



MALVERN

COLLEGE

PROGRAMME OF STUDY FOR PRE-SIXTH PUPILS

The Malvern College
GCSE Information Booklet for Pre-Sixth pupils
studying for examinations in 2022

Table of Contents

Malvern College Pre-Sixth Form Course	3
Mathematics	4
English	5
Biology	5
Chemistry	6
Physics	6
Geography	7
History	7
French for Non-Native Speakers	8
Latin	9
Spanish	9
English as an Additional Language	10
German for Native Speakers	10
French for Native Speakers	11

Malvern College Pre-Sixth Form Course

The Pre-Sixth Form course was introduced in 2005. This course is intended for pupils whose assessment tests, academic background and standard of English indicate that they are capable of completing the individual specifications in one year. Having completed the Pre-Sixth Form course, all pupils have the opportunity to gain entry into the Sixth Form to study either the International Baccalaureate or GCE Advanced levels. However, entry into the Pre-Sixth Form does not guarantee a place in the Sixth Form.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course has been designed for pupils who are not native speakers of English with two main objectives:

1. To provide pupils with an introduction to all aspects of life at Malvern College. It is hoped that this integration year will allow for seamless entry into the Sixth Form where the pupil is able, from the outset, to concentrate on their studies.
2. For the pupils to be taught exclusively in English to allow for a considerable improvement in their English regardless of their standard on commencement of the course.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Pupils will study the following subjects:

- English
- English as an Additional language, as appropriate
- Mathematics
- Two or three Sciences (from a choice of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Either History or Geography
- Either French or Spanish or Latin (if previously studied for at least two years)
- Pupils may also study for a GCSE in their own native language (where a GCSE is available).

It is expected that, in almost all cases, pupils will attain the required standard for entry for the GCSE or IGCSE examination in these subjects in the Summer Term. Those pupils who have not attained this standard will continue to study the course, but will not be entered for the GCSE/IGCSE examination.

For Mathematics, French and Spanish, the pupils will be taught with the rest of our Year 11 pupils. For all other subjects they will be taught in their Pre-Sixth Form group.

The pupils' timetables will also include Games. They will have the opportunity of choosing from a wide range of co-curricular activities in Sport, Art, Music and Drama.

MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

This will be the same for Pre-Sixth form pupils as for all other Malvern College pupils.

They will receive weekly homework from subject teachers and regular end-of-topic tests.

Formal assessment will be in the form of internal examinations in Week 2 of the Lent Term. Those pupils attaining the necessary standard in these examinations will be entered for the GCSE or IGCSE examinations.

The pupils will receive an effort and achievement grade card midway through each term and grades will be reported to parents. In addition parents receive a formal report on their son/daughter's performance at the end of each term.

There is also a Parents' Meeting in the Lent Term, though you are, of course, welcome to visit or contact the school at any time.

DECISION ON SIXTH FORM ENTRY

The school recognises that parents wish to know as soon as possible if their son/daughter will be able to enter the Sixth Form. The assessment procedures outlined above will enable the school to monitor progress and it is hoped that we will be able to make a decision as soon as possible in the academic year. This will allow parents to make alternative arrangements where necessary. A pupil's progression to the Sixth Form will also be judged on their English language ability as measured by their performance in the IELTS examination in June.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GERMAN PUPILS

1. Pupils who return to Germany at the end of the Pre-Sixth Form year:

If the pupil joined Malvern College from grade 10 in the German system then they can return to Germany without any formal qualifications. If joining us from grade 9 then the pupil can only return to the German system having done GCSEs or IGCSEs in Mathematics, English, German, one Science and Geography or History.

Mathematics

2. Pupils who wish to return to university in Germany having attended the Sixth Form at Malvern College after the Pre-Sixth Form year:

If the pupil joined us from grade 9 then again they must be able to show that they have taken GCSEs/IGCSEs in Mathematics, English, German, one Science and either Geography or History. There is currently no such requirement for pupils joining the Pre-Sixth Form course from grade 10.

Latin

Pupils returning to Germany after the Pre-Sixth Year, or going to German Universities, are required to have had 5 years of continuous Latin study.

However, in all cases we advise you to seek clarification from the German authorities to ensure your son/daughter is not disadvantaged at some point in the future.

Pupils will be set by ability and follow the Edexcel IGCSE Higher Tier Maths Course. Pre-Sixth pupils will be integrated right across the Hundred year group. The pupils will have 4 lessons of Maths per week and, if the timetable allows, we aim to provide 1 extra lesson to cover some of the material done prior to this year. The most able pupils will join Set 1A aiming to take the IGCSE in January and the AQA Level 2 Further Mathematics course in the summer. Set 1B will work a little slower taking the IGCSE in the summer and being prepared for the Further Maths course; we expect half the class to be ready to take the exam. The Further Maths course is an excellent introduction to Sixth Form Mathematics and is a good foundation for those contemplating Mathematics at Higher or Standard Level IB. However, we appreciate that if a pupil is predicted lower than a 7/8 grade, then they may not wish to sit the exam.

It is recommended that anyone wishing to study IB Mathematics Higher should achieve a level 8/9 in both IGCSE and Further Mathematics, and for Standard Level a level 8 is desirable. For A Level Mathematics, we recommend a minimum of an IGCSE level 7, but ideally an 8. Further details are contained within the Sixth Form prospectus, which is available from the Registry.

The IGCSE contains several topics which many international students may have not covered in great depth. These include:

- Trigonometry
- Calculus
- Arithmetic Sequences
- Statistics
- Sets and Venn Diagrams
- Factorising Quadratics
- Indices and Surds
- Circle Theorems

Pupils are set based on their entrance test and a similar test which they will do under test conditions in the first week of term. If they have a particular desire to do Further Mathematics but are not placed in either of the top two sets they will need to discuss this with Mr Thomas, the Head of Department.

English Language

The primary purpose of this course is to equip pupils with the command of English they will need to study in the Sixth Form at Malvern College. The course will develop pupils' confidence when communicating in the world's first international language and it will cultivate their knowledge and enjoyment of some of the world's best-loved authors.

This Pre-Sixth English course is sufficient preparation for either the International Baccalaureate or A Level. Pupils who go on to take the IB in the Sixth Form at Malvern will be required to study either English Literature (at Standard or Higher Level) or English Language and Literature (at Standard or Higher Level). Pupils who wish to study English at A Level can choose A Level English Literature (OCR).

In order to give the course extra focus, pupils follow a one-year course leading, where appropriate, to entry in the IGCSE English Language examination. It should be borne in mind, however, that IGCSE English Language is intended as a two-year course for native speakers of English. Therefore for pupils whose first language is not English or whose period of residence in England has not been extensive, attempting IGCSE English Language in one year is an ambitious undertaking. This is especially the case since assessment of the coursework elements begins almost as soon as the course starts. The final papers are taken in June. For IGCSE English Language (Edexcel board) the marks are apportioned as follows:

Written coursework: 40%

Written Examination: 60%

Biology

The Edexcel IGCSE Biology course provides a broad foundation for pupils who may wish to continue the subject in the Sixth Form or at university. Biology is a very important subject for anyone considering Medicine or Veterinary Medicine as a career but it is also valuable as a qualification for any number of other career areas.

The course sets out to provide pupils with solid knowledge and understanding of biological facts and principles as well as associated ethical, social, environmental, economic and technological issues. Pupils will be taught to apply their knowledge to new situations and assess the validity of biological information. Practical work will form an important part of the course and pupils will develop skills in planning and carrying out investigations, making and recording observations and measurements, drawing conclusions and evaluating data.

There will be no assessment of practical coursework in the IGCSE course. Instead pupils will sit written examinations that assess both theoretical and practical skills.

The major themes studied in the course are:

- The nature and variety of living organisms
- Structure and function of living organisms
- Reproduction and inheritance
- Ecology and the environment
- The use of biological resources

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Edexcel International GCSE Biology (4BI1)

Chemistry

The Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry course provides a good preparation for both A Level and the International Baccalaureate, and is a stimulating and challenging course with plenty of good opportunities for interesting practical work. Chemistry is essential for any pupils who wish to apply for medical, veterinary or dentistry courses, as well as some engineering courses. As well as this Chemistry is the most widely accepted subject for University courses such as Law and Accountancy since it develops mathematical as well as logical reasoning skills.

The subject is examined in two written papers, with practical ability being assessed within these papers rather than by coursework.

The topics you will study are briefly listed below:

Principles of Chemistry

States of matter, atoms, atomic structure, bonding, electrolysis, formulae and equations, practical techniques, calculating amounts of substances

Inorganic Chemistry

The periodic table, group 1, group 7, gases in the atmosphere, reactivity series, extraction and uses of metals, acids and alkalis, salts, tests for ions and gases

Organic chemistry

Crude oil, alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters, polymers

Physical chemistry

Energetics, rates of reaction, equilibria

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Edexcel London Examinations IGCSE Chemistry (4CH1)

Physics

The Physics in this course provides a good preparation for both A Levels and the International Baccalaureate and is stimulating and challenging with plenty of good opportunities for interesting practical work. As well as the University courses that require Physics, such as engineering, material science and IT, it is also useful for entry into careers in the world of business, finance, law and politics because of the analytical, mathematical, logical reasoning and problem-solving skills involved.

The subject is examined in two written papers, with practical ability being assessed within these papers rather than by coursework.

The topics you will study are briefly listed below:

- Motion and Forces
- Energy, Work and Power
- Thermal Physics and Heat
- Sound and Light Waves
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Atomic Physics and Radioactivity

SPECIFICATION DETAILS

Edexcel London Examinations IGCSE Physics (4PH1)

Geography

“Geography is life. It is impossible to conceive of rounded human beings who have not grasped the fundamentals of geography.”

DAVID PUTTNAM: PRODUCER OF ‘THE MISSION’ AND ‘THE KILLING FIELDS’

Geography is an exciting and challenging subject that is unique in its study of human and physical patterns and the interaction of people and their environment in shaping the landscape. It also makes a wider contribution to the curriculum in the skills and personal development, and also the moral, social and cultural development it fosters. Geography is an essential component in preparing our pupils for life beyond school where the challenges to the environment are multiplying, and geographical knowledge and understanding is more vital than ever in all areas of trade and industry.

At Malvern, Geographers are taught a wide-ranging combination of skills drawing ideas from many sources, including practical fieldwork. The course culminates in the Edexcel IGCSE. There will be two papers in the examination, one covering Human topics, one covering Physical topics; both papers also include a series of fieldwork questions.

The IGCSE course requires all pupils to carry out fieldwork on at least two occasions. These field trips are an integral and essential part of the course, which will incur a charge to parents. In the Pre 6th this will most likely be covered by a residential trip to the Brecon Beacons.

The skills learnt in Geographical studies make our pupils of potential interest to a wide range of employers. The close link between the subject and the world around us makes for a long and varied list of related careers including working with development or aid agencies, environmental work, using Geographical Information Systems, working for the census office and in tourism and recreation. However most of these areas involve only one part of the broad subject of Geography. Statistics show that, compared with other subjects, Geographers are among the most employable. Many of those leaving university with a Geography degree enter three fields of employment: administration and management, marketing or finance.

History

The History course is the IGCSE offered by CAIE. For our candidates, the course consists of the following topics (subject to confirmation and the possibility of minor change) examined via three papers:

Paper 1

Core content: twentieth-century international relations:

- What caused the First World War?
- The League of Nations
- The collapse of international peace by 1939
- The USA’s attempts to contain the spread of Communism
- Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- Depth Study: Germany 1918–1945

Paper 2

The examined topic changes every year. In 2021, our pupils will be prepared for ‘Were the Peace Treaties of 1919–1923 fair?’

Paper 4

Depth Study: Germany 1918–1945.

AIMS

The broad aim is for pupils to understand the course of international relations from the background to the First World War to the emergence of the Cold War by 1949.

Pupils study the attempt to establish international peace and order between 1918 and 1939 and look at the impact of the Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression in this section. A detailed “depth study” on Germany during this period allows pupils to understand why attempts to secure democracy failed and why Germany was re-cast as a single-party state and dictatorship. The analysis of Germany also extends into the years of the Second World War.

The course makes use of the wealth of contemporary documents that are available. Pupils develop source analysis and essay writing skills. At every stage, they are taught to assess the significance of ideas such as Marxism and Fascism, of personalities such as Hitler and Stalin, and key events such as the Wall Street Crash, as causes of change. Equally, they are taught to identify trends of continuity.

French for Non-Native Speakers

We offer candidates of an appropriate standard the opportunity to sit the Edexcel IGCSE examination in French. The course is designed for pupils who already have some knowledge of French; they will normally have studied French in school for at least two years. Pupils are set alongside others who entered the College at the start of the Foundation Year.

NATURE OF THE SUBJECT

Our approach is a combination of modern resource-based techniques and traditional learning of the structure of the language. There are three main aims:

- grammatical sophistication and accuracy
- communicative competence
- cultural awareness.

Communicative skills are developed as a priority since any future career benefits from a sound grasp of the language as a professional tool. We have two full-time French assistants.

Naturally, cultural objectives are not ignored and the understanding of a different people's way of thinking and feeling is an important ingredient of the study of any language and of the intellectual benefit one can gain from the course.

Whilst enthusiastic in the development of practical skills, we ensure that this is not to the detriment of rigorous training for a precise and accurate appreciation of linguistic problems.

A wide range of techniques is applied and full use is made of technological resources, not least the Internet.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be undertaken in the four core language skills:

Paper 1: Listening and understanding

Understanding of spoken French through a series of listening tasks. Correct spelling will not be required as long as the student's response is comprehensible.

Paper 2: Reading and Writing

Reading: Students will be required to read a range of authentic factual and non-factual written material of varying length in different registers and contexts, and from different sources: advertisements, short passages, letters, leaflets, emails, website pages, and newspaper/magazine articles and literary texts.

Writing: 2 writing tasks and a third grammar-based task. Grammatical accuracy, punctuation and spelling will be assessed in this section.

Paper 3: Speaking

3 speaking tasks: describe the content of a picture; describe possible past or future events related to people in the picture; respond to questions about the picture and its related topic; spontaneous conversation on 2 further topics.

No dictionary will be permitted for any of the above papers.

Latin

Latin in the Pre-Sixth is taken by well-motivated pupils who have already studied Latin for at least two years. Pupils read extracts from a wide variety of Roman authors, such as Caesar, Cicero, Livy, Pliny, Tacitus, and Catullus, Horace, Ovid and Vergil. In this way their linguistic knowledge is enhanced and they also learn how to analyse passages of Latin literature. If appropriate, pupils are entered for the WJEC 9-1 GCSE Latin examination papers to be taken in May 2021.

The course not only provides useful background knowledge and skills for pupils wishing to study Latin or Classical Civilisation in the Sixth Form, but also complements the study of English, History and, of course, Modern Languages, in the Lower School and the Sixth Form.

Latin is still held in high regard by university admissions tutors and employers, because it is known to be a subject that encourages a rigorous approach to linguistic analysis, develops communication skills and readily fosters an interest in ancient and modern culture.

Spanish

We offer candidates of an appropriate standard the opportunity to sit the Edexcel IGCSE examination in Spanish. This course is designed for pupils who already have some knowledge of Spanish; they will normally have studied Spanish in school for at least two years. It is a course for non-native speakers. Pupils are set alongside others who entered the College at the start of the Foundation Year and they sit the new Edexcel IGCSE examination.

NATURE OF THE SUBJECT

In Spanish, we teach pupils to communicate in a range of situations, both in writing and orally, and focus on the structures and grammar that form the basis of the language so that they can modify and use language creatively. We also discuss the culture and traditions of Spanish speaking countries, as an understanding of a different people's way of thinking and feeling is an important ingredient of the study of a language. We study the grammar and vocabulary of the language through the following topics:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities, fitness and health.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be undertaken in the four core language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. There is no coursework.

There are three exams:

Paper 1: Listening (25%)

Paper 2: Reading and Writing (50%)

Paper 3: Speaking (25%)

All exams require knowledge of core vocabulary from the five topics as well as tenses studied throughout the course.

English as an Additional Language (IELTS)

All pupils whose first language is not English study EAL. During the Pre-Sixth Form year, pupils will be prepared for the Cambridge University IELTS (International English Language Testing System) examination, during which they will be taught specific vocabulary and writing skills, describing processes, diagrams and how things work, together with various styles of essay on a range of global topics. The Reading module teaches a range of techniques and demands great accuracy in response, whilst the Speaking and Listening sections test the range of vocabulary and idiomatic English possessed by the pupil.

This examination gives an excellent basis for work in both the Sixth Form and at university and, if the appropriate level is gained, is an English Language qualification for university entrance in the UK and other countries abroad. Success in the IELTS examination plays a significant role in our assessment of a pupil's suitability for study in the Sixth Form.

German for Native Speakers

In the Sixth Form, the College offers the International Baccalaureate German A (Language and Literature) course for native speakers. This course is designed for pupils who already have a high level of competence in German and is based firmly in the study of both language and literature. The course can be studied at either Standard Level or Higher Level. German lessons for native speakers in the Pre-Sixth are designed to prepare pupils for this exciting and rewarding course.

NATURE OF THE SUBJECT

Communication, comprehension and cultural understanding in the context of global themes provide the core of a modern language course. However, the main focus of this particular course is on the reinforcement and refinement of language skills, as oppose to language acquisition. During the course, pupils will be taught to interpret a wide range of texts in a critical manner, developing the specific knowledge and skills required for literary and non-literary text analysis. The course also allows pupils to explore the features and purposes behind a number of registers and styles, strengthening their understanding of how language and format are manipulated to achieve different goals. Discursive analysis and oral work go alongside rigorous tuition in written expression. A wide range of techniques is applied and full use is made of technological resources, not least the internet.

THE AIMS

Within the framework of stimulating and organised learning, we aim to:

- develop the ability to communicate accurately and effectively in speech and in writing in a range of contexts;
- explore the cultures of German-speaking countries, comparing these with other cultures and languages with which pupils are familiar;
- facilitate the completion of longer, more complex tasks (literary and non-literary text analysis, coursework projects);
- use the language in sophisticated discussion, argument and debate.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of the Pre-Sixth Form year, German native speakers sit the Edexcel IGCSE German examination, in line with the other (I)GCSE qualifications that pupils work towards on the Pre-Sixth programme.

French for Native Speakers

In the Sixth Form, the College offers the Language B (Group 2) courses at both Standard and Higher Levels. The Language B course is designed for non-native speakers with an already high level of competence in French.

In the Hundred and Pre-Sixth, native-speakers of French are catered for as part of the gifted and talented programme.

NATURE OF THE SUBJECT

Communication, comprehension and cultural understanding are the core of a modern language course. However, the main focus of this particular course is on the reinforcement and refinement of language skills, as distinct from language acquisition. During the course, pupils are expected to master a variety of skills and handle a wide range of texts with understanding and in a critical manner. They are also encouraged to produce well-structured written and spoken interactions in a number of registers and styles. Within the framework of this course, pupils will develop at an advanced level the knowledge and skills required for analysis, understanding and expression, gaining more experience in working with and in French. Discussion analysis and oral work go alongside rigorous tuition in written expression.

A wide range of techniques is applied and full use is made of technological resources, not least the Internet. There is also more traditional but crucial provision of modern language assistants, theatre trips and study visits.

THE AIMS

Within the framework of stimulating, organised learning we aim to:

- develop the ability to communicate accurately and effectively in speech and in writing in a range of contexts;
- explore the cultures of France, and make connections between other cultures and languages with which pupils are familiar;
- facilitate the completion of longer, more complex tasks (literary texts, coursework projects);
- use the language for purposes and in situations involving sophisticated discussion, argument and debate

ASSESSMENT

At the end of the Pre-Sixth Form year, native Pre-Sixth pupils will sit the Edexcel IGCSE examination.



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