



Brisbane  
Christian College

*Wisdom and Knowledge through Christ*



**SENIOR**

Subject Handbook

# CONTENTS

## Core Subjects

# INTRODUCTION

## **Life Church Vision**

We exist to reach people with the love, grace and power of the Gospel by building a large, Bible-based church where the presence of God is seen and felt, empowering people to lead in every area of life.

## **College Vision**

As a Christian organisation, Brisbane Christian College is the preferred place of learning for the honour of Jesus Christ. We exist to advance the Christian faith through the provision of education and religious instruction.

## **College Mission**

Brisbane Christian College is a Christ-centred community which educates, equips and empowers our children and community to live Christ-focused lives as servant leaders and to develop their God-given potential.

As a ministry of Life Church, which is a member of Australian Christian Churches, we provide excellent, holistic education and actively share the love, grace and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our children, families and the wider community.

All College ministry team live as Christ-like examples in all aspects of their lives, outworking the heart of the Gospel in accordance with our Christian beliefs.

## **College Values**

**Honouring Jesus Christ**

**Empowering others**

**Aspiring to Excellence**

**Respecting others and self**

**Together developing dynamic relationships**

# UNDERSTANDING QCE, ATAR AND SENIOR SUBJECTS

During Years 11 and 12, students in Queensland work toward achieving the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) while studying a combination of General (ATAR) and/or Applied subjects.

Students select subjects that best suit their strengths, interests and future pathways, which may include university study, vocational training, apprenticeships or employment.

## **Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)**

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is the senior secondary qualification awarded to students who successfully complete Year 12.

### **To achieve a QCE, students must:**

- accumulate 20 credits from approved learning
- meet the required academic standard in their subjects
- complete the literacy requirement
- complete the numeracy requirement

### **Credits are typically earned through:**

- General subjects
- Applied subjects
- VET (Vocational Education and Training) qualifications
- Short courses such as Literacy or Numeracy

At Brisbane Christian college, we recommend that students achieve their QCE through a combination of six senior subjects studied over two years.

## **General (ATAR) Subjects**

General subjects are academically focused courses designed primarily for students who may wish to pursue university study after Year 12.

### **Examples include but are not limited to:**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematical Methods
- Modern History
- Visual Art

### General subjects involve:

- school-based assessments in Years 11 and 12
- external examinations set by QCAA at the end of Year 12
- analytical and extended written responses.

These subjects contribute to a student's ATAR calculation.

### Applied Subjects

Applied subjects focus on practical learning and real-world applications.

### They are well suited for students interested in:

- vocational pathways
- apprenticeships
- TAFE courses
- direct employment after school.

### Examples include:

- Industrial Technology Skills
- Business Studies
- Sport and Recreation
- Science in Practice

Applied subjects are assessed through practical and project-based tasks and do not include external examinations, though may have some internal exams.

Applied subjects contribute to the QCE, but generally do not contribute to ATAR calculations.

### Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Students may also complete Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications while at school.

### These qualifications:

- provide industry-recognised certification
- contribute credits toward the QCE
- develop practical workplace skills.

### Examples may include certificates in areas such as:

- hospitality
- business
- information technology.

## **Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)**

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a ranking used by universities to help select students for tertiary study.

### **The ATAR:**

- ranges from 0.00 to 99.95
- reflects a student's overall academic achievement compared with other students in Queensland
- is calculated based on results in General subjects (and some VET qualifications).

Students do not need an ATAR unless they plan to apply directly to university after school.

### **Choosing the Right Pathway**

Students at Brisbane Christian College may choose a pathway that includes:

University Pathway:

- Primarily General (ATAR) subjects

Vocational Pathway:

- Combination of Applied subjects and VET qualifications

Blended Pathway:

- A mix of General and Applied subjects
- All pathways can lead to a QCE and provide opportunities for further study or employment.

# CHOOSING SUBJECT PREFERENCES

Selecting senior subjects is an important decision, as it can influence a student's academic success and initial career opportunities. However, it is also important to recognise that many individuals pursue a variety of occupations throughout their working lives, and alternative pathways to numerous careers exist.

## Overall Plan

When choosing subjects, students are advised to consider options that:

- they enjoy
- reflect their demonstrated abilities or aptitudes
- support their career and employment goals
- develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes valuable throughout life
- provide the necessary prerequisites for further study

These general principles should be complemented by a careful review of the detailed guidelines provided.

## Career Pathways

Having several potential career options in mind before selecting subjects is beneficial. While it is not necessary to commit to a specific career at this stage, keeping multiple options open is recommended. Teachers can assist students in exploring various careers and provide guidance on career decision-making. Additionally, students may find it helpful to consult with the College's Careers Advisor, Mrs Kay Bryce, who can support the process of formulating career plans. Appointments with Mrs Bryce can be arranged via email at [kbryce@brisbanechristiancollege.com.au](mailto:kbryce@brisbanechristiancollege.com.au).

## Subject Selection: Making an Informed Choice

Students should aim to select a combination of subjects that align with their interests, strengths, and future goals. It is important to avoid common pitfalls such as:

- Choosing subjects solely because they are perceived to yield better academic results or improve university admission chances.
- Allowing choices to be heavily influenced by friends' or siblings' preferences or experiences with particular teachers.

## Seeking Support

If uncertainty remains after considering these suggestions, students and their parents are encouraged to seek further advice from available resources, including teachers, the Head of Year, and the Head of Campus. These staff members are readily available to provide assistance and guidance.

## Next Steps

After reviewing the relevant sections of the Senior Subject Selection book and deciding on preferred subjects, students should complete the online subject selection process sent from our timetabling software, TES, and follow the log-in instructions that will be emailed to them.

## Why do I select subject preferences rather than select subjects?

The secondary school subject lines have been designed with student preferences in mind, ensuring that as many students as possible can access their preferred subject combinations. However, this means some students will not be able to study every preferred subject. This process takes into account teacher availability, specialist room requirements, and the overall balance of classes, creating a timetable that is both equitable and efficient.

# MATHEMATICS

## Core Subject

Mathematics remains a core subject in senior years with variance in options for students to participate in to suit their skills and prepare them for further study or life beyond school.

In today's world—shaped by digital systems, automation, artificial intelligence and data-driven decision making—mathematics plays a critical role in preparing students for STEM careers.

Studying mathematics helps students quantify and interpret the world around them. It develops pattern recognition, spatial reasoning, visualisation and logical thinking. Through interdisciplinary STEM learning, students strengthen their scientific and mathematical literacy, computational thinking, problem-solving and collaboration skills. These capabilities support pathways into a wide range of future careers.

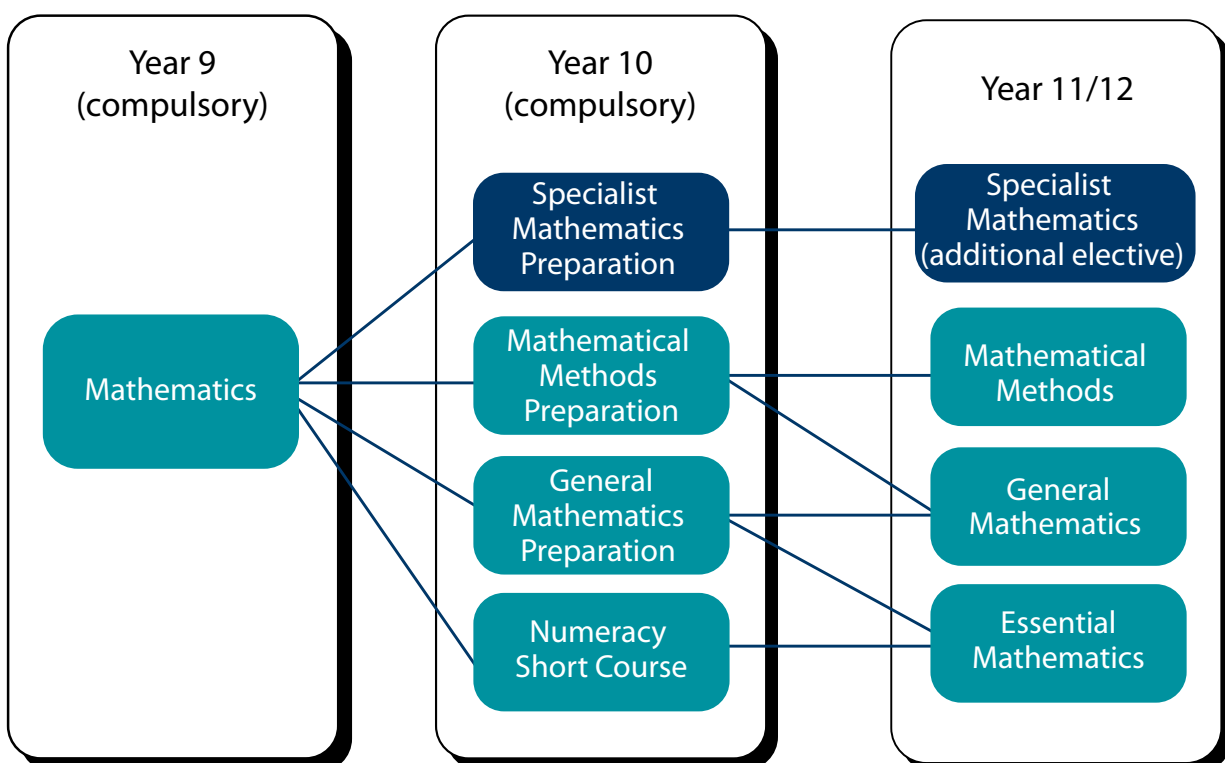
Students are required to complete either a senior Mathematics subject at an acceptable level, or the Numeracy Short Course to be eligible for their Queensland Certificate of Education.

## MATHEMATICS PATHWAY OPTIONS

In Year 10 students continue to study the Australian Curriculum, but classes are tailored to best prepare students for the proposed senior pathways based on the skill level they have demonstrated in Year 9 and their proposed career pathway. Students have the option to be considered for Advanced Mathematics, General Mathematics or the Numeracy Short Course.

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- That General Maths is 'easy/easier' and that Methods and Specialist are 'hard/er' - all senior subjects have a measure of difficulty that requires the student to apply themselves appropriately. The perceived difficulty will depend upon content matter that the students prefer or inclined towards.
- That you can start in General Maths and "move up" - this is not possible.
- That you can do Specialist Math without Methods - Methods is a prerequisite to Specialist



## **SHORT COURSE IN NUMERACY – YEAR 10**

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's internationally recognised senior secondary schooling qualification. To be issued a QCE, students need to accrue the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements. These requirements are aimed at ensuring students complete their senior schooling with the knowledge and skills they need for success in life beyond school.

The Numeracy Short Course allows students who may not have achieved a C grade or above in Year 9, a chance to achieve the base line numeracy requirement for the QCE. The Numeracy Short Course is suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond school that lead to vocational education and/or work, or who would like to study Essential Mathematics in Years 11 and 12. They are required to have a scientific calculator, preferably the Casio FX series 82 or 100.

## **GENERAL MATHEMATICS – SENIOR CORE OPTION**

General Mathematics provides a practical, non-calculus pathway focusing on real-world applications, covering topics like financial math, statistics, and networks. This subject caters for students seeking to extend math skills for diverse careers across business and finance sectors and supports skill attainment necessary in many managerial. It emphasizes modelling, problem solving technology use and interpreting data to understand social issues.

There are four items of summative assessment students undertake including term exams and a problem-solving modelling task. Students must have achieved a C- grade or higher in Year 10 General Maths to select this course of study. They are required to have a scientific calculator, preferably the Casio FX series 82 or 100.

## **MATHEMATICAL METHODS – SENIOR CORE OPTION**

Mathematical Methods focuses on the study of calculus, statistics, and functions and is designed for students pursuing STEM-related university pathways. It develops logical reasoning, analytical skills, and modelling of complex problems requiring both procedural accuracy and conceptual understanding to solve real-world problems.

Students must have achieved a C grade or higher in Year 10 Advanced Maths to select this course of study. They are required to have a scientific calculator, preferably the Casio fx series 82 or 100. If students wish to have a standalone graphics calculator, the current recommendations are Casio fx-CG50AU or other Casio Non-CAS graphics calculators.

## **SPECIALIST MATHEMATICS – SENIOR ATAR ELECTIVE**

Specialist Mathematics provides a rigorous, calculus-based study for students with a keen interest in mathematics, acting as a foundation for STEM pathways. It systematically develops advanced knowledge in functions, calculus, statistics, vectors, and complex numbers to model physical phenomena and analyse complex systems, encouraging high-level mathematical reasoning

Students must have achieved a B+ grade or higher in Year 10 Advanced Maths to select this course of study. They are required to have a scientific calculator, preferably the Casio fx series 82 or 100. If students wish to have a standalone graphics calculator, the current recommendations are Casio fx-CG50AU or other Casio Non-CAS graphics calculators.

## **ESSENTIAL MATHEMATICS – SENIOR APPLIED CORE OPTION**

Essential Mathematics focuses on enabling students to use mathematics effectively, efficiently and critically in daily life, work and community settings. It emphasizes practical problem solving, financial literacy, and data analysis through major domains including Number, Data, Location and Time, Measurement, and Finance.

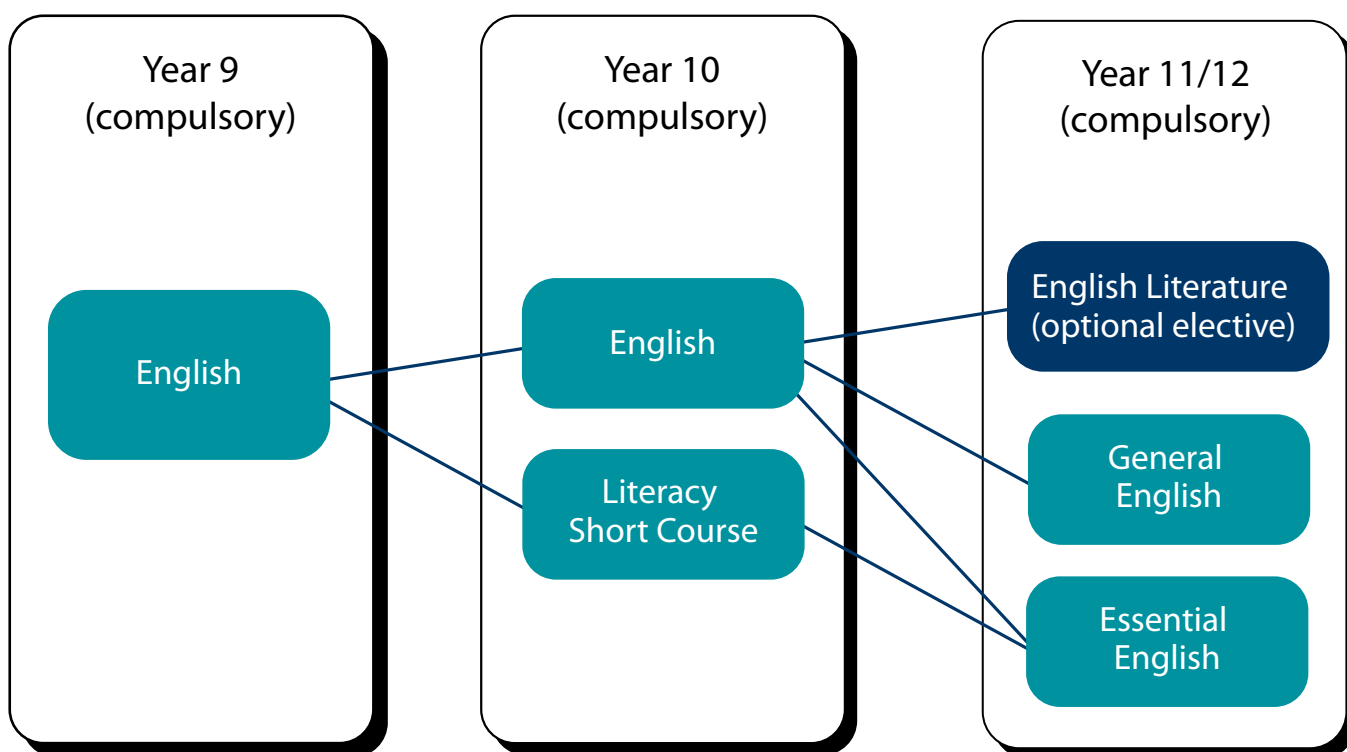
*There is no pre-requisite for Essential Maths, however, the completion of the Short Course in Numeracy in Year 10 is recommended. Students are required to have a scientific calculator, preferably the Casio fx series 82 or 100.*

# ENGLISH

## Core Subject

### ENGLISH PATHWAY OPTIONS

Senior English classes deliver the QCAA Curriculum focusing on the skills and knowledge students need to be effective in their professional communication skills and capable in their ability to express themselves interpersonally. English focuses on the study of both literary texts and non-literary texts, developing students as independent, innovative and creative learners and thinkers who appreciate the aesthetic use of language, analyse perspectives and evidence, and challenge ideas and interpretations through the analysis and creation of varied texts. English is a core subject for students throughout Years 9-12 as students must pass a component of English to be eligible for their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).



## **SHORT COURSE IN LITERACY – YEAR 10**

To be issued a QCE, Students need to obtain a satisfactory grade in an English component throughout their senior studies. Students who are not wishing to pursue a university tertiary pathway, or who struggled to obtain a passing grade in Year 9, will be placed in the Literacy Short Course in Year 10. In this course students will investigate personal identity and, education and work environments. Students will be assessed through written responses, short responses and journaling.

Upon completion of the Short Course in Literacy, students may elect to study Essential English in senior. It is not recommended for Literacy short course completers to attempt General English in senior.

## **ESSENTIAL ENGLISH – SENIOR CORE OPTION**

This course is designed to refine students' language, literacy and literature skills for functional, community and work-related contexts. It prepares students to become confident and effective communicators by focusing on reading for meaning, critical interaction with texts and creating texts for a variety of audiences and purposes.

*There are no pre-requisites for this subjects, but completion of the Literacy Short Course in Year 10 is recommended.*

## **GENERAL ENGLISH – 11 AND 12 CORE SUBJECT**

Students who are wishing to pursue a university tertiary pathway are best positioned in General English classes. In this course students develop their skills as functional language users who analyse how texts construct personal and cultural perspectives. It develops skills in listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing across diverse modes to prepare students for a range of complex and changing communication contexts.

Students must be achieving at a C standard in Year 10 English.

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE 11 AND 12 ELECTIVE**

The senior elective of English Literature acts as an extension of the skills in General English and offers the opportunity for students with a natural inclination for English subjects to achieve well utilising the same skill repertoire. Students pay elect English Literature as their sole Literacy component for QCE.

Students wanting to enter this subject should be achieving no less than a B in Year 10 General English.

# SCIENCE

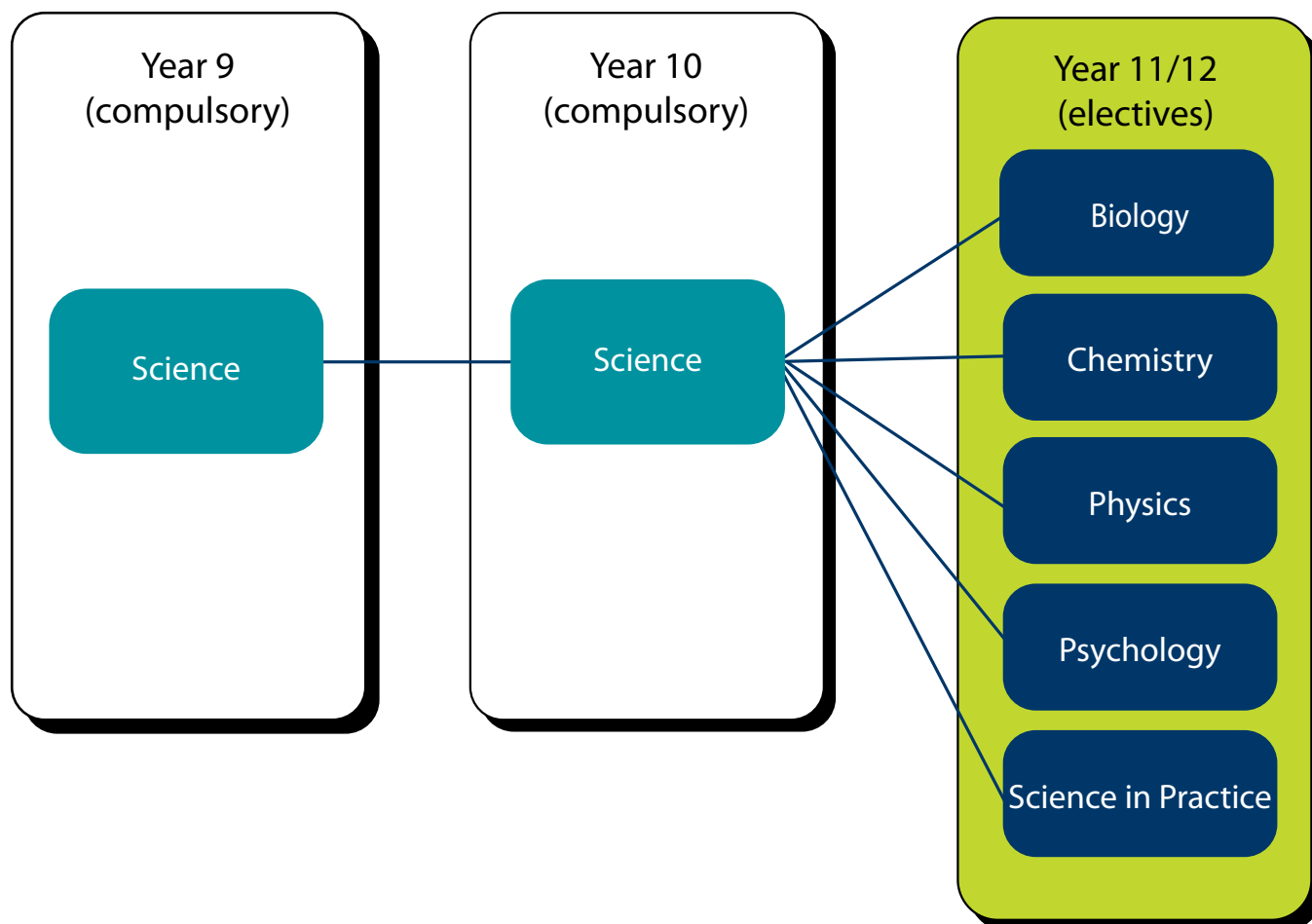
## Core Subject

Science in Year 10 remains a compulsory core subject where students are provided with opportunities to develop an understanding of important scientific concepts and processes across the four strands of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth Science. Class content provides students with the opportunity to develop scientific knowledge of science's contribution to our culture and society, and its applications in our lives. Students are provided with

an understanding of the scientific inquiry methods, a foundation of knowledge across the disciplines of science, and develop an ability to communicate scientific understanding and use evidence to solve problems and make evidence-based decisions. Science is not compulsory in Year 11 and 12 and students may choose not to pursue science, or study any combination of senior science subjects which suit their chosen career path.

### SCIENCE PATHWAY OPTIONS

Year 10 Science classes teach the Australian Curriculum. Assessments aim to prepare students for the type of assessments they will encounter in the senior Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science in Practice and Psychology suite of subjects. This allows students to evaluate the senior sciences they may wish to pursue in senior studies.



## **PSYCHOLOGY 11 AND 12 ELECTIVE**

Senior Psychology offers a scientific study of human thoughts, emotions, and behaviours through explorations of biological, psychological and social influences. Students analyse how internal and external factors shape behaviours, cognitive processes and social interactions while developing critical inquiry and research skills.

*Achievements of a C grade across English, Maths and Science are a pre-requisite.*

*Achievements of a C grade across English, Maths and the correlating Year 10 Science unit are a pre-requisite.*

## **SCIENCE IN PRACTICE 11 AND 12 APPLIED ELECTIVE**

Science in Practice fosters a hands-on understanding of science and applications in real-world contexts. Its is structured around developing critical thinking skills through the evaluation of claims, systematic reasoning, and an enhanced understanding of the natural and physical world rather than focusing on theoretical knowledge.

*There are no pre-requisites for Science in Practice.*

## **BIOLOGY 11 AND 12 ATAR ELECTIVE**

Senior Biology is designed to engage students with the living world, focusing on cells, multicellular organisms, ecosystems and the continuity of life. It provides a scientific framework for understanding the structure, function and development of living things.

*Achievements of a C grade across English, Maths and the correlating Year 10 Science unit are a pre-requisite.*

## **CHEMISTRY 11 AND 12 ATAR ELECTIVE**

Senior Chemistry explores the structure, properties, and reactivity of matter, focusing on chemical bonding, intermolecular forces, equilibrium, redox and organic chemistry. It emphasizes scientific inquiry, experimental methodology, and quantitative analysis preparing students for university science courses and real-world applications.

*Pre-requisites include: English – C, General Maths – A, Advanced Maths B, and a B in the correlating Year 10 Science unit are a pre-requisite.*

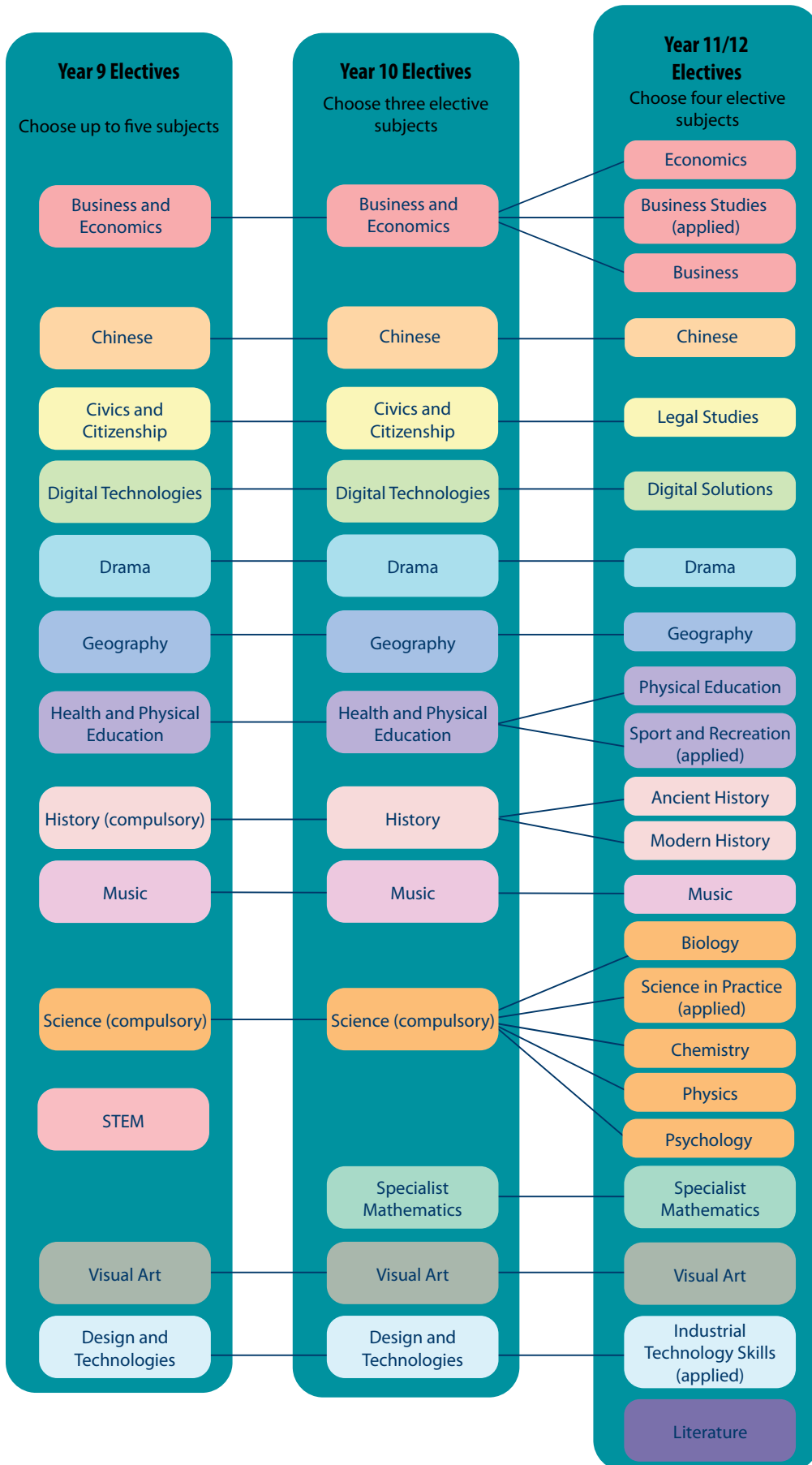
## **PHYSICS 11 AND 12 ATAR ELECTIVE**

Senior Physics offers a rigorous, inquiry-based study of matter, energy, and their interactions, ranging from subatomic to cosmological scales. It develops abilities in analysis, interpretation and evaluations of physical phenomena, refining theoretical models to explain the natural world and prepare for tertiary physics related courses of study.

*Pre-requisites include: English – C, General Maths – A, Advanced Maths B, and a B in the correlating Year 10 Science unit are a pre-requisite.*

# ELECTIVES

Students have the option to study FOUR electives from the electives presented in the year 11/12 Elective list below. Students will be asked to pick their top SIX preferences in order. Students will also be required to select FOUR reserve elective preferences, one on each line. Subject lines are built into the selection process sent out via email from our timetabling software.



# BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

## **Business – Senior ATAR Elective**

Business focuses on analysing how businesses operate, innovate, and respond to environmental changes to meet stakeholder needs. Students develop skills in analysing business data, evaluating strategies, and communicating decisions, preparing them for tertiary study and careers in a dynamic global market. They are challenged to extend their critical thinking, financial literacy, business communication, and decision-making along with functional understandings of areas like human resources, finance, marketing, and operations.

*Pre-requisite requirements for this subject include a C overall in Year 10 Business and Economics*

## **Business Studies – Senior Applied Elective**

Business Studies explores how businesses operate, contribute to society, and create value. Students analyse business environments, strategies, and key functions—such as finance, marketing, and management—to solve problems, make informed decisions, and propose improvements, preparing them for tertiary study and professional careers. This is a project-based subject without exams.

*There are no pre-requisites for this subject.*

## **Economics – Senior ATAR Elective**

Economics explores how individuals, businesses, and governments make decisions to allocate scarce resources, analysing the impacts of these choices on society and the environment. Students develop skills in economic reasoning, data analysis, and modelling to investigate contemporary issues and evaluate policy responses. Equips students with skills to understand economic events, make informed decisions, and understand the interconnectedness of global, national, and local economies through the skill acquisition of questioning, research, interpretation of data, analysis, and communication of economic arguments.

*Pre-requisites for this subject include a B- on every task in Year 10 Business and Economics.*

## **Digital Solutions – Senior ATAR Elective**

Digital Solutions enables students to develop, generate, and evaluate digital solutions to complex problems by applying computational, design, and systems thinking. Students analyse data, use programming languages, and understand the social, ethical, and economic impacts of technology to create effective, user-centered digital applications. Core concepts focus on algorithms, computer languages, and user interfaces (UI). The subject engages students in identifying problems, designing solutions, and creating prototypes while developing skills in skills, computational thinking, systems analysis, and data security.

*Pre-requisites for this subject include achieving a B or higher in Year 10 Digital Solutions. If student did not pick Digital in Year 10, we need evidence of interest in the subject or willingness to catch up on assumed knowledge and skills over holiday period prior to the senior course starting.*

## **Legal Studies - Senior ATAR Elective**

Legal Studies focuses on the interaction between society and the law, exploring how the legal system regulates activities, protects rights, and balances responsibilities. It develops critical thinking, inquiry, and analytical skills to evaluate legal issues, aiming to empower students to make informed, ethical decisions within the Australian and Queensland legal systems. The subject is comprised of four units, covering the legal system foundation, criminal investigation/sentencing, civil law (contract/negligence), and governance/law reform. Students analyse legal information, research case law and legislation, and evaluate legal issues to make recommendations.

*Students hoping to pursue legal studies have the pre-requisite of achieving a C in Year 10 Civics and Citizenship.*

# LANGUAGES

## **Chinese - Senior ATAR Elective**

Senior Chinese develops learners' communicative competence in Modern Standard Chinese (Mandarin) and simplified characters. Students engage with varied text types to analyse social/cultural contexts, fostering intellectual, intercultural, and linguistic skills for global citizenship. The course is designed for students with various backgrounds (second language, background, or first language) and is organized around learning to interact, understand, and create meaning in Chinese. Topics focus on exploring the relationship between language, culture, and context, allowing students to explore diverse personal, local, and global themes.

*Students wishing to undertake Senior Chinese are required to undertake this subject and obtain a passing grade in Year 10 in order to progress into Senior Chinese in Years 11 and 12.*

# THE ARTS

## **Visual Art – Senior ATAR Elective**

While there are no specific prerequisite subjects or skills for Senior Visual Art and Drama subjects; interest in society and people and the specific subject is encouraged.

*Achievement of a minimum of a C in English is necessary.*

## **Drama – Senior ATAR Elective**

While there are no specific prerequisite subjects or skills for Senior Drama interest in society and people and the specific subject is encouraged.

*Achievement of a minimum of a C in English is necessary.*

## **Music – Senior ATAR Elective**

Achievement in Senior Music requires knowledge and basic proficiency in an instrument or voice. This includes reading music or playing by year. While this is not a requirement of the QCAA, this is a functional recommendation to ensure student success in meeting the demands of the prescribed tasks.

## **Industrial Technology Skills (ITS) – Senior Applied Elective**

*There are no specific prerequisites for ITS, but a general interest in trades and construction helps.*

# HUMANITIES AND HPE

## **Physical Education – Senior ATAR Elective**

Physical Education provides an experiential, inquiry-based approach where students analyse the scientific bases (anatomy, physiology, biomechanics) and social-cultural factors influencing movement. Students study about and through movement, analysing data to optimize performance, refine strategies, and foster lifelong physical activity engagement.

*Pre-requisites for this subject include an achievement of a C standard in Year 10 HPE.*

## **Sports & Recreation – Senior applied Elective**

Sports & Recreation provides a practical, industry-focused pathway for students interested in sport, active recreation, and physical activity. As an Applied subject, it focuses on “learning in, through, and about” sport, emphasizing practical skill development, leadership, and community engagement over theoretical analysis. It investigates the role of sport in Australian culture, its impact on health and well-being, and its economic role in employment growth. Students develop practical skills in planning, implementing, and evaluating, as well as personal skills like leadership, teamwork, communication, and safety management.

*There is no pre-requisite for this subject, however, please consider physical capabilities or limitations as this applied subject requires the demonstration of physical aptitudes for each project-based task.*

## **Geography – Senior ATAR Elective**

Geography offers a structured approach to studying the dynamic relationship between people, places, and environments. It empowers students to investigate, analyse, and explain geographical processes and patterns—ranging from local to global scales—to understand the challenges of sustainability and the implications of human activity. Through the inquiry process, students evaluate strategies to address issues such as environmental degradation, natural hazards, and social disparities, culminating in evidence-based proposals for action. The course fosters essential, transferable skills in spatial technology, data analysis, and critical thinking, preparing students for tertiary study and responsible global citizenship.

*Pre-requisites for this subject include a B- on every task in Year 10 Geography task.*

## **Ancient History – Senior ATAR Elective**

Ancient History focuses on studying ancient societies, individuals, and civilizations from early communities to the Middle Ages. It emphasizes historical inquiry, source analysis, and understanding the development of social, legal, and religious systems that shape modern society. Investigates ancient societies to understand human history from early recorded times to Late Antiquity. Focuses on formulating inquiry questions, evaluating sources, and constructing evidence-based arguments.

*Pre-requisites for this subject include an achievement of a C standard in Year 10 History.*

## **Modern History – Senior ATAR Elective**

Modern History investigates the people, events, and forces that have shaped the world since 1750. It develops critical thinking, historical inquiry, and analysis skills by examining contestable evidence and perspectives to understand how the past influences the present. Students examine traces of humanity’s recent past to form their own views about the modern world, encouraging empathy and understanding of complex, contestable historical developments. The curriculum explores ideas, movements, national experiences, and international relations that have shaped the modern world. Students develop skills in formulating historical questions, conducting research, analysing primary/secondary sources, and crafting evidence-based arguments.

*Pre-requisites for this subject include an achievement of a C standard in Year 10 History.*



# Brisbane Christian College

**Years 7–10** CRICOS Provider Number 00909K Course Code 086309A

**Years 11–12** CRICOS Provider Number 00909K Course Code 010045D

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