

BRONTE SPITERI

POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/FRENCH

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



Senior School Subjects

- Year 10: English, French, Teenagers and the Law, Religion/CEPD, Mathematical Methods Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 1 + 2 Early Advancement.
- Year 11: English Language, French, Youth Ministry, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement, Legal Studies Units 3 + 4 Early Advancement.
- Year 12: English Language, French, Sociology, Australian Politics, History Revolutions.

Why did you choose these subjects? When choosing my subjects, I wanted to keep my options open. I wasn't entirely sure what I wanted to study, and I was in a weird position where I enjoyed both science based subjects and humanities. As you can see in Year 10 and 11 I had mix of the two areas. Mathematical Methods is a prerequisite for a lot of science courses at university so I kept that. I always intended to do Chemistry in Year 12 but I didn't love it as much as my other subjects. When choosing subjects for Year 12 I thought about how I felt when studying for Methods and Legal Studies.

The difference was that I loved studying for legal, whereas it was harder to motivate myself to study for Methods and I didn't want that to be the case with Chemistry in Year 12. So I swapped it for History (and I'm so glad I did). I thought that the English Language course suited me better than core English, and I found it really interesting. I was always going to do Sociology and Politics because I'd heard a lot of good things about the subjects and I loved learning and reading about it in my spare time so it was a no brainer. Finally, I love France, learning about different cultures and have always enjoyed studying French and learning a new language since Year 7. So it just made sense for me to continue in senior school, and I've continued again at university. I've probably missed a whole heap of the other reasons I chose each subject- I thought a lot about it.

I think the most important thing is to choose the subjects you'll enjoy most, rather than the ones that have bonus marks in Year 12 or that you "should" do. In saying that think carefully about things you may want to pursue after school and try not to limit your options through subject selection. But there is usually a way to catch up on what you've missed at uni anyway if you don't do a prerequisite.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? I spoke to my mum a lot about subject selection, and I spoke to some of my teachers who had taught me particular subjects. It was also really useful talking to students in the year levels above who had already done them. They give you different perspectives to what teachers can offer.

Basically just try and find out as much information as you can from as many different sources as possible. It is definitely important to think about potential career paths/university degrees/TAFE courses etc. that may require you to study certain things. If you're unsure about what you want to do, like I was, then try and keep your options open through your subject selection

What is your course like? I love my course. I am doing a double major in Politics & International Studies and French. I think the two go together perfectly and will really benefit each other. I love the Melbourne University Model, as doing a broader undergraduate degree allows me to study the areas I enjoy whilst keeping lots of doors open for me. I absolutely love studying French at university. I find the classes enjoyable, interesting and so much more than just about the language. It's about the culture and history of French speaking countries as well.

I love traveling and learning about new cultures and the relationships between different nations, so international studies is something I find really interesting. Studying French only benefits that part of my degree. The course also has a lot of opportunities for exchange to a number of different universities and for short courses in the summer and winter breaks overseas. The other great thing about the Melbourne Model is that over your degree you have to do a couple of 'breadth' subjects, which means subjects from another course. This has suited me perfectly, as I have been able to do a commerce and a genetics subject whilst studying predominantly humanities. It has been really good to still get a bit of a variety in the subjects I do

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your course? There is no doubt that Australian Politics, History Revolutions, Sociology and Legal Studies have helped when studying my current subjects. They gave me a really good basis for a lot of the subjects in my major. We learn about those things from high school in a lot more depth, and go even further (as you'd imagine). French was useful because it meant I could go into a higher level/standard/stream at university.

But that doesn't mean that you can't study a language without studying it at high school. They have three entry levels for different standards of French. I'm really glad I did French at school because it is where I started to love the language and decide I wanted to keep learning and speak fluently.

Course information: Bachelor of Arts, University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1R1tkxf>