



**SUBJECT OPTION CHOICE
PARENTS MEETING**

Wednesday 20th March 2019

Curricular Considerations



- The School's Vision and Mission Statement.
- National Curriculum Framework.
- Secondary Education Certificate [SEC] exams.
- Vocational Education & Training [VET] exams.
- Post-secondary education entry requirements.
- Mixed abilities in the student population.

Administrative Challenges



- Staff deployment.
- Time-table restrictions.
- Availability of classrooms and specialized rooms.
- Student population and group numbers.

Compulsory Subjects in Senior III

Compulsory Subjects leading to SEC Certification:

- Religion
- Mathematics
- Maltese
- English Language
- English Literature
- Social Studies

Compulsory Subjects NOT leading to SEC Certification:

- PSCD
- PE
- ICT [to include ECDL*]

* Leading to certification other than SEC

Option Subjects



All students are to choose an additional
4 OPTION SUBJECTS

which must include at least

one Science subject

one Foreign Language

SEC Certification



On completing their secondary education in
Senior V

our students would have been prepared to
sit for

10 SEC Exams [MQF Level 3]

Post-Secondary Education

SIXTH FORM

- Students need 6 passes in SEC Exams, at grade 5 or higher, to enter **Sixth Form**.
- These 6 SEC Exam passes *must include* Maltese, English Language, Mathematics, one Science subject [Physics or Biology or Chemistry] and *any two* other subjects.

MCAST

- Foundation Courses at other post-secondary institutions like MCAST are available for students who do not achieve 6 SEC Exam passes.

Option Subject Choice

1. **Compulsory Science:** Choose **ONE** of the following:

Physics Biology Chemistry

2. **Compulsory Foreign Language:** Choose **ONE** of the following:

French Italian

3. **Additional Option Subjects:** Choose any **TWO** of the following:

Accounts Art Biology Chemistry Physics
French Italian Physical Education
Computer Studies Economics Information Technology [SEC VET]

Option Subjects

- All students will take Physical Education as a core subject throughout their secondary school years.
- We also offer **Physical Education as an option subject**, leading to SEC certification in Senior V.
- All students will take ICT [to include ECDL] as a core subject throughout their secondary school years.
- We also offer **Information Technology as an option subject**, which is a vocational option subject different to **Computing**.
- Four lessons a week are dedicated to every subject option.
- All option subjects lead to a SEC Certificate at MQF Level 3.

PE Option – SEC Certificate

Paper 1 : [60%]

- Practical Performance = 45%
- Coursework Project = 15%

Paper 2 : [40%]

Written paper [2 hours]

- Section A : Movement & Physical Activities = 8%
- Section B : Health Related Fitness = 8%
 - Body Systems and Performance = 18%
- Section C : Sport in Society = 6%

PE Option – SEC Certificate

Paper 1 : Practical Performance [60%]

Each candidate must select activities from three out of the four different areas:

Area 1 : Games [*Candidates will be examined in one activity of their choice. Two years preceding the Exam sitting, the SEC Syllabus Panel will officially establish the three activities to be assessed from which such choice can be made*]

Badminton, Basketball, Football/Netball, Hockey, Team Handball, Volleyball

Area 2 : Gymnastics and Dance Activities [*Candidates will be examined in one activity of their own choice*]

Artistic Gym or Educational Dance

PE Option – SEC Certificate

Area 3 : Athletics [*Candidates will be examined in one running activity, one jumping activity and one throwing activity of their own choice*]

Running: Sprinting 100m, Middle Distance 800m

Jumping: High Jump, Long Jump

Throwing: Shot Put, Discus

Area 4 : Swimming [*Candidates will be examined in three swimming strokes of their own choice*]

Breast-stroke, Butterfly, Backstroke, Front Crawl

.....

Paper 2 : [40%]

The theory component of the syllabus will be covered during regular lessons in school.

PE Option – SEC Certificate

- Students who choose to take **PE Option** will require a medical certificate that shows they are fit to undertake swimming sessions at the National Pool, Tal-Qroqq and Athletics sessions at athletic venues outside the school.
- Transport to these swimming and athletic sessions will be organised by the school but will have to be paid for by parents, as will rental fees for pool lanes & track. This should cost around €50 per scholastic year, per student.
- Payment will be made in October for the full school year; students who are away from school on the days when swimming/athletic sessions are held will not be reimbursed.
- Every effort will be made to have swimming and athletic sessions organised during school hours, but some after-school sessions may need to be organised too.

PE Option – SEC Certificate



Students who choose ***PE Option*** at SEC Level will be able to continue taking the subject at Intermediate Level at Sixth Form.

It is envisaged that further openings at University Level in Sport Education are also part of national plans.

IT Option – SEC VET Certificate

Three Units spread over three years, from **Senior III to Senior V**

Every year, each Unit will be assessed by **THREE assessment tasks**:

- Assignment 1 [30 marks]
- Assignment 2 [30 marks]
- Controlled Assessment [40 marks]

There will be no Mid-Yearly Exams for SEC VOC IT

Assignments are verified internally by the school

IT Option – SEC VET Certificate

The **controlled assessment** will be set by the MATSEC Board and it will be common for all schools.

This assessment will be designed on a selected set of criteria which will be published in advance and communicated to all schools.

The controlled assessment will be held on the same date and at the same time in all schools.

The controlled assessment will be supervised by the MATSEC Board.

The controlled assessment will be marked by the teacher and verified externally.

IT Option – SEC VET Certificate

For students in Senior III and IV, the controlled assessment is to take place at the end of May.

For students in Senior V, the controlled assessment will take place at the end of the second term.

Once the external verifier releases the marks, the school forwards them to the MATSEC Board.

The marks of the three Units will be added and the cumulative percentage mark determines the grade to be awarded.

Candidates may qualify for Grades 1 to 7. The results of candidates who do not obtain at least a Grade 7 shall remain unclassified (U).

Grades 1 to 5 are considered as MQF Level 3 qualifications and Grades 6 and 7 as MQF Grade 2 qualifications.

Important Considerations

A subject grouping can only be offered if there are enough applicants and if it can be time-tabled.

Students will be given the chance to indicate their first and second preferences in their Option Choice Form to be submitted by the 11th April 2019.

Every effort will be made to accommodate our students' preferred choices, but this cannot be guaranteed at this stage.

If it is not possible to give a student her first preference, parents will be contacted individually.

All students will be notified about the course they will be taking next year by June 2019.

Important Considerations

Students will NOT be allowed to change subjects after June 2019.

Students are not allowed to drop any subjects in Senior III or Senior IV unless on the specific recommendation of an Educational Psychologist.

SEC & VET Examination Syllabi are set over three years [Seniors III, IV and V].

Practicals/coursework are required for Physics, Computing, Biology, Chemistry, Art , PE Option, Home Economics and VET-IT.

Practicals must be worked out and handed in over the three years.

Factors influencing choice

Positive Factors:

- Student's preference
- Realistic aspirations
- Right aptitude
- Ability and achievement
- Career opportunities

Negative Factors:

- Liking/not liking a teacher
- Unrealistic aspirations
- Peer pressure
- Parents' imposition

Guiding Students through their Choice

This year's course choice will be the first of many careers-related choices and decisions our students need to make during the next few years.

Through its guidance services, the school is providing the following assistance ...



Options Seminar & 'Taster Lessons'

All Senior II students will be introduced to the new Option Subjects in a morning activity in school.

Option Subject Teachers will give a brief overview of what their subject entails, together with career-related information connected to the subject.

This will be followed by a seminar to help students find out more about the type of careers that might suit their personality.

Invited speakers will also address students about different career options.

PSCD Sessions

Discussion-based interactive sessions where:

- Information relating to subject options and career possibilities is passed on to the students.
- Students have a chance to ask their questions and learn through each other's queries.
- Factors influencing choice of subjects are reviewed.

Guidance Sessions



Any students needing further clarification and guidance may request an appointment for a one-to-one session.

Meeting for Parents



The objective of this meeting is to impart information directly to parents.

Should parents feel the need, they are also welcome to email Mrs Fleri Soler for an individual appointment on head@stjosephsliema.edu.mt

School Website



Further information regarding Subject Options is available on the school website, including a list of important website links for post-secondary institutions, careers and SEC Certification.

www.stjosephsliema.edu.mt

Post-Secondary Courses



- **Sixth Form**
 - Junior College
 - Higher Secondary
 - Church & Private Sixth Forms
- **MCAST**
 - Foundation College
 - Technical College
 - University College
- **ITS**

Thank You



Finally we would like to take this opportunity to extend our availability to those parents and/or students requiring further clarification and guidance.