



# Choosing subjects for 2027

# Contents

National Senior Certificate .....	4
Choosing a career path.....	7
National Benchmarking Tests (NBTs) .....	9
Expand your learning potential with Curro Choice.....	10

<b>Core subjects</b> .....	12
English .....	14
Afrikaans .....	16
isiXhosa.....	18
isiZulu .....	20
Sepedi .....	22
Sesotho .....	23
Setswana.....	26
SiSwati.....	28
Xitsonga.....	30
Life Orientation.....	32
Mathematics .....	34
Mathematical Literacy.....	36

<b>Elective subjects</b> .....	38
Accounting.....	40
Agricultural Management Practices .....	42
Agricultural Sciences.....	44
Business Studies.....	46
Computer Applications Technology .....	48
Consumer Studies .....	50
Dance Studies .....	52
Design.....	54
Dramatic Arts.....	56



Economics .....	58
Engineering Graphics and Design.....	60
French Second Additional Language.....	62
Geography .....	64
History.....	66
Hospitality Studies .....	68
Information Technology.....	70
Life Sciences.....	72
Music.....	74
Physical Sciences .....	76
Tourism.....	78
Visual Arts.....	80

<b>Externally offered subjects</b> .....	82
Further studies subjects .....	83
Further Studies English.....	84
Further Studies Mathematics .....	86

<b>Curro Choice</b> .....	88
Wider subject choice: FAQ .....	89
Choosing your subjects .....	93

# National Senior Certificate

## DBE and IEB

At all our Curro schools, teaching and learning are geared towards global standards of education and our curriculum is devised so that our learners can compete in a global market.

Within the Curro fold, there is the possibility of two Grade 12 examinations: the DBE (Department of Basic Education) and the IEB (Independent Examinations Board).

Both examination bodies offer the National Senior Certificate, give access to tertiary education institutions, and have their own set of advantages.

## National Senior Certificate (NSC) requirements

To qualify for an NSC, you need to choose seven subjects, four of which are compulsory.

Here are the minimum requirements:

### Four compulsory subjects:

- Two South African languages:  
*One must be a language of teaching and learning, called a home language (HL), and the other a first additional language (FAL).*
- Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy
- Life Orientation

### Three further subjects:

You may choose an additional three subjects from the approved subject list. Your school will provide you with this list.



## Pass requirements

There are three different types of passes, which determine the type of access the candidate will have to tertiary institutions.

### Higher certificate pass requirements:

- Must obtain at least 40% in home language.
- Must obtain at least 40% in three subjects.
- Must obtain at least 30% in three other subjects.
- Must pass at least six out of seven subjects.

The higher-certificate pass is a minimum requirement and does not allow access to any diploma or degree courses.

### Diploma pass requirements:

- Must obtain at least 40% in home language.
- Must obtain at least 40% in three other subjects, excluding Life Orientation.
- Must pass at least six out of seven subjects.

The diploma pass is the minimum requirement for access to study towards a diploma at a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college or university of technology.

### Bachelor's degree pass requirements:

- Must obtain at least 40% in home language.
- Must obtain at least 50% in four subjects, excluding Life Orientation.
- Must obtain at least 30% in one other subject.
- Must pass at least six out of seven subjects.

The bachelor's degree pass is the minimum requirement for access to study towards a degree at a university, university of technology, TVET college or any accredited higher learning institution. It is important to note that universities specify levels of achievement within specific subjects for certain degrees.

Ideally, all learners should strive to achieve a **bachelor's degree pass**, as it allows the most access to tertiary institutions.

## Admission Points Score (APS)

Universities use the Admission Points Score (APS) to determine an individual's access to specific courses they offer. Though the points system itself is fairly standard, each university allocates points differently. Specific degree courses also have additional requirements, such as a baseline level of achievement within a certain subject, or the submission of a practical portfolio. It is important to take these requirements into account when making a subject choice.

**NB!** It is vitally important to remember that the Admission Points Score is lowest score required to be eligible to apply and **does not** guarantee admission. Ideally, learners should have a **higher APS** than the minimum requirement.

Some universities have automatic APS calculators on their websites, whilst others list the scores which applicants can use to calculate their scores. *University Qualifications* is a handy tool, as it has an APS calculator for most universities. However, the requirements would still need to be checked via the university websites. To access the APS calculator in *University Qualifications*, visit: <https://universityqualifications.co.za/undergraduate/aps-calculators>.

To access various course requirements, consult the university websites. The list below is by no means comprehensive, especially given the number of private universities, but it is certainly a starting point for research into potential university courses.

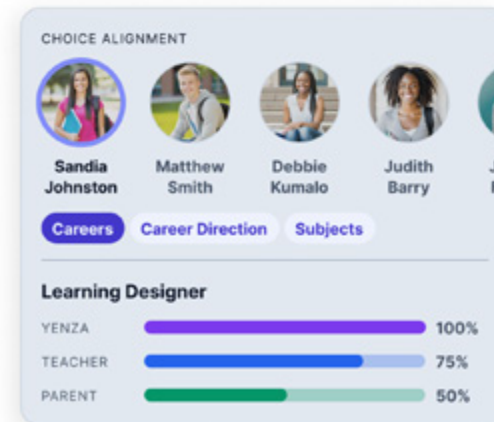
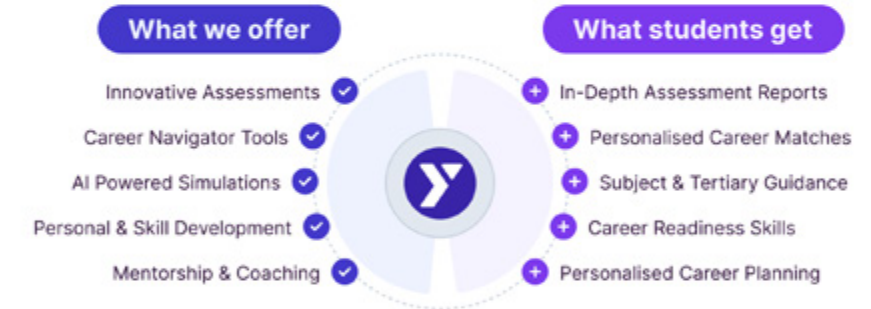
Nelson Mandela University	<a href="http://www.mandela.ac.za">www.mandela.ac.za</a>
North-West University	<a href="http://studies.nwu.ac.za">studies.nwu.ac.za</a>
Rhodes University	<a href="http://www.ru.ac.za">www.ru.ac.za</a>
Stadio Multiversity	<a href="http://stadio.ac.za">stadio.ac.za</a>
University of Cape Town	<a href="http://uct.ac.za">uct.ac.za</a>
University of the Free State	<a href="http://www.ufs.ac.za">www.ufs.ac.za</a>
University of Johannesburg	<a href="http://www.uj.ac.za">www.uj.ac.za</a>
University of Kwa-Zulu Natal	<a href="http://ww2.ukzn.ac.za">ww2.ukzn.ac.za</a>
University of Pretoria	<a href="http://www.up.ac.za">www.up.ac.za</a>
University of Stellenbosch	<a href="http://www.sun.ac.za">www.sun.ac.za</a>
University of the Western Cape	<a href="http://www.uwc.ac.za">www.uwc.ac.za</a>



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# Choosing a career path

Choosing subjects for Grade 10 is an important decision, as it **affects your future**. It is not an easy choice for a 14-year-old or a 15-year-old, especially when taking peer and parental pressure into consideration.

Subjects have to be chosen from your school's list of subjects offered and should be chosen to ensure a good all-round education for growth, development and ongoing learning. Your subject choice should not be solely about a future career. Consider the career path you would like to pursue and work backwards from there. For example, you must know whether you want to follow a career in health, commerce or the science industry, etc., and then **consider the career path or field of interest** you want to follow within that industry.

*\*Compiled by Higher Education in South Africa*

## What is a career path/field of interest?

1. It is really a road map to learners' career goals.
2. It is flexible, allowing learners to explore and update plans of study.
3. It helps promote a seamless transition into tertiary education.
4. It assists in an open-mindedness that anticipates 21st-century careers rather than expecting outdated and traditional careers.
5. It gets learners thinking about themselves as part of an industry, which opens up endless opportunities for them to grow.
6. Entrepreneurship is valued.

It is important to remember that attending university is not the only option when considering a future career. There are numerous options available to learners, including trade apprenticeships, learnerships and entering the job market directly. When it comes to subject choice, it is best to consider which subjects are most applicable to the career path the learner wishes to follow.

## Helpful tips for parents to support their children in the decision-making process

### Encourage exploration

Encourage your child to explore their interests, strengths, and passions. Help them identify subjects they enjoy and excel in, as well as those that align with their future career goals. Discuss their hobbies, extramural activities, and any subjects they find particularly engaging.

### Research career paths

Research potential career paths together. Look into the subjects and qualifications required for these careers. Discuss the importance of choosing subjects that will keep their options open for further education and career opportunities. Consider seeking advice from professionals in various fields to provide insights into different career paths.

### Consider aptitude and strengths

Help your child assess their aptitude and strengths in different subjects. Consider their academic performance, teacher feedback, and standardised test scores. Encourage them to choose subjects where they feel confident and capable, while also challenging themselves to grow and develop new skills.

### Consult with school counsellors and Life Orientation teachers

Take advantage of the resources available at your child's school, such as counsellors and Life Orientation teachers. Schedule meetings to discuss your child's academic progress, interests, and future aspirations. They can provide valuable insights and recommendations tailored to your child's needs and goals.

### Promote balanced decision-making

Emphasise the importance of a balanced subject selection. Encourage your child to choose a mix of subjects across different disciplines, as well as elective courses that cater to their interests. Remind them that a well-rounded education will provide them with a broader skill set and better prepare them for future academic and career endeavours.

# National Benchmarking Tests

Some facilities at the different tertiary institutions will expect you to complete tests in Grade 12 called National Benchmarking Tests (NBT). NBTs are two separate tests that measure academic readiness of a learner for university. These results are used in conjunction with the National Senior Certificate (NSC) results to aid the universities' decision with the many applications received. The NBTs measure a learner's ability to transfer understanding of academic literacy, quantitative literacy, and Mathematics to tertiary coursework. The tests are written between May and December.

The tests are multiple-choice tests and written in two three-hour sessions.

## The Academic and Quantitative Literacy test (AQL)

Measures the ability to understand vocabulary, punctuation to evoke meaning, evaluate evidence, extrapolate information, support claims and draw conclusions from text, integrate information from multiple sources, perform calculations with information from graphs, identify trends and interpret quantitative information. The AQL test consists of seven sections. Each section is timed; some sections allow 25 minutes, and some allow 30 minutes of writing time.

## The Mathematics test (MAT)

This is for learners who apply for courses that require Mathematics, such as Engineering and the Sciences. This measures the ability to recognise patterns, work out ratios and percentages, algebraic manipulations with equations, properties of functions, understand the relationship between graphs and equations, trigonometric problem-solving, interpret 2D and 3D shapes and properties, apply principles of analytic geometry, measures of data and validity of assertions.

For more information, visit [www.nbt.ac.za](http://www.nbt.ac.za).

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# Expand your learning potential with Curro Choice

At Curro, we understand that learners have unique interests and life goals. That's why all our high school learners can enjoy personalised learning with elective subjects beyond what is offered at their school. These subjects are presented through professional digital learning. Lessons take place during the school day and are recorded for revision purposes. Some lessons are self-directed with supervision. At the end of Grade 12, learners still write the matric examinations (IEB or DBE) at their schools of enrolment. These subjects may be chosen as part of learners' regular elective subjects, or as eighth, ninth or tenth subjects after school hours. Taking these subjects may carry an additional cost.

Curro Choice presents a unique opportunity for Grade 8 to Grade 12 learners to enrich their academic experiences. This innovative digital offering that is available at all Curro's high schools, broadens the traditional subject selection, fostering a more personalised learning path for learners.

This offering transcends the physical walls of your classroom, offering a digital learning environment that fosters flexibility and personalised attention. Embrace the opportunity to explore subjects that may not be traditionally offered at your school and craft a learning path that aligns with your individual goals and aspirations!



Scan here to find out more about **Curro Choice**.



# Core subjects

The core subjects are compulsory to ensure an NSC pass.

The four compulsory subjects are:

- Two South African languages:  
*One must be a language of teaching and learning, called a home language (HL), and the other a first additional language (FAL).*
- Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy
- Life Orientation

## Languages

The home language is vitally important, as it is the only standalone subject which can cause a learner to pass or fail the year. A mark of less than 40% for home language will see a learner fail the year, irrespective of the results achieved in their other subjects. Where schools offer more than one home language, careful consideration must be given to the choice, both in terms of language proficiency, and in terms of the language in which the learner will be studying and/or working after school.

The first additional language must be South African. In other words, languages such as French or German do not qualify as core subjects for an NSC pass. Learners are encouraged to select the first additional language in which they are most proficient to ensure the highest possible marks.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your school will indicate which languages are offered in-person at your school. Remember that Curro Choice offers additional options in this regard.



## Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy

The choice between Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy is influenced by two factors:

1. **End of Grade 9 results:**  
Should a learner fail Mathematics at the end of Grade 9, they will be required to take Mathematical Literacy in Grade 10. Similarly, where a learner has been condoned due to failing Mathematics at the end of the Grade 9 year, they will be required to take Mathematical Literacy.
2. **Tertiary aspirations:**  
Some degree courses require Mathematics, where others do not. When working towards university entry, the goal is to get the highest possible Admission Points Score. Competition for space at universities is intense, so the higher the score, the better the chances of admission. Where Mathematics is not compulsory, and where the learner is not mathematically proficient, Mathematical Literacy is the better option.

Unless otherwise advised by the school, learners are encouraged to take Mathematics in Grade 10, and to review this decision at the end of their Grade 10 year when they have a better idea of their future career plans.

It is important to note that Mathematical Literacy can be offered as an extra subject in Grade 12 only, so learners can take both Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy in their Grade 12 year if they do not offer Physical Sciences.

## Life Orientation

This subject is compulsory for all learners, and is a portfolio-based subject, i.e. there is no final Grade 12 examination, and the mark is based on a portfolio of work which is completed during the course of the year. Success in Life Orientation is reflective of work ethic, and commitment to excellence and academic success. Because Life Orientation is not always included in Admission Points Scores, learners sometimes neglect this subject. Strong marks in Life Orientation are vital, as they become the determining factor where space is at a premium in degree courses and learners have the same APS. In addition to this, where learners are applying for scholarships for further studies, Life Orientation marks play a critical role as they speak to the learner's character. All learners should apply themselves fully in Life Orientation in order to achieve the best possible marks.

# English

## Why choose this subject?

This is the subject that underpins all other subjects. In English, we learn to be clear, concise and compelling communicators. We are guided to become discerning, insightful readers who can read between the lines and deduce how language is used to influence, inform, entertain, shock, delight, position – in other words, communication in all its forms.

Though we focus on the core systems of language, we also study different genres in literature – from poetry to novels and plays – and these texts help us to have a greater understanding of the nature of humanity and the world in which we live. As we study texts about human lives and experiences, we can engage in meaningful, in-depth, essential discussions on life and all its facets. We encourage our learners to think independently and have the confidence and courage to express their opinions and interpretations respectfully. We encourage critical thinking as we firmly believe that you are not learning if you just agree with everybody. We reward learners for actively engaging with texts in class. The level at which these works are studied will increase in difficulty as the learners progress through the grades.

## Subject content

English Home Language has an extensive and complex curriculum which covers a broad range of literature, language and writing skills. Success in English Home Language requires a deep understanding of the language and of literary texts.

English First Additional Language focuses on functional language skills and the ability to communicate effectively in a language that is not the mother tongue. Success in English First Additional Language requires understanding and application of practical language skills.

The following areas of focus apply when studying English:

- Systems of language
- Literature
- Poetry
- Writing (both creative and academic)
- Oral work, such as speeches and listening comprehensions



## Beneficial for:

The skills learnt in English are vital for all tertiary degrees due to the focus on effective academic writing. For learners aspiring to masters or doctoral level programmes, the key skills taught in English are particularly important.

This subject is also beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Editing
- Writing
- Publishing
- Interpreting
- International relations
- Politics
- Journalism
- Law
- Broadcasting and media
- Teaching

## Interesting facts

- Many universities offer additional points in the Admission Points Score (APS) for high marks attained in English.
- AI platforms and chatbots are most fluent in English, so advanced language and writing skills ensure that learners are better equipped in the AI era.
- English is the most spoken language in the world and is also considered to be the global *lingua franca*, i.e. it is the most common language adopted between speakers whose native languages differ.
- English is the language of science and research, with over 95% of all indexes referenced in research being English.

# Afrikaans

## Why choose this subject?

Afrikaans is a language that has sprung from the soil of Africa, constantly evolving and innovating with creations like lockdown, drone, and rap chat. In Afrikaans class, we employ an integrated approach to teach various skills: listening and speaking, reading and viewing, writing and presenting, as well as language structures and conventions. Our aim is to empower learners to think, reason, and communicate in Afrikaans. The curriculum extends beyond classroom walls, exposing learners to Afrikaans theatre productions, local films, music, and the Afrikaans that forms part of our daily lives. Learners also have the opportunity to participate in activities such as the ATKV Olympics, ATKV DigiGame, public speaking, debating, and writing competitions.

In a country with 11 official languages, it is absolutely necessary to be proficient in more than one language.

## Subject content

Afrikaans Home Language has an extensive and complex curriculum which covers a broad range of literature, language and writing skills. Success in Afrikaans Home Language requires a deep understanding of the language and of literary texts.

Afrikaans First Additional Language focuses on functional language skills and the ability to communicate effectively in a language that is not the mother tongue. Success in Afrikaans First Additional Language requires understanding and application of practical language skills.

The following areas of focus apply when studying Afrikaans:

- Systems of language
- Literature
- Poetry
- Writing (both creative and academic)
- Oral work, such as speeches and listening comprehensions



## Beneficial for:

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Film and TV industry
- Journalist
- Communication specialist
- Media broadcaster
- Teacher
- Radio and TV scriptwriter
- Editor
- Legal administrator
- Legal advisor
- Advertising
- Writer
- Linguist
- Language editor
- Tour guide
- Interpreter
- Publisher
- Translator

## Interesting facts

- With approximately 7 million home language speakers, Afrikaans is the third most used mother tongue in South Africa. Afrikaans is a unique language with several dialects.
- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.
- In 2019, Afrikaans achieved second place in bigseventravel.com's competition for the 'sexiest accent in the world'.

# isiXhosa

## Why choose this subject?

Language forms the basis of every other subject and the ability to read, write and communicate in an additional language places the individual at a distinct advantage. We live in a diverse world, so the better you can communicate with others, the better it is for you and your career plans. isiXhosa is one of the Nguni languages and is the second most spoken language in South Africa (Census, 2023).

For those who are mother-tongue speakers of isiXhosa, it is proven by research that your home language gives you the tools to understand other concepts in other languages. Therefore, acquiring isiXhosa assists a learner to learn better their other subjects because of the core foundation of concepts and understanding from the mother tongue.

For those who are not mother-tongue speakers of isiXhosa, acquiring an additional language to your own is beneficial. When you acquire another language in addition to your own mother tongue, you are able to understand another person's culture and worldview. It is beneficial to be multilingual in a country as diverse as South Africa.

To succeed in this subject, you must be passionate about learning isiXhosa, and it is essential that you are willing to spend time and effort practising your isiXhosa language skills.

## Subject content

Should you wish to study an additional language, it is recommended that you have a level of exposure to the language. Learners will be taught to write longer texts. You will also learn to understand more complicated language concepts and will be taught from text integrated with reading, listening, and speaking. Oral presentations, the writing of short and long transactional texts, the interpretation of literature, and the implementation of language structures and conventions, are all important parts of the programme.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

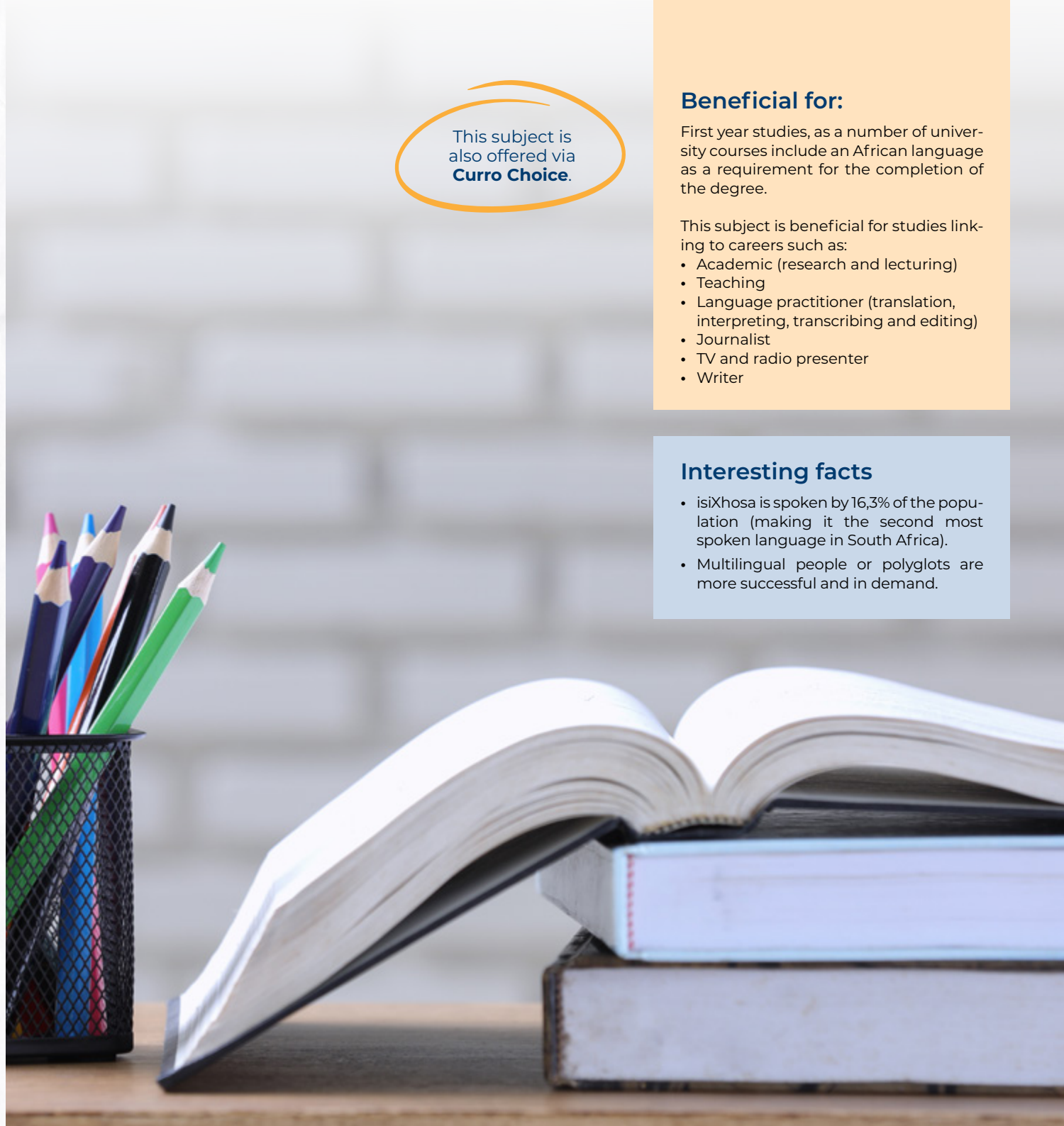
First year studies, as a number of university courses include an African language as a requirement for the completion of the degree.

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Academic (research and lecturing)
- Teaching
- Language practitioner (translation, interpreting, transcribing and editing)
- Journalist
- TV and radio presenter
- Writer

## Interesting facts

- isiXhosa is spoken by 16,3% of the population (making it the second most spoken language in South Africa).
- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.



# isiZulu

## Why choose this subject?

Language forms the basis of every other subject and the ability to read, write and communicate in an additional language places the individual at a distinct advantage. We live in a diverse world so the better you can communicate with others, the better it is for you and your future career. As an endonym, isiZulu is the most widely spoken language in South Africa. isiZulu is characterised by its rich vocabulary, noun class system and distinctive click sounds.

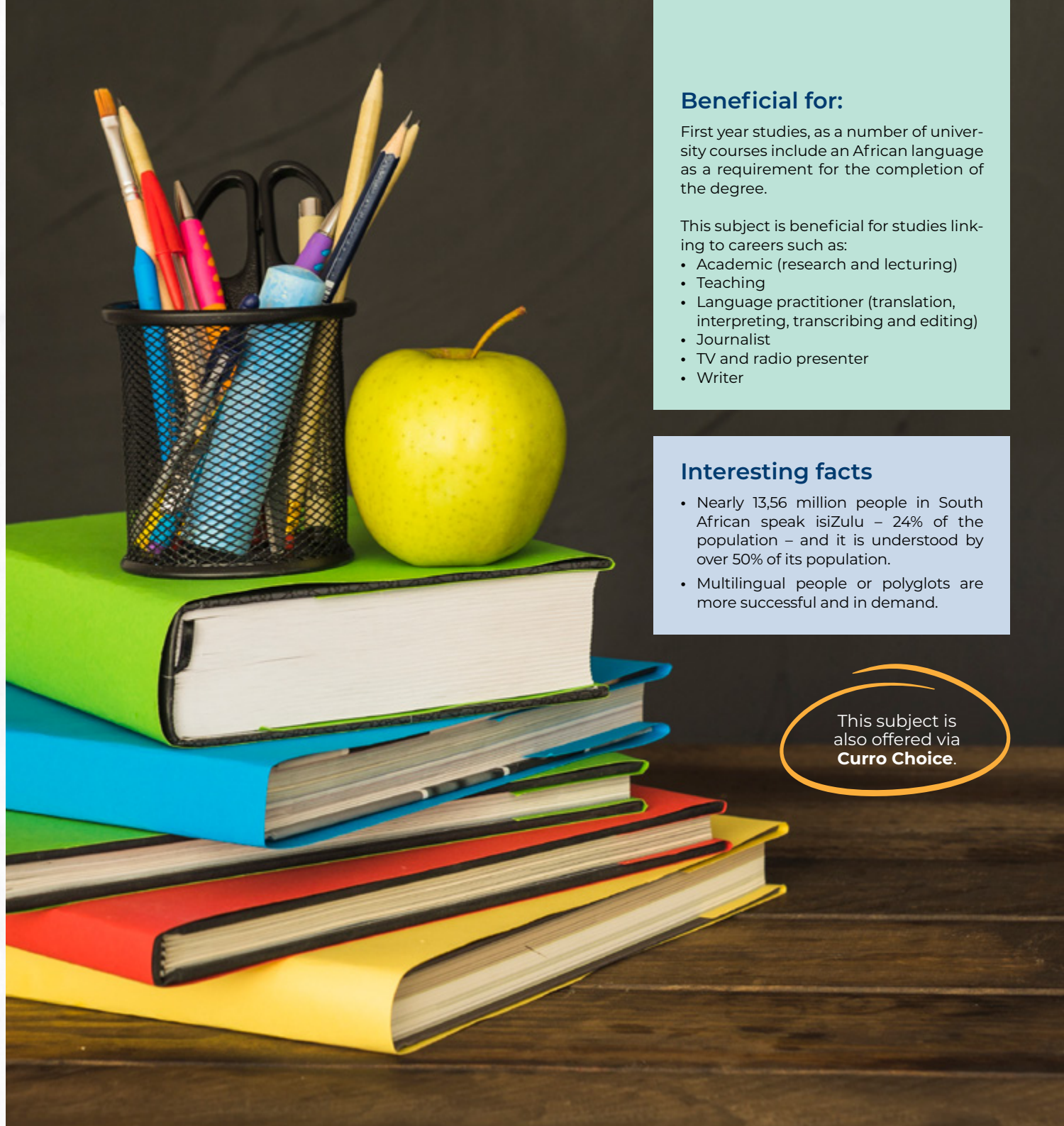
For those who are mother-tongue speakers of isiZulu, it is proven by research that your home language gives you the tools to understand other concepts in other languages. Therefore, acquiring isiZulu assists a learner to learn better in their other subjects because of the core foundation of concepts and understanding from the mother tongue.

For those who are not mother-tongue speakers of isiZulu, acquiring an additional language to your own is beneficial. When you acquire another language on top of your own mother tongue, you can understand another person's culture and worldview. It is beneficial to be multilingual in a country as diverse as South Africa.

To succeed in this subject, you must be passionate about learning isiZulu, and it is essential that you are willing to spend time and effort practising your isiZulu language skills.

## Subject content

Should you wish to study an additional language, it is recommended that you have a level of exposure to the language. Learners will be taught to write longer texts. You will also learn to understand more complicated language concepts and will be taught from text integrated with reading, listening, and speaking. Oral presentations, the writing of short and long transactional texts, the interpretation of literature, and the implementation of language structures and conventions, are all important parts of the programme.



## Beneficial for:

First year studies, as a number of university courses include an African language as a requirement for the completion of the degree.

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Academic (research and lecturing)
- Teaching
- Language practitioner (translation, interpreting, transcribing and editing)
- Journalist
- TV and radio presenter
- Writer

## Interesting facts

- Nearly 13,56 million people in South African speak isiZulu – 24% of the population – and it is understood by over 50% of its population.
- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice.**

# Sepedi

## Why choose this subject?

Language forms the basis of every other subject and the ability to read, write and communicate in an additional language, places the individual at a distinct advantage. We live in a diverse world so the better you can communicate with others, the better it is for you and your future. Sepedi, also known as Pedi, is a fascinating language with a rich cultural heritage. It is most closely related to Setswana and Sesotho (Southern Sotho). The Sepedi people, also known as the BaPedi, primarily inhabit the northern parts of South Africa, including the provinces of Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng, and the North West province. Sepedi is often confused with Northern Sotho, but they are not the same. Sepedi is the language specifically spoken by the Pedi people, while Northern Sotho encompasses up to 30 different dialects, one of which is Pedi.

For those who are mother-tongue speakers of Sepedi, it is proven by research that your home language gives you the tools to understand other concepts in other languages. Therefore, acquiring Sepedi assists a learner to learn better in their other subjects because of the core foundation of concepts and understanding from the mother tongue.

For those who are not mother-tongue speakers of Sepedi, acquiring an additional language to your own is beneficial. When you acquire another language on top of your own mother tongue, you can understand another person's culture and worldview. It is beneficial to be multilingual in a country as diverse as South Africa.

To succeed in this subject, you must be passionate about learning Sepedi, and it is essential that you are willing to spend time and effort practising your Sepedi language skills.

## Subject content

Should you wish to study an additional language, it is recommended that you have a level of exposure to the language. Learners will be taught to write longer texts. You will also learn to understand more complicated language concepts and will be taught from text integrated with reading, listening, and speaking. Oral presentations, the writing of short and long transactional texts, the interpretation of literature, and the implementation of language structures and conventions, are all important parts of the programme.



## Beneficial for:

First year studies, as a number of university courses include an African language as a requirement for the completion of the degree.

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Academic (research and lecturing)
- Teaching
- Language practitioner (translation, interpreting, transcribing and editing)
- Journalist
- TV and radio presenter
- Writer

## Interesting facts

- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.
- Spoken by around 9,1% of the population, Sepedi plays a crucial role in South African society.

# Sesotho

## Why choose this subject?

Language forms the basis of every other subject and the ability to read, write and communicate in an additional language, places the individual at a distinct advantage. We live in a diverse world so the better you can communicate with others, the better it is for you and your future career. Sesotho, also known as Southern Sotho, is one of the South African languages. Its ancestors migrated southward around the 15th and 16th centuries, settling in present-day Lesotho. The language evolved through interactions with neighbouring Khoe and San communities and was further shaped by European missionaries. The Sesotho language was created by one of the many tribal groups who migrated from Cameroon and Nigeria between 2000 BC and 1000 AD.

For those who are mother-tongue speakers of Sesotho, it is proven by research that your home language gives you the tools to understand other concepts in other languages. Therefore, acquiring Sesotho assists a learner to learn better in their other subjects because of the core foundation of concepts and understanding from the mother tongue.

For those who are not mother-tongue speakers of Sesotho, acquiring an additional language is beneficial. When you acquire another language on top of your own mother tongue, you are able to understand another person's culture and worldview. It is beneficial to be multilingual in a country as diverse as South Africa.

To succeed in this subject, you must be passionate about learning Sesotho, and it is essential that you are willing to spend time and effort practising your Sesotho language skills.

## Subject content

Should you wish to study an additional language, it is recommended that you have a level of exposure to the language. Learners will be taught to write longer texts. You will also learn to understand more complicated language concepts and will be taught from text integrated with reading, listening, and speaking. Oral presentations, the writing of short and long transactional texts, the interpretation of literature, and the implementation of language structures and conventions, are all important parts of the programme.



## Beneficial for:

First year studies, as a number of university courses include an African language as a requirement for the completion of the degree.

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Academic (research and lecturing)
- Teaching
- Language practitioner (translation, interpreting, transcribing and editing)
- Journalist
- TV and radio presenter
- Writer

## Interesting facts

- Approximately 7 million people identify as Sotho today, making them an important part of the demographics of the continent.
- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

# Setswana

## Why choose this subject?

Language forms the basis of every other subject and the ability to read, write and communicate in an additional language places the individual at a distinct advantage. We live in a diverse world so the better you can communicate with others, the better it is for you and your future. Setswana is one of the official indigenous languages to Southern Africa and is spoken by about 8,2 million people. It is closely related to the Northern Sotho and Southern Sotho languages, as well as the Kgalagadi language and the Lozi language. An urbanised variety, which is part slang and not formal Setswana, is known as Pretoria Sotho, and is the principal unique language of the city of Pretoria.

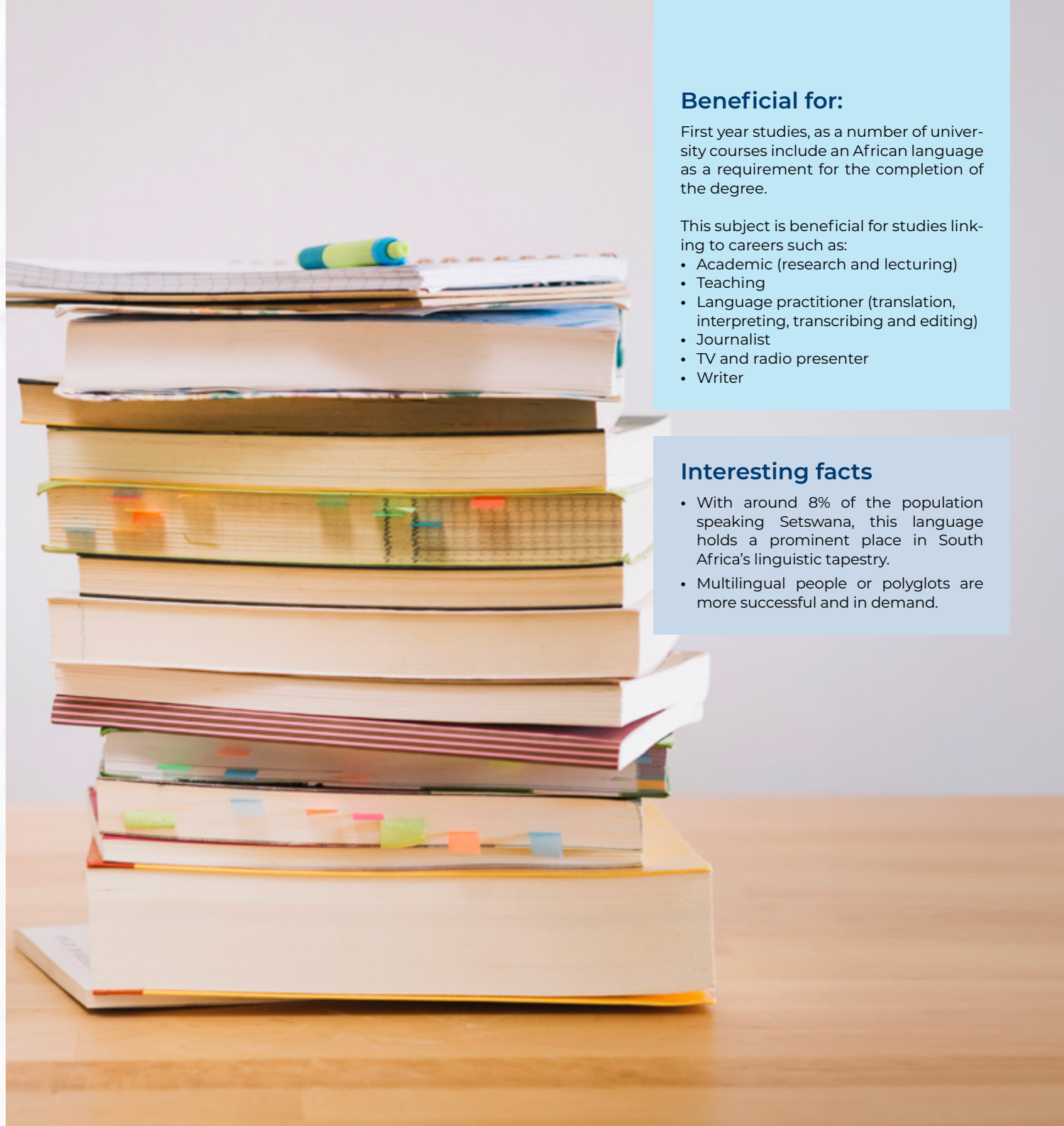
For those who are mother-tongue speakers of Setswana, it is proven by research that your home language gives you the tools to understand other concepts in other languages. Therefore, acquiring Setswana assists a learner to learn better in their other subjects because of the core foundation of concepts and understanding from the mother tongue.

For those who are not mother-tongue speakers of Setswana, acquiring an additional language to your own is beneficial. When you acquire another language on top of your own mother tongue, you can understand another person's culture and worldview. It is beneficial to be multilingual in a country as diverse as South Africa.

To succeed in this subject, you must be passionate about learning Setswana, and it is essential that you are willing to spend time and effort practising your Setswana language skills.

## Subject content

Should you wish to study an additional language, it is recommended that you have a level of exposure to the language. Learners will be taught to write longer texts. You will also learn to understand more complicated language concepts and will be taught from text integrated with reading, listening, and speaking. Oral presentations, the writing of short and long transactional texts, the interpretation of literature, and the implementation of language structures and conventions, are all important parts of the programme.



## Beneficial for:

First year studies, as a number of university courses include an African language as a requirement for the completion of the degree.

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Academic (research and lecturing)
- Teaching
- Language practitioner (translation, interpreting, transcribing and editing)
- Journalist
- TV and radio presenter
- Writer

## Interesting facts

- With around 8% of the population speaking Setswana, this language holds a prominent place in South Africa's linguistic tapestry.
- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.

# SiSwati

## Why choose this subject?

Language forms the basis of every other subject and the ability to read, write and communicate in an additional language places the individual at a distinct advantage. We live in a diverse world so the better you can communicate with others, the better it is for you and your future career. SiSwati is spoken in South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. There is even a Swazi community in the United States of America. It is estimated that there are approximately three million first and second language Swazi speaking people on the globe.

For those who are mother-tongue speakers of SiSwati, it is proven by research that your home language gives you the tools to understand other concepts in other languages. Therefore, acquiring SiSwati assists a learner to learn better in their other subjects because of the core foundation of concepts and understanding from the mother tongue.

For those who are not mother-tongue speakers of SiSwati, acquiring an additional language to your own is beneficial. When you acquire another language on top of your own mother tongue, you can understand another person's culture and worldview. It is beneficial to be multilingual in a country as diverse as South Africa.

To succeed in this subject, you must be passionate about learning SiSwati, and it is essential that you are willing to spend time and effort practising your SiSwati language skills.

## Subject content

Should you wish to study an additional language, it is recommended that you have a level of exposure to the language. Learners will be taught to write longer texts. You will also learn to understand more complicated language concepts and will be taught from text integrated with reading, listening, and speaking. Oral presentations, the writing of short and long transactional texts, the interpretation of literature, and the implementation of language structures and conventions are all important parts of the programme.

## Beneficial for:

First year studies, as a number of university courses include an African language as a requirement for the completion of the degree.

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Academic (research and lecturing)
- Teaching
- Language practitioner (translation, interpreting, transcribing and editing)
- Journalist
- TV and radio presenter
- Writer

## Interesting facts:

- In South Africa, there are nearly 1,3 million Swazi speakers (about 2,5% of the population).
- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.

# Xitsonga

## Why choose this subject?

Language forms the basis of every other subject and the ability to read, write and communicate in an additional language places the individual at a distinct advantage. We live in a diverse world so the better you can communicate with others, the better it is for you and your future career. The Xitsonga language was meticulously studied by the Swiss missionary Henri-Alexandre Junod between 1890 and 1920. Junod concluded that Xitsonga began to develop in Mozambique even before the 1400s. Junod and other Swiss missionaries, including Henri Berthoud and Ernest Creux, worked to unify the language, creating a standard way of writing and reading.

For those who are mother-tongue speakers of Xitsonga, it is proven by research that your home language gives you the tools to understand other concepts in other languages. Therefore, acquiring Xitsonga assists a learner to learn better in their other subjects because of the core foundation of concepts and understanding from the mother tongue.

For those who are not mother-tongue speakers of Xitsonga, acquiring an additional language of your own is beneficial. When you acquire another language on top of your own mother tongue, you are able to understand another person's culture and worldview. It is beneficial to be multilingual in a country as diverse as South Africa.

To succeed in this subject, you must be passionate about learning Xitsonga, and it is essential that you are willing to spend time and effort practising your Xitsonga language skills.

## Subject content

Should you wish to study an additional language, it is recommended that you have a level of exposure to the language. Learners will be taught to write longer texts. You will also learn to understand more complicated language concepts and will be taught from text integrated with reading, listening, and speaking. Oral presentations, the writing of short and long transactional texts, the interpretation of literature, and the implementation of language structures and conventions, are all important parts of the programme.

## Beneficial for:

First year studies, as a number of university courses include an African language as a requirement for the completion of the degree.

This subject is beneficial for studies linking to careers such as:

- Academic (research and lecturing)
- Teaching
- Language practitioner (translation, interpreting, transcribing and editing)
- Journalist
- TV and radio presenter
- Writer

## Interesting facts

- Xitsonga is the first language of 4,5% of South Africa's population.
- Multilingual people or polyglots are more successful and in demand.



# Life Orientation

## Why choose this subject?

Life Orientation (LO) is a mandatory subject; however, in this subject a learner gains the necessary life skills to help them in the future, especially with their careers. We also contribute to our community. Life Orientation's dream is to promote self-awareness, respect for oneself and others, spark ambition and common decency to all school-going children in South Africa.

Life Orientation is central to the holistic development of learners. It addresses the skills, knowledge and values for the personal, social, intellectual, emotional and physical growth of learners, and is concerned with how these facets are interrelated. Life Orientation guides and prepares learners for life and its possibilities and equips them for meaningful and successful living in a rapidly changing and transforming society.

Life Orientation aims to teach learners to exercise their constitutional rights and responsibilities and guide learners to make informed decisions about their health, environment, subject choices, further studies and careers.

## Subject content

- Development of the self in society
- Social and environmental responsibility
- Democracy and human rights
- Careers and career choices
- Study skills
- Physical education
- Community service: Twenty hours of community service must be acquired over a three-year period



## Beneficial for:

Life Orientation is often discounted from the APS Score system; however, it remains a requirement for university entrance.

Life Orientation results often speak to a learner's work ethic and commitment to excellence, so good results are viewed favourably in applications, especially where the application is for a scholarship. Excellent results in Life Orientation are a must for those pursuing financial support for their studies.

## Interesting facts

- Learning life skills doesn't just build independence, it also builds social-emotional learning skills that teens need such as self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, and the tools to create and maintain relationships.
- Learning about citizenship builds character and develops soft skills that employers are looking for, such as communication, initiative, social interaction and teamwork.
- There is a positive correlation between learners who earn good grades and those who are involved in community service. Volunteering helps teens gain new skills necessary for the job market such as leadership, communication skills, dependability, time management, and decision making.

# Mathematics

## Why choose this subject?

When you choose Mathematics, you will learn about algebra, geometry, trigonometry and essential calculus. You will develop practical problem-solving and reasoning skills. Mathematics deals with theoretical concepts and equations that underpin our lives. Mathematics helps strengthen reasoning skills and critical thinking. It helps us think analytically about the world and reason logically.

Employers look for people who have strong numeracy skills because it shows that you have practical problem-solving skills. In Mathematics, you will develop excellent numeracy skills that you can use in the workplace. Mathematics is designed for those who wish to pursue careers in the natural sciences or engineering fields.

## Subject content

Mathematics focuses on the discipline of Mathematics, incorporating abstract and hypothetical thinking. Content is also emphasised – the content is expanded as the learners progress annually.

### Beneficial for:

A minimum mark of 50% to 60% is a requirement to apply for science, technology, health sciences and engineering degrees.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actuary</li> <li>• Pilot</li> <li>• Architect</li> <li>• Astronomist</li> <li>• Computer and information research scientist</li> <li>• Dentist</li> <li>• Economist</li> <li>• Engineer</li> <li>• Financial analyst</li> <li>• Game developer</li> <li>• Information technologist</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathematician</li> <li>• Medical doctor</li> <li>• Operations research analyst</li> <li>• Pharmacist</li> <li>• Physicist</li> <li>• Scientist</li> <li>• Statistician</li> <li>• Teacher</li> <li>• Technician</li> <li>• Technologist</li> <li>• Town planner</li> </ul> |
|--|---|



Learners who choose to take Mathematics should independently demonstrate the ability to:

- grasp Mathematical concepts and strategies quickly, with good retention, and relate Mathematical concepts within and across content areas and real-life situations;
- independently solve problems with multiple and/or alternative solutions;
- use Mathematics with self-assurance;
- apply a more extensive and in-depth knowledge of a variety of major Mathematical topics;
- display Mathematical thinking and have a keen awareness for quantitative information in the world around them;
- think logically and symbolically about quantitative, spatial, and abstract relationships;
- perceive, visualise and generalise numeric and non-numeric patterns and relationships;
- reason analytically, deductively and inductively;
- reverse reasoning processes and switch methods in a flexible yet systematic manner;
- work, communicate, and justify Mathematical concepts in creative and intuitive ways, both verbally and in writing;
- formulate probing Mathematical questions that extend or apply concepts;
- persist in their search for solutions to complex tasks, and
- organise information.

### Interesting facts

- Mathematics enhances one's ability to think critically and logically, skills that are invaluable in various aspects of life beyond Mathematics, such as decision-making and problem-solving in real-world scenarios.
- Mathematics often deals with abstract concepts and symbols. By engaging with these abstract ideas, individuals develop the ability to think abstractly, which is essential for understanding complex concepts and solving problems in fields ranging from science and engineering to philosophy and art.
- Individuals learn to recognise and analyse patterns in data, equations, and geometric shapes. This skill is valuable when interpreting trends in data, identifying relationships in everyday situations, and predicting outcomes based on observed patterns.

# Mathematical Literacy

## Why choose this subject?

Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy both teach you essential numeracy skills, but they are two very different numeracy subjects. They both work with numbers but apply them differently. In Mathematical Literacy, you will learn practical Mathematical skills that apply to everyday situations, such as budgeting, interest and rates. In Mathematics, you will learn technical and theoretical Mathematics such as algebra, trigonometry and essential calculus. Both subjects will develop your critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Mathematical Literacy focuses on the use of necessary mathematical skills to find solutions to everyday problems. By confidently understanding these everyday concepts, the learners can interpret information, analyse this information critically and solve problems effectively.

You will learn necessary skills to buy a house, including all the calculations you will need to work out bond repayment amounts, transfer fees and legal fees; calculate income tax and read and interpret statistics in newspaper articles.

Employers look for people who have strong necessary numeracy skills because it shows that you have practical problem-solving skills. In Mathematical Literacy, you will develop excellent numeracy skills that you can use in the workplace.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Mathematical Literacy is NOT the old Mathematics Standard Grade (SG). Mathematical Literacy provides learners with an awareness and understanding of the role that Mathematics plays in the modern world.*

## Subject content

Mathematical Literacy focuses on the role of Mathematics in the real world using relevant examples in day-to-day life. The contexts chosen are employment-based, current and relevant and become more advanced as the learners progress annually.

**\*This subject is also offered via Curro Choice to our Grade 12 learners on the Maths Lit project.**



## Beneficial for:

It is a highly practical and realistic subject. Mathematical Literacy is designed for learners wanting to pursue tertiary qualifications in the social and life sciences, e.g. law, marketing and advertising or entrepreneurs who wish to start their own businesses.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Bookkeeper
- Business manager
- Caterer
- Ceramist
- Chef
- Lecturer
- Fashion designer
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Managing director of sales and marketing
- Plumber
- Psychologist
- Public sector manager and administrator
- Sales executive
- Social worker
- Teacher
- Theologist
- Welder

## Interesting facts

- Mathematical Literacy has equal weighting to Mathematics in the APS Score for courses which do not require Mathematics.
- Functional Mathematics provides an individual with the essential knowledge, skills, and understanding that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and at work.
- A key characteristic of functional skills is that they are based on a problem-solving approach. Learners who are 'functionally skilled' are able to use and apply the Mathematics they know to tackle problems that arise in their everyday life and work.

# Elective subjects

Three additional subjects must be selected to complete the final subject package for an NSC pass. The chosen career path must be considered when selecting the elective subjects. It is strongly advised that learners do not select three subjects in the same field of interest as this can be very limiting in terms of career paths.

It is also important to consider what subjects might be required (and which are recommended) for access to a specific degree in which the learner is interested. The following general rules apply:

**Mathematics** is required for all BSc degrees, for Health Sciences degrees, select BCom degrees and Computer Science degrees.

**Physical Sciences** is required for all BSc degrees, Health Sciences and most Computer Sciences degrees.

**Life Sciences** will be compulsory for all Health Sciences degrees from 2026.

Recommendations for subjects have been indicated in the subject information in this section.

The subjects available fall into the following fields of interest:

COMMERCE	HUMANITIES	SCIENCES	TECHNOLOGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accounting</li> <li>Agricultural Management Practice</li> <li>Business Studies</li> <li>Economics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumer Studies</li> <li>Dance Studies</li> <li>Design</li> <li>Dramatic Arts</li> <li>French SAL</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>History</li> <li>Hospitality Studies</li> <li>Mandarin SAL**</li> <li>Music</li> <li>Tourism</li> <li>Visual Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agricultural Sciences</li> <li>Equine Studies**</li> <li>Life Sciences</li> <li>Physical Sciences</li> <li>Sports and Exercise Sciences**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Applications Technology</li> <li>Electrical Technology**</li> <li>Engineering Graphics and Design</li> <li>Information Technology</li> </ul>

**PLEASE NOTE:** Not all subjects listed here are offered at all schools. Your school will provide you with a list of subjects offered in your school. Subjects indicated with \*\* are only offered via external service providers at select schools.

## Should learners consider an 8th or a 9th subject?

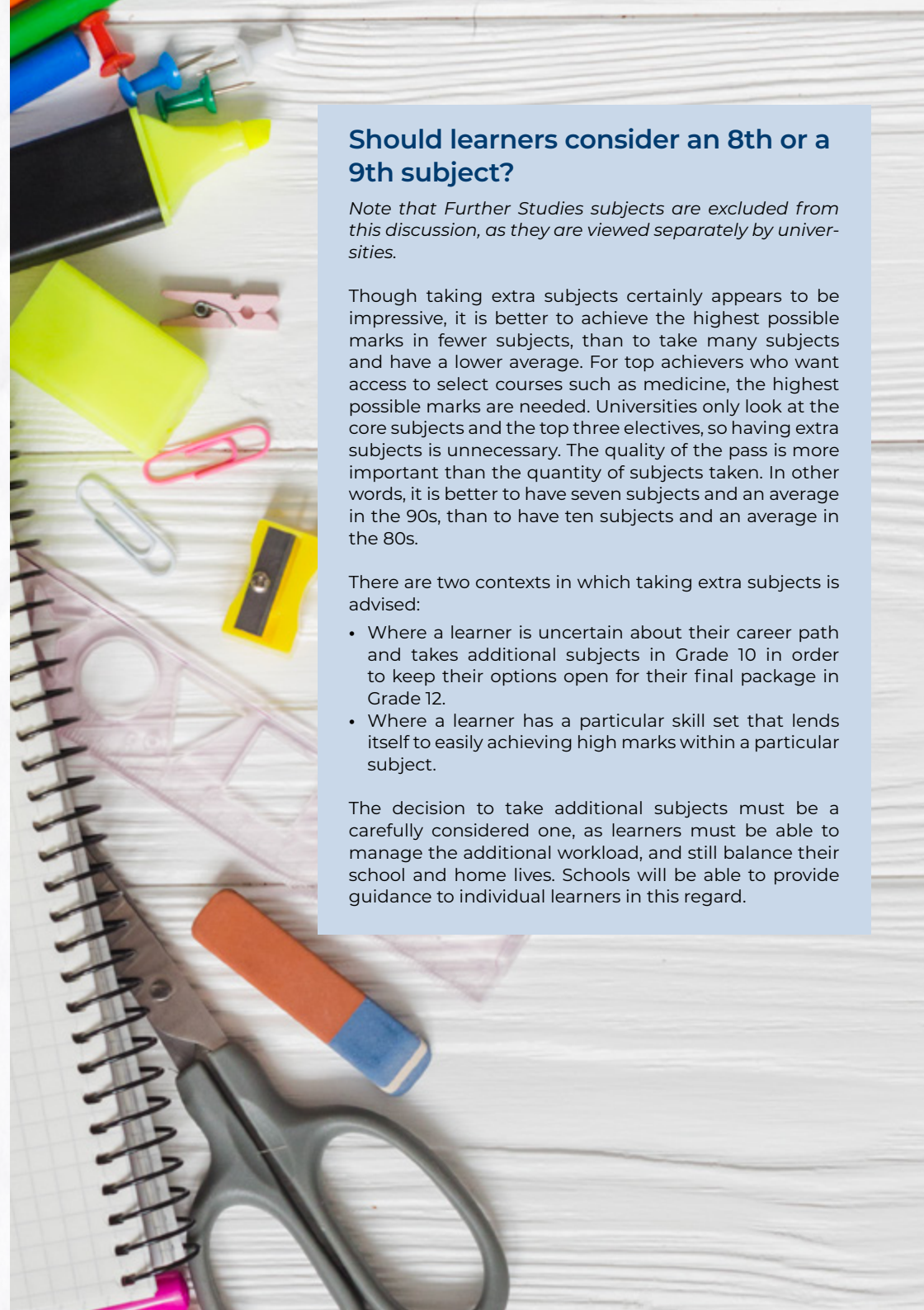
*Note that Further Studies subjects are excluded from this discussion, as they are viewed separately by universities.*

Though taking extra subjects certainly appears to be impressive, it is better to achieve the highest possible marks in fewer subjects, than to take many subjects and have a lower average. For top achievers who want access to select courses such as medicine, the highest possible marks are needed. Universities only look at the core subjects and the top three electives, so having extra subjects is unnecessary. The quality of the pass is more important than the quantity of subjects taken. In other words, it is better to have seven subjects and an average in the 90s, than to have ten subjects and an average in the 80s.

There are two contexts in which taking extra subjects is advised:

- Where a learner is uncertain about their career path and takes additional subjects in Grade 10 in order to keep their options open for their final package in Grade 12.
- Where a learner has a particular skill set that lends itself to easily achieving high marks within a particular subject.

The decision to take additional subjects must be a carefully considered one, as learners must be able to manage the additional workload, and still balance their school and home lives. Schools will be able to provide guidance to individual learners in this regard.



# Accounting

## Why choose this subject?

Accounting focuses on measuring performance and the processing and communication of financial information. The subject deals with the logical, systematic, and accurate recording of financial information and transactions, as well as the compilation, analysis, and interpretation of financial statements and managerial reports for use by interested parties.

Learning Accounting in high school helps learners develop financial literacy, critical thinking, and decision-making skills essential for personal and professional success. It prepares them for careers in business, fosters ethical awareness, and enhances communication and technology proficiency. Additionally, studying Accounting provides a global perspective and serves as a solid foundation for further education in Accounting or related fields.

To excel in high school Accounting, stay organised, attend classes regularly, and actively participate. Practise consistently, review materials, and seek help when needed. Apply concepts to real-life scenarios, stay up to date on Accounting trends, and maintain ethical standards. Stay motivated by setting goals and celebrating achievements. This will guarantee your success in Accounting.

## Subject content

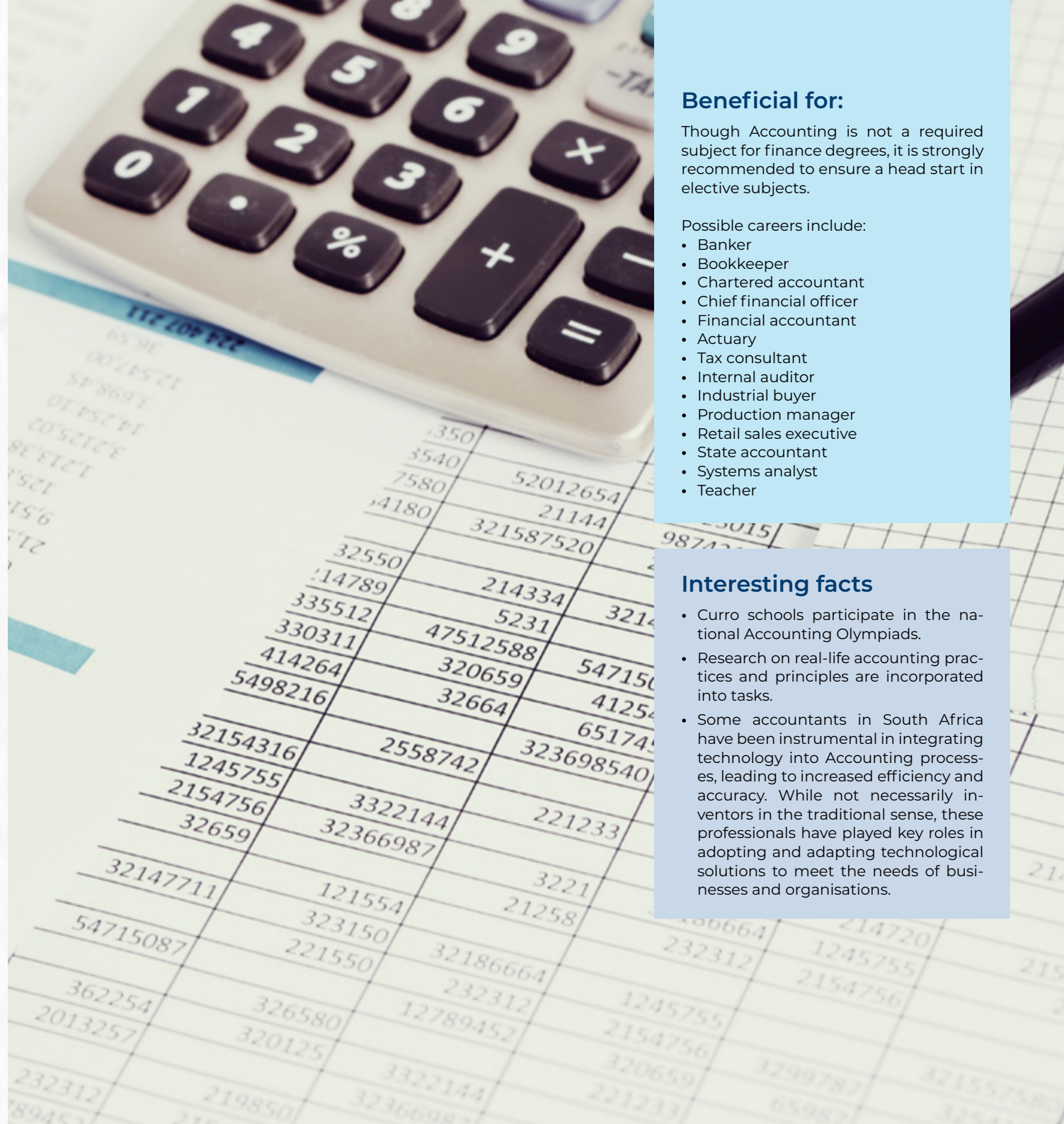
The subject focuses on three different fields:

- Financial accounting (50% to 60%)
- Managerial accounting (20% to 25%)
- Managing resources (20% to 25%)

### Prerequisites if taken via Curro Choice:

Recommended mark of 60% for Mathematics and EMS at the end of Grade 9

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.



## Beneficial for:

Though Accounting is not a required subject for finance degrees, it is strongly recommended to ensure a head start in elective subjects.

Possible careers include:

- Banker
- Bookkeeper
- Chartered accountant
- Chief financial officer
- Financial accountant
- Actuary
- Tax consultant
- Internal auditor
- Industrial buyer
- Production manager
- Retail sales executive
- State accountant
- Systems analyst
- Teacher

## Interesting facts

- Curro schools participate in the national Accounting Olympiads.
- Research on real-life accounting practices and principles are incorporated into tasks.
- Some accountants in South Africa have been instrumental in integrating technology into Accounting processes, leading to increased efficiency and accuracy. While not necessarily inventors in the traditional sense, these professionals have played key roles in adopting and adapting technological solutions to meet the needs of businesses and organisations.

# Agricultural Management Practices

## Why choose this subject?

Agricultural Management Practices is the study and application of production, economic and management principles that are used in the cultivation, transformation and marketing of food and other agricultural products. These principles are used to produce and add value to high-quality agricultural products so that these products have economic, aesthetic, social and cultural value.

Agricultural Management Practices draws knowledge and skills from disciplines such as crop sciences; animal sciences; economics and management sciences; engineering; and information and communication technology. The subject is designed to provide learners with a sound practice-orientated base that integrates theoretical and practical competencies.

## Subject content

- Crop production and crop management
- Soil and water management
- Product harvesting and quality control
- Animal production and animal management aspects
- Farm management and evaluation
- Value-adding, processing and producer organisations
- Agri-tourism, business planning and entrepreneurship

The specific production enterprises that are taught in practical situations should be linked to the agro-ecological region of the school.



## Beneficial for:

Studies linking to agriculture, finance and the environment.

Specific fields of interest include:

- Farming
- Financial management of a farm
- Agricultural economist
- Agricultural advisor
- Sales representative (poisons, fertiliser, vehicles, implements, etc.)
- Investor

## Interesting facts

- The primary agricultural sector has grown by an average of 7,5% per year since 2008, while the total economy grew by 6,6% on average per annum over the same period.
- Agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity, and feed a projected 10 billion people by 2050.
- Growth in the agricultural sector is two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest compared to other sectors.

# Agricultural Sciences

## Why choose this subject?

Agricultural Sciences is the study of the relationship between soils, plants and animals in the production and processing of food, fibre, fuel and other agricultural commodities that have an economic, aesthetic and cultural value.

Learners will develop an awareness of the management and care of the environment, natural resources and the humane treatment of animals through application of science and related technology. They will develop problem-solving mechanisms within the contexts of agricultural production, processing and marketing practices and be aware of the social and economic development of the society at large through personal development in commercial and subsistence farming enterprises. Learners will become informed and responsible citizens in the production of agricultural commodities, caring for the environment and addressing social justice issues. They will also be aware of indigenous agricultural knowledge and practices through understanding agricultural sciences in historical and social contexts.

## Subject content

- Soil science
- Plant studies
- Animal studies
- Agricultural economics
- Basic agricultural chemistry
- Basic genetics and biological concepts
- Sustainable natural resource utilisation
- Agro-ecology



## Beneficial for:

Studies linking to biological sciences, ecology, conservation, animal sciences and agriculture.

Specific fields of interest include:

- Farming
- Environmental specialist
- Animal scientist
- Animal husbandry
- Agricultural economist
- Agricultural advisor
- Wildlife biologist
- Environmental law
- Agronomist

## Interesting facts

- Agricultural Science practices are frequently aligned with advancements in technology and AI.
- Innovation is prized in the field of Agricultural Science, as practitioners must innovate to find solutions to climate change threats, and to develop more weather-resistant crops.
- Around one quarter of the world's workforce works in agriculture.

# Business Studies

## Why choose this subject?

Business Studies equips learners with a sound foundation to participate in future business, commerce and management studies; to enter a business or to create self-employment. It fosters financial literacy, teaching budgeting and investment basics. Understanding business principles cultivates critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, applicable across diverse fields. Exposure to marketing, management, and entrepreneurship sparks creativity and innovation, valuable traits in today's dynamic job market. Studying business empowers learners to navigate the complexities of the modern world, fostering adaptability and resilience while laying a foundation for future career opportunities.

## Subject content

- Business environments
- Business ventures
- Business roles
- Business operations

Business Studies sets a theme for the Grade 12 syllabus each year. The theme changes every second year and the rationale behind this is to enable the teachers and learners to:

- gain better insight into the given industry;
- engage meaningfully in issues that pose a challenge in the industry;
- learn about competitors in the given industry, and
- gain an understanding that allows for a more in-depth application of the context of the case study in the exam.

This subject is  
also offered via  
**Curro Choice.**

## Beneficial for:

Business Studies is an essential subject for any learner who is interested in running their own business or practice. It is also recommended for learners who intend to enter into fields such as engineering, medicine or performing arts, so that they are better equipped to run their own company or practice in future.

Possible subject-specific careers include:

- Entrepreneur
- Auctioneer
- Banking services
- Chief financial officer
- Financial accountant
- Industrial buyer
- Production manager
- Retail sales executive
- State accountant
- Systems analyst

## Interesting facts

- Essential skills taught in Business Studies include strategic thinking, communication, problem-solving, organisation, presenting, reporting, leadership, and project management. These skills will equip learners to respond efficiently to challenges in both the business world and society.
- Learners who have Business Studies insights have a desirable skill set in addition to strong corporate knowledge; these assets are greatly in demand by employers.
- Successful entrepreneurs frequently have higher incomes, more work satisfaction, and stable financial situations. Furthermore, entrepreneurship can result in the establishment of new companies and jobs, which can boost the economy. Entrepreneurship also fosters creativity and innovation, which can be advantageous to society as a whole.

# Computer Applications Technology

## Why choose this subject?

Computer Applications Technology (CAT) 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).

CAT enables creative and logical reasoning about problems in the physical and social world and in the context of ICT itself, the increase of computer literacy, creative thinking and problem-solving. This means CAT helps learners to become computer and technology literate for the 21st century.

## Subject content

In Computer Applications Technology, learners follow a three-year course where the key concepts listed below are studied in detail. They are also required to complete a theoretical and practical examination of the listed content.

- Solution development
- Systems technology
- Networking technologies
- Internet technologies
- Information management
- Social implications

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

Computer Applications Technology is beneficial for every learner, and every field of study, as an understanding of computer systems is essential for the successful functioning in all aspects of contemporary life. Subject-specific career opportunities include: any career requiring the efficient use of a word processor, spreadsheets, presentation package, database or web design (HTML language).

## Interesting facts

- If hackers are able to find a security bug or threat, Facebook offers them up to R8000.
- There are over 5,44 billion internet users worldwide, which amounts to 67,1% of the global population. Of this total, 5,07 billion, or 62,6% of the world's population, are social media users. These numbers climb daily.
- Forbes lists digital literacy as one of the top six skills to have for jobs of the future.

## Requirements

### Computer/laptop requirements

- I5 or AMD Ryzen 5 or better (i7 recommended)
- Windows 10
- 1.8 GHz or faster dual-core or quad-core processor
- Minimum 8 GB RAM
- SSD drive

### Software

Office 365 suite

# Consumer Studies

## Why choose this subject?

Consumer Studies equips you with knowledge and skills that are invaluable for life. By choosing this subject, you'll become an empowered, responsible consumer, dedicated to sustainability, and enhancing quality of life. Moreover, Consumer Studies fosters entrepreneurial spirit, enabling you to produce marketable products that meet consumer needs. Most importantly, it's an enjoyable journey!

## Subject content

Consumer Studies is a field of study that focuses on the well-being of consumers and their interactions with communities and the environment. It's a stimulating discipline that allows you to apply creativity for the benefit of consumers on various levels. The needs of the South African consumer are scientifically developed and researched within Consumer Studies, which covers three main components: food, fashion, and consumer resources, including housing and interior design. Additionally, aspects of business and tourism management are included to provide comprehensive support. The training you'll receive will enable you to provide valuable service in multiple areas.

### Topics

- The consumer
- Food and nutrition
- Clothing
- Housing and interiors
- Practical assessment task (PAT)



## Beneficial for:

The breadth of the Consumer Studies syllabus means that it provides valuable insight into numerous fields, and is beneficial for degrees in all the humanities, commerce and sciences faculties. This makes it an attractive subject for learners who would like to keep their career options open.

Subject-specific career opportunities include:

- Entrepreneur
- Product developer and manufacturer
- Events coordinator
- Dietician
- Clothing designer or fashion buyer
- Interior designer or housing consultant
- Chef or hotel manager
- Food stylist or writer
- Food-retail: product developer
- Fashion buyer
- Merchandiser and space planners
- Retail or industry marketing
- Consumer behaviour and resources consultant

## Interesting facts

- Consumer Studies is a complementary subject for both Business Studies and Life Sciences.
- There is a key focus on entrepreneurial learning in the syllabus, which helps teach learners to identify problems and solutions to new experiences and unforeseen outcomes, a skill that all businesses hold in high regard.
- Learners who take Consumer Studies as a subject learn how to be critical consumers who can make thoughtful ethical decisions when faced with tough choices.

# Dance Studies

## Why choose this subject?

Dance Studies covers both theoretical and practical components which offer learners an exciting journey into the world of dance. Topics include anatomy, health and safety, music analysis, as well as the history and analysis of dance through the centuries. Not only do you study the history of ballet, contemporary and jazz dancing, but you are also offered a choice of practical dance components. If you have an interest in the world of theatre, entertainment, education and cultural practices, then Dance Studies makes for a good subject choice. Subjects compatible with Dance Studies include Business Studies, Drama and Music, especially if you are interested in the field of tourism.

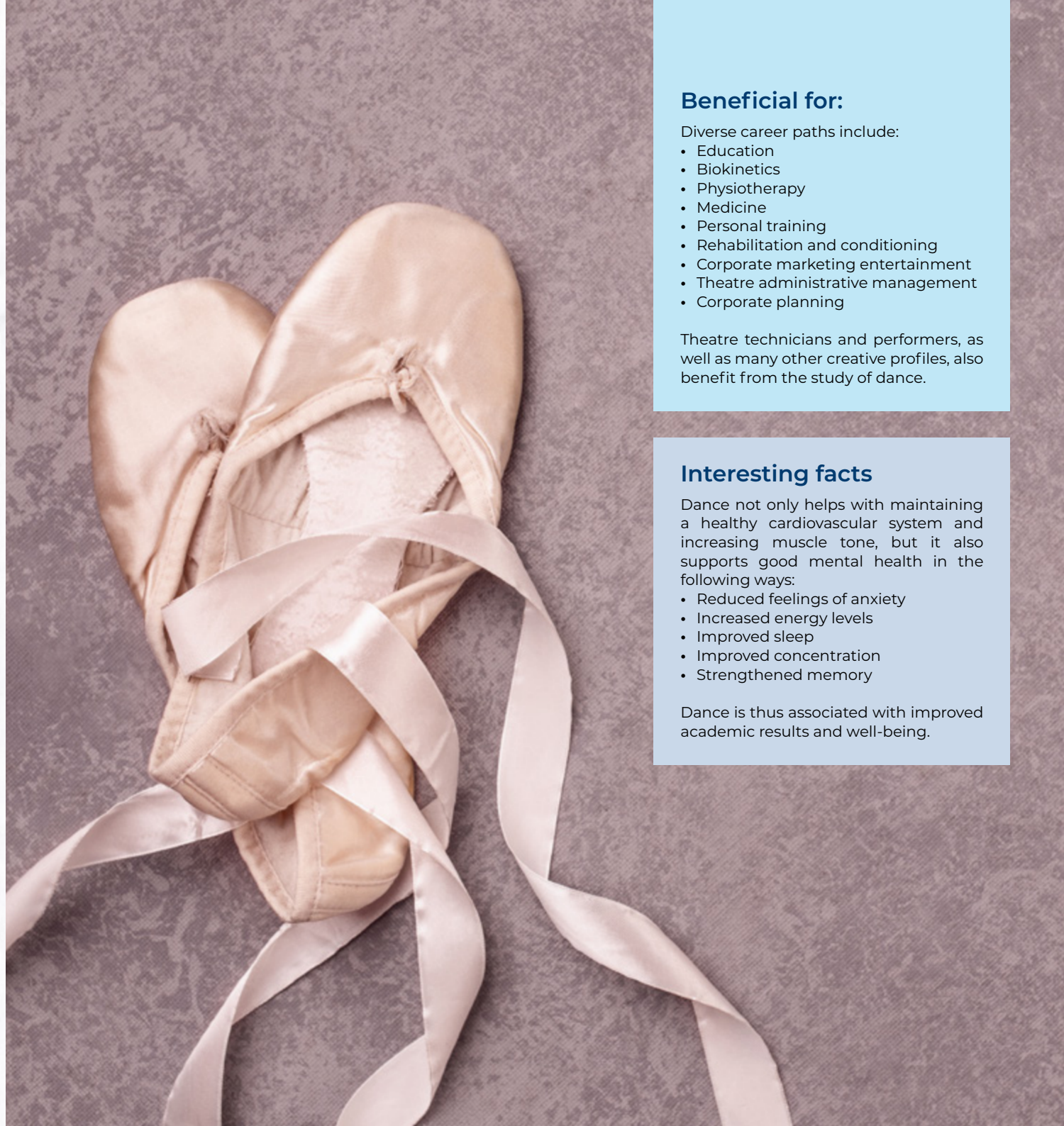
## Subject content

Key focus areas covered include:

- an introduction to anatomy;
- health and safety;
- music analysis;
- the history of dance with a focus on groundbreaking South African works, and
- the understanding of applied music theory for dance and a specified practical dance genre choice.

Please note that no dance experience is required to take Dance Studies as a subject in Grade 10.

This subject is  
also offered via  
**Curro Choice.**



## Beneficial for:

Diverse career paths include:

- Education
- Biokinetics
- Physiotherapy
- Medicine
- Personal training
- Rehabilitation and conditioning
- Corporate marketing entertainment
- Theatre administrative management
- Corporate planning

Theatre technicians and performers, as well as many other creative profiles, also benefit from the study of dance.

## Interesting facts

Dance not only helps with maintaining a healthy cardiovascular system and increasing muscle tone, but it also supports good mental health in the following ways:

- Reduced feelings of anxiety
- Increased energy levels
- Improved sleep
- Improved concentration
- Strengthened memory

Dance is thus associated with improved academic results and well-being.

# Design

## Why choose this subject?

Design is a creative, problem-solving subject that introduces you to the fundamental principles of design, and covers surface, environmental, product and visual communication design. Design offers learners a pathway to unleash their creativity and innovation, fostering practical skills development and interdisciplinary learning.

Through hands-on experiences and exploration, learners cultivate valuable skills in areas such as graphic design, product design, and fashion design, preparing them for future academic pursuits and diverse career opportunities. The interdisciplinary nature of design education encourages learners to make connections between different fields of study, fostering a holistic understanding of complex problems and solutions. Beyond career prospects, studying Design empowers learners to express their unique perspectives and identities, fostering confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of agency.

## Subject content

Design is made up of a theoretical and practical section.

The theoretical section of the subject covers:

- Design literacy (design process, design communication, visual literacy and design in a business context)
- The history of design
- Design in a contemporary context (environmental, social and cultural context)

The practical section of Design includes four components for every project:

**Component 1:** The design process workbook

**Component 2:** A concept board for pitching the concept to the client

**Component 3:** Product

**Component 4:** Digital portfolio

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are additional stationery requirements for Design. Please check with your school for the list of specific requirements.



## Beneficial for:

Design is an especially beneficial subject for learners entering into fields which require creative problem-solving. It is a recommended subject for learners interested in architecture, graphic design, interior design, interior architecture, industrial design, engineering and environmental studies.

## Interesting facts

- Design education can strengthen and widen perceptions, observations, critical thinking, problem-solving and people skills.
- Design is part of our everyday lives, as everything we use initially started as a design. From the way we connect to people to the way we listen to music; from the way our cities are designed to how a specific medical tool is designed to save lives. The approach taken in Design is thus relevant to all career paths.
- Design provides the skills for us to re-imagine the world and restore the planet, to find solutions to pressing human needs and problems such as poverty and exclusion, stereotyping, health care and climate change.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Prerequisites if taken via Curro Choice:

- Grade 10 Design is a prerequisite for Grade 11 Design.
- It is recommended that a learner has a mark of at least 65% in English at the end of Grade 9.

# Dramatic Arts

## Why choose this subject?

Dramatic Arts is for anyone who has a passion for performance, literature, history and culture. It develops your human instrument as a medium of expression, communication and creativity. You will be challenged to develop your drama skills, techniques and processes with which to experiment and shape dramatic elements meaningfully, creating and presenting dramatic products across a range of modes – both individually and with others. You will be guided to understand, analyse and interpret principles and elements of drama in texts and performances in context – both in South Africa and the rest of the world – while reflecting on and evaluating the dramatic processes, practices and products.

Dramatic Arts will also develop your insight into how the dramatic arts affirm, challenge and celebrate values, cultures and identities while engaging with contemporary issues through Dramatic Arts. Dramatic Arts is a powerful tool for acquiring specific abilities to express yourself. These include developing critical 21st-century skills.

## Subject content

Practical experiences and competencies are integrated with the study of dramatic practices, processes and products. Learners explore how dramatic and theatrical elements are selected and combined for particular purposes within diverse contexts, with a focus on the role of the dramatic arts in South Africa.

The final examination in Grade 12 consists of a theory paper and a practical examination. At the final practical examination, learners are expected to present three different types of performances: individual, scene and their own choice. A new addition to the Grade 12 examination is a technical programme where learners can present a film/stage production. (If they choose this option, they will have to do a 10-minute interview with the examiner to explain their choices.)

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

Dramatic Arts is highly recommended for learners who will be entering into fields which require a public presence, such as law, entrepreneurship and the performing arts.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Acting (stage, TV, movies)
- Directing
- Teaching
- Media relations coordinator
- Public relations officer
- Radio announcer
- Set/costume/lighting/sound designer
- Speech therapist
- TV announcer
- TV producer

## Interesting facts

- Many CEOs have to take performance classes later in life in order to be able to manage the public nature of their jobs. Those who have a background in performance tend to rise more quickly in the ranks.
- In addition to having higher standardised test scores than their peers who do not experience the arts, learners who study Dramatic Arts often experience improved reading comprehension, maintain better attendance records, and stay generally more engaged in school than their non-arts counterparts.
- High school learners who study Dramatic Arts demonstrate an elevated self-concept over their peers.

# Economics

## Why choose this subject?

The World Economic Forum (WEF) did a *Jobs of the future* report, and analytical thinking and complex problem-solving skills top the list of skills that employers are looking for, both of which can be gained by studying Economics.

Economics is a subject that gives perspective on every aspect of life. It helps you to make decisions because we teach you to look at opportunity costs. It teaches you to look at issues from a macro perspective, to see the whole picture, but it also looks at microeconomics where we do calculations and comparisons.

Fundamentally, Economics is a social science that looks at how resources are managed by governments, households, and firms. There are **commercial** aspects that look at market forces and profitability, but there are also social aspects that look at equality and standards of living.

## Subject content

Macroeconomics	Microeconomics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GDP</li><li>• Business cycles</li><li>• Public sector</li><li>• Economic systems</li><li>• Foreign sector and trade policies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relationship between markets</li><li>• Cost and revenue curves and calculation</li><li>• Price elasticity</li><li>• Utility</li></ul>

Economic pursuit	Contemporary economic issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic growth and development</li><li>• Indicators</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental sustainability</li><li>• Tourism and inflation</li></ul>

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.



## Beneficial for:

A good understanding of Economics can serve you in so many areas, from running your own business, to working in retail, banking, insurance, procurement, consumer behaviour, sustainable alternatives and all other industries. The benefit of understanding market forces and how to use economic tools effectively can serve you in so many areas. If you have any desire to go into politics, taking economics is vital.

## Interesting facts

- We teach you the tools you need to make predictions, when to buy and when to sell and how policies should align to ensure sustainability for the future.
- If you have an interest in current, national, and international affairs, you will love the subject.
- Economics is an application-based subject. If you understand models and can apply them in everyday life, you will excel in Economics.  
Example: If interest rates increase, how will that influence your life? When interest rates increase, it causes debt to become more expensive which leaves you with less money to spend and you will have to tighten your belt, so to speak. This is the thinking we want to cultivate.
- You will be taught to think critically about what is happening globally and in South Africa.

# Engineering Graphics and Design

## Why choose this subject?

Engineering Graphics and Design (EGD) will teach civil and mechanical concepts practised in the industry today. With a wide range of engineering fields to pursue, Engineering Graphics and Design will empower you to understand the drawing aspect incorporated in all fields. Consistent hard work, absolute dedication and discipline are required in Engineering Graphics and Design. The implementation of these principles will ensure success in any aspect of life.

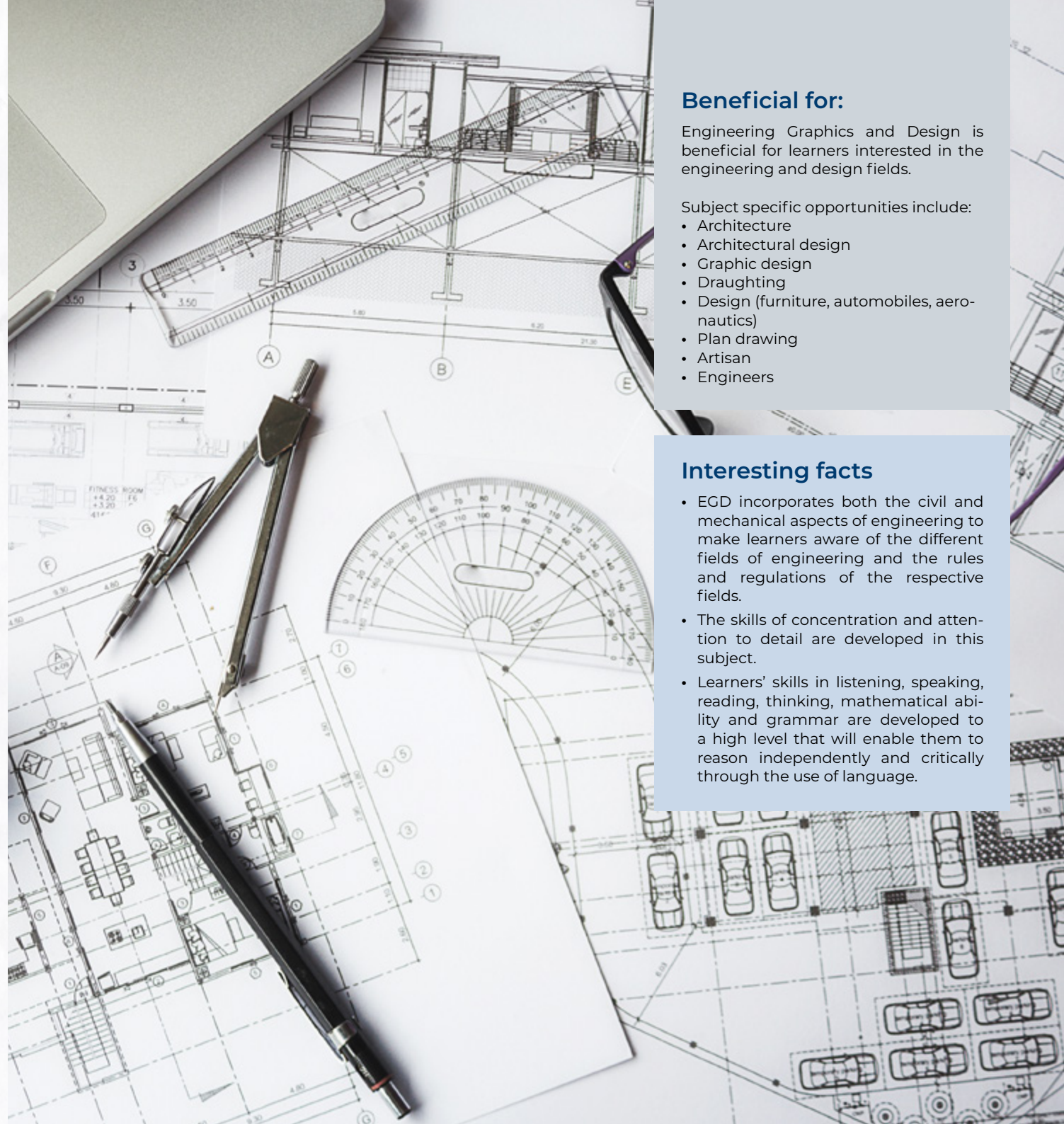
## Subject content

EGD teaches principles in civil and mechanical engineering graphics and design. It covers:

- visualisation,
- drawing principles,
- freehand, instrument, and CAD drawings, and
- the design process.

The focus is on providing learners with basic knowledge and skills to produce drawings in mechanical and civil technology contexts.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice.**



## Beneficial for:

Engineering Graphics and Design is beneficial for learners interested in the engineering and design fields.

Subject specific opportunities include:

- Architecture
- Architectural design
- Graphic design
- Draughting
- Design (furniture, automobiles, aeronautics)
- Plan drawing
- Artisan
- Engineers

## Interesting facts

- EGD incorporates both the civil and mechanical aspects of engineering to make learners aware of the different fields of engineering and the rules and regulations of the respective fields.
- The skills of concentration and attention to detail are developed in this subject.
- Learners' skills in listening, speaking, reading, thinking, mathematical ability and grammar are developed to a high level that will enable them to reason independently and critically through the use of language.

# French Second Additional Language

## Why choose this subject?

Members of *La Francophonie* represent approximately 600 million people worldwide. *La Francophonie* is the term for an international community of 88 states and governments created to encourage the development of the French language and values. It is represented by the OIF (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie), which promotes the French language, linguistic diversity, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development. OIF's purpose includes promoting cooperation among countries in the fields of culture, science, economy, justice and peace. Choosing to study French will offer you unique study and employment opportunities, both in South Africa and internationally. French has become increasingly relevant in South Africa since the country was identified as an important partner for future French investment projects in Africa. Beyond employment opportunities, the culture, history, and traditions of French enrich the mind of the learner and promote an increased understanding and perspective of other countries and cultures.

## Subject content

The syllabus covers basic everyday themes such as introducing oneself, family, daily routine, school, transport, food, hobbies and holidays. Practical skills are acquired. For example, making reservations in a hotel, ordering food in a restaurant, extending invitations and interpreting visual texts. At a more advanced level, various relevant themes are explored, such as youth, health, sport, food, media, technology, travelling, friendship and the environment.

**Prerequisites if taken via Curro Choice:**  
French conversational in Grades 8 and 9.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.



## Beneficial for:

In South Africa, French is a compulsory subject for learners wishing to pursue a career in international relations and diplomatic studies.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Translation and interpretation
- Tourism and commerce
- Radio and television broadcasting
- Teaching and lecturing
- Fashion and design
- Hospitality
- Journalism
- Liaison and public relations
- Advertising
- Publishing
- Audiovisual production
- Law and medicine (Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders is essentially a French organisation).

## Interesting facts

- French is an important international language spoken by more than 300 million people on five continents and is the official language of several African countries.
- French is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world.
- French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts.

# Geography

## Why choose this subject?

Geography is the study of the activities of people and the earth's environment. It analyses the characteristics of places and identifies the location of places. It studies the movement of resources and materials on a global scale and recognises and compares the similarities and differences of different regions. Geography is also about harnessing cutting-edge technology to solve real-world problems. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are powerful tools that allow us to analyse, visualise, and interpret geographic data like never before. Companies, governments, and non-profit organisations around the world rely on GIS professionals to make informed decisions and tackle complex challenges.

Because the subject is so diverse and dynamic, Geography opens and connects learners to their world in a unique way. Learners will discover places they have only dreamed of; they will develop insight into global events, and they will gain a deeper appreciation for and more in-depth understanding of the complexities of our planet.

## Subject content

The curriculum consists of physical geography and human geography:

- Physical geography focuses on geographical skills, the weather and climate, geomorphology, and resource issues.
- Human geography focuses on settlement, development, sustainability and population issues.

The topics relate well to other subjects at school, creating a platform to apply knowledge from various subjects and promoting a holistic view of the world. Lessons and assessments focus on the application of knowledge by relying on real-life scenarios to create the learning context. Lessons are primarily discussion-based, integrating theory and practice to create an engaging learning environment.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

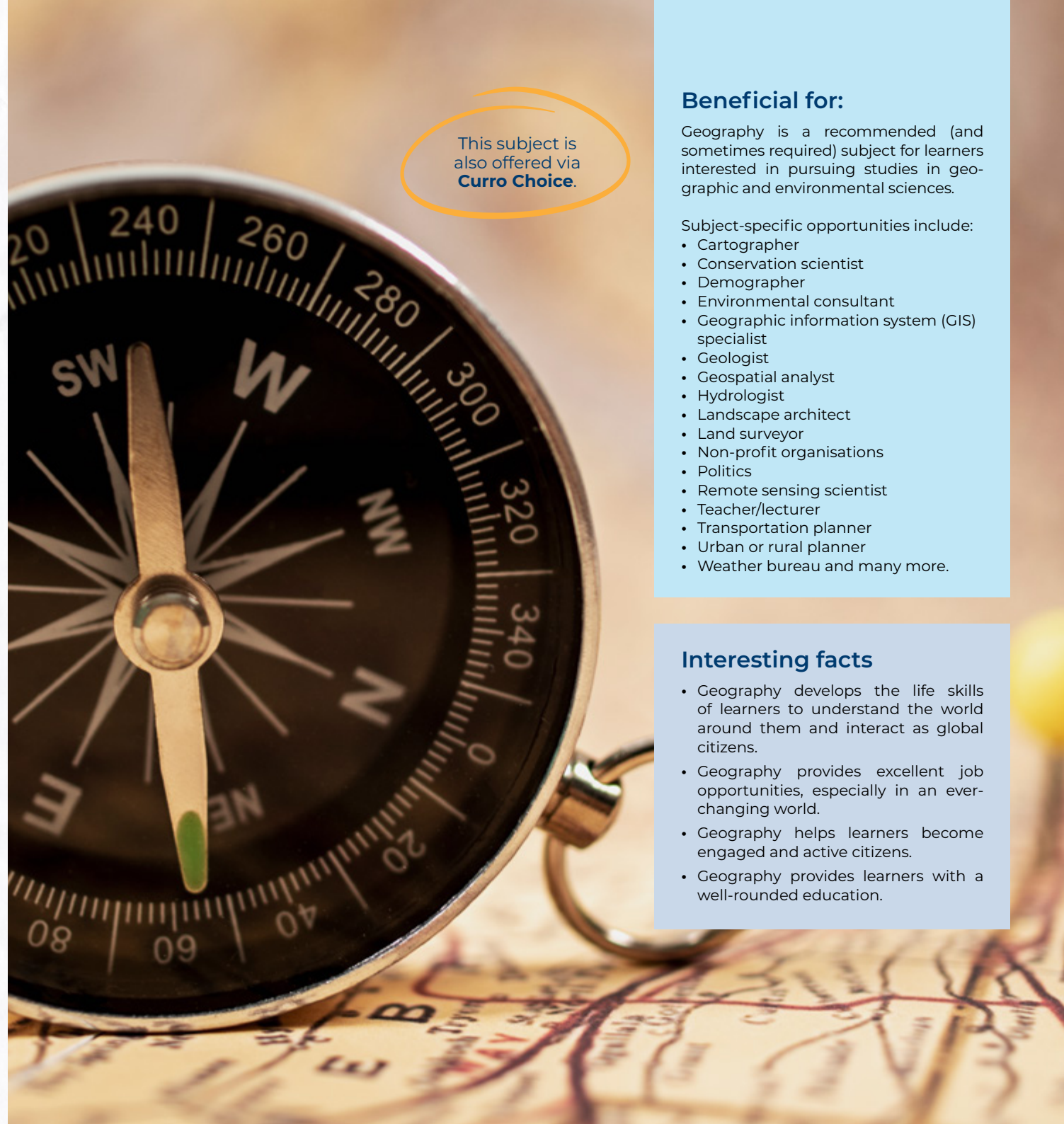
Geography is a recommended (and sometimes required) subject for learners interested in pursuing studies in geographic and environmental sciences.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Cartographer
- Conservation scientist
- Demographer
- Environmental consultant
- Geographic information system (GIS) specialist
- Geologist
- Geospatial analyst
- Hydrologist
- Landscape architect
- Land surveyor
- Non-profit organisations
- Politics
- Remote sensing scientist
- Teacher/lecturer
- Transportation planner
- Urban or rural planner
- Weather bureau and many more.

## Interesting facts

- Geography develops the life skills of learners to understand the world around them and interact as global citizens.
- Geography provides excellent job opportunities, especially in an ever-changing world.
- Geography helps learners become engaged and active citizens.
- Geography provides learners with a well-rounded education.



# History

## Why choose this subject?

History is an enquiry into the past, which considers change and development over time. It is a distinctive academic discipline that enables us to understand and evaluate past actions using well-established methods, discourses and construction of historical knowledge.

History is an enquiry into the past, which enables us to understand and evaluate how past action impacts on the present. A study of history builds the capacity of people to make informed choices based on the insight gained from studying the past. It empowers people to contribute constructively to society and to advancing democracy. One of the greatest benefits of studying history is the development of analytical and critical-thinking skills, which are transformed into effective writing. As author, playwright and essayist, James Baldwin claims, 'the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do. It could scarcely be otherwise, since it is to history that we owe our frames of reference, our identities, and our aspirations.'

The benefits of taking History go far beyond knowing the dates of when people were born or died. In the words of historian, Professor Peter Stearns: 'History serves as our laboratory. Data from the past serve as our most vital evidence in the unavoidable quest to figure out why our complex species behaves as it does in societal settings. This, fundamentally, is why we cannot stay away from history – it offers the only extensive evidential base for the contemplation and analysis of how societies function and people need to have some sense of how societies function simply to run their own lives.'

## Subject content

The curriculum for History consists of a study of change and development in society over time, focusing on key historical periods, significant events, and themes. History is divided into different eras, from ancient civilisations to modern times, with an emphasis on understanding the causes and consequences of historical events. It encompasses a study of world history, African history, and South African history, examining the interconnectedness of global events and their impact on local and regional contexts.

The curriculum covers a range of topics, including political, social, economic, and cultural history, allowing learners to explore different aspects of human experience and behaviour. Lessons and assessments in History are designed to foster critical thinking, analysis, and interpretation of historical events. Learners are encouraged to engage with historical debates, diverse perspectives and interpretations of the past, and to develop their own arguments based on evidence and reasoning.

History relates well to other subjects at school, providing a platform for interdisciplinary learning and the application of knowledge from various subjects.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

History is a recommended subject for learners interested in law, politics and economics. The thinking and writing skills acquired in the study of history are especially valuable for learners intending to further their studies to masters and doctoral level.

Subject specific opportunities include:

- Computer developer and researcher
- Diplomatic services
- Political analyst
- Archivist
- Attorney
- Civil service administrator
- Corporate career
- Curator
- Geographer
- Heritage manager
- Historian
- Journalist
- Political scientist
- Professor
- Public relations manager
- Solicitor
- Teacher

## Interesting facts

- The study of History develops skills such as independent thinking, problem-solving, ability to distinguish between the essential and the trivial, organisation and presentation of information and opinions.
- History learners are best equipped to promote democracy, equality, human rights and dignity.

# Hospitality Studies

## Why choose this subject?

High school learners should consider taking Hospitality Studies as a subject for several compelling reasons. Firstly, it opens up diverse career opportunities in the expansive hospitality industry, including hotel management, event planning, and tourism. Secondly, Hospitality Studies provides hands-on learning experiences that develop practical skills like customer service and hospitality management, which are invaluable in real-world settings. Moreover, the global nature of the hospitality industry offers opportunities for employment and cultural immersion worldwide, fostering a global perspective and understanding. Additionally, studying hospitality can cultivate entrepreneurship skills for those interested in starting their own hospitality-related businesses, while also promoting personal development through emphasis on communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership.

In essence, Hospitality Studies offers a comprehensive education that equips learners with both practical expertise and broader skills applicable across various careers and aspects of life, making it a valuable subject choice for high school learners seeking a dynamic and fulfilling educational experience.

## Subject content

Hospitality Studies consists of a theoretical and a practical component.

The following topics are covered in the theoretical component:

- Sectors and careers
- Nutrition and menu planning
- Kitchen and restaurant operations
- Food commodities
- Food and beverage service
- Hygiene
- Safety and security

The practical component consists of:

- Two four-hour Practical Skills and Techniques Tests (PSTs)
- Practical Assessment Task (PAT): food service and food production
- Final external PAT task

## Beneficial for:

Studies in the hospitality industry, tourism and event management.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Restaurateur
- Hotel and resort management
- Property investment
- Chef
- Catering
- Business development manager
- Tour manager or guide
- Culinary director
- Conference and banqueting manager

## Interesting facts

- The hospitality industry employs over 320 million people, and this number grows annually.
- The projected growth of the global hospitality market is set to soar to a staggering US\$5,816.66 billion by 2027, with a remarkable compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.5%.
- New positions are opening up in the hospitality industry that are centred around digitalisation, technology and sustainability.



# Information Technology

## Why choose this subject?

It cannot be denied that our lives are made more accessible through technology. Information Technology plays a pivotal role in the provision of this technology. In this subject, we aim to introduce learners to the basic principles of computing and computer programming. Information Technology is a challenging yet enjoyable subject and is suitable for anyone who has an interest in the various fields of computer science. A good mark in Mathematics is a prerequisite. It is strongly recommended that the learner also take Core Mathematics as a subject. The typical profile of a learner taking Information Technology would be one who is interested in Physical Sciences, Engineering Graphics, and Design and/or Accounting.

## Subject content

Information Technology is divided into a theory section and a practical section, each of which comprises 50% of the curriculum.

In the theory component, you can expect to study the following topics:

- Computer hardware and software
- Basic computer networking theory and skills
- Internet technologies
- Social implications of ICT on such aspects as computer crime, hacking, cracking, and the digital divide
- Aspects of the 'green movement' in IT

Theory and practical programming have equal weight in this subject. Learners display their working knowledge of the combination of all aspects of their work through their Practical Assessment Task (PAT). This task is in the form of a program they have to write for a client. They have to assess what the problem is to be solved and plan a solution. This solution is then developed in Java/Delphi, tested according to a detailed testing program, and thoroughly documented from the planning stage through to the testing of said program, including technical documentation and user manuals.

### Prerequisites if taken via Curro Choice:

- The learner must take Mathematics (not Mathematical Literacy) and achieve at least 65% for Mathematics at the end of Grade 9.
- Grade 10 IT is a prerequisite for Grade 11 IT

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

Information Technology is highly recommended for learners intending to pursue studies in the computer engineering and IT fields. In addition to this, programming is becoming more ubiquitous in many fields where developments are primarily made with the use of computers.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Data analyst
- Database designer
- IT specialist
- Network specialist
- Software developer
- Software engineer
- Systems developer and many more

## Interesting facts

- Most engineering and mathematical tertiary courses now include modules for computer programming. Learners who were offered high school Information Technology tend to do very well in these modules, making the transition to university smoother and less stressful.
- Learners in many courses have found that this subject not only gave them guidance on their field of study but also helped with a variety of fields of studies, ranging from animation, mathematics, engineering, and aviation – to name a few.

## Requirements

### Computer/laptop requirements

- I5 or AMD Ryzen 5 or better (i7 recommended)
- Windows 10
- 1.8 GHz or faster dual-core or quad-core processor
- Minimum 8 GB RAM
- SSD drive

# Life Sciences

## Why choose this subject?

Life Sciences is part and parcel of any life form on earth. Understanding our connection with the rest of creation is an essential requirement for truly sustainable human well-being. If you particularly enjoy Natural Sciences, Life Sciences is a natural progression to all things dealing with the science of nature.

The scientific study of living things, from a molecular level to their interactions with one another and their environments, is called Life Sciences. The methods for these studies 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. As with all knowledge, scientific knowledge changes over time as scientists improve their knowledge and understanding and as people change their views of the world around them. Life Sciences learners are informed of debates and arguments among the scientists who were the first to investigate a phenomenon. Life Sciences not only provides you with useful knowledge and skills that are needed in everyday life but also gives you exposure to a wide range of possible biology-based study areas so that you can see where your interests lie and which specialisation you would like to follow.

## Subject content

Life Sciences is organised according to four knowledge strands:

- Life at the molecular, cellular and tissue level
- Life processes in plants and animals
- Environmental studies
- Diversity, change and continuity.

## Beneficial for:

From 2026, Life Sciences will become a required subject for all Health Sciences degrees.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Physiologist
- Biochemist
- Geneticist or psychologist
- Medical representative
- Laboratory analyst
- Life Sciences or Life Orientation teacher
- Researcher
- Biologist
- Ecologist
- Environmental consultant
- Environmental impact expert
- Plant specialist
- Conservation scientist
- Environmental teacher

## Interesting facts

- Due to the never-ending need of new studies in the field of Life Sciences, innovative individuals are in demand by society, thereby providing a plethora of job security for those with a career in Life Science.
- Life Sciences learners have strong analytical skills and are able to understand complex data and make sound conclusions based on that data.
- Life Sciences learners are excellent communicators, both in writing and in person.

# Music

## Why choose this subject?

High school learners should consider Music as a subject as it offers several benefits. Firstly, studying Music provides a creative outlet for self-expression and artistic development, allowing learners to explore their talents and passions in a supportive environment. Secondly, music education fosters discipline, focus, and perseverance, as learners learn to master musical techniques and concepts through dedicated practice and study. Moreover, research suggests that studying Music can enhance cognitive abilities, including memory, spatial reasoning, and language skills, leading to improved academic performance in other subjects. Additionally, participation in music classes, ensembles, and performances promotes teamwork, collaboration, and social skills as learners work together to achieve musical goals and communicate effectively through music. Furthermore, music has the power to inspire, uplift, and unite people across cultures and generations, fostering empathy, cultural appreciation, and a sense of community among learners. In summary, studying Music in high school offers a wealth of personal, academic, and social benefits, making it a valuable and enriching subject choice for learners interested in cultivating their creativity, intellect, and interpersonal skills.

## Subject content

Music is made up of a theoretical and practical section. It is important to note that the demands of the theory curriculum differ according to which examination is written at the end of the Grade 12 year (e.g. IEB, Trinity, UNISA etc.), but that skill in the chosen instrument for the practical examination is a must.

Please consult with your school as to the syllabus they follow in order to understand the exact demands for the final examinations.

## Beneficial for:

Developing critical-thinking skills which are required in all fields of study.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Musician
- Performer
- Composer
- Music producer or engineer
- Sound engineer or technician
- Music therapist
- Music librarian
- Music entrepreneur

## Interesting facts

- According to the latest research on the cognitive neuroscience of music, learning music powerfully reinforces language skills, builds and improves reading ability and strengthens memory and attention.
- Playing music engages cognitive, sensory, motor and reward systems simultaneously, making playing music one of the richest and deepest brain activities that humans perform.
- Music and reading are complementary learning activities, so playing music improves reading ability.

# Physical Sciences

## Why choose this subject?

The study of Physical Sciences focuses on investigating physical and chemical phenomena through scientific inquiry. By applying scientific models, theories and laws, the subject seeks to explain and predict events in our physical environment. This subject also deals with society's desire to understand how the physical environment works, how to benefit from this and how to care for the environment responsibly – helping us to address the challenges facing society. Physical Sciences prepares learners for future learning, specialist learning, employment, citizenship, holistic development, socio-economic development, and environmental management. Many learners choose to study Physical Sciences because if they obtain more than 50% for the subject, it allows them to apply to a wide range of sought-after undergraduate study programmes.

## Subject content

Physical Sciences is the study of the inorganic world. There are four main branches of Physical Sciences, namely astronomy, physics, chemistry and earth sciences. In the NSC curriculum, Physical Sciences focuses mainly on the study of chemistry and physics. The six main knowledge areas of Physical Sciences include:

- matter and materials,
- chemical systems,
- chemical change,
- mechanics,
- waves, sound and light, and
- electricity and magnetism.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Physical Sciences must be taken in combination with Mathematics.*

## Beneficial for:

A minimum mark of 50% to 60% is a requirement to apply for science, technology, health sciences and engineering degrees.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Actuary
- Architect
- Dentist
- Emergency medical care worker
- Engineer
- Information technology industry
- Land surveyor
- Medical doctor
- Pharmacist
- Physicist
- Physiotherapist
- Radiography
- Scientist
- Teacher
- Technician
- Technologist
- Town planner

## Interesting facts

- Studying Physical Science equips learners with a diverse set of skills that are not only valuable for further study in the sciences but also for a wide range of careers that require analytical thinking, problem-solving, and a strong foundation in science and mathematics.
- Often, finding a solution to a Physical Sciences problem requires a multi-step approach, with thoughtful consideration for short-term and longer-term goals of solving the problem. This assists in developing creativity and critical thinking.
- In the theory component, there are some questions which ask learners to form a hypothesis based on the limited information given. Learners would then have to apply their contextual knowledge as they try to understand and interpret the data.

# Tourism

## Why choose this subject?

A practical-orientated subject, Tourism covers a variety of interesting areas. Working with people and careful planning should be something that you enjoy, and you should be interested in travel. It is important too that you are curious about tourism as an industry and willing to take a close look at the factors that ensure a successful tourism business.

Tourism offers an exciting journey into the world of travel, culture, and hospitality. By studying Tourism, you gain practical skills in customer service, event planning, and marketing, which are invaluable in a variety of career paths within the tourism industries. Tourism fosters a deeper understanding of global interconnectedness, cultural diversity, and the impact of travel on societies and the environment.

Choosing Tourism as a subject can open doors to further study and career opportunities, as it contributes to learners' Academic Performance Score (APS) and can lead to specialised tertiary education in fields such as tourism management, sustainable tourism, or hospitality studies. Ultimately, studying Tourism not only equips learners with practical skills and knowledge but also inspires a lifelong passion for exploration, cultural understanding, and responsible travel.

## Subject content

- Tourism sectors
- Map work and tour planning
- Tourism attractions
- Sustainable and responsible tourism
- Domestic, regional and international tourism
- Culture and heritage tourism
- Foreign exchange
- Communication and customer care
- Marketing

This subject is  
also offered via  
**Curro Choice.**



## Beneficial for:

Tourism is strongly recommended for learners interested in pursuing employment in the hospitality sector.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Air steward
- Game ranger
- Tour guide
- Lodge manager
- Photographer
- Scuba-diving instructor
- Guesthouse owner/manager
- Tour planner
- Chef
- Luxury cruise ship worker
- Spa manager
- Teambuilding facilitator
- Restaurant manager
- Theme park manager
- Lifesaver
- Professional hunter
- Pilot
- Events organiser
- Holiday sales representative
- Somatologist
- Tourism manager
- Journalist and marketer

## Interesting facts

- South Africa is ranked among the top 3 countries in the world (countries with more than 9 million tourists) in respect of tourism growth (growing at 3 times the global average) – World Tourism Council.
- 1 in 23 employed individuals work in the tourism sector.

# Visual Arts

## Why choose this subject?

Visual Arts isn't just about creating pretty pictures; it's a gateway to self-expression and a means to deeply engage with the world around us. Through this subject, learners embark on a journey that stimulates their intellect, fuels their imagination, and hones their ability to innovate using various materials and technologies. It's not merely about painting or sculpting; it's about developing a personal visual language, informed by the rich tapestry of art history and contemporary visual culture.

Art education isn't just for the naturally gifted; it's for everyone. It offers opportunities to perceive, respond to, create, and communicate through images, empowering learners to harness the power of visual expression throughout their lives. Beyond the classroom, the skills acquired in Visual Arts are highly transferable, laying the groundwork for success in a variety of professions.

## Subject content

The practical assessment tasks encompass a creative journey, blending contextual research, drawing, and the creation of artworks. Alongside this practical exploration, the theoretical component delves into the historical, political, social, and economic contexts that shape civilisations, artistic movements, and individual artists.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are additional stationery requirements for Visual Arts. Please check with your school for the list of specific requirements.

### Prerequisites if taken via Curro Choice:

- Grade 10 Visual Arts is a prerequisite for Grade 11 Visual Arts.
- It is recommended that a learner has a mark of at least 65% in English at the end of Grade 9.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.



## Beneficial for:

Visual Arts is strongly recommended for learners who intend to work in a creative field. Visual Arts fosters skills essential for success in today's dynamic workforce, where adaptability and creativity are highly valued.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Advertising artist
- Animator
- Architectural designer
- Art director
- Arts manager
- Curator
- Exhibition designer
- Illustrator

## Interesting facts

- Visual Arts develops soft skills crucial for navigating the complexities of the modern world. Success is increasingly dependent on one's ability to adapt, and Visual Arts precisely cultivates these adaptive skills.
- The study of visual culture encompasses elements of anthropology, theology, psychology, science, and much more, providing a holistic understanding of the world and one's place within it.

## Externally offered subjects

### What about subjects like Equine Studies and Mandarin that are not listed?

Please contact your Curro school of choice to enquire about the possibility of offering these subjects through an external service provider. It is important to note that an additional cost is inevitable.

### Electrical Technology

Electrical Technology is offered at Curro Langebaan to Grades 10 to 12.

### Sport and Exercise Science

Sport and Exercise Science is offered at Creston College to Grades 10 to 12.



## Further studies subjects

Further Studies subjects fall within the International Secondary Certificate (ISC) programme and are examined by the IEB. Learners are not required to attend an IEB school in order to register to write the Further Studies subject examinations.

Further Studies subjects are extensions of the national syllabus and extend learners beyond the standard curriculum. Due to this, they are not viewed as part of the NSC subject package, and a separate statement of results is issued at the end of the Grade 12 year which reflects the results of the Further Studies subjects. Universities thus count Further Studies subjects in addition to the seven subjects required to pass the NSC.

It is important to note that Further Studies subjects are designed to extend learners to better prepare them for tertiary studies. The content requires intensive study, and academic rigour is required to advance successfully through the three-year programmes. These subjects are strongly recommended for high achievers, and a minimum of a 70% average in the given school subject is recommended to ensure that learners are best able to cope with the demands of the content.

Further Studies subjects must be taken from the Grade 10 year, as the content covered spans a three-year period. Learners will not be able to pick up a Further Studies subject in their Grade 11 year.

# Further Studies English

## Why choose this subject?

Should you wish to be energised by a cognitively enriching, deeply stimulating and mind-broadening study of literature, Further Studies English is worthy of consideration. This subject is benchmarked as an A-level equivalent and is regarded by former learners as the ideal 'dress rehearsal' for tertiary study. It is best suited to aspirant learners who have tertiary ambitions and who are excited by academic stretch. Please note that Further Studies English can only be taken as an extra subject (8th, 9th or 10th). As a Further Studies English learner, you will be advantaged by the breadth of reading, judgement and thinking that is required.

## Subject content

Further Studies English is assessed via a final three-hour examination requiring three rigorously argued and substantiated literary essays. Essays are linked to a wide-ranging study of novels, films and schools of poetry as well as a focus on the creations of individual poets. The third question is based on your independently read texts. Questions are linked to themes such as protest, defying convention and creating future ways of being and thinking. You can expect to be challenged, to have your perspectives shifted and to be stretched to consider a wide range of issues in mind-stretching and expansive ways.

### Prerequisites if taken via Curro Choice:

Recommended mark of at least 60% for English at the end of Grade 9.

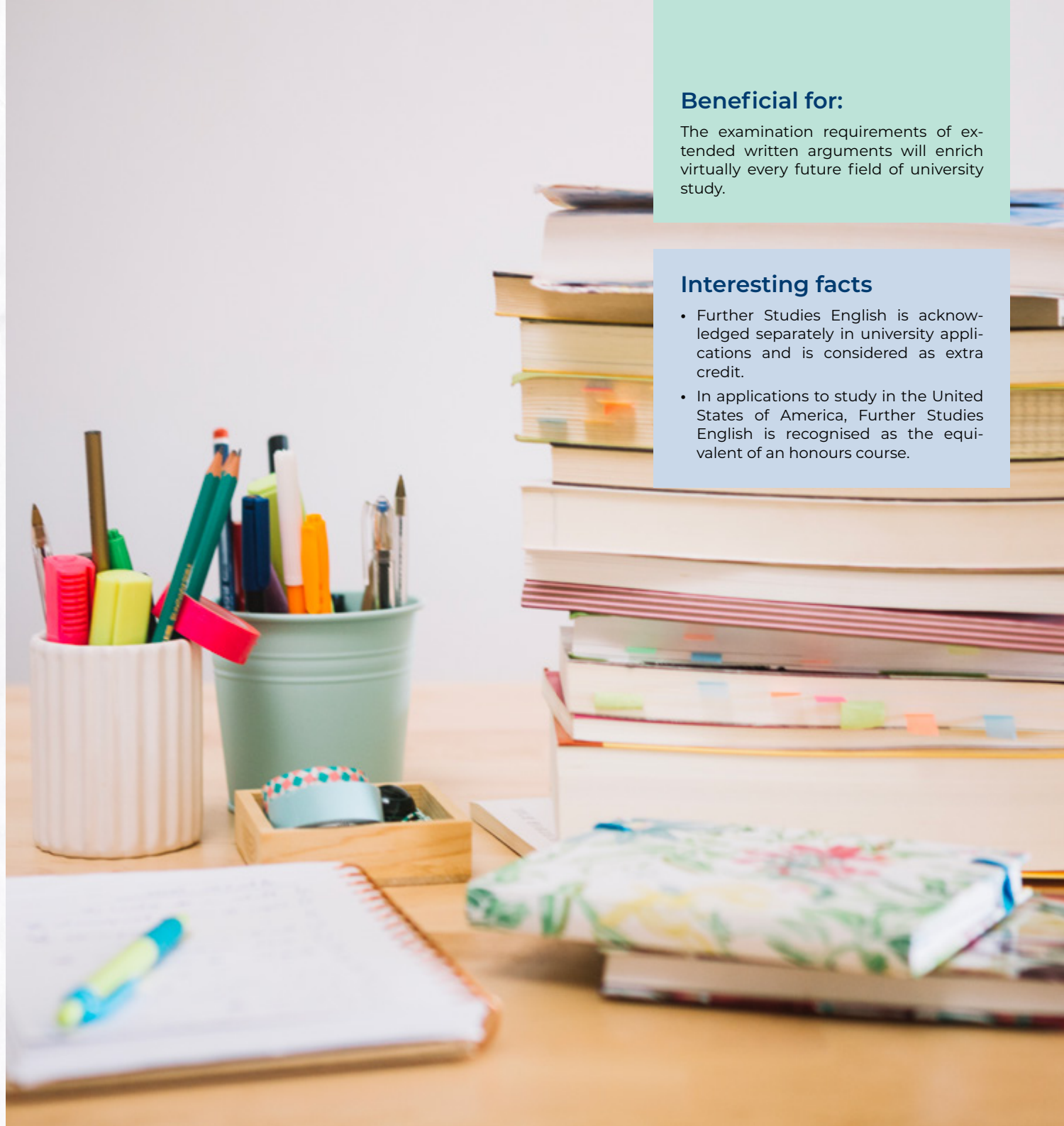
This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

The examination requirements of extended written arguments will enrich virtually every future field of university study.

## Interesting facts

- Further Studies English is acknowledged separately in university applications and is considered as extra credit.
- In applications to study in the United States of America, Further Studies English is recognised as the equivalent of an honours course.



# Further Studies Mathematics

## Why choose this subject?

Further Studies Mathematics is an additional subject examined by the IEB. It is a subject offering within their International Secondary Certificate (ISC) programme. This three-year programme replaces the Advanced Programme Mathematics previously offered by the IEB.

The primary aim of the subject offering is to involve our learners in creative problem-solving that promotes critical thinking. Furthermore, the subject offering allows our learners to engage with advanced mathematical concepts at school level, and in so doing they will be better prepared for their tertiary studies.

The subject is benchmarked against the UK A level in Mathematics by UK NARIC. The subject is certified separately to the normal school subjects and the successful completion of the subject can be used in applications at several tertiary institutions both nationally and internationally.

## Subject content

Further Studies Mathematics is a three-year course. The extended course includes topics such as financial mathematics and mathematical modelling.

The subject demands are high, and a high degree of self-regulated learning is expected. Part of the programme's advantages is the self-discipline and commitment that is required to succeed. A Grade 10 learner wishing to enter the programme will need a solid understanding of Grade 9 Mathematics and at least a 70% average to enrol for the subject.

### Brief overview of the content in the three-year programme

- Advanced algebra and complex numbers
- Financial Mathematics
- Population modelling
- Calculus, including differentiation and integration
- Optimisation problems

### Prerequisites if taken via Curro Choice:

Recommended mark of at least 70% for Mathematics at the end of Grade 9.

This subject is also offered via **Curro Choice**.

## Beneficial for:

The commitment, rigour, self-discipline, and higher-order thinking skills involved in the three-year programme is an advantage to all future tertiary study directions, not only the sciences and mathematics. This programme is highly recommended to all learners who wish to start their academic career with an advantage in both content and learning skills.

Subject-specific opportunities include:

- Actuary
- Pilot
- Architect
- Astronomer
- Computer and information research scientist
- Dentist
- Economist
- Engineer
- Financial analyst
- Game developer
- Information technologist
- Mathematician
- Medical doctor
- Operations research analyst
- Pharmacist
- Physicist
- Scientist
- Statistician
- Teacher
- Technician
- Technologist
- Town planner

## Interesting facts

- Further Studies Mathematics is acknowledged separately in university applications and is viewed by some universities as an extra credit.
- In applications to study in the United States of America, Further Studies Mathematics is recognised as the equivalent of an honours course.

# Curro Choice

## A message from the Executive Head of Curro Choice

Dear Grade 9s

As you stand at the threshold of your next academic journey, the decisions you make now will shape the path of your future. It's a pivotal moment – one that may seem overwhelming, but with the right guidance and resources, you're poised for success. I am honored to be a part of Curro Choice, an initiative designed to empower learners like you to chart your own educational course with confidence and clarity.

In a rapidly evolving world, the ability to adapt and innovate is paramount. That's why Curro Choice offers a diverse array of subjects, allowing you to tailor your studies to your passions and aspirations. Our commitment to personalised learning means that geographical constraints no longer limit your options. With digital classrooms, the world becomes your campus.

At Curro Choice, we recognise that traditional and digital learning each have their merits, but we also understand that neither alone provides a complete solution. Drawing inspiration from leading teachers like Professor Vijay Govindarajan, we embrace a hybrid approach that seamlessly blends the best of both worlds. This hybrid model isn't just about adapting to the present; it's about preparing you for the future, equipping you with the skills and resilience needed to thrive in an ever-changing landscape.

As the Executive Head of Curro Choice, I am deeply passionate about empowering learners to unlock their full potential. Every decision we make is driven by a commitment to excellence and a belief in the transformative power of education. Your journey with Curro Choice isn't just about acquiring knowledge; it's about discovering your passions, cultivating critical thinking skills, and becoming lifelong learners prepared to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

As you embark on this exciting chapter of your academic career, remember to dream big and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

### Mr Ferdi Niemand

Executive Head  
Curro Choice

# Wider subject choice: FAQ

## How will the content be delivered?

Live digital lessons take place during the normal school day (or after hours for extra-subject learners). A teacher leads five lessons per ten-day cycle (live, digital) and tutors provide support for the other five tutorial lessons. Lessons are conducted via Microsoft Teams and Moodle. All lessons will also be recorded and uploaded to Moodle so that, if need be, learners may watch or review the lesson at a later stage, at their own pace.

## Who are the teachers?

Curro's subject specialists create the content for all live digital lessons.

## When will lessons be conducted?

During dedicated lessons that are timetabled and synchronised across all Curro schools.

## If the classes are available during normal school hours, how will this fit into my child's daily timetable at school?

We will synchronise certain lesson periods on our school timetable across all Curro schools for our teachers to offer this subject digitally to the learners. Lots of work and research was done and with the help of Curro's curriculum management division, we have set up a timetable consisting of a ten-day cycle with ten lesson periods per subject over the ten days.

## Can you give me an example of how the digital learning would fit into a normal day at school?

When taking a subject as part of the seven subjects, the learner will have ten lessons for that specific subject. Five of those lesson periods will be presented by Curro's live online teachers to the learners taking this subject. The remaining five lessons will follow these five live lessons. If the subject is taken as an additional eighth, ninth or tenth subject, the classes are offered after school and are also recorded and available to the learner to work through on their own as well (specifically if they are involved in extramural activities after school).

## Will there be supervision in a dedicated classroom?

Yes, there will be either a supervisor, teacher or a tutor appointed to do supervision in the class while your child is working digitally.

### **How will discipline be maintained via the digital learning platform?**

The established school discipline methods, policies and processes will apply as the learner is still part of their school.

### **What is the difference between live digital and digital tutorial lessons?**

Live lessons mean that there is a teacher available who presents the subject live to the class. Tutorial lessons are pre-recorded lessons that learners follow online and complete at their own time in that specific lesson period. This work will be done under the supervision of a tutor or teacher in a classroom at the school.

### **Can the learner take Further Studies Mathematics and Core Mathematics as part of their core seven subjects?**

No, they cannot. Core Mathematics can be taken as part of the learner's seven elective subjects. Further Studies Mathematics is only available after school hours and is not part of the electives.

### **Can the learner take Further Studies Mathematics instead of Core Mathematics?**

No, the requirement from the DBE is still that a learner should take Core Mathematics.

### **What equipment will the learners need?**

The learners will require a device and earphones.

### **Which platforms will be used?**

Microsoft Teams will be used for the live digital classes. Moodle will be used to deliver the subject content. The Microsoft Office suite of products, including Word, PowerPoint and Excel, will be used for assignments and projects. Microsoft OneNote will be used for group assignments so that the teacher can see each learner's contribution.

### **What is Moodle and how will that work?**

Moodle is a platform for digital learning that enables a teacher to create digital courses, add assignments, and track a learner's progress. Moodle also enables communication with learners and encourages communication between learners in forums and discussions.

### **I don't have time to check the Moodle dashboard, how will I be notified if my child missed anything that was said in class?**

Learners will be taught by a real teacher, although not physically in the classroom at their school. The teacher will be



able to monitor progress via a dashboard and will also give the parent/guardian feedback on the learner's performance. The learner stays part of their school and as such the school will keep you up to date with the learner's progress.

### **Will the learner use the school's Wi-Fi?**

The learner will use their current device and Curro is improving connectivity across all Curro schools.

### **What happens when there is no Wi-Fi at school due to factors such as load-shedding?**

The lessons are all recorded and available on Moodle to be watched anytime at the learner's convenience.

### **How would technical support work?**

Technical support is in place at all schools through peer coaches, site technicians and node technicians.

### **Do I pay extra if the subject is part of the learner's core seven subjects and not an additional subject?**

If the subject is taken as one of the seven subjects, the class will occur during normal school hours and will be timetabled as such and there will be no additional cost. If the subject is taken as an additional subject, it will be available after normal school hours at an additional cost. The cost will be added to the learner's monthly school-fee account by the school.

### **Will five live classes for a complex subject such as EGD be enough for the learner to sufficiently understand the subject?**

Apart from the five classes with the teacher, there are also five other lesson periods where the learner will have to complete tasks and assignments on the content of the subject. This work will be done under the supervision of a tutor or teacher in a classroom at the school. The learner's performance is closely monitored to track performance and establish if the learner needs additional assistance. Extra classes are also available if needed.

### **How would it work for subjects such as Design and EGD (Engineering Graphics and Design) that have a practical component?**

EGD has developed a fully digital course that includes practical work that the learner has to upload. We currently run Design (Grades 10 to 12) and learners work on their practical work in their own time (at school or at home) and submit a weekly virtual diary (PowerPoint) to demonstrate their progress. They have dedicated digital contact lessons with the teacher to get input on their practical work and

progress. The matric exhibition is still done at school with guidelines from our teachers (an experienced IEB internal moderator).

#### **How will assessments be done?**

All the necessary school-based assessments are done by all learners at school or at home, but formal assessments (tests and examinations) must be done at school under strict supervision. All learners are required to compile a subject portfolio as is custom in all the subjects (IEB/DBE). Everything is managed as per a traditional school. All assessments are moderated and form part of cluster or national moderation, as usual, with the additional benefit of immediate feedback in the online assessment. This allows learners to alter outcomes quicker without having to wait for feedback from teachers before altering their responses.

#### **How will feedback on academic performance be managed?**

- Learners, parents and teachers should have access to real-time diagnostics, as is the case in global trends. Not only are you provided with normal reports, you also get weekly feedback from the Moodle platform on how you are doing.
- Module progress reports are available live to parents/guardians via Moodle to track ongoing progress.
- Term reports provide detailed progress feedback.
- Learners track their progress on their Moodle dashboard and receive feedback from tutors and teachers in each lesson.
- Heads of schools and phase heads will receive feedback on the performance of learners at their school via the administrative team or through the Moodle dashboard.

#### **How regularly will academic performance be measured?**

Marks for all necessary SBA assessments and tests during terms one and three, as well as the terms two and four examinations, need to be captured every term.

#### **Who is responsible for tracking academic performance?**

The Curro teachers and tutors track the learners continuously using the tech tools available to them.

#### **Who should I contact for more information on the wider subject choice offering?**

You are welcome to contact the head of high school at your school, or you can contact the team at [subjects@curro.co.za](mailto:subjects@curro.co.za).

## Choosing your subjects

#### **IMPORTANT REMINDER!**

Due to vast combinations of subject packages, some learners' preferred choices might not fit into the timetable and they could be asked to make a second selection.

In certain cases, a subject fee will be applicable. Please refer to the school-fees letter for more information regarding individual subject fees.

Learners that are officially accepted by the IEB to have immigrant status are exempt from having to take Afrikaans and must select a subject through our wider subject choice offering.

We reserve the right to discontinue subject offerings in the case where learner numbers are too low in that specific subject.

