



Schola Europaea

Bureau du Secrétaire général

Unité de développement pédagogique

Réf. : 2013-09-D-17-en-1 Annex II

Orig.: FR

## **W.G. 'Organisation of Studies in secondary cycle' : Annex II Current situation**

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**Budgetary Committee**

Meeting of 5 and 6 October 2013 - Brussels

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## ORGANISATION OF STUDIES: Current situation in secondary cycle

### S1

Max. 32 periods

#### COMPULSORY COURSES

1-6	7-10	11-15	16-17	18-20	21-23	24-27	28	29-30	31-32
L1	MA	L2	R/E	PE	HS	SC	ICT	ART	MUS

### S2

Max. 34 periods

#### COMPULSORY COURSES

1-5	6-9	10-13	14-15	16-17	18-20	21-23	24-27	28	29-30	31-33
L1	MA	L2	R/E	ART	EP	HS	SC	ICT	MUS	L3

#### OPTIONAL COURSES

+1
ACT COMP

### S3

Min. 31, max 35 periods

#### COMPULSORY COURSES

1-4	5-8	9-12	13-14	15-16	17-19	20-22	23-26	27-28	29-31
L1	MA	L2	R/E	ART	EP	HS	SC	MUS	L3

#### OPTIONAL COURSES

+4	+2
LAT	ACT COMP

### S4-S5

Min. 30, max 34 periods

(36 if Latin is included)

#### COMPULSORY COURSES

1-4	5-8	9-11	12-14	15-16	17-18	19-20	21-22	23-24	25-26	27-28
L1	MA4	L2	L3	PE	HIS	GEO	PHYS	CHE	BIO	R/E
	OR									
1-4	5-10	11-13	14-16	17-18	19-20	21-22	23-24	25-26	27-28	29-30
L1	MA6	L2	L3	PE	HIS	GEO	PHYS	CHE	BIO	R/E

#### OPTIONAL COURSES

+2	+2	+2	+4	+4	+4	+4
MUS	ART	ICT	ECO	GRE	L4	LAT

While the organisation of years S6 and S7 is far more complex and might be synthesised as follows:

#### Choice of subjects, general rules:

- overall programme: min. 31 hrs, max. 35 hrs.
- columns 1-4: minimum 29 hrs
- column 3: minimum-maximum 2-4 x 4 hrs options.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS		OPTIONS		COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
First lang. 4h First for. lang. 3h Maths 3 3h <u>or</u> Maths 5 5h Rel./Ethics 1h PE 2h	Biology 2h  History 2h  Geography 2h Philosophy 2h	Latin 4h Greek 4h Philo 4h 2nd foreign lang. 4h 3rd foreign lang. 4h History 4h Geography 4h Economics 4h Physics 4h Chemistry 4h Biology 4h Art 4h Music 4h	Advanced first language 3h  Advanced first foreign lang. 3h  Advanced maths 3h	Labo – Physics 2h Labo – Chemistry 2h Labo – Biology 2h Computing 2h Elementary economics 2h Sociology 2h Art 2h Music 2h Sport 2h etc.
Total: 13-15h	Total: 0-8h			
	These courses must be taken if not chosen in col. 3.  Bio is compulsory unless Ph. <u>or</u> Chem. <u>or</u> Bio is chosen in col. 3.			
			Adv. maths only with maths 5h in col. 1.	Art, music & economics <u>not</u> allowed if taken in col. 3.

If an option course cannot be created in a language section's basic language, offering it either in the working/vehicular language of the pupils concerned or in the language of the School's host country should be envisaged.

### **Organisation of classes**

- a. Pupils' timetables must comprise at least 31 periods and not more than 35.
- b. If after choosing at least two of the options pupils' timetables have reached 31 periods, they are not obliged to take any additional courses.
- c. If, at the end of the 6th year, pupils wish to drop one of their options or additional courses, they may only do so if the following conditions are met:
  - their timetables comprise at least 31 periods
  - two options are still being studied.
- d. At the beginning of the 6th year, pupils cannot normally choose a subject which they have not taken in the 4th and 5th years. However, this rule may be waived by the

- Director and the teachers concerned if pupils can provide proof that their background in the subject is sufficient for them to follow it successfully in the 6th and 7th years. The Board of Inspectors shall be informed of the derogations granted by the Schools.
- e. 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.
  - f. When they begin the 6th year, pupils normally choose the languages which they will offer in the Baccalaureate examination. These languages will be known as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd foreign languages.
  - g. The list of additional courses is not exhaustive. If a School has ideas for other subjects (for example, health education or computing) it must make a request to the Board of Inspectors, which must reach the latter before 31 January for application in the following September. Requests must be accompanied by a detailed syllabus covering two periods a week over two years.
  - h. The former subject, social studies and civics, must be integrated into history and geography teaching.
  - i. Additional courses will be taught in the working languages or, if this is not possible, in the language of the host country.
  - j. In practice, it will be left to each School, working with the school community, to offer pupils the choice of several rational combinations depending on actual possibilities and in the pupils' best interests from the point of view of their future studies.
  - k. In order to choose the 5-period mathematics course at the start of the 6th year, pupils need not necessarily have followed the 6-period mathematics course in their 4th and 5th years.
  - l. The advanced mathematics course of 3 periods is only intended for pupils who are taking the 5-period compulsory mathematics course.
  - m. When choosing their options and additional courses, pupils may combine any of the disciplines which attract them, but teachers should give them advice in order to assist them in their choice.
  - n. Change in pupils' choice of subjects<sup>1</sup>
- The Board of Governors approved changes in choices of subjects in 6th and 7th year secondary.

#### Beginning of 6th year

Pupils entering 6th year will have made their choice of courses before the school holidays so as to enable the Schools to organise courses for the following school year.

- The School may allow a change in choice of subjects at the beginning of the school year if this change does not lead to any reorganisation of classes, i.e. if the change relates to a course which has already been provided for.
- Under no circumstances may a pupil give up a course at the beginning of 6th year which has been organised for the minimum number of pupils required.
- A pupil who changes Schools between 5th and 6th years must select his/her subjects from among those offered in the new School. The new

<sup>1</sup> ARBG, 31 January & 1 February 1989, page 1

School is not required to organise a course which was not originally planned simply because the pupil has opted for this course in the previous School.

- No changes in the courses selected will be accepted after the beginning of 6th year.

All changes of this nature are to be reported to the Board of Inspectors.

The current provisions concerning the European Baccalaureate have to be respected.

- Where a Director finds that the choice of and the dropout rates for additional courses in 6th year may lead to abuse, he/she is entitled to insist that these courses may not be dropped at the end of 6th year.<sup>2</sup>

### **Pupils repeating 6th year**

- A pupil repeating 6th year is in the same position as a pupil entering the School in 6th year and has to make his/her choice from among the subjects offered to him/her. The School is not required to organise a course which the pupil had chosen for the previous year if the number of pupils choosing this course is insufficient for it to be set up.
- A pupil repeating 6th year and changing Schools must make his/her choice from among the courses offered by the new School.

### **Pupils repeating 7th year**

The School must provide for pupils who have failed the Baccalaureate the option courses which they chose in the previous year.

### **Pupils' choices of courses – special cases**

#### **Exemption from attendance**

- Physical education classes are compulsory. A pupil who is exempted from attending them (medical certificate) may not follow an option course or an additional course in their place.
- The minimum number of periods which a pupil who is exempted from physical education classes must choose is 29, the maximum number of periods which he may choose is 33.
- Calculation of the mark (Handbook 8.16)

\* If a pupil is absent from physical education classes on exemption grounds during the first term the class mark for this subject for the second half-year will be doubled.

\*\* If a pupil is absent from physical education classes on exemption grounds during both half-years, the number of subjects to be used in calculating the preliminary mark will not be 'u' but (u - 1) (Decision of the Board of Inspectors).

<sup>2</sup> ARBG, 31 January & 1 February 1989, page 7

**Exceeding the maximum 35 periods<sup>3</sup>**

While schools should continue to organise their timetables on the basis of a notional maximum of 35 periods per week per pupil, nevertheless, as an exception, pupils are allowed, with the approval of the directorate, to have more than 35 periods per week if they wish to attend other existing courses which can be combined with their personal timetable.

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<sup>3</sup> [Decisions of the Board of Governors, 17-18 April 2007](#), page 8