



**GEMS**

مدرسة جيمس البرشاء الوطنية  
Al Barsha National School

# Post 16 Guide 2023-24



Planning your pathway to excellence



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# Principal

Our Post-16 Provision represents a natural continuation of our school mission of nurturing our community and empowering through excellence.

Our vision of creating leaders of tomorrow is constant and providing a range of qualifications to enhance students' learning experiences is a significant step towards achieving this ambitious goal. Selecting your options for post-16 study is a significant milestone in your education, as students select the subjects that will become their foundation for higher education at universities and their progression in to the world of work.



We know that it can be a time that can cause anxiety and we hope the guidance in this handbook supports you in navigating through this time.

International and standard AS & A Levels are internationally benchmarked qualifications and recognised by higher education institutions and employers around the world as evidence of academic achievement. At Post 16 (Years 12 & 13), a wide range of courses is offered to prepare students for higher education, training and employment. We expect most students to select three AS Level courses for Year 12 and encourage students to continue through to Year 13 to study three subjects at A Level. In some cases, students will continue with only two A Levels in Year 13. This programme of study will equip our learners to make choices from a wide range of universities and education providers, as well as preparing them for future employment.

After Post 16, almost all our students pursue their higher education and intended career pathway at various destinations in the United Arab Emirates and around the world such as USA, UK and Canada. Students are guided through structured academic and career counselling sessions throughout the two years as well as sessions from external speakers to help them make informed choices about their future destinations.

The guidance in this booklet and the Post-16 options process are designed to support you and your parents/carers to start making decisions about your learning and to choose subjects that suit your aspirations, skills and needs. As a school, we are committed to providing the care and support that will assist you throughout and very much look forward to welcoming you to Year 12 and the exciting step that it represents for your future plans.

Mr Karim Murcia

# Head of Post 16

Dear Seniors,

I am excited to see all of you transition to Post 16 very soon. We are committed to provide you with a supportive environment that will develop you to be the best you can be. During your time in Post 16 you will be given opportunities to progress academically but at the same time develop your communication and interpersonal skills through leadership initiatives in and outside school.



As a member of Post 16, your education experience will change considerably where the foundation will be based on mutual trust, respect and maturity. You will follow a completely different education model from the one in Secondary school. You will find your relationship with your peers, teachers and school to be based more on a partnership where you will be mentored to work towards meeting your goals and aspirations.

You will also have many opportunities in exploring your career options and access University workshops and experiences.

This booklet provides you with details on your academic pathway for the two years of your sixth form. Please consider your options very carefully and speak with your subject teachers and parents about your choices beforehand.

Do not hesitate to also speak with any of the Post 16 teachers for further advice.

Good Luck and I look forward to welcoming you onboard very soon.

Best regards,

Ms Natasha Kaushal

# Post 16 experience at GNS

At GNS, our Post 16 provisions are being developed with the following core principles:

- **Academics:** Focused on building independent learners and academic excellence by offering accessible courses to our students which will help them access higher education institutions and the workplace.
- High quality of teaching and learning validated with the international results and UAE and international Universities placements.
- **21st Century Skills :** Enhancing the key skills to build independence, responsible citizens by giving our students greater autonomy. Post 16 students receive opportunity of greater freedom of managing their school time effectively thus preparing them for transition to University life.
- **Post 16 Careers Programme** with excellent links with Higher Education establishments in the UAE and around the world. Post 16 students attend career fairs; career talks sessions; University visits and the school also has an annual Career fair that gives students the opportunity to think about future and to meet national and international university representatives. Students are also supported and guided with the skills and knowledge to navigate into their futures with increased confidence and clarity.
- **Varied Leadership opportunities-** Post 16 provisions also include a refreshed, robust and extremely successful Student Leadership programme where students take part in leading various initiatives inside and outside the school community.
- **Internships:** Developing career aspirations through work placements in Year 12.
- Access to own lounge space and other privileges around the school such as Café and Gym access to promote well being and holistic wellness.



# Post 16 curriculum at GNS

As a school operating in the UAE, but offering a UK curriculum, we have to take account of both the UK requirements, and the requirements of The Ministry of Education.

As such, each student will have assigned lessons for the below:

## **Option Subjects**

Students have dedicated five delivered in class-lessons per subject option in both Year 12 and Year 13.

## **PE (Physical Education)**

Students have one session of PE per week where they take part in a range of fitness and well being activities.

## **Moral Education**

Students will be required to have a dedicated number of sessions around Moral Education studies. The mandatory curriculum is usually led by the form tutor.

## **Careers**

Students are provided a timetabled session dedicated to Careers which is led by the Career counsellor. Students use this opportunity to explore career options and also work on documentations related to University; scholarship purposes.

## **MOE Curriculum (Arabic and Islamic)**

As per Ministry of Education regulations, any student who holds an Arabic Passport, and any student who wishes to achieve their 'Secondary School Equivalency Certificate' must continue to study Arabic throughout Years 12 and 13. As such, we strongly recommend that all students continue to study Arabic throughout Year 13, and that they sit the MoE Arabic exam at the end of the academic year.

In addition to Arabic, Muslim students must also study Islamic Studies.

# Expectations from Post 16 students

As a school we place great emphasis on hard work. This is the bedrock upon which success is built and achieved and we expect our students to be motivated, ambitious and willing to stretch themselves academically.

We see education as a marathon that students need to train and prepare themselves for, rather than a last minute sprint to win the race.

- Maturity of Post 16 students. Teachers recognise the transition phase of Post 16 students and they aim to respect forge a new relationship with senior students based on partnership in learning. Post 16 students are trusted to take high responsibility of their study habits and learning for their subjects. Both teachers and Head of Post 16 closely monitor the academic and personal development of students.
- Effective study management. In Post 16, students will be studying fewer subjects; therefore will have a less rigid timetable. Students are provided guided individual Timetables, to better support their academics and personal development.
- POST 16 students play an important part in the life of the school and through their presence and participation in positions of leadership organising committees; assemblies and events for younger members of the school, they are expected to lead by example.
- Senior students are required to show a mature attitude to their studies and the extra opportunities open to them. Getting involved will ensure that they leave the school with the skills they need to be successful in their future.
- Students are required to adhere to the School dress code for POST 16 and respect the need for rules and responsibilities. Doing so will ensure that the POST 16 community maintain the high status that it has within and outside of the school.
- The POST 16 community is about achieving – both in personal and social development in addition to academic success. Learning is even more of a partnership between students and staff. Community Service is also part of the programme and is a very important aspect of school life.
- Attendance and punctuality are taken very seriously. 95% school attendance is mandatory. This is also related to additional privileges provided to the Post 16 students.

References and recommendation letters for onward study or employment will be drafted taking the above pointers into consideration. We therefore urge students to attend the school regularly and be on time for the school day and all lessons with the correct aptitude and dedication.

# A Level course

## What are A Levels?

A Levels are broken down into Advance Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced Level (AL) courses. They have been available in the UK education system for over 30 years. Each A Level course will have between three to six modules of study with a terminal exam undertaken at the end of the course.

## How are A Levels assessed?

A Levels are assessed through a series of examinations, although for some subjects, there is a coursework element included too.

## Why study A Levels?

A Levels qualification, usually referred to as the 'Gold Standard' is an internationally recognised qualification for entry into many Universities and professional training providers. This pathway provides students with the flexibility to explore subjects they already love and would like to pursue a career in the related field. Students who choose to study A Levels, often follow this route as they wish to pursue their desired subjects for Higher Education as a specialism.

A Levels enable learners to acquire skills such as:

- in-depth subject content
- learning to work independently
- applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- handling and evaluating different types of information sources through case studies
- thinking logically and presenting ordered and coherent arguments and explanations

## A Levels Exam Board

At GNS, students gain their A Level Qualifications from the below exam boards as per their chosen subjects:

- Pearson Ed Excel (<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>)
- AQA (<https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications>)



# A Level Options

Students are expected to choose at least three option subjects for their A Level course.



# Art and Design



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The syllabus enables learners to explore the interrelationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate. Students will develop knowledge and understanding around real world contexts and apply their technical and expressive skills in their analysis. They will also learn how to relate their skills to an enhanced knowledge of their own cultures, past and present, as well as an appreciation of practical design problems.

The A-Level Art and Design course covers a combination of the following units:

1. Art, Craft and Design (General)
2. Art, Craft and Design (Fine Art)
3. Art, Craft and Design (Textile Design)
1. Art, Craft and Design (Graphic Communication)
2. Art, Craft and Design (Three-dimensional Design)
3. Art, Craft and Design (Photography)



### Assessment summary

The qualification consists of two components, both assessed by the Teacher and external moderator. The qualification can be achieved by a combination of the six titles in the syllabus.

### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE Art or GCSE Design and Technology would be beneficial.

### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Business often follow career pathways such as:

- Art and Design
- Fashion
- IT
- Advertising and Marketing
- Manufacturing
- Education

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# Biology



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The course enables learners to acquire knowledge and understanding and develop practical skills, including efficient, accurate and safe scientific practices. Students learn to apply the scientific method, while developing an awareness of the limitations of scientific theories and models. This course structure is designed to develop skills in data analysis, evaluation and drawing conclusions, cultivating attitudes relevant to science such as objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative and inventiveness.

The A-Level Biology course covers the following units:

Unit 1: Molecule, Diet Transport and Health

Unit 2: Cell Development, Biodiversity and Conservation

Unit 3: Practical skills in Biology I

Unit 4: Energy, Environment, Microbiology and Immunity

Unit 5: Respiration, Internal environment, Coordination and Gene Technology

Unit 6: Practical skills in Biology II

### Assessment summary

Students will take modular units over the course of the two years and will be able to sit for their international examinations within the year.

The International AS content will be 50% of the International A-level content. The remaining 50% comes from the International A2 assessments.

There will be a practical element for both the AS and A Level.



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. GCSE Level 6 and above (or equivalent) in Science is recommended for this subject.

### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Biology often follow career pathways such as:

- Medicine and Healthcare
- Science and Research
- Engineering
- Education

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# Business

INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL  
**BUSINESS**  
SPECIFICATION

Pearson Education Limited, 80 Chiswick Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UK  
First published 2014  
This specification is for the International Advanced Level and August 2015 International Advanced Level



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The syllabus enables students to understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and the role it plays in society. It encourages students to examine the process of decision-making in a dynamic and changing business environment and to develop critical understanding of business organisations.

The course provides a foundation to further study at University.

The A-Level Business course covers the following units:

1. Marketing and people
2. Managing Business Activities
3. Business Decisions and Strategy
4. Global Business

### Assessment summary

Students will complete Unit 1 and Unit 2 in Year 12 and Unit 3 and Unit 4 in year 13. Students will sit for their international examinations at the end of each year. The final A Level Grade is an average of the scores of all four units.



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE Business would be beneficial.

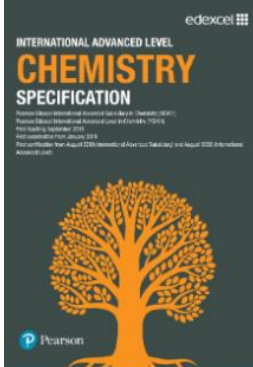
### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Business often follow career pathways such as:

- Business Management
- Accountancy
- Banking and Finance
- Recruitment and HR
- Consultancy
- Advertising and Marketing

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# Chemistry



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The course enables learners to develop a set of transferable skills including handling data, practical problem-solving and applying the scientific method. Learners develop relevant attitudes, such as concern for accuracy and precision, objectivity, integrity, enquiry, initiative, and inventiveness. They acquire the essential scientific skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

The A-Level Chemistry course covers the following units:

Unit 1: Structure, Bonding and Introduction to Organic Chemistry

Unit 2: Energetics, Group Chemistry, Halogenoalkanes and Alcohol

Unit 3: Practical skills in Chemistry I

Unit 4: Rate, Equilibria and Further Organic Chemistry

Unit 5: Transition Metals and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry

Unit 6: Practical skills in Chemistry II

### Assessment summary

Students will take modular units over the course of the two years and will be able to sit for their international examinations within the year.

The qualification consists of six externally examined units.

There will be a practical element for both the AS and A Level.



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. GCSE Level 6 and above (or equivalent) in Science is recommended for this subject.

### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Chemistry often follow career pathways such as:

- Medicine and Healthcare
- Science and Research
- Engineering
- Education

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*



# Design and Technology- Product Design

## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification



### Course structure

The syllabus enables learners to explore design processes and requirements and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology impacts on today's World. Students will use their creativity and innovative skills to produce design solutions as they develop their own design brief with a client/end user.

The A-Level Art and Design course covers a combination of topics under the following main units:

1. Principles of Design and Technology
2. Independent Design and Make Project

### Assessment summary

The qualification consists of two components, both assessed by the Teacher and external moderator. The qualification can be achieved by a combination of the six titles in the syllabus.



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE Art or GCSE Design and Technology would be beneficial.

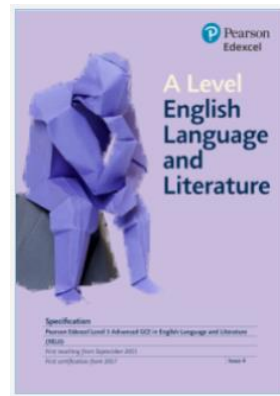
### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Business often follow career pathways such as:

- Art and Design
- Fashion
- IT
- Advertising and Marketing
- Manufacturing
- Education

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# English Language and Literature



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure?

The subject provides learners with opportunities to develop and apply knowledge of literacy analysis and evaluation. Learners will also demonstrate their ability to produce writing to specific briefs and for given audiences; thus developing a strong foundation in the study of linguistic and literary focusing on:

- Voices in Speech and Writing
- Varieties in Language and Literature
- Investigating and Creating Texts

### Assessment summary

Students will complete the course over Year 12 and Year 13 and sit for their international examinations at the end of Year 13.

There are two externally written examinations and a coursework component (which is internally assessed and externally moderated).



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. GCSE Level 5 and above (or equivalent) in English is recommended for this subject.

### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in English often follow career pathways such as:

- Law
- Advertising
- Publishing
- Recruitment
- Education
- Theatre

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# History



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The syllabus enables students to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Students will also learn about a range of Empires; their expansion and decolonisation by considering issues of change and continuity as well as causes and consequences through answering key questions around the topics. Students will focus on one option for each topic.

The course provides a foundation to further study at University.

The A-Level History course covers the following units:

1. Depth Study with interpretations
2. Breadth Study with Source Evaluation
3. Thematic Study with Source Evaluation
4. International Study with Source Evaluation

### Assessment summary

Students will complete Unit 1 and Unit 2 in Year 12 and Unit 3 and Unit 4 in year 13. Students will sit for their international examinations at the end of each year. The final A Level Grade is an average of the scores of all four units.

### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE History would be beneficial.



### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Business often follow career pathways such as:

- Law
- Public sector
- Science and Research
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Media
- Education

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# Information Technology



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The syllabus enables learners to become effective and discerning users of IT. It helps students develop a broad range of IT skills, knowledge and understanding by studying the structure and use of IT systems within a wide range of organisations, including the use of wide range of variety of networks. Students also develop practical skills in website programming and development and constructing databases.

The course provides a foundation to further study at University.

The A-Level IT course covers the following units:

1. Unit 1 (range of topics covering concepts of information and technology in industries)
2. Unit 2 (Website programming and Database construction)

### Assessment summary

Students will complete topics 1- 6 of Unit 1 and Unit 2- Website in Year 12 and topics 7-11 of Unit 1 and Unit 2-Database in Year 13. Students will sit for their international examinations at the end of each year. The final A Level Grade is an average of the scores of all papers.



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE ICT would be beneficial.

### Where will this subject take me?

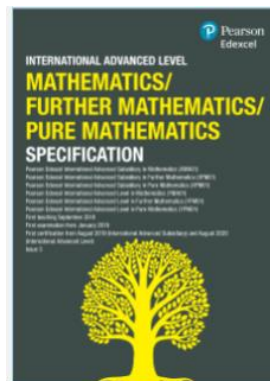
Students who graduate in IT often follow career pathways such as:

- IT
- Engineering
- Entrepreneurship
- Consultancy
- Banking and Finance
- Accountancy

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*



# Mathematics



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure?

The syllabus allows learners to 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. It helps them acquire the mathematical background necessary for further study in mathematics or related subjects.

The A level course covers the following units:

- Pure Maths (1,2,3,4)
- Statistics (1,2) OR
- Mechanics (1.2)

### Assessment summary

Students will take modular units over the course of the two years and will be able to sit for their international examinations within the year.

The qualification consists of six externally examined units.



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. GCSE Level 5 and above (or equivalent) in Mathematics is recommended for this subject.

### Where will this subject take me?

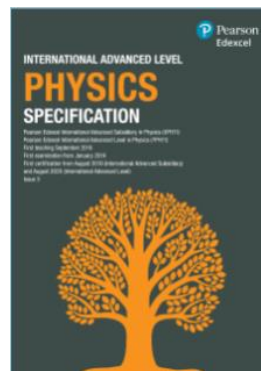
Students who graduate in Business often follow career pathways such as:

- Banking and Finance
- Accountancy
- Analyst
- Engineering
- Education
- Science and Research

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*



# Physics



## Pearson International Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The course provides learners with a foundation for the study of physics or related courses in higher education. The curriculum enables candidates to develop knowledge and understanding of scientific methods, skills in data analysis, evaluation and drawing conclusions around problems, cultivating attitudes relevant to science around them.

The A-Level Physics course covers the following units:

Unit 1: Mechanics and Materials

Unit 2: Waves and Electricity

Unit 3: Practical skills in Physics I

Unit 4: Further Mechanics, Fields and Particles

Unit 5: Thermodynamics, Radiation, Oscillations and Cosmology

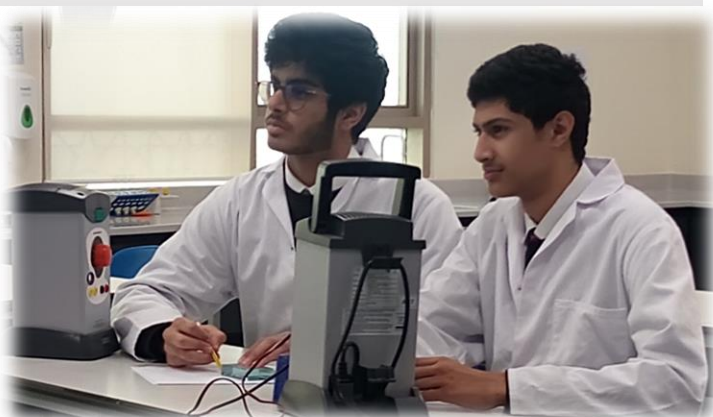
Unit 6: Practical skills in Physics II

### Assessment summary

Students will take modular units over the course of the two years and will be able to sit for their international examinations within the year.

The qualification consists of six externally examined units.

There will be a practical element for both the AS and A Level.



### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. GCSE Level 6 and above (or equivalent) in Science is recommended for this subject.

### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Physics often follow career pathways such as:

- Medicine and Healthcare
- Science and Research
- Engineering
- Education

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# Psychology

AQA

AS AND  
A-LEVEL  
PSYCHOLOGY  
AS (9241)  
A-level (9242)



## AQA Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The syllabus enables learners to explore concepts and theories which can be applied to the way that modern Psychological approaches. Students develop the ability to understand psychological concepts, theories, research methods and ethical issues. They evaluate, analyse data and apply the knowledge to a range of issues and arguments. They gain lifelong skills and a solid foundation for further study.

The A- Level Psychology course covers the following units:

- 1: Social Influence
- 2: Memory
- 3: Attachment
- 4: Psychopathology
- 5: Approaches in Psychology
- 6: Biopsychology
- 7: Research Methods
- 8: Issues and debates in Psychology
- 9: A set of Optional topics



### Assessment summary

Students will complete a range of units over Year 12 and Year 13. Students will sit for their international examinations at the end of each year. The final A Level Grade is an average of the scores of three assessed papers.

### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE Psychology would be beneficial.

### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Psychology often follow career pathways such as:

- Public sector
- Social Care
- Medicine and Healthcare
- Law
- Recruitment and HR
- Education

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# Sociology

AQA

AS AND  
A-LEVEL  
SOCIOLOGY

9509/01  
A-level (7742)

Specification  
For the first time in September 2015, AQA will  
offer an AS and A-level Sociology course for the first time.  
AQA will be responsible for the course.



## AQA Advance level

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The syllabus enables learners to explore the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills around approach methods, research methodologies on socialization, culture and identity and social differentiation.

The A- Level Sociology course covers the following units:

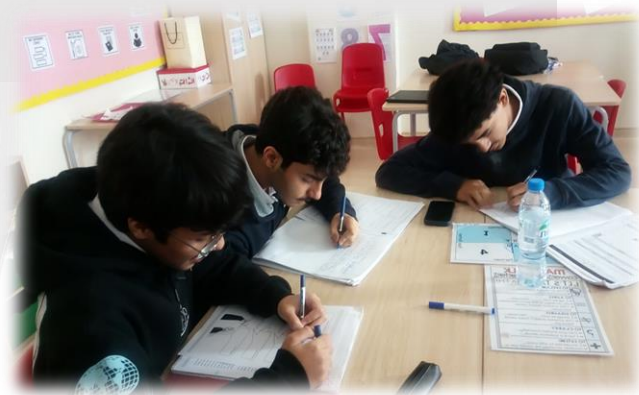
- 1: Education with Methods in Context
- 2: Research Methods
3. Topics in Sociology Option (Culture and Identity; Families and households; Health; Work, poverty and welfare)
- 4: Topics in Sociology Option (Beliefs in society; Global development; The Media; Stratification and Differentiation.

### Assessment summary

Students will complete a range of units over Year 12 and Year 13. Students will sit for their AS international examinations at end of Year 12. Students will also sit for their A Level qualification at the end of Year 13.

### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE Sociology or Psychology would be beneficial.



### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Sociology often follow career pathways such as:

- Public sector
- Social Care
- Law
- Recruitment and HR
- Education
- Charity work

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# BTEC Course

## What are BTECs?

The BTEC course is a career related pathway. The flexible pathway provides learners with a combination of knowledge; skills and application to real-life scenarios thus enabling them to progress to higher education or employment.

## How are BTECs assessed?

BTEC courses are assessed through a series of coursework assessments and work experiences review which makes them an ideal option for learners who find traditional examinations challenging.

## Why study BTEC?

A BTEC qualification, usually referred to as 'Vocational Qualification' is a practical qualification which focusses more on flexible learning and independence, which appeals to those who find traditional teaching methods and exams challenging.

The BTEC pathway enables learners to acquire skills such as:

- industry knowledge, transferable skills and behaviours to prepare them for a career or to continue education.
- flexible and modular course structure to fit in with existing curriculum requirements.
- organisation and time management

The BTEC qualifications are currently recognised by over 70 Universities worldwide. Click [here](#) to access currently University list.

BTEC sizes	Equivalent International A level sizes
Certificate (180 GLH*)	International Advanced Subsidiary
Subsidiary Diploma (360 GLH)	International A level
Foundation Diploma (540 GLH)	International A level + International Advanced Subsidiary
Diploma (720 GLH)	2 International A levels
Extended Diploma (1080 GLH)	3 International A levels

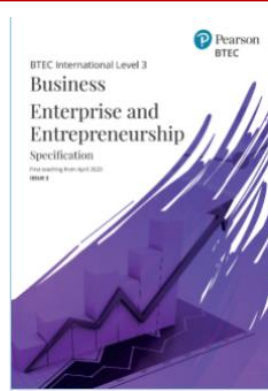
## BTECs Exam Board

At GNS, students gain their Level 3 BTEC Qualifications from the below exam boards as per their chosen subjects:

- Pearson Ed Excel (<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>)



# Business



## Pearson BTEC Level 3

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The Pearson BTEC International Level 3 qualifications in Business, and in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, are primarily designed for learners in the 16–19 age group, who wish to pursue a career in business, primarily via higher education to access graduate entry employment with businesses, or alternatively through junior business employment. The course provides a foundation to further study at University.

The BTEC course covers the following units:

1. Business environments
2. Marketing
3. Finance
4. International Business
5. Management
6. Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
7. Optional Unit to support progression



### Assessment summary

Assessment is designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. All assessment is internal but some mandatory units have extra controls on assessment and are assessed using Pearson Set Assignments. Additionally, some units are synoptic.

### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE Business would be beneficial.

### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Business often follow career pathways such as:

- Business Management
- Accountancy
- Banking and Finance
- Recruitment and HR
- Consultancy
- Advertising and Marketing

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*



# Creative Media

AQA

A-LEVEL  
MEDIA



## Pearson BTEC Level 3

Click [here](#) to access full specification

### Course structure

The syllabus enables learners to view, evaluate and analyse a variety of media products, and develop practical skills spanning a range of media forms. Students will work on contemporary, diverse topics and develop research alongside industry experts.

The BTEC course covers the following units:

- 1: Exploring and developing creative media skills
- 2: Advancing creative practice
- 3: Media Industries
- 4: Media audiences

### Assessment summary

Assessment is designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. All assessment is internal but some mandatory units have extra controls on assessment and are assessed using Pearson Set Assignments. Additionally, some units are synoptic.

### Entry requirements

Students will need five GCSE (9 – 4) grades (or equivalent) to enter Post-16, including Mathematics; English, one Science and two other options. Students do not need prior knowledge of the subject, however GCSE ICT would be beneficial.



### Where will this subject take me?

Students who graduate in Media Studies often follow career pathways such as:

- Media Industry
- Communication
- Marketing and Advertising
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Publication
- Education
- IT

\* This option will run subject to the minimum requirement of 5 students choosing the course\*

# Guidelines for making choices

Making a decision about which subjects to study in the Post 16 can be difficult. In terms of general advice, we separate this into three important categories:

## **Aptitude**

A Level courses are substantial and conceptually much more demanding than GCSEs. Examination questions are more searching and require longer, more carefully reasoned answers.

The transition from GCSE to A Level is very significant and students are unlikely to succeed in an A Level subject, unless you have laid strong foundations in that subject at GCSE level. For this reason, each subject has an entry requirement based on the course design, and its level of challenge.

## **Passion and Enjoyment**

This should not be underestimated and is an important consideration when making choices. A genuine passion and commitment is required due to the motivation necessary to succeed being generated more easily, if the subject is one which you enjoy. Gauging whether you would enjoy a new subject can be difficult and it is important that each Pupil researches the course specification and discusses the course with a subject teacher. Even subjects that a Pupil has studied at GCSE can be quite different in Post 16 studies and each Pupil must take the time to research the topics that will be covered.

## **University and Career Aspirations**

If a student has a very clear idea about their future career, it is important that they carefully research the university paths, and their respective subject and grade requirements. Each student must ensure that these requirements are reflected in their A level choice. We will offer support and guidance in this respect. For the students who remain undecided about what their future aspirations are, they should endeavour to select a range of subjects which will leave their options open.

We recognise that a student may select and begin a course that is not suited to them. For this reason, each Year 12 student will undergo a 4-5 week probationary period in each of their subjects, with an in-built assessment. This is an opportunity for each student to determine whether they are suited to the course and an opportunity for the teaching staff to gauge whether they will be successful.

# Careers

The school has a carefully planned career programme for Year 12 and Year 13 students to help support them in their higher education planning.

## ➤ **Individual counselling and support**

Students have one to one session with our career counsellor to support them in their career planning and progression towards successful application to their chosen Universities. Students are also supported with their UCAS; NAPO; EMSAT applications.

## ➤ **Timetable career sessions**

Students have assigned weekly careers session led by our career counsellor. During the session, students develop skills in writing their resume; letter of applications; research courses requirements and also accessing a range of courses and tasks on Unifrog platform (a platform which empowers students to manage progression to University effectively)

## ➤ **Interview Guidance**

In the run up to University confirmations, students are given opportunities to attend mock up interview sessions run by either subject teachers; career counsellor or Head of Post 16.

## ➤ **Career Fairs**

Throughout the year, students in Year 12 and Year 13 are given ample opportunities to meet Universities representatives through in house or external fairs. Both students and parents are able to meet, interact, and gain vital information about a range of courses and requirements.

## ➤ **Inspirational Speakers**

Very often, students will be given opportunities to attend sessions led by Professionals and Specialists leaders to gain valuable knowledge from the experts.

## ➤ **Enrichment, workshops and Leadership**

To also support their personal development, students are involved in a range of activities within and outside the school community such as leading assemblies and student council meetings; planning and organising events; taking part in community services and a range of other initiatives linked to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## ➤ **Work Experience**

Students in Year 12 are given the opportunity to attend a chosen work placement that enables them to get an overview of working in a professional environment linked to their chosen career pathway.



## NURTURING OUR COMMUNITY

# Student Testimonials

My life as a senior has been like no other. It's been filled with ups and downs and has changed me to a more focused and resilient person than before. Every day, coming to school I look forward to what's coming ahead, whether it be the lessons, being with my friends or simply being in the school as a senior. Overall, I feel like I have enjoyed my stay here as a senior in GNS and I don't regret a single thing. My career ambition in terms of university pathway and choice:  
My top choices for universities are UCL and NYU, to study Computer Science. As for career paths, I would love a job in game development or software engineering.

**Kinan Al Maarawi (Year 13)**



I am studying Maths, Physics, ICT and Business A Levels. Life in school as a senior is great; we have lots of privileges that others do not have that makes school a more enjoyable experience. However, these privileges do not come for free, they are earned by fulfilling our long list of responsibilities and commitments. I want to study abroad in the Technology field which is why I chose the subjects that I did. It is important to note that the subjects you choose in your GCSEs and A Levels will pave the way for your career options.

**Muhamad Afandi (Year 12)**

## NURTURING OUR COMMUNITY

# Student Testimonials



I am currently studying Psychology, Sociology and Business Studies.

My life as a senior in GNS has been a unique experience, I am always receiving support from my teachers and have been given the opportunity to give back to the school community by being a student leader.

I aim to study Business Organisations at University and being involved in a business or start my own in the future.

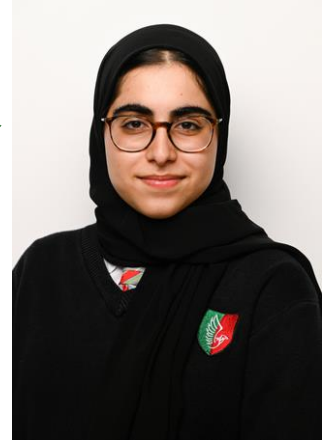
**Mahra Alhashmi Year 13**

I am studying A Level History, English, Sociology at GNS.

Life as a senior is different than secondary, definitely more independence and sets you up for the future. GNS post 16 experience is unique and substantial.

My career ambition in terms of University pathway is Legal studies or Political Science.

**Meera Janahi (Year 12)**



The A level subjects I'm currently studying this year are Mathematics and Business Studies including Arabic and Islamic, which are somehow challenging to achieve perfect grades in. Life as a senior needs a lot of hard work, dedication and independence where your best can't be enough sometimes. sometimes.

My University pathway that I have chosen is Law as I believe I have the qualities required especially when fighting for people's rights. I also have a keen interest in Engineering.

**Aisha Bin Zaal (Year 13)**



# Student Testimonials





# Further Information

## What is Equivalency?

Equivalency is the process by which the Ministry of Education officially endorses qualifications, in this case high school qualifications, and declares the document to be equal to UAE standard. It typically involves attestations from relevant authorities, following which the letter of Equivalency is issued from the Ministry of Education.

## Why is Equivalency important?

Ministry of Higher Education ( MoHE ) requirement for University admissions in the UAE

- For UAE National males, the mandatory national service duration is determined by the Educational qualifications ( 18 or 24 months). Unless an equivalency is issued for a High school certificate other than the UAE high school diploma, it is not accepted as a qualification.
- For Jobs in the UAE mainland, equivalency of high school certificate is required.
- Equivalency is a requirement for application to Scholarships for UAE Nationals



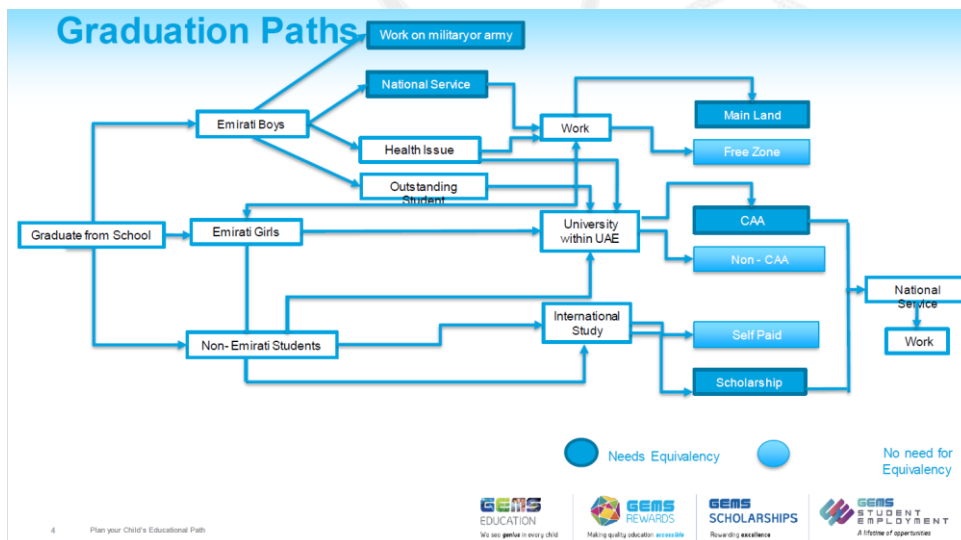
# Further Information

## British System – Graduating 2022-2023 & Beyond

The British System without specifying paths according to the following conditions:

- The student shall complete the 12th Grade or equivalent
- The student shall pass five (5) subjects in the (IGCSE or GCSE) with one of the passing marks (A\*, A, B, C, D) or (3,4,5,6,7,8,9) including below subjects:
  1. Mathematics
  2. English language or English Literature
  3. One science subject (physics, Chemistry, Biology) or Dual Science subject
  4. Two other subjects
- The student shall pass two (2) subjects in the GCE Advanced Level with one of the passing marks (A\*, A, B, C, D).
- Islamic Education and Arabic Language shall not be included in those subjects.
- The students can select the subjects to study among the specified subjects by the ministry in the relevant regulatory decisions

## Graduation Paths:



**GEMS**مدرسة جيمس البرشاء الوطنية  
Al Barsha National School

# Further Information

Contact information of key staff members you may require if you have further queries:

Ms Natasha Kaushal Head of Post 16	<a href="mailto:n.kaushal_gns@gemsedu.com">n.kaushal_gns@gemsedu.com</a>
Mr Mostafa Chehab Head of Assessment & Curriculum	<a href="mailto:m.chehab_gns@gemsedu.com">m.chehab_gns@gemsedu.com</a>
Admission Office	<a href="mailto:registrar_gns@gemsedu.com">registrar_gns@gemsedu.com</a>

Contact us: 04 506 9222

School website: <https://www.gemsnationalschool-barsha.com/en>