



BISHOPS

Cambridge Academic Offering

Grade 11 2026

Our **Academic Vision** is as follows:

- ✓ To **EMPOWER** our pupils to take their place in the global world they enter, and be constructive, fulfilled and caring participants in the shaping of what that world will become.
- ✓ They will be confident, self-motivated individuals who pursue excellence and whose habits of mind, enquiry and organization enable them to **ENGAGE** with people and communities in a sophisticated, multi-faceted and an intellectually alert way.
- ✓ We want them to be **EQUIPPED** to approach a wide variety of situations knowledgeably, imaginatively and sensitively.

SA CURRICULUM REGULATED BY THE DBE

U M A L U S I

UNIVERSITIES

WHY DID WE DECIDE TO START AN ALTERNATE STREAM TO NSC?

- Extension for our top pupils.

WHY OFFER A LEVELS?

- Emphasis on mastering subjects in-depth with skills development for future study and work (whilst not restricting career choice)
- Development of conceptual understanding and higher order thinking skills.
- Remain competitive.

AIMS OF THE CAMBRIDGE CURRICULUM

- Confident in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- Responsible for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- The syllabus fosters both independent research and collaboration

AIMS OF THE CAMBRIDGE CURRICULUM

- Reflective as learners, developing awareness and strategies for further education
- Innovative and equipped for new and future challenges
- Engaged intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference

WHAT WE HAVE NOTICED

- ✓ The assessment style is very different
- ✓ The study periods help them to develop responsibility for self-guided learning.
- ✓ The depth of study has stimulated top academics and driven their curiosity in subjects of interest

ACCESS TO SA UNIVERSITIES

SA Universities view:

- AS Levels = Matric
- A Levels = Between Matric and 1st year university

SA Universities require:

- NSC pupils to get a Bachelors Pass
- Cambridge pupils to get a Matric Exemption

ACQUIRING MATRIC EXEMPTION

	Subject	Level	Minimum Requirement
Group I (compulsory)	First Language English	AS Level OR IGCSE	D (45-55%) C (40-50%)
Group II (compulsory)	Second Language (Afrikaans)	IGCSE	C (40-50%)
Group III (compulsory)	Mathematics	A Level OR AS Level	E (25-35%) D (45-55%)
Group IV	Any other TWO subjects	A Level OR AS Level	E (25-35%) D (45-55%)

**4 AS subjects and
1 IGCSE**

OR

**3 A Level subjects and
1 IGCSE**

- You can complete the process in Grade 12 with AS results
- Most universities will assist with this in your first year of study

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

- For most degrees, 4 AS subjects (3 of which are taken through to A Level) and 1 IGCSE subject will generate sufficient points to meet minimum entrance requirements
- **Exceptions:**
 - UCT Health Sciences Faculty/Faculty of Law (5 AS subjects and 1 IGCSE subject required)
 - UCT Commerce (3 A Level subjects and 3 AS/IGCSE subjects)
- UK universities generally only consider 3 A Levels (exceptions require IGCSE e.g., Trinity College Dublin)
- European and USA universities vary, but generally 3 A Levels is sufficient
- Combinations of subjects required at AS and A Level will differ depending on the degree you wish to study

APPLYING TO STUDY THE CAMBRIDGE CURRICULUM

- 75% overall average excluding LO.
- 75% minimum in Mathematics.
- 75% in the electives they wish to take.
- We will use June Exams results to make initial selections

SUBJECT CHOICES

- To meet SA university requirements:
 - ✓ IGCSE Afrikaans (or any second language but NO IsiXhosa)
 - ✓ IGCSE English Language (option to take AS English Lang and Lit)
 - ✓ AS Mathematics
 - ✓ 3 Elective subjects at A Level

2026 ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Economics
- Computer Science
 - History

*We will try our best to accommodate subjects choices of applicants in the timetable

ENTERING THE CAMBRIDGE PROGRAMME

Grade 10:

- Apply to study the Cambridge curriculum with June exam results
- Term 3: Lessons for IGCSE Afrikaans/IGCSE English (continue with other NSC subjects as per usual)
- Term 4: Write IGCSE Afrikaans/IGCSE English (continue with other NSC subjects as per usual)

Grade 11:

- Begin lessons for AS subjects

IGCSE AFRIKAANS/ENGLISH EXAMS

IGCSE English

- 6 October 2025 (Paper 1)
- 9 October 2025 (Paper 2)

IGCSE Afrikaans

- 30 September 2025 (Paper 1)
- 14 October 2025 (Paper 2)

*Option to write in 2026 if exams clash with exchange

A LEVEL IN GRADE 12

- Choose any 3 AS subjects to carry through to A Level
- Can do 4

2024 RESULTS

AS Level (Grade 11)

- COMPUTER SCIENCE: 82% NSC eq
- ECONOMICS: 88% NSC eq
- HISTORY : 86% NSC eq
- AS ENG LANG AND LIT: 83% NSC eq
- MATHS: 95% NSC eq
- PHYSICS 91% NSC eq
- BIOLOGY: 83% NSC eq
- CHEMISTRY: 87% NSC eq
- IGCSE AFRIKAANS: 65% NSC eq

A Level (Grade 12)

- COMPUTER SCIENCE: 90% NSC eq
- ECONOMICS: 90% NSC eq
- HISTORY : 93% NSC eq
- MATHS: 95% NSC eq
- PHYSICS 96% NSC eq
- BIOLOGY: 95% NSC eq
- CHEMISTRY: 93% NSC eq

FAQ

Is the Cambridge Curriculum better than NSC through the DBE?

Both NSC and Cambridge are highly regarded locally and overseas for university acceptance. Choice is student-dependent.

Can boys in the Cambridge Stream still participate in extra mural programme?

We would expect them to, and they are able to.

How do you allocate academic awards?

Each stream has its own awards

How does the Cambridge Stream fit into the timetable?

At the same time as other subjects with independent study in free lessons

FAQ

Do teachers have to have a certain qualification to teach Cambridge stream/have they completed compulsory training?

Many of our teachers have extensive Cambridge teaching experience. In addition, excellent further training is available.

Do you have a special venue for the pupils doing the Cambridge Stream to sit and do independent study?

Not necessary with our school having work rooms in each house

FAQ

When do they write examinations?

There are external examinations in June and October/November. We participate in the October/November series. Pupils can improve their Grade 11 AS results in June of Grade 12. We run internal prelims to provide examination practice.

What does it cost?

***R25000pa over and above Bishops fees, excluding textbooks
*June re-writes will be charged separately***

WHAT NEXT?

1. Survey interest by the end of Term 1.
2. Applications submitted by first week of Term 3.
3. Boys can consult boys/staff on the programme.