Course Preparation: the following preparation may be needed before starting the main course:-

Videos will be found at: https://www.sanskritexams.org.uk/videos-main/

- **Complete beginners -** should watch the **Series 1 Videos: 1 to 9,** and study the following published textbooks:

  Sanskrit is Fun, Parts 1, 2 & 3 (alphabet); The Stories of Krishna, Parts 1 & 2; The Story of Rama, Parts 1 & 2. These should be purchased from Motilal Publishing House. For details and specific links to the latest editions, see this page: https://www.sanskritatstjames.org.uk/books/

- **If you are already familiar with the alphabet -** you will find that you can use the matching **'Fast-track' Videos, 1 to 4**, alongside this textbook:
  Sanskrit: An Introductory Course - Please purchase using link at https://www.sanskritatstjames.org.uk/books/

If unsure which option to follow, please check before applying for the 2 Year Course.

The Set Literature has been updated for 2025 – 2027.

Starting with no, or little, knowledge of Sanskrit: Learn reading, writing and very simple sentences Target: up to 6 months (2 x 10 weeks), devoting 3 or 4 hours per week			
SYLLABUS TOPIC	*COURSEBOOKS*	*VIDEO*	*PROGRESS TESTS*
• The alphabet, Devanagari and transliteration.	**Sanskrit: An Introductory Course (*or* Sanskrit is Fun, Krishna & Rama books)** Transliteration: p vii The alphabet, Devanagari	**Introductory: videos 1 (*or* Series 1: 1 – 5*)***	**'Brainscape' flashcards**
• Words, simple sentences and stories. Reading practice. • Basic noun and verb paradigms.	**Sanskrit: An Introductory Course (or Sanskrit is Fun, Krishna & Rama books)** Words, simple sentences and stories. Reading practice. Basic noun and verb paradigms: Appendix, especially practise ***rāma, sītā, mitram, bhavati***	**Introductory: videos 2-5 (*or* Series 1: 6 – 9*)***	

Sanskrit Curriculum for Two-Year Self Study Course

For the first few booklets and MP3s for each topic, visit the ISER site: **https://www.sanskritexams.org.uk/**

- This schedule is for a 6 term/2 year IGCSE course requiring 3 or 4 hours study per week each 10-12 week term, totaling 120 hours each year (each 3 terms). **(This assumes you are starting from a basis of already having a simple knowledge of Sanskrit as in the initial 'Preparation' table.)** More time may be needed at the end of the course for revision. Exam syllabus topics have bullet points.

- Online videos, in which a teacher explains each topic, may be accessed from the website. For the password, please email ISER via the Contact Form. [To find a particular topic on a video, refer to the list provided in the table.]

- The videos refer mainly to the published series of textbooks. These may be purchased from Motilal Publishing House. For details and specific links to the latest editions, see this page: https://www.sanskritatstjames.org.uk/books/

- The same syllabus topics are also covered in the free books referred to in the schedule, and can be found at the bottom of the page on the ISER website under Books and Materials: https://www.sanskritexams.org.uk/books-materials/

- This course schedule is a suggested way of proceeding with systematic Sanskrit study and examination preparation. It is not necessary to completely master a topic before moving on because the same topics will continue to arise during the course. Flashcards, Paradigms charts plus audio and video clips can be found on the website Books and Materials section.

- After registration, any questions regarding the use of resources may be submitted via email. Use the Contact Form on the ISER website to register for support.

2 year course leading to IGCSE: Target: 10/11 weeks, devoting 3 or 4 hours per week

Term 1: Simple knowledge of Sanskrit: Learn construction of simple sentences involving basic nouns and verbs

TIMING	*FREE COURSEBOOKS and main syllabus topics*	*VIDEO* **Series 1**
3 - 4 weeks Suggested study structure: Each week practise one gender of the *tat* paradigm; at the same time, during the specific study time, cover the grammar topics and exercises. Watch videos to help with grammar topics.	**Book: 'Two Year Study Course TERM 1'** Overview of noun paradigms Practice Story 'Kaikeyi demands her wish' • *'saha'* with the third case ending • Using the dative with '*namati'* 'bows' and '*dadati'* 'gives' (Video 7 at 5.31mins) (NB Subject-verb agreement) • Use of 6th ending to mean 'have' • Use of 6th ending with '*samipe* near • Use of '*iti*' after speech • **The paradigms of *'tat'*** and '*anya*' '*sarva*' '*eka*' based on '*tat*' See Series 2, Video H8, 14.09mins • *-tvā* ending words; the addition of '*i*' after the root (Video 10 + 11 at 7.11 mins) • Summary of first 3 weeks	**10** (14 mins) Extra practice: (Rama Stories Parts 1 & 2)
7 weeks Suggested study structure: - allow a week to initially learn/practise each noun paradigm or a verb in three tenses; - at the same time, during the specific study time, cover the grammar topics and exercises, referring to relevant video - If time, translate some of the short stories Note: At this time there are several paradigms. Continuing regular practice, even for 5 mins at a time, using videos and flashcards, will gradually ensure a good result. Practice should continue throughout the course. **Focus on those highlighted in red.**	• Overview of verb paradigms ***'asti'*** and ***'āsīt'***; (also see Series 1, video 8, 24.45mins) • special forms of past and future; Practice Story 'Hanuman finds Sita' • The imperative for commands • **Paradigm of feminine noun ending in long *'i'***; (Video 11) • Verb: 3 tenses of '*vardhate'*; future & past tenses of '*labhate';* (Video 11) • '*-ta*' ending words/ adding 'is' or 'was' in Eng transln (Video 11 at 11.38mins) **SET TEXT MAHĀBHĀRATA STORY 1 – A Strange Wife (Video Series 2 H11 – update soon)** **Study Aid for 2025** • **Masculine noun ending in *'i'* – *'hari'* (Lord)** (Video 11), and **in *'u'* – *guru* (teacher)** (Video 12, beginning) • Prefixes; • *-tvā* ending words with prefixes – the '*ya*' ending • **Personal pronoun, 'I' *'aham',* paradigm**; (Video 12, 4.59 mins) and **'you', *'tvam'* paradigm** (Video 12, 8mins)	**11** (18 mins) **12** (17 mins)

2 year course leading to IGCSE: Target: 11/12 weeks, devoting 3 or 4 hours per week

Term 2: Knowledge of Sanskrit: Learning about sentence construction including active and passive

TIMING	*FREE COURSEBOOKS and main syllabus topics*	*VIDEOS* **Series 2**
2 weeks Suggested study structure: - allow a week to learn/practise each noun paradigm - at the same time, cover grammar topics and translate a Mahabharata Story from the Supplementary Literature Study Aid for IGCSE 2025 onwards.	**'Two Year Study Course TERM 2'** • Sentence Analysis • Complementary Sentences; • **New Paradigm – *dhātṛ pitṛ* etc.;** (Video H 1: 10.40 mins + paradigm sheet) • Question words; (Video H 1: 4.50 mins) • Expressing the indefinite; **SET TEXT MAHĀBHĀRATA STORY 2 – The Fisherman King's Daughter (see under 1. at https://www.sanskritexams.org.uk/books-materials/)**	**H1** (22 mins) Extra practice: 'Stories from Mahabharata' Part 1 **H11**
9 weeks Suggested study structure: - allow a week to learn/practice each noun paradigm or a verb in three tenses; use videos to help - at the same time, cover grammar topics, using video to help - during this period, translate two Mahabharata Stories from the Supp Literature Study Aid for 2025 onwards	• English to Sanskrit Sheet 1 • Passive Sentences – Past passive (using '*ta*' ending words); (Video H1: 14.40mins) (not in book) • present passive verbs (includes revision of *vardhate* or *labhate*); (Video H1) • Past passive & future passive verbs; (Video H1) • **New verb: *karoti* in three tenses;** (Video H2: 3.20mins + paradigm sheet) • English to Sanskrit Sheet 2 • **Revision - The 21 universal noun endings;** • **'*ātman*' , '*rājan*' & '*karman*';** (Video H2: 7.55mins + paradigm sheet) **SET TEXT MAHĀBHĀRATA STORY 3 – Bhīṣma's Vow (Start Sandhi*)** • **The Imperative: direct and polite;** (+ **Sandhi)** • **New paradigms: *manas*, *jnānin*, *jnāninī*** ; (Video H2: 20.14mins + paradigm sheet) (+ **Sandhi)** • ***Dhīmat* paradigms;** (Video H3:00.00mins + paradigm sheet) (+ **Sandhi)** • *-tavat* endings; (+ **Sandhi)** **SET TEXT MAHĀBHĀRATA STORY 4 - A Deer Curses Pāṇḍu** [Introduction to Sandhi, basic Principles of Sandhi, Three Types of Sandhi.* Vowel sandhi**]	**H1** (22 mins) **H2** (29 mins) Extra practice: 'Stories from Mahabharata' Part 1 & 2 ***H3** (24 mins) ****H6** (26 mins) Extra practice: 'Stories from Mahabharata' Parts 2 & 3

2 year course leading to IGCSE: Target: 10/11 weeks, devoting 3 or 4 hours per week

Term 3: Knowledge of Sanskrit: Learn about the joining of words in a sentence, and compound words

TIMING	*FREE COURSEBOOKS and main syllabus topics*	*VIDEOS* **Series 2**
11 weeks <u>Suggested study structure:</u> - allow 3 weeks to learn & practice consonant sandhi - allow 2 weeks to learn & practice visarga sandhi - during this period, translate Mahabharata Story 5 from the Supp Literature Study Aid and do Eng to Skt sentences - allow 4 weeks to study Samāsas (compound words) & English to Sanskrit translation - 1 week for revision of sandhi and test -1 week for revision of compound words and test	**Book: Two Year Course, Term 3** • Consonant sandhi; **SET TEXT MAHĀBHĀRATA STORY 5 - Paraśurāma Discovers Karṇa's Lie (Video H11)** • **English to Sanskrit Sheet 3** • Visarga sandhi, the 'khar', 'O' , 'Disappearing', 'r' process, Viyoga, exercises; • Intro to Samāsas; • Four main types of Samāsa; • Avyayībhāva; • Tatpuruṣa; • Bahuvrīhi ; • Dvandva; Sandhi test; Samāsa (Compounds) Test - Supplementary Tests booklet in Tutors' Section of website	**H5** (23 mins) **H4** (17 mins) **H7** (29 mins) Extra practice: 'Stories from Mahabharata' Part 3

2 year course leading to IGCSE: Target: 10 weeks, devoting 3 or 4 hours per week

Term 4: Knowledge of Sanskrit: Learning about sentence present participles; starting Epic Civilisation study

TIMING	*FREE COURSEBOOKS and main syllabus topics*	*VIDEOS* **Series 2**
10 weeks <u>Suggested study structure:</u> - allow 1 week to revise *dhīmat* paradigms and start 'present participles' - continue for further 1 week to finish present participles including locative absolute - 1 week – work on revising all *krt* endings, plus exercises - 1 week - translate Eng to Sanskrit sentences; translate a Mahabharata Story from the Literature Study Aid for 2025 onwards - allow 3 weeks to learn pronouns & optative and translate English to Sanskrit sentences - 1 week - study Ch 1 Epic Civ and learn definitions at the end of the chapter - 1 week revise language topics and take tests - 1 week - study Ch 2 Epic Civ and learn definitions at the end of the chapter	**Book: Two Year Course, Term 4** **(for extra practice also see 'IGCSE Part One' booklet – see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books)** • Present Participles; (Locative absolute – video H9) • *kṛtya*; • Review of all *kṛt* ending words; • Eng – Skt practice Sheet 4 **SET TEXT MAHĀBHĀRATA STORY 6 – Droṇa's Son Tries to Destroy the Child in Uttarā's Womb** • review the IGCSE vocabulary used in the 6 Mahābhārata Stories • ***idam*, *ayam*, *iyam*;** • **pronoun substitutes for *aham* and *tvam;*** • **Optative;** • Eng to Skt practice Sheet 5 Epic Civilisation Ch 1 **– see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** Epic Civilisation Ch 2 **– see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** Tests from Supplementary Tests booklet in Tutors' Section of website Practise verses from the Bhagavad Gita exam literature selection	**H8** (16 mins) **H9** (16 mins)

2 year course leading to IGCSE: Target: 11 (6 + 5) weeks, devoting 3 or 4 hours per week

Term 5 (a): Knowledge of Sanskrit: Epic Civilisation, Set Literature 'Hitopadeśa', and revision

TIMING	*FREE COURSEBOOKS and main syllabus topics*	*VIDEOS* **Series 2**
3 weeks Suggested study structure: - 1 week - practise 'perfect' verb paradigm; learn common forms on p 5 - study Ch 3 Epic Civ and learn definitions at the end of the chapter - 2 weeks study and revise verbs as part of examination preparation - during this time, translate **Pañcatantra** –extract 1, from the 'Literature Study Aid for 2025 onwards' - read through the dhatu/verb charts	**Book: Two Year Course, Term 5** **(for extra practice also see 'IGCSE Part Two' booklet - – see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books)** • Epic Civilisation Ch 3; **– see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** • **Perfect Tense;** pp 5, 6 (see paradigm sheet) **Overview:** • Review of past forms; p 6 **Stories from the Pañcatantra** – The Merchant &Weighing Scales -see: **IGCSE Set Literature Study Aid - – see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** • Review of verbs; p 13 • Dhatu development;	**H10** (21 mins) **H12** (being updated)
3 weeks Suggested study structure: - work on 'case endings' exercises - study 'Indeclinables' list - during this time, translate **Pañcatantra** – The Merchant &Weighing Scales**: extract 2**	• Uses of Case endings; • Indeclinables; (Metre & Stress can be noted but not in the syllabus) **Stories from the Pañcatantra** – The Merchant &Weighing Scales **extract 2** Practise verses from the Bhagavad Gita exam literature selection	**H10** (21 mins)

2 year course leading to IGCSE: Target: 11 (6 + 5) weeks, devoting 3 or 4 hours per week

Term 5b: Knowledge of Sanskrit: Epic Civilisation, Set Literature, vocabulary practice

TIMING	*FREE COURSEBOOKS and main syllabus topics*	*VIDEOS* **Series 2**
5 weeks <u>Suggested study structure:</u> - 2 weeks - study Ch 4 Epic Civ and learn definitions at the end of the chapter; also translate 'The Merchant &Weighing Scales - 3 weeks - study Ch 5 Epic Civ and learn definitions at the end of the chapter; also translate 'The Frog & the Snake' - Parts 1 & 2. Study the IGCSE vocabulary associated with the **Pañcatantra** so far.	• **IGCSE Set Literature Study Aid – see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** • Epic Civilisation Ch 4; **see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** **Stories from the Pañcatantra** – The Merchant &Weighing Scales - Extract 3 • Epic Civilisation Ch 5; **– see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** **Stories from the Pañcatantra** – The Frog & the Snake - Parts 1 & 2 Epic Civilisation Test/Past Paper 2 questions Practise verses from the Bhagavad Gita exam literature selection	

2 year course leading to IGCSE: Target: 11 weeks, devoting 3 or 4 hours per week

Term 6: Knowledge of Sanskrit: Epic Civilisation, Set Literature, vocabulary practice and Examination preparation

TIMING	*FREE COURSEBOOKS and main syllabus topics*	*VIDEOS* **Series 2**
4 weeks Suggested study structure: - 2 weeks – half of each session, work on translation of a Bhagavad Gita verse; other half of session, work on translation of '**The Lion and the Cave'** - 2 weeks - half of each session, work on translation of a Bhagavad Gita verse; other half of session, learn approx. 20 words each time from the official IGCSE list.	**IGCSE Set Literature Study Aid – see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** **Stories from the Pañcatantra - Parts 1 & 2 The Lion and the Cave** 6 verses from the Bhagavad Gita exam literature selection: **1.14, 1.39, 3.43, 4.38, 5.20, 5.25,** • next 6 verses from the Bhagavad Gita exam literature selection: **6.29, 6.30, 8.18, 8.22, 10.5 10.11,** • Learn IGCSE examination vocabulary	**H12** (23 mins) **H13** (23 mins)
4 weeks Suggested study structure: - half of each session, work on translation of a Bhagavad Gita verse; other half work on Specimen Papers and language revision	**IGCSE Set Literature Study Aid – see ISER site under Books & Materials/Free Books** • Remaining 8 verses from the Bhagavad Gita exam literature selection **10.33, 12.12, 13.13, 13.17, 13.22, 17.15, 17.16, 18.47** • Exam preparation: watch exam preparation videos, 'Paper 1' and 'Paper 2'; work through Specimen papers; revise set literature and Epic Civilisation • **Language Revision Workbook – see ISER site under https://www.sanskritexams.org.uk/books-materials/ (no. 9)**	**H13** (23 mins) **Exam Prep: 'Paper 1'** (33 mins) **'Paper 2'** (28 mins)
3 weeks Suggested revision study structure: - Divide sessions into 4: Vocabulary, Set Literature, Epic Civilisation and language study	• Continue examination preparation	

Free study aids and resources specifically designed for this examination are available from https://www.sanskritexams.org.uk/ Registration for Examinations takes place in January through a Cambridge Assessment Centre. https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/why-choose-us/find-a-cambridge-school/

Contact ISER for further information as needed.

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