



GRADE 9 Subject Choice



General information

Introduction

- At Oakhill School, we work towards and write the Independent Examination Board (IEB) examination in matric, resulting in the **National Senior Certificate** (NSC).
- To enter the 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.

Differences between GET and FET

- In the FET, there is a far greater focus on exams in compilation of marks: 75% Examination + 25% Continuous Assessment (CASS) = 100%.
- Some subjects change in FET (Natural Sciences becomes Physical Sciences and Life Sciences; Social Sciences becomes History and Geography).
- We recommend that students strongly consider taking Further Studies English and/or Further Studies Mathematics.
- There is no extra charge for the tuition of an 8th subject, FS Maths, and FS 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 / Mathematical Literacy, Life Orientation).
 - At least 3 elective subjects. The elective subjects are offered in 3 lines and one subject in each of the 3 lines must be selected.
 - Additional subjects: Music (one of the approved External Music Examination Bodies, namely the ABRSM, Trinity-Guildhall and Unisa Practical & Theory Music Examination); FS English; FS Mathematics.
- **The offering of a subject is based on demand.**
- All subjects carry 20 credits, except for LO, which is a 10-credit subject.

Subject lines for Grade 10 in 2024

Compulsory subjects	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Additional subject options
Afrikaans FAL	Business Studies	Dramatic Arts	Accounting	FS English
English HL	Geography	IT	CAT	FS Maths
Maths / Math Lit	Physical Science	Life Sciences	History	Music
Life Orientation	Visual Art	Tourism	Life Sciences	Business Studies
				Geography
				History
				Tourism

Should you consider taking an 8th subject?

- Keep in mind that tertiary institutions consider the best 6 subject results.
- The following are important considerations when choosing an 8th subject:
 - You need to be comfortable with self-study and therefore motivated.
 - Additional subjects require compliance with ALL requirements.
 - Further Studies subjects DO carry significance at overseas universities.
 - **Music:** The Theory component is offered as an academic subject, but not the Practical component.
 - 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

- **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. The grade 9 marks are a reasonable indication of this.
- Relevance to a particular career.
- Entry requirements for tertiary education and for specific courses.
- The relevance to in-demand skills (“hard skills” AND “soft skills”).
- Consider a balanced subject selection.
- Research (speak to teachers, siblings, browse websites of tertiary institutions).
- **Notes on particular subject choices:**
 - Regarding Physical Sciences, we do not recommend choosing this if grade 9 marks are below 65% for either Natural Sciences or Mathematics.
 - Physical Science can only be taken if students take Mathematics Core.
 - A mark above 60% for Mathematics is a good indication of aptitude for IT.
 - Regarding Accounting, we do not recommend choosing this if grade 9 Mathematics marks are below 65%.

How can parents guide their children?

- Which subjects do you like? Which do you dislike?
- What is it about those subjects that 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?
- 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?

Career guidance links

- [UCT](#)
- [Stellenbosch University](#)
- [Annie Oehley](#)
- [Hilde Hay](#)
- [Path start](#)
- [Adepta](#)

A few popular 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](#)