



## An Overview of the French system at Collège Louise Wegmann

Collège Louise Wegmann is a Lebanese school which educates its students from Maternelle to Terminale (K-12) within the legal and academic framework defined by the French and Lebanese ministries of education.

This fact sheet describes the standards and the curriculum according to which our students prepare for the French general Baccalauréat. Each year, our students in Terminale achieve excellent results, typically recording scores as high as 15/20 to 17/20 averages, which earn them « mention Bien » or « mention Très Bien » honors.

### Three “séries” or streams for the Baccalaureate

Students choose one of three streams (or “séries”) on completing classe de Seconde, their first “Lycée” year.

Although the French Baccalaureate is termed “général”, covering a wide range of fields of study, each stream targets a specific range of subjects. Each subject is consistently weighted in terms of scores and class periods.

- Série “S” is termed “scientifique”, with an emphasis on Science (Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology)
- Série “ES”, or “économique et sociale” focuses on Economics, Social sciences and Languages
- Série “L”, or “littéraire”, gives specific weight to Literature, Philosophy and Languages

Throughout the three Lycée years, Seconde, Première and Terminale, students are gradually – although not exclusively – educated and trained in compliance with the high standards of the French Baccalaureate in terms of academic content and both written and oral communication skills.

### Facts on school scores and Baccalaureate examination results

The records Collège Louise Wegmann provides for its students compile grades assessing work carried out throughout the year : papers completed at home, tests taken in class and orals. Record sheets also include scores obtained for typical baccalaureate mock examinations, taken at the end of fall and spring terms. Grades are weighted in compliance with the baccalaureate standards listed below.

While our students are able to submit, along with their official school grades, their Baccalaureate scores for the exams taken at the end of classe de Première, it must be noted that the majority of the examination is taken in mid-June. In that respect, mock examination scores provide sound references, although papers are graded with the highest objectives in mind, frequently beyond typical Baccalaureate expectations.

The French grading system ranges from 0 to 20. Given that a 20/20 stands for perfection and that 19 or 18 scores signify excellence, a fair assessment could be based on the following :

French 0 to 20 scale		Numeric scale	A-F marking system
16-17	very good ( <i>très bien</i> )	94-100	A+
14-15	good ( <i>bien</i> )	86-90	A
12-13	satisfactory ( <i>assez bien</i> )	78-82	B+ / A-
10-11	average ( <i>moyen</i> )	70-74	B- / B
8-9	pass ( <i>passable</i> )	62-66	C / C+
0-7	fail ( <i>insuffisant</i> )	42-58	E / C

Students holding Baccalaureate and official school averages over 12/20 receive honors :

Average of 12	<i>Mention Assez Bien</i>	10 to 15% of examinees
Average of 14	<i>Mention Bien</i>	5% of examinees
Average of 16	<i>Mention Très Bien</i>	1 to 2% of examinees

## School and Baccalaureate exam formats

Virtually every test given in Première or Terminale is based on questions or assignments demanding fully written essay or dissertation type papers, which students complete within a two to four hour block of time. In nearly every subject, students are expected to solve problems, comment on texts or compile information with accuracy, pertinence and logic. Form and language are generally evaluated in high proportion.

## Baccalaureate examinations in the three “séries”

### Série S

Students prepare for studies and work in scientific fields. “Série S” students will typically select medicine, engineering, biology, mathematical studies when applying at a university.

Subject	Weight	Form	Duration
<b>“Épreuves anticipées”<sup>1</sup></b>			
French	2	Written	4 hours
French	2	Oral	20 minutes
<i>Travaux personnels encadrés</i> (TPE)	2	Oral	ten minutes per student (a TPE is group research project completed throughout the year)
<b>Main exams taken in Terminale</b>			
Mathematics	7 or 9	Written	4 hours
Physics & Chemistry	6 or 8	Written and Laboratory	3 ½ hours plus 1 hour
Biology (termed “Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre”, or <i>Earth &amp; Life Sciences</i> )	6 or 8	Written and Laboratory	3 ½ hours (written exam) and 1 hour (lab)
History & Geography	3	Written	4 hours
First Foreign Language (LV1)	3	Written	3 hours
Second Foreign Language (LV2)	2	Written	2 hours
Philosophy	3	Written	4 hours
Physical Education	2	Year-end Average	
<b>Specializations</b>			
Mathematics or Physics & Chemistry or Earth & Life Sciences	2 <sup>2</sup>	Oral or Laboratory (except for Mathematics)	1 hour
Supplementary Physical Education	2	Year-end Average	
<b>Optional Subjects</b>			
Foreign Language	2	Oral or Written (depending on the language)	20 minutes or 2 hours
Arts		Oral (based on a project the student has completed)	30-40 minutes

<sup>1</sup> This section refers to exams taken on completing « classe de première », the second Lycée year.

## Série ES

“Série ES” students typically prepare for studies in business, management, administration, political sciences, law or economics.

Subject	Weight	Form	Duration
<b>“Épreuves anticipées”<sup>2</sup></b>			
French	2	Written	4 hours
French	2	Oral	20 minutes
<i>Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre</i> , or “Earth & Life Sciences”	2	Written	1h30
<i>Travaux personnels encadrés</i> (TPE)	2	Oral	ten minutes per student (a <i>TPE</i> is group research project completed throughout the year)
<b>Main exams taken in <i>Terminale</i></b>			
History & Geography	5	Written	4 hours
Mathematics	5 or 7	Written	3 hours
Economics & Social Sciences	7 or 9	Written	4 hours <sup>2</sup>
First Foreign Language ( <i>LV1</i> )	3	Written	3 hours
Second Foreign Language ( <i>LV2</i> )	3	Oral	20-30 minutes
Philosophy	4	Written	4 hours
Physical Education	2	Year-end Average	
<b>Specializations</b>			
Economics & Social Sciences <i>or</i> Mathematics <i>or</i> <i>LV1</i>	2	Written <i>or</i> Oral	1 hour <i>or</i> 20 minutes
<b>Optional Subjects</b>			
Foreign Language	2	Oral or Written (depending on the language)	20 minutes or 2 hours
Arts		Oral (based on a project the student has completed)	30-40 minutes

<sup>2</sup> This section refers to exams taken on completing « classe de première », the second Lycée year.

## Série L

“Série L” students generally apply for studies in Law, Social Sciences, Psychology, the Arts or Political Sciences.

Subject	Weight	Form	Duration
<b>Anticipated subjects<sup>3</sup></b>			
French	3	Written	4 hours
French	2	Oral	20 minutes
<i>Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre</i> , or “Earth & Life Sciences”	2	Written	1 ½ hours
Math & Computer Science	2	Written	1 ½ hours
<i>Travaux personnels encadrés</i> (TPE)	2	Oral	ten minutes per student (a TPE is group research project completed throughout the year)
<b>Terminale subjects</b>			
Philosophy	7	Written	4 hours
Literature	4	Written	4 hours
History & Geography	4	Written	4 hours
First Foreign Language (LV1)	4	Written	3 hours
Second Foreign Language (LV2) or Regional Language (LVR)	4	Written	3 hours
Physical Education	2	Year-end Average	
<b>Specializations</b>			
Mathematics	3	Written	3 hours
Art or Cinema & Audiovisual Studies or Theatre & Drama	6	Written and Oral	3 ½ hours and ½-hour
<b>Optional Subjects<sup>3</sup></b>			
Foreign Language	2	Oral or Written (depending on the language)	20 minutes or 2 hours
Regional Language		Oral	20 minutes
Latin		Oral	15 minutes
Ancient Greek		Oral	15 minutes
Physical Education		Year-end Average or Examination	
Arts		Oral (based on a project the student has completed)	30-40 minutes

<sup>3</sup> This section refers to exams taken on completing « classe de première », the second Lycée year.