



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



Parents & Students Guide to the Educational Streams in Cycle 3 2025-2026

This guide aims to inform parents and students about all updates to the educational streams in Cycle 3 (General and Advanced), starting from the 2025–2026 academic year. It also explains how students can choose the stream that best aligns with their interests and future aspirations.

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A young man wearing a white thobe and ghutra is looking down at a book he is holding. He is in a library or bookstore, with bookshelves visible in the background. The image is partially covered by a dark grey semi-transparent box containing the title and a yellow box containing the text.

Updates to the Educational Streams for Cycle 3 Students

Starting from the 2025–2026 academic year, Cycle 3 students will be able to choose the academic stream that best suits them — part of a new direction aimed at supporting their academic ambitions and preparing them for the future.

01

Advanced Stream

Designed for students interested in studying



Advanced Sciences



Pharmacy



Engineering



Medicine

2024 - 2025

2025 - 2026

Grade 9
Physics & Biology



Grade 9
Physics & Biology

Grade 10
Physics & Chemistry



Grade 10
Physics & Chemistry

Grade 11 & 12
5 Scenarios



Grade 11 & 12
2 Scenarios

02

General Stream

Designed for students interested in studying



Social Sciences



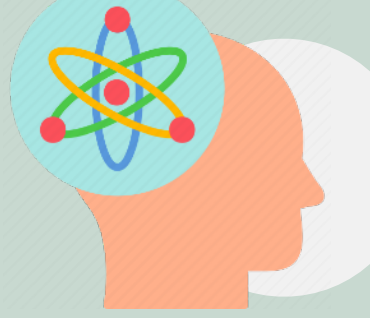
Law Enforcement



Arts



Business Administration

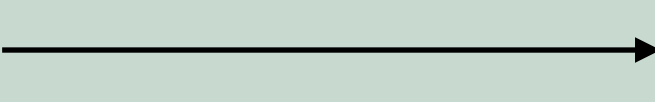


Humanities

2024 - 2025

2025 - 2026

Grade 9
Science



Grade 9
Science

Grade 10
Physics & Biology



Grade 10
Science

Grade 11 & 12
6 Scenarios



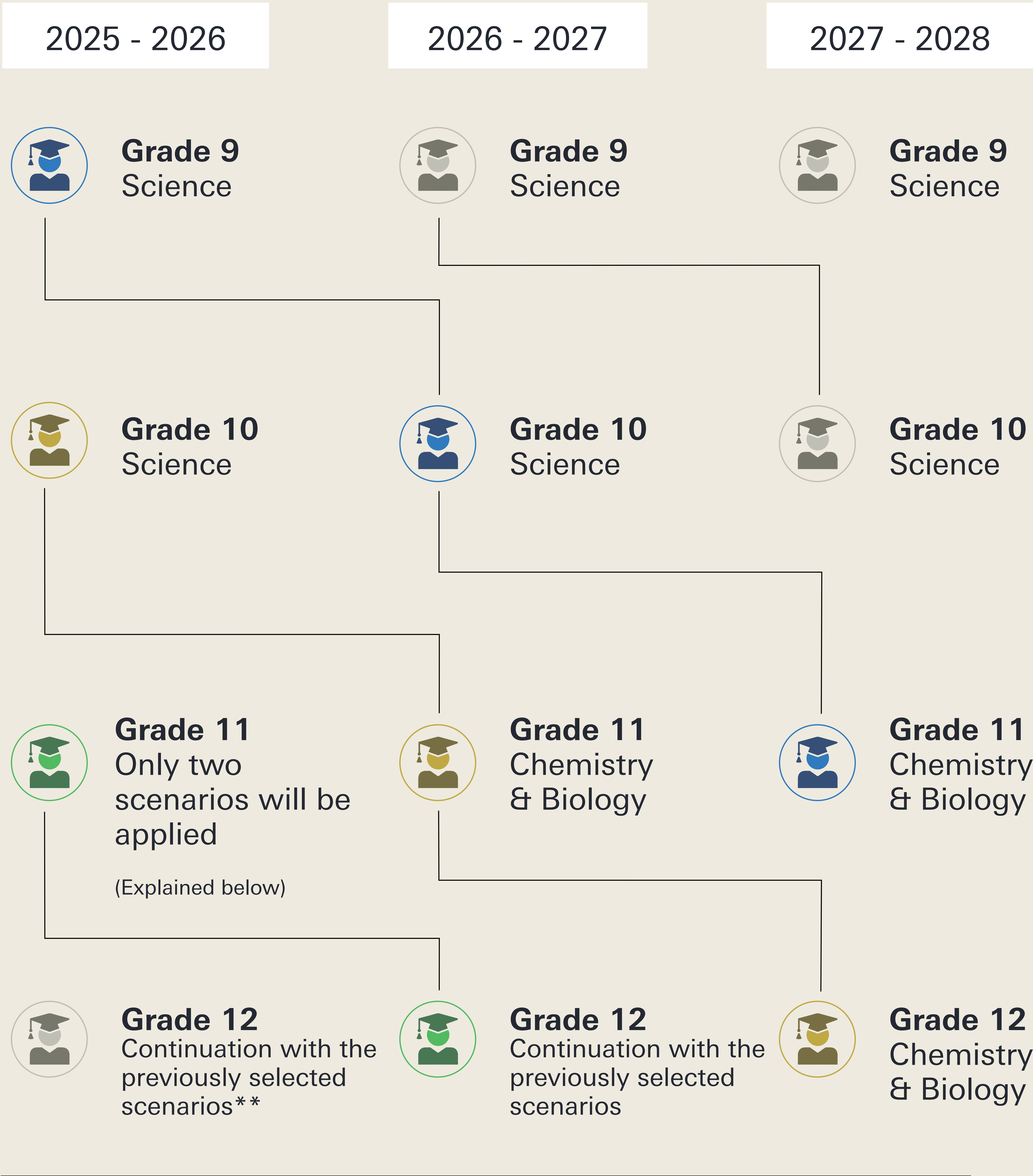
Grade 11 & 12
2 Scenarios

Please note that admission to the Elite Stream has been discontinued, with the final cohort graduating in the 2025–2026 academic year. The Applied Stream is also being restructured, and its launch date will be announced at a later time.



Updates to the General Stream - Cycle Three

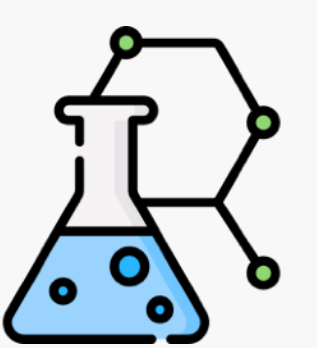
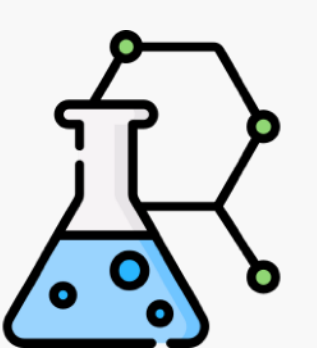
Transitional Plan - 2025-2028



**Grade 12 students in the General Stream during the 2025–2026 academic year may replace Physics with one of the following subjects: Arts, Health Sciences, or Computing, Creative Design, and Innovation (CCDI), provided that a written consent form is signed by both the student and their parent.

Scenario (1)

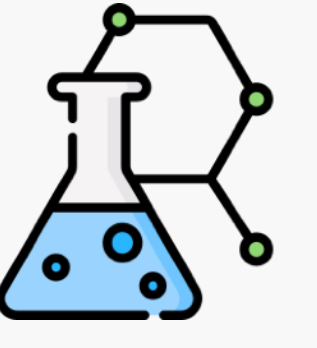
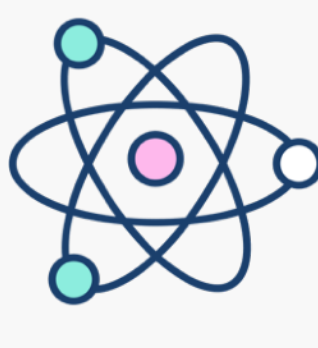
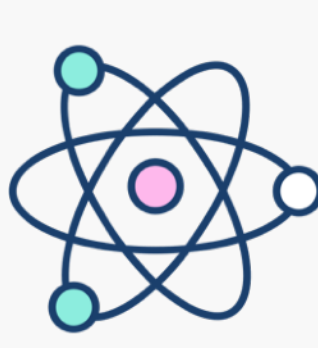
For students with interests in social sciences and humanities

Grade 11		Biology	+		Chemistry
Grade 12		Biology	+		Chemistry

Scenario (2)

students with a scientific inclinations

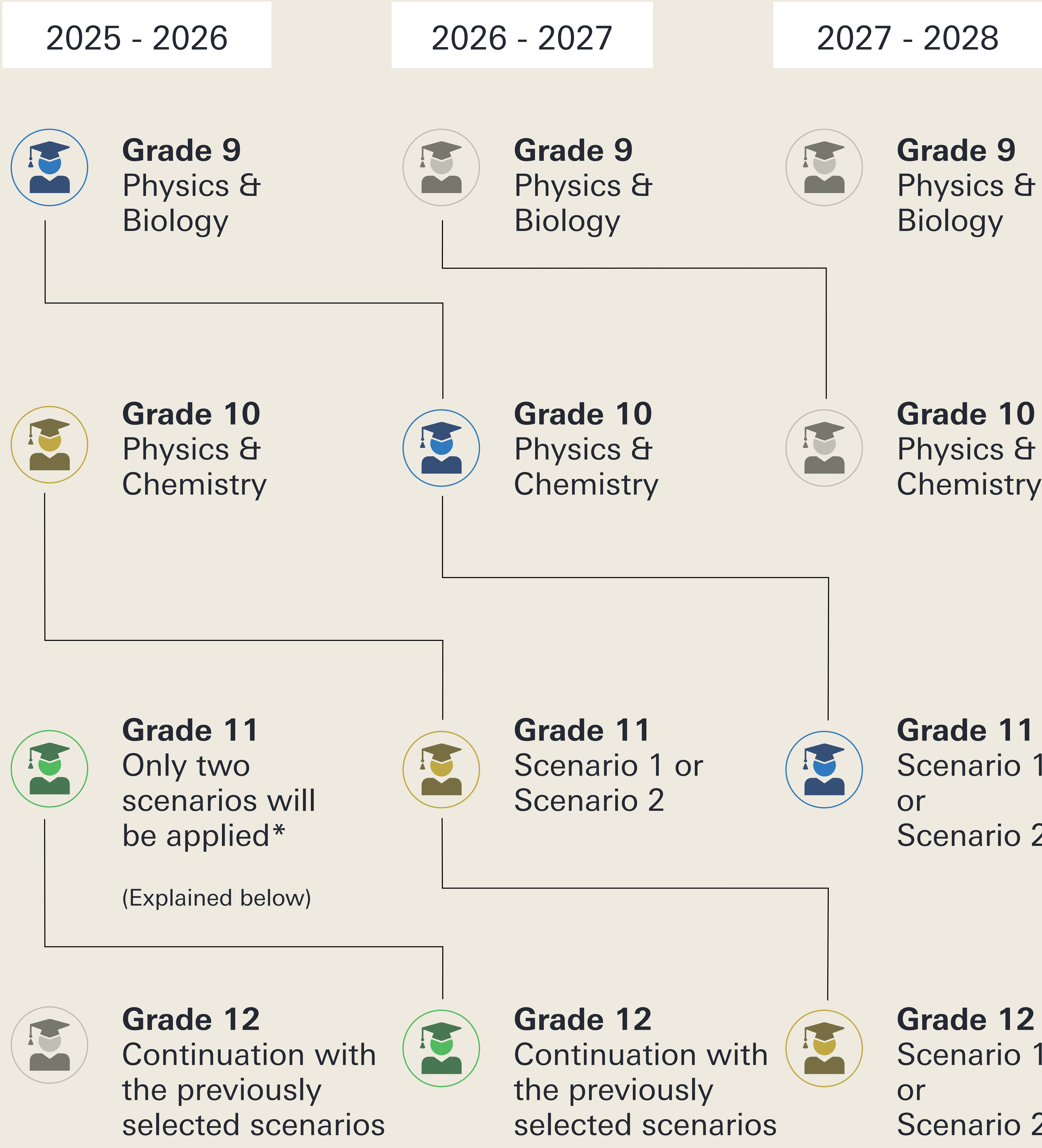
Requires achieving **at least 75%** in both Math and Physics in Grade 10

Grade 11		Chemistry	+		Physics
Grade 12		Biology	+		Physics



Updates to the Advanced Stream - Cycle Three

Transitional Plan 2025-2028



Scenario (1)
Studying two science subjects

Grade 11  Chemistry +  Physics

Grade 12  Biology +  Physics

Scenario (2)
Studying three science subjects

Grade 11 + 12

 Chemistry +  Biology +  Physics



How does a student choose their academic plan?

Dear student,
Choosing your academic stream is an important step in shaping your academic and career future.



First: Discover your interests!

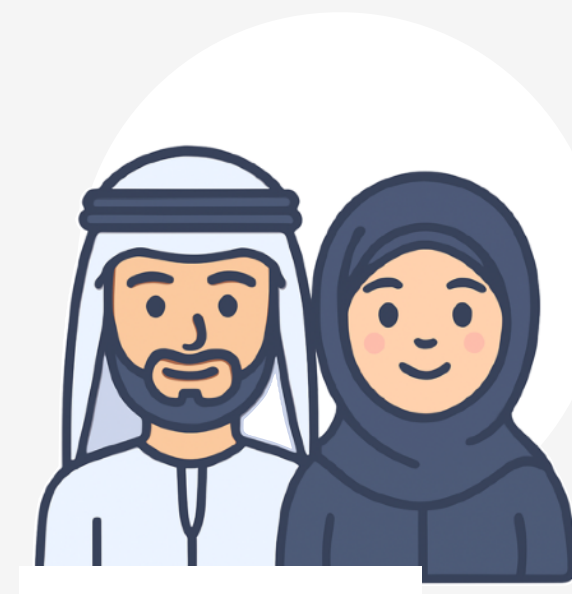
- What subjects do you enjoy most in school?
- When you imagine yourself in 10 years, what do you see? A doctor? An engineer? A lawyer? An artist? A police officer?

Second: Discuss your options!

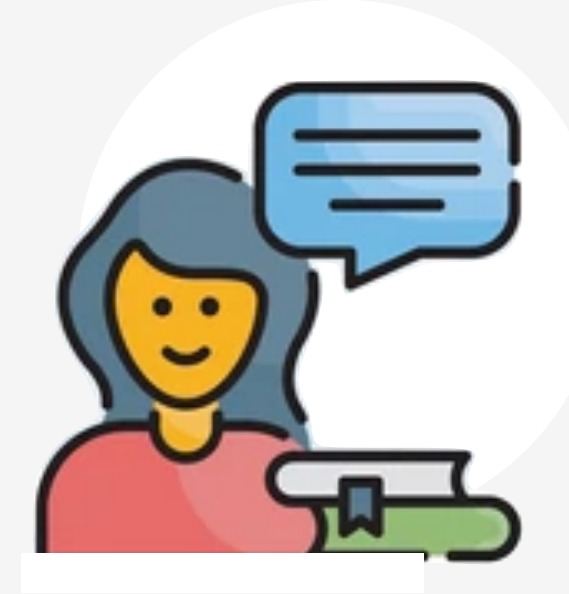
Talk to the people who care about your future — they can support and guide you in making the right decision:



Teachers



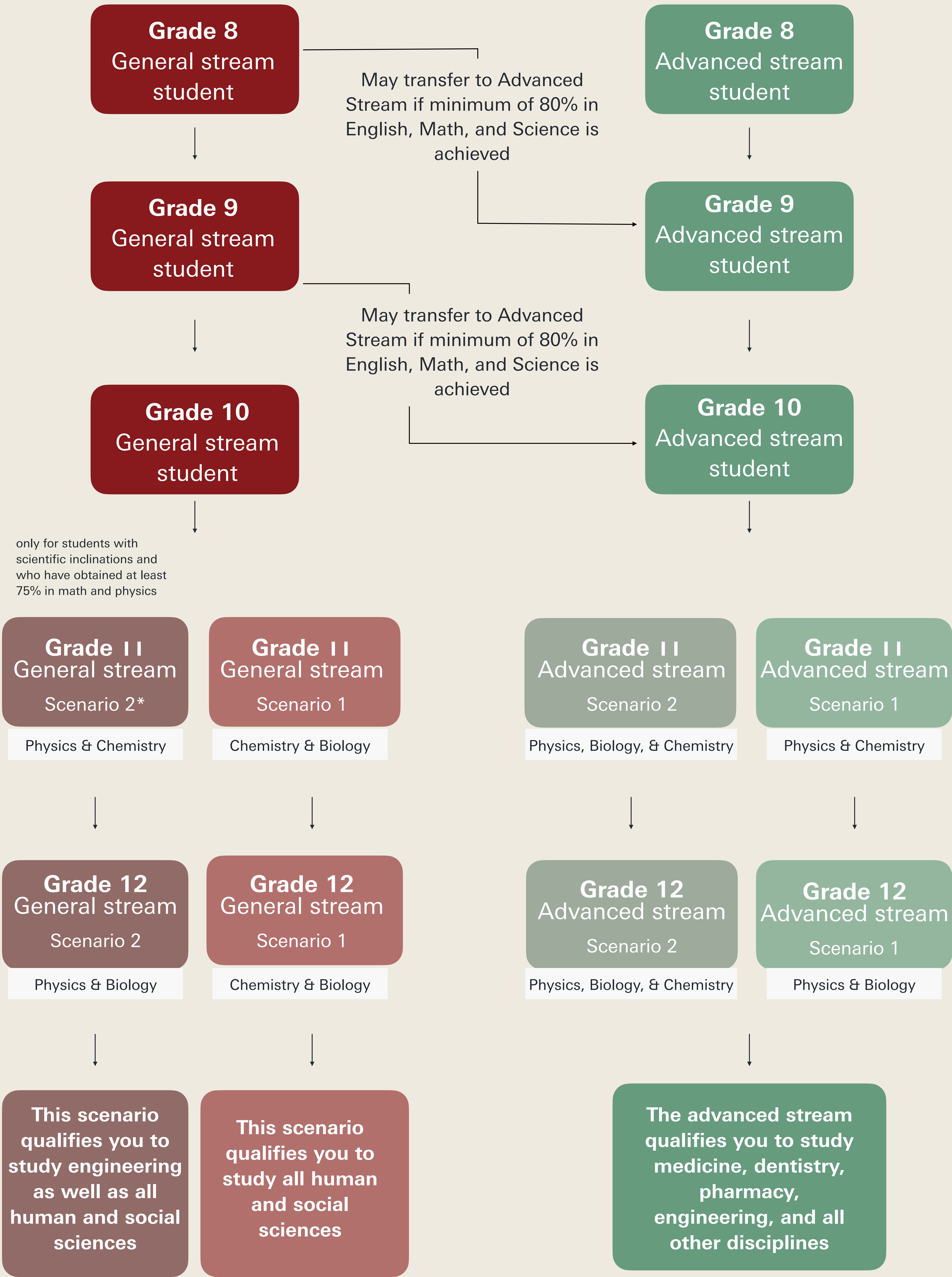
**Parents &
Family Members**



**Academic
counselor**

Sharing your thoughts with your friends and colleagues can help you see new perspectives and discover opportunities you hadn't considered.

Third: Choose your academic stream



Scenario (2) for general stream students is only available during the 2025-2026 academic year, and will not be offered in the following years. Likewise, transfer from the ninth grade (general) to the tenth grade (advanced) is only available during the academic year 2025-2026. Students with scientific inclinations must join the advanced stream from the ninth grade to ensure specialization in scientific fields such as engineering.



Alignment of Streams with University Admission Guidelines

According to Ministerial Resolution No. (19) of 2024 regarding the guiding admission criteria in higher education institutions in the United Arab Emirates, **English language grades in high school will be used to determine the program level.**



Diploma

70%

English language grade in Grade 12



Higher Diploma

70%

English language grade in Grade 12



Bachelor's Degree

80%

English language grade in Grade 12



Pharmacy

Advanced stream

80% in math and 80% in **two of the following subjects:** chemistry, biology, physics



Medicine & Dentistry

Advanced stream

90% in math and 90% in **two of the following subjects:** chemistry, biology, physics



Law

General stream or Advanced stream

70% in math



Engineering

Advanced stream

80% in math and physics, and 80% in one of the following subjects: chemistry or biology



All other disciplines

(Technology and IT, Natural Sciences, Business, and Humanities)

General stream or Advanced stream

No specific subject requirements

- Dear student, make sure to check the admission requirements of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and verify the criteria set by the university or college you are applying to.



The Role of Parents in Supporting Students

Understanding their interests and developing their abilities

- Understand your child's academic or skills-based inclinations, as well as their strengths and areas for improvement.
- Help them choose what suits them, and encourage them to take part in activities that develop their skills.

Engaging with the School

- Attend orientation meetings and parent meetings.
- Consult the academic advisor or school administration to better support your child's academic planning.

Monitoring Academic Performance

- Track your child's academic progress consistently and address concerns early with the school.
- Stay informed of updated university admission requirements and help guide academic decisions to meet those goals.

Promoting independence and responsibility

- Give your child the chance to explore their interests and try different activities to find what suits them.
- Encourage them to take ownership of their learning—avoid doing their work for them and reinforce the value of honesty and effort.

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I change the academic stream from General to Advanced in Cycle 3?

Students in Grade 8 (General Stream) can move to Grade 9 (Advanced Stream) if they score at least 80% in English, Math, and Science in Term 1. Students in Grade 9 (General Stream) can also transfer to Grade 10 (Advanced Stream) under the same academic condition — this option is available only in the academic year 2025–2026. From Grade 10 onward, transfers to the Advanced Stream are no longer permitted due to the academic rigor of that track.

Can I change my chosen scenario after Grade 11?

Moving between scenarios is allowed for Grade 11 students only until the first two weeks of the new academic year. As for Grade 12 students, they continue with the scenarios that were previously chosen in the Grade 11 without any changes to them.

What happens if I do not achieve the minimum required to move from the General to the Advanced stream?

The student remains in the General stream.

Is the Advanced stream mandatory for entering scientific majors such as medicine and engineering at the university?

Yes, but General stream students in scenario (2) only in the academic year 2025-2026 can enroll in engineering majors in higher education institutions if they meet the university's admission grades.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the choice of subjects affect my chances for university admission or scholarship opportunities?

Yes. It's important to choose the right academic track and subjects that match your interests, abilities, and future academic or career goals — especially if you're aiming for higher education or scholarships.

What happens if I drop physics in Grade 12 of the General stream?

If you are in the General stream and choose to drop physics, you must choose another subject from the elective subjects (2) such as health sciences, arts, or computing, creative design, and innovation (CCDI). However, this decision may affect your chances of admission to some university majors, so be sure to review the requirements of the university you wish to apply to. The student and their guardian must submit a written acknowledgment of their agreement to this.

What happens if I fail in Grade 11?

If you are in Grade 11 in the academic year 2024–2025 and you fail, you must repeat the grade in 2025–2026.

You will be placed in Scenario (1) (for both General or Advanced stream students).

What happens if I fail in the twelfth grade?

If you are in Grade 12 in the academic year 2024–2025 and you fail, you will need to repeat the year in 2025–2026.

You will continue in the same stream and follow the same scenario you selected previously — whether in the General or Advanced stream.

