

## An overview of Option A IGCSE Sanskrit study

### **Option A Language:**

- Basic Sanskrit word order (e.g. verb comes at the end)
- writing the Sanskrit script in transliteration
- Noun/pronoun paradigms: *rāma, sītā, mitram, hari, guru* and *nadī*  
*tat* in 3 genders  
*aham* and *tvam*
- Verb paradigms: *bhavati* and *vardhate* in 3 tenses,  
*asti* (present) and *āsīt* (past)  
imperatives with the middle person, singular and plural, for verbs like *bhavati*

Ability to use the paradigm endings, where applicable, with other Option A vocabulary words.

- Past passive participles ending in *-ta* (e.g. *gata* ‘gone’); the use of a *-tvā* gerund (e.g. *gatvā* ‘having gone’), and its change to *-ya* after a prefix (e.g. *āgatya* ‘having come’)
- *iti* after direct speech
- *saha* with the third case ending (e.g. *rāmeṇa saha* ‘together with Rāma’)
- *samīpe* with the sixth case ending (e.g. *rāmasya samīpe* ‘near Rāma’)
- *dadāti* and *namati* with the fourth case ending (e.g. *rāmāya phalam dadāti* ‘He gives fruit to Rāma’)
- the use of the sixth case ending to show possession (e.g. *rāmasya pustakam asti* - ‘Rāma has a book’).

### **Option A Literature:**

- **10 Mahābhārata Prose Set Texts** incorporating some additional language details (see help given in Exam Preparation Book on website). Also see video 13 <http://www.sanskritexams.org.uk/video-13.html>
- Epic Civilization Course: provides a brief overview of literature associated with the Sanskrit tradition.

**For Full details:** – see the Examination Syllabus 0499 on the website: [www.sanskritexams.org.uk](http://www.sanskritexams.org.uk)

***Free Resources from [www.sanskritexams.org.uk](http://www.sanskritexams.org.uk):***

Paradigm lists – see Free Option A Resources page

Exam Syllabus (see above) - includes Option A Vocabulary (p 7), Option A Set Texts (p 21), Epic Civilization Booklet (p 33)

Past Exam Papers

**Study Books** (available online from Amazon): The Stories of Krishna, Parts 1 & 2 (introductory); The Story of Rama, Parts 1 & 2.