



Schola Europaea

Office of the Secretary-General

Pedagogical Development Unit

Ref.: 2023-05-D-12-en-4

Orig.: EN

Complementary subjects taught in s6 and s7 in the European and Accredited European Schools

Approved by the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) on 19th of June 2023 – Brussels^{1 2}

Amended by:

Decision of the JTC, 10-11 October 2024, on the new document “Structure of all Syllabuses” 2024-11-D-42. (Decisions doc. Ref.: 2024-10-D-47-en-1).

Decision of the JBI, 11-12 February 2025, to update the list of complementary subjects for the school year 2025-2026. (Decisions doc. Ref.: 2025-02-D-13-en-1).

This document cancels and replaces document : 2023-05-D-12-en-3

Immediate entry into force

¹ Decisions doc. Ref.: 2023-06-D-3-en-1

² **Cancels and replaces document 2016-05-D-22-en-6**

First version approved by the BIS in June 2016 – Decisions doc. Ref.: 2016-06-D-9-en-2.

Amended by:

Decision of the BIS adopted at its meeting of 6th of February 2018 (Decisions doc. Ref.: 2018-02-D-6-en-1)

Decision of the BIS adopted at its meeting of 11th of February 2020 (Decisions doc. Ref.: 2020-01-D-53-en-2)

Decision of the BIS adopted at its meeting of 6th and 7th of February 2023 (Decisions doc. Ref.: 2023-02-D-6-en-1)

1. Introduction

Complementary subjects (in s6 and s7) are considered as a valuable part of the curriculum of the European Schools. They enrich pupils' overall educational experience enabling them to gain the necessary competences to access a wide range of higher education studies with enhanced confidence.

As it was stated in the previous decision (2016-05-D-22), all complementary subjects must comply with the following general requirements:

- each complementary subject must have its own syllabus, following the 'Structure for all syllabuses in the system of the European Schools' ([2024-11-D-42](#)) and the procedures stipulated in the document 'Procedures for the production, management and publication of the syllabuses of the European Schools' (2025-01-D-40),
- an inspector must be designated by the BIS for each complementary subject,
- each syllabus must undergo the 'Quality Assurance procedure for the approval of syllabuses in the European Schools' (2024-09-D-80),
- each complementary subject syllabus must be in line with the document 'Competence-based syllabuses, including assessment criteria and subject-specific attainment descriptors' (2015-01-D-62), the latter in relation with the new marking scale for the secondary cycle,
- in the case of 'Language 5' complementary subject syllabuses, it is proposed that they be harmonised and designed on the basis of the same principle as that applied to revision of the syllabuses for L2, L3 and L4 courses.

2. Process for production and approval of complementary subject syllabuses:³

The Pedagogical Development Unit will take care of updating the list of complementary subjects. New subjects may be added exceptionally provided that:

- They serve the aims as defined above in the Introduction of this document.
- They are in line with the general pedagogical objectives defined in the Multi-Annual Plan of Pedagogical Priorities⁴
- They have been endorsed by the Pedagogical Reform Working Group and the BIS.

To that end:

- a) Each complementary subject must have an inspector in charge designated by the BIS, who will ensure that the syllabus follows the harmonised structure of syllabuses.
- b) To produce the new syllabus, the inspectors can have a working group at their disposal. The composition and time frame are defined in the document “Guidelines for organisation of the Working Groups coordinated by the Pedagogical Development Unit” (2018-01-D-18) and in the document ‘Procedures for the production, management and publication of the syllabuses of the European Schools’ (2019-09-D-28).
- c) The new syllabus will be sent to the Head of the Pedagogical Development Unit, and to the Quality Assurance WG, as per the procedure for other syllabuses for the subjects on the curriculum. The deadline is fixed on 31st of October, so that it can be checked in due course of time before approval and publication.
- d) After receiving the opinion of the “Quality Assurance” WG, the Head of the Pedagogical Development Unit will inform the Head of the European Baccalaureate Unit in order to inform all the schools that new complementary subject may potentially be offered to pupils starting from the following school year. The deadline is fixed on the 10th of January at the latest.
- e) The new complementary subject syllabus will be presented to the Joint Teaching Committee for approval during its February meeting.

³ Approved by the BIS in June 2016.

⁴ 2021-01-D-41

3. List of the Complementary subjects⁵

Complementary subjects offered since 2015-2016 – revised: <i>February 2025</i>	Inspector responsible for and in charge of the subject:
Lab Bio	Biology
Lab Chemistry	Chemistry
Lab Physics	Physics
Sustainability and Active Citizenship	Biology + DOW (Primary)
Computing	ICT
Languages 5 – Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Dutch, Lëtzebuergesch, etc.	An inspector responsible for languages or the national inspector
Music 2p	Music
Sport	Physical Education
Myth and Society in the Classical World	Latin + Ancient Greek
Lab Art 2p	Art
History of Art	Art
Technical Drawing	Art
Electronics	Physics
Political Science	History
Sociology	History
Performing Arts and Media (Theatre + Cinema)	French L1

⁵ Revised in February 2025. The updated list with the names of inspectors in charge is published in the document “Long- and Short-Term planning of the Inspectors’ activities and responsibilities”.