



# YEAR 8 OPTION CHOICES

PARENT / CARER INFORMATION

20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

READY FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

# Statutory Courses

English Language & Literature

Mathematics & Statistics

Trilogy Science

Physical Education (PE)

Physical, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

Careers, Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG)

# Time to Choose!



Do it wisely!

At this present time **your son/daughter** has a decision to make!

They **need to select 5** option subjects to begin studying next academic year.

Throughout Year 9 they will have **two periods a week** for **each of their Option Subjects**.

At approximately the half way point of Year 9, they will make the decision on which four options to continue with **through to the conclusion of Year 11**.

# Ebacc Information ....

The Government has moved the goalposts and changed their mind.

We endeavour to meet the needs of all students and our local community, by providing a broad and balanced curriculum with a wealth of subjects on offer.

**HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES**

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science  
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science.
- History or Geography
- A language  
Ancient or modern

**WHAT IS THE EBACC?**

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

**EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS**

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

**LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE**

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

**WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?**

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017

**Further Information**  
Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

You should also get in touch with your child's school directly – they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.

While the full Ebacc is not compulsory, there is a large value in studying at least one of these options. It is about students **not limiting their future options.**



# Conditions to follow ....

**Students make 5 Main and 2 Reserve Option Choices.**

When making option choices **it is important** to know that **at least four** of the five choices, they will continue studying through to the end of Year 11.

One of their choices **must** be from the list of following four subjects.  
They can choose more than one!

**History**

**Geography**

**French**

**Spanish**

**All are required** to study at least one of these subjects until the end of Year 11.  
Choosing only one now means that they must continue to study it!

Selecting two of these now allows them to make a decision next year!

# In Year 9 ....

When completing the option refinement process.

Students will **decide which 4 of their options** they will continue with through to Year 11.

Please remember **a minimum of one** must be either History, Geography, French or Spanish.

**Single Science** (formerly known as Triple Science) will be able to be selected at this point in time, which means students can then only retain 3 of their 5 chosen options.

**Psychology & Sociology** become separate subjects. If students wish to retain one they still need to choose three others to keep. If they wish to retain both, then only two other options can be retained.



# The rest of their choices ...

**Sociology & Psychology**

**Food Preparation & Nutrition (P)**

**Sport (P & V)**

**Religious Studies**

**Drama (P)**

**Construction (V)**

**Music (V)**

**DT: Resistant Materials (P)**

**DT: Textiles (P)**

**Graphics (V)**

**Media (V)**

**Child Development (V)**

**Information Technology (V)**

**Art (P)**

**Dance (P)**

**Computer Science**

**Business (V)**

**Remember** they can choose to take **more than one** of: *History, Geography, French and Spanish.*

**Students will also need to make two reserve option choices.**

# Types of Courses.

**Traditional GCSEs** versus **Vocational Qualifications**

What's the difference?

What are the benefits of each? Pitfalls of each?

Which one is more valuable?

Other courses contain a **practical element**.



# Think carefully ...

## 1 Think about - YOU Which subjects...



## 2 Think about - THE FUTURE Find out...



1 + 2 + 3  
Put all this together

↓  
Prioritise what's most important to you

↓  
Make your choice!

## 3 Ask other people Talk to...

- ◆ Parents ◆ Carers ◆ Relatives ◆
- ◆ Friends ◆ Teachers ◆ Form tutors ◆
- ◆ Careers co-ordinators ◆ Mentors ◆
- ◆ Students already studying the course ◆

# Guidance ...



## We recommend that students ...

- Carefully think about which subjects will see the most amount of progress made.
- Consider taking at least one vocational subject or one that contains a practical element and not solely based on final written exams.
- Don't limit options moving forward. Choose at least two from History, Geography, French and Spanish.
- Make an informed decision ... speak to teachers, Heads of Faculty, Miss Ellis, Mr Rose, tutors and parents!

# Final note ...



Upon choosing options this **does not mean** that these immediately takes place! They will start in Year 9.


In a **worst case scenario one of the chosen options does not operate.** This is why **two reserve options** are selected.

**Decisions are final** and upon starting Year 9 there is no turning back time! **Think carefully!**

# Course Information



Unity Schools Trust   ParentMail   Online Payments   Parents Evening Booking   Office 365   Filr

 **The Magna Carta School**  
*A community school at the heart of Runnymede*

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## Options Information

HOME \

All students at The Magna Carta School are encouraged to follow a broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by a strong PSHCE and Careers Education and Guidance programme to help develop each student to their fullest potential.

In Years 7 and 8 students follow an extensive curriculum incorporating Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, ICT and Computer Science, Physical Education, MFL, Art Music, Drama and Design Technology – Food, Textiles, Graphics and Resistant Materials.

Numeracy and Literacy are important points of focus for all at The Magna Carta School and particular emphasis is placed on developing students' ability to be numerate and literate.

The curriculum in Years 9, 10 and 11 is designed to ensure that all students are prepared for the next phase of their lives. Students are encouraged to follow a broad and balanced curriculum supplemented by a strong PSHCE and Careers programme.

[Year 8 Course Descriptions](#)



This booklet should **ONLY** be used by students presently in Year 8 this 2018-19 Academic Year.

## The Magna Carta School

### Year 8 Guided Option Choices 2019

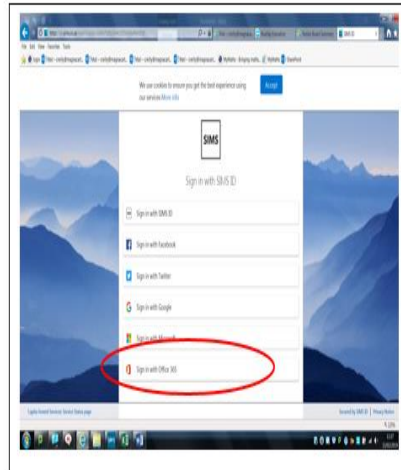
# Year 8 Parents Evening

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

### SIMS Options Online Guidance

**Step 1:** Go to the website [www.sims-options.co.uk/](http://www.sims-options.co.uk/)

**Step 2:** Click on "Sign in with Office 365" which is the final option at the bottom of the screen.



Student Choices - Plan Status **Design** Next Student Blend: Ar

Save Show Notes Hide Notes

#### Humanities & Languages

All students must select one of the following courses. You may wish to select more than one (recommended) in the next section.

Please remember that from this point forward through to the conclusion of Year 11 all students must study at least one of these subject areas as a minimum requirement. Choosing only one now means that you are limiting your choice next academic year when you make your final option refinement.

You have chosen 0 of 1 courses from this list

<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course This course is also available in Further Option Choices	<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course This course is also available in Further Option Choices	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course This course is also available in Further Option Choices
<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course This course is also available in Further Option Choices		

#### Further Option Choices

You now need to choose your remaining four option choices.

You can choose an additional subject(s) from the Humanities and Languages section here if you wish. It is recommended that you choose one more!

Consider choosing at least one subject that has either a practical or vocational element.

You must also choose two reserve options.

You have chosen 0 of 4 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list

<b>Art (Practical)</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Business (Vocational)</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Child Development (Vocational)</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve
<b>Construction (Vocational)</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Computer Science</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Drama (Practical)</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve

#### My Choices in Order of Preference

(Total Choices: 0)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No courses selected.

#### My Reserves in Order of Preference

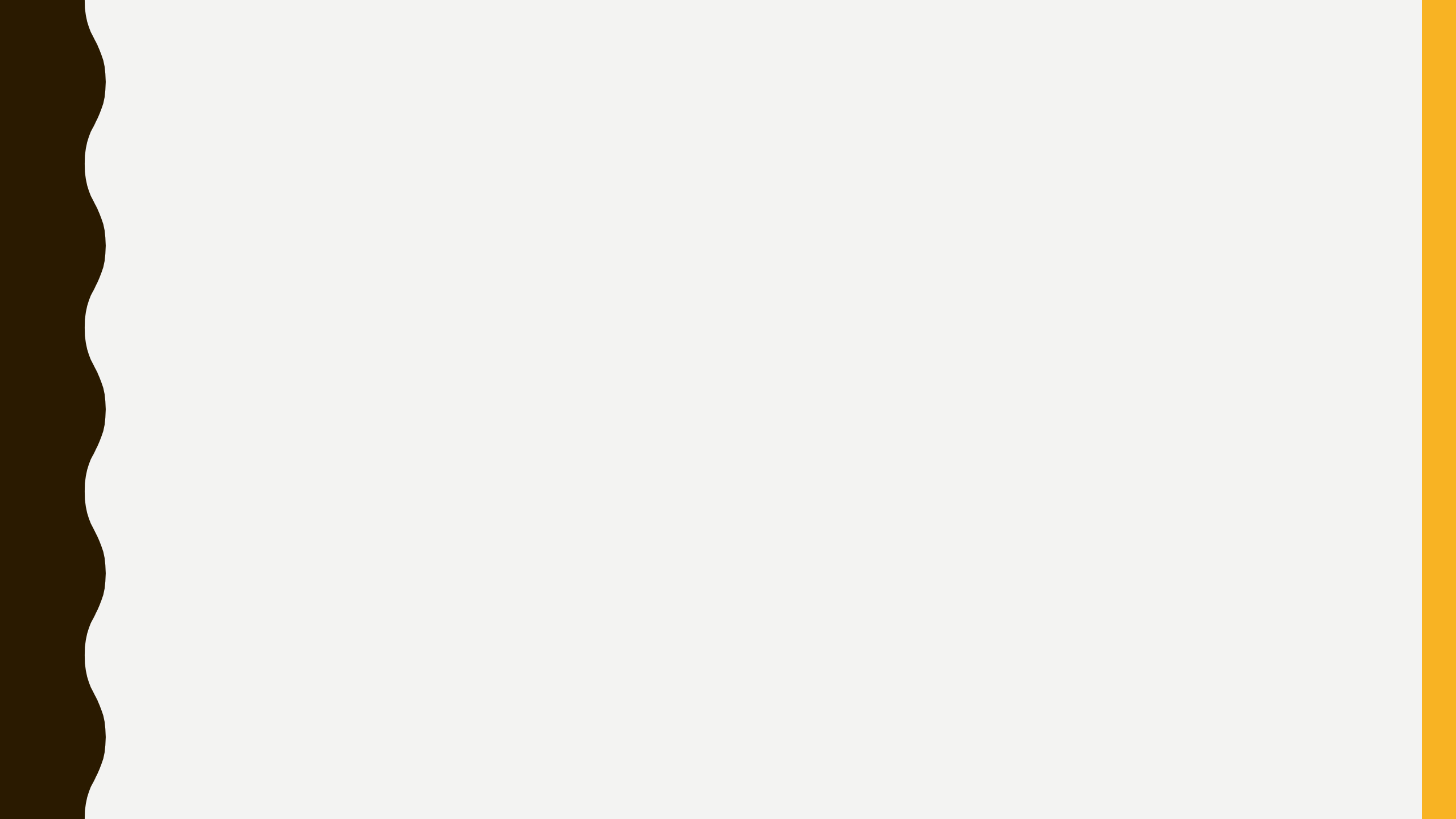
(Total Reserves: 0)

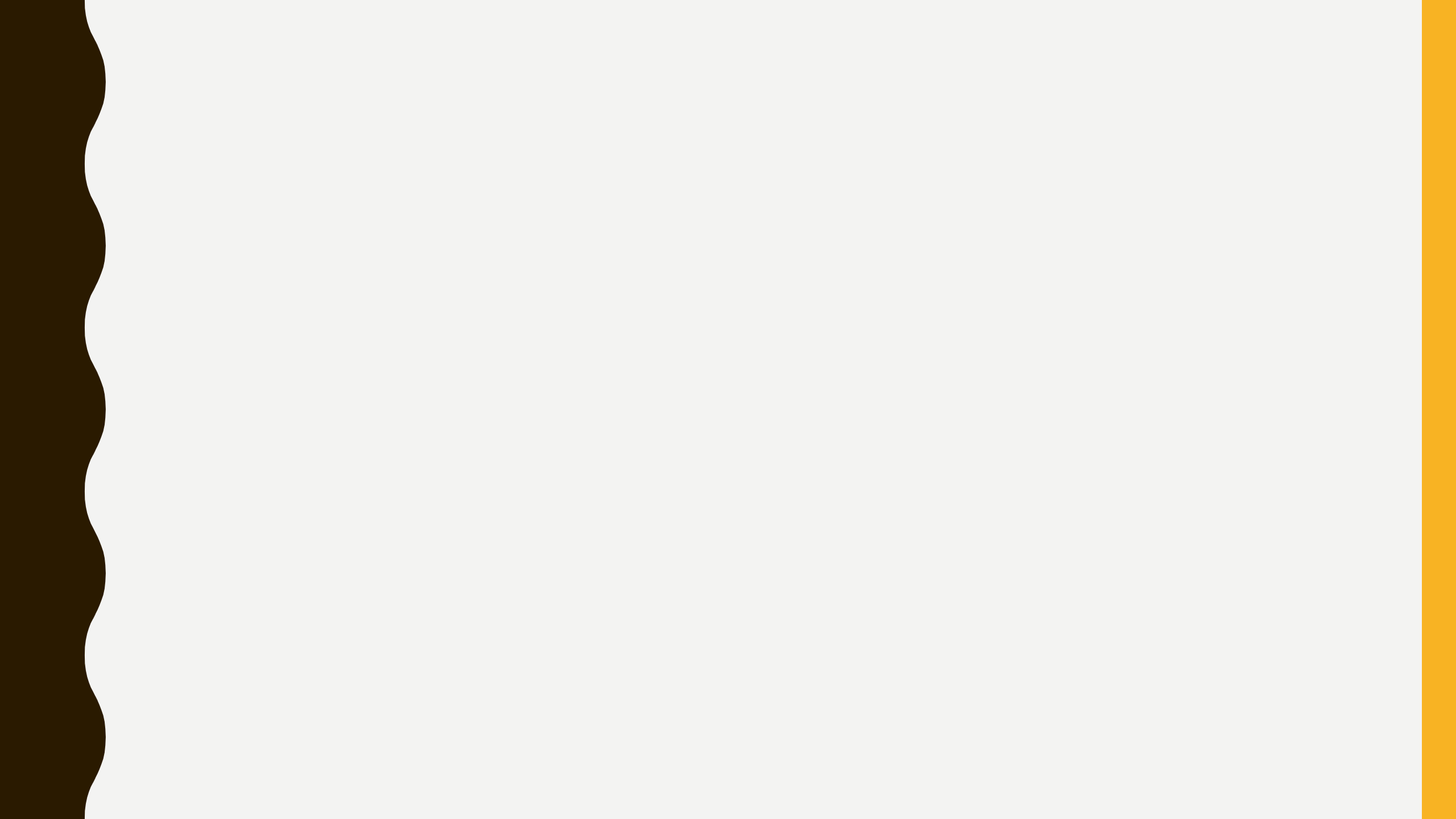
To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

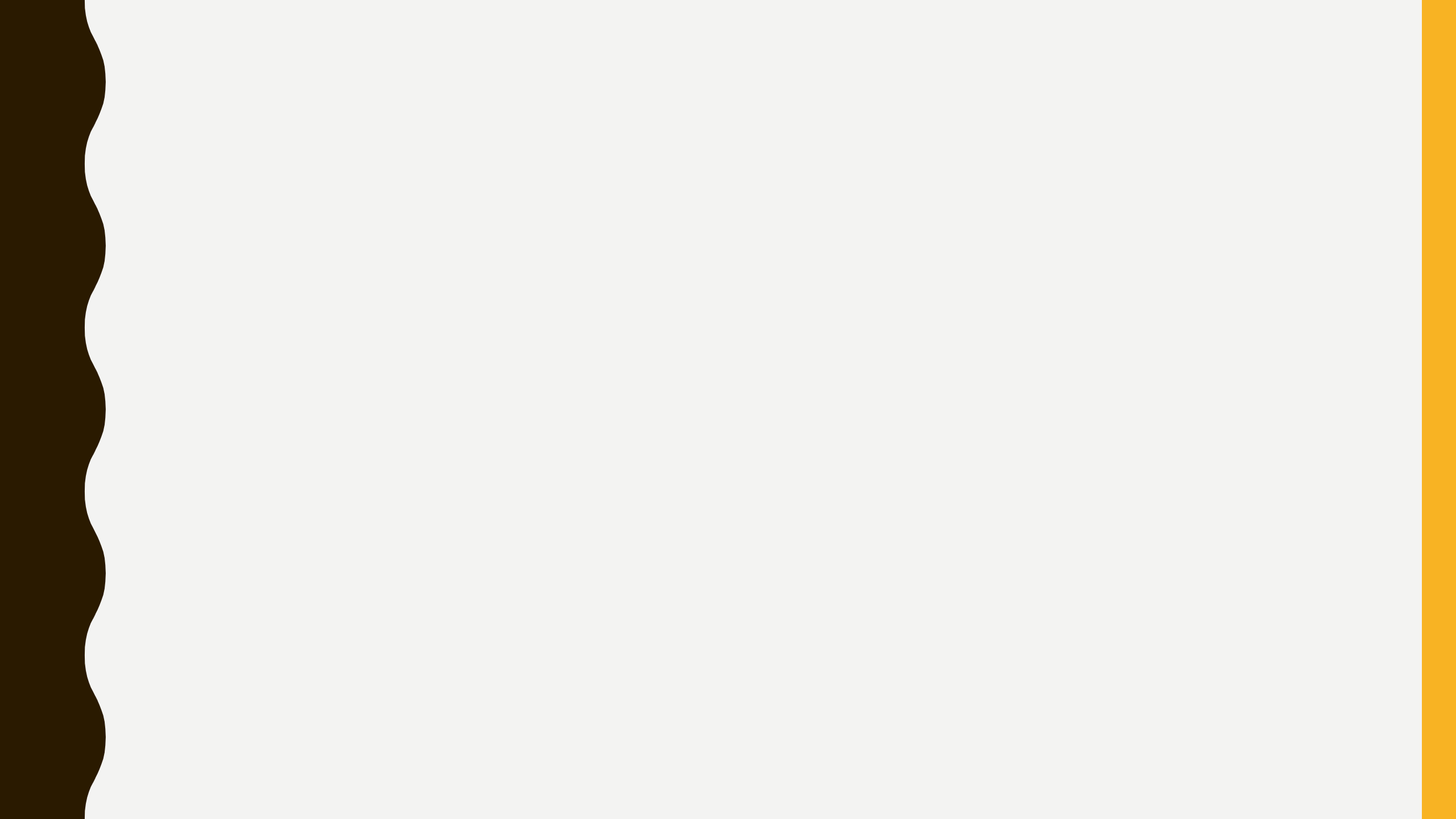
No reserves selected.

# Year 8 Option Choice Deadline

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019









# Conditions to follow continued



If you are **presently studying Sociology & Psychology**, these now become separate options.

*You can either:*

1. **Choose to continue with one** of them, however you need to still **remove one** other option course.
2. **Choose to continue with both** of them, however this means you need to **remove two** of your option choices.

However, **you must continue to study at least one** of the following subjects:  
History, Geography, French or Spanish

3. Choose to remove both from your options and no others.

# Conditions to follow continued



## Would you like to commence studying **Single Science**?

*This is the only course you choose to start at this point in time.*

*In other words you cannot select a subject that you presently do not take in Year 9.*

**You can either:**

- 1. If the answer is no, you **still need to remove one** of your option choices.**
- 2. If the answer is yes, you need to **remove two** of your option choices.**

However, you **must** continue to study **at least one** of the following subjects:  
History, Geography, French or Spanish

# Student Examples



## Student A

History  
French

Resistant Materials  
Music  
Drama

**Student A** could remove any of the listed subjects.

If wishing to take Single Science then two need to be removed. However, History and/or French must remain.

## Student B

History  
Geography  
Spanish

Sport  
Child Development

**Student B** could remove any of the listed subjects.

If Single Science is wanted to be taken, then any two subjects need to be removed. This would still leave at least one Humanity or Language.

## Student C

Geography  
Spanish

Computer Science  
Business  
Sociology/Psychology

**Student C** can remove Sociology and Psychology and keep the others.

OR

Keep one only from Sociology or Psychology requiring one other subject to be removed.

OR

Keep both Sociology or Psychology and therefore removing two other subjects. The two removed cannot be both Geography and Spanish.

If Single Science is wanted then two subjects need to be removed and this would also depend on what the decision is with Sociology & Psychology. However, one of either Geography and Spanish would need to remain.