RANGITOTO COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

SUBJECT SELECTION GUIDE

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Group 1: Language A (Native Language)

English Literature, SSST Literature, English Language & Literature, Chinese Language & Literature

Through each course, students develop a personal appreciation of language and literature critical-thinking skills in their interaction with a range of texts from different periods, styles, text-types and literacy forms. They gain understanding of the formal, stylistic and aesthetic qualities of texts and also the strong powers of expression, both written and oral. They gain appreciation of cultural differences in perspective and how an understanding of how language challenges and sustains ways of thinking. Through studies in language and literature, the DP aims to develop a student's lifelong interest in language and literature, and a love for the richness of human expression.

❖ *Literature - English*

This is an exciting and rigorous course in the study of literature. You will be reading across eras, countries, genres and author genders to form an international but truly personal view of the world through literature. You will explore literature critically through close reading, analytical writing, and deep discussion. Additionally, you will make connections between literary works, your personal experiences, and the world around you, and use that understanding to challenge old ways of thinking.

Available at **Standard** and **Higher** level:

Standard level: You will be required to study seven literature texts.
Higher level: You will be required to study ten literature texts. Additionally, students also write a Higher Level Essay

Entry Requirements:

For both Standard and Higher levels, you need to be able to work independently and collaboratively, be well organized, an avid reader and enjoy discussing literature.

Standard level: Year 11 Merit with some Achieved for both internal and external standards.
Higher level: Year 11 with only Merit and Excellence in both internals and externals.

❖ *SSST Literature – Language of Choice*

1. Students can choose to study the Literature course in their mother tongue language. The course structure is the same as the English Literature course. Literature is available in almost any language.

2. This course requires the student to source a suitable teacher/tutor in their chosen language to support them. The teacher/tutor must have IB knowledge. The tutor can be living in New Zealand or abroad. IB Coordinator can provide assistance to source a tutor.

3. As such the Self-Taught option requires students to be highly motivated, organized and capable of working well independently. This option requires approval from the IB Diploma Coordinator.

Available at: **Standard level** only.

❖ *Language and Literature – offered in English and Chinese*

This is a rigorous and diverse course for students to study in either English or Chinese who have significant experience using English/Chinese in an academic context. The course involves the study of texts, both literary and non-literary, and provides a focus for developing an understanding of how language works to create meanings in a culture, as well as in particular texts. All texts may be understood according to their form, content, purpose and audience, and through the social, historical, cultural and workplace contexts that produce and value them.

Available at **Standard** and **Higher** level:

Standard level: You will be required to study four literature texts.
Higher level: You will be required to study six literature texts. Additionally, students also write a Higher Level Essay

Entry Requirements:

For both Standard and Higher levels, you need to be able to work independently and collaboratively, be well organized, and enjoy discussing literature and aspects of language.

Standard level: **English** – Year 11 at Merit with some Achieved either in internal or external Standards.

Chinese – as mother tongue, ideally having completed 初三 (last year of junior high school) in a Chinese working language school, or an equivalent fluency level.

Higher level: **English** – Year 11 at only Merit and Excellence in both internals and externals.

Chinese – as mother tongue, ideally having completed 初三 (last year of junior high school) in a Chinese working language school, and able to cope with 高中 (higher school) curriculum.

Group 2: Language B (Language Acquisition)

French, Spanish, Chinese, English, Japanese

These language acquisition courses are designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken. All languages follow the same course. You will study five themes: Identity, Experiences, Human Ingenuity, Sharing the Planet, and Social Organization Students are assessed on four components: Oral, Reading, Writing and Listening.

Language B offers three levels **Ab Initio Standard** and **Higher** level:

Ab-initio level (SL) is designed for students with little/no previous learning of the language.
Standard level (SL) is suitable for students with some formal language background.
Higher level (HL) is suitable for students who fluently speak and write the language.

Entry Requirements:

Ab-initio level: Nil.
Standard level: Year 11 at Merit with some Achieved either in internals or externals (or equivalent learning level).
Higher level: An academic level above Year 11 at Excellence but not at a level to read Literature in the language.

Rangitoto College offers the following courses:

- ***French***

Ab-initio & Standard level

- ***Spanish***

Standard Level and Higher Level

- ***Mandarin***
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Ab-initio, Standard level, Higher level

- ***English***

Standard Level and Higher Level

- ***Japanese***

Standard Level

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

Business Management, Economics, Geography, History & Psychology

This subject area explores the interactions between humans and their environment in time, space and place. In these subjects students develop an international perspective, concern for global issues, and raise awareness of your personal responsibilities at a local, national and international level.

❖ *Business Management*

The Business Management course is designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of business management theories, as well as your ability to apply a range of tools and techniques in an international setting. The course explores the key characteristics of business organization and environment and the business functions of human resource management, finance and accounts, marketing and operations management. The conceptual learning is firmly anchored in the context of real-world examples and case studies.

Available at **Standard** and **Higher** level

Standard level: You will study five compulsory topics.
Higher level: As per Standard level with the addition of extra breadth and depth within topics.

Entry Requirements:

Higher level: No previous experience in Business Management is required however, Merits and Excellence in Year 11 English and/or Business Studies is advantageous for HL.

❖ *Economics*

The study of Economics focusses o scarcity, resource allocation and the methods and processes by which choices are made in the satisfaction of human wants. Students apply theories of *microeconomics* (economic variables affecting individuals, firms and markets) and *macroeconomics* (economic variables affecting countries, governments and societies, how they are to be applied to real-world issues). The *global economics* topic underpins key concepts of fluctuations in economic activity, international trade, economic development and environmental sustainability.

Available at **Standard** and **Higher** level

Standard level: You will study three topics (Macro, Micro and Global Economics).
Higher level: As per Standard level with the addition of extra breadth and depth within topics.

Entry Requirements:

Higher level: No previous experience in Economic is required however, Merits and Excellence in Year 11 English and/or Economics is advantageous for HL.

❖ *Geography*

Geography is a dynamic course, firmly grounded in the real world and focusing on the interactions between individuals, societies and the physical environment. It identifies trends and patterns in these interactions and examines the processes behind them. It investigates the way that people adapt and respond to change and evaluates management strategies associated with such change. The course integrates physical and human geography.

Available at **Standard** and **Higher** level:

Standard level: You will study the Core topics and optional themes.
Higher level: As per Standard level with the addition of extra breadth and depth within topics. Additionally, HL students study HL only extension topics.

Entry Requirements:

Higher level: No previous experience in Geography is required however, Merits and Excellence in Year 11 English and/or Geography is advantageous for HL.

❖ *History*

The emphasis of the course is on world history and on making connections and comparisons between different region's cultures, political systems and national traditions. The two main key topics are covered autocratic leaders, and independence movements. Students focus on case studies, and for their prescribed topic they must consider sources in the context of Conflict and Intervention or the move to Global War. Higher level study an additional regional history topic of Oceania and look at the impact of the Chinese Revolution in the 20th Century, the establishment of New Zealand and Australia as British colonies, and the impact of World War II in Southeast Asia.

Available at **Standard** and **Higher** level:

Standard level: Two key topics: Autocratic Leaders and Independence Movements
Higher level: Two key topics and an in-depth research-based study of their choice.

Entry Requirements:

Higher level: No previous experience in History is required however, Merits and Excellence in Year 11 English and/or History is advantageous for HL. An excellent standard of writing is required for those taking History.

❖ *Psychology*

Psychology examines the interaction of biological, cognitive and socio-cultural influences on human behaviour. Students undertaking the course can expect to develop an understanding of how psychological knowledge is generated, developed and applied. This will allow students to have a greater understanding of themselves and appreciate the diversity of human behaviour. The ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research are also key considerations of the IB Psychology course.

Available at **Standard** and **Higher** level:

Standard level: Three Core Topics plus one option.
Higher level: Three Core Topics plus two options. Additionally, HL students focus more on qualitative research methodology.

Entry Requirements:

Higher level: No previous experience in Psychology is required however, Merits and Excellence in Year 11 English and/or History is advantageous for HL. An excellent standard of writing is required for those taking Psychology.

Group 4: Experimental Sciences

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, ESS (Environmental Systems & Societies)

Through studying IB Experimental Science students will become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other. While the scientific method may take on a wide variety of forms, it is the emphasis on a practical approach through experimental work that characterizes the science subjects.

Chemistry, Physics & Biology are available at **Standard** and **Higher** level,
ESS is only offered at **Standard** level.

Students study a common core with:

Standard level: Undertake a common core syllabus.
Higher level: Students are required to study the core syllabus topics in greater breadth and depth and are required to study ONE additional option topic.

❖ *Biology*

Biology is the study of life. In the Biology course you will gain a greater understanding of the living world at all levels using many different approaches and techniques. At one end of the scale is the cell, its molecular construction and complex metabolic reactions. At the other end of the scale biologists investigate the interactions that make whole ecosystems function. In this course you will study six core topics: Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Ecology, Evolution & Biodiversity, and Human Physiology. If taken at Higher level you will go to greater depth learning about Nucleic Acids, Metabolism, Cell Respiration & Photosynthesis, Plant Biology, Evolution and Animal Physiology. Additionally, in consultation with your teacher, you will study one optional topic from: Human Physiology, Neurobiology & Behaviour, Biotechnology, or Ecology.

Entry Requirements:

Standard level: Year 11 ideally with Merit or Excellence in all Biology standards. IB MYP/PYP 3-5, or equivalent satisfactory level from another curriculum.
Higher level: Double Science at Year 11 with Merit and Excellence in all Biology internals and externals. IB MYP or PYP 5-7, or an equivalent excellent level from another curriculum.

❖ *Chemistry*

The Chemistry course combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigational skills. It is often called the central science, as chemical principles underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems. Apart from being a subject worthy of study, Chemistry is a prerequisite for many other courses in higher education, such as medicine, biological science and environmental science. During the Chemistry course you will learn the essential principles of the subject which include Stoichiometric relationships, Atomic Structure, Periodicity, Chemical Bonding & Structure, Energetics, Chemical Kinetics, Equilibrium, Acids & Bases, Redox Processes and Organic Chemistry, as well as measurement, processing and analysis of data. At Higher level, in consultation with your teacher, you will also select an optional topic to study between Energy or Biochemistry.

Entry Requirements:

Standard level: Merit in Chemistry internal and external assessments at Year 11. IB MYP/PYP 3-5, or equivalent satisfactory level from another curriculum.
Higher level: Excellence in all Chemistry internal and external assessments at Year 11, and Merit and Excellence in Mathematics internals and externals at Year 11. IB MYP or PYP 5-7, or an equivalent excellent level from another curriculum.

❖ *Physics*

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself, from the very smallest particles to the vast distances between galaxies. By studying Physics, you will be provided with opportunities to develop manipulative skills, design investigations, collect data, analyze results, and evaluate and communicate your findings. During the Physics course you will learn the essential principles of the subject which include Measurements and Uncertainties, Mechanics, Thermal Physics, Waves, Electricity & Magnetism, Circular Motion & Gravitation, Atomic, Nuclear & Particle Physics, and Energy Production. Those who embark on the Higher-level course will also explore Wave Phenomena, Fields, Electromagnetic Induction, Quantum and Nuclear Physics, and in consultation with your teacher, you will also select one optional topic to study from these four options: Relativity, Engineering Physics, Imaging, Astrophysics.

Entry Requirements:

As a student of Physics, you will be able to work independently, show initiative and actively partake in class discussions and questioning opportunities regularly.

Standard level: Merit or Excellence in Mechanics (90940) and Algebra (91027) at Year 11. IB MYP/PYP 3-5, or equivalent satisfactory level from another curriculum.
Higher level: Double Science course, with Excellence in: Heat (90939), Electricity (90937), Mechanics (90940) and Algebra (91027) at Year 11. IB MYP or PYP 5-7 for Mathematics and Science, or equivalent excellent levels from another curriculum.

❖ *ESS (Environmental Systems & Societies)*

ESS is a subject that delves into the connections between human society and earths systems. Topics covered include Ecosystems & Ecology, Biodiversity & Conservation, Aquatic systems, Soil systems & terrestrial food production, Atmospheric systems & Societies, Climate change& Energy production and Human Systems & resource use. ESS is only offered at Standard level.

Entry Requirements:

Merits and Excellence in Year 11 English and/or Science and/or Geography.

Group 5: Mathematics

The nature of mathematics can be summarized in several ways. For example, it can be seen as a well-defined body of knowledge, as an abstract system of ideas, or as a useful tool. For many people it is probably a combination of these, but there is no doubt that mathematical knowledge provides an important key to understanding the world in which we live.

There are two Mathematics courses available to study.

❖ *Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches (AA)*

This course recognizes the need for analytical expertise in a world where innovation is increasingly dependent on a deep understanding of mathematics. This course includes topics that are both traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course (for example, functions, trigonometry, calculus), as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof. For instance, the study of sequences and series (HL and SL), and proof by induction (HL).

The course allows the use of technology, however there is a strong emphasis on the ability to construct, communicate and justify correct mathematical arguments.

Students who choose this course should be comfortable in the manipulation of algebraic expressions and enjoy the recognition of patterns and understand the mathematical generalization of these patterns. Students who wish to take HL will have strong algebraic skills and the ability to understand simple proof, enjoy spending time with problems and get pleasure and satisfaction from solving challenging problems.

Entry Requirements:

Standard level: 11MTE or 11 MTX course in year 11, with Merit or Achieved in Year 11 for all level 1 standards.
Higher level: 12 MTX with Excellence and some Merits at Year 11.

❖ *Mathematics: Interpretation & Application (AI)*

This course recognizes the increasing role that mathematics and technology play in a diverse range of fields in a data-rich world. As such, the course makes extensive use of technology to allow students to explore and construct mathematical models. The focus is on developing mathematical thinking in the context of a practical problem, using technology to justify conjectures.

Students who choose this subject should enjoy seeing mathematics used in real-world contexts and to solve real-world problems. This course is offered at Standard Level only.

Entry Requirements:

Standard level: 11MTE or 11 MTX course in year 11, with Merit or Achieved for all level 1 standards.

Group 6: Arts/ Choice Group

We offer Visual Art OR this subject can be a choice group.

❖ *Choice Group*

If students are not taking Visual Art, they may choose another subject from one of the following groups:
Group 1 – Language & Literature (a Literature course in most world languages)
Group 2 – Acquired Language (a second language if the timetable allows)
Group 3 – Individual & Societies (another subject from this group)
Group 4 – Science (another subject from this group)

❖ *Visual Art*

The Visual Arts course encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries. It is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art makers. They also explore and compare arts from different perspectives and in different contexts and media.

The course is designed for students who want to go on to further study in Visual Arts in higher education as well as for those who are seeking lifelong enrichment through Visual Arts.

Entry Requirements:

Standard & Higher level: Merit and Excellence for all Year 11 standards or an approved alternative academic artistic background.

The CORE Subjects

The IB Diploma has a compulsory component – The IB CORE. This consists of the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge and C.A.S.

❖ *Extended Essay (EE)*

The Extended Essay offers the opportunity for IB students to investigate a topic of special interest from one of the student's six Diploma Programme subjects and acquaints them with the independent research and writing skills expected at university. It is intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity, resulting in an essay of 4000 words and equating to approximately 40 hours of work. This component of the CORE provides excellent preparation for necessary university writing tasks. Additionally, in countries where normally interviews are required prior to acceptance for employment or for a place at university, the extended essay has proved to be a valuable stimulus for discussion.

The Extended Essay grade + the Theory of Knowledge grade = a possible IB3 points.

❖ *Theory of Knowledge (ToK)*

The interdisciplinary Theory of Knowledge course is intended to encourage students to reflect on the huge cultural shifts worldwide around the digital revolution and the information economy. The extent and impact of the changes vary greatly in different parts of the world, but everywhere their implications for knowledge are profound. Theory of Knowledge encourages critical thinking about knowledge itself and aims to help young people make sense of what they encounter. In this course students carry out activities and discussions, share ideas with others and listen to, and learn from, what others think, to help them discover and express their views on knowledge issues. Distinctions between different kinds of knowledge may be clarified. Students are required to complete two assessment tasks: an essay and an exhibition. Both tasks have at their centre, reflection on knowledge issues.

❖ *Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)*

Creativity, Action, Service is at the heart of the Diploma Programme, involving students in a range of activities which take place alongside their academic studies throughout the IB Diploma Programme. The component's three strands, often interwoven with activities, comprise of: *Creativity (*experiences that involve being creative), *Action* (physical activity contributing to a healthy lifestyle) *Service* (unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student). CAS encourages students to be involved in activities as individuals and as part of a team that take place in local, national and international contexts. The course enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development as well as their social and civic development, through experiential learning, lending an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the rest of the IB.

CAS is a pass/fail component. Students must pass CAS to gain their IB Diploma.