



European Schools

Office of the Secretary-General of the Board of Governors

**Pedagogical Unity**

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## **Clarification concerning the History Syllabus (years 6 & 7) 2000-D-62**

**Entered into application September 2002**

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## Section 4.0 Assessment + Learning Outcomes

### Section 4.4.2 Baccalaureate Oral Examination Four Hour

#### Course

"Questions will be based on a detailed topic identified by the teacher **from the six sections** of the year 7".

The new syllabus was introduced in September 2000; the first Baccalaureate examination took place in June/July 2002. The written and oral examination process was evaluated by the Inspector, the external examiners and the History Working Party.

*The following minor adjustment* is necessary to serve better the interests of the students and the effectiveness of the examination.

"Questions will be based on a detailed topic identified 'by the teacher from **four (4)** of the six sections of the year 7".

#### **1. Depth, not breadth**

The syllabus of the Advanced (4 hour) course focuses on learning history in depth. Assessment expectations of the course should therefore require a more detailed response than in the 2 hour course.

#### **2. Differentiation between the 4 hour course and the 2 hour course**

The report of the external examiners for Baccalaureate 2002 drew attention to a lack of differentiation between the oral examination for the 2 hour course and the oral examination for the 4 hour course. The proposal would improve the situation greatly by making the examinations more distinct

#### **3. Improving candidate options**

The experience of the 2002 examinations showed that only a small number chose the oral examination. Students perceive an imbalance between the written and oral examinations: this deprives them of choice. Students studying in a second language should have an equal opportunity of choosing a written or an oral examination.

#### **4. Parity between written and oral examination**

Preparation of four topics in depth for the oral examination would better match the level of preparation required for the written examination.