



Haileybury Almaty

Why choose IGCSEs/
International GCSEs
and GCSEs?

Qualifications
that are accepted
around the world



IGCSEs/International GCSEs and GCSEs are the world's most popular international qualifications for 14- to 16-year-olds. They are your gateway to higher education or professional studies in your home country or overseas. They can help you:

- get a place at college or university at home or abroad
- find better career opportunities
- pass the language tests for emigrating or studying in another country*
- develop skills that help you lead a more exciting and successful life.

They are recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and are an international passport to progression and success. Developed over 25 years ago, they are tried, tested and trusted by schools worldwide.

At this stage in your school career, the curriculum will be broad so that you can continue to extend your skills and knowledge in core subjects whilst beginning to make choices in other areas based on your abilities and preferences. This will ensure that as many opportunities as possible remain open for your Sixth Form and university studies, and your future career.

In addition to the core subjects of Mathematics, English and the Sciences you have some choices to make. These choices are important because they will be the subjects you will take at the end of the two year course. The subjects you study for IGCSE will also provide the foundation for your A-Level studies in the Sixth Form and your degree at university.



*For pupils entering Haileybury Almaty in Year 10 they will follow IGCSE/GCSE courses.



IGCSE/GCSE options in year 10

The subjects available for study at IGCSE/GCSE at Haileybury Almaty are:

Core Subjects

Every pupil in Year 10 will take:

- Mathematics
- English Language and English Literature
- Physical Education
- Sciences:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

All pupils must study at least two Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) for IGCSE. Pupils will take two or three IGCSEs in the Separate Sciences. The fact that the Sciences are core GCSE subjects at the School is helpful, as we know that many of pupils may wish to study medicine or other science-related areas at university. All Kazakh pupils are required by law to study Kazakh.

Optional Subjects

Pupils will then choose up to four additional subjects from the list below.

- Art
- Russian – either First, Second or Foreign Language
- Business Studies
- Economics

- French
- Geography
- History
- Mandarin
- Music
- English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

There will be some pupils who will be required to take EAP (English for Academic Purposes) as one of their four 'optional' subjects. These pupils will be informed by the Director of Studies and the Head of EAL about this.

However, please be aware that all the optional courses are offered subject to demand and availability within the timetable construction process.

To that end, during the online options process pupils will be asked to rank their choices in preference order and to enter a fifth reserve choice in case their first four choices cannot be accommodated.

Confirmation of choices will come later in the year and the Director of Studies will contact any pupils, and their parents, if their choices do not fit the structure of the school timetable or if there are concerns over suitability of the combination of subjects chosen.

However, please rest assured that we aim to accommodate all pupils' choices as much as possible.

How do I choose my subjects?

Possible A-Level and career choice implications

Although the Sixth Form is more than two years away, your decisions now may affect your options at A-Level. For most subjects, it is vital that you have studied them at GCSE first before progressing to A-Level, although there may be some exceptions to this in certain circumstances.

However, in the Sixth Form, we currently offer some other subjects that are not available at GCSE, such as Government & Politics, which you can take without having studied them at GCSE. You will be given information about these when you are in Years 10 and 11.

Choosing subjects

Below are a few points which are important to consider when deciding subject combinations. You are advised to follow them.

We recommend you take a balance between Languages (Mandarin, French, Russian), Humanities (History and Geography), Social Sciences (Business or Economics) and subjects of a high practical content (Art & Music).

You should choose a language which you have studied before, or of which you are a native speaker.

We do not offer languages 'ab initio' (as a beginner) in Year 10.

If you wish to choose options that don't follow these guidelines, do speak with the Director of Studies who can give you advice on what combination of subjects is best for you to pursue your aspirations.

Reasons for choosing/not choosing a subject

When you finally choose, please bear the following in mind:

DO CHOOSE A SUBJECT because:

- You will enjoy it
- You have a strong interest in it
- You are good at it
- It will help you in your future career aspirations and plans
- You believe that you will succeed in it

DO NOT CHOOSE A SUBJECT because:

- Your friends have chosen it
- You think it will be easy
- You have been told it involves less work
- Relatives or friends tell you to do it without a good reason
- You just like your current teacher
- It is something new

We have an options booklet which will provide you with more detail about each subject being studied at IGCSE!

It is important that you choose your subjects wisely!

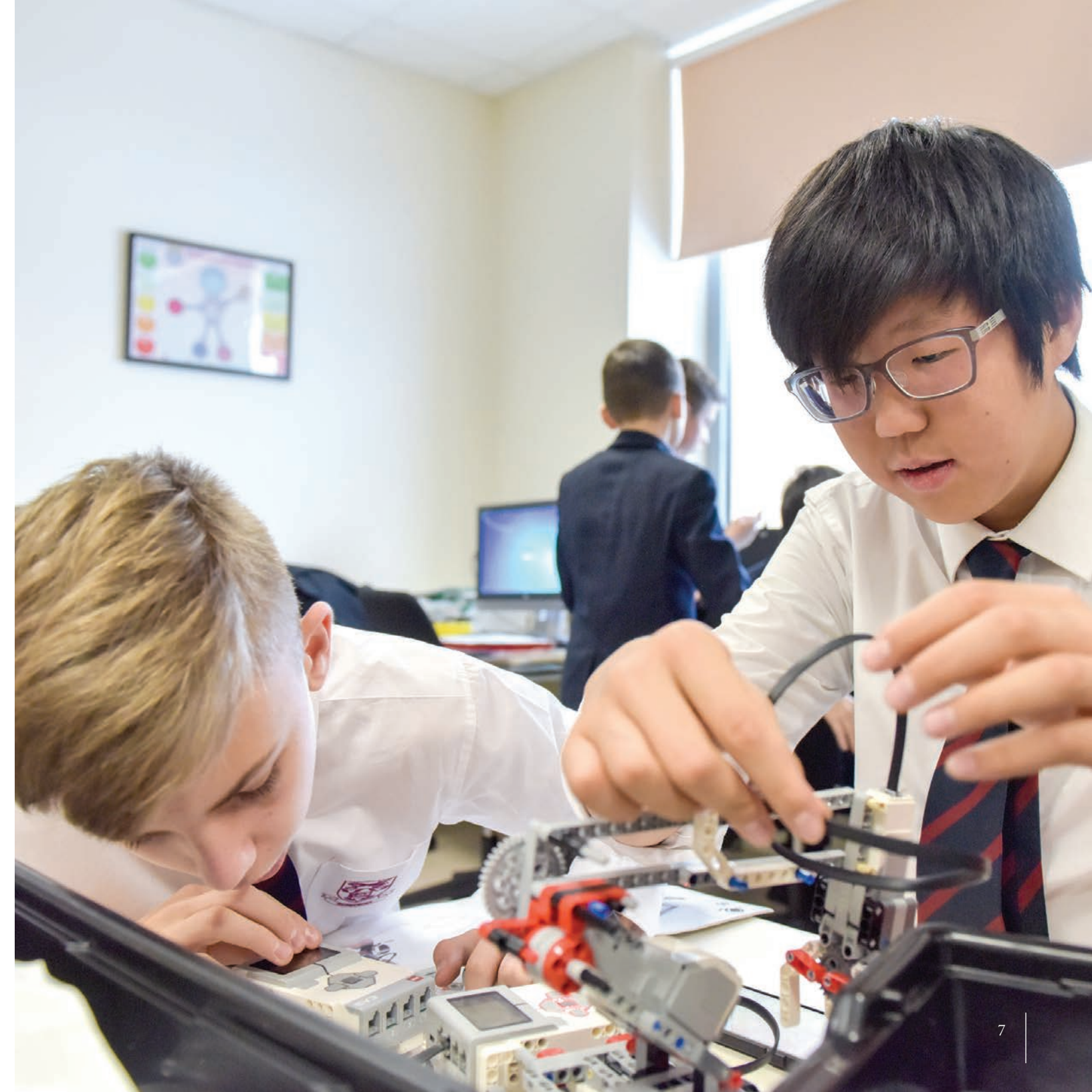




Grading System

Some subjects taken are IGCSEs and have the old grading system. Others are GCSES and so have the new grading system!

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



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