

Curriculum and Expectations

Key Stage 3 Curriculum - Years 7, 8 & 9

In Years 7 to 9 the curriculum follows many of the elements of the English National Curriculum adapted to our international context, thereby ensuring each student receives a good grounding in all subject areas; that is, Learning to Live, Learn & Lead in the Triple L Pastoral Programme, English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish or French), Science, Art & Design, Music, Drama, History, Geography, Physical Education, Arabic, Islamic Civilisation, History and Geography of Saudi Arabia, Information and Communication Technology and Humanities.

Learning support will be offered to students whom the coordinator of the programme deems suitable for assistance. This will usually be done in consultation with parents, the student concerned and teachers.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum - Years 10 & 11

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

The curriculum in Years 10 and 11 comprises of IGCSE courses mainly through Cambridge International Examinations. The Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular examination for 14 to 16 year olds and prepares students for the IB Diploma and other pre-University courses, as well as teaching thinking skills. Students will normally study between nine and ten examination courses, making selections from a school-based options system. A detailed Course Option Booklet covering all courses is issued to students during Y9.

Please note that timetable restrictions and class sizes may prohibit some subject combinations. Students who make late applications or who arrive after the start of the term may have a restricted choice of subjects.

Students take external examinations in May/June of Year 11. These examinations are externally marked and an internationally recognised certificate of results is issued. All students who follow two-year examination courses are required to take examinations in those courses. Personal, Social and Health Education is a required non-examination course, as are Core Arabic, History and Geography of Saudi Arabia, and Islamic Civilisations.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum – IB1 & IB2

The two years prior to graduation at BISJ are based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Courses. These years are known as IB1 followed by IB2. There are three pathways in IB1/2. All students will undertake the BISJ Diploma (Pathway 1). In addition some students may take the BISJ Diploma plus certificates (exams) (Pathway 2) while many will undertake the full IB Diploma & BISJ Diploma (Pathway 3). Entrance to the IB Years is selective and not automatic from Year 11. Students already enrolled at BISJ in Year 11 are required to have proved their effort (Learning Descriptors), knowledge, behaviour and meet BISJ expectations for attendance to be considered for enrolment into the IB programme. All prospective IB students, including those not currently enrolled at BISJ are interviewed and those from other schools may be required to take a series of IB entrance examinations in order to determine their suitability. The number of years previously spent at BISJ is not a criteria for admission to IB courses.

Guidelines for IGSCSE and IB Course Work (Years 10 - 13)

Coursework is a part of the assessment of student performance in some IGCSE subjects and most IB level subjects. Students who find formal, end-of-the course examinations challenging should take full advantage of the opportunity to achieve good marks and grades as their course progresses; the quality of ongoing work will have a major impact on final grades, and will, in itself, help lay foundations for the final examination. Students must stick to the deadlines set by the school.

Remember that you should be prepared to state that any piece of work you hand in is your own whether it is a Theory of Knowledge essay, a mathematics test/examination, history homework, English essay, coursework or a painting.

All IGCSE and IB coursework may be submitted to Turnitin.com for checking. This online database will show if a student's work is their own.

If deadlines are missed a student may be withdrawn from the examination, or excluded by the external examination board from receiving certification. Please ask if you do not understand any of the above.

The International Baccalaureate Programme (IB)

Students entering the IB Diploma pathway in IB1 will be expected to enrol in six courses in addition to the Core IB Subjects (Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Creativity, Action and Service). Diploma students are also required to complete

an IB Extended Essay, write a Theory of Knowledge Essay, hold an exhibition, and complete their Creativity, Action and Service hours. Their six courses will be selected from offerings in five subject areas plus a group of electives.

All students must participate in the school's Creativity, Action and Service programme.

An IB1 student's continuation with his or her chosen IB programme into IB2 is not automatic. For students to begin the second year of their IB programme, they must have made satisfactory progress in all areas, i.e. Academic Subjects, Creativity, Action and Service, Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay, if applicable. Detailed and comprehensive guidelines on the IB programme can be obtained from the IB Diploma Coordinator. IB Diploma graduates are able to gain admission to the most prestigious British, European and North American universities and across the globe.

Note: A student who misses more than 20% of the total number of school days in a year might not meet the requirement for Graduation.

BISJ High School Diploma

All students will enrol on the BISJ High School Diploma. Whilst all students are additionally encouraged to study the full IB Diploma, for some students this is either not required or might be too challenging. The BISJ High School Diploma pathway still allows an opportunity to achieve the prerequisites required for certain universities in addition to other external assessments like ACT or SATs.

The High School Diploma is accepted as a qualification to progress to University worldwide and is accredited by NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges).

There may be additional qualifications needed depending on the country, university or course you will study. Some examples are standardised testing such as ACT/SAT, Subject tests from College Board, subject specific tests such as LNAT for Law in the UK or UKCAT for medicine in the UK. For individual countries, universities or courses advice can be obtained from the University websites or the University Guidance Service office.

BISJ Diploma Award Conditions:

Students must earn 30 credits based on the criteria in Table of Criteria. All courses carry 1 or 0.5 credit per year of study e.g. English counts towards 4 credits, one per year of study, whereas Triple L counts towards 2, with 0.5 per year of study.

Students should obtain a passing grade of IGCSE grade E or above and IB Diploma level 3 or above for the areas of study to be awarded credits.

In addition to gaining the correct number of credits students must also:

- complete the Core Arabic/Islamic Studies and History and Geography of Saudi Arabia
- remain in good standing with the school
- complete the Creativity, Activity and Service programme offered by the school successfully
- obtain a passing grade of IGCSE grade E and IB Diploma level 3* in each of the 5 subject areas

Table of Credits available per course

Area of Study	Course	Total Credits
English	Year 10 - IGCSE (Language or Literature) (1 Credit) Year 11 - IGCSE (Language or Literature) (1 Credit) Year 12 - IB Diploma (Lang & Lit or Lit) (1 Credit) Year 13 - IB Diploma (Lang & Lit or Lit) (1 Credit)	4
Science	Year 10 - IGCSE (any science subject) (1 Credit) Year 11 - IGCSE (any science subject) (1 Credit) Year 12 - IB DP (any Group 4 subject) (1 Credit) Year 13 - IB DP (any Group 4 subject) (1 Credit)	4
Mathematics	Year 10 - IGCSE (any level) (1 Credit) Year 11 - IGCSE (any level) (1 Credit) Year 12 - IB DP (any Group 5 level) (1 Credit) Year 13 - IB DP (any Group 5 level) (1 Credit)	4
Social Sciences	Year 10 - IGCSE (any relevant subject) (1 Credit) Year 11 - IGCSE (any relevant subject) (1 Credit) Year 12 - IB DP (any Group 3 subject) (1 Credit) Year 13 - IB DP (any Group 3 subject) (1 Credit)	4
Foreign Language	Year 10 - IGCSE (any second language) (1 Credit) Year 11 - IGCSE (any second language) (1 Credit) Year 12 - IB DP (any Group 2 language) (1 Credit) Year 13 - IB DP (any Group 2 language) (1 Credit)	4
Arts or Elective	Year 10 - IGCSE (any Arts/elective subject) (1 Credit) Year 11 - IGCSE (any Arts/elective subject) (1 Credit) Year 12 - IB DP (any Group 6 subject/elective) (1 Credit) Year 13 - IB DP (any Group 6 subject/elective) (1 Credit)	4
Triple LLL Program	Year 10 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit) Year 11 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit) Year 12 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit) Year 13 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit)	2 (half credit per year)
Attendance	Year 10 - 90%+ per year (1 Credit) Year 11 - 90%+ per year (1 Credit) Year 12 - 90%+ per year (1 Credit) Year 13 - 90%+ per year (1 Credit)	4
Electives/Core	Course	Credits
Theory of Knowledge	Year 12 - Complete programme of study (1 Credit) Year 13 - Complete programme of study (1 Credit)	2
Creativity, Activity and Service	Year 12 & 13 - Successful completion of the 18 month programme	3
Physical Education	Year 10 - Core PE (1 Credit) Year 11 - Core PE (1 Credit)	2
Extended Essay	Year 12 & 13 - Successful completion of the Extended Essay, graded D or above	1
Core Arabic/Islamic Studies and History and Geography of Saudi Arabia	Year 10 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit) Year 11 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit) Year 12 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit) Year 13 - Complete programme of study (0.5 Credit)	2 (half credit per year)

Table 1: Credits available per course

Notes

Within an area of study, students can only be awarded for one subject, even if they have studied more than one e.g. A student who has studied History and Business Studies, will only be awarded one for the Social Studies credits.

However, if a student has studied two subjects from an area of study, one can be used in the arts/electives in addition to the subject area e.g. History can be used as a Social Science, Business Studies can be used as an elective.

Assessment:

The levels of achievement will be measured as per the final report of each school year.

***In IB1 & IB2**

Pupils will be assessed using the IB Diploma Grade descriptors for each subject, using IB Diploma assessment methodologies. There is no requirement to sit final external examinations at the end Year 13 in order to pass the BISJ High School Diploma.