

Course Information (A Level)

Course Title	Preparatory Course for Cambridge International (Advanced Level) (18 months)				
Course Objectives	To prepare for the Cambridge International AS and A Level examinations in Year 2 of the course				
Subjects	A Level subjects: Mathematics, Physics, Accounting, Chinese; AS Level subjects: English GP, Economics				
Teacher-Student Ratio	Maximum 1 : 16 (subject to classroom size limit)				
Duration	18 months				
Days	Mondays to Fridays				
Course schedule	01 Jul to 27 Sep 2024 (Year 1 Semester 2 school term) 28 Sep to 06 Oct 2024 (Year 1 Semester 2 school holidays) 07 Oct to 27 Dec 2024 (Year 1 Semester 2 school term) 28 Dec 2024 to 12 Jan 2025 (Year 1 Semester 2 school holidays) 13 Jan to 06 Jun 2025 (Year 2 Semester 1 school term) 07 Jun to 15 Jun 2025 (Year 2 Semester 1 school holidays) 16 Jun to 03 Oct 2025 (Year 2 Semester 2 school term) 04 Oct to 31 Dec 2025 (Exams / Year 2 Semester 2 school holidays)				
Days without lessons	Public Holidays; Exam days; School outings; School holidays (please refer to School Calendar for most current dates)				
Time	9 am to 12pm. Lunch Break. 1pm to 4pm 4.30pm to 6pm. Dinner Break. 6.45pm to 8.15pm (from 16 Jan '23 onwards)				
Timetable	01 Jul 2024 to 27 Dec 2024				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
0900 - 1030	Economics	Mathematics	Physics	Economics	Physics
1030 - 1200	Economics	Mathematics	Physics	Economics	Physics
1300 - 1430	English	Accounting	Accounting	English	Mathematics
1430 - 1600	English	Accounting	Accounting	English	Mathematics
1630 - 1830	English	Accounting		English	
Remarks	Content coverage for the first six months is based on the Singapore-Cambridge GCE O Level and Cambridge International IGCSE syllabuses, to build your foundational knowledge for AS and A Level. You will be taught AS and A Level syllabuses from mid-January onwards, and classes will merge with the 12-month course.				
Timetable	13 Jan 2025 to 03 Oct 2025				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
0900 - 1030	Physics	Economics	Accounting	Accounting	Physics
1030 - 1200	Physics	Economics	Accounting	Accounting	Physics
1300 - 1430	Physics	Mathematics	GP	GP	Economics

1430 - 1600	Physics	Mathematics	GP	GP	Economics
1615 - 1915	Accounting	²	Accounting Chinese ³	Maths / Accounting	SDA ^{1 2} Chinese ³
Notes	¹ Student Development Activities, where applicable. ² Blanks denote self-study periods, or white space that teachers can use for additional coaching, to conduct tests, or to run extra lessons (at students' own costs) ³ Chinese lessons take place once a month. Where there are no Chinese lessons, there are Accounting lessons on Wednesday, and SDA or white space on Friday.				
<i>The above timetables are subject to change without prior notice Please check with the School for the most current timetable</i>					
Lesson Venue Contact info.	Zhicheng Private School 865 Mountbatten Road, #07-03 Singapore 437844 Tel: 67600590 Email: school@zhicheng.edu.sg Website: www.zhicheng.edu.sg				
Resources used	Well-lit and air-conditioned classrooms equipped with whiteboards, tables and chairs, laboratory, apparatus for physics experiments. Projectors, laptops, storybooks, internet access, print and non-print media. Course materials include past year papers and course books. Please refer to booklist for list of course books that students need to purchase at their own expense for this course.				
Key External Exam Dates	Year 2 Oct to Nov: Cambridge International (AS & A Level) Examinations Exam dates are subject to change. Please visit the following link for the latest updates: cambridgeinternational.org				
Course Delivery	Face-to-face classroom lessons. Online learning where applicable e.g. during a circuit breaker, or when following safe management protocols. Supervised self-study hours. Physics practicals: conducted in school.				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sessions on university degree programmes available in Singapore and overseas; • Academic counselling for students on the suitability of undergraduate studies based on their personal and educational profiles; • Workshops on writing of personal statements, personal grooming and presentation, and interview skills; • Interview professionals and experts from different professions, to expose students to various career pathways; 				

Student Development Activities (SDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and help students in their application to local and overseas universities and colleges (additional costs apply for university applications on students' behalf); • Community service programme to foster students' engagement with the community and their sense of responsibility towards others; • Sports and physical conditioning programme to foster a healthy lifestyle, e.g. table-tennis, badminton or gym workouts (coached sessions are conducted at students' own expense); • Hikes and outdoor activities such as canoeing, team-building games, to encourage bonding among students and staff through physical exercise; • Special interest groups, such as science research projects, coding, public speaking, finance etc, to develop their interests beyond the classroom. The School will liaise with external interest groups and seek memberships for students. Membership costs, if any, shall be borne by students.
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Admission Criteria
<p>Applicable to all admissions including late admissions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Student is at least 16 years of age on 1 January in the year of admission; 2) Student has attained a score of 35% or higher in English, and 45% or higher in Mathematics in the school's entry tests that are pegged to the IGCSE standard.

Attendance Requirements
<p>Course attendance is an important component of the academic standards in this course. Students are required to attend ALL lessons. Any absences have to be supported by a Medical Certificate.</p>

Course Description

The following descriptions are applicable to the period of study between start of course and end of December in Year 1

ENGLISH

The English module is based on the IGCSE First Language English syllabus. It develops students' ability to:

- communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing,
- use a wide range of vocabulary, and the correct use of grammar, spelling and punctuation,
- analyse, infer and communicate effectively, such as ordering facts and presenting opinions,
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed, and
- handle the study of English General Paper, which students will learn from Oct to the end of the course.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics module is based on the Singapore-Cambridge GCE O Level Additional Mathematics syllabus. It supports students in:

- building competency, confidence and fluency in their use of techniques and mathematical understanding,
- developing a feel for quantity, patterns and relationships,
- developing their reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills in a variety of contexts, and
- making a smooth transition to Cambridge A Level Mathematics.

PHYSICS

The Physics module is based on the IGCSE Physics syllabus. It helps students to:

- understand and acquire scientific knowledge and practice,
- develop a range of experimental skills, including practical problem-solving, handling variables and working safely,
- develop skills in communicating effectively and clearly, using scientific terminology, notation and conventions,
- use scientific data and evidence to solve problems, and
- be equipped with the skills necessary for the study of Cambridge A Level Physics.

ACCOUNTING

The Accounting module is based on the IGCSE Accounting syllabus. It enables students to develop:

- knowledge and understanding of the principles and purposes of accounting for individuals, businesses, non-trading organisations and society as a whole,
- an understanding of accounting concepts, principles, policies, techniques, procedures and terminology,
- improved skills of numeracy, literacy, communication, enquiry, presentation and interpretation,
- improved accuracy, orderliness and the ability to think logically, and
- a good foundation for Cambridge AS Level Accounting.

ECONOMICS

The Economics module is based on the IGCSE Economics syllabus. It enables students to:

- know and understand economic terminology, concepts and theories,
- use basic economic numeracy and interpret economic data,
- use the tools of economic analysis,
- express economic ideas logically and clearly in a written form,
- apply economic understanding to current economic issues, and
- build the foundation necessary for the study of Cambridge AS Level Economics.

The following descriptions are applicable to the period of study between mid-January and end of course in Year 2. Syllabuses are based on Cambridge International AS and A Level as indicated next to the subject.

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER (AS Level)

This module enables students to develop:

- understanding and use of English language to appraise a broad range of contemporary topics,
- a wider awareness and knowledge of contemporary issues through reading,
- independent reasoning skills,
- the skills of interpretation, analysis, evaluation and persuasion,
- skills in writing structured and developed arguments, and present reasoned explanations, and
- the ability to present a point of view clearly, and consider and reflect upon those of others.

MATHEMATICS (A Level)

This module enables students to:

- develop their mathematical knowledge and skills in a way which encourages confidence and provides satisfaction and enjoyment,
- develop an understanding of mathematical principles and an appreciation of mathematics as a logical and coherent subject,
- acquire a range of mathematical skills, particularly those which will enable them to use applications of mathematics in the context of everyday situations and of other subjects they may be studying,
- develop the ability to analyse problems logically,
- recognise when and how a situation may be represented mathematically, identify and interpret relevant factors and select an appropriate mathematical method to solve the problem,
- use mathematics as a means of communication with emphasis on the use of clear expression, and
- acquire the mathematical background necessary for further study in mathematics or related subjects.

PHYSICS (A Level)

This module enables students to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding and develop practical skills, including efficient, accurate and safe scientific practices,
- learn to apply the scientific method, while developing an awareness of the limitations of scientific theories and models,
- develop skills in data analysis, evaluation and drawing conclusions, cultivating attitudes relevant to science such as objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness,
- develop effective scientific communication skills, using appropriate terminology and scientific conventions,
- understand their responsibility to others/society and to care for the environment, and
- enjoy science and develop an informed interest in the subject that may lead to further study.

CHINESE (A Level)

This module enables students to:

- develop the ability to understand Chinese from a variety of registers,
- develop the ability to communicate confidently and clearly in Chinese,
- 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 Chinese 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, and
- support intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills.

ACCOUNTING (AS Level)

This module enables students to:

- understand the role of accounting as an information system for monitoring, problem-solving and decision-making,
- appreciate the ethical issues that underpin the practice of accounting and their impact on the behaviour of the accountant and of businesses,
- appreciate the place of accounting in managing business change in response to economic, social and technological developments,
- develop the ability to apply and evaluate accounting concepts, principles, policies and practices,
- develop skills of communication, analysis, interpretation and presentation of both qualitative and quantitative accounting information, and
- develop skills and knowledge needed for further study or employment in accounting or business.

Note: Students will be taught up to A Level topics, to allow students who are very competent in the subject to take the examinations at A Level. Other students will take the examinations at AS Level.

ECONOMICS (AS Level)

This module enables students to:

- know and understand the terminology, concepts, theories and principles of economics,
- express ideas in writing and using statistics and diagrams, or other methods, where appropriate,
- develop the habit of using works of reference as sources of information specific to economics,
- read critically to gain information about the changes in the wider economic and social environment,
- appreciate the methods of study that economists use, and the most effective ways economic information may be analysed, correlated, discussed, evaluated and presented, and
- develop an interest in and enthusiasm for economics that could lead to further study.

Course Assessments & Assignments

Students are expected to do their assignments and hand them up on time. Test dates are subject to change. Students are to check with their teacher during the course.

Month	Description	Remarks
Aug	Test 1	All subjects
Oct	Test 2	All subjects
Dec	Test 3	All subjects
Feb	Test 4	All subjects
Apr	Test 5	All subjects
Jun	Test 6	All subjects
Aug	Test 7	All subjects
Oct	Test 8	All subjects

Notes: Students' learning is continuously assessed through their daily assignments, quizzes and project work if any. The scheduled tests are formative in nature, i.e. they indicate a student's progress in learning. The course does not conduct any tests or exams that lead to the award of any certification. Tests are modeled after the external exam test format and mark scheme. Test scores have no bearing on actual A Level examination scores. Students may refer to the following grade bands as a general guideline.

A*: ≥ 90					
A: 80 to 89.9	B: 70 to 79.9	C: 60 to 69.9	D: 50 to 59.9	E: 40 to 49.9	U: ≤ 39