

SELECTING THE RIGHT COURSES IN GRADE 9

Key Questions	Grade 9 Locally Developed (Mathematics, Science, English)	Grade 9 Applied (Mathematics, Science, English, Geography, French)	Grade 9 Academic (Mathematics, Science, English, Geography, French)
What level of knowledge should a student have at the beginning of these courses?	Students are having difficulty meeting many of the expectations at the Grade 8 level.	Students have satisfactorily completed the Grade 8 expectations	Students have consistently exceeded the Grade 8 expectations
What is the overall focus of the courses?	Locally developed courses help students to develop the skills necessary to be successful in applied and academic level courses.	Applied level courses enable students to work on the main concepts of the subject, using practical, concrete applications.	Academic level courses enable students to work on the core topics of subjects and to explore related concepts. Emphasis is on theoretical and abstract applications although practical applications are used when appropriate.
What type of work do these courses include?	Locally developed courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •provide opportunities for hands-on learning; •are teacher-directed; •explore key information; •emphasize practical and personal applications; •develop thinking and communication skills; •emphasize skills for clear and accurate use of spoken and written language. 	Applied courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •draw on applications from real life; •use community and personal examples •use a teacher-supported approach to learning •explore main concepts of the topic; •include theoretical applications •emphasize key reading, writing and oral communications and thinking skills •focus on correct use of spoken and written language 	Academic courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •are more abstract and theoretical •use complex and global examples •encourages students to be independent learners •explore core and related concepts of the topic; •include practical applications; •emphasize key reading, writing, oral communications and thinking skills •focus on correct use of spoken and written language
What type of learner is the student?	Locally developed courses are best suited for students who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn by doing need to know the importance of what they are learning may need modifications to the expectations need teacher support on a regular basis to complete work need real-life examples 	Applied level courses are created for students who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn by doing prefer to focus on community applications learn from practical experience complete work with support from teacher need to improve organizational and time management skills require review and practice of prior skills 	Academic courses are designed for students who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are able to work independently are abstract, reflective learners are globally aware show initiative use a variety of problem solving strategies complete work with attention to detail display a positive attitude towards learning
To what courses do these courses lead?	Grade 9 Applied Grade 10 Locally Developed Grade 11 Workplace	Grade 10 Applied Grade 10 Academic (Cross-over materials should be done) Grade 11 Workplace	Grade 10 Applied Grade 10 Academic