



# St. Stephen's International School

*"Where East meets West"*

Bangkok Campus

## The Sixth Form



[www.sis.edu](http://www.sis.edu)

St Stephen's International School, Bangkok





**St. Stephen's**  
International School

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# FOREWORD

## From the Head of Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at St. Stephen's International School aims to aid the development of students who are independent, responsible leaders for the future. The teaching methods employed by teachers encourage students to be critical thinkers and to develop skills that they will use both at university and in the workplace. There is a wide range of subjects, all of which are taught by experienced teachers, all of whom are specialists in their field.

At St. Stephen's all students benefit from modern, well equipped classrooms. However, Sixth Form students can also avail of study room facilities in which they each have an individual work station. When students need a break they can also meet in the common room to participate in study circles, read a book, play table tennis or just relax. The common room is also equipped with ICT facilities and a careers information area.

Career guidance is available to all students and the school has successfully helped place our students at prominent universities in both Thailand and abroad. Speakers from universities visit the school and offer further advice. This advice includes information on specific universities and countries, making successful applications and visa issues. Advice is always on hand from our experienced team and Alumni who maintain close contact with the school.

Just as students are encouraged to take control of their future they are also encouraged to take a leading role in their own development and education. Participation in school activities is encouraged and the Sixth Form students play a leading role in charitable events and whole school activities. As leaders of the school, Sixth Form students are role models for the younger students. To be part of the Sixth Form at St. Stephen's means to be part of a friendly collegial environment. In the first term of each year the Sixth Form students travel north to take part in teambuilding activities over three days that include many different outdoor pursuits.

The Sixth Form at St. Stephen's is designed to allow each student to reach his or her potential. Through structured A Level courses, independent study strategies and a support network of specialist teachers and tutors, students leave St. Stephen's well prepared for the next stage in their lives. If you require any further information regarding the Sixth Form at St. Stephen's International School please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office at [info@sis.edu](mailto:info@sis.edu)

Yours sincerely

Robert Cunningham  
Head of Sixth Form



# St. Stephen's Graduation 2010







# A GUIDE TO SIXTH FORM STUDY

## What are A levels?

A Levels are English 16 -18 qualifications which are recognised by universities around the globe. The A Level course is split into two components over a two year course.

The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level is a qualification that is obtained after the completion of exams at the end of Year 12. It represents the first half of an A level course, but is a qualification in its own right.

The Advanced (A2) level is a qualification that is obtained after the completion of exams at the end of Year 13. Modules studied in the second year of A level study are referred to as A2 modules.

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## What do A Levels allow students to do?

A Levels are a "gold standard" qualification, recognised around the world. Normally three good grades at A level are required for entry to good universities in countries including UK, USA, Australia and Switzerland.

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## What will students need to start the course?

You will normally need to have passed, with a grade C or above, at least five subjects at IGCSE or equivalent. We would normally expect two of those subjects to be Mathematics and English. In some cases it is possible to begin an A level course with no previous experience, although discussion would need to take place before this happens.

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## How many A levels will students need to take?

At St. Stephen's International School we would normally expect students to take four subjects at AS level and continue three to A2 level standard. However in special circumstances it might be possible to continue studying four subjects to A2 level, although this may only happen after discussion with the Head of Sixth Form and the Head of Secondary.

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What combination of subjects should students choose?

How much time is devoted to each subject?

It is vital that you choose your subjects with care. Talk to your parents and teachers about the courses. Talk to students already studying for A levels about the subjects. Read this booklet carefully. Think carefully about your future plans. There are common combinations of subjects that often complement each other. Often universities will require certain subjects as compulsory entry requirements for their courses.

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At AS each subject receives 7 periods, each of 40 minutes, of curriculum time during a week. At A2 each subject receives 8 periods. Sixth Form students will also be expected to spend a considerable time, outside of lessons, on set homework and private study. Students will study two modules in Year 12 to achieve the AS level, and two further modules in Year 13 to complete A2.









# What our students have to say about A Levels



I want to go and study in Germany and A Levels are better received by German universities than IB.

Keith

I am still unsure of my choices for University so I am staying and doing A Levels to better prepare myself and to give myself more time to find out what I really like.

Noon

I want to go to University abroad but if I change my mind and want to stay in Thailand I can do that too.

Nueng

It gives me a lot more options when choosing the university and course I want to do.

Emanuele

I love this school and my friends are all here. I know what I want to do in university and A levels allow me to specialise which makes it easier to get the university course I want.

Phoom

I need A Levels for the University course I want and I don't want to leave my friends yet.

Prai

Studying abroad gives credibility to my job application and I want the experience of living and studying abroad.

Prim

The course I want to do is in the UK so I need to get good A Level results.

Prince

I need to get A levels to get into university in Korea. I also want get a good job when I finish university.

Tim





## APPLIED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

*“ ICT can be used in all careers. It gives me more options for the future. ”*

*Emanuelle.  
Joined SIS in Year 10*

### The study of ICT will enable students to:

- Develop an understanding of the effect of ICT systems on society in general
- Develop and consolidate their knowledge, skills and understanding in Information Technology
- Develop further as autonomous users of Information Technology
- Consider the impact of new technologies on methods of working in the outside world and on social, economic, ethical and moral issues
- Grow in their awareness of the ways in which Information Technology is used in practical and work-related situations.

### Types of Learning Experience

The course introduces students to advanced features of Excel, Access and Word. It also allows students to develop their IT skills by solving real world problems, using one or more of these packages. At the end of the AS academic year students are given the opportunity to experience a wider range of applications such as Dreamweaver (web page design), Swish2 (animation), Fireworks and other modern software packages.

### Link Subjects

Information Technology is a suitable combination for most subjects but is especially relevant to Business Studies.



## Careers

ICT A level can lead to entry into wide range of university and Higher Education courses. ICT can be studied as a degree on its own or in combination with other subjects. It is often a constituent component of many other degree courses, for example Business, Engineering and Education.

ICT provides you with the skills relevant for a wide range of careers including Business, Management, Media, Law, Education, Software Analyst, Programme Development, Multimedia and Web Design.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Theory	ICT systems including portable communication devices. How organisations use ICT – Part 1. Impact of ICT on society – Part 1. Systems life cycle.	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%
2	Practical work		2 Hours 30 Minutes	30%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Theory	How organisations use ICT – Part 2. Impact of ICT on society – Part 2. Computer networks.	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%
4	Practical work		2 Hours 30 Minutes	30%

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=731](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=731)



## ART & DESIGN

“ Art gives you freedom to use your imagination. ”

*V joined SIS in Year 7.*

### Art and Design actively seeks to develop:

- The ability to perceive, understand and express concepts and feelings
- The ability to record from direct observation and personal experience
- The ability to communicate by using appropriate materials and techniques in a disciplined way
- Experimentation, innovation and the use of intuition and imagination
- Critical and analytical faculties, the ability to identify research and evaluate problems in a systematic way
- Confidence, initiative and a sense of adventure and achievement
- The acquisition of a relevant working vocabulary
- An awareness and appreciation of the interdependence of Art & Design and the individual within cultural contexts

### Types of Learning Experience

Students will study and submit work within two components during Year 12 to qualify for the Advanced Subsidiary level award. A further two components are completed in Year 13 to achieve an Advanced Level in Art and Design.

Individual and collaborative skills, techniques and knowledge are acquired through lectures, discussions, demonstrations, practical work, videos, gallery visits, seminars, books and contact with local art colleges.

### Subject Combinations

Art and Design may be studied alongside any other subject but it would be beneficial if studied alongside ICT if you are considering a career in a technology based industry like media or graphic design.



Though this list is not exhaustive, careers especially relevant for those wishing to pursue a career in the Arts after studying A Level Art and Design including Fine Art, Fashion Design, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Textiles, Printmaking, Theatre Production, Media, Multimedia, TV, Photography, Animation, Teaching, Gallery Curating, Cartoon Design as well as careers in Architecture, Engineering and Product Design.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Controlled test	Develop a visual response. Observe directly from primary sources. Record, analyse and develop their ideas in two and/ or three dimensions.	15 Hours	30%
2	Coursework	The coursework project can be either two or three dimensional and is defined as 'anything produced from the conception to the completion of the final item'. It should be the candidate's individual response, produced in the one area of study which is considered most appropriate.	N/A	20%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Coursework	Candidates should focus on research, development and realisation in depth. Unlike Component 2, equal emphasis is placed on the resolution of the final piece and on the development of ideas and the use of processes.	N/A	30%
4	Personal study	Students will produce a detailed study of any aspect of the visual arts that relates to their work for Component 2 or Component 3: Coursework. First-hand experience of the work(s) should form at least part of the study.	N/A	20%

Further information available at  
[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=733](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=733)



“ *Biology is interesting because it allows me to explore life and how it works.* ”

*Bas joined SIS in Year 3.*

## BIOLOGY

### The study of Biology will enable students to:

- Enhance their knowledge and understanding of living things, how they work and interact, and how they are used and influenced by humans
- Develop abilities and skills that are relevant to the study and practice of biological science and are useful in everyday life
- Improve planning, practical, analytical and evaluation skills
- Communicate effectively using universal scientific conventions
- Develop attitudes relevant to biological science such as concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, the skills of enquiry, initiative, and inventiveness
- Stimulate interest in, and care for, the local and global environment as well as understanding the need for conservation
- Develop awareness that scientific theories and methods have developed, and continue to do so, as a result of co-operative activities of groups and individuals and that biological science transcends national boundaries

### Types of Learning Experience

Lessons will vary in format but will generally be based on the following:

- Experimental skills: practical work will include the use of microscopes, dissection (optional), projects, model-making, fieldwork
- Written work: essays, practice exam questions, data-handling, and investigation reports
- Discussion, 'lecture' style presentations
- Reading, research and individual learning

Students are expected to keep a folder of notes and their practical book up to date throughout the course. Background reading should be done on a regular basis as well as keeping up to date with current trends by watching TV programmes and reading science magazines.

## Link Subjects

Biology is a good partner for any subject but links particularly well with Chemistry, Geography and PE.

## Careers

Needed or useful for: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Marine Biology, Nature Conservation, Pharmacy, Physiology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Medical and Research Laboratory Technician, Forensic Sciences, Dietitian and many others.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Multiple Choice	Cell Structure Biological Molecules Enzymes	1 Hour	15%
2	Structured Questions	Cell Membranes and Transport Cell and Nuclear Division Genetic Control Transport Gas Exchange	1 Hour 15 Minutes	23%
3	Advanced Practical Skills	Infectious Disease Immunity Ecology	2 Hours	12%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
4	Structured Questions	Energy and Respiration Photosynthesis Regulation and Control Inherited Change Selection and Evolution	2 Hours	38%
5	Planning, Analysis and Evaluation	Biodiversity and Conservation Gene Technology Biotechnology Crop Plants Aspects of Human Reproduction	1 Hour 15 Minutes	12%

Further information available at [http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=734](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=734)





## BUSINESS STUDIES

“ I like Business Studies because it will help me in my future business career. ”

*Tim joined SIS in Year 12.*

### The study of Business Studies will enable students to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the local, national and international environment within which business operates
- Develop an understanding, through a problem solving approach, of the nature and working of business and industry
- Understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and its role in society
- Develop critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value
- Develop consideration for the internal workings and management of organisations and, in particular, the process of decision making in a dynamic external environment
- Be aware that business behaviour can be studied from the perspective of a range of stakeholders including customer, manager, creditor, owner/shareholder and employee
- Be aware of the economic, environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and technological issues associated with business activity
- Develop skills in decision making and problem solving in the light of evaluation
- Develop skills in the quantification and management of information
- Develop skills in effective communication

### Types of Learning Experience

Students will study two units in Year 12 to achieve AS level and two further units in Year 13 to complete A2. Facts, figures and research evidence are gained through lectures, seminars, classroom discussion, personal reading books, newspapers and videos. Complex business scenarios are introduced and solutions to specific business problems are addressed using a variety of decision making techniques, both quantitative and qualitative.



## Link Subjects

Business studies links well with English and other humanities as well as with Mathematics and ICT.

## Careers

A level Business Studies is undoubtedly an asset whether students decide to seek employment or decide to proceed to Higher Education. With reference to employment, Business Studies provides valuable background understanding to careers in the private or public sector such as Finance, Banking, Local Government, Travel, Charities, Media, Industry, Marketing and International Affairs.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Core Curriculum	Business and the Environment People in Organisations Marketing	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%
2	Data Response	Operations and Project Management Business Finance and Accounting	1 Hour 30 Minutes	30%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Extended Curriculum-Case Study	Business and the Environment People in Organisations Marketing Operations and Project Management Business Finance and Accounting Strategic Management	3 Hours	50%

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=735](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=735)



## CHEMISTRY

“ It is great as I get to do loads of experiments which are fun. ”

*Fah joined SIS in Year 4.*

### The study of Chemistry will enable students to:

- Become confident citizens in a technological world, able to develop an informed interest in matters of scientific importance
- Acquire an appreciation and understanding of the nature and importance of chemical theories and principles
- Acquire an appreciation of the contribution that chemicals make to society through their work
- Gain an understanding of the technological applications of chemistry and their social, economic and industrial implications
- Develop a scientific approach to problem solving
- Develop the skills to work safely with apparatus and chemicals in the laboratory
- Develop attitudes relevant to science such as accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and insight
- Experience a scientific training, either as an end in itself, or as a foundation for more advanced study

### Types of Learning Experience

Lessons will vary in format from lecture style to research and individual learning, though there will be a large emphasis on experimental skills.

Students are expected to keep a folder of notes and their practical book up to date throughout the course. Background reading should be done on a regular basis as well as keeping up to date with current trends by watching TV programmes and reading science magazines.

## Link Subjects

Chemistry may be taken with a range of other subjects, including, but not limited to: Biology, Physics, Mathematics and Geography.

## Careers

An A level Chemistry qualification is essential for some courses including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Chemical Engineering.

Chemists and Chemical Scientists work in a large number of key areas. Possible careers in addition to those mentioned above include:

- Teaching and lecturing
- Science Journalism
- Careers in Industry (Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology industries) working in areas such as Research and Development, Production, Marketing and Sales and Management
- Commerce e.g. Accountancy or Banking. Employers recognise the key skills of numeracy, problem-solving and communication that are an integral part of all chemistry courses
- Careers in specialist areas of law

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Multiple Choice	Physical Chemistry Inorganic Chemistry Organic Chemistry	1 Hour	15%
2	Structured Questions		1 Hour 15 Minutes	23%
3	Advanced Practical Skills		2 Hours	12%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
4	Structured and Free Response Questions	Physical Chemistry Inorganic Chemistry Organic Chemistry Applications of Chemistry	2 Hours	38%
5	Planning, Analysis and Evaluation		1 Hour 15 Minutes	12%

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef\\_id=736](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef_id=736)





## ENGLISH LITERATURE

*“ English Literature allows you to explore different cultures. It also gives you the skills to express your own ideas. ”*

*Ching joined SIS in Year 7.*

### The study of English Literature will enable students to:

- Develop a critical understanding of a wide range of classic and contemporary literature
- Explore the link between literature and the context in which it is written
- Encourage a profound enjoyment of literature in all its forms
- Increase their appreciation of the English literary heritage, placing texts in the social and historical context in which they were written

### Types of Learning Experience

Students will sit two papers in Year 12 to achieve AS and one further paper in Year 13 to complete A2. Knowledge is gained through lectures, seminars, classroom discussion, critical reading, journals, videos, newspapers, dramatic interpretation, theatre and wide personal reading.

### Link Subjects

English Literature may be taken with any other subject.

### Careers

English Literature is a stimulating subject which is relevant to life today. It is a recognised A2 subject for entry into university and Higher Education and is useful to access further study in any of the arts.

English is relevant to those wishing to pursue courses in Publishing, Education, Media and Advertising and provides evidence of proficiency in self expression and of a keen analytical mind.



## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Poetry and Prose	Students will study a selection of poems from famous 19th and 20th Century writers including Shelley, Hardy and Wordsworth. Students will study a prose novel. The novel selected for this year will be 'A Passage to India' written by E.M Forster.	2 Hours	25%
2	Drama	Detailed study of 'Henry IV Part I' by William Shakespeare. Detailed study of 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams.	2 Hours	25%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Shakespeare and Other Pre-20th Century Texts	Students will be required to study one Shakespeare text and a pre-20th century text.	2 Hours	38%
4	Coursework	Candidates will submit a folder of two essays on two texts; these two texts must be taken from two different forms (prose/poetry/drama).	2000-3000 words	25%

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=744](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=744)



“ It’s interesting because I get a global perspective. I get to learn about the world and the natural processes that happen around us and why they really happen. ”

*Prai joined SIS in Year 3.*

## GEOGRAPHY

The study of Geography will enable students to:

- Develop awareness of the relevance of geographical analysis to understanding and solving contemporary human and environmental problems
- Introduce to the main elements of Physical and Human Geography and the inter-relationships between these components
- Develop a sense of relative location, including an appreciation of the complexity and variety of natural and human environments
- Demonstrate and explain the causes and effects of change over space and time on the natural and
- Human environments
- Develop ability to handle and evaluate different types and sources of information
- Develop ability to think logically and to present an ordered and coherent argument in a variety of ways
- Promote their awareness of the need for understanding, respect and co-operation in conserving the environment and improving the quality of life both at a global scale and within the context of different cultural settings

### Learning experience

You will experience all six Key Skills: Communication, Application of Number, Information Technology, Problem Solving, Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance. Knowledge is gained through lectures, seminars, classroom discussion, videos and newspapers.

### Link Subjects

Geography combines equally well with humanities including English, History or Business Studies. Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as Business, Law, Media, Biology, Environmental sciences, Politics and Philosophy.

## Progressing to Higher Education

Students with AS or A2 Geography have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include analysing and interpreting data, communicating your findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject.

These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and universities as being of high value. Career paths include Teaching, Tourism, the Armed Services, NGO officer, Risk Assessment, Hazard Management, Weather Forecasting, Environmental Impact Assessment, Cartography, Urban Planning, Environmental Management and becoming a GIS specialist.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

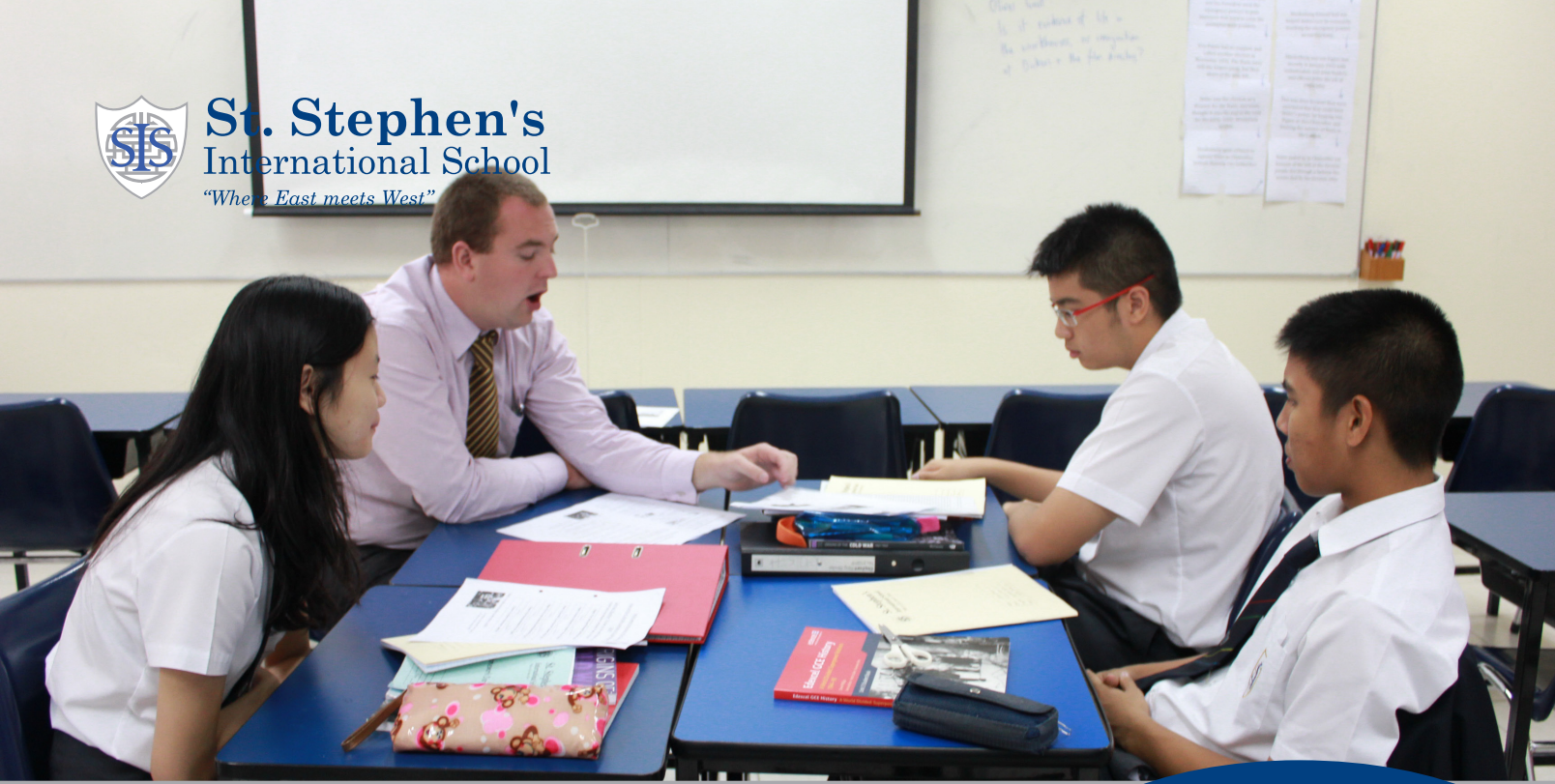
Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Human Environments	Population Dynamics Settlement Dynamics	3 Hours	50%
2	Physical Environment	Hydrology (rivers and flooding) Atmosphere and Weather Rocks and Weathering.		

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Human Geography	Tropical Environments Coastal Environments Hazardous Environments Arid and Semi Arid Environments	3 Hours	50%
4	Physical Geography	Production, Location and Change Environmental Management Global Interdependence Economic Transition		

Further information available at  
[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=747](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=747)





*“ I learn about real life using real life novels from people who were there when History happened. ”*

*Phoom joined SIS in Year 2.*

## HISTORY

### The study of History will enable students to

- Acquire and effectively communicate knowledge and understanding of the period of History studied
- Develop their understanding and expertise of historical skills, terms and concepts
- Explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in British, European and World History
- Understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation of that evidence
- Develop their understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented by different historians at different times

### Types of Learning Experience

A variety of methods are employed to develop independent study skills. Students are expected to take a full part in group discussion of major issues and to present research findings.

### Link Subjects

Geography combines equally well with humanities including English, Geography or Business Studies.

### Careers

Students with A level History go on to read a wide range of subjects ranging from Law, English and Languages to Theology, Economics and Psychology. History graduates have a good track record of graduate employment ranging from Journalism and the Civil Service to Industry and Commerce.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

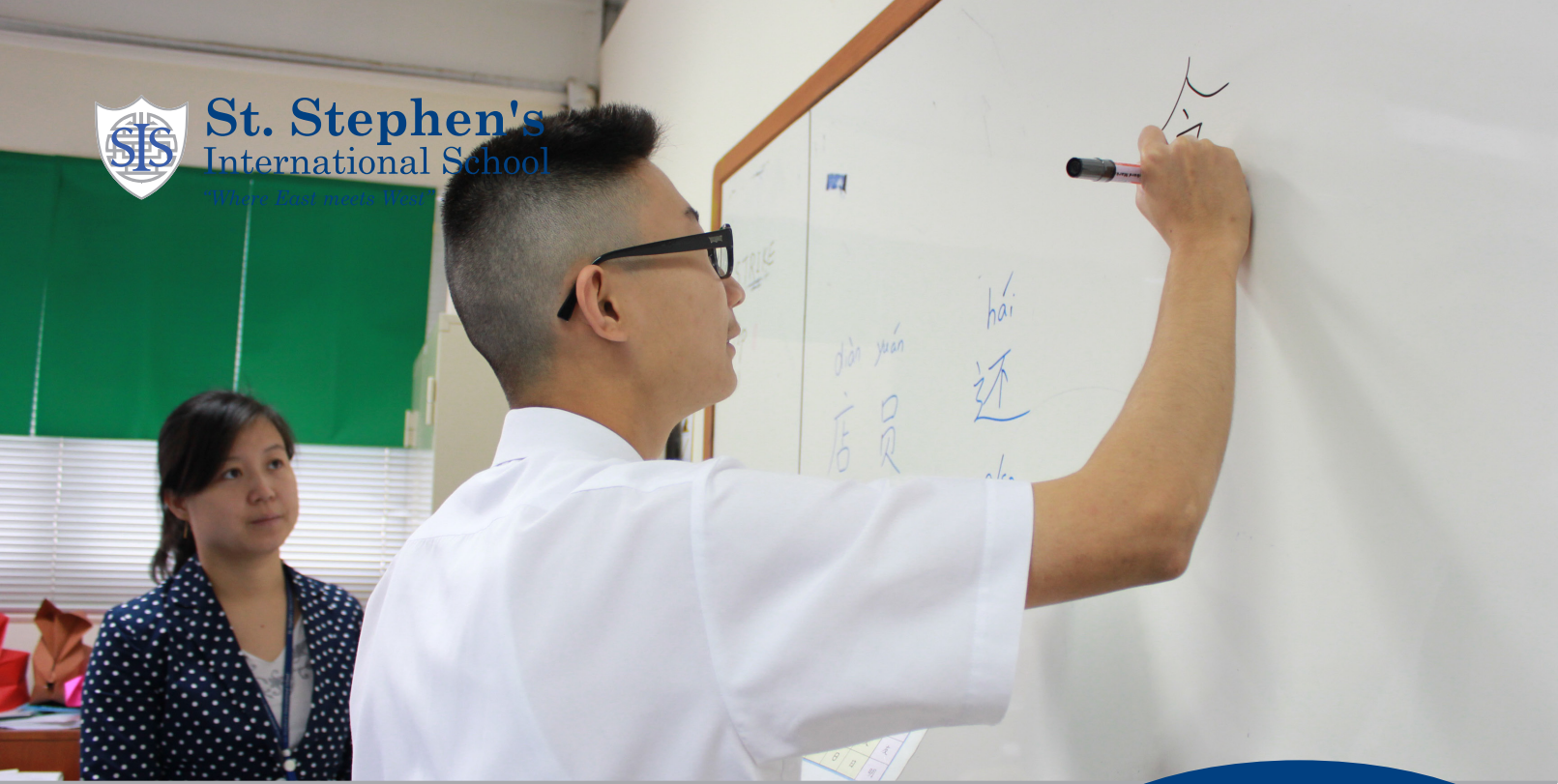
Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Modern European History, 1789-1939	This component focuses on the key developments that shaped European History from 1789 to 1939.	3 Hours	50%
2	Source-Based Study: The Origins of the First World War, 1870-1914	Seven essay questions will be set, one on each of the following six themes and one cross thematic question which will require candidates to draw links or make comparisons across themes. Themes to be studied are; The French Revolution, The Industrial Revolution, Nationalism, The 'New Imperialism', c.1870-1900, The Russian Revolution, Totalitarianism between the Wars, 1919-39.		

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	International History, 1945-1991	This component focuses on the key developments that shaped the international order after 1945.	3 Hours	50%
4	Source-Based Study: The Development of the United Nations, 1945-91	Seven essay questions will be set, one on each of the following six themes and one cross thematic question which will require candidates to draw links or make comparisons across themes. Themes to be studied are; The Origins of the Cold War after World War II, The Globalisation of the Cold War, The Crisis of Communism and the End of the Cold War, The Nuclear Arms Race, 1945-91, The Development of the International Economy, 1945-91, The Third World.		

Further information available at  
[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=751](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=751)





## MANDARIN CHINESE

“ I want to study in Hong Kong.  
Speaking Mandarin will be  
very helpful. ”

*Leo joined SIS in Year 8.*

### The study of Mandarin Chinese will enable students to:

- Develop the ability to understand the language from a variety of registers
- Enable the student to communicate confidently and clearly
- Form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- Develop insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where the language is spoken, including the study of literary texts where appropriate
- Encourage positive attitudes to language learning and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilisations
- Further intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills

### Types of Learning Experience

Mandarin students at AS and A2 will encounter a wide variety of learning experiences with great emphasis upon the development of linguistic competence and their knowledge of contemporary society.

Students will research topics and give presentations; they will receive guidance in interpreting and responding to current text written in Chinese from a variety of sources such as magazines, newspapers, reports, books and the internet.

Presentations will be given by staff and students throughout the course. Students will be encouraged to understand Chinese culture, traditions, history and the important role that China is playing in today's rapidly changing world.



## Link Subjects

Mandarin is especially relevant to other languages and Business Studies due to the growing economic power of China.

## Careers

Mandarin can be studied as a degree on its own or in combination with other language subjects.

Mandarin provides students with skills relevant to a wide range of careers including Interpretation, International Business, Marketing, Education, HR Services, Transportation services and Tourism.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Reading and Writing	Candidates answer specific and general comprehension questions on the two passages, and respond to a task requiring a summary or comparison of issues raised.	1 Hour 45 Minutes	45%
2	Topical Essay	Students will discuss topical issues and will prepare and present written essays based on the topics prerelease by the examination board.	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Extended Curriculum-Case Study	Students complete a series of essay questions based on predetermined texts from influential Chinese authors.	2 Hours 30 minutes	35%

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=737](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=737)



## MATHEMATICS

*“ I like that Mathematics has a definite answer. Getting that correct answer is fun and satisfying. ”*

*Prince joined SIS in Nursery.*

### The study of Mathematics will enable students to:

- Extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them to solve more difficult unstructured problems
- Recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically
- Understand the relationship between real world problems and standard mathematical models and how these can be refined and improved
- Use mathematics as an effective means of communication
- Develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general
- Take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development

### Types of Learning Experience

The course content is delivered through lectures, classroom discussion, practical activities and the use of ICT.

### Link Subjects

Mathematics may be taken with any other subjects but is particularly valuable to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, ICT, Geography and Business Studies students.

### Careers

Mathematics develops problem solving skills and the ability to tackle tasks logically. This makes Mathematics relevant to many subjects at University. Mathematics is a useful stepping stone to Engineering, the Sciences, Computing and Business related subjects.

Mathematics is especially relevant to those wishing to pursue careers in Business, Economics, Actuarial Science, Education, Engineering, ICT, Software Engineering, Data Analysis and Scientific Research.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Mechanics	Students will study the following Mathematical topics; Vectors in Mechanics, Kinematics of a Particle Movement, Dynamics of a Particle Movement, Statics of a Particle and Moments.	1 Hour 15 Minutes	20%
2	Pure Mathematics	Coordinate Geometry, Quadratics, Functions, Circular Measures, Trigonometry, Vectors, Series, Differentiation and Integration.	1 Hour 45 Minutes	30%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Statistics	Coordinate Geometry, Quadratics, Functions, Circular Measures, Trigonometry, Vectors, Series, Differentiation and Integration.	1 Hour 10 Minutes	20%
4	Pure Mathematics 2	Algebra, Logarithmic and Exponential Functions, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration and Numerical Solution of Equations.	1 Hour 45 Minutes	30%

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef\\_id=755](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?assdef_id=755)





## MUSIC

“ I like Music. It’s very chilled out and I get to write my own songs. ”

*Nueng joined SIS in year 2*

### The study of Music will enable students to:

- Extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through music and take part in music making
- Engage in and extend their appreciation of the diverse and dynamic heritage of music, promoting spiritual and cultural development
- Develop particular strengths and interests encouraging life-long learning and providing access to music related careers
- Broaden experience, develop imagination, foster creativity and promote personal and social development

### Types of Learning Experience:

Solo and ensemble performances are likely to take place right across the course. The majority of the work is based around practical tasks that often incorporate integrated activities based around performing, composing and listening. Some research and study is necessary in certain areas of particular styles of music with emphasis on what you hear and see rather than historical content. It should be pointed out that if you are a performer a minimal amount of composing is required, the opposite can be said if you are a composer.

### Link Subjects

Music has been a popular combination with Art in recent years.

### Careers

An A level in Music is desirable in order to gain entry to university, Music College or a College of Higher Education in order to obtain a qualification for a career in music or the performing arts.

The disciplined and self-disciplined nature of the study of music makes musicians highly sought after for a wide ranging variety of careers. However, it is very relevant to the careers involving the Performing Arts, Music Therapy, Education and the Commercial Music Business throughout the world.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Listening and Understanding	Development of aural perception of various styles of music.	2 Hours	25%
2	Practical Musicianship (Coursework)	Study compositional techniques and Free composition.	Portfolio	25%

### A2 Level\*

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
3	Performing	Solo and ensemble performances during the course.	Performance between 12 and 20 minutes in length.	25%
4	Composing	Compositional techniques.	Composition between 8 and 12 minutes in length.	25%
5	Specialist Option (Coursework) Performing OR Composition	An in depth investigation that has a clearly discernable link with Performing (component 3) or Composition (component 5)	3000 Word Essay.	25%

\* Two components to be taken

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject/aleveldetails?assdef\\_id=757\\_794](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject/aleveldetails?assdef_id=757_794)





## PHYSICS

“ It is relevant to everyday life and I get to prove the world makes sense by experimentation. ”

*Keith joined SIS in year 11.*

### The study of Physics will enable students to:

- Develop an interest in, and care for, the environment in relation to the impact of Physics and its applications
- Encourage individual learning
- Develop a sustained interest in Physics so that the study of the subject is exciting, enjoyable and satisfying
- Develop an awareness of the relationship of Physics to everyday life and of the interaction of Physics with engineering and technology
- Develop an experimental approach to Physics and link this approach both with the theoretical and quantitative aspects of the subject

### Types of Learning Experience

A high level of commitment is required from all students throughout the course. Students work individually or in small groups. Teaching uses a wide variety of methods but also draws on students' experiences and knowledge. Practical work forms an important element of the course.

### Link Subjects

Physics may be taken with any other subject but has especially strong links with Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology.

### Careers

Physics is a challenging and rewarding subject which is relevant and important for life in a technologically advanced society. There are many degrees available combining Physics

with, for example, Mathematics, Astronomy, Electronics and Music.



A pass in A level Physics opens up a wide range of careers with a scientific basis. Universities are now producing Physics degree courses linked to the financial centres such as London where the analytical skills possessed by graduates are in great demand. The possibilities encompass research and manufacturing industries such as Space Technology, Electronics, all forms of Power Generation, Management, Accounting, the Armed Services, Technical Sales and Education. Students typically go on to university to study Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Astronomy, Aeronautics, Telecommunications, Medicine and Dentistry.

## Syllabus Content and Assessment

### As Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
1	Multiple Choice	<b>General Physics:</b> Physical Quantities and Measurement Techniques <b>Mechanics:</b> Equations of Motion, Newton's Laws, Work and Energy, Linear Momentum <b>Electricity:</b> Uniform Electric Fields, Current Electricity, DC Circuits <b>Matter:</b> Phases of Matter, Deformation of Solids <b>Waves:</b> Wave Theory, Superposition, Interference and Diffraction. <b>Nuclear Physics:</b> The Nucleus, Isotopes, Ionising Radiation	1 Hour	15%
2	Structured Questions		1 Hour 15 Minutes	23%
3	Advanced Practical Skills		2 Hours	12%

### A2 Level

Component	Description	Syllabus content	Exam	Weighting
4	Structured Questions	<b>Circular Motion &amp; Gravitation:</b> Motion in a Circle, Gravitational Fields <b>Electric Fields and Capacitors:</b> Coulomb's Law, Electric Potential, Capacitance <b>Simple Harmonic Motion:</b> Oscillations, Damping, Resonance <b>Thermodynamics:</b> Ideal Gases, Temperature, Thermal Properties of Materials <b>Magnetic Effects and AC:</b> Magnetic Fields, Electromagnetic Induction, Alternating Currents <b>Modern Physics:</b> Charged Particles, Quantum Physics, $E = mc^2$ , Radioactive Decay <b>Electronics &amp; Communication:</b> Sensors, Operational Amplifiers, Digital Technology, AM/FM radio, Fibre Optics <b>Medical Physics:</b> X-rays, Ultrasound, CT Scanning	1 Hour 45 Minutes	38%
5	Planning, Analysis and Evaluation		1 Hour 15 Minutes	12%

Further information available at

[http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef\\_id=758](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/alevel/subject?asdef_id=758)





# Frequently asked questions

## Will I get help deciding what subjects to choose?

Yes. Students will have the opportunity to speak with the school Careers Officer, subject teachers, Form Tutors and the Head of Sixth Form. They will offer advice and guidance to help you choose your options.

## Will I have free time during the day?

Yes. However, you will be expected to use this time for independent study in the study room and group study in the common room. Of course a game of table tennis or chess between study sessions will help you relax.

## What examination board does the school use?

St. Stephen's International school uses the University of Cambridge International Examinations Board (CIE). CIE is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5–19 year olds. Their qualifications are taken in over 160 countries and recognised by universities, education providers and employers across the world.

CIE, part of the Cambridge Assessment Group, is a not-for-profit organisation and a department of the University of Cambridge. We share in their mission of providing excellence in education. The University of Cambridge is consistently listed at the top of university rankings throughout the world.

## Are A Levels recognised in all Universities?

Yes. They are a "gold standard" qualification, recognised around the world and currency for entry into major universities or employment. Some Universities in the United States allow you to use your A Levels as credits for your university course. You can find a list of universities and courses using the website below.

<http://recognition.cie.org.uk/>



**St. Stephen's**  
International School

*"Where East meets West"*

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