

BRITISH SECTON - Preparing FIS students for a new dawn.

EYFS

Building Bricks of Brilliance: setting the foundation for the start of an educational journey

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in the British curriculum serves as a crucial springboard for children aged 3-5 years old, nurturing their holistic development and preparing them for success in Year 1 and beyond.

Let's explore the key learning areas and outcomes that pave the way for a smooth transition to Year 1 and the Cambridge curriculum:

Communication and Language:

- **Speaking and Listening:** children gain confidence in expressing themselves, actively listen to others, and engage in meaningful conversations and storytelling.
- **Reading and Writing:** early literacy skills flourish through exposure to a rich literary environment, engaging with diverse books, and experimenting with phonics and letter sounds.

Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED):

- **Self-Regulation:** children learn to manage their emotions, build resilience, and develop positive relationships with peers and adults.
- **Making Choices and Managing Risk:** through play and exploration, they gain independence, make decisions, and understand the importance of safety and risk assessment.

Mathematics:

- **Number and Shape:** children explore number concepts, counting, ordering, and basic operations through play, puzzles, and everyday activities.
- **Spatial Awareness and Problem Solving:** they develop spatial reasoning skills, understand patterns, and learn to approach problems with creative thinking.

Understanding the World

- **People, Culture, and Communities:** children explore their own identity, understand diverse cultures, and develop respect for others.
- **The World Around Us:** they learn about the natural world, weather, plants, animals, and explore their role within the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design:

- **Creativity and Imagination:** children engage in artistic exploration through drawing, painting, music, dance, and drama, unleashing their creativity and expressing themselves freely.
- **Physical Development:** they develop gross and fine motor skills through active play, outdoor activities, and creative expression.

Into Year 1 they go!

In preparation for the next stage of their educational journey expected outcomes by the end of FS2 could be:

- **Communicate** effectively: Confidently express themselves, hold conversations, and engage in storytelling.
- Be **independent** learners: Demonstrate curiosity, initiative, and problem-solving skills.
- Develop **positive** relationships: Play cooperatively, respect others, and form strong bonds with peers and adults.
- Have a **foundation** in core skills: Possess basic literacy, numeracy, and understanding of the world around them.
- Be **emotionally and socially well-prepared:** Manage emotions, make choices, and navigate the world with confidence.

With this strong foundation built in EYFS, children are equipped to embrace the challenges and opportunities of Year 1 and the Cambridge curriculum with confidence and curiosity.

British School - Primary to Year 9

Potential, Building Knowledge: An Overview of the Cambridge Curriculum for Years 1-9

Unveiling Potential, Building Pathways: Exploring the Cambridge Curriculum in Years 1-9

The Cambridge curriculum, offered by Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE), takes your child on a vibrant learning journey in Years 1-9. It's not just about acquiring knowledge; it's about building confidence, igniting curiosity, and equipping them with skills to thrive in an ever-changing world. Get ready to discover a curriculum that spirals upwards, revisiting and deepening understanding year after year, while constantly introducing exciting new avenues of exploration.

The Cambridge curriculum provides a robust and flexible framework for learning for students aged 4-14 years. Focused on developing critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, it fosters a love for learning and prepares students for academic success in diverse pathways. Here's a glimpse into its key features:

The Cambridge curriculum invites your child on a spiral journey through Years 1-9, fostering a love for learning and equipping them with essential skills for a flourishing future. Let's delve deeper into each core subject, and discover how this captivating framework unfolds across different stages for the core subjects:

The Spiral Advantage:

Imagine a staircase, each step building upon the last. That's the essence of the Cambridge curriculum's spiral approach. Every subject can revisit the key concepts, gradually adding complexity and breadth, ensuring mastery and laying a strong foundation for future learning.

Years 1-2 (Lower Primary): this stimulating phase builds upon the strong foundations from the early years groundwork so they can aspire to become lifelong learners. Children engage in exploration, inquiry, and discovery through:

- **English:** playful storytelling takes centre stage, as FIS pupils learn to listen attentively, build vocabulary, and write simple narratives. Phonics become friends, and reading unlocks imaginative worlds.
- **Mathematics:** concrete objects turn into counting adventures, leading to basic operations and problem-solving through engaging activities. Shapes and patterns dance in their minds as spatial awareness blossoms.
- **Computer Science:** the digital world unfolds through playful coding and robotics, sparking curiosity and laying the foundation for future technological exploration.

- **Global Perspectives:** our planet becomes their playground, as they learn about diverse cultures, traditions, and the importance of community. Understanding and acceptance bloom in their hearts.
- **Science:** the natural world awakens their senses through hands-on experiments, observations, and simple investigations. From exploring plants to discovering mini beasts, they become budding scientists.

Years 3-6 (Upper Primary): the curriculum deepens knowledge and understanding across core subjects while nurturing critical thinking and independent learning. Students engage in:

- **English:** grammar becomes an ally, as pupils master sentence structures and punctuation. Creative writing takes flight with descriptive storytelling and persuasive arguments. Reading expands horizons, encompassing diverse genres and literary elements, as they build fluency, comprehension, and writing skills through varied texts, creative writing, and grammar study.
- **Mathematics:** numbers multiply in complexity, as pupils tackle fractions, decimals, and problem-solving strategies. The world of geometry opens up, revealing shapes, angles, and spatial reasoning. They develop computational fluency, solving real-world problems, and explore data analysis.
- **Computer Science:** coding evolves into building games and animations, igniting creativity and logical thinking. Problem-solving gets a digital boost, equipping them with valuable future skills.
- **Global Perspectives:** history comes alive, as pupils travel through time, unravelling stories of the past and their connections to the present. Responsible citizenship blossoms through understanding diverse perspectives and engaging in discussions.
- **Science:** from dissecting flowers to conducting mini-investigations, the scientific method becomes their guide. Experiments reveal the magic of the natural world, fostering curiosity and critical thinking.

Years 7-8 (Lower Secondary): the curriculum broadens, offering a wider range of subjects while allowing students to develop individual interests and strengths. They gain:

- **English:** literary analysis takes center stage, as pupils delve into poetry, modern and traditional genres and complex texts. Creative writing shines with persuasive essays and research projects. Vocabulary soars, and communication skills become polished.
- **Mathematics:** algebra unveils its secrets, as students grapple with equations, functions, and graphs. Problem-solving reaches new heights with multi-step challenges and real-world applications.

- **Computer Science:** coding becomes a language of creation, as students design websites, mobile apps, and even robots. Critical thinking and communication skills flourish through collaborative projects.
- **Global Perspectives:** the world becomes their classroom, as they explore global issues, politics, and economics. Debating becomes a tool for building informed opinions and fostering empathy for diverse perspectives.
- **Science:** from dissecting ecosystems to delving into the mysteries of the universe, science becomes a dynamic journey of discovery. Critical thinking and research skills bloom as they conduct independent investigations.

Throughout their CAIE journey preparation and the development of essential skills for success in IGCSEs, or other international qualifications is always considered in all they complete from wording of assessment questions to the content of their responses.

MOE (Arabic, religion and Social Studies) subjects are covered to MOE standards and beyond throughout all years.

To ensure a holistic approach in the learning journey at FIS the school also pays close attention to other key areas such as Music, Art, and PE. These all play crucial roles in this vibrant landscape. Music unlocks their creative voices, while Art fosters self-expression and cultural understanding. PE ignites confidence, teamwork, and healthy habits, enriching their minds and bodies.

This is just a taste of the exciting journey your child will embark on through the Cambridge curriculum. This journey doesn't end in Year 8. Remember, the spiral curriculum continues from Year 9 and beyond, The Cambridge curriculum seamlessly prepares students for diverse pathways, including IGCSEs, GCSEs, or other international qualifications.

Overall, the **Cambridge curriculum prioritizes:**

- **Developing well-rounded individuals:** nurturing academic excellence alongside social and emotional skills.
- **Inquiry-based learning:** encouraging independent thought, problem-solving, and critical thinking.
- **Global awareness:** building understanding of diverse cultures and perspectives.
- **Continuous assessment:** monitoring progress and adapting learning experiences to individual needs.

IGSCE

Egyptian IGCSE: An Overview for Students

The Egyptian IGCSE, or International General Certificate of Secondary Education, is a globally recognized qualification that's gaining popularity in Egypt. It offers students a rigorous and internationally benchmarked alternative to the national Thanawiya Amma exams.

The Egyptian IGCSE offers a valuable pathway for students seeking a globally recognized qualification and preparing for higher education. With dedicated effort and proper guidance, students can navigate the IGCSE journey successfully and achieve their academic goals.

Here's a breakdown of how it's organized and completed by students:

Structure and Subjects:

- IGCSE exams in the British school are typically taken at the end of Year 11 (Grade 10).
- Students choose 5-8 subjects from a wide range of options, including Math, English, Science, History, Geography, and Foreign Languages.
- Each subject has different tiers (Foundation or Higher) catering to varying difficulty levels.
- Exams are set and marked by international examination boards like Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) and Pearson Edexcel.

Preparing for the Exams:

- Most Egyptian schools offering IGCSE have specialized curriculum and teaching styles aligned with the exam boards' specifications.
- Resources like past papers, mark schemes, and examiner reports are readily available online and through schools.
- Private tutors and online courses can provide additional support for specific subjects. At FIS we have hybrid course and use the very best of the tutors from Cairo to instruct our students who are then further assisted up by FIS's capable staff who check understanding and aid further knowledge development.

Assessment and final Examination Process:

- Coupled with Cambridge checkpoints and in-school continuous assessment are the IGCSE exams in the British School. The IGCSEs are typically written (paper-based) with some subjects offering coursework components.

- Exams in the British School are held in May/June each year with resit opportunities in October/November.
- The marking process is rigorous and standardized, ensuring fair and consistent evaluation.

Grading and Results:

- Grades are awarded on a scale from A* (highest) to G (lowest).
- Universities worldwide recognize IGCSE grades for admissions purposes.
- Strong IGCSE results can open doors to top universities in Egypt and abroad.

Additional Points to Consider when choosing British or American systems:

- The Egyptian IGCSE system is generally more demanding than the Thanawiya Amma exams.
- Students need to be self-motivated and disciplined to excel in IGCSE studies.
- Effective time management and study skills are crucial for success and part of the learning journey your son or daughter will enjoy with all at FIS.

AN FIS British student should graduate as a confident, well-rounded individual, equipped with the skills and knowledge to excel in academia, pursue their passions, and make a positive impact on the world.