

BISHOPS

Academic Offering

Our **Academic Vision** is as follows:

- ✓ To empower our pupils to take their place in the global world they enter, and be constructive, fulfilled and caring participants in the shaping of what that world will become.
- ✓ They will be confident, self-motivated individuals who pursue excellence and whose habits of mind, enquiry and organization enable them to engage with people and communities in a sophisticated, multi-faceted and an intellectually alert way.
- ✓ We hope that they will be equipped to approach a wide variety of situations knowledgeably, imaginatively and sensitively.

SA CURRICULUM REGULATED BY THE DBE

U M A L U S I



UNIVERSITIES

WHY OFFER A LEVELS?

- Extension for our boys.
- Great interest in 2021 for Ecos A level course (113 boys).
- Ongoing enquiry about A Levels from our parents.
- Remain competitive.
- In depth studies.
- Early specialization for those who have chosen careers already.
- Entrance and funding into the Big Ten overseas universities

HOW?

Grade 10 continue as usual.

Grade 11 choose NSC or A Level stream

Different models offered in South Africa.

- Use as an entry point in Grade 11 for new pupils. A Level school
Eg St Johns, Somerset College
 - ☺ Generates funds and fills up boarding.
 - ☹ New boys entering late, dilute school ethos. Do not have time to invest themselves into the full Bishops offering.
- A Levels established for present clientele.

Our boys choose A levels OR NSC stream

Eg St Cyprians, Hilton, St Andrews



WHO?

- 70% overall average excluding LO.
- 70% minimum in Mathematics.
- OR a need to excel in the subject they are wanting to offer.
- Predominantly top pupils

DETAILS/LOGISTICS OF THE OFFERING

- Must offer course which provides SA exemption.
- Different combinations AS LEVELS
 - Eg: Five subjects needed
 - 1 IGCSE Afrikaans/French or FAL which is Grade 10 LEVEL but offered in Grade 11. Or any SA language ☹ No IsiXhosa
 - 2 AS English Language & Literature combined course
 - 3 AS Mathematics
 - 4 Choice of Two elective subjects
 - 5 Choice of three elective subjects (Tough load)

A LEVELS IN GRADE 12

- Need 3 A levels .Can do 4
- Must have done AS before A level and English Language & literature.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

AS Level is Grade $11\frac{1}{2}$

St Cyprians

Chemistry

Physics

Geography

French

Drama

Music

Art & Design

St Andrews

Physics

Chemistry

Life Science

History

Geography

Eng Lang

Eng Lit

Ecos

Further Maths

St Johns

Art

Biology

Chemistry

Computer Science

Economics (A Level only)

English Lang & Lit (AS Level only)

English Language (A level only)

English Literature (A level only)

French

Further Maths (A level only)

Geography

History

Drama (AS Level)

Mathematics

Physics

Psychology (A Level only)

Business (AS Level only)

NUMBERS TAKING UP A LEVELS

2022 St Andrews

Subject	Total Choosing AS Level	Total Choosing <u>A</u> Level
TOTAL UPTAKE	15	17
Maths	14	17
Physics	10	13
Chemistry	6	9
Life Science	4	7
History	4	4
Geography	2	0
<u>Eng Lang</u> & <u>Lit</u>	15 (Compulsory)	3 <u>Eng Lang</u>
Economics	9	0

2022 ST CYPRIANS 20/84

CAUTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

1. Look closely at reasons for pupils choosing A levels stream.

BAD REASONS:

- To follow a teacher
- The idea that they don't need to do Afrikaans.
- Fewer subjects looks like less work.
- Idea of just focusing on their interests.
- Want to study overseas.

2. Points to emphasize:

- Cannot go back to NSC once A Levels chosen (end of Term 1 Grade 11 cutoff)
- It is pitched much higher than NSC and has high demands.

FAQ

1. Can boys on A Levels still participate in extra mural programme?
 - In Grade 11 this is possible, in Grade 12 they might struggle in top teams.
 - St Cyps say cannot be forced into doing extra murals. St Andrews insist on extramurals
2. How do you do academic awards?
 - Each stream has its own awards
3. How does A Levels fit into timetable?
 - Easily. (Although other schools do not have 40 min lessons, like us, but more like 50/55 minutes)
 - Independent study in free lessons
4. Do teachers have to have a certain qualification to teach A Levels/ have completed compulsory training?
 - No, but how to assess needs training
5. Do you have a special venue for the pupils doing A Levels to sit and do independent study?
 - Yes, St Johns. No in St Cyps and St Andrews

FAQ

6. How do you/parents manage the NSC results dropping because top pupils in A Levels?
 - A levels come out before NSC so they market the two together eg 25 A's for NSC Maths and 10 A's for A Level Maths.

7. Do pupils still do LO?
 - No.

8. Do pupils still get a Bachelor's Pass?
 - It is not called a Bachelor's Pass, but SA Exemption. It is equivalent.

9. When do they write examinations?
 - There are examinations in June and November. We would participate in November sessions. Pupils could improve their Grade 11 AS results in June of Grade 12. We would run internal prelims to provide examination rehearsal.

10. Parent concerns
 - Concern about the guaranteed drop in results.
 - The idea that there is a "high road and a low road" which triggers anxiety. Pupils doing NSC matric feel second class.
 - The idea that grade is being divided.
 - The idea that NSC will get bad teachers.
 - The idea that there might be a loss of focus in NSC.
 - In the A Levels environment that their son is cut off from the social dynamic.

FAQ

7. Expenses entailed?
- Cambridge Fees

Fees		
	Pounds	Rands
Once off application fee	2025	R43 242
Annual registration fee	6200 (waived if Fees per boy > 10 935 pounds = 32 boys doing AS Levels)	R132 370
Fees per candidate	70 per subject per boy = 350 for AS Levels 70 per subject per boy = 210 for A Levels	R7473 R4484

- Exam Officer
- Textbooks & teacher training @ R6666 each for a diploma in Teaching & Learning
- Admin support
- Upgraded Science facilities

8. How much do pupils pay?

- At St Andrews close to R20000 (over and above school fees) + registration and exam fees

IF YES, WHAT NEXT?

1. Register with British Council /Cambridge International directly.
2. Process:
 - Expression of Interest
 - Application Form
 - Approval visit
3. Middle of Grade 10 parent meeting explaining a split in streams in Grade 11.
4. HOD and Staff approval and training asap