



BACCALAURÉAT 2021

THE MAJOR REFORM OF THE FRENCH BACCALAURÉAT

Anjali Shah, Career and UCAS Adviser at the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle in London, provides a synopsis of the reform, with a focus on the 'baccalauréat général'.

The French Baccalauréat is undergoing a major reform, with both the general and technological pathways being affected. The 'Option Internationale du Baccalauréat' (OIB) is also impacted. The rationale behind the reform is to:

- simplify the qualification
- provide more flexibility and choice to pupils, and
- equip them with the necessary skills, competencies and knowledge to successfully embark upon and complete higher education studies.

NO MORE 'STREAMS' (SÉRIES)

From September 2019, for those starting in Year 12, the three 'streams' (Scientific (S), Economics & Social Science (ES) and Literary (L)) as we know them, will no longer exist.

Traditionally, pupils in the Scientific stream would study Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry and Biology & Earth Sciences as their core subjects (carrying the higher coefficients in the baccalauréat), whilst those in Economics & Social Science would study Mathematics (but a different curriculum from those in S), History & Geography and Economics & Social Science as their core subjects. Literary stream pupils would study French Literature, with Philosophy and French carrying a higher weighting than in the other streams.

In the reformed baccalauréat, all pupils will study a common curriculum and choose three speciality subjects, one of which will be dropped at the end of Year 12. In principle, pupils have the freedom to choose any three specialities, for example, a pupil could study Mathematics, Art and History, Geography, International Relations & Politics or choose Economics & Social Science, Human Sciences, Literature & Philosophy and Biology & Earth Sciences.

However, there will be some constraints such as:

- some subjects are complementary - for example it is likely that pupils who choose to study Physics & Chemistry, will also study Mathematics
- choice will be limited by the subjects they may require for future studies, or
- the number of possible combinations a school can logistically and realistically offer

As before, pupils will also have a number of optional subjects to choose from in both Years 12 and 13, however these will not be formally examined and will not have a separate, individual grade.

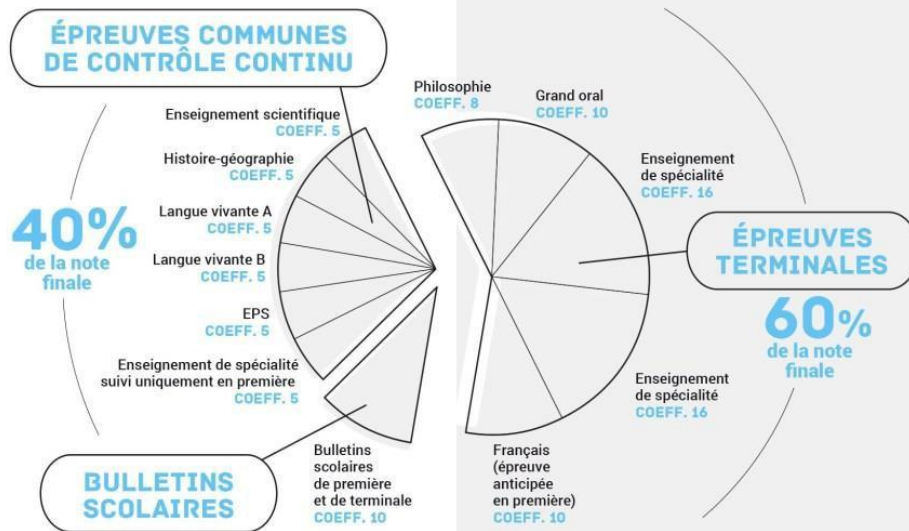
FORMAT OF THE REFORMED BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

		Teaching time in Years 12 and 13
COMMON CURRICULUM		
French (Year 12 only)	16 HOURS	
Philosophy (Year 13 only)		
Ethics & Citizenship		
History & Geography		
Modern and Foreign Languages A and B		
Sport		
Scientific Education		
SPECIALITY SUBJECTS*		
Art	12 HOURS	
Classics with Ancient Greek or Latin		
Economics & Social Science		
Biology & Earth Sciences		
Physics & Chemistry		
Computer Science & Programming		
Language, Literature & Culture <i>(available to study in a number of different languages including English)</i>		
History, Geography, International Relations & Politics		
Human Sciences, Literature & Philosophy		
Engineering Sciences		
Mathematics		
<i>*3 specialities chosen by pupil, one dropped at the end of Year 12</i>		
OPTIONS - ONE OPTION CAN BE CHOSEN IN EACH YEAR		
Year 12*		3 HOURS
Modern Foreign Language C		
Art		
Sport		
Classics (Ancient Greek or Latin)		
Year 13		
Advanced Maths**		
Additional Maths***		
Law & Contemporary Issues		
<i>*Option chosen in Year 12 is carried forward in Year 13. An additional option can be chosen in Year 13. **Mathematics must be taken as a speciality in order to study Advanced Maths ***Additional Maths can be taken by those no longer studying Maths as a speciality</i>		

Source: French National Ministry of Education and Youth

The two specialities that are taken forward in Year 13 will carry the highest weighting (coefficient) in the overall qualification. The diagram below provides further information on the weighting of all subjects.

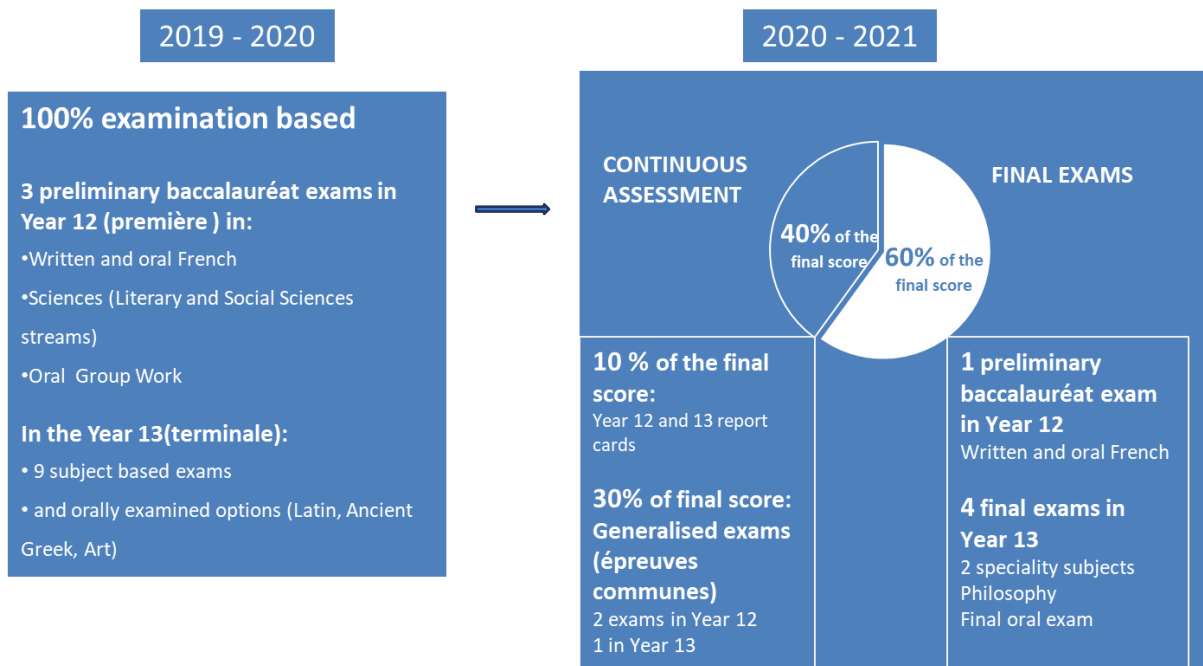
LES ÉPREUVES DU NOUVEAU BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL



Ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse - Février 2019

Source: French National Ministry of Education and Youth

SHIFT FROM 100% EXAM-BASED EVALUATION TO A BLEND OF 40% CONTINUOUS AND 60% EXAM-BASED ASSESSMENT



Source: French National Ministry of Education and Youth

Currently, students are assessed for the most part, during one week of tests in Year 12 (1ère) and Year 13 (Terminale). In comparison, the 2021 baccalauréat will be based, in part, on continuous assessment in Year 12 and Year 13, as well as on the traditional final exams. The final exam results will make up 60 % of the final grade. Pupils will continue to sit a written and oral test in French at the end of Year 12. In Year 13, students will take four final exams:

- two written tests will focus on the subjects of speciality chosen by the candidate
- a written Philosophy test
- an oral presentation prepared during the course of Years 12 and 13 on one or both of the chosen speciality subjects

Coursework assessment will count for 40% of the final grade.

- 30% of the final grade will be composed of general tests organised in three sequences in the second and third quarters of Year 12 and during the second quarter of Year 13
- 10% of the final grade will correspond to the grades achieved in the school reports for all subjects during the course of Years 12 and 13 in order to take into account pupils' daily work

KEY MESSAGES FOR UK UNIVERSITIES:

With the majority of the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle's 300+ Year 13s applying to UK universities¹, and many more French students applying from all over the world², there are a number of key points for UK universities to consider:

- No more "streams" - Literary (L), Economics & Social Science (ES) or Science (S)
- Replaced by "specialities" - 3 selected in Year 12, one dropped at the end of Year 12 and two continued in to Year 13
- Introduction of new subjects and pupils to have more freedom of choice
- Assessed from Year 12 (première). Continuous assessment over the two years
- Optional subjects will not be examined, but will be included in the continuous assessment. Only Latin as an option will carry additional points.
- Those not choosing Mathematics as a speciality will stop studying it at the end of Year 11

¹ In 2019, Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle pupils applied to 84 universities across the United Kingdom

² France is the third largest domicile, outside of the UK, in terms of number of UCAS applicants by declared country of domicile and the largest of the European countries, with 4,820 applicants in 2019. Source: January Deadline Analysis: deadline 15 January 2019. UCAS Analysis and Insights, published on Thursday 7 February 2019 at www.ucas.com

→ However, ALL students who choose Mathematics as a speciality will be studying a curriculum that was previously that of the scientific (S) stream. There are two possible impacts:

- It is likely that students, who would not have traditionally studied Mathematics in their stream, will take this a speciality to keep options open.
- All pupils will be studying one single curriculum in Maths, which is that based on the current Scientific stream. This may result in some pupils getting lower grades than they would have had they studied the Mathematics curriculum in the current Economics & Social Science stream which is accepted at UK universities for such courses as business studies or psychology, by way of example.

→ The optional subjects will no longer carry any weighting in the final results of the baccalauréat. In addition, the group project (TPE - Travaux Personnels Encadrés) has also been removed from the new curriculum. The combination of these actions may result in pupils achieving slightly lower overall average grades than in the current system. This, however, does not diminish a pupil's academic prowess.

→ Universities should familiarise themselves with the content of the new speciality curricula

→ Ideally, universities will have adjusted their entry requirements for the French Baccalauréat and the Option Internationale du Baccalauréat between April – June 2020 in readiness for the current Year 12 pupils starting to research universities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

→ Information on the curriculum of core and speciality subjects in Year 12 and Year 13 in French

<http://quandjepasselebac.education.fr/bac-general-cours-communs-et-specialites>

→ Information in **English** from the French Ministry of Education on the baccalauréat 2021

www.education.gouv.fr/cid131517/revitalizing-the-baccalaureat.html

→ Information in **French** from the French Ministry of Education on the baccalauréat 2021

www.education.gouv.fr/cid126438/un-nouveau-baccalaureat-2021.html

CONTACTS - LYCÉE FRANÇAIS CHARLES DE GAULLE, 35 CROMWELL RD, LONDON SW7 2DG:

Delphine Carton - Deputy Head → dcarton@lyceefrançais.org.uk

Anjali Shah - Careers and UCAS Adviser → ashah@lyceefrançais.org.uk

Cécile Masek - Careers Adviser → cmasek@lyceefrançais.org.uk