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SCI-BONO  
DISCOVERY CENTRE  
SCIENCE CAREER CENTRE

Choosing Subjects in  
Grade 9

The time has come and you need to select your school subjects for Grade 10 to 12.

- Do you know exactly which subjects to choose?
- Do you know which subjects you need for the career you want to pursue?
- Do you know which subjects you need to gain entry into tertiary study?

Your subject choice can have significant implications in terms of your future career...

## Subject Choice – The First Chapter in Your Career Story

Every individual's life consists of a progression through various life stages, and career choice begins in very early stages of our lives. In Grade 9, you are faced with an important decision that affects your career journey in that the subjects you choose determine your future career options. Certain subjects and subject combinations lead to career pathways. In order to make the right choice of subjects in grade 9, you would need to think hard about your long term dreams and career goals and use this to guide you.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Vocational/technical education is important for the South African economic landscape as it contributes greatly to addressing the skills shortage in the country, as well as reaching the National Development Goals for employment. Instead of just providing theoretical knowledge, vocational education helps you to develop practical skills and enables you to be productive from the first day on your job!



## Subjects in the NSC FET Phase

With the introduction of the General Education Certificate (GEC) at the end of Grade 9, learners now have different pathways available to them:

### 4 are COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

1. Home Language
2. First Additional Language
3. Life Orientation
4. Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy or Technical Mathematics



### 3 are CHOICE SUBJECTS

Any 3 National Curriculum Statement Subjects – this includes technical subjects offered.

\*\*Dependent on the subject grouping of the school

Grade 9 learners who wish to obtain a National Certificate Vocational (NCV) in the Further Education and Training (FET) Phase need to take a Minimum of 7 Subjects in Grade 10 of which...

### 3 are COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

1. Language
2. Life Orientation
3. Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy or Technical Mathematics



### 4 are CHOICE SUBJECTS

Any 4 Vocational Subjects, for example, within business studies, engineering studies or general studies.

# Key Considerations When Choosing Subjects

Often, there is lack of understanding regarding the important considerations that contribute to making the correct subject choice. Your choice will depend on:

- **What subject you enjoy.**
- **What type of work you want to do when you finish school.**
- **Your current level of academic achievement.**
- **What subjects support your career choice.**
- **What subjects you are good at.**
- **Whether you want to study further.**
- **Whether your choice matches your interests and abilities.**
- **What subjects are offered at your school.**

## Subject Choice IS...

- A big decision that requires a lot of responsibility and research.
- One of the most important decisions a teenager will make with regards to their future career and life choices.
- For the learner, NOT by the parent BUT supported by the parent.

## Subject Choice is NOT...

- Choosing subjects because my friends are choosing them.
- Choosing subjects based on a teacher.
- Choosing subjects because they are easy or less work.
- Final career choice
- For your parents or guardians.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:**

**Should I choose technical mathematics and technical science?**

**A:**

Technical mathematics is pure mathematics but in a practical and applied way. Consider choosing technical mathematics and technical science if you know, without a doubt, that you wish to pursue a technical career such as electrician, fitter, turner, plumber, etc.

**Q:**

**Can my school choose subjects for me, or stop me from choosing certain subjects?**

**A:**

A school cannot stop you from choosing any subject offered at the school. They can advise you but cannot choose or dictate which subjects you should choose. Schools might, however, require a certain minimum achievement level at the end of Grade 9 in certain subjects before they can allow you to continue with the preferred subject in Grade 10.

**Q:**

**Can I change my subjects at a later stage?**

**A:**

It is not advisable as it is difficult to catch up on work that has been missed out. Some schools do allow changes in Grade 10, even in Grade 11, however it would be up to you to consult with the school regarding their policy on subject changes.

**“I am what I am today because of the choices I made yesterday.”**

Eleanor Roosevelt

**Q:**

**Besides mainstream academic schooling, what are my other options after Grade 9?**

**A:**

Recently the General Education Certificate (GEC) was introduced for learners completing Grade 9. Learners now have the option to pursue an academic, technical vocational and/or even technical occupational pathway. Learners can choose to attend a Technical Vocational Educational and Training (TVET) College where they learn practical skills that allow them to work in a variety of industries. They can also learn the skills needed to become an artisan, for example, a plumber, welder, or electrician. TVET Colleges provide training opportunities that mostly meet the skills required in the economy which translates into significant employment opportunities in the labour market.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Technical mathematics and a technical matric qualify you for entrance at a number of South African universities. Technical Sciences, however, is considered in programmes that do not require Chemistry.

## How We Can Help

The Science Career Centre at Sci-Bono offer subject choice assessment services that focus on enabling Grade 9's to make an informed subject selection, with the aim of informing later career decision-making. Our team delivers assessment services:

- In-house by appointment.
- Off-site out-reach at schools and within community settings, by prior arrangement.

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