

## Subject Selection Brochure

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## What do I need to be aware

## of?

The National Senior Certificate ("NSC") is a high school qualification and is the school-leaving certificate in South Africa. This certificate is commonly known as the Matriculation (Matric) Certificate, as grade 12 is the matriculation grade.

The NSC is graded according to an achievement level system of 1 to 7.

| Level 7: | $80-100 \%$ | (Outstanding achievement) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Level 6: | $70-79 \%$ | (Meritorious achievement) |
| Level 5: | $60-69 \%$ | (Substantial achievement) |
| Level 4: | $50-59 \%$ | (Moderate achievement) |
| Level 3: | $40-49 \%$ | (Adequate achievement) |
| Level 2: | $30-39 \%$ | (Elementary achievement) |
| Level 1: | $0-29 \%$ | (Not achieved - Fail) |

The NSC can be passed on three levels, Bachelor's pass, Diploma pass and Certificate pass. You will need a Bachelor's pass (also known as Matriculation Exemption or ME) in order to apply for a degree course at a university or university of technology. A Bachelor's pass enables you to study for a higher certificate, diploma or bachelor's degree.

## To achieve a Bachelor's pass, you must:

- Pass 6 of the 7 subjects offered.
- Of which 4 subjects must be at least a 50\% (level 4) achievement.
- Including Home Language 40\% Compulsory Pass /excluding Life Orientation. 30\%
- Pass in the Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT).

Please note that these are the minimum requirements and in order to get into your university and course of choice, it is strongly advisable to achieve much higher grades. While you don't need to be directly concerned with matriculation exemption in making your subject choice, it indirectly impacts your choice as you'd like to get the best grades you can!

For good summaries on Matriculation Exemption and the different types of passes, click on these links:
https://www.careerhelp.org.za/content/understanding-matric-results

## What things do I need to consider when making my subject choice?

In making your subject choices, you are likely to hear a lot of advice from parents, siblings, peers, seniors, friends, teachers and career counselors. It is good to gather as much information as you can to make an informed decision. It is very important that the choice be yours and that you focus on the subject itself.

## Ask yourself:

1
Have I been doing this subject already?

2Do I enjoy this subject?

3Am I any good at it?

Do I know what the subject involves?

5Does this subject support my post grade 12 aspirations?

It is very common for young people of your age not to know what they are wanting to do as a career or study when they leave school. So don't panic! If you don't know what you're going to do, keep your subject choice as broad as possible (taking your interests into account) to give you the tertiary study options later. It is widely accepted that a broad base education is a good way to go for as long as possible in your schooling.

In choosing a career it's important to align your internal wiring, your interests and your personality. There are a variety of career questionnaires available that you can use to help you better understand yourself, your interests and aspirations. Subjects that interest you keep you engaged and also helps you to persevere when the courses get tougher and the workload increases.

Websites like:

- https://www.gostudy.net// are useful for discovering your areas of interest and
- http://www.humanmetrics.com/career-development is a great career development profiler. The profiler also includes a personality test (http://www.humanmetrics.com/personality).

Look, too, at the department of Education websites. They are great resources to engage with:

- http://ncap.careerhelp.org.za/ and
- https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Learners/SubjectChoiceand CareerPathing/tabid/980/Default.aspx

If there are subjects that interest you then you ask yourself if you are good at it. You are wanting to pick subjects that you can achieve well in and sometimes you can like a subject but don't achieve that well in it. The only exception in taking a subject that you don't necessarily do well in, is when that subject is a prerequisite for a course you might do when you leave school. This speaks to the next point.

Once you have subjects that interest you, find out more about what the content is and what the course involves to make sure you have the correct perception about the course.

If you do have an idea of what you might want to study after school (even if it is a vague idea) then look up the different institutions that offer those courses and see if there are any prerequisites that those courses might require you to have studied at school.

## So, for instance,

Mathematics Core or Mathematics Literacy

It is very important to make sure which of the two you will need for your tertiary studies. Most degrees and university studies require Mathematics. This doesn't mean that you can't study at university if you choose Mathematics Literacy, but it does limit your choices.

Be well-informed about application prerequisites for your desired field of study. Tertiary Institutions have very clear requirements for their courses and it is important that subject choices are informed by these requirements.

Physical Sciences and Information Technology require that you are also studying Mathematics.

Changing to Mathematics Literacy at a later stage could require other subject changes to conform to this requirement. (e.g. If you had Physics as a subject you would have to change it too if you change to Mathematics Literacy.)

Taking Mathematics Literacy still opens many study or career paths. If you're sure you are not going to study anything that requires Mathematics then taking Mathematical Literacy could be a wise choice as it not only could enable you to get good grades but the content contains very useful content for you to know about.

# Are there requirements for choosing some subjects? 

Yes, there are minimum requirements for certain subjects. These are prescribed in

## Mathematics

A minimum pass of $\mathbf{5 0 \%}$ at the end of Grade 9 is required to study Mathematics.

## Physical Sciences

50\% for NS Physical Science at the end of Grade 9
50\% pass for Mathematics at the end of Grade 9

## Accounting

60\% for EMS in Grade 9
50\% for Mathematics in Grade 9

## Life Sciences

The below results must be achieved in Grade 9 in order to take Life Sciences: English
Home Language 50\% or Afrikaans Home Language 50\% Mathematics 50\%
NS Life Science 50\%

## How do I go about making my choice?

Having taken into account what interests you, what you are good at, that you will obtain the minimum requirements for those subjects in Grade 9 and know what subjects you might need to choose in order to study what you'd like to when you finish school, you are now ready to make your subject choice!

Ten subjects are offered for Grades 8-9 Learners are required to take a minimum of 9 subjects, including a First Additional Language

- English (Home Language)
- (First Additional Language options)

Afrikaans (FAL), isiXhosa (FAL), isiZulu (FAL), and Sesotho (FAL)

- Mathematics
- Life Orientation
- Natural Sciences
- Technology
- Economic Management Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Creative Arts

The National Senior Certificate is a three-year qualification and 7 subjects must be taken in Grade 10, 11 and 12. If you'd like to take an additional subject, it must be taken from Grade 10 for Grades 11 and 12. In other words, you have to make that choice now as you are not allowed to apply later to register for an extra subject. You may however drop an additional subject at any time.


## Here are the subjects you can make your choices from:

There are seventeen subjects on offer for Grades 10-12. You are required to take a minimum of 7 subjects. Some subjects are compulsory or have minimal choice. For example, you have to take either Mathematics Core or Mathematical Literacy and Life Orientation is a compulsory subject across the phase.

## Compulsory subjects

- English (Home Language)
- First Additional Language (Afrikaans (FAL), isiXhosa (FAL), isiZulu (FAL) and Sesotho (FAL)
- Mathematics Core or Mathematical Literacy
- Life Orientation


## Elective subjects - Choose of 3 or more:

Choice of 3 or more subjects:
Any of the following subjects may be chosen within the following parameters. Please note that some subjects do have prerequisites.

## Group 1:

Learners can take one subject. Geography and History cannot be taken together.

- Physical Sciences [Mathematics is a prerequisite]
- Geography
- History
- Life Sciences

Group 2:
Learners can take a minimum of two subjects. Business Studies and Economics cannot be taken together.

- Accounting [Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy is a prerequisite]
- Business Studies
- Economics


## Group 3:

Learners can only take one subject.

- CAT
- Visual Arts
- Information Technology


## Languages



English Home Language level provides for language proficiency that reflects the mastery of basic interpersonal communication skills required in social situations and the cognitive academic skills essential for learning across the curriculum. Emphasis is placed on the teaching of the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills at this language level. This level also provides learners with a literary, aesthetic and imaginative ability that will provide them with the ability to recreate, imagine, and empower their understanding of the world they live in. However, the emphasis and the weighting for listening and speaking from Grades 7 onwards are lower than those of the reading and writing skills.

First Additional Language learners continue to strengthen their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Greater emphasis is therefore placed on using the First Additional Language for the purposes of thinking and reasoning. This enables learners to develop their cognitive academic skills, which they need to study subjects like Science in English. They also engage more with literary texts and begin to develop aesthetic and imaginative ability in their Additional Language.

## Mathematics



Mathematics is a language that makes use of symbols and notations for describing numerical, geometric and graphical relationships. It is a human activity that involves observing, representing and investigating patterns and qualitative relationships in physical and social phenomena and between mathematical objects themselves. It helps to develop mental processes that enhance logical and critical thinking, accuracy and problem solving that will contribute in decision-making. Mathematical problem solving enables us to understand the world (physical, social and economic) around us, and, most of all, to teach us to think creatively.

## Mathematical literacy



Mathematical Literacy allows individuals to make sense of, participate in and contribute to the twenty-first century world - a world characterised by numbers, numerically based arguments and data represented and misrepresented in a number of different ways. Such competencies include the ability to reason, make decisions, solve problems, manage resources, interpret information, schedule events and use and apply technology. Learners must be exposed to both mathematical content and real-life contexts to develop these competencies. Mathematical content is needed to make sense of real-life contexts; on the other hand, contexts determine the content that is needed.

## Life Orientation



Life Orientation is the study of the self in relation to others and to society. It addresses skills, knowledge, and values about the self, the environment, responsible citizenship, a healthy and productive life, social engagement, recreation and physical activity, careers and career choices. These include opportunities to engage in the development and practice of a variety of life skills to solve problems, to make informed decisions and choices and to take appropriate actions to live meaningfully and successfully in a rapidly changing society. It not only focuses on knowledge, but also emphasises the importance of the application of skills and values in real-life situations, participation in physical activity, community organisations and initiatives.

## Accounting



Accounting focuses on measuring performance, and processing and communicating financial information about economic sectors. This discipline ensures that principles such as ethical behaviour, transparency and accountability are adhered to. It deals with the logical, systematic and accurate selection and recording of financial information and transactions, as well as the compilation, analysis, interpretation and communication of financial statements and managerial reports for use by interested parties.

## Business Studies



Business Studies deals with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values critical for informed, productive, ethical and responsible participation in the formal and informal economic sectors. The subject encompasses business principles, theory and practice that underpin the development of entrepreneurial initiatives, sustainable enterprises and economic growth.

## Computer Applications Technology



Computer Applications Technology is the study of the integrated components of a computer system (hardware and software) and the practical techniques for their efficient use and application to solve everyday problems. The solutions to problems are designed, managed and processed via end-user applications and communicated using appropriate information and communication technologies (ICTs). ICTs are the combination of networks, hardware and software as well as the means of communication, collaboration and engagement that enable the processing, management and exchange of data, information and knowledge.

## Economics



Economics is the study of how individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations within our society choose to use scarce resources to satisfy their numerous needs and wants in a manner that is efficient, equitable and sustainable.

## Geography



Geography is the study of human and physical environments. It is a subject that combines topics related to physical and human processes over space and time. With the use of Geography, we can better understand our complex world. There are many branches of study in Geography. For example, in Physical Geography, we examine natural processes and features, including the atmosphere, landforms and ecosystems. In Human Geography, we investigate the activities and impact of people on Earth. The concept that unifies Geography is space. All geographical phenomena have a spatial dimension and operate in a continuously changing environment.

## History



History is the study of change and development in society over time. The study of history enables us to understand how past human action affects the present and influences our future, and it allows us to evaluate these effects. So, history is about learning how to think about the past, which affects the present, in a disciplined way. History is a process of enquiry. Therefore, it is about asking questions of the past: What happened? When did it happen? Why did it happen then? What were the short-term and long-term results? It involves thinking critically about the stories people tell us about the past, as well as the stories that we tell ourselves.

## Life Sciences



Life Sciences is the scientific study of living things from molecular level to their interactions with one another and their environments. To be accepted as a science, it is necessary to use certain methods for broadening existing knowledge, or discovering new things. These methods must lend themselves to replication and a systematic approach to scientific inquiry. The methods include formulating hypotheses and carrying out investigations and experiments as objectively as possible to test these hypotheses. Repeated investigations are carried out and adapted. The methods and results are analysed, evaluated and debated before the community of scientists accepts them as valid.

## Physical Sciences



Physical Sciences investigate physical and chemical phenomena. This is done through scientific inquiry, application of scientific models, theories and laws in order to explain and predict events in the physical environment. This subject also deals with society's need to understand how the physical environment works in order to benefit from it and responsibly care for it. All scientific and technological knowledge, including Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), is used to address challenges facing society. Indigenous knowledge is knowledge that communities have held, used or are still using; this knowledge has been passed on through generations and has been a source of many innovations and developments including scientific developments. Some concepts found in Indigenous Knowledge Systems lend themselves to explanation using the scientific method while other concepts do not; this is still knowledge however.

## Visual Arts



The visual arts represent a broad field of creative practice that involves the hand, the eye, the intellect and the imagination in conceptualising and crafting two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects and environments which reflect the aesthetic, conceptual and expressive concerns of individuals or groups. The subject Visual Arts offers learners a way to meaningfully engage with and respond to their world. It provides opportunities to stimulate and develop learners' intellect, engaging their creative imagination through visual and tactile experiences and the innovative use of materials and technology in the realisation of their ideas. This provides the basis for learners to develop an individual visual language, which in turn is informed and shaped by immersion in the visual culture of the past and present. Learners acquire the capacity to make practical and aesthetic decisions in the development of a coherent body of work, and become actively involved in shaping physical, social and cultural environments.

## Information Technology



Information Technology is the study of the various interrelated physical and non-physical technologies used for the capturing of data, the processing of data into useful information and the management, presentation and dissemination of data. Information Technology studies the activities that deal with the solution of problems through logical and computational thinking. It includes the physical and non-physical components for the electronic transmission, access, and manipulation of data and information. Six main topic areas of the Information Technology curriculum support the teaching of digitally informed learners.

Solution Development
Communications Technologies
Systems Technologies
Internet Technologies
Data \& Information Management
Social Implications

## A few tertiary institutions:

- 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


## Thank you

