

Key Stage 4 Year 10 Curriculum Options – 2024-2026

Compulsory Subjects	Option Block 1	Option Block 2	Option Block 3
IGCSE English	IGCSE Business	GCSE Psychology	IGCSE Business
IGCSE Mathematics	IGCSE Computer Science	IGCSE Economics	IGCSE ICT
IGCSE Combined Science	GCSE PE	IGCSE History	IGCSE Sociology
PE (Physical Education) - non-examined	IGCSE Arabic**	IGCSE French	IGCSE Drama
Ministry of Education Curriculum: MOE Arabic Islamic Studies (Muslim students only) Moral, Social and Cultural Studies	GCSE Psychology	IGCSE Art	IGCSE Geography
	IGCSE Music	GCSE Food and Nutrition	IGCSE Economics
	IGCSE History	IGCSE Computer Science	IGCSE Textiles
	GCSE Food and Nutrition	IBTEC Level 2 ICT	IBTEC Level 2 Business
	IBTEC Level 2 Sport	IGCSE Triple Sciences*	IGCSE Triple Sciences*

Please refer to our Key Stage 4 options booklet for more detail on each of the courses listed above

We are accredited by all three of the main exam boards within the UK curriculum (OxfordAQA, Edexcel and Cambridge). All three are used for different subjects. The decision on the selection of exam boards is made by our subject experts with full understanding of the students entering the course and the most relevant board for their needs. The board selected for each subject is listed in the Key Stage 4 options booklet.

Important information

All students in school must study the below compulsory subjects as directed by the Ministry of Education:

- Islamic Studies - for Muslim pupils only (this is not an IGCSE course)
- Moral, Social and Cultural Studies - for all students (this is not an IGCSE course)
- Arabic A (MOE curriculum) – for all holders of an Arab passport
- Arabic B (MOE curriculum) – for non-Arabs (Year 10 only)

IGCSE English at GFM

As a UK curriculum school it is our policy that all students will complete an IGCSE qualification in English. For the large majority of our students this will be the IGCSE in English Language. Some students will also complete early entry pathways which will include taking their IGCSE English Literature qualification early. This will be taught through the normal English timetable.

An IGCSE in English as a Second Language will be offered to some students based on their needs and level of English competency. The decisions as to which of these courses students are entered for will be made by the school, in consultation with students and parents, based on progress and attainment in the subject.

IGCSE Mathematics at GFM

All students at GFM will study IGCSE Mathematics. Some groups of students will also complete early entry pathways which will include taking their IGCSE Mathematics qualification early, followed by the completion of IGCSE Further Pure Mathematics.

This will be taught through the normal Mathematics timetable. These decisions will be made by the school, in consultation with students and parents, based on progress and attainment in the subject.

IGCSE Science qualifications at GFM

At GFM we have a range of Science pathways to support all students. Most students will study IGCSE Combined Sciences. This is an IGCSE course that covers all three separate disciplines of Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and is the equivalent of two GCSEs within the UK system. Success in Combined Sciences can lead to further study of the sciences at A-Level and Level 3 BTEC.

Some students will be offered the opportunity to study Triple Science. This is a more in-depth academic study of each discipline and leads to three separate IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The decision about which of the above science pathways are allocated to your child will be made by the school based on progress and attainment in the subject. Please note that completion of either course (Combined Science or Triple Science) to a high academic standard can lead to Science pathways at A Level.

We also have a science pathway available for students who wish to study BTEC Applied Sciences. This course is designed for students who wish to achieve a qualification in Science, but where the formal academic route may not be the most appropriate. Details on this course can be found in the options booklet.

The option selection process

All students will be asked to select one subject from each of the three option blocks available as a first-choice preference. They cannot choose two subjects within the same option block. Students will also be asked to select a second-choice preference from each block. The deadline for this selection for current GFM students will be **Friday February 16th** and will be completed through a survey link that will be shared with you in the week beginning **Monday 29th January**.

Should a student be allocated Triple Sciences then they will only be able to choose two additional subjects from the remaining option blocks.

It is important to note that courses will only run with viable numbers. Unfortunately, if too few students select a course then we will not run this qualification as a school. Where this happens students will be allocated their second subject preference within that block.

The option blocks are designed with the vast majority of our students in mind. It is unavoidable that a very small number of students will not be able to choose the exact range of courses they wish. The design of the blocks always means that your child will have other meaningful qualifications available should this occur.

Some courses may be very popular with our students. Students who do not complete their choices before the deadline are less likely to be allocated their first choice if these courses are already full. Where this occurs, the student will be allocated their second subject preference within that block.

Subject suitability

Not all GCSE qualifications are suitable for all students. The subject selections for all students will be analysed based on our in-depth knowledge of their academic attainment and progress up to that date. Where we do not feel that subject choices are appropriate for a student then a subject suitability meeting will take place with alternative courses suggested and allocated when this is in the best interest of the student.

For Students of Determination, and other applicable individuals, we also offer Level 1 courses such as ASDAN and Inclusion support. Our Inclusion team will be in touch with relevant families regarding meeting your child's needs.

Equivalency and destinations

GFM is very proud to be a UK curriculum school with a multinational cohort. This means we have a large body of students with home nationalities that have different equivalency rules and university entrance requirements. Our curriculum is designed with all of our nationalities in mind and provides routes for all.

However, all schools will advise that home nationality equivalency and examination criteria is checked before completing the option selection. Please get in touch with the school if you have any questions about this.

Other important notes

*The curriculum time needed to deliver Triple Sciences is more than that for Combined Sciences. As a result, students allocated Triple Science will only have two option blocks to select additional subjects from.

** We offer IGCSE First Language Arabic as a subject option. Please be aware that the Arabic First Language GCSE does not count towards equivalency within the UAE but it does in most other jurisdictions. Please check the equivalency rules within home countries to see if this is relevant to your child's future study. Studying IGCSE Arabic does not replace the mandatory MOE Arabic studies at GFM.

Students beginning Key Stage 4 at GFM will be expected to complete all qualifications chosen and allocated to them. These final examinations for most courses will be held in May and June of Year 11

Contact information

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