

Outline of subjects – curriculum for BAC 2015

NEW OBLIGATORY SUBJECTS

Philosophy

Philosophy is an obligatory course in Years 6 and 7 and may be taken as a 2-period course or a 4-period course. Philosophy 4 is the only 4-period option that the pupils are unfamiliar with from Year 5.

Philosophy is the study into the way we think about ourselves and our world. We will study some of the great thinkers of our civilisation; we will read some selections from the classic texts and we will discuss some of the most important ideas that have contributed to the shaping of our modern world. The 4-period course will divide up in this way:

Year 6: moral philosophy, existentialism, political philosophy

Year 7: political philosophy (cont'd), philosophy of mind, the theory of knowledge

Studying philosophy gives an excellent introduction to many of the most important thinkers and ideas of our modern age. It is always useful to mention philosophy on your university application, especially for those students who are applying for an arts or humanities degree. The study of philosophy is a great foundation upon which to build.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Art 2

Art enlarges our knowledge of, and insight into the surrounding world by giving shape to the important outer and inner characteristics of this world. Through a process of exploration and ordering, art fosters our power to imagine, and our ability to represent experiences, feelings, ideas and opinions, resulting in their being made visible, as personally created images and objects.

Art develops the acquisition of skills. By our participation in the processes necessary to solve the problems of image and form creation, we gain experience in the handling of a diversity of materials, tools and techniques.

Art helps us to acquire knowledge about the function and meaning of art in society, enabling us to gain insight into the way historical, cultural and social influences and differences have determined the content, meaning and form of images. We learn how factual information, norms, values and feelings can be conveyed through images.

Computing (ICT)

The course is intended for students who wish to widen their knowledge and experience in the ICT field in preparation for their studies at University and future career. Students who have not taken the option course in Years 4 and 5 can successfully follow the course.

Compulsory topics are Database and Web Publishing. Examples of optional subjects are Advanced Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Graphical Applications, Computer Hardware, Computer Architecture, Viruses and Programming.

The syllabus depends largely on an agreement between teacher and students and on the rapid development of information technology.

Drama

The main aim of this course is to stage a play at the end of the school year. Students will be required therefore to improve individual skills of self-presentation (pantomime, body-movement, speaking) as well as techniques to perform in a group. Both improvised and scripted dialogues will be used.

Students will also learn the theatrical know-how of creating a scene from scratch. Previous experience is welcome but not required. An emphasis will be placed on developing students' own ideas and trying to make them feasible and stage worthy.

This course is an excellent opportunity to gain or to improve your self-confidence in a group. At the same time it should prove to be motivating and exciting to interact with one another and to delve into other realities with others.

Economics 2

This course is available only to students who have not previously studied Economics as a main option in Years 4 and 5. It is an introductory course which covers basic economic ideas but allows for in-depth study in selected areas. The main topics include:

- Market economies and the determination of prices
- Why wages differ
- Money, Banking, Saving and Borrowing
- International Economics – Trade, Exchange Rates, Globalisation
- Development Economics – Poverty, International Debt and Aid
- Household Budgeting including Student Finance
- Environmental Economics
- Economics of the European Union

The course content is flexible and will include current issues of interest to economists. The students will take part in an investment game where they will invest a virtual sum of money in the Stock Market and hope to make it grow.

Laboratory Biology/Chemistry

This course is designed for students who are taking Biology and/or Chemistry option courses. The aim of the course is to provide students with the opportunity to conduct a wide range of experimental work not carried out during the more theoretical option courses.

Experiments support and expand the option courses, developing practical laboratory skills essential for university. The recording of results and drawing of conclusions are important aspects of this course. During the 6th Year, students will be expected to conduct their own project work involving a topic of particular interest to them. Laboratory work is enjoyable and much less formal than theoretical lessons.

L5

To learn a fifth language means to follow a course which is centred around many practical linguistic activities in class, such as gathering and providing instructions and information, introducing each other, reading signs, timetables and leaflets. As the students have already learnt the structure of at least three other languages, the progress is normally very quick so that in a surprisingly short time students are able to communicate about daily life in this language. In the second year (Year 7), the first short articles about the country's culture and short novels in the language can be studied and enjoyed.

In principle, any official language of the European Union countries may be chosen, provided there is a teacher available and the required minimum number of pupils. It is indicated on the form for which languages teachers are currently available.

Music 2

The Music course has a flexible syllabus which is designed to enable students to pursue their own particular interests as far as possible. The course is open to all students; neither literacy nor proficiency on a musical instrument is demanded. It is more important that students should have a passion or interest that they wish to explore.

The Department now has a well-equipped studio and user-friendly composing software. Composing and listening work will incorporate rock, pop and jazz – rather than classical repertoires (covered by the 4-period course).

Politics

Politics is the study of how we should govern our society and how we should try to solve some of the great problems in our modern world. We will look at the way some important European and American countries are governed, particularly the USA and Britain. We will also study important international issues, like the Iraq war, terrorism, nuclear weapons, arms control etc. We will analyse the history of political movements, such as socialism, anarchism, liberalism and conservatism etc.

On the course we will invite speakers from major political parties to present their ideas and we will organise trips relevant to our studies. This course will appeal to those students who enjoy discussing and debating international political issues and want to know more about the ideas which dominate political life.

Sociology

Sociology is the examination and understanding of the society in which we live through a variety of research methods. The subject forms a part of many university courses including psychology, law, medicine, journalism, anthropology, cultural studies, political science and many others. The course looks first at sociology's methods of investigation and then at a variety of social structures. Currently these include: the family; stratification (social class and status); deviance and crime; and education. In the second part of Year 7, the following shorter topics have been studied in recent years: mass media; development; religion; and postmodernism.