



OPTION CHOICES FOR
S6 AND S7
BACCALAUREATE CYCLE 2024-2026

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To the Pupils in 5th Year and Their Parents

This booklet is intended to give you information about courses in years 6 and 7. You will also find a summary of regulations concerning the Baccalaureate examinations.

Please read this booklet before the meeting on the 11th of January 2024. The careers adviser from each language section will attend the meeting and the class teacher will be present. Subject teachers will be available to answer your questions.

Mr Schneider and Mr Balloch coordinate choices for years 6 and 7. You are very welcome to contact them if you have any questions:

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Important Dates to Be Respected Concerning Choices for Years 6 And 7

2024	
January 11 th	Information meeting with parents in the evening.
January 26 th	<p><u>Deadline for handing in the choice form.</u> The student choices determine the various courses that will run and this is used to establish the S6 options grid.</p> <p>Deadline for handing in a request for a change of language level or a change from Maths 4 to Maths 5.</p> <p>Forms received after the deadline may not be considered when creating the grid.</p>
March	Pupils confirm choices or, <u>only where necessary</u> , pick new options from the S6 options grid.
March 31 st	Deadline for returning the signed option confirmation forms for second choices to the form teacher.
May-June	<p>Language tests for pupils having requested a change.</p> <p>Math test for pupils having asked to change from Maths 4 to Maths 5.</p>
June 3 rd	Deadline for requests to change options for S6
September 13 th	Deadline for requesting a change of choices for S6 following final S5 reports. No positive reply is guaranteed! (See p. 9)
2025	
13th June	<p>Deadline for requesting changes going into S7.</p> <p><u>No request will be accepted in September unless the Class Council has recommended it.</u> (See p. 11)</p>

Choice of Courses for the 6th And 7th Years 2024-2026

The pupil's timetable must comprise between 31 (minimum) and 35 (maximum) periods per week. Only in exceptional cases, granted by the Director, will pupils be allowed to take 36 periods. Experience has shown that a 36-period week represents a very heavy work load.

Basic courses:

Compulsory

- Language 1 (4 periods)
- Language 2 (3 periods)
- Life and Society (1 period)
- Physical Education (2 periods)
- Maths (3 periods or 5 periods)

Compulsory unless chosen as an Option (2 periods)

- History
- Geography
- Philosophy
- Biology

Biology 2p is compulsory only for those pupils who do not choose a science from the option courses. It is not available for those pupils choosing Biology as an option, but is a possibility for those pupils who choose Chemistry and/or Physics.

The 5-period Mathematics course may be chosen by a pupil who has followed the 4 period course in years 4 and 5 only on the recommendation of the teacher of Mathematics and on condition that the pupil has been successful in the required test. The test will take place during May 2023 and the request to sit the test must be handed in with the choice form in January.

Options (4 periods):

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Art
- Music
- History
- Geography
- Philosophy
- Language 3
- Economics
- Language 4

All pupils must choose at least two options and a maximum of four options.

The Digest of Decisions states that "Pupils cannot continue to study a subject in the 6th year if their results show that they have not been following it satisfactorily in the 4th and 5th years" (2010-D-246-en, p.81).

The importance of options must be emphasised, not only for promotion prospects from 6th to 7th year but also for the written and oral examinations in the Baccalaureate.

Please consult your teacher if you are in doubt as to whether you would be able to cope with a particular subject at baccalaureate level.

Normally no changes are foreseen in language choices for pupils entering year 6, and only in very special cases will a change concerning languages be accepted. A pupil's working language (used for History, Geography and Economics) cannot, however, be changed.

A request for a change of language must be handed in together with the choice form by the 26th of January 2024.

A test will then be organised in May if the school accepts the request. Passing to a higher language level – having passed the test – will usually be accepted whereas a change in the other direction will be rejected unless the arguments are compelling.

Economics and L4 are only available to pupils who have followed these options in years 4 and 5.

If Art or Music has not been followed in years 4 and 5 the pupil must provide satisfactory evidence that s(he) is able to follow it at this level. The evidence will be considered by the relevant teacher and the final decision made by the director.

Advanced courses (3 periods):

- Language 1 Advanced
- Language 2 Advanced
- Advanced Mathematics

The courses entitled “Advanced” involve, as their name suggests, a deeper study of the subject in question. These are not “back-up” courses and should be chosen only by those pupils who show a clear interest and a particular aptitude for the subject.

Advanced Language 1 and Advanced Language 2 are obligatory subjects in both the written and oral examinations of the Bacculaureate.

The Advanced Mathematics course can be taken only by those pupils who have already chosen the 5-period mathematics course. This subject cannot be taken as a written examination in the Bacculaureate, but must be taken as the third oral examination by pupils who chose it.

Complementary Courses (2 periods):

- Art
- Music
- Sport
- Theatre
- Lab Biology
- Lab Chemistry
- Lab Physics
- Language 5
- Sociology
- Politics
- Introduction to Economics
- ICT
- Classical Studies
- Sustainability and Active Citizenship

Pupils may choose up to two complementary courses, but only within the permitted limits for the total number of periods.

The laboratory courses in Biology, Physics and Chemistry can be taken only by those pupils who have already chosen the corresponding science option courses.

Complementary courses must be taken by those pupils who have fewer than 31 periods in their Basic, Optional and Advanced Courses.

Complementary courses, apart from language courses, are provided in one or more of the working languages, with no guarantee that it would be the pupil's L1.

Complementary courses are not taken in the written or oral examinations of the Baccalaureate.

Art and Music complementary courses cannot be chosen by those who have already chosen these subjects as optional courses.

Pupils who have chosen Economics as an option or who have followed Economics in years 4 and 5 cannot take Introduction to Economics.

The Language 5 courses offered are Italian (IT), Portuguese (PT) and Spanish (ES).

Life and Society

As foreseen in our accreditation agreement, the school will continue with the Life and Society course as defined in Luxembourg, and reference to Religion and Ethics in the European Baccalaureate will be understood as reference to that course.

General Remarks

The Administration will do its best to organise the courses chosen by the pupils. However, it may not be possible to offer all options and advanced courses in all sections, as a result of resource limitations and/or timetabling reasons, and **it is impossible to satisfy all choices for logistical reasons.**

If a pupil's choice is not possible, (s)he will be asked to make a second choice based on the grid determining next year's subject combinations. Please notice that the grid is established in such a way as to give as many pupils as possible their choices.

If your first choice does not work:

Your form teacher will inform you of the problems affecting your choice and at the same time give you the grid to fill out. If you fill out this grid correctly, your new combination of subjects will work. If you are in doubt how to fill out the grid, you may contact Mr Balloch or Mr Schneider. If you are in doubt as to what subjects to choose then consult your form teacher, or if necessary, seek careers advice.

Pupils are expected to make a carefully considered choice before the deadline, having consulted teachers and careers advisors¹ and having informed themselves of the regulations as outlined in this booklet.

Be aware that initial choices help determine the combination of subjects that will be created, and the numbers choosing those subjects could be critical. It is therefore generally assumed that if initial choices are possible, they will become definitive.

However, the management will consider duly justified changes made before the end of the 5th year, or even up until the beginning of September to allow for unforeseen 5th year results. If further changes are required after the start of the new school year, these must be requested in writing on a special form **by 13th September 2024**. All requests will be considered together and decisions given during the following week. No more requests will be allowed until the end of the 6th year, when the regulations permit a very limited number of changes.

If the Class Council disapproves of a certain choice, a change should take place.

If an option course that is normally taught in the language of a section cannot be created in that language, it will, if possible, be offered in one of the working languages. In creating courses, priority will always be given to options rather than to complementary courses.

If the option courses in History or Geography cannot be created in the working language of the pupil, s(he) can follow it in another working language, on the condition that it is not the pupil's L1 and that a group is created.

In principle, an option course can be created only if at least 10 eligible pupils have chosen it and then only within the limits of the school plan.

If the group does not consist of at least 10 pupils at the start of the school year, there is no guarantee that the course will be created, and the pupils might have to make a new choice.

The options already begun in the 4th year (Economics and Language 4) can be continued only if sufficient numbers of pupils choose these options.

At the Board of Governors' meeting held in April 2007 it was decided that, whilst schools should continue organizing 6th and 7th year timetables on the basis of a maximum of 35 periods per week, pupils could, with the approval of the Management, exceed this limit provided that the extra course(s) are compatible with their basic timetables. A request for such a choice must be made in writing, with a justification, at latest by 3rd June 2024. The requests will be considered prior to the start of S6 in the light of the written request, the academic profile of the pupil and technical timetable possibilities.

Why Do We Have Clashes Between Options?

We must timetable the following subjects for years 6 and 7:

L1	4	HI2	2	ART4	4	L1A	3	ART2	2
L2	3	GE2	2	MUS4	4	L2A	3	MUS2	2
MA3/5	3/5	BIO2	2	BIO4	4	MAA	3	LAB BIO	2
L&S	1	PHI2	2	CHIM	4			LAB CHIM	2
Physical Ed.	2			PHY	4			LAB PHY	2
				ECO	4			IEC	2
				GEO4	4			THE	2
				HIS4	4			L5	2
				L3	4			POL	2
				L4	4			SOC	2
				PHI4	4			ICT	2
								SPORT	2
								CLASSICS	2
								SUSTAINABILITY	2
Total:	15		8		44		9		28

This means we would need 104 periods per week to accommodate every wish!

Why do we have different clashes between options in different sections?

Experience shows that around two thirds of all pupils choose L3. It means that it is almost impossible to place other options against L3 and so the remaining options will have to be placed against the sciences, but different from section to section.

Changes between years 6 and 7

A subject chosen for 6th/7th year can be **given up only at the end of the 6th year** and then only if the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. The pupil's timetable must still have at least 31 periods.
2. There must be at least 2 optional courses.
3. There must still be 29 periods of compulsory subjects and options/advanced courses.
4. There must be at least one science (Biology 4, Chemistry, Physics or Biology 2).
5. The request for giving up a subject must be submitted in writing to the Director before the 1st of July.

Please note that between s6 and s7, only the following changes of level are possible:

- Mathematics 5 ↔ Mathematics 3
- 4-period option ↔ Compulsory 2-period course (same subject)

Advancing from Maths 3 to Maths 5 or moving from a 2-period to the more advanced 4-period option is conditional upon the passing of an attainment test demonstrating that the pupil has caught up on work covered in the course in S6 and has the ability to keep up successfully with the requirements of the course requested.

Adding a new option, advanced course or complementary subject in year S7 is not allowed.

Only in very special cases will it be possible **to change a subject level** at the start of the 7th year. A written request with an explanation of the requested change must be handed in to the Director **before the class council at the end of year 6 takes place**. The request will be discussed at the class council and the Director will take the final decision.

We draw your attention to the fact that if a pupil disregards the advice of the 5th year Class Council concerning a modification of choices, any subsequent request of a change is unlikely to meet with a favourable response.

Please note that the pupils will be asked for their choice of options for the written BAC by 15th October in year 7.

Please take note of the following

You may drop a subject between 6 and 7 if the above conditions are fulfilled, but you cannot add a new subject in year 7.

You cannot replace one 4-period option with another 4-period option or one 2-period complementary course with another 2-period complementary course.

A written request with an explanation of the requested drop of a subject must be handed in to the Director before June 13th. No request will be accepted in September unless the Class Council has recommended it.

Course Structure in Years 6 and 7

Subject Choices - General Rules

Total Study Programme: minimum 31 periods, maximum 35 periods

Columns 1 – 4: minimum 29 periods

Column 3: minimum 2 options, maximum 4 options

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS		OPTIONAL COURSES				COMPLEMENTARY COURSES
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5		
Language 1 4p Language 2 3p Maths 3 3p or Maths 5 5p Life & Society 1p P.E. 2p Total: 13 - 15 p	History 2p Geography 2p Philosophy 2p Biology 2p Total: 2 - 8 p	Art 4p Music 4p Biology 4p Chemistry 4p Physics 4p Economics 4p Language 4 4p Geography 4p History 4p Language 3 4p Philosophy 4p	Advanced L1 3p or Advanced L2 3p or Advanced Maths 3p	Art 2p Music 2p Intr. Eco. 2p Theatre 2p Lab Bio or 2p Lab Chemistry or 2p Lab Physics 2p ICT 2p L5 2p Politics 2p Sport 2p Sociology 2p Classical Studies 2p Sust. Act. Cit. 2p		
	These courses are compulsory unless they are chosen in column 3. Biology 2p is compulsory unless Biology, Chemistry or Physics is chosen in column 3.		Advanced Maths only if Maths 5 is chosen in column 1	Art, Music and Intr. Eco. are excluded if chosen in column 3. Lab. Courses only possible if corresponding science option is chosen in column 3.		

Written Examinations in Year 6

Two sets of Exams

1. One series at the end of December.
2. One series at the end of the school year.

Compulsory subjects:

Adv. Language 1	4 periods
Adv. Language 2	4 periods
Language 1	4 periods
Language 2	3 periods
Maths 3p	3 periods
Maths 5p	4 periods

Options:

Art	4 periods
Music	3 periods
Biology	3 periods
Chemistry	3 periods
Physics	3 periods
Economics	3 periods
Geography	3 periods
History	3 periods
Language 3	3 periods
Language 4	3 periods
Philosophy	4 periods

For the following subjects:

Geography 2p	2 tests of 1 period, per semester
History 2p	2 tests of 1 period, per semester
Biology 2p	2 tests of 1 period, per semester
Adv. Maths	1 test of 2 periods per semester
Philosophy 2p	1 test of 2 periods per semester

Complementary Courses: 2 assessments of 1 period or 1 assessment of 2 periods per semester

Part examinations (Pre-bacs) in year 7

Compulsory subjects:

Adv. Language 1	4 hours
Adv. Language 2	4 hours
Language 1	4 hours
Language 2	3 hours
Maths 3p	3 hours
Maths 5p	4 hours

Options:

Art	5 hours
Music	3 hours
Biology	3 hours
Chemistry	3 hours
Physics	3 hours
Economics	3 hours
Geography	3 hours
History	3 hours
Language 3	3 hours
Language 4	3 hours
Philosophy	4 hours

NB: A pupil must sit the examination for all his options.

Geography 2p	2 examinations of 1 period, per semester
History 2p	2 examinations of 1 period, per semester
Biology 2p	2 examinations of 1 period, per semester
Adv. Maths	1 examination of 2 periods per semester
Philosophy 2p	1 examination of 2 periods per semester

P.E. The B marks shows the results of the test held at the end of each unit of instruction. These three tests are purely practical, involving no written work of any kind.

Complementary Courses: 2 assessments of 1 period or 1 assessment of 2 periods per semester

How to Fill in the First Choice Form?

The pupil's data is indicated at the top of the form: name, class.
If there is a mistake, please correct it on the document.

The first part shows the pupil's choices in year 5: languages, options and Life and Society. This part is not to be filled in.

The second part should be filled in in the following way:

1. Fill in box **(2)** with 3p or 5p according to the Maths course chosen (3 or 5 periods/week).
2. Write the relevant number of periods against each of the subjects chosen (compulsory subjects, optional subjects, advanced courses and supplementary courses), while respecting the rules explained in this booklet.
3. In case of language 3, language 4, indicate the language chosen.
4. A choice of some subjects not studied before, a language change or changing from Maths 4 to Maths 5 are all subject to a test. In such a case, a special form needs to be filled in and the written opinion of the teacher requested.
5. Teachers forward to the coordinators their opinions about the possible option choices of their pupils. When choosing an option, each pupil has to contact the teacher concerned to discuss the choice with him and get his/her opinion.
6. Calculate the total of periods for each column and check that the total corresponds to the figures indicated (**at least 29 periods for the total of columns 1 to 4 and between 31 and 35 for all columns**).
7. The form needs to be dated and signed by both the pupil and the parents.

The deadline for returning the form to the class tutor is the 26th of January 2024.

Rules Governing the European Baccalaureate

Source information may be found by following these links

General information:

<https://www.eurisc.eu/en/European-Schools/European-Baccalaureate>

https://www.eurisc.eu/Documents/BAC_Handbook-en.pdf#search=bac%20guide

Detailed Rules

<https://www.eurisc.eu/BasicTexts/2014-11-D-11-en-9.pdf>

<https://www.eurisc.eu/BasicTexts/2015-05-D-12-en-39.pdf>