



INTERNATIONAL BRITISH SCHOOL
of BUCHAREST

Studies Guide

GCE AS/A Level

2010 – 2011

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THIS GUIDE

Welcome to the AS/A* Level Studies Guide 2010-11. This booklet is intended to help students and their parents to make informed choices about the subjects available for study at 6th Form level. Please read it carefully; its contents will be invaluable in discussions with the Department of Studies Team.

Subjects are listed alphabetically in this guide. In each case the Syllabus numbers are given for reference. The Subject Teacher or/and Head of Department is also shown so that students may contact him or her if further questions arise.

Information is also given on our website at http://www.ibsb.ro/our_school/dos.html and on each Department's page as listed in this guide.

* <http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel>

Significant changes in content from the previous edition of this guide are indicated with a red line in the margin.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE IBSB CURRICULUM

Students entering the 6th Form at IBSB will find themselves immersed in a world within a world. Suddenly, almost overnight, pupils from our 5th Form [as well as those who have chosen IBSB from outside] embark on new courses that are designed to prepare them for university entry and for the world of work. Some of these subjects will be new, while others will be familiar and natural continuations from IGCSE courses completed in the 5th Form. However, the 6th Form Programme of Study requires an immediate step up in terms of both depth of study and personal academic commitment beyond the classroom, studio or laboratory. Teachers aim to make the transition from the 5th Form as painless as possible: our A-Level courses are complemented by a wide range of Study support and the close mentoring by a tutor is much valued. Pupils grow from IGCSE to become students working in a community that values them as individuals and encourages independent learning. In this way, students go on to complete academic courses while also enjoying the wealth of opportunities that our holistic approach to education provides.

AS/A LEVEL OVERVIEW

International A Level is recognised* worldwide as a requirement for entry into higher education. Study and examination at A Level give students in-depth knowledge and lifelong skills that prepare them for success in higher education and employment. International AS Level is typically taken at the mid-point of an A Level programme and is optional. Schools can offer AS Level as a qualification in its own right to increase breadth in the curriculum and allow students to complement other subjects they are studying.

*<http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/recognition>

SUBJECTS [listed alphabetically]

ART & DESIGN [9704]

- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=733

Course Content

This Art and Design syllabus is designed for those candidates who wish to extend and develop their studies in this subject.

Most of the work is expected to be practical or studio-based so that candidates will develop their abilities of observation and analysis of the visual world, sensitivity, skill, personal expression and imagination. They should also learn to relate their skills to an enhanced knowledge of their own and other cultures, past and present, and an appreciation of practical design problems. The course will stimulate interest, enjoyment and personal enrichment as well as providing an introduction to artistic exploration and design thinking.

Assessment

There are 4 assessment objectives in Art and Design. These are:

- Personal Qualities
- Manipulative, artistic and analytical Skills
- Aesthetic Qualities
- Knowledge and critical understanding

Examination

This is a two year staged course with four components overall. In the first year students will take two of the four components which will result in an AS level.

Component one: Controlled test - 30% of overall grades

An externally set assignment. Students will receive an exam paper and have at least 3 weeks to prepare for the timed exam.

Timed Exam: This is a 15 hour exam which students will sit over 3 days of 5hour sessions.

Component two: Coursework - 20% of overall grade.

An area which the students have pursued a field of study in research, development and realization in depth.

The second year will consist of the following;

Component three: Coursework - 30% of overall grades.

As above for component two but much more in depth.

Component 4: Related study - 20% of overall grades.

This is a detailed study of any aspect of the visual arts that relates to their work for either component2 or component 3.

BIOLOGY [9700]

- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=734

Course Content

A level Biology course is not compulsory. Students in year 12 can chose to study As biology that takes one year of study or they can chose a full A level that takes two years of study.

The syllabus has been constructed around a common core. The subject content for the Core and the Options syllabuses is presented as learning outcomes. The examination will assess the candidate's knowledge and understanding of these.

A Level candidates are also required to choose one Option from the four available.

The Core and Options content is as follows:

1 The Core syllabus –there are sixteen sections.

AS Level candidates will study and be assessed on the first eleven sections, A to K.

A Level candidates will study and be assessed on all sixteen sections, A to P.

A Cell Structure

B Biological Molecules

C Enzymes

D Cell Membranes and Transport

E Cell and Nuclear Division

F Genetic Control

G Transport

H Gas Exchange

I Infectious Disease

J Immunity

K Ecology

L Energy and Respiration

M Photosynthesis

N Regulation and Control

O Inherited Change and Gene Technology

P Selection and Evolution

2 The Options syllabus – there are four Options.

A Level candidates will study and be assessed on one of the following Options.

1 Mammalian Physiology

2 Microbiology and Biotechnology

3 Growth, Development and Reproduction

4 Applications of Genetics

Assessment

Students are constantly assessed on the work they do every lesson [there are five classes per week], on the homework that is set weekly and on 'end of unit' tests.

Examination

AS candidates are required to enter for Papers 1, 2 and 3.

A2 candidates are required to enter for Papers 4, 5 and 6.

A Level candidates are required to enter for Papers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

AS: Paper 1 Multiple Choice, Paper 2 Structured Questions, 3 Practical Test

A2: Paper 4 Structured Questions based on A2 Core, 5 Practical Test and Paper 6 Options

BUSINESS STUDIES [9707]

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_business_economics/dep_business_economics.htm
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=735

The Business Studies syllabus enables students to understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and the role it plays in society. The syllabus covers economic, environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and technological issues, and encourages a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. Students examine the management of organisations and, in particular, the process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment.

Course Content

In Business Studies AS course, students study the following 7 units:

- Business and the Environment
- People in Organisations
- Marketing
- Operations Management
- Business Finance
- Business Accounting
- Information for Decision-making

Assessment

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following skills:

- Knowledge and critical understanding of the specified content
- Application of this knowledge and critical understanding to problems and issues which are from both familiar and unfamiliar situations
- Analysis of problems, issues and situations by distinguishing between statements of fact, statements of value and hypothetical statements, making valid inferences from material presented, examining the implications of a hypothesis, organising ideas, making valid generalizations
- Evaluation of reliability of material, checking that conclusions drawn are consistent with given information and discriminating between alternative explanations and assessing the role of the main concept and models in business analysis.

Examination

Candidates may choose:

- to take all Advanced Level components in the same session
- to follow a staged assessment route to the Advanced Level by taking the Advanced Subsidiary qualification in an earlier examination. Subject to satisfactory performance, such candidates are then only required to take the final part of the assessment
- to take the Advanced Subsidiary qualification only.

Paper 1 [1 hour 15 min]: Short answer and Essay [Core] which worth 40% of AS exam

Paper 2 [1 hour 30 min]: two Data response questions worthing 60% of AS exam

Paper 3 [3 hours]: Case Study

CHEMISTRY [9701]

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_science.htm
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=736

Course Content

Starting with year 12 students can study A level Chemistry. The students may choose to

- take a full A level course which is designed to be taught in 2 years
- take only an AS level course which is designed to be taught in one year

The lessons are taught five times a week for 55 minutes per lesson.

The syllabus is designed to place greater emphasis on the understanding and application of scientific concepts and principles and less emphasis on factual material whilst still giving a thorough introduction to the study of Chemistry.

The work covered incorporates all branches of Chemistry: Inorganic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry. The course content depends on the level that the student chooses. For AS level they study only the core part of the syllabus while for a complete A level they have to study the extended part and also some applications of Chemistry. The experimental activities are used throughout the course but at the same time the students are encouraged to apply their knowledge in different theoretical situations.

Assessment

Students are assessed constantly, based on their class work [under teacher's supervision] and homework which is set at the end of each lesson. Their experimental skills are also assessed during group or individual experimental activities.

Formal tests are set at the end of every unit and at the end of every half term. Based on student's results at these tests the teacher will set the targets and the predicted grades for the AS/A level exams, which will conclude the course.

Examination

Paper	Type of paper	Weighting [%]	
1	Multiple choice	31	15
2	AS structured questions	46	23
3	Advanced practical skills	23	12
4	A2 structured questions		38
5	Planning, analysis and evaluation		12

For AS level the students have to take an exam at the end of year 12 which consists in 3 papers: P1, P2 and P3.

If the students choose to take a full A level course they have two possibilities:

- they can take all 5 papers at the end of the second year [year 13]
- they can take P1, P2 and P3 at the end of the first year [year 12] and the last two papers: P4 and P5 at the end of the second year

COMPUTING [9691]

- <http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/depict/depict.htm>
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=738

Course Content

Computer Systems, Communications and Software is the foundation for all subsequent sections. It provides candidates with an understanding of the core aspects of computer systems, which is developed and enhanced in subsequent sections.

Practical Programming Project requires candidates to demonstrate their skills in a programming language by selecting a problem to solve. The solution to the problem should encompass as many of the criteria listed in Section 2 of the syllabus as the candidate is capable of using. Candidates and Centers should be aware that demonstration of the skills will be necessary, within the context of the problem solution, in order to earn marks in the assessment.

It is envisaged that this project will be a long term piece of work to be completed during year one of the course. It will be submitted for moderation in the same session that the candidate offers Paper 1. In this way, Centers that choose to do Papers 1 and 3 at the end of year 2 of a two year course, can do one piece of coursework in each year.

It is envisaged that most candidates will use one of the languages listed on page 3. Other languages are welcomed, though CIE Customer Services should be consulted before the project is started.

Assessment

The assessment objectives are common to both the AS and A2 assessments.

A Knowledge with Understanding

Candidates should be able to:

- describe and explain the impact of Computing in a range of applications and show an
- understanding of the characteristics of computer systems [hardware, software and
- communication] which allow effective solutions to be achieved;
- describe and explain the need for and the use of various forms of data organisation and

- processing to support the information requirements of a particular application;
- describe and explain the systematic development of high quality solutions to problems and
- the techniques appropriate for implementing such solutions;
- comment critically on the social, legal, ethical and other consequences of the use of
- computers.

B Skills

Candidates should be able to:

- analyze a problem and identify the parts which are appropriate for a computer-based
- solution;
- select, justify and apply appropriate techniques and principles to develop data structures
- and algorithms for the solution of problems;
- design, implement and document an effective solution using appropriate hardware,
- software and programming languages.

Scheme of assessment

Paper	Type of Paper	Duration	Marks	Weighting		
				AS	A2	A
1	Written paper	2 ½ h	90	75		37.5
2	Practical Programming Project		50	25		12.5
3	Written paper	2h	90		60	30
4	Computing Projects		60		40	20

ECONOMICS [9708]

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_business_economics/dep_business_economics.htm
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=743

Through the A and AS Level Economics syllabus, students learn how to explain and analyse economic issues and arguments, evaluate economic information, and organise, present and communicate ideas and judgements clearly. The syllabus covers a range of basic economic ideas, including an introduction to the price system and government intervention, international trade and exchange rates, the measurement of employment and inflation, and the causes and consequences of inflation. Students also study the price system, the theory of the firm, market failure, macroeconomic theory and policy, and economic growth and development.

It is generally agreed that Economics is the hardest subject to pass, so think carefully before choosing it!

Course content / Assessment / Examination

In the Multiple Choice component [Papers 1,3] and the Data Response part of Papers 2, candidates are expected to: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specified content, interpret economic information presented in verbal, numerical or graphical form, explain and analyse economic issues and arguments, using relevant economic concepts, theories and information. In the Essay part of Papers 2,4 candidates are expected to: evaluate economic information, arguments, proposals and policies, taking into consideration relevant information and theory, and distinguishing facts from hypothetical statements and value judgements, organise, present and communicate economic ideas and informed judgements in a clear, logical and appropriate form.

Paper 1: Multiple Choice [AS; 1hr]

Paper 2: Data Response/Structured Essay [AS; 1 hr 30 mins]

Paper 3: Multiple Choice [A2; 1hr]

Paper 4: Data Response/Essay [A2; 2 hrs 15 mins]

AS:

1. Basic Economic Ideas
2. The Price System
3. Government Intervention in the Price System
4. International Trade
5. Measurement in the Macro-Economy
6. Macroeconomic Problems
7. Policies to Correct Balance of Payments Disequilibria

A2:

1. Theory of the Firm
2. Theory & Measurement in the Macro-economy
3. Macroeconomic Policies

ENGLISH

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_english.htm

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS [8693]

- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=778

AS level English Language 8693 continues on from IGCSE English Literature 0486. A minimum C Pass in 0486 is a prerequisite for students wishing to enroll in English Literature 8693. The course runs for a period of one year, covering three genres of English literature: drama, poetry, and prose.

Course Content

The course aims to encourage in students:

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

Candidates for English Language AS will be required to demonstrate:

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

Assessment / Examination

Internal:

For internal assessment there will be weekly vocabulary tests, intermittent writing skill tests, a midterm and end-of-term class test, two seminar papers to be presented to the class, and weekly homework assignments. There will also be unassessed practice tests conducted each Saturday in the term leading up to the external examination period. Students will be required to maintain an up-to-date well-ordered file as there is a lot to cover and so good organizational skills are essential.

External:

Students will have the opportunity to take the external Cambridge 8693 Exam in May/June or in Oct/Nov. All students will take Paper 1 + Paper 2, and will be eligible for a grade E to A* pass.

Paper 1: Passages for Comment [2 hours]: 50%

Candidates will **answer two questions from a choice of three**. Questions carry equal marks [25 marks each]. Each question will be based on a passage of text, printed in the question paper, involving a commentary on the use of language in the passage[s] followed by a directed writing task based on the passage[s]. Dictionaries may not be used.

Paper 2: Composition [2 hours]: 50%

This paper will be divided into **two sections: Section A: Narrative/Descriptive/Imaginative Writing and Section B: Discursive/Argumentative Writing**. There will be a choice of four composition tasks in each section. Candidates will attempt **two tasks, one taken from each section**. Questions carry equal marks [25 marks each]. Candidates should write between **600 – 900 words** for each composition. Dictionaries may not be used.

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH [9695]

- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=744

Course Content

Upon satisfactory completion of IGCSE English, students have the option of taking Advanced Level Literature over a one or two-year period. The first period is composed of AS English Literature material, i.e. Poetry and Prose, Drama. The second period involves further in depth reading, analysis and writing on the texts of Shakespeare and other pre-20th century writers, as well as 20th century authors. Students will also be expected to understand and comment on literary criticisms of the texts.

The aims of Advanced level Literature are to encourage:

- 1) An appreciation of, and an informed personal response to literature in English in a range of texts in different forms, and from different periods and cultures.
- 2) The interdependent skills of reading, analysis and communication.
- 3) Effective and appropriate communication.
- 4) Wider reading and an understanding of how it may contribute to personal development.

Examination

Candidates for the Advanced Level qualification take four papers as below. Papers 3 and 4 may be taken either in the same session as Papers 5 and 6 or in an earlier examination session.

Paper 3 - Poetry and Prose

Paper 4 - Drama

Paper 5 - Shakespeare and other pre-20th Century Texts

Paper 6 - 20th Century Texts

GEOGRAPHY [9696]

- <http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/geography.html>
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=747

Course Content

AS Geography is split into the Physical Core and the Human Core both of which are compulsory. The physical units that are studied are: hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, atmosphere and weather and rocks and weathering. The human units that are studied are: population change and settlement dynamics.

Hydrology and Fluvial Geomorphology deals with the topics of: the drainage basin, rainfall and discharge, river channel processes and landforms and the human impact.

In Atmosphere and Weather candidates study: energy budgets, the earth atmosphere energy budget, weather processes and phenomena and the human impact.

The unit on Rocks and Weathering looks at: elementary plate tectonics, weathering and rocks, slope processes and development and the human impact.

Population and Change deals with the topics of: natural increase as a component of population and change, migration, population-resource relationships and the management of population change.

Settlement Dynamics deals with the topics of: Relationships between settlements, changes in rural settlements, urban trends and issues of urbanization and the changing structure of urban settlements.

Assessment

The Advanced Level course has the possibility of being a two year course. In year 1 candidates take the AS exam in June and this will account for 100% of their mark should they decide not to study geography in the second year. If candidates wish to study geography for a further year then the AS exam will account for 50% of their overall mark.

Examination

The syllabus for the AS exam is assessed in **Paper 1**. Paper 1 is split into three sections that assess all the core topics.

Section A consists of five compulsory questions based on the physical and human core topics. The questions are either based on a single topic or on a combination of topics. These questions use a variety of resources and so are usually skills based. All the questions are worth 10 marks. Section A is worth 50% of the AS exam.

Section B consists of three questions, one on each of the physical core topics. Candidates have to answer one of these questions. This paper is worth 25% of the AS exam.

Section C consists of three questions, one on each of the human core topics. Candidates have to answer one of these questions. This paper is worth 25% of the AS exam.

In both sections B and C the questions are structured and offer the candidate the opportunity for extended writing.

HISTORY [9697]

- <http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/history.html>
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=751

The A and AS Level History syllabus builds upon skills gained at IGCSE [or equivalent] level study. The emphasis is again on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research. Students learn about cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference, and use historical evidence as part of their studies. The flexible and wide-ranging syllabus covers six periods, ranging from the history of the Caribbean from 1794 to 1900, to international history from 1945 to 1991. Students can also study periods from European, Asian, African and American history. Centres choose which periods to focus on, allowing them to build a course that reflects student interest and staff specialisms, or which is relevant to the local or regional context.

The advanced level programme runs for two years, with a student sitting a single AS Level exam at the end of each year.

MATHEMATICS [9709]

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_math/dep_math.htm
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=755

Course Content

The syllabus is intended to provide continuity from IGCSE Mathematics courses.

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

Candidates for A Level Mathematics take four papers of which two may have been taken at an earlier examination session for an AS Mathematics qualification.

Alternatively, candidates may take all four papers for an Advanced Level qualification at the same session.

Candidates may take the AS Mathematics qualification only.

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

The programme is taught in five lessons a week for 55 minutes per lesson.

The work covered incorporates all branches of mathematics: advanced algebra, geometry, coordinate geometry, vectors, trigonometry, differentiation, integration, logarithms, complex numbers, differential equations, functions, series and progressions.

Assessment

Pupils are constantly being assessed as they work in the classroom under teacher's supervision. Also homework is set three times a week and can be a very good way of following the student progress.

Formal tests are set at the end of every unit and at the end of every half term. Based on student's results at these tests the teacher will set the targets and the predicted grades for the AS and AL exam, which will conclude the programme.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Staff:

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_mfl/dep_mfl.htm

For study of **French, German, Spanish** toward the Cambridge AS/A level exams [Year 12+13] the students will have to acquire a superior command and knowledge of the language in order to achieve good results in the speaking, reading comprehension and essay writing tests.

The Cambridge AS/A level programme introduces topics such as human relationships, generation gap, the media, law and order, cultural life/heritage, war and peace, terrorism, food and healthy living, drugs and drug related crime, the environment, etc which were studied in depth along with the study of the morphology and syntax of the respective language.

The AS/AL **Italian** language has a special status. It cannot be done through the Cambridge examinations board since it is not on offer. In order to meet the needs of our students, the school decided to co-operate with the British Council in Bucharest, so the AS Italian exams could be done through a different UK examinations board, the EDEXCEL, that also issues internationally recognized certificates of secondary education. Any takers of AS/AL Italian for the next academic year will, therefore, have to do these exams through the EDEXCEL as an alternative to the Cambridge examinations.

The AS course components are the following: Paper 1 – speaking; Paper 2 – Reading and Directed Writing; Paper 3 – Essay and the pass boundary is from D to A grade. This course can be completed in one or two years depending on the students' progress and choice.

The AL course components are the same plus Paper 4 –Texts which is the additional literature component.

PHYSICS [9702]

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_science.htm
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=758

Course Content

Starting with year 12 students can study A level Physics. The students may choose to take a full A level course which is designed to be taught in two years or to take an AS level course which is designed to be taught in one year. Year's 12/13 use the AS/A level syllabus offered by Cambridge University.

This syllabus is designed to give greater flexibility both to teachers and to candidates and to place greater emphasis on the understanding and application of scientific concepts and principles, and less emphasis on factual material whilst still giving a thorough introduction to the study of Physics.

The lessons are taught five times a week for 55 minutes per lesson.

Staff are encouraged to use a variety of teaching strategies, which may include bookwork, investigational approaches, researching a new area of study and oral testing.

Assessment

Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in relation to: scientific phenomena, facts, laws, definitions, concepts and theories, scientific quantities and their determination. The syllabus content defines the factual knowledge that candidates may be required to recall and explain.

Students are assessed constantly based on their class work and homework, which is set at the end of each lesson. Formal tests are set at the end of every unit.

Examination

Paper	Type of paper	Marks	
		AS	A
1	multiple choice	32	16
2	structured question	48	24
3	practical test	20	10
4	structured questions		23
5	practical test		11
6	options		16

Candidates for AS certification will take Paper 1,2 and 3 at a single examination session.

Candidates taking the complete A level qualification at the end of the course take all the papers in a single examination session.

PSYCHOLOGY [9698]

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_psychology.htm
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=760

Course Content

A level psychology: Specialist Choices

The Specialist Choice Options build on the work in the first part of the course [AS] and explore how all five core areas of psychology have been applied in a range of contexts.

A number of applied areas have developed in psychology that have sought to integrate the knowledge derived from a variety of psychological sources and apply it to specific problems. The syllabus takes this approach and encourages the student to look at how psychological theory has been applied. This involves the student in integrating the various areas of the subject, and seeing the connections and contrasts between them.

The chosen applied areas are Education, Health, Organisations, Environment and Abnormality. Within each chosen applied area, students will be required to look at the core areas of psychology: cognitive psychology, social psychology, physiological psychology, developmental psychology and the psychology of individual differences

In contrast to the first part of the course which prescribes precisely which studies must be looked at, this part of the course only prescribes the issues. It is expected that students will study specific examples of work in their chosen areas, though this need not be an overall coverage of the contemporary literature. It is also expected that, wherever possible, students will apply the core studies to the chosen specialist area. Students are encouraged to study sufficient psychological research to be able to illustrate the issues in the syllabus and evaluate them.

The aims:

- To provide an introduction to psychological concepts, theories, research findings, and applications.
- To create an understanding of the range and limitations of psychological theory and practice.
- To encourage students to explore and understand the relationship between psychological findings and everyday life.
- To develop skills of analysis, interpretation, application and evaluation.
- To promote an appreciation and understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity.
- To develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology including the moral and ethical implications of psychological research.
- To explore and understand the relationship between psychological findings and social, cultural and contemporary issues.
- To study psychological principles, perspectives and applications.
- To encourage the development of the skill of communication.

Assessment Objectives

Advanced level candidates are expected to demonstrate:

Knowledge and Understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological theories, terminology, concepts, studies and methods in the areas of cognitive, social, physiological and developmental psychology, and the psychology of individual differences;
- express of knowledge and understanding in a clear and effective manner;

Analysis, Evaluation and Application

- analyse and evaluate psychological theories, terminology, concepts, studies and methods in the areas of cognitive, social, physiological and developmental psychology, and the psychology of individual differences;
- apply psychological theories, concepts and studies to practical situations, everyday life and to the experience of the student.

Students are assessed constantly, based on their class work [under teacher's supervision] and homework which is set at the end of each lesson. Formal tests are set at the end of every unit and at the end of every half term. Based on student's tests results the teacher will set the targets and the predictive grades for the A level exams, which will conclude the course.

Examination

A level students have to take an exam at the end of the course, which consists in paper 3.

Candidates are required to choose two applied areas of psychology, from a list of five, to study for this component. The paper [3] contains five specialist choice options and candidates are required to answer questions from the two options they have studied. The questions for each specialist choice option are divided into two sections:

- Section A requires candidates to answer one question [short answer] on a particular topic area. [There is a choice of two topic areas.]
- Section B requires candidates to write one structured essay from a choice of two questions.

- http://www.ibsb.ro/departments/dep_psychology.htm
- http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=761

In a rapidly changing world, A and AS Level Sociology offers students the opportunity not only to explore the processes that are shaping current trends, but also to develop an understanding of the complexity and diversity of human societies and their continuities with the past. The study of sociology stimulates awareness of contemporary social, cultural and political issues, and focuses on the importance of examining these issues in a rigorous, reasoned and analytical way.

Course Content

Advanced Subsidiary

1. The Sociological Perspective
2. Sociological Methods
3. Social Differentiation and Stratification

Advanced Level

4. Families and Households
5. Education
6. Religion
7. Crime and Deviance
8. Work and Leisure
9. Mass Media

Description of Papers

Paper 1

The paper will be presented in three sections. There will be two essay-type questions in each section. Candidates will be required to answer two questions, chosen from different sections. Paper 1 will test Syllabus Units 1 to 3. There will be two questions related to each of these units. The examination will be of 1 hour 30 minutes duration.

Paper 2

This paper will consist of three structured data response questions. The Paper will test Syllabus Units 1, 2 and 3. Candidates will be required to answer two questions. The examination will be of 1 hour 30 minutes duration.

Paper 3

The paper will be presented in six sections. There will be two essay-type questions in each section. Candidates will be required to answer a total of three questions, each one selected from three different sections. Paper 3 will test Syllabus Units 4 to 9. There will be two questions related to each of these units. The examination will be of 3 hours duration.

Ciprian TIPLEA, Head of School
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