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OPTION CHOICES FOR

S4 AND S5

PRE-ORIENTATION CYCLE 2024-2026

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### Important Dates to Be Respected Concerning Choices for Years 4 and 5

2024	
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Information meeting with parents in the evening.
January 19 <sup>th</sup>  January 26 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Deadline for handing in a request for a change of language for S4/S5</u>  Deadline for handing in the choice form.  Forms received after the deadline may not be considered when creating options.
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	<u>Deadline for students who have to make a second choice</u> where their first choice was not possible.
March	Deadline for returning the signed option confirmation forms.
May-June	Language tests for students having requested a change.
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Deadline for requests to change options for S4. No positive reply is guaranteed!
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for requesting a change of choices for S4 following final S3 reports. No request will be accepted in September <u>unless the Class Council has recommended it.</u>
2025	
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for requesting a change of Maths level for second semester. Test required for Maths 6.
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for requesting a change of Maths level for S5. Test required for Maths 6.

## **Compulsory Subjects**

From the 4th year of secondary education (S4) onwards, the European Schools programme includes compulsory subjects and a number of optional subjects.

In S4 and S5, only Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are taught in the regular class. For all other courses, students are grouped according to language and/or option chosen.

In order to be able to offer a maximum of options to the students, from S4 onwards all the classes of the EIDE will be grouped together on the Differdange site.

Secondary 4 and 5 (S4 and S5) is the pre-orientation cycle during which all students must study the following subjects:

<b>Compulsory Subjects</b>	<b>Number of Periods</b>
Language 1 (mother tongue)	4
Language 2 (1st foreign language)	3
Language 3 (2nd foreign language)	3
History	2
Geography	2
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Physics	2
Physical education	2
Life and Society	1
Total	<hr/> 23
Mathematics	4 or 6
Total compulsory subjects	<hr/> 27 or 29

Mathematics is a compulsory subject but students have the choice between the 4-period course and the 6-period weekly course.

## Optional Subjects

In addition to the compulsory subjects, students must choose from the following optional subjects, so that the total number of weekly periods is between a minimum of 31 and a maximum of 35 for students who have taken Mathematics at 4 periods, and between a minimum of 33 and a maximum of 35 for students who have taken Mathematics at 6 periods

<u>Optional subjects</u>	<u>Number of Periods</u>
Latin	4
Language 4 (3rd foreign language)	4
Luxemburgish Culture	2
Luxemburgish Language	2
Economics	4
Art	2
Music	2

When choosing options, parents and students should pay attention to the following general remarks:

- The programme allows a maximum of 35 periods. This allows some students to follow two options at 4 periods, for example Latin and Language IV. However, the choice of 35 periods is more the exception than the rule. All students are already taking 9 exam subjects in the common courses in S4 and S5, and experience has shown the danger of overloading them.
- An optional course can only be opened if it has been chosen by a sufficient number of students (minimum 10 students).
- An optional course started in S4 can only be continued in S6 and S7 if there is a sufficient number of students.
- Latin requires previous study in S3. Teaching of Latin may be given in a mixed multilingual group.
- **The choice of an optional course commits the student for 2 years: no change, abandonment or addition of options is possible from the beginning of the 4th year.** However, a student may change from Maths 6 to Maths 4 at the end of the first semester of S4 and at the end of S4. This depends on the approval of the Class Council. The opposite change from Maths 4 to Maths 6 is possible, subject to success in a test designed to cover the extra topics.

### **Important Points to Note Concerning the Organisation of Courses for Years 4 and 5**

A number of options must be placed in parallel in the timetable, i.e. not all combinations are possible. For example, the timetable requirements prevent a student from choosing both Latin and Economics, and the combination of both Language IV and Luxembourgish is not guaranteed (pupils making this choice may be asked to make other choices). In any case, it is desirable that the choice of options should contribute to a coherent set of study subjects. Depending on the possibilities of the schedule, the school will do its best to satisfy as many requests as possible.

The two Mathematics courses are normally taught separately. It is only in exceptional cases that a student who has chosen the 4-period course in S4 and S5 can expect to take the 5-period mathematics course in S6 and S7

It is generally considered that the choice of the Physics and Chemistry options is only possible in conjunction with the 5-period Mathematics course in S6 and S7. Please consult the Chemistry or Physics teachers in your section.

Students who choose the Economics course take this course in their second language (L2). However, if the number of students is insufficient to open a course in one of the three vehicular languages, the economics course may be given in the third language (L3).

Art and Music courses can be given in a mixed multilingual group. Some students can therefore follow these courses in their mother tongue, others must do so in a vehicular language.

The Language 4 (L4) options available in S4 for the year 2024-2025 are:

- English
  - German
  - Spanish
  - Italian
  - Portuguese
  - The courses in Geography, History, and Life and Society are taught in the student's second language (L2).
  - S6 and S7
- It is strongly recommended to have an overview of the programme leading to the Baccalaureate in order to understand the possibilities and constraints of S6-S7 choices following the options chosen in S4-S5. If in doubt, do not hesitate to consult one of the class tutors or the middle-management (Mr. Schneider).

**Please note that the choices of options for years S4 and S5 commit the students for 2 years, and that results in all subjects will be taken into consideration for promotion.**