

Prestige College Schools Grade 10 Subject Selection Policy

Updated February 2019



INTRODUCTION

Passing Grade 9 brings to a close the General Education and Training Band (GET) and indicates the start of the Further Education and Training Band (FET) as from Grade 10. During the third term of the Grade 9 year, learners are required to select the subjects they will follow from Grades 10 to 12 from a list of compulsory subjects and elective subjects. Learners who successfully meet the annual requirements leading into Grade 12 are allowed to sit for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination at the end of their Grade 12 year. The NSC enables the learner to pursue further tertiary education opportunities. The NSC examinations are administered by the Department of Basic Education. There are certain rules and guidelines made available in the schools' application forms e.g. the maximum age limit per grade, which must be taken into consideration by parents and learners.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to inform parents and learners of Prestige College Schools of the subject offering and the regulations or rules governing the selection of subjects.

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NSC

The Grade 10 learner shall select a minimum of **7 subjects** to take through to Grade 12. These subjects will be configured as follows:

Two South African Languages of which one MUST BE English *
Mathematics OR Mathematics Literacy *
Life Orientation *
3 more Subjects from an approved and offered list of subjects

* Compulsory Subjects

Each subject is required to follow the Subject Assessment Guidelines (SAGS) set down by the Department of Education. These guidelines are approved annually by UMALUSI, the state's appointed accreditation body for the NSC.

SUBJECT CHOICES OFFERED AT PRESTIGE COLLEGE SCHOOLS

Prestige College Schools offer the following Subjects for Grade 10 selection:

SUBJECT GROUP	SUBJECT	REQUIREMENTS
HOME LANGUAGE *	English	
FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (FAL) * (select one)	Afrikaans; isiZulu; Setswana; Sepedi	
MATHEMATICS *	Mathematics OR Mathematical Literacy	50% average in Grade 9
HUMANITIES *	Life Orientation	
SCIENCES	Life Sciences Physical Sciences Information Technology	With Mathematics/ 50% average in NS Grade 9 With Mathematics/ 50% average in NS Grade 9
HUMAN & SOCIAL STUDIES	Geography	
BUSINESS, COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT STUDIES	Accounting Business Studies	With Mathematics/ 50% average for Maths in Grade 9 and 40% for EMS in Grade 9
SERVICES	Tourism	
ARTS	Design Dramatic Arts	Additional cost/classes

* Compulsory

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS (adapted from a GDE document)

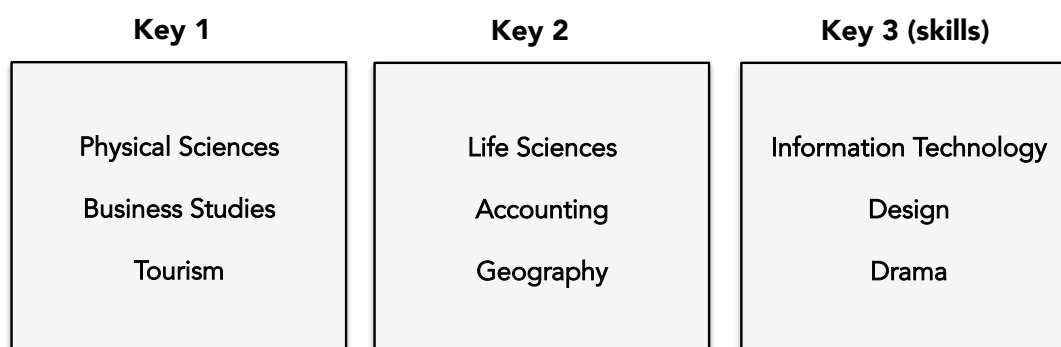
Subject	Description
Home Language	Your listening and speaking skills will be further developed with a greater emphasis on your reading and writing skills.
First Additional Language	Your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills will receive equal attention.
Mathematics	Focuses on solving problems using a range of mathematical tools. These tools are organised by topics such as algebra, calculus, measurement, trigonometry, statistics, probability and the mathematics of finance. Mastering mathematics empowers you to be a productive and valuable member of society.
Mathematical Literacy	The mastery of Mathematical Literacy will provide opportunities to analyse problems and devise ways to work mathematically in solving such problems. Opportunities to engage mathematically in this way will also assist learners to become astute consumers of mathematics reflected in the media.
Life Orientation	Life Orientation guides and prepares learners for life, and for its responsibilities and possibilities. This subject addresses knowledge, values, attitudes and skills about self, the environment, responsible citizenship, a healthy and productive life, social engagement, recreation and physical activity, and career choices.
Life Sciences	Focuses on physiology and anatomy, illnesses, cells and tissues, ecology and population dynamics, biotechnology, biodiversity and medical techniques, biochemistry, ethics of science, evolution and genetics.
Physical Sciences	Focuses on investigating phenomena through scientific inquiry, By applying scientific models, theories and laws you will learn how to explain and predict events in your physical environment.
Information Technology	Focuses on solutions for Information and Communication technologies (ICT). Includes hardware, software, networks and e-communication. Covers the principles of computing by using a programming language, and developing solutions to problems by integrating application software with programming.
Geography	Focuses on the changes in physical and human processes and spatial patterns that have taken place over time and space. Exploration of the influence of many different forces, such as local-global connections, environmental deterioration, the movement of people, financial capital and social and political conflict.
Accounting	Focuses on financial records and record keeping. Explores management accounting and the management of financial resources. Includes ethics in financial matters. There is a strong demand for accountants and bookkeepers world-wide but it is increasingly becoming a technology-rich discipline.
Business Studies	Focuses on the exciting world of business, including the business environment, business opportunities, business roles and the functions of business. This will help you start your own business, or prepare you for a career in marketing, advertising, sales or any other commercial field.
Tourism	Focuses on what is required to meet the needs and expectations of travellers. Develops insight into tourism practices and socio-economic growth and includes organisation skills, work ethics and proper office etiquette.
Design	Focuses on the appreciation of the clothes we wear, the cars we drive and the buildings we live and work in. Entails the issues of purpose, function and aesthetics. It shapes the social, cultural and physical environment and opens up an exciting world of creative and personal exploration.
Dramatic Arts	Focuses on using physical, verbal, non-verbal, written, symbolic and kinaesthetic communication skills. You will learn how to present yourself,

SPECIFIC POLICY CONDITIONS

Please note that at Prestige College Schools we wish to ensure that our learners have the best possible opportunities to achieve the National Senior Certificate (NSC) with as strong a pass as possible. We therefore have put the following specific rules in place:

Keys for Elective Subjects

The elective subjects are grouped into three different keys as indicated below and learners would need to elect at least one subject from every key. This will ensure that all learners take at least one skills based subject, which is in keeping with our educational policy to supplement the acquisition of academic knowledge with skills that could be a door opener to employment or entrepreneurship. Selecting from these keys as indicated will allow learners to follow a *science* stream, a *commercial* stream or a *general* stream, depending on how the subjects are chosen.



Acceptable Performance Level

- we will not allow a learner to start Grade 10 unless he/she has achieved an acceptable pass in Grade 9. Should such a pass not be achieved in Grade 9 we will advise the learner to repeat the Grade, taking into consideration our maximum age per grade rule as indicated on the official application form;
- we reserve the right to assess learners both from within and outside the school before being allowed to start Grade 10, to give us the confidence that the learner has sufficient prior knowledge and achievement to perform adequately in Grade 10;
- Prestige College Schools do not subscribe to the policy of Condonement of Learners who have not achieved the minimum standards set for core subjects.

Class Sizes

- for a Prestige College School to offer a subject at Grade 10 level it will require a minimum of 15 learners to have chosen such a subject.

Language Policy

- the Home Language offered is English. The First Additional Language (FAL) is chosen from Afrikaans, isiZulu; Setswana or Sepedi and will be determined per school based on the Class Size Policy as included above. This will not apply in the case of learners with official immigrant concessions.

Subject Specific Requirements

- Choice of First Additional Language will depend on the FAL taken from Grade 7 to 9;
- Mathematics will only be offered to learners who achieved 50% and above for Mathematics in Grade 9;
- Physical Science and Accounting will only be offered if the learner also selects Mathematics;
- Learners taking Design as a subject will be charged termly for additional design materials and may also be required to attend afternoon classes.

Subject Changes

These are according to the Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 as ammended in Government Gazette, No 39435 of 20 November 2015, and as adapted for Prestige College Schools:

- Grade 10 learners may change a maximum of two subjects and these requests have to be made before 30 June by the parents/guardians;
- Grade 11 learners may change a maximum of two subjects, but subject to the approval of the School Principal and these requests must be made by the parents/guardians before 31 March.
- In both the Grade 10 and 11 subject changes, the School Principal will only consider changes to subjects where he/she believes the learner will be able to make up for lost exposure to the subject.
- In expectional cases only, and by discretion of the School Principal, a learner in Grade 11 may change one more subject AFTER the release of the final year results for Grade 11; and these requests must be submitted by parents or guardians before 15 December of the same year.
- NO subject changes are allowed in the Grade 12 year.
- Learners are not allowed to apply for an additional subject (8th) after starting with Grade 10.

Process for Subject Changes

- Early identification of learners where this is indicated by subject teachers in consultation with deputy principal/principal;
- Consultation with parents and learner in question and reaching of consensus that a change will be in in best interest of the learner;

- After agreement is reached a memorandum of agreement will be signed between all the parties concerned

GUIDELINES TO ASSIST IN SUBJECT CHOICES

Prestige College Schools will assist wherever possible to expose learners to the various career options and related subject choices, through information sessions, attendance of career expo's or even arranging such at the respective schools. It is however important that learners and their parents research different career paths and study options as important input to the subject choice process. This is also a very good opportunity for learners and parents to align around the support the learner will require to successfully pursue the career path or study options chosen. The following are guidelines that should be kept in mind when engaging with the process of subject selection:

- Past academic records remain clear indicators of the specific strengths and even interests of the learner and should not be ignored;
- Where a learner remains uncertain or confused, we advise strongly that he/she engages the services a professional career counsellor, which most universities offer as part of their child and adult guidance facilities;
- Parents and learners must take into consideration that the world of work is evolving at a rapid pace and many current jobs may not exist in future, whilst many new jobs will be created by especially the digital economy – where technology skills will become highly sought after;
- Studying towards a professional career e.g. medical practitioner, law practitioner, chartered accountant requires university study, but there are many jobs that are considerably more skills-based, and often in much higher demand and for which one can do tertiary training at any number of institutions, other than just universities;
- Learners must take cognisance of the rise of entrepreneurship as a way to control one's career and financial destiny and subjects that guide one towards developing the thinking and practical skills around entrepreneurship should be strongly considered;
- Even though the career choices one makes now, lay the groundwork for one's engagement of the career world, it should be noted that this is not a final call and that so many different options can still be followed as one gains more understanding and knowledge of how the world of work provides opportunities to live out one's passion;
- It is a fact that many people who studied themselves into an occupation, are no longer in that occupation, but the tertiary studies they did stand them good in the careers they may have chosen later in life, including being entrepreneurs.

STEPS TO COMPLETE THE SUBJECT CHOICE PROCESS

- Discuss career options as a family, based on research done and information gathered;
- Seek additional advice and career guidance (contact tertiary institutions);
- Where possible try to speak to people currently in the jobs you are considering and even try to spend time shadowing them for a day at work;
- Refer to Life Orientation tasks, past reports and ask subject teachers for advice;
- Research tertiary institution requirements for studying with them ;
- Choose your First Additional Language (FAL) based on what was taken in Grades 7-9;
- Decide on Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy, specifically based on your Grade 9 results and advice from the subject head and/or principal;
- Select your other three subjects, taking note of the requirements or stipulations on the subject choice form;
- Indicate another subject that you can take in case one which you chose is under-subscribed and cannot be offered;
- Finalise your subject choice and submit as per the deadlines of the School.

SUBJECT CHOICE FORM TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL

Name of Learner:

Grade & Class: _____

School where Grade 9 completed:

Please indicate with a with a cross (X) which subjects are chosen (remember to study requirements as contained in Subject Choice Policy):

SUBJECTS	CHOICE (X)
English	X
Afrikaans	
Sepedi	
Setswana	
isiZulu	
Mathematics	
Maths Literacy	
Life Orientation	X
Physical Sciences	
Life Sciences	
Information Technology	
Accounting	
Business Studies	
Geography	
Tourism	
Design	
Dramatic Arts	

Please indicate with a capital letter A (A) the subject you wish to hold in reserve in case a subject you chose is under-subscribed.

Signature of Learner

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date: _____