



# Baccalauréat Français International (BFI)

Major Reform of the "Option Internationale du Baccalauréat" (OIB)

First cohort will sit the new qualification in 2024

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The "Option Internationale of the Baccalauréat" (OIB) will evolve and become the French International Baccalauréat (BFI). Students who will begin in "Première" (Year 12) in September 2022 and choose to enroll for this version of the baccalauréat will be the first cohort to obtain this evolved qualification in 2024. Here we provide the details of this new qualification in relation to the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle.

## **What are the key changes from the OIB to the BFI?**

- International sections as they currently exist from "Sixième" (Year 7) are maintained until the end of "Seconde" (Year 11). The new BFI focuses solely on "Premier" (Year 12) and "Terminale" (Year 13).
- Students who have not taken an international section before "Première" (Year 12) may apply for the BFI programme and will be accepted only if they meet the entry requirements following assessments.
- Depending on the school, the BFI is available in a bilingual, trilingual or quadrilingual format.
- The specific courses of the BFI (cultural and linguistic studies, non-linguistic subjects, both studied in a modern foreign language A "LVA" and or B "LVB") are reinforced and completed by the new "World Knowledge" module.
- The Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle will offer the bilingual and trilingual BFI formats only.
- The modern foreign language A or "LVA" at Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle is English and this is taught by native English speakers, who receive specialist training from [ASIBA](#), an organisation which supports the British version of the Option Internationale du Baccalauréat (OIB).
- The trilingual BFI at Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle will be offered with "LVA" in English and "LVB" in either Spanish or German (this is the second modern foreign language B – "LVB").

## **Teaching, timetable and curricula**

- Students enrolled in classes leading to the French Baccalauréat International (BFI) follow the same core subjects as students taking the "Baccalauréat Général" i.e.: the core curriculum, the speciality subjects and, if applicable, optional subjects.
- However, they also take additional subjects specific to the BFI:
  - a module in world knowledge ;
  - a compulsory non-linguistic subject, either history-geography or science (ONLY available in specific schools) taught in the modern foreign language and French;
  - an in-depth cultural and linguistic module in their foreign language.

In addition to these three compulsory courses, students enrolled in classes leading to the BFI may choose to take a second (optional) non-linguistic course if offered by the school.

## **World Knowledge**

This is a new addition to the programme, and where it differs and departs from the current “Option Internationale du Bac” (OIB). The World Knowledge module is common to all students regardless of which BFI they choose (bilingual, trilingual or quadrilingual format). It adds two hours per week in “Première” (Year 12) and “Terminale” (Year 13) and is taught in Modern Language A (LVA). It is based on a teaching program that combines the history of ideas and geopolitical issues, knowledge of contemporary world issues, culture and civilization of the countries of the languages studied, as well as on a research project carried out by each student.

Three themes allow students to focus on the most representative subjects of the cultural areas whose language they are studying:

- Thinking Society;
- Living in the world;
- Building the future.

### The student's individual project

As part of this module the student undertakes an individual project in conjunction with an international partner. This partner may be an international institution, a partner school, a non-governmental organization (NGO), a teacher, a researcher, an artist, an association partner, etc.

The student's individual project is built around the themes of the world knowledge programme and its variation according to the culture of the geographical area of the language studied. It includes a personal research component for the student and an international component.

## **Cultural and Linguistic Enrichment**

The complementary Cultural and Linguistic Enrichment course in a foreign language, which adds two hours per week in “Première” (Year 12) and “Terminale” (Year 13), is taught in either Modern Language A (LVA) or Modern Language B (LVB), depending on the BFI format chosen. This is in addition to the 2 hours for “LVA” and “LVB” that the pupils already have in the common curriculum.

When it is associated with “LVA”, it is a specific course of 4.5 hours in “Première” (Year 12) and 4 hours in “Terminale” (Year 13) and covers a dedicated language program that allows students to deepen their linguistic level and their literary culture of the language of the section (LVA).

For bilingual courses, the target level for LVA (English) is ABOVE C1. In trilingual courses, the target level for LVA (English) is also ABOVE C1 and TOWARDS C1 (between B2 and C1) for LVB (Spanish or German).

### **Compulsory non-linguistic subject, either History-Geography or Science;**

Compulsory non-linguistic subjects are taught in modern language A (LVA). This compulsory teaching may be offered in History & Geography (4 hours – 2 hours in French and 2 hours in the “LVA”) or science (1 hour 30 minutes additional in LVA, on top of the 2 hours taught in the common curriculum in French). At the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle, we ONLY offer this in History & Geography. The 4 hours taught in English are also taught by native English speakers.

For these subjects (History-Geography or Science), the national programmes are adapted to take into account the specificities of the targeted language area.

### **Optional Non-Linguistic Discipline 2**

Students may also choose an optional non-linguistic discipline (DNL 2) in “Première” (Year 12) and “Terminale” (Year 13). This optional subject may be one of the speciality subjects, with the exception of the specialty course “Languages, Literatures and Cultures”. The weekly schedule for this optional course is two hours. It can be taught in foreign language A, B or C, depending on the student's background. This option is normally ONLY offered by schools who offer ONLY the international version of the baccalauréat. At the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle, we do NOT offer the optional non-linguistic discipline.

### **Evaluation and weighting**

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Mode of assessment</b>	<b>Coefficient</b>
World Knowledge in “LVA”	Oral examination	20
Cultural and linguistic enrichment (LVA or LBV depending on bilingual or trilingual or quadrilingual format)	Written and oral examinations	20
Compulsory non-linguistic subject, either History-Geography or Science	Written and oral examinations	20
Optional Non-Linguistic Discipline 2	Oral examination	20

## The weighting of the final qualification and timetabled teaching hours

Here we present the coefficients and timetable hours for the bilingual and trilingual formats taught at the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle with the non-linguistic subject being History & Geography.

### Bilingual BFI

Subject	Coefficient
<b>Final examination subjects</b>	
Specialty Subject 1	16
Specialty Subject 2	16
Grand Oral Examination	10
Philosophy	8
Written French (taken at end of Year 12)	5
Oral French (taken at end of Year 12)	5
<b>Subjects specific to the Trilingual BFI</b>	
Cultural & Linguistic Enrichment <b>LVA - English</b>	20
History & Geography studied in French and LVA - English	20
World Knowledge (LVA - English)	20
<b>Total of all examined subjects</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Common Curriculum (continuous assessment in Years 12 &amp; 13)</b>	
Speciality Subject 3 (dropped at the end of Year 12)	8
LVB Modern Language (Spanish, German, Italian or Russian)	6
Science	6
Physical Education	6
Ethics & Citizenship	2
<b>Total of common curriculum (continuous assessment)</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

BFI Bilingual weekly taught hours	Première (Year 12)	Terminale (Year 13)
Specialty Subject 1	4	6
Specialty Subject 2	4	6
French (Year 12)/Philosophy (Year 13)	4	4
Specialty Subject 3	4	0
Cultural & Linguistic Enrichment <b>LVA - English</b>	4.5	4
World Knowledge (LVA - English)	2	2
History & Geography studied in French & LVA - English	4	4
LVB Modern Language(Spanish, German, Italian or Russian)	2	2
Science	2	2
Physical Education	2	2
Ethics & Citizenship	0.5	0.5
<b>Total weekly hours</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32.5</b>

Students can also choose optional subjects in Art (Art, Theatre or Music at our Lycée) or Latin or Greek in Year 12 or Maths or Law and Contemporary Issues in Year 13. These optional subjects add 3 hours of study per week and carry a coefficient of 2 in each year studied.

## Trilingual BFI

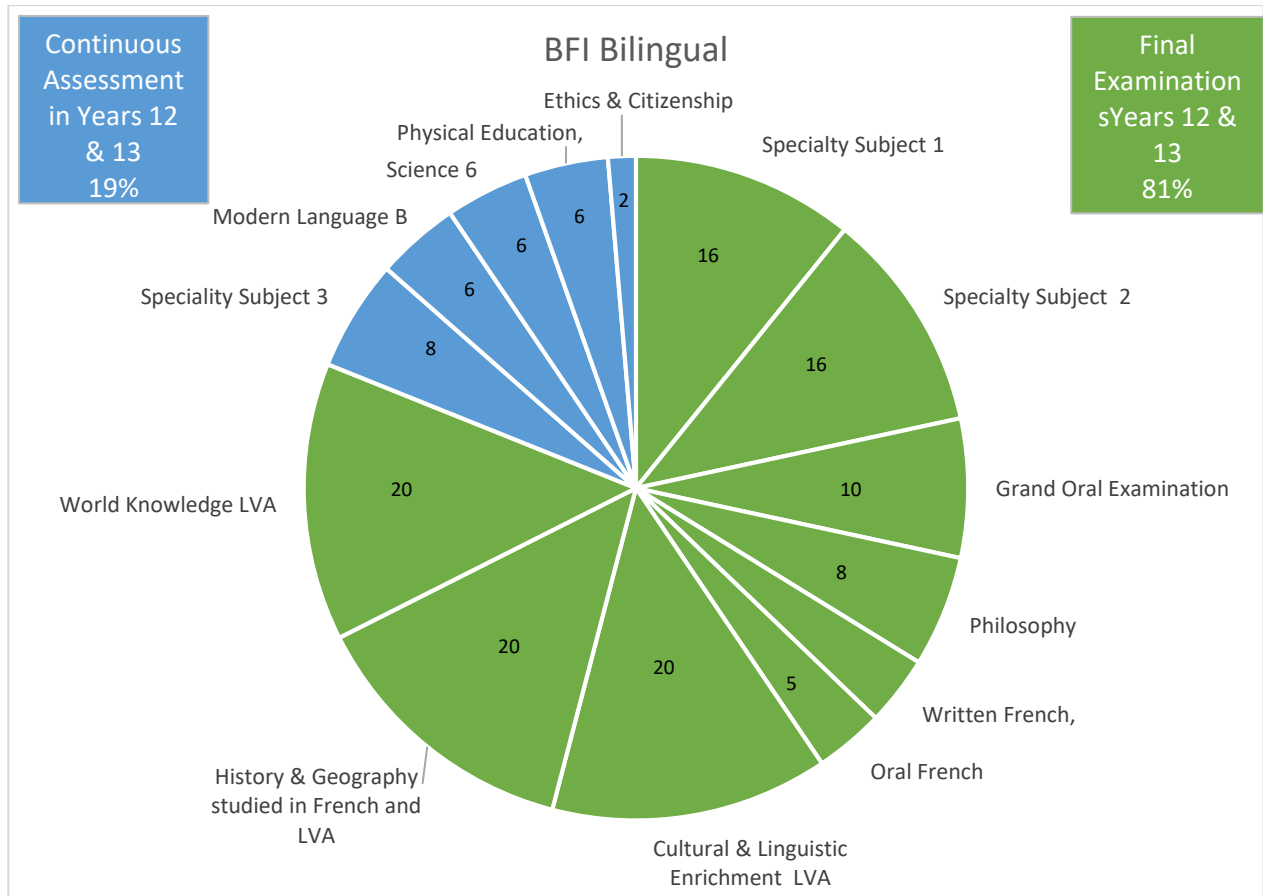
Subject	Coefficient
<b>Final examination subjects</b>	
Specialty Subject 1	16
Specialty Subject 2	16
Grand Oral Examination	10
Philosophy	8
Written French (taken at end of Year 12)	5
Oral French (taken at end of Year 12)	5
<b>Subjects specific to the Trilingual BFI</b>	
Cultural & Linguistic Enrichment <b>LVB – Spanish or German</b>	20
History & Geography studied in French and LVA English	20
World Knowledge (LVA - English)	20
<b>Total of examined subjects</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Common Curriculum (continuous assessment in Years 12 &amp; 13)</b>	
Speciality Subject 3 (dropped at the end of Year 12)	8
Modern Language B	6
Science	6
Physical Education	6
Ethics & Citizenship	2
<b>Total of common curriculum (continuous assessment)</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

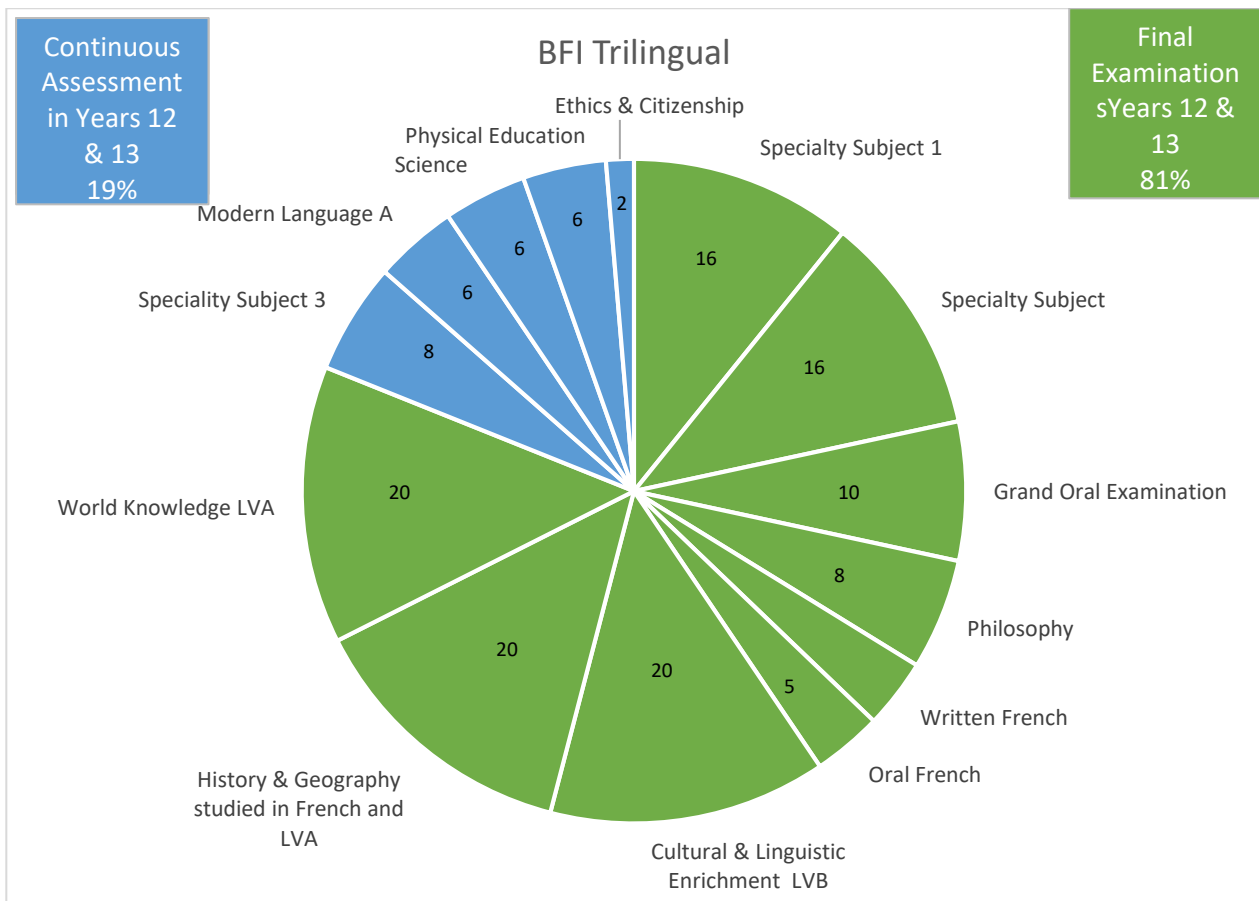
BFI Trilingual weekly taught hours	Première (Year 12)	Terminale (Year 13)
Specialty Subject 1	4	6
Specialty Subject 2	4	6
French (Year 12)/Philosophy (Year 13)	4	4
Specialty Subject 3	4	0
Cultural & Linguistic Enrichment <b>LVB – Spanish or German</b>	4	4
World Knowledge (LVA - English)	2	2
History & Geography studied in French and LVA - English	4	4
<b>LVA Modern Language - English</b>	2.5	2
Science	2	2
Physical Education	2	2
Ethics & Citizenship	0.5	0.5
<b>Total weekly hours</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32.5</b>

The key difference between the current “Option Internationale du Baccalauréat” (OIB) and the new BFI is in the weighting of the subjects.

In the OIB, the “Cultural & Linguistic Enrichment in LVA” and “History & Geography studied in French and LVA” had a weighting of 15 respectively. In the new BFI these two subjects have a weighting of 20 and so does the new module “World Knowledge”, hence increasing the overall weighting and importance of these subjects in the final qualification.

**Graphical Representation of the coefficients in the Bilingual and Trilingual BFI**





The key difference between the bilingual and trilingual BFI is that pupils will take the Cultural and Linguistic Enrichment in LVA in the bilingual and in the LVB modern language in the trilingual.

In terms of the taught hours, pupils spend eight and a half hours in Year 12 and eight hours in Year 13 immersed in the LVA (English) teaching of the different subjects (2 hours of the History & Geography nonlinguistic element is taught in French) for the bilingual format.

In the trilingual format, pupils spend six and a half hours in Year 12 and six hours in Year 13 immersed in the LVA (English) teaching of the different subjects and four hours of teaching in the LVB (Spanish or German).

We do not present the coefficients or the timetabled hours for the quadrilingual BFI, as we do not offer it at our Lycée. However, further information can be found in the links in the section named "Further information".

For your reference, we provide a coefficient and examination weighting of the current OIB in Annexe 1.

A table of the coefficients and taught hours for the normal Baccalauréat Général are provided in Annexe 2. The list of speciality, optional and common curriculum subjects also applies to the BFI apart from the Language, Literature & Culture speciality subjects which they cannot choose.



The key points to take away are:

- The current “Option Internationale du Baccalauréat” (OIB) will cease to exist from 2024.
- The new format of the “Baccalauréat Français International” (BFI) offers pupils a choice between bilingual, trilingual and quadrilingual formats.
- The weighting of the language-related subjects is higher in the overall qualification than before.
- The objective of the BFI is to offer a qualification that demonstrates “linguistic excellence and cultural openness” and to appeal to more higher education systems around the world given the importance of language development, whilst maintaining the rigour of the French baccalauréat teaching.
- The BFI is evaluated on 81% final examinations and 19% continuous assessment of the common curriculum as opposed to 60% final examinations and 40% continuous assessment in the Baccalauréat Général.
- Pupils who choose the BFI CANNOT choose the Language, Literature & Culture specialty subjects.
- Pupils have almost six hours more taught lessons in the BFI than in the Baccalauréat Général per week excluding time needed for homework and revision.

**Further information**

[French Ministry of Education and Youth official website – Eduscol – The Baccalauréat Français International](#)

[French Ministry of Education and Youth official bulletin on the Baccalauréat Français International](#)

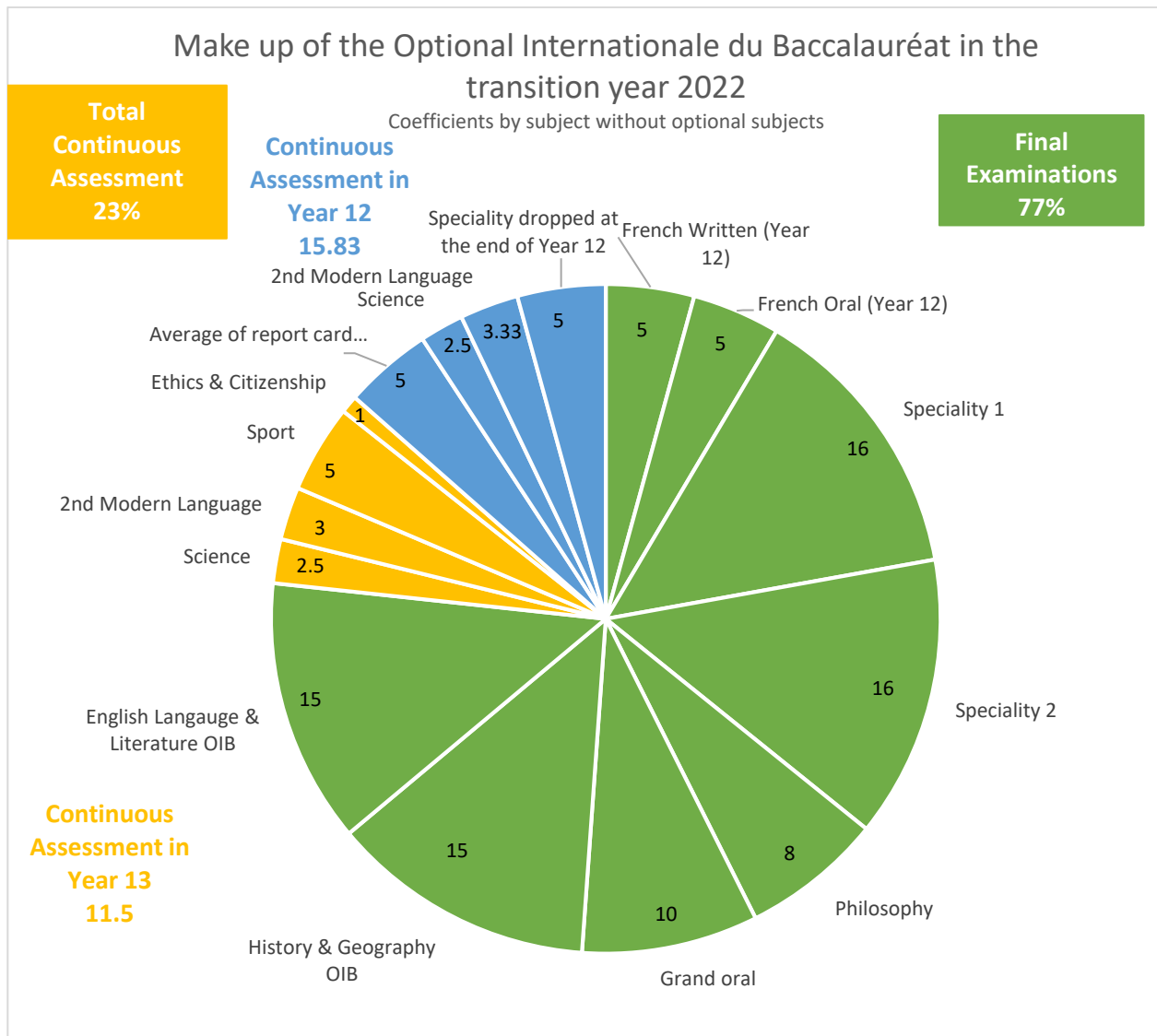
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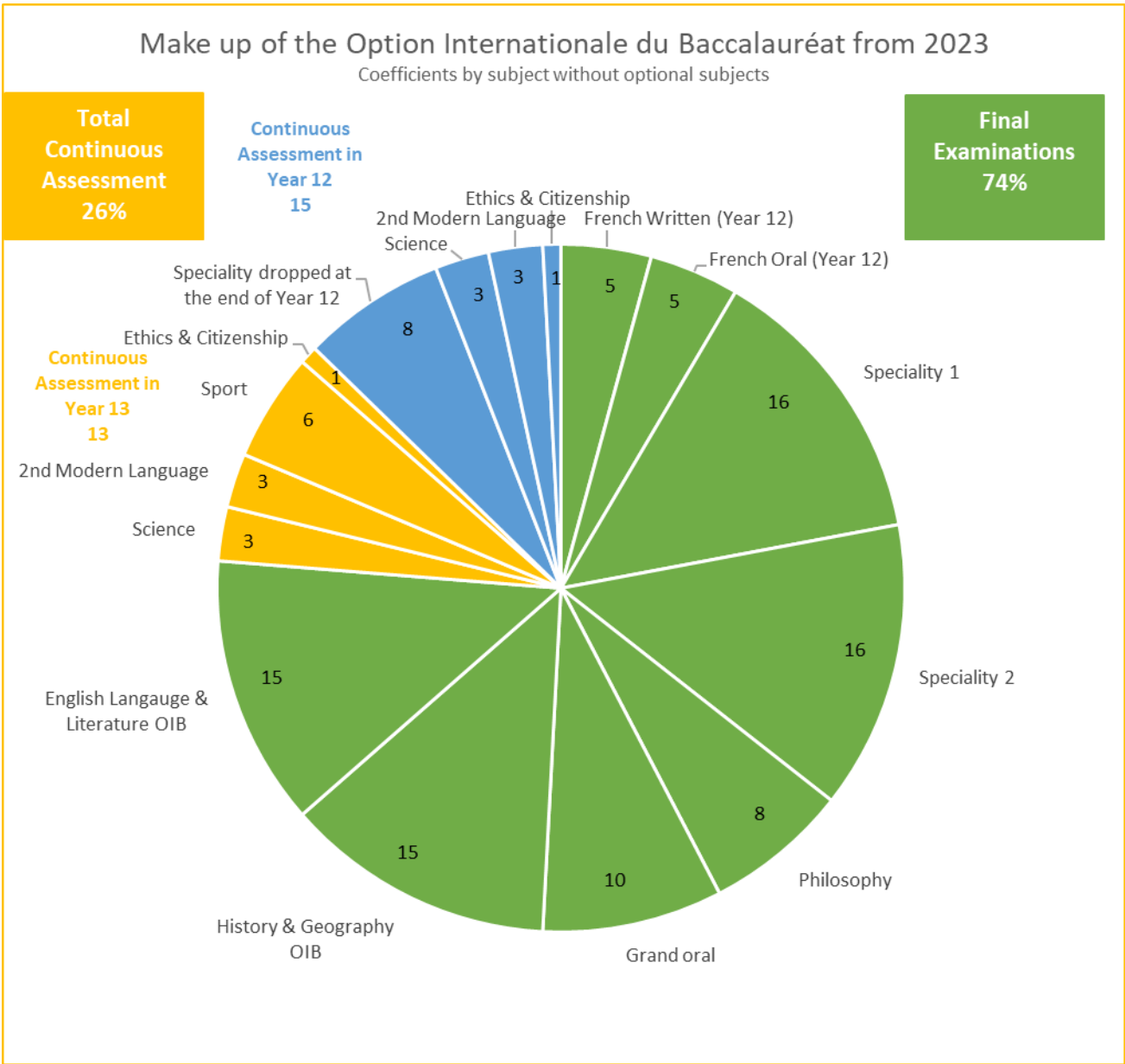
Mrs. Lidia Viana – Deputy Headmaster – [lviana@lyceefrancais.org.uk](mailto:lviana@lyceefrancais.org.uk)

## Annexe 1 The current Option Internationale du Baccalauréat

The diagrams below represent the current make-up of the OIB as a reference to be able to compare with the new BFI. As there were adjustments made in July 2022, there are some differences in the award of the qualification in 2022 and 2023, hence to representations.



*\*Weighting of optional subjects is as follows: Optional subjects taken in Year 12 and 13 is 4 and optional subjects taken in Year 13 only is 2.*



\*Weighting of optional subjects is as follows: Optional subjects taken in Year 12 and 13 is 4 and optional subjects taken in Year 13 only is 2.

## Annexe 2 The Baccalauréat Général

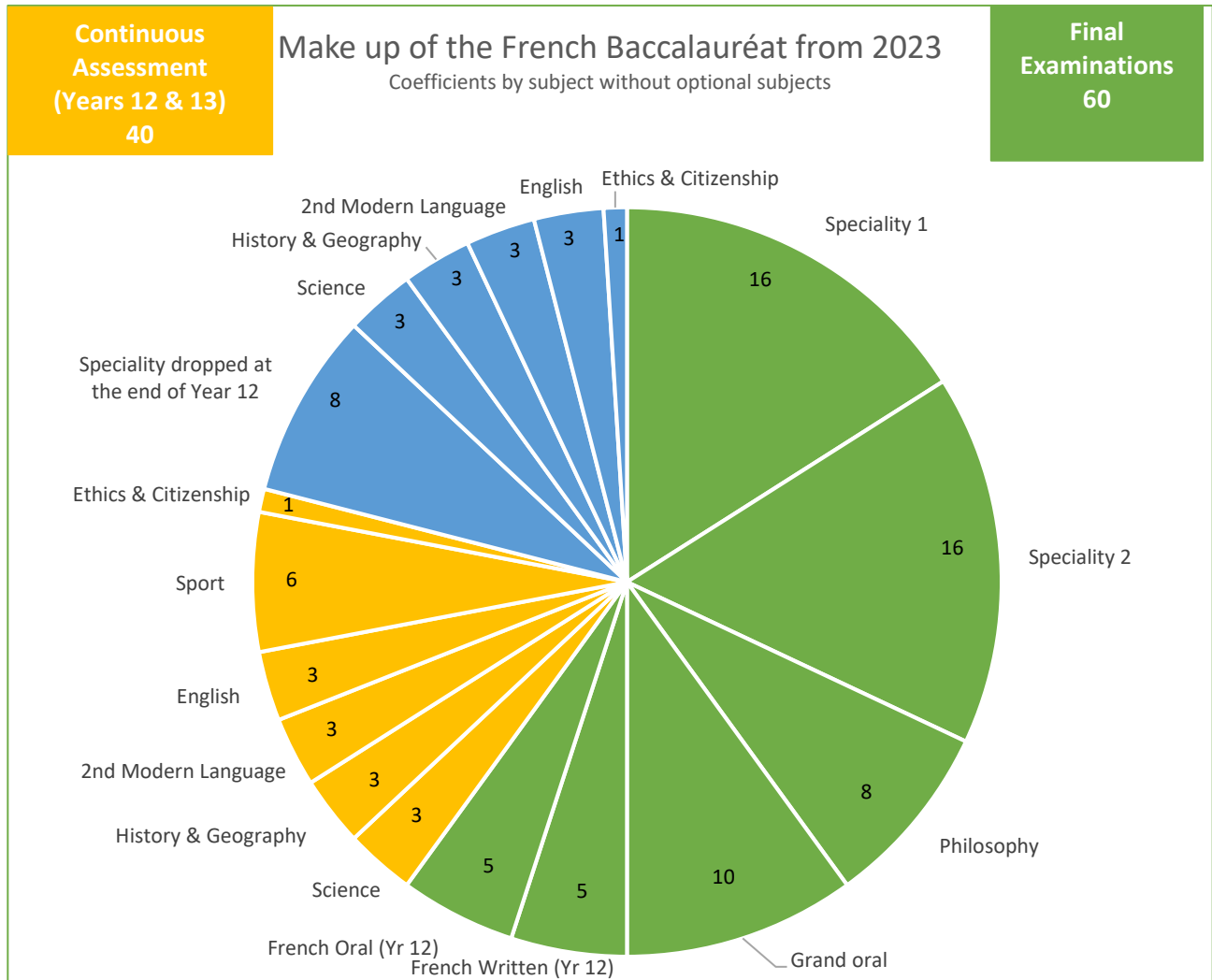
	Teaching time in Years 12 and 13
<b>COMMON CURRICULUM</b>	
French (Year 12 only)	<b>16 HOURS</b>
Philosophy (Year 13 only)	
Ethics & Citizenship	
History & Geography	
Modern and Foreign Languages A and B	
Sport	
Scientific Education	
<b>SPECIALITY SUBJECTS*</b>	
Art	<b>12 HOURS</b>
Classics with Ancient Greek or Latin	
Economics & Social Science	
Biology & Earth Sciences	
Physics & Chemistry	
Computer Science & Programming	
Language, Literature & Culture <i>(available to study in a number of different languages including English)</i>	
English Language, Literature & Culture in the Contemporary English-Speaking World (AMC)	
History, Geography & Political Science	
Human Sciences, Literature & Philosophy	
Engineering Sciences	
Mathematics	
<i>*3 specialities chosen by pupil, one dropped at the end of Year 12</i>	
<b>OPTIONS - ONE OPTION CAN BE CHOSEN IN EACH YEAR</b>	
<b>Year 12*</b>	<b>3 HOURS</b>
Modern Foreign Language C (not available in the BFI)	
Art (Art, Theatre, Cinema & Film Studies, Music)	
Sport (not available at our Lycée)	
Classics (Ancient Greek or Latin)	
<b>Year 13</b>	
Advanced Mathematics**	
Additional Mathematics***	
Law & Contemporary Issues	
<i>*Option chosen in Year 12 is also taken in Year 13. An additional option can be chosen in Year 13.  **Mathematics must be taken as a speciality in order to study Advanced Mathematics in Year 13.  ***Additional Mathematics can be taken by those no longer studying Mathematics as a speciality in Year 13.</i>	

Source: French National Ministry of Education and Youth

The two speciality subjects that are taken in both Year 12 and 13 will carry the highest weighting (coefficient) in the overall qualification. The pie charts below provides further information on the

weighting of all subjects. Results for the common curriculum are based purely on continuous assessment over the Year 12 and 13. This is based on termly assessments made up of homework, regular tests and mock examinations. The average of six terms will be the final mark awarded to the pupil in each of these subjects. Pupils also have a number of optional subjects to choose from in both Years 12 and Year 13s. Optional subjects now carry weighting.

**Makeup of the French Baccalauréat from 2023**



*\*Weighting of optional subjects is as follows: Optional subjects taken in Year 12 and 13 is 4 and optional subjects taken in Year 13 only is 2.*

## Baccalauréat Français Général

Subject	Coefficient
<b>Final examination subjects</b>	
Specialty Subject 1	16
Specialty Subject	16
Grand Oral Examination	10
Philosophy	8
Written French	5
Oral French	5
<b>Total of examined subjects</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Common Curriculum (continuous assessment in Years 12 &amp; 13)</b>	
Speciality Subject 3	8
Modern Language A (English)	6
Modern Language B	6
Science	6
History & Geography	6
Physical Education	6
Ethics & Citizenship	2
<b>Total of common curriculum (continuous assessment)</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Weekly taught hours	Première (Year 12)	Terminale (Year 13)
Specialty Subject 1	4	6
Specialty Subject 2	4	6
French (Year 12)/Philosophy (Year 13)	4	4
Specialty Subject 3	4	0
Modern Language A (English)	2.5	2
LVB Modern Language	2	2
History & Geography	3	3
Science	2	2
Physical Education	2	2
Ethics & Citizenship	0.5	0.5
<b>Total weekly hours</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27.5</b>