



AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HONG KONG
STAGE 5 NSW EDUCATION STANDARDS AUTHORITY (NESA)

ELECTIVE SUBJECT HANDBOOK

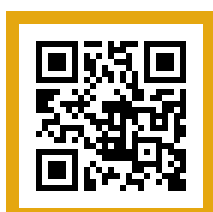
Year 9
Year 10



ELECTIVE SUBJECT HANDBOOK

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ACADEMIC ENGLISH

AIM

To enable students to develop the language skills necessary for success in secondary education and prepare them for the academic demands they will face in higher education.

OFFERED AT

Year 9 only – 100 hours
(only offered for one year)

COURSE CONTENT

Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Building

- Strategies for understanding complex academic texts
- Identifying key information and ideas
- Inferring meaning from context
- Analysing arguments, comparing and contrasting ideas

Research Skills

- Conducting research
- Evaluating and citing sources
- Incorporating evidence into their writing and presentations

Listening and Notetaking

- Identifying main ideas and supporting details in lectures
- Note-taking strategies, summarising information

Academic Writing

- Planning and organising an academic essay
- Effective sentence and paragraph structure
- Revising and editing

Oral Communication

- Developing discussion skills
- Planning and delivering a presentation
- Using visual aids, handling questions from the audience

Critical Thinking

- Developing critical thinking skills through the analysis of texts
- Formulate arguments and perspectives

For further details please contact:

Ms Jo Craig
Head of English
jo_craig@aishk.edu.hk



CHINESE (HERITAGE LANGUAGE)

AIM

To enable students to further develop their linguistic ability and understanding through a focus on languages as systems and an exploration of a variety of genre. Students will gain further insights into the relationship between language and culture while developing their critical literacy skills through the study of appropriate texts.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours

PREREQUISITE

Year 8 Chinese Heritage Language or equivalent.

COURSE CONTENT

The focus of this course is the development of linguistic ability in Chinese through the study of themes.

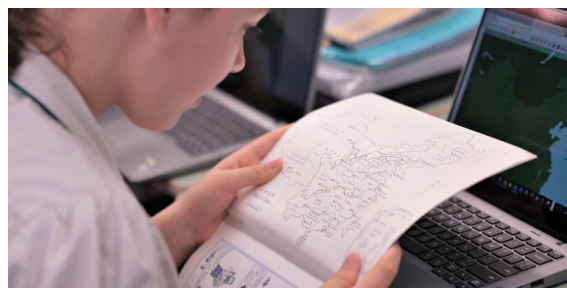
The course is based around a series of topics which build on and extend previous learning. Through the study of these topics students will:

- Analyse and practise a variety of writing techniques
- Develop critical literacy skills
- Gain an understanding of a variety of different genres
- Further understand related aspects of Chinese culture and history

This course is designed to cater for students whose first language is Chinese (Putonghua or Cantonese). This subject leads to the following course options at NES A Stage 6 or in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, Year 11 and Year 12:

- HSC Chinese & Literature
- HSC Chinese in Context
- IB Chinese A – Language and Literature (Higher Level) & (Standard Level)
- IB Mandarin B (Higher Level)

It is recommended that students wishing to undertake IB Chinese A or HSC Chinese (Background Speaker) courses, take Chinese (First Language).



For further details please contact:

Ms Joanna Lang

Head of Chinese & Languages
joanna_lang@aishk.edu.hk



CHINESE (SECOND LANGUAGE)

AIM

To enable students to continue to develop their communication skills through a focus on languages as systems and to explore the relationship between language and culture through the study of appropriate texts.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours

PREREQUISITE

Year 9: Year 8 Chinese (Second Language)

Year 10: Years 8 and 9 Chinese (Second Language)

COURSE CONTENT

The course is based around a series of topics which build on and extend previous learning. Through the study of these topics students will:

- Develop the knowledge, understanding, and listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary for effective interaction in Chinese
- Explore linguistic systems through making comparison across languages and applying linguistic structures and vocabulary correctly in meaningful use
- Develop knowledge of the culture of Chinese-speaking communities and the relationship between language and culture, and have opportunities to reflect on their own cultural heritage.

This course is designed to cater for students who wish to study Chinese as a second or other language, and who have studied Chinese in Year 8 (prior to Year 9) and in Years 8 and 9 (prior to Year 10). This subject leads to the following course options at NESA Stage 6 or in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, Year 11 and Year 12:

- HSC Chinese (Continuers)
- HSC Chinese Extension
- IB Mandarin B
- IB Mandarin ab initio

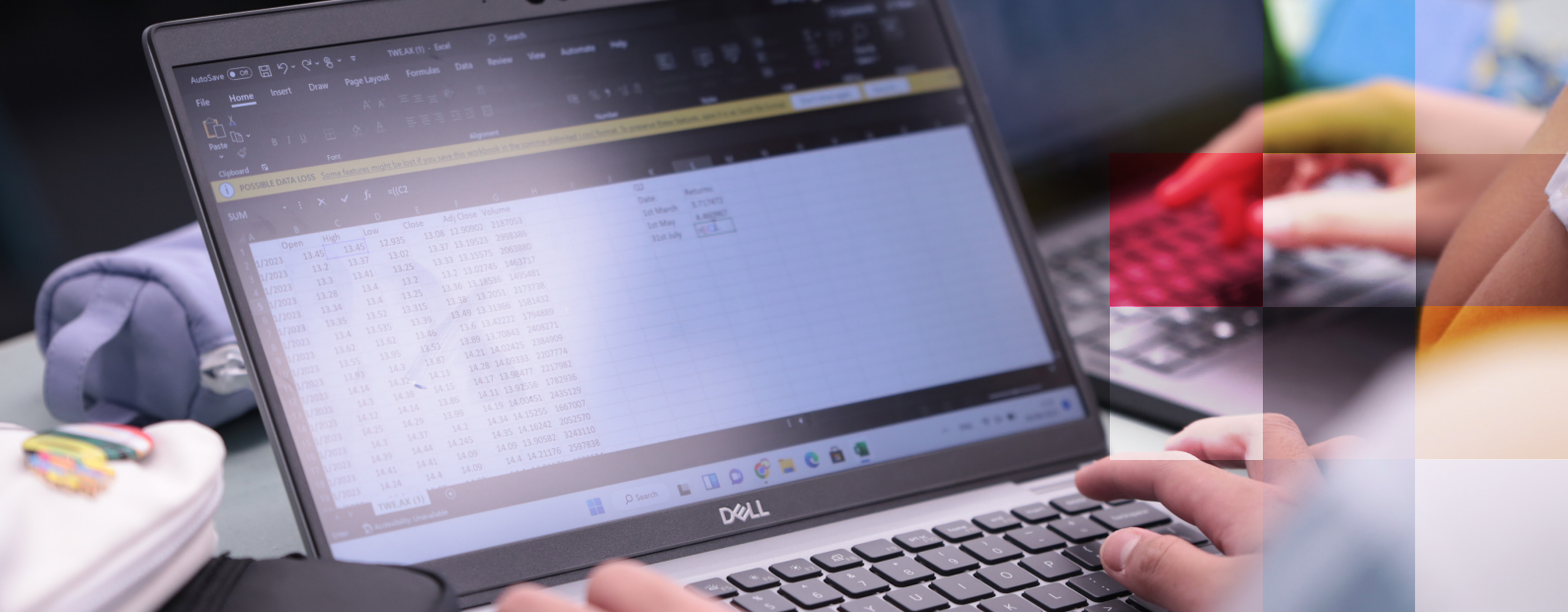
Please be advised that there is a 7-day language learning homestay course in Beijing offered during this program, for Year 10 students at the end of Term 3.



For further details please contact:

Ms Joanna Lang

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COMMERCE

AIM

To equip students with living skills and an understanding of the commercial environment in which we live and work.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours

COURSE CONTENT

The Year 9 course covers the following areas:

- Consumer Choice
- Personal Finance
- Investing
- Travel
- Promotion and Selling

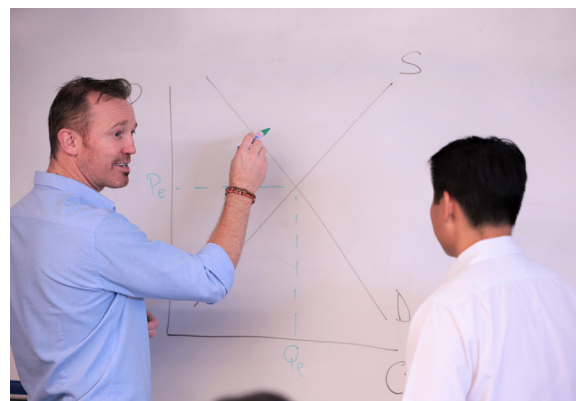
The Year 10 course covers the following areas :

- Running a Business
- Towards Independence
- Law and Society
- Political Involvement
- Employment Issues

The commerce course is structured so that:

- Subject matter is logically sequenced
- The concepts are developed progressively
- Skills are developed progressively
- Commerce related attitudes and values are persistently explored and developed

While the course will substantially draw from the subject matter provided, other subject matter may be selected to meet the needs of students and to reflect the changing commercial environment.



For further details please contact:

Mr Christopher Walsh

Head of HSIE

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COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY

AIM

Studying Computing Technology in Years 9 and 10 enables students to become safe and responsible users of computing technologies, understand technical knowledge, social awareness, and project management, and develop creativity to produce and evaluate digital products using various technologies.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10, 100-200 hours

COURSE CONTENT

Computing Technology aims to equip students with essential computing skills and digital literacy suitable for diverse contexts. This course emphasizes computational thinking, design principles, and systems analysis, providing students with the necessary programming and data analysis skills for the technology-driven world we live in.

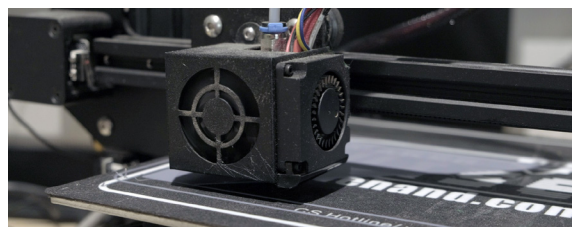
Students engage in practical activities such as data analysis, user experience design, web and app development, and exploration of mechatronic systems and games/simulations. By actively participating in hardware and software projects, students learn to handle data securely while understanding the ethical and legal implications of digital solutions.

Computing Technology enhances technical knowledge and fosters social

awareness, project management, and critical thinking skills, preparing students for further studies and vocational pathways. By examining contemporary technologies and their effects on society, students develop a well-rounded understanding of the digital world and its implications. Students are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

Assessment is primarily done through individual and group project-based work. Assessment tasks include robotics/mechatronics, games development, using code as a way of producing music, data gathering and analysis, programming for hardware, and more.

Assessment includes practical tasks, observations, research activities, written responses, reports and written tests.



For further details please contact:

Ms Christina Carini

Head of Technology and Applied Studies
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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

AIM

To explore the design process in depth while encouraging initiative and innovation in relevant design work.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours

COURSE CONTENT

Students will undertake a number of projects at the Year 9 and 10 levels. Work will include designing, making and evaluating design projects.

Design and Technology involves designing, producing and evaluating quality designed solutions. Students engage in a range of practical activities during the development of a series of design projects. Project work is the main learning activity of students during a unit of work and results in the creation and documentation of designed solutions.

The needs and interests of students are addressed when selecting units of work. There is increasing challenge offered to students in successive design projects to enhance the development of knowledge, understanding and skills. Project work takes place in the classroom, the workshop, CAD/CAM room, and the food technology room, integrating the use of Information Technology throughout. Documentation in the form of portfolios provide evidence of the

investigation and research undertaken, along with the experimentation, development and justification of ideas, prototyping, and the process of realisation and design project evaluation.

Assessment includes practical tasks, observations, research activities, portfolio presentations, written responses and reports, written and practical tests.

The skills and attitudes developed during the course can carry over to many career areas including architecture, engineering, graphic design, fashion and theatrical design.



For further details please contact:

Ms Christina Carini

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DRAMA

AIM

To provide students with the opportunity to make, perform, analyse and respond to drama, in order to build confidence, engage the imagination and develop creativity.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours.

COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of a range of activities in making, performing and appreciating drama, across two years.



The course involves both written and practical work including:

- Improvisation
- Play Building
- Dramatic forms
- Self-devised and scripted performance
- Performance space and conventions of theatre
- Experience of dramatic presentations
- Discussion, reading and writing about Drama and Theatre
- Creative Movement
- Script Writing
- Personal Reflection
- Theatrical Style & History of Theatre
- Elements of Drama
- Elements of Production
- Individual Performance
- Paired Performance
- Group Performance

For further details please contact:

Mr Joseph Travers
Head of Performing Arts
joseph_travers@aishk.edu.hk



FRENCH

AIM

Students of French in Stage 5 develop greater breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of the French language. They will develop their skills in the areas of speaking, listening, comprehension, reading, writing and cultural understanding and will extend their appreciation in the language.

The course is organised under topics of study designed to give students a comprehensive understanding of conversational French. Students who elect to do this course must be aware that meaningful study of any language requires a commitment from the learner to persist and regularly practise skills acquired, particularly vocabulary.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours

PREREQUISITE

- **Year 9:** Years 7 and 8 French or a previously acquired basic knowledge of Beginner's French.
- **Year 10 :** Years 7, 8 and 9 French or an equivalent acquired knowledge of Intermediate French.

COURSE CONTENT

- Basic vocabulary for reading, writing, speaking and listening skills
- Additional vocabulary for advanced speaking and listening
- Knowledge of French society and culture

This subject leads to the following course options at NESA Stage 6 or in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, Year 11 and Year 12:

- HSC French Continuers
- IB French B



For further details please contact:

Mrs Carole White
French Teacher
carole_white@aishk.edu.hk



MUSIC

AIM

To provide students with the opportunity to build on their knowledge of the elements of music through a range of learning experiences, and to extend their practical skills through aural work, solo and ensemble performance.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours

COURSE CONTENT

Students will acquire skills in the following areas:

- **COMPOSITION**
Students will learn how to compose music for voices and instruments and learn how to arrange their own and others' music. This includes a study of notation and theoretical concepts, and the use of technology.
- **PERFORMANCE**
Students will perform individually and in ensembles in order to build confidence and develop their musical and technical skills on at least one instrument. Ideally, students must learn at least one musical instrument through a qualified instrumental music teacher.
- **LISTENING**
Students will develop skills through singing, aural work, listening, researching, analysing, notating and discussing an understanding of music in its historical and cultural contexts.
- **SINGING**
Students will develop their aural ability through choral singing in classwork and performance.



For further details please contact:

Mr Joseph Travers
Head of Performing Arts
joseph_travers@aishk.edu.hk



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORTS STUDIES

AIM

To enhance students' capacity to participate effectively in physical activity and sport, leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 - 200 hours

COURSE CONTENT

The content of this course is organised in modules within the following three Areas of Study:

- Foundations of Physical Activity
- Physical Activity and Sport in Society
- Enhancing Participation and Performance

A variety of the following may be included:

- Physical activity for health
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Physical activity and sport for specific groups
- Opportunities and pathways in physical activity and sport
- Coaching
- Enhancing performance – strategies and techniques
- Technology, participation and performance
- Event management and Marketing
- Body Systems

This course provides students with a broad understanding of the multifaceted nature of these fields. It also introduces students to valuable and marketable skills in organisation, enterprise, leadership and communication. Students with these skills will be well positioned to make a strong contribution to their community as physical activity and sport provides a major context for employment.

Students will be provided with opportunities that are relevant and stimulating and can be supported by school and community resources.



For further details please contact:

Mr John Van Gaalen
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VISUAL ARTS

AIM

Students will engage in the making of artworks informed by their investigations of artistic practice and by the critical and historical studies.

OFFERED AT

Years 9 and 10 – 200 hours

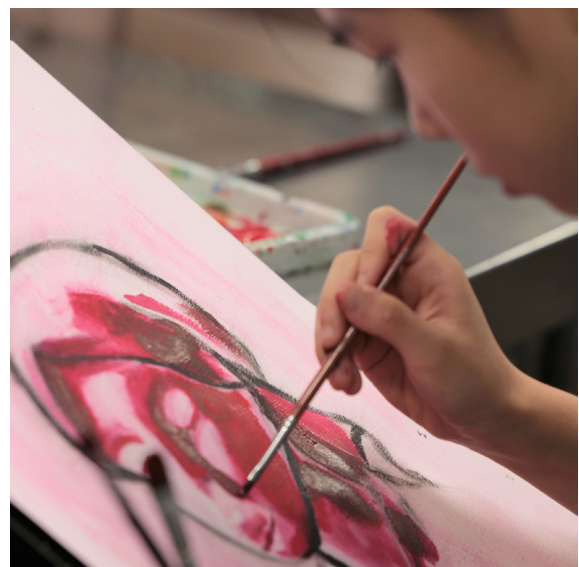
COURSE CONTENT

Artmaking: Students will investigate an extended range of material, techniques and procedures to build a body or work. A variety of the following will be included:

- 2D Forms – Drawing, printmaking, photo and digital media
- 3D Forms – Sculpture including construction, modeling and carving
- Lens based works – including installation, animation, video and photography

Historical and Critical Studies: Students will be encouraged to make and express evaluative judgments about artworks. Students will investigate processes which influence form, style and meaning of works in the context of time and place.

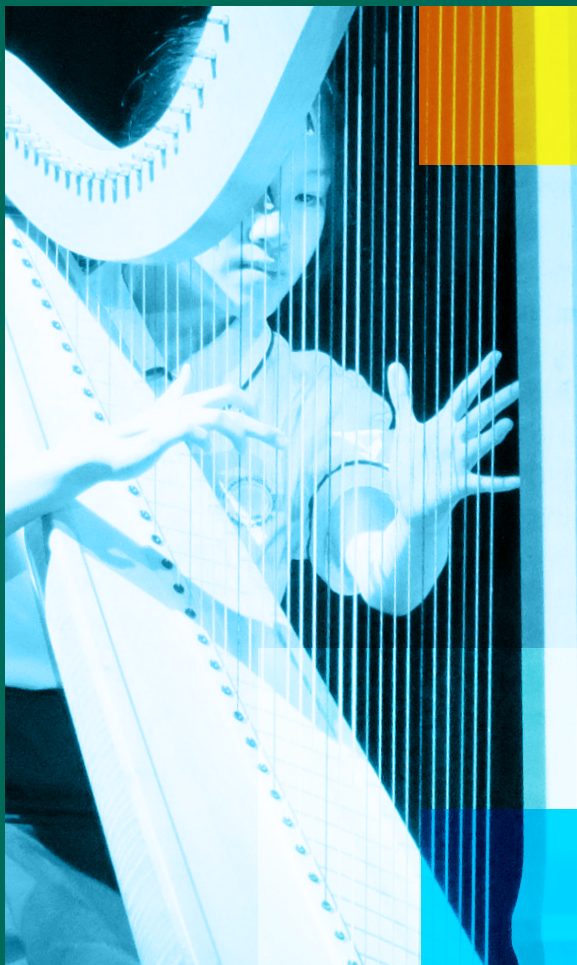
Students will compile a process Visual Arts Diary to document and record their own investigations.



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