

# VCE Subject Selection Guide

*When planning your senior years of school study, it is important to choose courses that interest you and motivate you to work hard as well as meeting any course prerequisites you might want to undertake in tertiary studies. When making your course choices, it is also really important to remember that you don't have to have a particular career in mind at this stage – but it is good to have a general idea of your future direction so that you can make choices that will compliment your interests and give you a good background for further studies and/or employment. The more you investigate possible future options now the more satisfying your future pathways are likely to be.*

## So, what is important when choosing your VCE subjects ?

Here are some “Do’s” and “Don’ts” to consider when making your decisions:



### Do.....

- **refer to your Morrisby profile [www.morrisby.com](http://www.morrisby.com)** – Morrisby will have identified subjects you should explore based on your aptitudes and interests
- **think carefully about your interests** - you will achieve better results in courses that you enjoy and are interested in
- **be realistic about your abilities and skills** - it is essential to listen to and be guided by your teachers' recommendations (which will be based on what you have shown you can do already).
- **choose your courses at the appropriate level** - eg: the level of Maths recommended for you.
- **check the VCE subject prerequisites of any courses** you are planning to study after completing school. For the most part, prerequisites are more important for successful completion than the ATAR! If you are unsure of your career path, it **may** be wise to keep your options open. eg: if you are considering a Science pathway, Mathematics is a prerequisite for a great many Science courses, as are Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. For Business, Mathematics is often a prerequisite (check what level - Further, Methods or Specialist) and if you are interested in the Creative field, consider Art, Studio Arts, Visual Communication & Design (VCD) Media, Music or and Drama - particularly if you are considering a creative course that will require a folio or an audition for tertiary selection. VTAC's course prerequisite list will make clear what subjects you must consider undertaking for particular courses for when you enter tertiary studies - this guide is published during your Year 10 studies, specific for your tertiary entry year.
- You can find resources to help you with Pre-requisites on the GHS Careers Web Page, under Senior School [www.geelonghscareers.com](http://www.geelonghscareers.com)

- **understand the non-subject prerequisites** - many tertiary courses require more than just Study Scores and/or an ATAR (eg. CASPer for undergraduate Teaching/Education courses). Tertiary course listings on VTAC Course Search make all prerequisites clear - subject & non-subject. Course providers will also state what subject & non-subject prerequisites are required on their individual course pages.
- **consider whether you are choosing a subject for the right reason** e.g. if you don't like Chemistry but it is a prerequisite for a future course you are looking at, will you enjoy that future course or do you need to get more advice?
- **have a spread of subjects** - if you undertake too many subjects from the 1 study grouping, they may not all count towards your ATAR calculation equally (eg. If you pick all 3 Mathematics courses at Units 3 & 4, only the best 2 will count entirely; the third will only count at 10%, no matter how well you go in the course). VTAC makes clear what the study groupings are.

#### ***Do Not.....***

- choose subjects based on what your friends are doing, what your older siblings or parents did or who you think might be teaching the subject
- how you think a subject might get scaled - this is done year-by-year:the past does not predict the present/future. It's also out of your control, apart from doing the best you can in your studies & therefore aiming to be on the 'happy side' of the scaling bell curve.

#### ***Do Get advice from:***

- your Career Practitioner, especially regarding university and TAFE entry requirements
- your current class teachers and other relevant staff
- current senior students, employers, parents and other contacts you may have



Complete the Following Activities to assist you in choosing your courses:

**Activity 1:**

In the table below, enter up to 8 subjects you are aware of or considering (English has already been entered for you), and indicate which ones you like or don't like – and why. Also select whether that subject is needed for a future course or job and whether your teachers have recommended you do this course or not.

Subject	Like - Why	Don't Like - Why	Needed for future course/job?	Recommended by teachers?



### Activity 2:

To help you make your course choices, in the table below enter three interest areas or career ideas you might have and then list any school subjects that you think might be helpful in working towards these:

	Career Recommendations / Ideas	Subjects that would suit:
1		
2		
3		

### Activity 3:

Knowing what the course prerequisites are for the Tertiary Courses you might be interested in can help you achieve your career aspiration(s).

Consider some future courses you may be interested in and check the prerequisites for these.

Uni / TAFE courses I am considering:	Name of Institution:	Pre-requisites for entry:

## Final check of questions to ask when choosing your VCE subjects

- What subjects are prerequisites for future courses I am interested in?
- Do I **like** these subjects and want to spend 2 years studying them every day?
- Do I understand what these subjects are about? Have I researched the **subject content**?
  
- What are my **other commitments** - can I realistically manage the subject load?
- Are there any **extra University selection requirements** that I will have to meet e.g. folio / audition?
- Are there any **recommended subjects or grades** for entry to this course?



### Other Useful Sites/Resources:

Here are some links to really useful information that will help you in the senior subject selection process.

[www.morrisby.com](http://www.morrisby.com) - log in to your Morrisby Profile

[www.geelonghscareers.com](http://www.geelonghscareers.com)

[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

[www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)

[www.goodcareersguide.com.au](http://www.goodcareersguide.com.au)

[www.courseseeker.edu.au](http://www.courseseeker.edu.au)

[www.skills.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway/students/pages/tafe.aspx](http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway/students/pages/tafe.aspx)

## Achieving your VCE:

To obtain the **Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)** students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 Units (4 subjects), including:

- three units from the English group, including a Unit 3–4 sequence
- at least three sequences of Unit 3–4 studies other than English, which may include any number of English sequences once the English requirement has been met.

The maximum units that can contribute to the VCE is 24 (6 subjects)

- Units 1 & 2 are regarded as Year 11 level subjects
- Units 3 & 4 are regarded as Year 12 level subjects

Units 1 & 2 are assessed within the school, and Units 3 & 4 are also assessed within the school but passed on to the VCAA, with external examinations making up part of the assessment. The external examinations are not required for satisfactory completion of the VCE, but are required for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Students who sit the Unit 3 & 4 external examinations will obtain Study Scores for these subjects, which added together ('aggregate') and ranked creates the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) which is used by tertiary institutions as part of the selection to a course.

Further details about the VCE and the ATAR can be found at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vce/index.aspx](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/vce/index.aspx) (VCE) and [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au) (ATAR)

