



GRADE 9 Subject Choice



Introduction

- At Oakhill School, we work towards and write the Independent Examination Board Examinations (IEB) in matric.
- Candidates who write the final exit examination will obtain the **National Senior Certificate** (NSC).
- To enter the **National Senior Certificate** (NSC) examination, a learner must offer a 7 subject package made up of compulsory subjects and elective subjects.
- The General Education and Training (GET) phase will be completed at the end of Grade 9. All pupils who meet the academic requirements will be promoted to Grade 10.
- The Further Education and Training (FET) phase starts in Grade 10 and is a three-year programme which ends in Grade 12 with the writing of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

Differences between GET and FET

- In Grades 10-12, there is a far greater focus on exams in the compilation of marks: 75% Examination + 25% Continuous Assessment (CASS) = 100%
- FET is a three year programme. Although it is allowed to change a subject in Grades 10 and 11, it needs to be carefully considered.
- Some subjects change in the FET phase (e.g.: Natural Sciences divides into Physical Sciences and Life Sciences, while Social Sciences becomes History and Geography).
- Additional subjects may be taken; however, pupils need to be aware this will be mostly self-study and online with input from the respective teacher on an appointment basis. Students may continue with the additional subject and write the NSC in that subject.
- Students are also encouraged to consider the AP Maths and/or AP English Programmes.
- There is no extra charge for the tuition of an 8th subject, AP Maths, and AP English, but they do carry an additional IEB examination fee.
- Music theory tuition does not carry an extra charge, but the practical component and exams do.

Requirements for the NSC exam

- To enter the **National Senior Certificate** (NSC) examination, a learner must take a 7 subject package with the following specifications:
- The 4 compulsory subjects (English, Afrikaans, Maths Core/Literacy, Life Orientation).
- At least 3 elective subjects. For 2022, the elective subjects are offered in 3 lines and one subject in each of the 3 lines must be selected. You can, however, take an 8th subject in any of the subject lines.
- Additional subjects: Music (one of the approved External Music Examination Bodies, namely the ABRSM, Trinity-Guildhall and Unisa Practical & Theory Music Examination); Advanced Programme English; Advanced Programme Mathematics.
- The offering of a subject is considered based on the demand for the subject.
- All subjects carry 20 credits, except for Life Orientation which is a 10-credit subject.
- The standard IEB examination fee is for a basic seven subject package. Additional subjects as well as the AP Maths and English Programmes do carry an additional examination fee.

Subjects (these are not the subject lines)

Compulsory subjects	Commerce	Sciences	Humanities	Additional subjects
English Home Language	Accounting	Computer Applications Technology (CAT)	Dramatic Arts	AP English
Afrikaans First Additional Language	Business Studies	Information Technology (IT)	Geography	AP Mathematics
Mathematics Core OR Mathematics Literacy		Life Sciences	History	Music
Life Orientation		Physical Sciences	Visual Arts	

Should you consider taking an 8th subject?

- Keep in mind that tertiary institutions consider the best 6 subject results, excluding Life Orientation.
- The following are important considerations when choosing an 8th subject:
 - You need to be comfortable with self-study.
 - Much of your learning might be online (we are also looking at introducing one or two lessons per week to facilitate an 8th elective).
 - You need to be motivated.
 - Students taking additional subjects need to comply with ALL requirements.
 - AP subjects DO carry significance at overseas universities.
 - An 8th subject is a good idea if you are uncertain about your choices.
 - A note on Music: The Theory component is offered as an academic subject, but not the practical. Information on this is available in the prospectus and at the Music department. Students are able to further their Music studies at a university of their choice after meeting the requirements of a Practical Grade 7 and a Theory Grade 6, which will allow them a university audition.

Requirements for higher education

- All Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor degree programmes require a National Senior Certificate (NSC), but differ in the achievement ratings required. Some universities assign points for different levels of achievement and set a specified minimum number of points for admission to individual faculties. **It is important that the different university requirements are investigated when making subject choices.**
- The National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) are important for SA university entry. The dates for the NBTs can be accessed on university websites or the NBT [website](#) itself. Universities use the NBT results as provisional admission filters.
- Many universities grant provisional acceptance based on the final Grade 11 results, with final admission based on final Grade 12 results.
- Oakhill strives to provide each student with every opportunity to earn a Bachelor Degree Pass in Matric which will provide access to university study. At the same time, we do recognise that the university pathway is not meant for everyone, but will endeavour to guide all students to achieve the best results possible.

What to consider when choosing subjects?

- Personal interest and enthusiasm for a subject.
- Aptitude for a subject.
- Relevance to a particular career.
- Entry requirements for tertiary education (and for a particular course and at a particular institution).
- The relevance to in-demand skills (“hard skills” AND “soft skills”).
- Consider a balanced subject selection.
- Research, research, research (speak to teachers, older siblings, browse websites of tertiary institutions).

How can parents guide their children?

- Which subjects do you like? Which do you dislike?
- What about those subjects do you like / dislike?
- What role does the teacher play in how you feel?
- What will you miss out on if you don't take that subject?
- What are you scared of?
- What can be done to address that fear?
- What excites you about matriculating with that subject?
- How will this subject prepare you for life / tertiary studies?
- Why do you say that?
- What is the worst that can happen?
- How bad will that really be?
- If our roles were reversed, what would your advice to me be?
- [Hilde Hay Career Guidance Blog](#)

Career guidance links

- <http://www.careers.uct.ac.za/> (UCT)
- <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/career-advice/career-advice> (Stellenbosch University)
- <https://careerguidancecapetown.co.za/contact-us/> (Annie Oehley)
- <https://www.hildehay.co.za/career-guidance-blog/30-subject-choice-part-1-the-future-can-be-scary.html> (Hilde Hay)

A few tertiary institution links

- [University of Cape Town](#)
- [Stellenbosch University](#)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)
- [University of KwaZulu-Natal](#)
- [University of Pretoria](#)
- [University of Johannesburg](#)
- [North-West University](#)
- [Rhodes University](#)
- [Cape Town Creative Academy](#)
- [Inscape](#)