

YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION HANDBOOK



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Melba
COLLEGE



YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTIONS

Year 10 is a significant year in schooling and there are several important choices that need to be made for subject selection. These choices can support student transition into VCE, VCE Vocational Major or the Vocational Pathways Certificate, so we ask that families talk together about what pathway fits best for the student. Below is an overview of the subject distribution for Year 10.

English 4 periods per week (Full year subject)	Mathematics 4 periods per week (Full year subject)	Work Related Skills 1 period per week (Full year subject)	Core Science 4 periods per week (6-month subject)
Elective 1 4 periods per week (6-month subject)	Elective 2 4 periods per week (6-month subject)	Elective 3 4 periods per week (6-month subject)	Elective 4 4 periods per week (6-month subject)
Elective 5 4 periods per week (6-month subject)	Elective 6 4 periods per week (6-month subject)	Elective 7 4 periods per week (6-month subject)	

Year 10 students will choose eight electives. In elective sections, students must choose at least one elective from each of the following domains:

* Humanities

* Physical Education/Health

* The Arts

*Technology

This will result in students picking a total of 7 electives over the course of a year. It is strongly recommended for students considering VCE science to take the corresponding elective for their science preference OR to enhance in that VCE Science subject in Year 10.

Choosing subjects in all learning areas allows students to maintain a broad range of studies to keep their options open for VCE studies, whilst also allowing them a choice in their studies. Students may elect to study multiple subjects from within a domain provided they have chosen one from all the learning areas above.

A two period “Work Related Skills” subject will also be included in students’ study. This subject will focus on career education, getting students ready for life beyond school and working in a collaborative manner. This subject will also grant students VCE units if successfully completed, making it a very worthwhile addition to the Year 10 program.

Year 10 students may choose to enhance into a VCE Unit 1/2 subject as one of their elective choices. This will allow them to complete a VCE Unit 1/2 subject in Year 10 which will allow them to engage in a VCE Unit 3/4 subject in Year 11. This can be helpful for students intending to complete VCE, as it gives them a chance to experience the rigours of VCE in Year 10 and if they complete a Unit 3/4 subject in Year 11 – that will count to their VCE Study Score.

The next section contains information on the various subjects being offered as part of the Year 10 course at Melba College. Students are asked to consider their choices carefully and ensure they are confident to undertake the areas of study they choose, as they may not have the opportunity to swap subjects once the courses have commenced.

Subject information

English and EAL – Core class

English

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE English
- VM Literacy

In this subject, students will read texts of literary merit and create analytical and creative responses to them. They will also compare the presentation of ideas, issues and themes in selected texts. Students will analyse arguments and the use of persuasive language in texts and create their own written, spoken and multimodal texts.

English as an Additional Language

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE EAL
- VM Literacy

This unit aims to introduce students to a variety of texts to develop both their analytical and creative skills. Students will also explore the use of persuasive language in texts and create their own texts intended to position audiences.

English and EAL – Elective option

Literature

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE English
- VCE Literature

This course will focus on the ways in which the interaction between text and reader creates meaning. Students' analyses of the features and conventions of texts help them develop increasingly discriminating responses to a range of literary forms and styles. Students will respond critically, creatively and in reflection on the ideas and concerns of texts and gain insights into how texts function as representations of human experience. They will develop familiarity with key terms, concepts and practices that equip them for further studies in literature including an awareness of how the views and values that readers hold may influence the reading of a text.

Mathematics – Core class

Mathematics

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE General Maths
- VCE Math Methods
- VM Numeracy

During Year 10, students will further develop their mathematical knowledge and skills in the six strands according to the Victorian Curriculum: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics, and Probability.

There are two Mathematics streams that run in Year 10:

- Year 10 Core Maths
- Year 10 Advanced Maths

When selecting their year 10 Maths course, it is very important that students consider what mathematics they need to undertake, as part of their VCE studies.

The Year 10 Advanced Maths course takes a more in-depth approach to Year 10 Mathematics with much more emphasis on algebra. Completing this course will keep the greatest range of options open for VCE Mathematics.

The Year 10 Core Maths course leads to VCE General Maths 1&2 or Vocational Major Numeracy in Year 11 and VCE General Maths 3&4 or VCAL Senior Numeracy in Year 12.

During Year 9, students will be directed, by their Maths teacher, into either Year 10 Core Maths or Year 10 Advanced Maths, whichever they are most suited to, as evidenced by their assessments during Year 9 and any additional diagnostic testing.

Humanities electives

Taking Care of Business

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Business

Over the last thirty years, advances in communication, transport media and trade have created a global village with commercial activity of one kind or another touching our everyday lives. The aim of this subject is to inspire students to develop an interest in the world of economics and business. The subject will introduce concepts from the VCE courses of Economics, Business Management and Accounting, providing students with an entry point for these subjects.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE History

History: War and Freedom

Students will develop an understanding of the history of the modern world and Australia in the first half of the twentieth century through an investigation of Australia's participation in World War II. They will examine the causes, events, outcomes and broader impact of the conflict as an episode in world history as well as the nature of Australia's involvement. The experiences of Australian will be a particular focus, including those in the Pacific War. In the second component, students will explore the civil rights movement in both Australia and the United States during the 1960's until today. They will explore changes and challenges that have faced the civil rights movement and key issues still impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia today.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Legal Studies

Laws, your security and freedoms

This subject explores a variety of legal and ethical issues facing our society. Students will explore the challenge of maintaining justice for a cohesive society. They will examine whether Australia is a social cohesive society. Students will investigate what social cohesion looks like as well as what threatens our communities and the laws and courts that protect them. Students will debate and express an opinion as to whether Australia should have a bill of rights. In the second half of the course, students will explore the concept of democracy and government. They will compare values associated with the system of government in Australia with the values associated with other countries in the Asia region. They will also investigate the role Australia plays in our region and in the world.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Geography

Geography: Threats and Solutions

In this subject, students consider what are the changes, and the future implications of changes, to places and environments. Students investigate environmental geography, examining environmental change and the factors that influence it. Students focus on investigating global, national and local differences in human wellbeing between places. Students examine the different concepts and measures of human wellbeing and spatial differences in wellbeing. They explore programs designed to reduce the gap between differences in wellbeing.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE History VCE Sociology

HERstory

Embark on a riveting journey through history in our Year 10 History elective! From ancient times to modern struggles, uncover the inspiring stories of women who defied norms and reshaped the world. Explore their triumphs over oppression and courageous acts during war. Encounter fearless monarchs, spies, and champions of human rights. Join us in this captivating exploration of history, where women's voices challenge norms and leave a lasting impact on humanity.

Science electives

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Biology

Biology

Welcome to Year 10 Biology! This elective introduces you to the fascinating world of living organisms and how they function, grow, and adapt. You'll explore the cell cycle and DNA replication, gaining insight into how life continues at the microscopic level. Discover how eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells differ, and how adaptations in animals and plants help them survive in different environments. We'll also dive into the body's systems, including the excretory and endocrine systems, and how the body maintains balance through homeostasis and negative feedback loops. Finally, we'll examine the role of pathogens in disease and how the immune system defends the body. This course builds a strong foundation for future studies in biology and health sciences.

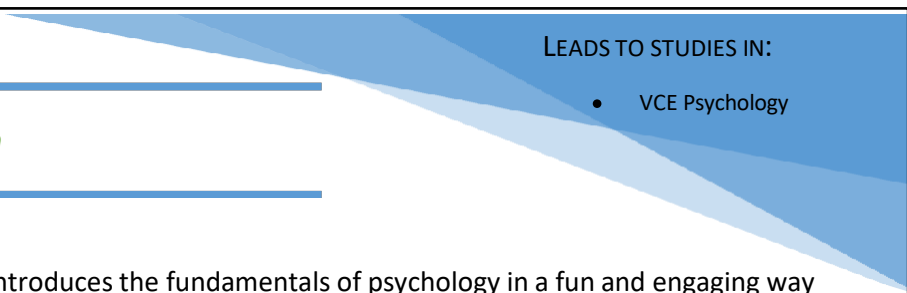
The marine biology topic is focused on life in the oceans and how fish and other creatures adapt to life in the sea.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Chemistry

Chemistry

Students will investigate a range of chemical reactions that people find useful, such as combustion (fire) and the chemical reactions in batteries. Students also learn about useful materials, such as metals, glass, acids, ceramics and soap. They use atomic symbols and balanced chemical equations to summarise chemical reactions. Many of these topics include practical activities.

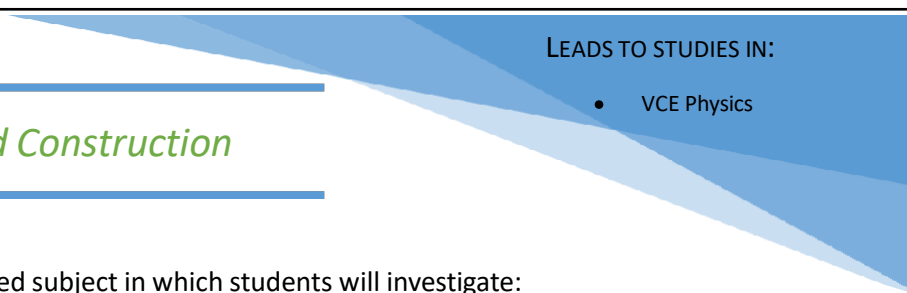


LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Psychology

Psychology in Action

Year 10 Psychology in action introduces the fundamentals of psychology in a fun and engaging way as we study the brain and behaviour and why we act certain ways. The subject is composed of Research Methods and a selection from: Forensic Psychology, Sports Psychology and Clinical Psychology. This subject teaches the students some of the vital skills and knowledge that they will need if they continue on to study Year 11 Psychology.



LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Physics

Physics: Rockets and Construction

This subject is a physics-themed subject in which students will investigate:

- a) The science of construction, including building bridges and towers. Students are involved in analysing, constructing and testing their designs.
- b) The science of space, including rocketry, an introduction to orbital analysis and the possibilities of extra-terrestrial colonisation and contact. Students, working in small groups, will construct and launch their own rockets.

Health and Physical Education electives

Get Active, Get Healthy

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Health
- VCE Physical Education
- VET PE, Sport and Rec

This elective is designed with a focus on enhancing participation in physical activity. Students will engage in a variety of different sports and leisure activities all focused at creating strong bodies as well as a theoretical component which complements the physical aspect of the unit. This elective aims to improve body confidence and give students the tools to be able to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle. Students learn about the life long physical activity, coaching and injury.

Health

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Health

This elective is designed with a focus on preparing students for VCE units 1 and 2 Health and Human Development. It has a focus on widening a student perspective on health and wellbeing and the different dimensions and investigating key aspects which affect Australia's health status. Students will become familiar with development of the human lifespan and the different stages. Students will learn about making safer choices to improve their overall health and wellbeing and health status.

PE, Sports and Recreation

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Health
- VCE Physical Education
- VET PE, Sport and Rec

This elective is designed with a focus on enhancing participation in physical activity. Students will engage in a variety of different sports focusing on team play that will challenge them physically. This elective will increase students' knowledge of how to train the body and give the tools to perform at a higher level. Students will learn the basic anatomy of the musculoskeletal, respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Technology electives

Information Technology

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Computing

Computer skills are crucial in today's data driven society. In this subject, students investigate a wide range of ICT practices including around data, programming and algorithms, and robotics. Students explore data compression, encryption, manipulation and representation, and basic functionality in MS Excel. Students apply programming skills and algorithmic thinking to create advanced solutions and automation.

Students will also be exploring robotics, specifically around how robotics improves, and potentially hinders, human life.

Food Studies: Be Food Safe and Eating for a Sustainable Tomorrow

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Food Studies

This elective provides students with valuable life skills in food preparation and aims to extend student knowledge in food OH&S and modern-day sustainability. This elective empowers students to take control of their food choices and therefore their future health, wellbeing and environmental impact. Students will gain an understanding of the science behind food and apply this knowledge to practical based cooking tasks.

Students apply the design process that will involve planning a meal that aligns with a seasonal calendar design brief. Students participate in a range of practical classes in which they are exposed to new skills, food and recipes throughout the semester.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VET Fashion

Product Design and Technology: Textiles

Students learn about and practise techniques used in fabric construction such as seam finishes, darts, zip insertion, hand stitching techniques.

Key learning areas include:

- Fibres & fabrics investigation – the properties of manmade and synthetic fabrics
- How to identify different fabrics
- The care properties of each type of fabric
- Designs and styles best suited to each fabric.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE PD&T Wood
- VET Furnishing

Introduction to Furniture Making

This subject builds on foundational woodworking skills and introduces students to more complex processes used in furniture construction. Students develop their understanding of joinery techniques, material selection, and finishing methods. Projects are designed to strengthen skills in measuring, marking out, preparing joinery, and assembling timber components using both hand and power tools. Emphasis is placed on precision, technical skill, and following structured production process. Students will also learn to interpret and create detailed technical drawings, apply safe workshop practices, and explore industry documentation methods. The subject promotes problem-solving, and critical thinking—skills valuable in design, construction, and trade pathways. Whether students are considering a future in furniture making, cabinet making, carpentry, or industrial design, Year 10 Introduction to Furniture Making offers practical experience and a strong foundation in creating high-quality, functional items.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Systems

Systems Engineering

Systems Engineering in year 10 focuses on mechanical and electromechanical engineering. Using the design process, students will create systems that draw on mechanical engineering techniques as well as build and code a robot car and racetrack using electromechanical knowledge.

Music Performance

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Music
- VET Music Performance
- VET Music Sound Production

Students will develop performance skills on an instrument of their choice (including vocals). Performance skills are developed through small band workshops and performances or as a soloist. All performances are held in a supportive class environment where students are encouraged to show improvement over the course. Students will learn how to read basic notation, guitar and bass tab, and chord charts.

Students will explore the use of Music technology to compose, record and perform contemporary music styles. Students will also learn about a range of music styles through listening to and learning about music genre. Students choosing Music Performance are encouraged to undertake weekly lessons on their chosen instrument including voice.

Music theory and aural training are also included to develop listening skills and overall understanding and appreciation of traditional and contemporary music styles.

Dance

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Dance
- VET Dance

In Year 10 Dance, students develop a unique movement vocabulary by exploring dance styles from a range of cultures, time periods, and global contexts. They deepen their understanding of how the body can communicate meaning and refine their use of the elements of dance—space, time, dynamics, and relationships—to express ideas and intentions. Through both choreography and performance, students build their technical and expressive skills while prioritising safe dance practices and body awareness.

Students investigate traditional and contemporary styles, analysing how choreographers shape their work and how cultural and historical influences inform dance. As both creators and responders, students reflect on how dance practices are nurtured, developed, and sustained by individuals and communities.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Media

Photography

Photography gives students the opportunity to develop their knowledge in skill base in the Art of Photo taking. Students are lead through Photography fundamentals, such as appropriate framing and aperture/shutter speed to take creative and meaningful images. Students study a number of different genres through photography and create a folio of these styles. They are taken through advanced techniques of photo editing including the use of Lightroom and multiple layers in Photoshop. They will be given the chance to practice these skills through design briefs in poster or magazine form and will also develop a personal photography portfolio. Student's will take photos of things such as landscapes, portraits and nature as part of their work. Students also explore the photography of other artists and develop their ability to analyse photographic elements, style and technical skills. If you enjoy taking photos, editing images or creating stories through images, photography is for you!

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE VCD
- VET Art

Visual Communication and Design

This unit focuses on developing an understanding of the design process and visual communication techniques. Students use presentation drawing methods that incorporate the use of various drawing techniques to communicate information and ideas. They use critical thinking and research skills to research and create various designs for different clients. Students will also learn about the history behind various designers, design tools and designs that have cemented themselves in our culture.

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Art
- VCE VCD
- VET Art

Visual Arts

Visual Arts encompasses a range of practical skills, taking art beyond acrylic paint and greylead drawing. Students explore a variety of mediums and subjects and are guided through the artistic process of creating and developing a folio of high-quality art works focusing on art elements and themes. Appreciation and understanding of contemporary and modern art is a component of this subject, encompassing art analysis of professional artists' artworks from significant times and ideas. Students will additionally critically analyse their own artworks and artistic process, developing skills in Visual Literacy. Visual Art is a recommended choice for students wishing to continue further studies in the Arts at VCE, VET or tertiary level, or students who wish to develop their creativity and artistic skills.

Devising Drama

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Drama

In Year 10 Devising Drama, students develop and present both solo and ensemble performances using a range of play-making techniques. They explore how dramatic elements, performance styles, and conventions can be used to shape meaning and engage an audience. Students reflect on and evaluate their own creative process and performance outcomes, drawing on drama terminology and analysis techniques. They also analyse the work of professional and peer performers, considering how context, style, and expressive skills contribute to meaning. Through this process, students build confidence, collaboration, and critical thinking as theatre-makers and informed audience members.

Media and Film

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Media

Media and Film gives students an introduction to a number of topics such as film making, advertising and film analysis. Students will watch films to get a better understanding of how filmmakers use different techniques and genres to engage an audience. This subject allows students to gain an understanding of the technical and artistic knowledge necessary to produce engaging media works while also gaining the necessary skills to create, edit and build their own ideas. This subject explores all areas of the media landscape from studying different films, advertisements, photography, while also creating their own script ideas, learning how to use cameras and editing software to create their own short films. If you enjoy films, tv shows or creating stories, media and film is for you!

Languages electives

Japanese (Full-year subject)

LEADS TO STUDIES IN:

- VCE Japanese

Year 10 Japanese focuses on developing language knowledge and grammatical knowledge through reading, listening, and creating your own written and spoken texts in Japanese. Students will also compare aspects of environment, lifestyle and practices in the cultures involved. Students explore pop culture in Japan will also be introduced in this unit for students to better understand the modern Japan. At the end of the unit, students will find themselves ready for visiting Japan without Google Translate.

MAKING SUBJECT CHOICES

Year 10 is an important year for students to make choices about the subjects they wish to engage with for their senior secondary years. These subjects often have strong links to their VCE counterparts, so we encourage students to pursue areas that they are passionate about and would consider studying in Year 11. We ask parents/guardians to discuss subject choices with students and support them in choosing their pathway.

For mainstream Year 10 students, you will need to choose at least ONE elective from each of the FIVE coloured Domains; you can then choose your remaining three from anywhere. Students will complete four electives each semester.

To plan for entering your subject selection you may wish to fill in this ranking grid. Choose your top 8 subjects, making sure you choose at least 1 subject from Humanities, Science, Health/PE, Technology and The Arts.

Subject	Cost	Preference
Humanities		
Taking Care of Business	\$0	
Laws, your security and freedoms	\$0	
Geography: Threats and Solutions	\$0	
History: War and Freedom	\$0	
HERstory	\$0	
Science		
Chemistry	\$30	
Psychology in Action	\$30	
Biology	\$30	
Physics: Rockets and Construction	\$30	
Health and Physical Education		
Get Active, Get Healthy	\$0	
Health	\$0	
PE, Sports and Recreation	\$0	
Technology		
Information Technology	\$20	
Food studies: Be Food Safe and Eating for a Sustainable Tomorrow	\$120	
Introduction to Furniture Making	\$120	
Product Design and Technology: Textiles	\$85	
Systems Engineering	\$50	
Arts		
Music Performance (Full or half year)	\$40	
Dance	\$20	
Photography	\$60	
Visual Communication and Design	\$30	
Visual Art	\$30	
Devising Drama	\$20	
Media and Film	\$60	

Languages		
Japanese	\$30	
English		
Literature	\$0	

For students interested in doing a VCE Unit 1/2 Subject, please refer to the Webchoices online form for options.

2026 Vocational Education and Training (VET) at Melba

VET courses are available to students at Melba in Year 10 and it is important to carefully consider if these are a good fit for you. These courses provide students with a certificate upon completion and some can be completed as scored units (contributing to your ATAR score). Some VET courses will be completed outside of the normal timetable, including VET Music Industry (Music Performance and Sound Production). These courses are all a **TWO-YEAR COMMITMENT**, meaning if you start one in Year 10, you must do it in Year 11 to get the certificate. Intake for these courses will happen every two years, so VET courses below are open to all 2024 Year 10 and 11 students.

2027 VET UNITS ONSITE (Year 1 intake)
Certificate II VET Visual Art
https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/vce-vet-programs/Pages/VisualArts.aspx
Certificate II/III VET Music Performance
https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/vce-vet-programs/Pages/musicindustry.aspx
VET Cert II Furnishing
https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vet/vce-vet-programs/Pages/furnishing.aspx

How to submit your choices – Webchoices

The actual subject selection process will be conducted through a program called “Webchoices”. This program links directly with our timetabling system to facilitate the construction of the timetable. Student subject selections will directly impact what subjects run – so please ensure you are choosing subjects you are genuinely interested in completing. Below are the steps for completing your Webchoices selections:

1. Every student will be emailed a personalised link to Webchoices. This link should not be shared, as they are individualised.
2. Families will be given access to the Year 10 Subject Selection Handbook and asked to consider their options
3. Log into Webchoices with your given link once you have made your selections. The program will prompt you to make selections for all subjects. Please note that if you have missed a domain area it will not let you proceed, so please ensure you choose at least one elective from:
 - Humanities
 - Health and Physical Education
 - Technology
 - The Arts
4. Once your choices are complete you will receive a confirmation screen with your choices. We suggest you print a copy for your own reference

The school will then use this data to construct the timetable. Subjects that run will be heavily influenced by student interest. Please be aware that if numbers are insufficient for a class to run, it will be collapsed and reserve preferences will be used. As a result, it is possible that some subjects in this booklet may not run.