

# IGCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET 2025 - 2027

**YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO Y9 & Y10 OPTIONS AT  
AL-MUSTAQBAL SCHOOL**



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- Business Studies
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## INTRODUCTION

As your child begins Key Stage 4 (Years 9 and 10), they are entering an important part of their education. This is the first time they can choose subjects that match their interests and strengths, rather than following a set curriculum. These choices will play a key role in shaping their future academic and career paths.

At this stage, it is essential for students to pass certain compulsory subjects to progress to Key Stage 5 (Years 11 and 12), qualify for university, and meet the requirements of the Palestinian Ministry of Education. Understanding these expectations will help your child stay on track.

We know this can be a challenging time for both students and parents. It is a great opportunity to explore your child's academic preferences and discuss possible career directions. Encourage your child to talk to teachers, senior students, and our careers advisor for advice on subject choices and future plans. These conversations can help them make more informed decisions.

Choosing the right combination of subjects is a balancing act. It is important to select a range of subjects that keeps future options open, while also focusing on areas of interest. This balance will help your child stay motivated and prepare for different opportunities ahead.

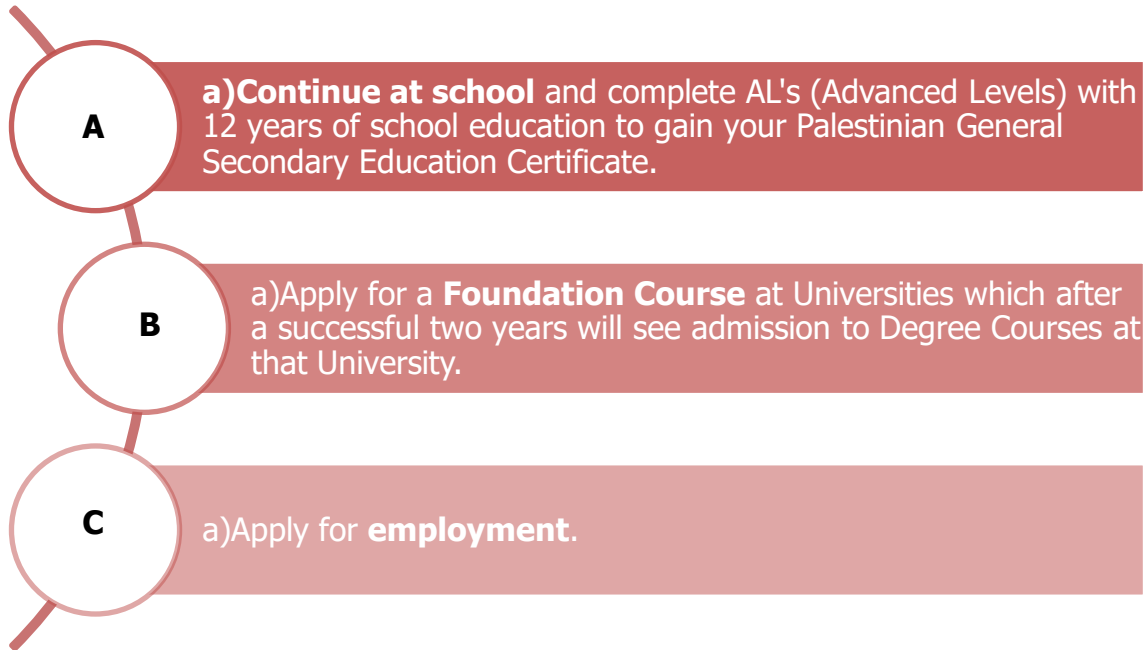
Throughout this process, our school is here to support you. We offer guidance and resources to help you and your child understand university entry requirements and career pathways. Please feel free to reach out for any questions or assistance.

We wish you and your child all the best during this exciting and important stage of their educational journey. Together, we can help them achieve success and prepare for a bright future!

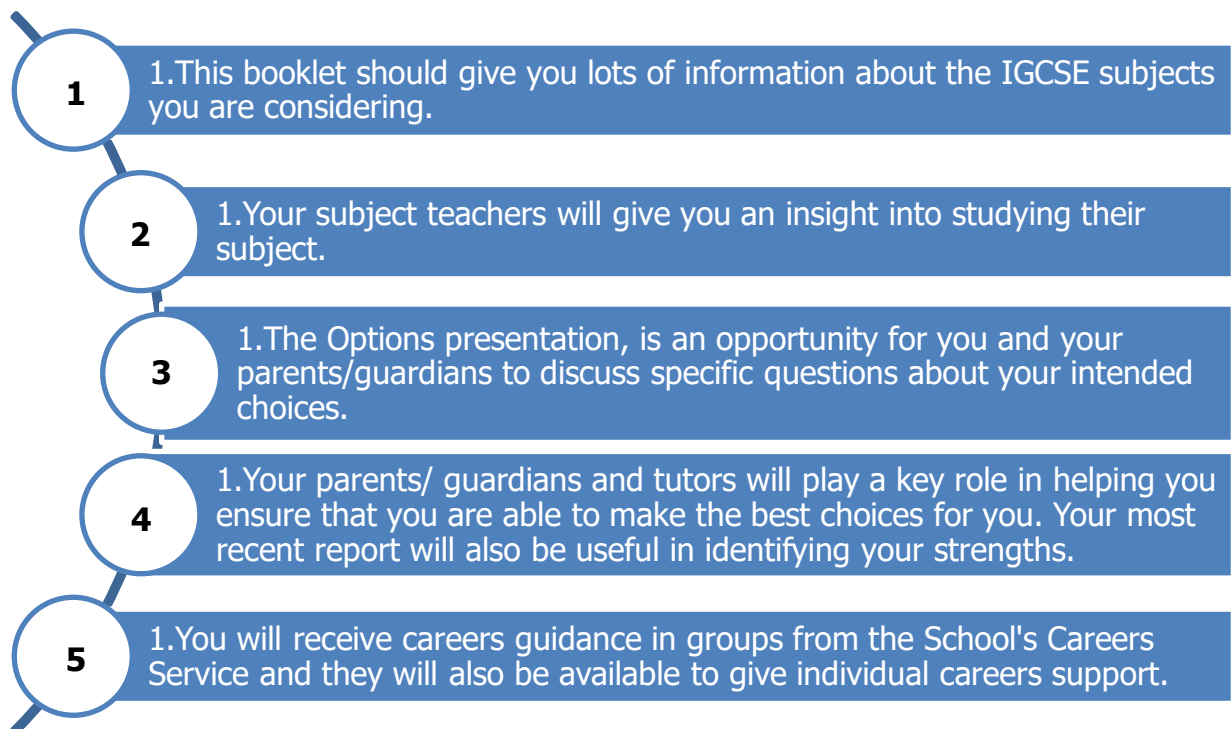
# MAKING YOUR CHOICES

You are about to start an exciting new chapter at AMS. Soon, you will choose the subjects you want to study for your IGCSEs, allowing you to create a personalized curriculum.

After successfully completing your IGCSEs, various pathways will open up for your next steps in education.



Making your choices may be challenging, and therefore support will be available for you in this important decision-making process.



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## UNIVERSITY AND CAREER PLATFORMS

### Unifrog

This platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups.

Each student can get access to numerous career areas, wide range of information related to students' interests and aspirations, explore Pathways –personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, and attend online courses and webinars.

You are all advised to sign up to the platform, go to "know-how library" and read & watch "Getting prepared: 5 things to put in place in Key Stage 4 (ages 14-16)".

Interested students should contact Ms. Isra' Issa to get account access details, and pay a \$25 yearly subscription fees.

### UCAS

This may seem early, but even if you are considering a few different pathways, it is best to make sure your IGCSE decisions will support you. If you are considering Higher Education, research subjects on the UK Universities and Colleges Admissions Services website –

Enter the website and research your areas of interest in different colleges and universities - UCAS  
[www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk).

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# QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

## 1. Getting the Palestinian General Secondary Education Certificate

All Students must comply with the below requirements in order to get an accreditation for the awarded Cambridge Secondary Education qualification from the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research:

- a. Successful completion of Grade 11 and 12
- b. By the end of grade 12, students must successfully complete and pass a total of 8 subjects of the IGCSE level and the GCE AS, A Level distributed as follows:
  1. **2 subjects** from the A Level, / or 1 A Level subject with 2 AS subjects; plus
  2. **6 subjects** of the IGCSE level;
- c. The Arabic subject must be one of the 8 subjects if the student has been studying in an Arabic Country;
- d. The grade boundaries for A level subjects ranges from (A – E), and for IGCSE from (A – D)
- e. Any subject taken twice in both levels (IGCSE & Advanced) is counted as two separate subjects, except for the Arabic subject, if it is taken on the IGCSE level and the Advanced level, the ministry will count either the IGCSE subject grade **or** the Advanced level subject grade.

### **Scientific Stream**

It is required, in compliance with the above rules (a-e), that the **Scientific stream** student complete the following:

- a. Students are required to complete and pass the Mathematics subject, at either the A Level or the AS level as a minimum;
- b. Students are required to complete and pass 2 A Level subjects from the natural sciences subject group, with the option to substitute one of the A Level subject with 2 AS subjects from the same natural science subjects;
- c. IGCSE Mathematics is a compulsory subject for the Scientific Stream students.

### **Literary Stream**

Any student that does not meet scientific stream equivalency rules mentioned in point 3 above can get a literary stream equivalency to his/ her certificate under the condition of meeting rules (a-e) mentioned above.

## 2. Qualifications for Universities in Palestine

**The below points are important to consider when you apply to Palestinian Universities:**

- The year that the student will finish grade 12 at school and has his/ her GCE & IGCSE certificates authenticated from the ministry, **must** be the same year that he/ she accomplishes all equivalency requirements mentioned in section 1.
- The admission department will not accept/ receive student's certificates (IGCSE, GCE AS & A Level) unless they're stamped & authenticated by the Ministry of Education & Higher Education department of equivalency.

- The Palestinian ministry of education converts awarded grades to the following marks: (P. S. These are subject to changing)

IGCSE Level		GCE AS & A Level	
<b>A*</b>	98	<b>A*</b>	99
<b>A</b>	95	<b>A</b>	98
<b>B</b>	85	<b>B</b>	88
<b>C</b>	75	<b>C</b>	78
<b>D</b>	65	<b>D</b>	68
<b>E</b>	-	<b>E</b>	55

- Extra marks will be awarded to the student's final average in the case that he/ she completes extra subject(s) of the AS or A Level as follows:

Level	If Grade A achieved	If Grade B achieved
Advanced Level	2 marks awarded	1 mark awarded

- Al-Quds University requests 5 IGCSE subjects and 3 A-Level Subjects for Medicine applicants.

## 3. Qualifications for International Universities

Cambridge qualifications are accepted at over 1400 institutions across 195 countries, including top ranking universities around the world.

Cambridge qualifications are accepted and valued by employers and universities around the world, including MIT, Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge

- Learners use Cambridge International AS & A Levels to gain places at leading universities worldwide including the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Singapore, Egypt, Jordan, South Africa, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain.
- Cambridge International AS & A Levels are accepted for entrance to all UK universities.
- In places such as the United States and Canada, good grades in carefully chosen Cambridge International Advanced Level subjects can result in up to one year of university course credit.
- Most undergraduate programs entry requirements range from 3 – 5 A Level subjects and a successful pass (minimum grade C) in the IGCSE English & Maths subjects.
- For some courses, specific A Level subjects are preferred or required because they are relevant to the applied for degree

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## WHAT SUBJECTS WILL I BE STUDYING?

There are a number of subjects all students will study. We provide a core curriculum upon which to build your subject choices.

The compulsory core subjects examined are:

- English Language – IGCSE
- Mathematics – IGCSE
- Arabic – IGCSE (Optional Examination)
- Islamic Studies – National Curriculum
- Social Studies – National Curriculum

There are also some compulsory non-examined courses:

- Physical Education

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## WHAT ARE MY OPTION CHOICES?

You are fortunate at AMS that we construct our options around your choices. We cannot guarantee that all students will be able to study their preferred options. **The option selection form** will be provided to you on the options presentation day and it is important that you follow the instructions carefully and complete it correctly.

It is recommended to choose a broad and balanced curriculum in order to keep your options open. In addition, you are able to opt for extra subjects, so it is important to research as much as you can before making your decision.

All students will choose 4 option subjects, in addition to 3 core subjects which are English, Mathematic, and Arabic

Option Subjects
Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Economics
Environmental Management
ICT
Physics



# CORE CURRICULUM

## Cambridge IGCSE English as Language a Second (0510)

### Course Content

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers learners the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Learners will be presented with a variety of stimuli that will build up their skills in reading and writing. They will learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practice writing for different purposes and audiences. Learners will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills. Learners will engage in conversations on a variety of topics, and develop their skills in responding to different situations and audiences with a degree of accuracy and clarity.

### Assessment Structure

Candidates who have studied the syllabus content should be entered for Paper 1, Paper 2 and paper 3, and will be assessed on the following:

<b>Paper 1 - 2 hours</b>	<b>Paper 2 - Approximately 50 minutes</b>
<b>Reading and Writing 70%</b> (60 marks): Candidates respond to six exercises: four reading and two writing.	<b>Listening 30%</b> (40 marks): Candidates listen to five exercises of short and longer texts to answer multiple choice questions.
<b>Paper 3</b>	
marks for the <b>Speaking component</b> do not contribute to the overall grade candidates receive for the written components. Instead, where candidates perform to an appropriate standard, certificates record separately the achievements of candidates, with grades 1 (high) to 5 (low) for speaking.	

## Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics (0580)

### Course Content

All candidates will study the following topics:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Algebra</b>	<b>Shape and space</b>	<b>Probability and statistics</b>
Number	Algebra and graphs Coordinate geometry	Geometry Mensuration Trigonometry	Probability Statistics
		Transformations and vectors	

### Assessment Structure

**Paper 2** – 2 hours

**Non-calculator 50%** (100 marks): structured and unstructured questions based on the Extended Curriculum

**Paper 4** – 2 hours

**Calculator 50%** (100 marks): Structured and unstructured questions based on the Extended curriculum

## Cambridge IGCSE Arabic (0508)

### Course Content

Study Topics	
<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>demonstrate understanding of written texts, and of the words and phrases within them</li><li>summarise and use material for a specific context</li><li>develop, analyse and evaluate facts, ideas and opinions</li><li>demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve their effects and influence readers</li><li>select appropriate information for specific purposes</li><li>recognise and respond to linguistic devices, figurative language and imagery.</li></ul>	<b>Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>express what is thought, felt and imagined</li><li>organise and convey facts, ideas and opinions effectively</li><li>demonstrate a varied vocabulary appropriate to the context</li><li>demonstrate an effective use of sentence structures</li><li>demonstrate an understanding of audience, purpose and form</li><li>demonstrate accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.</li></ul>

### Assessment Structure

**Paper 1** – 2 hours

**Reading 50% (50 marks):** Structured and extended writing questions. Questions are based on three reading texts and discrete grammar questions

**Paper 2** – 2 hours

**Writing (50%) (50 marks):** Composition tasks

## Cambridge IGCSE Arabic – Foreign Language (0544)

### Course Content

The subject content is organised in five broad topic areas (A–E below). These provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. The study of these topic areas enables students to gain an insight into countries and communities where Arabic is spoken.

- A** Everyday activities
- B** Personal and social life
- C** The world around us
- D** The world of work
- E** The international world

### Assessment Structure

<b>Paper 1 – Approximately 50 minutes</b> <b>Listening 25%</b> (40 marks): Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions.	<b>Paper 2 – 1 hour</b> <b>Reading 25%</b> (45 marks): Candidates read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice and matching questions as well as questions requiring short answers.
<b>Paper 3- Approximately 10 minutes</b> <b>Speaking 25%</b> (40 marks): Candidates complete one role play and conversations on two topics.	<b>Paper 4 – 1 hour</b> <b>Writing 25%</b> (45 marks): Candidates complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email/letter or an article/blog.

## Cambridge IGCSE Biology (0610)

### Course Content

Study Topics	
1. Characteristics and classification of living organisms	11. Gas exchange in humans
2. Organisation of the organism	12. Respiration
3. Movement into and out of cells	13. Excretion in humans
4. Biological molecules	14. Coordination and response
5. Enzymes	15. Drugs
6. Plant nutrition	16. Reproduction
7. Human nutrition	17. Inheritance
8. Transport in plants	18. Variation and selection
9. Transport in animals	19. Organisms and their environment
10. Diseases and immunity	20. Human influences on ecosystems
	21. Biotechnology and genetic modification

### Assessment Structure

Candidates who have studied the Extended subject, and who are expected to achieve a grade C or above in the following papers:

**Paper 2:** 45 minutes

**Multiple Choice 30%** (40 marks): 40 four-choice multiple-choice questions based on the extended subject content.

**Paper 4:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Theory 50%** (80 marks): Short-answer and structured questions based on the Extended subject content.

**Paper 6:** 1 hour

**Alternative to Practical 20%** (40 marks): Questions will be based on the experimental skills.

## Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry (0620)

### Course Content

Study Topics	
1. States of matter	7. Acids, bases and salts
2. Atoms, elements and compounds	8. The Periodic Table
3. Stoichiometry	9. Metals
4. Electrochemistry	10. Chemistry of the environment
5. Chemical energetics	11. Organic chemistry
6. Chemical reactions	12. Experimental techniques and chemical analysis

### Assessment Structure

Candidates who have studied the Extended subject content, and who are expected to achieve a grade C or above in the following papers:

**Paper 2:** 45 minutes

**Multiple Choice 30%** (40 marks): 40 four-choice multiple-choice questions based on the extended subject content

**Paper 4:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Theory 50%** (80 marks): Short-answer and structured questions based on the Extended subject content

**Paper 6:** 1 hour

**Alternative to Practical 20%** (40 marks): Questions will be based on the experimental skills.

## **Cambridge IGCSE Physics (0625)**

### **Course Content**

#### **Study Topics**

- 1 Motion, forces and energy
- 2 Thermal physics
- 3 Waves
- 4 Electricity and magnetism
- 5 Nuclear physics
- 6 Space physics

### **Assessment Structure**

Candidates who have studied the Extended subject content, and who are expected to achieve a grade C or above in the following papers:

**Paper 2:** 45 minutes

**Multiple Choice 30%** (40 marks): 40 four-choice multiple-choice questions based on the extended subject content

**Paper 4:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Theory 50%** (80 marks): Short-answer and structured questions based on the Extended subject content

**Paper 6:** 1 hour

**Alternative to Practical 20%** (40 marks): Questions will be based on the experimental skills

## **Cambridge IGCSE Business (0450)**

### **Course Content**

#### **Study Topics**

- 1 Understanding business activity
- 2 People in business
- 3 Marketing
- 4 Operations management
- 5 Financial information and decisions
- 6 External influences on business activity

### **Assessment Structure**

**Paper 1 (50% - 80 marks)** – 1 hour 30 minutes: short answer and Data Response consisting of four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses.

**Paper 2 (50% - 80 marks)** – 1 hour 30 minutes: Case Study consisting of four questions based on a case study, provided as an Insert with the paper.

# **Cambridge IGCSE Environmental Management (0680)**

## **Course Content**

### **Study Topics**

- 1 Natural resources
- 2 Land
- 3 Water
- 4 The atmosphere and human activities
- 5 Ecosystems, biodiversity and fieldwork
- 6 Natural hazards
- 7 Human population

## **Assessment Structure**

**Paper 1 (50% - 80 marks)** – 1 hour 45 minutes: Principles of Environmental Management.

**Paper 2 (50% - 80 marks)** – 1 hour 45 minutes: Environmental Management in Context.

# **Cambridge IGCSE Information & Communication Technology ICT (0417)**

## **Course Content**

### **Study Topics**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1 Types and components of computer systems | 11 File management     |
| 2 Input and output devices                 | 12 Images              |
| 3 Storage devices and media                | 13 Layout              |
| 4 Networks and the effects of using them   | 14 Styles              |
| 5 The effects of using IT                  | 15 Proofing            |
| 6 ICT applications                         | 16 Graphs and charts   |
| 7 The systems life cycle                   | 17 Document production |
| 8 Safety and security                      | 18 Databases           |
| 9 Audience                                 | 19 Presentations       |
| 10 Communication                           | 20 Spreadsheets        |
|  | 21 Website authoring   |

## **Assessment Structure**

**Paper 1:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Theory 40% (80 marks):** Questions will be based on sections 1–21 of the subject content

**Paper 2:** 2 hours 15 minutes

**Document Production, Databases and Presentations 30% (70 marks):** This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 17, 18 and 19 of the subject content. Candidates must demonstrate the practical skills relevant to sections 11–16

**Paper 3:** 2 hours 15 minutes

**Spreadsheets and Website Authoring 30% (70 marks):** This test assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in sections 20 and 21 of the subject content. Candidates must demonstrate the practical skills relevant to sections 11–16

## Cambridge IGCSE Computer Science (0478)

### Course Content

Study Topics	
<b>Computer systems</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Data representation</li><li>2 Data transmission</li><li>3 Hardware</li><li>4 Software</li><li>5 The internet and its uses</li><li>6 Automated and emerging technologies</li></ol>	<b>Algorithms, programming and logic</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7 Algorithm design and problem-solving</li><li>8 Programming</li><li>9 Databases</li><li>10 Booleanlogic</li></ol>

### Assessment Structure

**Paper 1:** 1 hour 45 minutes

**Computer Systems 50%** (75 marks): Short-answer and structured questions. Questions will be based on Topics 1–6 of the subject content

**Paper 2:** 1 hour 45 minutes

**Algorithms, Programming and Logic 50%** (75 marks): Short-answer and structured questions and a scenario-based question. Questions will be based on Topics 7–10 of the subject content

## Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design (0400)

### Course Content

Students choose one area of study or more to complete their components:

Study Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Painting and related media</li><li>2. Graphic communication</li><li>3. Three-dimensional design</li><li>4. Textiles and fashion</li><li>5. Photography</li></ol>

### Assessment Structure

#### **Component 1:**

**Coursework 50%** (100 marks): Candidate's research, develop and realise a project from one or more of the areas of study and should explore a theme.

#### **Component 2:** 8 hours

**Externally Set Assignment 50%** (100 marks) Candidates respond to one starting point set by Cambridge International. Candidates may produce work from the same areas of study as Component 1, but they do.

# **Cambridge IGCSE Economics (0455)**

## **Course Content**

<b>Study Topics</b>	
<b>1 The basic economic problem</b> 1.1 The nature of the basic economic problem 1.2 Factors of production 1.3 Opportunity cost 1.4 Production possibility curve (PPC) diagrams	<b>2 The allocation of resources</b> 2.1 The role of markets in allocating resources 2.2 Demand 2.3 Supply 2.4 Price determination 2.5 Price changes 2.6 Price elasticity of demand (PED) 2.7 Price elasticity of supply (PES) 2.8 Market economic system 2.9 Market failure 2.10 Mixed economic system
<b>3 Microeconomic decision-makers</b> 3.1 Money and banking 3.2 Households 3.3 Workers 3.4 Firms 3.5 Firms and production 3.6 Firms' costs, revenue and objectives 3.7 Types of markets	<b>4 Government and the macroeconomy</b> 4.1 Government macroeconomic intervention 4.2 Fiscal policy 4.3 Monetary policy 4.4 Supply-side policy 4.5 Economic growth 4.6 Employment and unemployment 4.7 Inflation
<b>5 Economic development</b> 5.1 Living standards 5.2 Poverty 5.3 Population 5.4 Differences in economic development between countries	<b>6 International trade and globalisation</b> 6.1 Specialisation and free trade 6.2 Globalisation and trade restrictions 6.3 Foreign exchange rates 6.4 Current account of the balance of payments

## **Assessment Structure**

**Paper 1:** 1 hour

**Multiple Choice 30%** (40 marks): Candidates answer 40 multiple-choice questions.

**Paper 2:** 2 hours

**Structured Questions 70%** (80 marks): Candidates answer one compulsory question with six parts in Section A and three questions from a choice of four in Section B.

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**Choose wisely & Good luck!**