

Syllabus Outline

	Teaching hours
Core	80
Topic 1: Physics and physical measurement	5
1.1 The realm of physics	1
1.2 Measurement and uncertainties	2
1.3 Vectors and scalars	2
Topic 2: Mechanics	17
2.1 Kinematics	6
2.2 Forces and dynamics	6
2.3 Work, energy and power	3
2.4 Uniform circular motion	2
Topic 3: Thermal physics	7
3.1 Thermal concepts	2
3.2 Thermal properties of matter	5
Topic 4: Oscillations and waves	10
4.1 Kinematics of simple harmonic motion (SHM)	2
4.2 Energy changes during simple harmonic motion (SHM)	1
4.3 Forced oscillations and resonance	3
4.4 Wave characteristics	2
4.5 Wave properties	2
Topic 5: Electric currents	7
5.1 Electric potential difference, current and resistance	4
5.2 Electric circuits	3
Topic 6: Fields and forces	7
6.1 Gravitational force and field	2
6.2 Electric force and field	3
6.3 Magnetic force and field	2
Topic 7: Atomic and nuclear physics	9
7.1 The atom	2
7.2 Radioactive decay	3
7.3 Nuclear reactions, fission and fusion	4
Topic 8: Energy, power and climate change	18
8.1 Energy degradation and power generation	2
8.2 World energy sources	2
8.3 Fossil fuel power production	1
8.4 Non-fossil fuel power production	7
8.5 Greenhouse effect	3
8.6 Global warming	3

	Teaching hours
Options SL	15
Option A: Sight and wave phenomena	15
A1 The eye and sight	3
A2 Standing (stationary) waves	2
A3 Doppler effect	2
A4 Diffraction	1
A5 Resolution	4
A6 Polarization	3
Option B: Quantum physics and nuclear physics	15
B1 Quantum physics	10
B2 Nuclear physics	5
Option C: Digital technology	15
C1 Analogue and digital signals	4
C2 Data capture; digital imaging using charge-coupled devices (CCDs)	4
C3 Electronics	5
C4 The mobile phone system	2
Option D: Relativity and particle physics	15
D1 Introduction to relativity	1
D2 Concepts and postulates of special relativity	2
D3 Relativistic kinematics	5
D4 Particles and interactions	5
D5 Quarks	2
Option E: Astrophysics	15
E1 Introduction to the universe	2
E2 Stellar radiation and stellar types	4
E3 Stellar distances	5
E4 Cosmology	4
Option F: Communications	15
F1 Radio communication	5
F2 Digital signals	4
F3 Optic fibre transmission	3
F4 Channels of communication	3
Option G: Electromagnetic waves	15
G1 Nature of EM waves and light sources	4
G2 Optical instruments	6
G3 Two-source interference of waves	3
G4 Diffraction grating	2