

An Overview of the Year 9 Options Procedure

Our intention is that students at Dubai College should be in a position to make informed decisions about their GCSE choices by fully supporting them throughout the process.

For GCSE courses starting in September 2012, we intend to streamline the option selection procedure by making course documentation and the actual option selection process available online.

Timeline

Tuesday 3rd January 2012	Subject specific and options information goes 'live'. To access this information, click on: https://mydc.dubaicollege.org and, when logged in, click on 'mytools'. Students will then be able to access course outlines and make their option choices 'online'. Students can access 'mydc' using their normal school login username and password. Some students may currently have difficulties logging on to 'mydc' due to recent absence; this will be rectified early next term.
Tuesday 17 th January	Year 9 Options Evening
Monday 27 th February	Year 9 Consultation Evening
Wednesday 29th February	GCSE Option choices deadline

The Options Evening

All students and parents have the opportunity to visit the subjects where options are available to students. Subject staff will give a brief overview of the course and answer any subject specific questions. Senior staff will also be available to provide more general guidance about options.

The Consultation Evening

This will be a 'normal' Consultation Evening where parents and students are invited to discuss the attainment, progress and effort of their son or daughter and whether they may be suitable for further study in the subject. Senior staff will again be available to provide more general guidance about decision making prior to the deadline of 29th February.

GCSE Choices: An Overview

All students have to take the following compulsory subjects:

Mathematics
English Language
English Literature
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
Games
Islamic Studies (for Muslim Students only)

Available Option Choices

	Choose one from:	Notes
Option 1	Arabic French Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should choose French or Spanish in this option if they wish to continue their studies from Year 9.
Option 2	Art Design and Technology Drama Music PE	
Option 3	Business Studies Economics Geography History	
Option 4	Arabic Art Business Studies Design and Technology Drama Economics French (new) German Geography History Spanish (new)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students should choose French (new) or Spanish (new) if they wish to study the subject as a new language in Year 10.Students cannot choose Business Studies here if they have chosen Economics in Option 3.Students cannot choose Economics here if they have chosen Business Studies in Option 3.

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At Dubai College, option blocks for GCSE subjects are constructed, as far as possible, taking into account the demands of the students. The process as follows:

- Students choose their **4** preferred subjects online by **Wednesday 29th February 2012**;
- Subject Leaders review the suitability of students' choices and offer counseling if they feel that courses are inappropriate for individual students;
- Option blocks are then constructed with the intention of offering all prospective Year 10 students (who have submitted their choices by the above deadline) their preferred subjects;
- Staffing and timetable construction can then start.

Students and parents need to be aware of the following:

- **We reserve the right to not offer a course if there is insufficient demand for it.** If this does occur, students will be told as soon as possible after the options deadline and offered appropriate advice;
- Students who miss the deadline of 29th February may not receive their preferred choices;
- Students may change their minds about option choices; however, they will only be allowed to change (subject to the discretion of Subject Leaders, as above) if their new choice fits in with the constructed option blocks **and** there is sufficient space available in subject sets. If there is insufficient space, then the student will be added to a waiting list for that subject.

Subject specific and options information will go 'live' on the Dubai College website at the start of term 2.