

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification for students, it is a performance measure used for schools. It measures whether students have secured a grade 4 or above across a core of certain academically focused GCSEs (English, Maths, Sciences, Geography or History and a Language) at Key Stage 4. To fulfil the requirements of the EBacc a student must study: English, Mathematics, Science, a Foreign Language, History/Geography.

What the Department for Education (DfE) says about the English Baccalaureate:

The English Baccalaureate – though not a qualification in itself – is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language.

These are subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most doors open. The English Bac aims to reverse the long-term drift away from students taking the likes of history, geography, French, Spanish and other modern languages.

Is the English Baccalaureate important?

Universities will be most likely to look for specific GCSE grades in English, maths and possibly science – but these subjects are compulsory for all students anyway. It is up to students to decide whether to take a combination that fulfils the EBacc. On the plus side, taking a mix of these will ensure students can be more flexible in their university course choices later down the line – especially if they are not sure what you want to do yet. But if they feel they are weaker in these subjects, they must not feel that they must take them in order to go to university.

What is the difference between the EBacc and an EBacc subject?

The EBacc is a performance measure used to judge schools. EBacc subjects are the core academic subjects that make up the EBacc and are most regularly asked for by college and university courses. Students do not need to have studied all of these to go to university but having your GCSE mix steered towards EBacc subjects can help keep students' options open. EBacc subjects consist of the following:

- English (and English Literature)
- Maths
- GCSE Sciences; Combined or Separate Sciences and Computer Science
- History
- Geography
- Any modern or ancient foreign language.

Do students have to take the English baccalaureate?

At Durham Johnston we have never made the English Baccalaureate compulsory for any students. We would always recommend that students choose subjects that they are interested in, enjoy and play to their strengths. We offer and engage all our students in an academically rigorous and ambitious curriculum throughout their time at school and there is an EBacc option block (A) which asks students to pick one EBacc subject from a choice of Computer Science, French, Geography, German, History, Latin or Spanish. This alone will not give students the EBacc but will ensure they have a broad and balanced range of subjects. It will enable them to be more flexible in their future choices – which is helpful if they are not sure what they want to do yet. Students have the opportunity to pick additional EBacc subjects in the second option blocks which allows them to fulfil the requirements of the English Baccalaureate if they wish.

More information on the Ebacc, including a government produced guide for parents, can be found on the [DfE Website](#).