

Rome International High School

**GCSE Programme
Grades 10 and 11**



What is GCSE?

- The General Certificate in Secondary Education was introduced in Britain in 1986 to replace the former 'O-Level' system and is studied in most British and many international schools. There are five exam boards which offer GCSE, the largest being AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance).
- It is a two year programme followed throughout Grades 10 and 11 (age 14 to 16) to provide final qualifications at the end of Grade 11.
- Students gain a separate qualification in each of their subjects, graded from A* to G. Grades A*, A, B and C are considered a good pass. Most students will gain between 8 and 12 GCSEs.
- Each subject can be entered at Higher (Grades A* to D) or Foundation (Grades C to G) tier, depending on the student's expected achievement.



How are GCSEs assessed?

- The methods of assessment differ from subject to subject, with some subjects (such as Mathematics and Foreign Languages) assessed entirely by final examination and other subjects (such as English, Science, Humanities and ICT) assessed by both examinations and coursework (which can be written, oral and practical), undertaken in class and at home during the course.
- Coursework is graded by subject teachers and then sent to the examination board to be externally moderated.
- All exam papers are sent away to be marked by external examiners, with standards determined and maintained by the exam board.



What are the important dates?

- All coursework needs to be completed by April of Grade 11. This process will be co-ordinated within the school, to ensure that students have completed all the work that is required of them.
- All final examinations will be taken in school in May and June at the end of Grade 11. In most subjects this will involve one or more written exams of between 40 minutes and 2 hours in length.
- **IMPORTANT!**
Some examinations are scheduled to take place on 1st and 2nd June 2009, so Grade 11 students will need to attend school on these days, despite the Italian national holidays.



What subjects will students take?

Rome International School students will all take the following subjects:

- English (AQA A)
- English Literature (AQA A)
- General Science (AQA A)
- Humanities (AQA A)
- Information Communication Technology (OCR Nationals)
- Italian (AQA A)
- Mathematics (AQA A)



What other subjects can be taken?

For interested students the following subjects could also be taken:

- Additional Science (AQA A)
- Art (AQA A)
- Chinese (Edexcel)
- Drama (AQA A)
- French (AQA A)
- Music (AQA A)
- Physical Education (AQA A)
- Spanish (AQA A)
- Economics (AQA A) (available to grade 10 from school year 2009/2010)

A wide range of modern foreign languages is available at GCSE level, so students with languages other than those offered by the school could also take a 'self-taught' GCSE qualification in that subject.

