



DFJC - Département de la formation, de la jeunesse et de la culture  
DGEO - Direction générale de l'enseignement obligatoire

# Work-oriented subject options in the general division

## Information for parents

### Secondary school

Years 9S to 11S

In addition to the leaflet describing years 9 and 10 of secondary school I (cycle 3), this document describes the options for work-oriented subjects (*options de compétences orientées métiers*, OCOM). These options are a key component of the general division, which is aimed at pupils who are likely to move on to a general and commercial school, take a vocational qualification or embark on vocational training through an apprenticeship.

OCOM subjects are introduced into the timetable in years 9, 10 and 11 pursuant to Article 94 of the Swiss Compulsory Education Act (LEO) and Article 70 of its implementing regulations (RLEO), along with departmental decision no. 157 «Work-oriented subject options».

[www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite)

Sources: Loi sur l'enseignement obligatoire (LEO)  
Règlement d'application de la LEO (RLEO)  
Cadre général de l'évaluation (CGE)

This information is for guidance only; the legal and regulatory framework and the General Assessment Framework (CGE), which deals with various scenarios in detail, should be taken as authoritative.

## General remarks

Work-oriented subject options (OCOM) aim to develop pupils' independence, teach them to work cooperatively and help them to practise making choices by working on a project, either individually or as part of a group. The practical learning that takes place in the context of these subject options supports and develops pupils' academic understanding, increases the sense of knowledge learned in class and supports their acquisition of the skills needed for them to embark on initial vocational training.

## Framework for work-oriented subject options

The four OCOM periods are split into two groups: the General Education group and the artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological (*artisanales, artistiques, commerciales ou technologiques*, AACT) options group.

The **General Education group** is delivered to the whole class, on the basis of two periods a week, and covers *Media, images and information and communications technologies* (MITIC) and *Personal Choices and Projects* (preparation for work, *approche du monde professionnel*, AMP). MITIC, French, mathematics and the AACT OCOM are also covered through project work. There is a significant emphasis on preparation for work in years 10 and 11. Part of the time allocated may also be used for class management.

**Artisanal, artistic, commercial and technological options** are designed to supplement the pupil's education in various subjects and topics laid down in the Plan d'études romand (*Plan d'études romand*, PER) or its equivalents in Vaud canton. Schools offer AACT subject options from the list below, covering at least three different areas of the PER.

### The curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (PER)

[www.plandetudes.ch](http://www.plandetudes.ch)

The PER sets out what should be learned during the period of compulsory education in French-speaking Switzerland. It describes the subjects pupils should be studying during their 11 years of schooling.

<b>Artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological options (AACT OCOM)</b>
Creative and manual activities Visual arts
Economics, law and citizenship
Nutritional education
MITIC - Digital technology
Natural sciences

Subject to authorisation from the department, a school may, on an exceptional basis, offer an option related to another subject that prepares pupils for initial vocational training.

The decision on the final choice of options is taken by the school board, taking into account the teaching conditions and physical facilities available.

# Choosing an artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological option

At the end of year 8, the pupil chooses an OCOM from the group of artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological (AACT) options, which, in principle, they will study throughout their secondary schooling.

At the end of year 9, the pupil has the option to reconsider their choice, depending on their career plans.

At the end of year 10, changes to the AACT OCOM are limited.

Any change of option must be requested by the parents and reasons given by the pupil.

## Assessment methods

The only OCOM assessed is the artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological (AACT) option. The average mark is included alongside other subjects in calculating the marks for group I.

**Core tasks (*travaux significatifs, TS*):** pupils' school work is assessed regularly throughout the year, based on their completion of core tasks. These are the key elements used for assessment. Each core task relates to at least one learning objective set out in the curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (PER) with one or more components having been taught.

**Associated tasks (*travaux assimilés, TA*):** a series of tasks designed solely to check the acquisition of specific knowledge or skills. Together, these tasks are used to produce a grade for each subject. For each subject, the number of associated tasks cannot exceed a quarter of all the tasks selected.

Group I French + mathematics + German + natural sciences + artisanal, artistic, commercial or technological option

## Certificate examination

At the end of year 11, the AACT OCOM is one of the subjects included in the certificate examination. The examination may take the form of an oral or written test, or another form appropriate to the content. As with other subjects assessed by examination, two thirds of the final annual average for the AACT OCOM comes from their average mark for the year and 20% from the mark achieved in the examination.

<b>Annual average: example of calculation</b>	Average of marks achieved in class	4.5
	Mark obtained in certificate examination	4
	Calculation: $(4.5 \times 0.8) + (4 \times 0.2) =$	4.4
	<b>Final annual average (rounded to the nearest half point)</b>	<b>4.5</b>

### Description of cycle 3

An explanatory leaflet about level 3, and in particular years 9 and 10, is available on our website: [www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite) > Parent information and translated documents - Documents traduits d'information aux parents.

### Certification at the end of year 11

A leaflet explaining the certification criteria for pupils in year 11 and the conditions for admission to access and remedial classes, and post-compulsory education, is available on our website: [www.vd.ch/scolarite](http://www.vd.ch/scolarite) > Parent information and translated documents - Documents traduits d'information aux parents.

# Structure of compulsory schooling in Vaud canton

		Rac1 and Rac2 remedial classes		secondary school I
14-15 years	11S	third cycle general division	third cycle pre-matura division	
13-14 years	10S			
12-13 years	9S			
11-12 years	8P	second primary cycle		primary school
10-11 years	7P			
9-10 years	6P			
8-9 years	5P			
7-8 years	4P	first primary cycle (including kindergarten)		
6-7 years	3P			
5-6 years	2P			
4-5 years	1P			



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