

# Key Stage 4 Courses

## Choosing your options at IGCSE

At the end of Year 9 you will have completed your Key Stage 3 courses. In Year 10 you will start Key Stage 4. Now is the time to consider which options you wish to study to IGCSE examination level over the next two years.

In Key Stage 4 some subjects still remain compulsory. All students must take English & Mathematics.

The remaining six subjects are selected from the options offered in this booklet. Each student should make sure their options include a language\*, one scientific subject, one humanity subject and one creative arts subject. You can then opt for a two other subjects from humanities, science or creative arts. \*students who need extra English support may be offered this in place of a foreign language course.

It is a difficult decision to make. Not only will the courses you decide to take determine the work you do in school but they could also influence your career possibilities.

At the moment you may not be sure about your future career, or you may change your mind over the next few years. We therefore recommend that you to choose a range of subjects that will give you a flexible and balanced course.

### How should I choose my options?

Good reasons for making a particular choice are because you like a subject, because you are good at it or because you will need it for your future job. Do not take a subject just because you like a particular teacher – they may not teach you next year. Also avoid taking a particular subject just because most of your friends have chosen it.

You will need to think carefully about your choices. You will need to discuss your options with your parents. You might want to look at careers websites such as [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

If the subject you want to study is new to you, we suggest that you talk to the teacher about it by making an appointment for yourself and your parents at the parent-teacher evening. If you or your parents have any problems then we hope that they will be answered at our Options Meetings in January.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Skoudy on [k.skoudy@bisistanbul.org](mailto:k.skoudy@bisistanbul.org)

**For pupils in Year 9, the choosing of option subjects is an is is an extremely important task. Great care and thought must be put into the process.**

**Not only will your choices determine the work you do over the next two years, but also it could influence your career possibilities.**

## What will You Study?

You already know that some of the subjects you will study are compulsory. These are known as the core subjects.

The following table shows you these subjects.

Subject	Level		
IGCSE English	ESL	English 1 <sup>st</sup> language	English Literature
IGCSE Maths	Core	Extended	Accelerated (Add Maths)

- Your subject teachers will place you in an appropriate level based on your performance and progress in year 9
- Some students will take the IGCSE English as a second language (ESL) exam at the end of year 10 and move to the IGCSE English as a first language Exam in year 11
- Accelerated Maths students will take the IGCSE Maths exam at the end of year 10 and move on to the IGCSE Additional Maths exam at the end of year 11

The remaining lessons of the week are made up from the 6 optional subjects which will be chosen from the following list. **These are the subjects we currently offer:**

**Languages:** Turkish, French, German, Spanish

**Arts:** Drama, Visual Art, Music

**PE:** Physical Education

**Sciences:** Biology, Physics, Chemistry, ICT

**Humanities:** Geography, History, Business studies, Economics, Sociology

Please note: Due to the similarity in the content of the courses it is not recommended to take both Business Studies **AND** Economics.

The options will be organised into blocks on the **options form** that is issued at the **options meeting**, please make sure you and your parents attend this meeting.

You need to select one option from each block. Needless to say you cannot take the same subject in two blocks. Remember you must take at least 1 modern foreign language, 1 subject from the sciences, 1 from the humanities, 1 from the Creative Arts in your options.

When you are making your choices you should use all the available resources to help you. Don't decide to take a subject just because your friends are taking it. Think about what you would like to do later on (University) and do your research. Some courses require a particular subject.

This booklet is designed to help you in making your choices.

You will find the content of each subject outlined on the following pages.

You should also talk to a teacher who teaches the subject.

As you read through this booklet have a piece of paper and a pencil with you. You may have questions to ask. Write down any questions you have – so you don't forget.

You must select your options using BISI IGCSE Options Form that will be given out at the Options meeting in January.

## **What do I do now?**

- Discuss your choices with your parents.
- Do your research! What subjects will you need for a particular Further Education course.
- Look at your last report card and see what subjects you are successful in.
- Select one Science (Physics, Biology, Chemistry or ICT), one Humanity (History, Geography, Business Studies, Sociology or Economics) and one Creative Arts (Music, Visual Art, Drama) plus any other two from any of Science, Humanity, Creative Arts.
- Choose your Language.
- Decide what your second choice of subjects could be. This will be used if you first choices do not fit into the option blocks.
- Attend the options meeting with your parents and fill in the options form.



# Drama

**IGCSE Drama** is a course for students who want to develop acting and performance skills. It involves both practical and written work. You will develop confidence through group work and performance in front of audience, and deepen your thinking about theatre through the study of plays, and by writing evaluations.

During the course you will cover the following topics:

- Improvisation
- Responding to a stimulus
- Scripted performance
- Devised performance
- Evaluation of performance
- Performance of a set text
- Technical and historical aspects of drama
- Enjoyment of live theatre

## **Assessment:**

### Coursework (60%)

- group scripted performance (20%)
- group devised performance (20%)
- individual performance (monologue) (20%)

### Written Examination (40%)

- Questions based on a set text and on a devised piece from a selected stimulus (poem, picture/photo or phrase)

*Optional subjects*

# Art & Design



## Optional subjects

The aims of the IGCSE Art and Design course are to help you develop your skills in creative problem-solving and effective communication, as well as learn techniques of making art.

You will experiment with a range of processes and techniques, and investigate key artists of your choice. Themes are suggested to help you create an original response, culminating in a final piece. Through a series of field trips, you will have the opportunity to view and consider the work of contemporary artists and designers. During the course, you will develop your skills in drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

IGCSE Art and Design complements literature, mathematics, the sciences and the humanities. It is not just a way to develop visual perception and aesthetics but also a way to learn to express oneself effectively.

All careers demand commitment, perseverance, originality and good communication skills. This course, will help you to strengthen your abilities in all of these areas.

Potential careers in the field of Art include: Video Game Designer, Graphic Designer, Industrial Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Photographer, Film Producer, Illustrator, Fashion or Textile Designer, Animator, Painter, Sculptor, Ceramicist, Jeweller.

### **Assessment:**

Coursework 50% & Exam 50%

Work will be assessed on

- Drawing and recording from life
- Awareness of the work of other artists and designers
- Development of ideas through media and processes
- Control and application of media
- Personal, creative response
- Critical evaluation

# Music



*“Music washes the dust of everyday life from the soul.”*

We all love and listen to music. Many of us play too, for music lets us escape into a world of imagination and possibility. The study of Music at IGCSE will support you in developing instrumental and vocal skills.

You will encounter music from many different times and places and use it as the basis for performance, improvisation and composition as well as comment.

Performing amounts to **30%** of the final assessment, which means if you play an instrument or sing, you are already a third of the way there. But if you don't, it's the perfect opportunity to take your love of music seriously and learn how to. You can easily reach the standard required with two years of regular practise.

The next **30%** of the grade goes to composition. If you have ever composed a song, or a piece for piano, or love film music, or dance mixes, here's your chance to learn how to create them yourself. You'll learn notation as well as music technology.

For the remaining **40%** of the grade you will listen to music from around the world. Some of the pieces you study in advance and some you will hear for the first time in the exam.

Studying music helps you develop skills that you can use in whatever else you decide to do, now or in the future:

- Fine motor skills, good posture, vocal production and projection
- Memory, non-verbal communication, spatial awareness
- Appreciation of and engagement with what you hear
- Sensitive, analytical and critical response to works of art
- Capacity to express ideas, thoughts and feelings through sound
- Knowledge and understanding of traditions from cultures across the world and down the ages
- Sense of achievement gained from playing music with and for others.

*Optional subjects*

# French



The **French IGCSE** Course aims:

- To develop the ability to communicate in French
- To form a sound base for further study, work and leisure
- To offer insight into French-speaking culture
- To encourage positive attitudes to foreign-language learning and to speakers of foreign languages

## Topics covered

The GCSE Course further develops the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in Key Stage 3.

The following areas are covered:

- Everyday activities (home life and school, food, health and fitness)
- Personal and social life (hobbies and interests, healthy living and relationships)
- Local community (town and region, school and environmental issues)
- The world of work (business language, future jobs and aspirations)
- The International world (travel and holidays, social issues in French speaking countries)

## Method of Assessment

Paper 1 Listening (25%)      Paper 2 Reading (25%),

Paper 3 Speaking (25%)      Paper 4 Writing (25%)

The Oral component is carried out and assessed by the class teacher.

## Career opportunities

For those interested in using French in the future, opportunities for further study are available through IB French courses in Years 12/13. The ability to speak a Modern Language is becoming more valuable in all areas of working life (Banking, Business, Law and especially Leisure and Tourism). If you have a knowledge of French you are in a very strong position in a competitive job market.

*Optional subjects*

# Spanish



The **Spanish IGCSE** Course aims:

- To develop the ability to communicate in Spanish
- To form a sound base for further study, work and leisure
- To offer insight into Spanish-speaking culture
- To encourage positive attitudes to foreign-language learning and to speakers of foreign languages

## Topics covered

The GCSE Course further develops the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in Key Stage 3.

The following areas are covered:

- Everyday activities (home life and school, food, health and fitness)
- Personal and social life (hobbies and interests, healthy living and relationships)
- Local community (town and region, school and environmental issues)
- The world of work (business language, future jobs and aspirations)
- The International world (travel and holidays, social issues in Spanish speaking countries)

## Method of Assessment

Paper 1 Listening (25%)

Paper 2 Reading (25%),

Paper 3 Speaking (25%)

Paper 4 Writing (25%)

The Oral component is carried out and assessed by the class teacher.

## Career opportunities

For those interested in using Spanish in the future, opportunities for further study are available through IB Spanish courses in Years 12/13. The ability to speak a Modern Language is becoming more valuable in all areas of working life (Banking, Business, Law and especially Leisure and Tourism). If you have a knowledge of Spanish you are in a very strong position in a competitive job market.

*Optional subjects*

# German



The **German IGCSE** Course aims:

- To develop the ability to communicate in German
- To form a sound base for further study, work and leisure
- To offer insight into German-speaking culture
- To encourage positive attitudes to foreign-language learning and to speakers of foreign languages

## Topics covered

The GCSE Course further develops the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in Key Stage 3.

The following areas are covered:

- Everyday activities (home life and school, food, health and fitness)
- Personal and social life (hobbies and interests, healthy living and relationships)
- Local community (town and region, school and environmental issues)
- The world of work (business language, future jobs and aspirations)
- The International world (travel and holidays, social issues in German speaking countries)

## Method of Assessment

Paper 1 Listening (25%)      Paper 2 Reading (25%),  
Paper 3 Speaking (25%)      Paper 4 Writing (25%)

The Oral component is carried out and assessed by the class teacher.

## Career opportunities

For those interested in using German in the future, opportunities for further study are available through IB German courses in Years 12/13. The ability to speak a Modern Language is becoming more valuable in all areas of working life (Banking, Business, Law and especially Leisure and Tourism). If you have a knowledge of German you are in a very strong position in a competitive job market.

*Optional subjects*

# Turkish 1<sup>st</sup> language



The **Turkish IGCSE** Course aims:

- To develop learners' abilities to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively.
- How to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.
- To read widely, both for their own enjoyment and in order to develop an appreciation of how writers achieve their effects.

## Topics covered

The IGCSE Course further develops the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in Key Stage 3.

The following areas are covered:

- Reading & comprehension
- Argumentative writing.
- Describing writing.
- Creative writing.
- Writing a summary about the text given.

## Method of Assessment

### Paper 1 Reading (2 hours) 50%

Q1 - Questions based on Passage 1

Q2 – A written summary of 200–250 words based on Passage 1 & 2

### Paper 2 Writing (2 hours) 50%

Section 1 – Discussion and Argument (350 – 500 words)

Section 2 – Description and Narration (350 – 500 words)

## Career opportunities

For those interested in using Turkish in the future, opportunities for further study are available through IB Turkish courses in Years 12/13. It is possible to have a bilingual diploma if you complete the course.

*Optional subjects*

# Geography



*“Geography matters - the planet will still be here when the politicians are long gone.” – Ken Grocott*

Geography is important, because it opens our eyes; a landscape is no longer a static feature, but a complex battleground of physical and human interactions. Local is no longer local, but a collision point for the interaction of many 'locals' drawn from a global stage. With technology increasingly drawing the world closer together, it is important that the role of Geography in helping the public in understanding this complex and unpredictable world is championed! (Tony Cassidy)

## Topics covered

- Population
- Settlements
- Urbanisation
- Agriculture and Industry
- Leisure and Tourism
- Rivers and Coasts
- Water Scarcity
- Plate tectonic
- Weather and climate
- Global warming
- Sustainable development

## Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes    Structured questions  
Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes    Skills and data analysis  
Paper 4: 1 hour 30 minutes    Alternative to coursework

## Career Opportunities

In all areas of work, the skills learnt during the IGCSE course will be of benefit either directly or indirectly and for many jobs, Geography can be a real asset. These include the following: Agriculture and Forestry, Armed Services, Architecture, Civil Aviation, Cartography (Map-Making), Estate Agency, Estate Management, Leisure Industry, Landscape Architecture, Nature Conservancy, Local Government, Surveying, Police, Travel Agency & Tourism, Sales and Marketing, Transport, Town planning. Naturally IGCSE Geography leads directly into further studies of Geography at IB and University.

*Optional subjects*

# History



“Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.” - George Orwell

We believe that studying History provides students with the skills to explore and contextualise their own identities. To this end, we investigate a wide range of international histories targeting the story of the human past at individual, societal and global scales. In addition, by focusing on the skills used in the construction of history, we hope to develop a critical spirit in our students making them more confident, informed and tolerant of others. Finally, by aiming high in history we strive to challenge students’ perceptions of the world in order to create the type of thinking individual sought by universities worldwide.

## Topics Covered

- Treaty of Versailles
- League of Nations
- Causes of the Second World War
- The Cold War: Origins; Korea; Cuban Missile Crisis; Vietnam
- Saddam Hussein and the Gulf Wars
- A depth study on either Russia and Stalin

## Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hours    Structured questions  
Paper 2: 2 hours    Sources analysis  
Paper 3:             Coursework on an aspect of Russian history

## Career Opportunities

A qualification in History equips you with a multitude of transferable skills many employers value. Among the jobs you can consider are: advertising executive, analyst, archaeologist, broadcaster, civil and diplomatic civil servant, computer game designer, consultant, editor, information specialist, intelligence agent, journalist, lawyer, lobbyist, personnel manager, politician, researcher, teacher . . . the list is almost endless.

*Optional subjects*

# Economics



“Wealth is not without its advantages and the case to the contrary, although it has often been made, has never proved widely persuasive.”  
- John Kenneth Galbraith

We believe that economics teaches students about the consequences of managing future-oriented choice. Learners study the economics of developed and developing nations and how these interrelate. They also learn to handle simple data and undertake economic analysis, evaluate information and discriminate between facts and value judgments.

## Topics Covered

- Allocation of resources
- The market
- The individual
- The firm
- Role of government
- Economic indicators
- Developed and developing countries
- International economics

## Assessment

Paper 1: 45 minutes                      Multiple Choice  
Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes      Structured questions

## Career Opportunities

Economics graduates are employed in a range of posts which may, or may not, be related to the discipline they studied. They work in manufacturing, transport, communications, banking, insurance, investment and retailing industries, as well as in government agencies, consulting and charitable organisations. In all these settings, employers value economics graduates' understanding of decision-making, their research and analytical skills, and their experience of viewing problems in their national and international context.

*Optional subjects*

# Business Studies



*“Without customers, you don’t have a business. You have a hobby.” –  
Don Peppers & Martha Rogers, Return on Customer*

We believe that an understanding of business issues equips students to leave formal education and enter the world of work. Studying business at BISI also helps develop a range of communication skills required by many of today’s employers. We also explore the central issues dictating success and failure in business helping to build key market analysis skills. In addition, students will be exposed to business insights from guest speakers from a range of industries. Moreover, studying Business in Key Stage 4 imparts the foundational business knowledge and understanding required for further study in this subject.

## **Topics Covered**

- Understanding business activity
- People in business
- Operations Management
- Financial information and financial decisions
- Marketing
- External influences on business activity

## **Assessment**

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes Structured questions

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes Structures questions based on a case study

## **Career Opportunities**

There can be few careers where knowledge of the business would not be useful. Entrepreneurs benefit from having a solid grounding in business for their start-ups to be successful. All organisations, from schools to law firms need to recruit, train and develop good staff. Journalists may report on business. Charities rely heavily on marketing and, like public sector organisations, need to deliver value for money and manage their finances effectively. Ultimately, the list is endless! Moreover, many careers that do not necessarily require business skills and knowledge at the outset have the potential to develop into management roles where this will become important - teaching, nursing, social work and law to name a few.

*Optional subjects*

# Sociology



"Society is an insane asylum ran by the inmates." Erving Goffman

We believe that the study of sociology develops an understanding into how society functions. Sociology students examine how humans interact with each other at group, community and organisational levels. Sociology also reveals how human behaviour is shaped by age, sex, class and race and influenced by politics, religion and education. Lastly, we hold that Sociology forces students to deploy the conceptual tools and methodologies necessary for understanding the world we live in and forms a valuable introduction required for further study into the human sciences.

## Topics Covered

- Methodology
- Culture and socialization
- Social stratification
- Crime, deviance and social control
- Mass media

## Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hours	Structured questions
Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes	Structured questions

## Career Opportunities

Sociologists work in a variety of corporate settings as consultants, developers, and CEOs. Corporate sociologists conduct training programs and contract research for businesses and organisations; they propose and evaluate various personnel and industrial relations programmes. Sociologists also work in research departments and participate in organisational analysis and development. They engage in research and strategic planning in departments of human resources, industrial relations, public relations, and marketing. Additionally, sociologists can become teachers at the high school or University level. As part of the academic role at the University level, sociologists may conduct research in multinational corporations, factories, banks, retail stores, government agencies, hospitals, restaurants, nursing homes, and countless other settings. Their findings may influence how the business world works.

*Optional subjects*

# Physical Education (PE)



The course is 50% Practical, 40% External Examination and 10% Analysis Essay.

50% of their grade is from practical performance in 4 different activities, students use these activities to provide evidence that they have a knowledge and understanding of the following lifelong skills:

- Planning
- Performing and communicating
- Analysing
- Improving performance
- Evaluating performance

A range of activities and a mix of classroom and practical based lessons are used to teach the 3 theoretical topic areas which form the content of the external examination. This contributes to 40% of the overall grade:

1. Factors Affecting Performance - the study of the circulatory and respiratory systems, nervous system, skeletal system and muscular system and how these operate.
2. Health, Safety and Training - the study of diet, physique, energy systems, treatment of injuries, aspects of fitness and goal setting in order to design programmes of training that can bring about an improvement in performance. As well as physical well-being, this unit studies mental and social factors that affect performance.
3. Reasons and Opportunities in Sport - the study of sport as a business, how money is generated from global events to support a country's economy, the history of sport and the technological advances which have affected activities and an understanding of the role of sport and physical activity in society and in the wider world.

The remaining 10% of the overall grade comes from a written essay where students identify a weakness, set goals, plan and evaluate a training programme to bring about an improvement in performance.

### **Option for Further study and Career Opportunities:**

IB Sports and Exercise Health Science in KS5. Any management or leadership position where communication, planning and evaluating.

*Optional subjects*

# Information & communication technology (ICT)

## The course

In a world of technology where computer electronics becomes an increasingly integrated part of how we work, study and play, it is necessary to gain a skills and understanding of this world.

This course will teach you a broad range of skills and theoretical knowledge within Information Communication Technology that will help you in your future studies, careers and lives ahead, along with being a great option for those who are planning on taking the Computer Science IB.

## Topics

### Theoretical work

- Parts of a computer
- Input and output devices
- Storage devices and media
- Computer networks and the effects of using them
- The effects/impact of ICT
- ICT applications
- Systems lifecycle
- Safety and security
- Audience

### Practical work (using software)

- Communication
- File management
- Images, layout, styles, proofing
- Graphs and charts
- Data Manipulation (databases)
- Presentations
- Integration (combining mixed media)
- Outputting Data
- Data Analysis (spreadsheets)
- Website Authoring

## Assessment ( 40% Theory, 60% Practical )

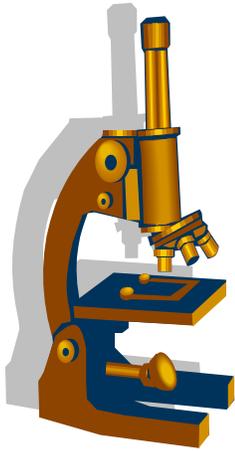
- Paper 1 – Theory (written exam - 2 hours )
- Paper 2 - Practical exam ( demonstrate skills – 2.5 hours)
- Paper 3 - Practical exam ( demonstrate skills – 2.5 hours)

*Optional subjects*

# Biology

Cambridge IGCSE Science qualifications are accepted by universities and employers as proof of real ability and knowledge.

The IGCSE Biology course combines both theoretical and laboratory work to give firm foundations in the Science of living things.



Topics covered include: classification, cells organization of organisms, biological molecules, enzymes, plant nutrition, human nutrition, transport in plants, transport in animals, diseases an immunity, gas exchange, respiration, excretion in humans, co-ordination and response, drugs, reproduction, inheritance, variation and selection, organisms and environment, biotechnology and genetic engineering, human influences on ecosystems.

As well as a subject focus, the biology syllabus enables students to:

- better understand the technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- recognise the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and how to apply this to other disciplines and in everyday life
- develop relevant attitudes, such as a concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness
- further interest in, and care for, the environment
- better understand the influence and limitations placed on scientific study by society, economy, technology, ethics, the community and the environment
- develop an understanding of the scientific skills necessary for applying the scientific method.

*Optional subjects*

# Chemistry.

Cambridge IGCSE Science qualifications are accepted by universities and employers as proof of real ability and knowledge.

The IGCSE Chemistry course combines both theoretical and laboratory work to give firm foundations in the Science of matter and materials.



Topics studied include: the particulate nature of matter, experimental techniques, atoms, elements and compounds, stoichiometry, electricity and chemistry, chemical energetics, chemical reactions, acids bases and salts, the periodic table, metals, air and water, sulfur, carbonates, organic chemistry.

As well as a subject focus, the chemistry syllabus enables students to:

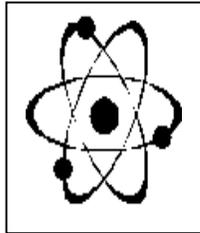
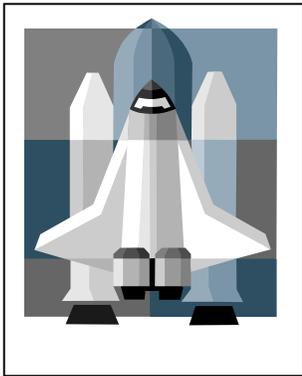
- better understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments
- learn about the basic principles of Chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies
- develop an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study
- 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.

*Optional subjects*

# Physics

Cambridge IGCSE Science qualifications are accepted by universities and employers as proof of real ability and knowledge.

The IGCSE Physics course combines both theoretical and laboratory work to give firm foundations in the Science of matter, energy and their interactions.



Topics covered include: length and time, motion, mass and weight, density, forces, momentum, energy, work and power pressure, thermal Physics, property of waves including light and sound, electricity and magnetism, atomic Physics.

Successful candidates gain lifelong skills, including:

- confidence in a technological world, with an informed interest in scientific matters
- an understanding of how scientific theories and methods have developed, and continue to develop, as a result of groups and individuals working together
- an understanding that the study and practice of science are affected and limited by social, economic, technological, ethical and cultural factors
- an awareness that the application of science in everyday life may be both helpful and harmful to the individual, the community and the environment
- knowledge that science overcomes national boundaries and that the language of science, used correctly and thoroughly, is universal
- an understanding of the usefulness (and limitations) of scientific method, and its application in other subjects and in everyday life
- a concern for accuracy and precision
- improved awareness of the importance of objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness.

*Optional subjects*