



Honors Track Course Descriptions – Class of 2027

General Information

- The Class of 2027 is enrolled in one of two tracks: **Liberal Arts (LA)** or **Honors (H)**. This document focuses only on the **Honors Track**.
- Ikubunkan Global High School is a Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)-accredited school that follows the Japanese national curriculum. However, the school is flexible in its approach to curriculum delivery, and a number of courses are taught in English rather than Japanese.
- IGHS uses a relative 1–5 grading system aligned with the American letter-grade framework. Final grades are determined in relation to overall class performance and grade distribution patterns rather than fixed absolute percentage thresholds.
- This document provides information on the year level in which each course is offered, the language of instruction, and whether the course is compulsory or included in an optional **subject set**. Where courses are offered as part of a subject set, students are required to select from the subjects available in that set.
- For further information, please contact collegecounselor@ikubun.com

Honors students must choose from the following subject sets.

Set 1 Grade 10	Art & Design I	Calligraphy I	Music I
Set 2 Grade 12	Japanese Language Expression Advanced World History	Mathematics B, C, III	
Set 3 Grade 12	Sustainable Studies	Graphic Arts	
Set 4 Grade 12	Biology	Chemistry	Physics

Japanese

Contemporary Japanese Language

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the reading and analysis of critical essays. Genres studied include social issues, science, language, economics, and international affairs, preparing students for further study in critical reading and analysis.

Language Culture

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course develops students' skills in literary analysis through close reading of poetry, modern novels, and classical Japanese literature. Novel selections span works from the Meiji period onward, while classical texts focus primarily on Heian-era writings, preparing students for further study in Japanese literature and cultural expression.

Japanese Language Expression

Grade 12 | Japanese | **Optional (Set 2)**

This course emphasizes short-essay writing. Students engage with humanities and social science texts, practice basic data analysis, and learn to express logical, well-structured arguments, preparing them for further study in academic writing and the humanities.

Mathematics

Equivalent U.S. course titles have been provided for reference

Mathematics I

Equivalent to Algebra 2

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to algebra and functions, covering polynomial functions ($n = 2, 3, 4$), introductory differential and integral calculus, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions, preparing them for further study in advanced mathematics.

Mathematics A

Equivalent to Geometry and Trigonometry

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course covers trigonometric ratios and trigonometric functions, preparing students for further study in advanced mathematics.

Mathematics II

Equivalent to Pre-Calculus

Grade 12 | English | Compulsory

Using the IBDP Mathematics curriculum as a foundation, this course focuses on higher-level mathematics, covering algebra, mathematical proofs, analytic geometry, conic sections, and the complex plane. Students engage in advanced-level problem solving, preparing them for further study in higher mathematics.

Mathematics B

Equivalent to Statistics

Grade 12 | Japanese | **Optional (Set 2)**

This course develops students' skills in statistics, with a focus on probability and data analysis, preparing them for further study in data science and quantitative reasoning.

Mathematics C

Advanced Math (Vectors/Linear Algebra topics)

Grade 12 | Japanese | **Optional (Set 2)**

This course introduces students to advanced mathematical concepts, covering plane and spatial vectors as well as geometric figures. Students engage in advanced-level problem solving, preparing them for further study in higher mathematics.

Mathematics III

Equivalent to Calculus

Grade 12 | Japanese | **Optional (Set 2)**

This course deepens students' understanding of calculus, covering limits and applied differential and integral calculus. Students practice extensively with advanced-level problems, preparing them for further study in calculus and related fields.

Science

Introductory Biology

Grade 10 | English | Compulsory

Using the IGCSE Biology curriculum as a foundation, this course introduces students to the foundations of life science. Topics include cell structure and energy, genetics, immunity and disease, and ecosystems and biomes. Students develop a broad understanding of essential biological concepts, preparing them for further study in the life sciences.

Basic Chemistry

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the foundations of chemistry. Topics include atomic structure, chemical bonding, periodic table elements, stoichiometry, acids and bases, and redox reactions. Students develop a solid foundation in chemistry, preparing them for further study in the sciences.

Basic Physics

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the foundations of physics, with a focus on mechanics. Students learn to apply equations and

mathematical tools to describe and analyze physical phenomena, preparing them for further study in the physical sciences.

Biology

Grade 12 | English | **Optional (Set 4)**

Using the IAS/A Level Biology curriculum as a foundation, this course provides students with a broad understanding of biological phenomena. Topics include metabolism, genetics, developmental biology, and responses to the environment. Students develop both subject knowledge and analytical skills, preparing them for further study in the life sciences.

Chemistry

Grade 12 | English | **Optional (Set 4)**

Using the IAS/A Level Chemistry curriculum as a foundation, this course provides students with a broad understanding of chemical phenomena. Topics include solutions, thermochemistry, equilibrium, organic chemistry, and inorganic chemistry. To ensure mastery, the course incorporates extensive problem-solving exercises that reinforce theoretical principles, preparing students for further study in the sciences.

Physics

Grade 12 | English | **Optional (Set 4)**

Using the IAS/A Level Physics curriculum as a foundation, this course provides students with a broad understanding of physical principles. Careful instruction is given from formula derivation through to the underlying concepts, ensuring deep comprehension of the subject. Students engage in extensive problem-solving practice across mechanics, electromagnetism, and wave phenomena, preparing them for further study in the physical sciences.

Social Studies

Civics

Modern & Contemporary History

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course focuses on modern and contemporary history. Students explore the causes and historical background of major current issues, developing an understanding of how the past shapes today's society.

Geography

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course explores the physical and human geography of Europe and Southeast Asia. Students examine geographical features, population patterns, ethnic and religious distribution, economic activity, and regional integration, while also considering contemporary issues such as Brexit, immigration, and urban and environmental challenges. Through comparative study, discussion, and research, students develop analytical skills and a deeper understanding of the relationship between geography, society, and global development.

Public

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces the fundamental ideas and systems that shape society and government. Students examine the meaning of citizenship, including individual rights, responsibilities, and forms of civic participation. The course also explores how laws are created, how political institutions operate, and how public policy influences daily life. Through the study of democratic values, economic systems, social issues, and current events, students strengthen their skills in critical thinking, research, discussion, and respectful debate.

Advanced World History

Grade 12 | English | **Optional (Set 2)**

This course examines world history from the premodern era to the present through a comparative and inquiry-based approach. Students explore major developments across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania, while analyzing patterns of exchange, conflict, political change, and global interdependence. Emphasis is placed on historical thinking skills, including causation, comparison, continuity and change, and the use of primary and secondary sources. Through source analysis, discussion, and research-based writing, students develop the skills needed for advanced study in history and related fields.

Sustainable Studies

Grade 12 | English | **Optional (Set 3)**

This course explores Sustainable Studies through business and investment, examining how economic and professional action can help address the global challenges reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. Students study these issues while also investigating practical solutions, gaining an understanding not only of

the problems themselves but also of the narratives and complexities surrounding them.

Foreign Languages (English)

Comprehensive English I

Grade 10 | English | Compulsory

Drawing on Wayland Academy Online's Humanities and English III courses as a foundation, this course develops students' skills in English literature, academic writing, and reading comprehension across a wide range of texts. Students learn to apply the conventions of effective writing and to analyze meaning in both fiction and non-fiction. In doing so, they build the skills needed for further study in advanced English language and literature.

Essay Writing I, II

Grade 10 & 12 | English | Compulsory

These courses help students plan, structure, and write clear, well-supported essays in response to complex prompts. Instruction emphasizes both academic writing and personal narrative essays. Through this practice, students strengthen their ability to construct logical arguments and express nuanced ideas in writing, preparing them for further study in academic writing and the humanities or sciences.

Debate & Discussion I, II

Grade 10 & 12 | English | Compulsory

These courses equip students with the knowledge, skills, and approaches needed to pursue the thematic goals of each year and to apply them through self-directed activities designed around those aims. With negotiation as a core skill, students engage in debate and discussion on a wide range of topics linked to their chosen TASK projects, grounded in contemporary social, scientific, physical, and artistic performance-related issues. Students also develop the ability to present their findings clearly through structured reports and visual posters, preparing them for further study in public speaking, presentation, and academic research.

Health and Physical Education

Physical Education

Grade 10 & 12 | Japanese | Compulsory

Students take Physical Education in each year of on-campus study at IGHS, developing skills across a variety of activities designed to promote lifelong fitness and well-being. The course emphasizes physical literacy, teamwork, and healthy lifestyle habits, preparing students to maintain fitness throughout high school and beyond.

Health

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to health education with a focus on practical knowledge and responsible decision-making. Topics include lifestyle habits, infectious diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, mental health, and first aid. Students learn to apply this knowledge to support their own physical and mental well-being, preparing them to make informed choices throughout their lives.

Fine Arts

Students are required to take at least one Fine Arts course in Grade 10

Art & Design I

Grade 10 | Japanese | **Optional (Set 1)**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of visual expression. Students explore drawing, painting, and design principles while developing creativity, technical skills, and an appreciation of artistic processes. The course prepares students for further study in art and design.

Calligraphy I

Grade 10 | Japanese | **Optional (Set 1)**

This course introduces students to the traditional art of Japanese calligraphy. Students practice brush technique, balance, and composition while deepening their understanding of the cultural and historical significance of written forms. The course develops both artistic skill and cultural appreciation.

Music I

Grade 10 | Japanese | **Optional (Set 1)**

This course develops students' skills in music appreciation and performance. Students learn basic music theory, vocal and instrumental techniques, and engage in ensemble activities. The course fosters creativity, expression, and collaboration through music.

Graphic Arts

Grade 12 | English | **Optional (Set 3)**

This course focuses on the development of artistic skills in preparation for building a portfolio that can be evaluated by professionals in the field and by faculty at competitive university programs. Although drawing serves as the primary emphasis, students also explore related areas of graphic arts, including animation, film production and editing, and narrative development. These components support students' understanding of characterization, setting, and visual storytelling. Assessment is based not only on students' ability to create stylized visual work, but also on their ability to articulate the thinking and creative process behind it.

Practical & Interdisciplinary Studies

Information Study I

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of ICT skills. Topics include information security, digital expression, information design, basic programming, and the mechanisms of computer networks. Students develop practical digital literacy to support academic work and responsible technology use, preparing them for further study in information science.

Basic Home Economics

Grade 10 | Japanese | Compulsory

This course provides students with practical knowledge for daily life and well-being. Topics include maintaining health through diet, managing comfortable living spaces and clothing, family and community relationships, and environmentally responsible consumer behavior. Students gain skills to support sustainable lifestyles and lifelong well-being.

Applied Learning / Collaborative Seminars

Grade 10 & 12 | Japanese / English | Compulsory

This program was previously delivered as a collaborative seminar in which first- and third-year students learned together in cross-grade groups, exploring SDG-related themes and building foundational inquiry and research skills. It has since been restructured into a more specialized applied learning program. Students now join one of seven research labs, establish their own research themes, and pursue deeper academic inquiry through collaboration with universities and companies under expert guidance. Practical experiences, including study abroad and fieldwork, further strengthen this process and help students develop their research into work of greater academic depth and value.

Wayland Academy Online Dual Diploma Program

As part of the Honors Track, all students participate in IGHS's online Dual Diploma Program in partnership with **Wayland Academy Online** throughout their time in the program. Students take the following courses:

Humanities

An interdisciplinary course that integrates English and Social Studies through the study of world cultures, literature, and historical context. The course places particular emphasis on writing development and research.

U.S. History

A survey course tracing the development of the United States from the colonial period to the present, with attention to the political, economic, social, religious, and geographic forces that have shaped the nation.

English III

A literature and composition course focused on major literary genres, especially epic and lyric poetry, while developing students' skills in analysis, discussion, and academic writing.

English IV

An advanced literature and composition course centered on tragedy, comedy, and lyric poetry, with continued emphasis on interpretation, evaluation, discussion, and written expression.

Robotics & Design

A project-based course introducing students to design and engineering concepts through hands-on inquiry, creative problem-solving, and applied technical work.

Web Design & Digital Imagery

A creative and applied course focused on digital design, web-based visual communication, and image production. Students develop skills in layout, composition, and digital media creation while strengthening their ability to communicate ideas clearly through visual and online formats.

Grade 11 Study Abroad Year Credits

All students undertake a compulsory one-year study abroad placement during Grade 11. Because students attend different host schools across a range of countries, it is not possible to provide standardized course descriptions for that year. However, students are expected to complete courses that may be used to fulfill both the MEXT-required credits for graduation and the credit requirements of IGHS's Dual Diploma Program with Wayland Academy.

Grade 11 Equivalent MEXT Required Credits	Example Host School Course(s)
Comprehensive History	World History
Mathematics II	Algebra 2/Pre-Calculus
Comprehensive English II	American Literature
Politics & Economy	US History
Grade 11 Science	AP Biology
P.E & Health	Health and Wellness