

VICTORIA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



GRADE 9

SUBJECT CHOICE

FET Subject Requirements

Subject Choice Requirements:

Learners must take the Language of Learning and Teaching (English Home Language), an Additional Language (Afrikaans or isiXhosa), Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy and Life Orientation. Learners must also take a minimum of three other subjects.

Promotion and Certification Requirements:

Learners must pass six of their seven subjects – three subjects, including English Home Language, with an achievement rating of at least 3 (40%-49%) and three subjects with an achievement rating of at least 2 (30%-39%). This will give them a higher certificate pass at Matric.

To qualify for a “bachelor's pass” the learner must obtain an achievement rating of at least 4 (50%-59%) in at least four of their subjects (excluding Life Orientation). For many courses, even higher marks are required. Consider the points needed for the courses you are interested in.

Entrance Requirements:

Each subject has certain entrance requirements for learners to meet before they will be able to do the subject in Grade 10. If learners are failing obvious feeder subjects (i.e. EMS is the feeder subject of Accounting) they will not be able to choose those subjects for Grade 10. In addition, limits on class size may result in a learner with low marks in Grade 9 not being accepted into a subject for Grade 10.

English Home Language

English is compulsory as it is the language of teaching and learning at VG.

Additional Languages

Afrikaans and isiXhosa are offered as Additional Languages at VGHS. Learners will be expected to be able to listen to and communicate with various target groups and in various contexts. They must be able to read and show understanding of texts, as well as critically evaluate and respond to them. Writing in a range of styles and for a variety of audiences, and the effective use of language structures is also included in these subjects.



Being able to communicate in isiXhosa or Afrikaans will improve opportunities in a wide variety of careers, including Marketing, Advertising, Broadcasting and Business.

Mathematics

Learners must choose between Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy. Mathematics in Grade 10 includes exponents; number patterns; functions; algebraic manipulation of expressions; simple and compound interest; equations and systems of equations; volume and area of prisms; polygons; co-ordinate geometry; the basics of trigonometry; and data handling and statistics.

It is highly recommended that a learner should consider Mathematics as her option if she achieves above 50% in Term 3, as Mathematics is generally required by Business and Science faculties at university.

Mathematical Literacy

Mathematical Literacy is offered as an alternative to Mathematics. Mathematical Literacy provides the knowledge and skills necessary for the application of Mathematics in everyday life. Mathematical Literacy uses real-life contexts to explore mathematical concepts. In Grade 10 learners focus on basic skills such as calculations with numbers, patterns, relationships, and representations. Application topics include finance, measurement, maps,

statistics, and probability. The focus in Grade 10 is on contexts that the learners experience in their lives. As they progress to Grade 12, the focus broadens to include national and international contexts.

Life Orientation

Life Orientation is a compulsory subject for all Grade 10 learners and forms part of the core requirements for the National Senior Certificate.

CHOICE ONE:

Physical Sciences



Science helps one to understand how the world works. Physics unravels the secrets of forces, energy, motion, and electronics and builds critical thinking and problem-solving ability. Chemistry is essential for understanding the way materials in the universe behave and improves spatial reasoning.

Science is studied through experiment, observation, and deduction to produce reliable explanation of phenomena with reference to already existing theory.

Learners will need to work independently and

consistently to achieve good results in this subject. Science prepares learners for careers in research and development, in health sciences, telecommunications and engineering, among others. A learner should consider Physical Sciences only if they achieve above 60 % in Grade 9 Mathematics.

OR

Consumer Studies

Consumer Studies enables learners to become responsible and informed consumers of food, clothing, housing, furnishings and household equipment; and to use resources optimally and in a sustainable manner. The subject also promotes the application of knowledge and skills in the production of quality marketable food products that will meet consumer needs.

In Grade 10 Consumer Studies content ranges from dietary guidelines and micro-biology to the socio-economic and cultural considerations in clothing choices to ergonomics. Consumer Studies provides a foundation for career paths in the catering, fashion, and interior design fields.

OR

Life Sciences

Life Sciences is a subject that allows one to place oneself in context with the rest of the world. In Grade 10 key areas of discovery include: cells and molecular studies; structures and control of processes in basic life systems of both plants and animals; environmental studies; and diversity, change and continuity. In Grade 10 there is a dominant focus on environmental awareness, biodiversity, and sustainability.



In Grade 11 and 12 Life Sciences deals with diversity, anatomy, evolutionary progression, fossil studies and organic systems.

Learners need to be able to communicate effectively and learn large volumes of content. Learners need at least 50% for Natural Sciences well as proficiency in English to take Life Sciences in Grade 10.

CHOICE TWO:

Geography

Geography is the earth science that allows one to discover the connection between people and the planet. In Grade 10 key areas include: climatology; the origins of the earth; population geography; the study of organisations; map work skills (built upon what is taught in Grade 9) with an introduction to GIS (*Geomatica*). Grade 11 and 12 focus more on Africa and South Africa's place in the world.



To do well in Geography needs lateral and critical thinking. One needs to be computer literate, able to communicate effectively and be enthusiastic about learning. Learners need at least 40% in Grade 9 Social Studies for map reading and analysis. English proficiency is also very important.

OR

Accounting

Accounting focuses on measuring performance; and processing and communicating financial information about economic sectors. It deals with the logical, systematic, and accurate selection and recording of financial information and transactions. In Grade 10 learners will be introduced to a broad range of knowledge and skills. These include the collection, selection, recording and analysis of financial data; the deepening of an understanding of generally accepted accounting practice and concepts; the ability to organise and manage one's own finances; and the ability to solve problems in an analytical way. Accounting provides a solid foundation for learners wishing to pursue a career path in business, banking, or management.

Learners will be expected to pass EMS with at least 50% in Grade 9 to be allowed to take Accounting in Grade 10. 60% in Mathematics is recommended.

OR

Dramatic Arts



Dramatic Arts develops and promotes creativity, confidence, and inter-personal skills. Throughout grades 10 to 12, Drama will include theatre history (African and global); theory of voice, speech, and bodywork; the analysis of dramatic texts; and a practical component. Drama is fun and creative, but also needs hard work.

Learners need commitment, must be able to write analytical essays, and must be enthusiastic about practical work. Weekend and evening rehearsals are non-negotiable at times.

Learners who have not taken Drama specialisation in Grade 9, or who have done poorly in this course, may be required to audition as an entrance requirement.

Drama should equip learners to go directly into a performance career, or study further at tertiary level. The skills of confidence and good presentation that Drama provides will enhance almost every career path.

CHOICE THREE:

History

History is the study of change and development in society over time. History in Grade 10 looks at the world in the mid-15th century; the impact of conquest and colonialism; slavery; the Industrial Revolution; and the transformations in South Africa in the 16th and 17th centuries, among other things. The study of History provides a sound vocational platform for a wide range of jobs and careers, including marketing, public relations, media, management, and administration.



Learners need good communication skills (over 50% for English) and some ability in Grade 9 Social Studies (50% minimum).

OR

Business Studies

The subject 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.

To do well in Business Studies, learners will need to put time and effort into learning the theory and to have the ability to write essays. Thus, as well as a reasonable performance in EMS theory (50%) they need some ability in English (at least 50%).

OR

Life Sciences (See choice one for details)

BONUS EXTRAS

Substitute any of the subjects below into ANY of the three choices.

Music

Music is taught in the newly renovated Music School. It involves a theoretical and practical component.



Theory Component: Learners should have done some form of music

specialization in Grade 8 and Grade 9 and have reached the required standard to be able to continue in Grade 10. Music should be seen as a continuous course from Grade 8 to Grade 12 as learners build knowledge and skills over these years. Concepts and skills learnt in Grade 9, for instance, may form the basis for further study in Grades 10, 11 and 12. A learner who wishes to take music who has not taken music in Grades 8 and 9 may need to audition with the music department.



Practical Component: Learners will preferably have practical experience from at least Grade 8 to be able to continue in Grade 10. The required standard for the practical component in Grade 10 is Grade 3 plus (according to music's grading system) which is the equivalent of at least 3 years of practical studies. Starting the practical component any later than Grade 8 may result in a learner not reaching the required standard in Grade 12.

Instruments offered: The Music Department currently offers tuition in piano, voice, flute, recorder, violin, viola, and marimba.

Visual Arts



This subject is offered by the Johan Carinus Art Centre. Visual Arts learners can choose between graphics (print making), painting, and sculpture. There is both a theoretical and a practical component. Visual Art is a gateway to studying art at a higher level, as well as directly to a career in Art making. In addition to the obvious skills learned, art provides a space for creative expression and builds creative and out of the box thinking. Visual Art carries additional fees.



Design

Design is also offered by the Johan Carinus Art Centre. Design students can specialise in either textiles or ceramics. There is both a theoretical and a practical component.

Design is an excellent choice for anyone planning to go into graphic design, architecture, advertising, and related careers. Design carries additional fees.



Steps to successful subject choice

Step 1

Seriously consider your **strengths and weaknesses** HONESTLY! Try out some free aptitude tests online, there are many to choose from. Be careful of tests that have hundreds of questions. They usually ask the questions first and then ask for money!

Look at your current marks – what realistically do these marks tell you about your strengths and weaknesses?

Step 2

Think about your **passions**. What gives you joy in your life? What could you do with your life that would make you feel (when you retire) that your life had been worthwhile? What things are there that you do that you can suddenly look up from and think, “What happened to the time”?

Step 3

Think about how your skills, passions and interests might combine in a career. Find out as much as you can about what **careers** are available. (Most of us think of a very limited range of careers when there are really thousands).

Step 4

Find out which **institutions** offer courses in this field and what subjects you will need to get into these courses. Remember that when a university says – minimum requirements – that’s really what it means MINIMUM! In other words, if you don’t get those marks, you can’t apply. Nonetheless, you are unlikely to get in with the minimum requirements so you will need to aim higher than the minimum requirements. As an example, the marks you realistically need to get into Medicine at UCT are all subjects in the 80s with a few in the 90s. This is true also of Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy and Actuarial Sciences.

Step 5

Look at the **subjects** offered by VG and choose the best ones for you.

Tips

- ✓ Remember that most people in the 21st Century are likely to have several professions, so don't just think about one.
- ✓ Remember that not everything you love **MUST** be part of your job, you can still do things just for fun, even when you are an adult.
- ✓ If you really have no idea what you want to do then choose a variety of subjects that will offer you as much choice as possible, e.g., a science, an art, and a humanity.
- ✓ Don't waste time wishing VG had different subjects or different packages, it's like sitting in an ice-cream shop wishing they sold furniture – it's not going to help. If you really want furniture, go to a furniture shop!
- ✓ If you are a strong academic, seriously consider Mathematics and Science as these will give you the greatest number of choices at universities.
- ✓ If you are not a strong academic, especially if you struggle with exams, choosing subjects with a practical component may help. (These include Consumer Studies, Drama, Music, Art, and Design.)

