terms of school subjects taken. It is important that students and guardians understand what these are. While we are able to guide students we are not able to provide specific requirements per institute or study programme.

Explanation of Codes and Symbols used

The following codes are appended to each course code to indicate the semester of study in which they are taken:

F	First semester
S	Second semester
T	Third semester



The following codes are used to indicate your final result for each course that you have enrolled for:

RESULTS CODES	MEANING
PA	Pass
F	Fail
DPR	Duly Performed Refused
AB	Absent from exam
ATT	Attended
DE	Deferred exam
DP	Duly Performed



Curriculum overview

Cambridge International GCSE Afrikaans

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Afrikaans 1	IGAFR201
2	International GCSE Afrikaans 2	IGAFR202
3	International GCSE Afrikaans 3	IGAFR203

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Art & Design

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Art and Design 1	IGART201
2	International GCSE Art and Design 2	IGART202
3	International GCSE Art and Design 3	IGART203



Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Biology

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Biology 1	IGBIO201
2	International GCSE Biology 2	IGBIO202
3	International GCSE Biology 3	IGBIO203

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Business

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Business 1	IGBUS201
2	International GCSE Business 2	IGBUS202
3	International GCSE Business 3	IGBUS203

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Chemistry

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Chemistry 1	IGCHM201
2	International GCSE Chemistry 2	IGCHM202
3	International GCSE Chemistry 3	IGCHM203



Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE English 1	IGENG201
2	International GCSE English 2	IGENG202
3	International GCSE English 3	IGENG203

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE French

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE French 1	IGFRE201
2	International GCSE French 2	IGFRE202
3	International GCSE French 3	IGFRE203

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Geography

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Geography 1	IGGEO201
2	International GCSE Geography 2	IGGEO202
3	International GCSE Geography 3	IGGEO203



Pearson Edexcel International GCSE History

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE History 1	IGHIS201
2	International GCSE History 2	IGHIS202
3	International GCSE History 3	IGHIS203

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE ICT 1	IGICT201
2	International GCSE ICT 2	IGICT202
3	International GCSE ICT 3	IGICT203



Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Mathematics Foundation Tier (FT)

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Mathematics Foundation Tier 1	IGMATF201
2	International GCSE Mathematics Foundation Tier 2	IGMATF202
3	International GCSE Mathematics Foundation Tier 3	IGMATF203

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Mathematics Higher Tier (HT)

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Mathematics Higher Tier 1	IGMATH201
2	International GCSE Mathematics Higher Tier 2	IGMATH202
3	International GCSE Mathematics Higher Tier 3	IGMATH203



Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Physics

SEMESTER	COURSE	CODE
1	International GCSE Physics 1	IGPHY201
2	International GCSE Physics 2	IGPHY202
3	International GCSE Physics 3	IGPHY203



Faculty Departments and Subject Information

Afrikaans

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recognise public notices, signs, timetables, advertisements, language conventions, ect.2. Identify relevant, specific information in written text and present it in a logical manner.3. Identify important points and themes of spoken text.4. Describe and give personal information.5. Draw conclusions from, and identify relationships between ideas in spoken text.6. Deduce meaning of specific details and information in written and spoken text.7. Evaluate the speaker's intention in spoken text.8. Compose simple and more complex writing tasks in response to a written stimulus.9. Conduct a sustained conversation on topical ideas.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3</p>
<p>EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL</p>	<p>Examinable Component: Paper 1 (Reading and Writing) Weighting towards final grade: 70%</p>



	Examinable Component: Paper 2 (Listening) Weighting towards final grade: 30%
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGAFR201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGAFR202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGAFR203



Art & Design

EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
2. Develop creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts and products
3. Become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques
4. Develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills
5. Develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes or solutions with increasing independence
6. Acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent
7. Develop knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures
8. Develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices evident in the production of art, craft and design in the creative and cultural industries
9. Develop an awareness of the purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and



	<p>design in a variety of contexts and as appropriate to students' own work</p> <p>10. Demonstrate safe working practices in art, craft and design.</p>
INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	<p>Participation and engagement</p> <p>Formative assessment: 20% of GPA</p> <p>Summative assessment: 80% of GPA</p> <p>Final exam at the end of Course 3</p>
EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL	<p>Examinable Component: Component 1 (Personal Portfolio)</p> <p>Weighting towards final grade: 50%</p> <p>Total Marks Available for Component: 72</p> <p>Examinable Component: Component 2 (Externally - set Assignment)</p> <p>Weighting towards final grade: 50%</p> <p>Total Marks Available for Component: 72</p>
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGART201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGART202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<p><i>Internal assessment:</i></p> <p>GPA: 40%</p> <p>Participation and engagement: 80%</p>
COURSE 3	



CODE	IGART203
<p>PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO A LEVEL* IN THIS SUBJECT)</p> <p>*Pearson EdExcel do not currently offer International AS (IAS) Levels in Art & Design. A student wishing to take this subject beyond International GCSE will need to complete an International A Level (IAL).</p>	<p><i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i></p> <p>GPA: 60%</p> <p>Participation and engagement: 80%</p>



Biology

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Classify organisms as prokaryotic or eukaryotic living organisms and / or pathogens, based on their characteristics and cell structures.2. Investigate the levels of organisation in living organisms, including cell structure and transport and the presence of biological molecules.3. Evaluate how human and plant physiology is designed to facilitate nutrition, respiration and gas exchange.4. Analyse the systems of transport, excretion, and coordination and response in plants and humans.5. Compare the systems of reproduction and inheritance in plants and humans.6. Investigate cycles within ecosystems and the relationship between organisms and their environment.7. Critique human use of biological resources through selective breeding, genetic engineering and cloning.8. Investigate biological concepts by conducting experiments using correct and safe laboratory techniques.9. Evaluate data and experimental methods with the aim to draw accurate conclusions and recommend possible improvements to experimental methods.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3</p>



EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL	Examinable Component: Paper 1 Weighting towards final grade: 61.1% Total Marks Available for Component: 110 Examinable Component: Paper 2 Weighting towards final grade: 38.9% Total Marks Available for Component: 70
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGBIO201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGBIO202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGBIO203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



Business

EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain various business terms, concepts and issues.2. Use business terms, concepts, theories and calculations effectively in given business contexts.3. Analyse information from sources to investigate business issues.4. Evaluate business information to make reasoned judgements and draw conclusions.
INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3
EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL	Examinable Component: Paper 1 (Investigating a small business) Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 80 marks Examinable Component: Paper 2 (Investigating larger business) Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 80 marks
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGBUS201
COURSE 2	



CODE	IGBUS202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGBUS203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



Chemistry

EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess the principles of chemistry.2. Predict outcomes in inorganic chemistry.3. Investigate physical chemistry focusing on energetics, rates of reaction, reversible reactions and equilibria.4. Evaluate outcomes in organic chemistry such as those involving alkanes, alkenes and alcohols.5. Analyse chemical equations in both written and symbolised form.6. Solve problems in chemistry using relevant and appropriate areas of mathematics.7. Investigate chemistry experiments based on correct and safe laboratory techniques.
INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3
EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL	Examinable Component: Paper 1 Weighting towards final grade: 61.1% Total Marks Available for Component: 110 Examinable Component: Paper 2 Weighting towards final grade: 38.9% Total Marks Available for Component: 70
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGCHM201
COURSE 2	



CODE	IGCHM202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGCHM203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



English

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate the ability to identify, read and understand a variety of texts, selecting and interpreting information, ideas and perspectives.2. Demonstrate an understanding of linguistic devices used by writers.3. Apply techniques to communicate effectively and imaginatively, adapting form, tone and register of writing for specific purposes and audiences.4. Analyse how writers use linguistics and structural devices to achieve their effects.5. Assess links and connections between writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed.6. Write clearly, using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, with appropriate paragraphing and accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Participation and engagement● Formative assessment: 20% of GPA● Summative assessment: 80% of GPA● Final exam at the end of Course 3● Oral course is not assessed externally but will follow all specifications of the International GCSE Spoken Language Paper. A separate mark will be given for oral work.
<p>EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAMS</p>	<p>Examinable Component: Paper 1 (Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing:) Weighting towards final grade: 60% Total Marks Available for Component: 90 marks</p>



	Examinable Component: Paper 2 Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing: Weighting towards final grade: 40% Total Marks Available for Component: 60 marks
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGENG201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGENG202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGENG203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External Assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



French

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recall a range of vocabulary from various topics.2. Demonstrate an understanding of written and spoken forms of French, in a range of familiar and practical context and for a variety of purposes.3. Use a range of vocabulary and structures to communicate effectively in French, using the written word and speech.4. Practice using French grammar in various contexts.5. Compare the countries and communities where French is spoken.6. Evaluate attitudes towards modern foreign language learning.7. Develop a suitable foundation for the further study of French or another language.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3</p>
<p>EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL</p>	<p>Examinable Component: Paper 1 (Listening) Weighting towards final grade: 25% Total Marks Available for Component: 40 marks Examinable Component: Paper 2 (Reading and Writing) Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 80 marks Examinable Component: Paper 3 (Speaking)</p>



	Weighting towards final grade: 25% Total Marks Available for Component: 40 marks
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGFRE201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGFRE202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGFRE203



Geography

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apply and build on the fundamental building blocks of geographical knowledge.2. Use their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts to appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world.3. Use a framework of spatial awareness to appreciate the importance of the location of places and environments at a range of scales.4. Apply their learning to the real world through fieldwork.5. Investigate geographical case studies that include both primary and secondary data collection, presentation and analysis, drawing conclusions, and evaluating the whole geographical investigation.6. Debate global issues and recognise the challenges of moving towards a sustainable future.7. Evaluate different views of, and attitudes to, the world, its environments and its issues.8. Present work that requires enquiry and independent, critical and reflective thinking.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3</p>
<p>EXTERNAL</p>	<p>Examinable Component: Paper 1 (Physical</p>



ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL	Geography) Weighting towards final grade: 40% Total Marks Available for Component: 70 marks Examinable Component: Paper 2 (Human Geography) Weighting towards final grade: 60% Total Marks Available for Component: 105 marks
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGGEO201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGGEO202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGGEO203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



History

EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Analyse key features and characteristics of historical periods.2. Compare a range of source material in order to comprehend, interpret and cross refer sources.3. Analyse historical events and periods using second-order historical concepts, as well as interpretations of historical periods and events.4. Evaluate historical events and make historical judgements.5. Compile and present their knowledge and understanding of history.
INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3
EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL	Examinable Component: Paper 1 (Depth Studies) Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 60 marks Examinable Component: Paper 2 (Investigation & Breadth Study) Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 60 marks
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGHIS201



COURSE 2	
CODE	IGHIS202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGHIS203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society2. Learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts by individuals and organisations3. Develop awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice4. Broaden and enhance their ICT skills and capability5. Work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts6. Learn how to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and how to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3</p>
<p>EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL</p>	<p>Examinable Component: Paper 1 (Theory) Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 100 marks Examinable Component: Paper 2 (Practical) Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 100 marks</p>
<p>COURSE 1</p>	



CODE	IGICT201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGICT202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGICT203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



Mathematics

Mathematics Higher Tier (HT)

EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Apply transformations to 2D shapes.
2. Draw geometric figures using ruler, protractor and compass.
3. Solve problems involving numbers, including set notation.
4. Investigate patterns and sequences.
5. Solve problems by means of algebra.
6. Investigate graphs represented by algebraic equations.
7. Solve problems by use of Differential Calculus.
8. Investigate Euclidean Geometry theorems related to and properties of straight lines, polygons and circles.
9. Solve problems in right-angled triangles using Pythagoras's Theorem and Trigonometry.
10. Solve problems involving vectors.
11. Solve problems involving perimeter, area, surface area and volume of various 2D and 3D shapes.
12. Analyse data in order to draw mathematical conclusions and make predictions.
13. Solve problems involving probability.
14. Evaluate knowledge of various mathematical topics through assessments and reflective activities.



INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	Participation and engagement: 80% Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final (external) exam at the end of Course 3
EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAMS	
COURSE 1	
CODE	IGMATH201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGMATH202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGMATH203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



Mathematics Foundation Tier (FT)

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Solve problems involving numbers2. Analyse patterns and sequences.3. Solve problems by means of algebra.4. Analyse graphs represented by algebraic equations.5. Analyse the properties of various one-, two- and three-dimensional objects.6. Analyse Euclidean Geometry theorems related to straight lines, polygons and circles.7. Apply transformations to 2D shapes.8. Solve problems involving perimeter, area, surface area and volume of various 2D and 3D shapes.9. Analyse data in order to draw conclusions and make predictions.10. Solve problems involving probability.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Participation and engagement: 80% Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final (external) exam at the end of Course 3</p>
<p>EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAMS</p>	<p>Examinable Component: Paper 1 Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 100</p> <p>Examinable Component: Paper 2 Weighting towards final grade: 50% Total Marks Available for Component: 100</p>



COURSE 1	
CODE	IGMATF201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGMATF202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment: GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%</i>
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGMATF203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>It is not possible to progress to AS Level Mathematics with International GCSE Maths Foundation tier as a precedent.</i>



Physics

<p>EXIT-LEVEL OUTCOMES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Investigate interactions of forces and motion on a body.2. Analyse relationships of various electricity principles.3. Investigate the electromagnetic spectrum, light, sound and the properties of waves.4. Compare energy sources, the transfer of energy/ energy transfers, work and power.5. Distinguish between states, density, pressure and ideal gas molecules.6. Classify magnetism, electromagnetism, electromagnetic induction and the elements thereof.7. Analyse the relationships that exist in radioactivity and particles.8. Investigate motion in the universe, stellar evolution and cosmology.9. Reflect on scenarios from the perspective of a physicist.
<p>INTERNAL ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>Participation and engagement Formative assessment: 20% of GPA Summative assessment: 80% of GPA Final exam at the end of Course 3</p>
<p>EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT: PEARSON EDEXCEL</p>	<p>Examinable Component: Paper 1 Weighting towards final grade: 61.1% Total Marks Available for Component: 110</p> <p>Examinable Component: Paper 2 Weighting towards final grade: 38.1% Total Marks Available for Component: 70</p>



COURSE 1	
CODE	IGPHY201
COURSE 2	
CODE	IGPHY202
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO COURSE 3)	<i>Internal assessment:</i> GPA: 40% Participation and engagement: 80%
COURSE 3	
CODE	IGPHY203
PROGRESSION REQUIREMENT (TO AS LEVEL IN THIS SUBJECT)	<i>External assessment: Grade Level 6</i> GPA: 60% Participation and engagement: 80%



Academic Reports & Progression

Guardians are encouraged to make use of the Guardian community to monitor student progress. Guardians will be able to view a student's most up to date grades as well as the status of assignment submissions. This information is updated on a weekly basis.

A more comprehensive report will be issued at the end of each term. These reports will indicate participation and engagement; the student's achievement on formative and summative assessments (as a percentage), and a grade level (grading of 9 to 1 - See Appendix 1).

Reports will include comments by the mentor and the subject teacher. Below is a table illustrating the details accounted for in a report.

International GCSE students will not receive a report in the last term of the qualification when they sit external examinations.

ASPECT GRADED (PER SUBJECT)	DESCRIPTION	HOW WE TRACK THIS	HOW WE GRADE THIS
Participation and engagement	This is a measure of the number of tasks completed and the number of live sessions	We track 'log-in' to live sessions and completion of tasks that require student input.	Percentage



	attended throughout the course.		
Academic performance : Formative	This is a measure of the student's achievement in formative tasks throughout the course.	Various assessments, e.g. graded quizzes; summarising tasks; and online assignments (that don't fall into the scope of the assessments described below)	Weighted percentage
Academic performance : Summative	This is a measure of how a student performs in 'exam-style' assessments and the mock exams throughout the course.	Summative assessments (eg: online assignments; tests and exams) in which we use either past Edexcel exam questions and marking rubrics; or assessments in which tasks are based on Edexcel exam-paper questions and require students to respond at a similar level.	Weighted Percentage



GPA Average: Calculated as the average of formative assessments (20%) and summative assessments (80%).			%
Comments: Subject teachers report on academic achievement and progress. Mentors write a more global comment on academic progress as well as their engagement, participation and extracurricular involvement.			



Progression requirements

Promotion to the next semester is not automatic, except from Course 1 (Semester 1) to Course 2 (Semester 2) for courses of 18 months or more. We want to give students the best opportunity to succeed and if they are not responding to the interventions that were put in place and not meeting the requirements that give them the best chance of succeeding, then consideration will be given to them repeating with a different intake. Decisions to repeat and join a different intake need to be ratified by the Faculty Board.

In order to progress from Course 2 (Semester 2) to Course 3 (Semester 3):

A student needs to achieve a minimum of the following in order to be promoted to the next Semester (except for the end of the final Semester which is described below):

1. a Grade Level 4 (40-49%) for First Language English or their chosen Foreign/Second Language, and a Grade level 3 (30-39%) for the other, and
2. a total of 6 International GCSE subject passes if 6 or more subjects are taken or 5 International GCSE passes if only 5 subjects were taken (a pass at International GCSE is defined as a grade level 4 (40-49%) or better), which must **include** at least three grade level 6s (60-69%) or above.

From International GCSE to International Advanced Subsidiary (IAS) level (in the same subject):

Points are awarded according to the grade level achieved in each subject, where the points allocated are equal to the grade obtained. A grade level of 3 or below will not receive any points.

The following **will guarantee** entry to a full International AS Level



academic programme (ie. four International AS Level subjects) at SSOS:

1. a total of **at least 28 points** in the sum of their best 6 subject grade levels, **and**
2. a minimum grade level of 6 (60-69%) in the subjects the student wishes to study at AS Level (and a grade level 6 in Mathematics in order to take Physics), **and**
3. at least a grade level 4 (40-49%) in English Language.

Students who do not meet the requirements for the full International AS (IAS) Level programme may be considered for a reduced academic programme of three International AS Level subjects.

Appendix 1

Pearson uses the numeric grading system of 9-1, a grading system introduced in the UK for International GCSEs. At SSOS we use the 9-1 grading system for International GCSEs as well.

In the Percentage Uniform Mark GPA, a grade level 9 will equate to a mark of 90-100%; a grade level 8 will equate to a mark of 80-89%, a 7 to a mark of 70-79%; and so on. The table below shows a comparison between the grade levels 9-1 system and the old grade system A* to G that was used at International GCSE level prior to the 9-1 system being introduced.

New 1-9 grade system	Old A*- G grade system
9	A**
8	A*/A
7	A
6	B
5	B/C
4	C
3	D/E
2	E/F
1	F/G

Strong Pass
Standard Pass