



Westmount Secondary School

39 Montcalm Dr.
Hamilton, ON
L9C 4B1

T: 905.905.385.5395

F: 905.574.6020

www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount



Welcome to
**WESTMOUNT
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

2016—2017

Grade 9 Course Calendar / Handbook

On behalf of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family. You are about to embark on the next stage of your education and you are currently being asked to make choices about your future. There is a great deal of important information in this booklet that you and your parents need to read carefully, and discuss, as you begin planning for next year. You will be making choices about academics, optional subjects and co-curricular activities.

Although these choices may seem challenging, this booklet will help you, as well as your Grade 8 teachers and your Secondary School Student Services staff. It is most important right now to make selections so that you will be successful in Grade 9. Throughout your secondary career, you will have the opportunity to explore many different areas of study that can lead to exciting new discoveries about yourself and the world we live in. We want you to get involved and try out the many co-instructional activities. It is very important to your high school experience to get involved, both in and out of, the classroom. It is these types of choices that will influence your success in high school.

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL:

Dear Grade 8 Students,

I would like to welcome you to Westmount Secondary School. We put our students first, by creating environments that support them to make our school a great school. Each one of our students will be able to work towards their goals, at Westmount Secondary School.

Successful Westmount students demonstrate strong initiative, have an interest in asking questions, and collaborating with teachers, are self-starters and have strong time management skills. Students must also be able to set individual goals and monitor their own progress in achieving them.

The Westmount program is open to all students Hamilton– Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) who would benefit from a self-paced, self-directed program. Students at Westmount come from across HWDSB and represent a variety of learners. Like all HWDSB secondary schools, Westmount offers workplace, college and university pathways.

We hope to see you here at Westmount again at our orientation in May. We look forward to you joining us and bringing your own unique talents and abilities to our school!

Sincerely,

Principal Angela Ferguson

The fun we have at Westmount starts with our clubs and sport teams....

ACT	Anime Club	Badminton	Badminton Club
Baseball	Basketball	Bollywood Dance	Bus ticket club
Blood Services	Chess Club	Clarinet Choir	Concert Band
Creative Writing	Cricket	Cross Country	Curling
Dance Ensemble	Debate Club	DECA	Drama Council
Eco-Ninjas	Field Hockey	Figure Skating Team	Flag football
Football	Free the Children	Games Club	Golf
Guitar Club	History Bowl	History Club	Hockey
HOSA	Jazz 1 & 2	Jazz Choir	McMaster Business Heroes
Music Council	MSA	Newspaper	Outdoors Club
Orienteering	People For Animal Welfare	Ping Pong	Positive Spare
Prom Committee	Reach for the Top	Rubix Cube Club	School Play
Sketch Comedy	Slam	Slo-Pitch	Soccer
Social Committee	Student Promoting Leadership Team	Student Promoting Acts of Random Kindness	Stage Crew
Student Council	Swim Team	Tennis	Triathlon
Track and Field	Ultimate Frisbee	Volleyball	Westmount Athletic Council
Water polo	Westmount Nutrition Program	Westmount Healthy Action Team	Wildcats Helping Others Achieve
Wind Orchestra	Women’s Empowerment Club	Yearbook	And Many More!

Supports for Students

- Administration, Guidance Counsellors,
- Student Success Teachers, Learning Resource
- Hamilton-Wentworth Police Liaison Officer
- Homework Help, Nutrition Program,
- Positive Space
- School Nurse, Social Worker, Student Mentors
- Student Success Team and many more



Westmount Application Process

High school is a place for you to find and take ownership of your pathway, and that is why we say “My Path. My Way.”



We take responsibility for each individual students’ learning and believe that all students can achieve their full potential.

We provide a variety of experiences so students can discover and explore their interests and strengths. These include a number of course selections, a range of experiential learning opportunities (job shadowing, job twinning, short-term work experience, cooperative education, etc.), many extra and co-curricular activities, and community involvement. All of our schools are great schools, and provide pathways to all destinations.

We value where you are headed! We honour and value all destinations. We believe and promote that there is equal value in taking a pathway that leads to apprenticeship, college, community assisted living, university, or directly to the workplace.

We commit to helping you discover the skills and abilities that will help you plan your pathway.

What is your pathway?

All secondary schools in HWDSB offer a wide range of programs, course types and learning opportunities to prepare you for success in high school and beyond.

Pathways in high school prepare you for your chosen post-secondary destination. Plans and destinations may change as you develop as a person, but planning your path, your way, will help you be successful.

No matter what your post-secondary destination is, the opportunity to explore the world of work during high school will help you develop new employability skills, and provide potential networks for community service and job/career opportunities.

The five pathways we refer to are: Apprenticeship, College, Community Living, University and Work.

Grade 9 Secondary School Program

1. Grade 9 programs are based on the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum, which include:

- Credit courses (Compulsory & Optional)
- Course types (Applied, Academic, Locally Developed and Open)
- Student Success Initiatives
- Pathways Programming (Apprenticeship, College, Community Assisted Living, University and Workplace)

2. Curriculum at the Secondary School Level

Students will choose courses in Grade 9 from one or more types: Academic, Applied, Locally Developed Compulsory Credit and Open. They will make their choices primarily based on their goals, interests, learning preferences, needs and achievement.

Academic Courses: These courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts as well. They incorporate practical applications as appropriate.

Applied Courses: These courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and develop students’ knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples. Familiar situations are used to illustrate ideas, and students are given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts and theories they study.

Locally Developed Courses: These courses focus on literacy, mathematical literacy, essential job skills and essential concepts. Students may be placed in these specially designed courses to continue their learning and bring their achievement closer to grade level.

Open Courses: Courses, which comprise a set of expectations that are appropriate for all students, are designed to broaden students’ knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests and prepare them for active and rewarding participation in society. They are not designed with the specific requirements of university, college, or the workplace in mind.

The organization of courses by type is intended to enable students to choose one type of course in a Grade 9 subject while allowing the possibility of choosing a different type for another Grade 9 course.

Types of courses in future grades can be adjusted based on academic success and interest. In Grades 10, 11 and 12, students will choose courses that prepare them for apprenticeship, college, community, university or the workplace.

English, Math and Science are offered as academic, applied and locally developed types. As well, English and Math will be offered as enriched courses. Geography is offered as academic and applied types, while French is offered as academic, applied or open types. The remainder of the Grade 9 courses are offered as open types. To assist our English Language Learners (ELL), a variety of courses are offered as English as a Second Language (ESL) at three of our secondary schools (Glendale, Nor Frances Henderson and Sir John A. Macdonald)

Students will acquire the fundamental knowledge and skills of particular subjects and, wherever appropriate, links will be made among subjects to allow learners to see the connections within and among them.

3. Grade 9 Course Overview

The following compulsory subjects, offered as various types, are recommended for Grade 9 students:

Course	Academic	Applied	Open	Locally Developed	ESL*	Enriched	FI**
English	x	x		x	x	x	
French	x	x					
Geography	x	x				x	
Health & Physical Education			x				
Mathematics	x	x		x		x	
Science	x	x		x		x	
Dramatic Arts							

*ESL

is offered at Glendale, Nora Frances Henderson and Sir John A Macdonald

**French Immersion is offered at Sherwood and Westdale

4. Students entering high school will work towards one of the following:

A. Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.):

- 30 credits
 - 18 of these credits are compulsory
 - 12 of these credits are optional
- 40-hours of community involvement (to begin July 1st in the summer entering Grade 9)
- Successful completion of the Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT). OR

B. Ontario Secondary School Certificate (O.S.S.C.):

Students must earn a minimum of 14 credits including:

- 2 credits in English
- 1 credit in Mathematics
- 1 credit in Science
- 1 credit in Canadian History or Canadian Geography credit in the Arts or Technological Education
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- plus a total of 7 optional courses

Your future starts at HWDSB!



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Subject Areas	Course(s)
The Arts	Dramatic Arts, Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Integrated Arts
Business Studies	Information Technology (Computer Applications), Business
Social Sciences	Exploring Family Studies, Food and Nutrition
Technological Education	Communication Technology, Exploring Technologies, Manufacturing Technology

Supporting Student Choice

Student Services:

Secondary school students make a wide range of decisions related to both academic and personal issues. From transitioning to Grade 9 to finding a career path, your school's guidance counsellors will help guide students and parents/guardians through a variety of options and situations.

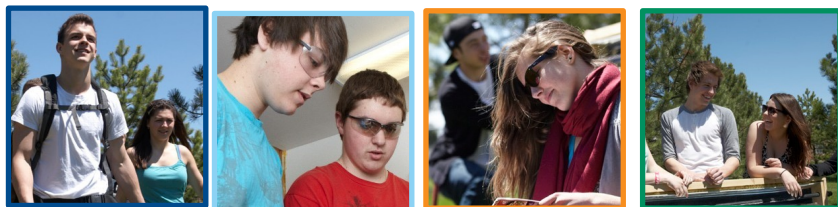
In elementary school, you started to create your Individual Pathway Plan (IPP). Each year in high school, you will revisit and update your IPP so that it reflects your current experiences and research. Your IPP will guide and help to prepare you for your chosen post-secondary destination, while ensuring that the requirements for the graduation diploma/certificate (OSSD/OSSC) are met. As you discover new skills and interests, your plans and destinations may change. However, planning your path, your way, will help you to navigate the changes and to be successful.

Identified Students:

Secondary school students who have been identified as "Exceptional" by an Identification Placement and Review Committee, or who are experiencing learning difficulties, are provided with appropriate programs and services. Individual Education Programs (IEPs) are jointly developed with school staff, parents/guardians and the student, so that classroom and Learning Resource teachers can support student learning and achievement.

Parents/guardians and students who wish more information on services available at your secondary school should contact either the Learning Resource teachers, the Head of Student Services or the Principal.

In order to address individual student needs, your guidance counsellors, Learning Resource teachers and Student Success teachers appreciate hearing from parents/guardians regarding issues that could affect a student's success (such as, but not limited to physical, medical and emotional needs).



Course Descriptions for the Arts

ADA101 - Dramatic Arts (Open)

This course provides opportunities for students to explore dramatic forms and techniques, using material from a wide range of sources and cultures. Students will use the elements of drama to examine situations and issues that are relevant to their lives. Students will create, perform, discuss and analyze drama and then reflect on the experiences to develop an understanding of themselves, the art form and the world around them.

AMU101/B - Music (AMU101– Experienced) (AMU101B-Beginner)

This course emphasizes the creation and performance of music at a level consistent with previous experience and is aimed at developing technique, sensitivity and imagination. Students will develop musical literacy skills by using the creative and critical analysis processes in composition, performance and a wide range of reflective and analytical activities. Students will develop an understanding of the conventions and elements of music and of safe practices related to music and will develop a variety of skills transferable to other areas of their life.

AMV101 - Vocal Music (Open)

This course emphasizes the performance of music at a level that strikes a balance between challenge and skill and is aimed at developing technique, sensitivity and imagination. Students will participate in creative activities that teach them to listen with understanding. They will also learn correct musical terminology and its appropriate use.

AVI101 - Visual Arts (Open)

This course is exploratory in nature, offering an overview of visual arts as a foundation for further study. Students will become familiar with the elements and principles of design and the expressive qualities of various materials by using a range of media, processes, techniques and styles. Students will use the creative and critical analysis processes and will interpret art within a personal, contemporary and historical context.

Examples of Careers in the Arts

Animator	Critic	Music Teacher
Architect	Designer	Recreational Therapist
Arranger	Director	Set Designer
Artist	Film Art Director	Singer
Bandleader	Graphic Designer	Window Display Artist
Composer		

Course Descriptions for Business Studies

BB101 – Introduction to Business (Open)

This course introduces students to the world of business. Students will develop an understanding of the functions of business, including accounting, marketing, information technology, human resources and production, and of the importance of ethics and social responsibility. This course builds a foundation for further studies in business and helps students develop the business knowledge and skills they will need in their everyday lives.

BTT101 - Information and Communication Technology (Open)

This course introduces students to information and communication technology in a business environment and builds a foundation of digital literacy skills necessary for success in a technologically driven society. Students will develop word processing, spreadsheet, database, desktop publishing, presentation software and website design skills. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on digital literacy, effective electronic research and communication skills and current issues related to the impact of information and communication technology.

Examples of Careers in Business

Accountant	Entrepreneur	Publisher
Administrative Assistant	Journalist	Salesperson
Court Reporter	Manager	Systems Analyst
Economist	Marketing Analyst	Treasurer

Course Descriptions for Canadian and World Studies

CGC1D – Issues in Canadian Geography (Academic)

This course examines interrelationships within and between Canada’s natural and human systems and how these systems interconnect with those in other parts of the world. Students will explore environmental, economic and social geographic issues relating to topics such as transportation options, energy choices and urban development. Students will apply the concepts of geographic thinking and the geographic inquiry process, including spatial technologies, to investigate various geographic issues and to develop possible approaches for making Canada a more sustainable place to live.

CGC1P – Issue in Canadian Geography (Applied)

This course focuses on current geographic issues that affect Canadians. Students will draw on their personal and everyday experiences as they explore a range of issues, including food and water supplies, competing land uses, and interactions with the natural environment, developing their awareness that issues that affect their lives are interconnected with issues in other parts of the world. Students will apply the concepts of geographic thinking and the geographic inquiry process, including spatial technologies, to investigate choices related to sustainable living in Canada.

CGC1D1E– Issues in Canadian Geography (Enriched, Academic)

This course will cover the same curriculum expectations as CGC1D1 Grade 9 Geography, Academic. The assessments and evaluations are comparable to those in CGC1D1. Class material is presented such that students will also explore and investigate extensions to the Geography curriculum content covered in class. This course may be well suited for students who have a passion for Geography, who are identified with the “gifted” exceptionality, students who are interested in pursuing the IB or AP stream in Grades 11 and 12 and/or students who enjoy inquiry-based learning to develop a deeper understanding of big ideas. Credit granted on the final student transcript is CGC1D1.

Examples of Careers in Geography

Cartographer (Mapmaker)	Human Development Worker	Surveyor
Census Data Analyst	Immigration Officer	Teacher
Climatologist	Landscaper	Travel Agent
Environmentalist	Oceanographer	Travel Writer
Forester	Park Ranger	Urban Planner
Game Warden	Pilot	Water Quality Analyst
Geologist		Weather Forecaster

Course Descriptions for English

ENG1D1 - English (Academic)

This course is designed to develop the oral communication, reading, writing and media literacy skills that students need for success in their secondary school academic programs and in their daily lives. Students will analyze literary texts from contemporary and historical periods, interpret informational and graphic texts and create oral, written, and media texts in a variety of forms. An important focus will be on the use of strategies that contribute to effective communication.

ENG1P1 - English (Applied)

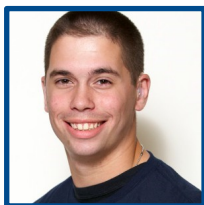
This course is designed to develop the key oral communication, reading, writing and media literacy skills that students need for success in secondary school and in their daily lives. Students will read, and create a variety of informational, literary and graphic texts. An important focus will be on identifying and using appropriate strategies and processes to improve students' comprehension of texts and to help them communicate clearly and effectively.

ENG1D1– English (Academic, Enriched)

This course will cover the same curriculum expectations as ENG1D1 Grade 9 English, Academic. The assessments and evaluations are comparable to those in ENG1D1. Class material is presented such that students will also explore and investigate extensions to the English curriculum content covered in class. This course may be well suited for students who have a passion for English, who are identified with the “gifted” exceptionality, students who are interested in pursuing the IB or AP stream in Grades 11 and 12 and/or students who enjoy inquiry-based learning to develop a deeper understanding of big ideas. Credit granted on the final student transcript is ENG1D1.

ENG1L1 – English (Locally Developed)

This course provides foundational literacy and communication skills to prepare students for success in their daily lives, in the workplace, and in the Grade 10 English Locally Developed Compulsory Credit course. The course is organized into strands that develop listening and talking skills, reading and viewing skills, and writing skills. In all strands, the focus is on developing foundational literacy skills and on using language clearly and accurately in a variety of authentic contexts. Students develop strategies and put into practice the processes involved in talking, listening, reading, viewing, writing and thinking, and reflect regularly on their growth in these areas.



Examples of Careers in English

Actor/Actress	Journalist	News Analyst
Author	Lawyer	Paralegal
Broadcaster	Librarian	Publisher
Film Director	Linguist	Teacher

Course Descriptions for Language

FSF1D - Core French (Academic)

This course provides opportunities for students to communicate and interact in French with increasing independence, with a focus on familiar topics related to their daily lives. Students will continue to develop language knowledge and skills by using language-learning strategies introduced in the elementary Core French program, and will apply creative and critical thinking skills in various ways. They will also enhance their understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities, and will develop the skills necessary to become life-long language learners.

Prerequisite: Minimum of 600 hours of elementary Core French instruction, or equivalent.

FSF1P - Core French (Applied)

This course provides opportunities for students to communicate and interact in French in structured situations on everyday topics and to apply their knowledge of French in everyday situations. Students will continue to develop language knowledge and skills introduced in the elementary Core French program, through practical applications and concrete examples, and will use creative and critical thinking skills in various ways. They will also enhance their understanding and appreciation of diverse French-speaking communities, and will develop the skills necessary to become life-long language learners. *Prerequisite: Minimum of 600 hours of elementary Core French instruction, or equivalent.*

Examples of Career in Languages

Civil Servant	Flight Attendant	Interpreter
Correspondent	Foreign Correspondent	Missionary
Customs Officer	Immigration Officer	Travel Agent
Diplomat		Teacher
Exporter/Importer		Translator

Course Description for Latin

This course introduces students to the achievements of the classical world through the study of Latin or ancient Greek. Students will learn vocabulary and grammar essential for reading and translating classical texts. English is the language of instruction. Through a variety of enrichment activities, such as presentations, debates, and dialogues, students will explore such aspects of life in the ancient world as trade, commerce, education, entertainment, and social customs while improving their language skills.

Course Descriptions for Social Sciences

HIF101- Exploring Family Studies (Open)

This course explores, within the context of families, some of the fundamental challenges people face: how to meet basic needs, how to relate to others, how to manage resources and how to become responsible members of society. Students will explore adolescent development and will have opportunities to develop interpersonal, decision-making, and practical skills related to daily life. They will learn about the diverse ways in which families function in Canada and will use research skills as they explore topics related to individual and family needs and resources.

Course Descriptions for Technology Education

TIJ101 - Exploring Technologies (Open)

This course enables students to further explore and develop technological knowledge and skills introduced in the elementary science and technology program. Students will be given the opportunity to design and create products and/or provide services related to the various technological areas or industries, working with a variety of tools, equipment and software commonly used in industry. Students will develop an awareness of environmental and societal issues and will begin to explore secondary and postsecondary education and training pathways leading to careers in technology-related fields.

Course Description for Guidance Education

This course focuses on learning strategies to help students become better, more independent learners. Students will learn how to develop and apply literacy and numeracy skills, personal management skills, and interpersonal and teamwork skills to improve their learning and achievement in school, the workplace, and the community. The course helps students build confidence and motivation to pursue opportunities for success in secondary school and beyond.

Course Descriptions for Health & Physical Education

PPL101F (Female) - Healthy Active Living Education (Open) PPL101M (Male) - Healthy Active Living Education (Open)

This course emphasizes regular participation in a variety of enjoyable physical activities that promote lifelong healthy active living. Students will learn movement skills and principles, ways to improve personal fitness and physical competence, and safety and injury prevention. They will investigate issues related to healthy sexuality and the use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and will participate in activities designed to develop goal setting, communication and social skills.

Examples of Careers in Health & Physical Education

Athlete	Laboratory Technician	Recreational Leader
Athletic Coach	Osteopath	Sports Writer
Chiropractor	Physical Therapist	Teacher
Fitness Trainer	Practical Nurse	

Course Descriptions for Mathematics

MPM1D1 - Principles of Mathematics (Academic)

This course enables students to consolidate their understanding of mathematical concepts related to algebra, analytic geometry, and measurement and geometry through investigation, the effective use of technology, and abstract reasoning. Students will investigate relationships, which they will then generalize as equations of lines, and will determine the connections between different representations of a linear relation. They will also explore relationships that emerge from the measurement of three-dimensional figures and two-dimensional shapes. Students will reason mathematically and communicate their thinking as they solve multi-step problems.

MFM1P1 - Foundations of Mathematics (Applied)

This course enables students to consolidate their understanding of mathematical concepts related to introductory algebra, proportional reasoning, and measurement and geometry through investigation, the effective use of technology, and hands-on activities. Students will investigate real-life examples to develop various representations of linear relations, and will determine the connections between the representations. They will also explore certain relationships that emerge from the measurement of three-dimensional figures and two-dimensional shapes. Students will consolidate their mathematical skills as they solve problems and communicate their thinking.

MPM1D1E - Mathematics (Academic, Enriched)

This course will cover the same curriculum expectations as MPM1D1 Grade 9 Mathematics, Academic. The assessments and evaluations are comparable to those in MPM1D1. Class material is presented such that students will also explore and investigate extensions to the Mathematics curriculum content covered in class. This course may be well suited for students who have a passion for Mathematics, who are identified with the “gifted” exceptionality, students who are interested in pursuing the IB or AP stream in Grades 11 and 12 and/or students who enjoy inquiry-based learning to develop a deeper understanding of big ideas. Credit granted on the final student transcript is MPM1D1.

MAT1L1 - Mathematics (Locally Developed)

This course enables students to further develop mathematical knowledge and skills to prepare for success in their everyday lives. The course is organized by three strands related to money sense, measurement and proportional reasoning. Students will build numeracy skills with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; learn to use a calculator efficiently; solve problems involving per cents, ratios and rates; solve problems associated with earning money, paying taxes, and making purchases; estimate and calculate linear and capacity measurements using both metric and imperial units. Students will consolidate their mathematical skills as they solve problems and communicate their mathematical thinking.

Examples of Careers in Mathematics

Accountant	Chemist	Engineer
Actuary	Dentist	Navigator
Architect	Economist	Physician
Banker	Electronic Technician	Physicist

Course Descriptions for Sciences

SNC1D1 - Science (Academic)

This course enables students to understand essential concepts in biology, chemistry, earth and space science and physics, to develop skills in the processes of scientific inquiry and to relate science knowledge to technological, social and environmental knowledge. Students will learn about scientific theories and pursue inquiries related to cell division and reproduction, atomic and molecular structures, properties of elements and compounds, the universe and space exploration and the principles of static and current electricity.

SNC1P1 - Science (Applied)

This course enables students to understand essential concepts in biology, chemistry, earth and space science and physics to develop practical skills in scientific investigation and to apply their knowledge of science to everyday situations. Students will design and conduct investigations into practical problems and issues related to cell division and reproduction, the structure and properties of elements and compounds, astronomy and space exploration and static and current electricity.

SNC1D1E– Science (Enriched, Academic)

This course will cover the same curriculum expectations as SNC1D1 Grade 9 Science, Academic. The assessments and evaluations are comparable to those in SNC1D1. Class material is presented such that students will also explore and investigate extensions to the Science curriculum content covered in class. This course may be well suited for students who have a passion for Science, who are identified with the “gifted” exceptionality, students who are interested in pursuing the IB or AP stream in Grades 11 and 12 and/or students who enjoy inquiry-based learning to develop a deeper understanding of big ideas. Credit granted on the final student transcript is SNC1D1.

SNC1L1 - Science (Locally Developed)

This course emphasizes reinforcing and strengthening science-related knowledge and skills, including scientific inquiry, critical thinking and the relationship between science, society and the environment to prepare students for success in everyday life, in the workplace and in the Science Grade 11 Workplace Preparation course. Students explore a range of topics including science in daily life, properties of common materials, life sustaining processes in simple and complex organisms and electrical circuits. Students have the opportunity to extend mathematical and scientific process skills and to continue developing their skills in reading, writing and oral language through relevant and practical science activities.

Examples of Careers in Sciences

Agriculture	Environmentalist	Nurse
Architect	Forestry	Teacher
Biochemist	Geologist	Veterinarian
Doctor	Lab Technician	Zoologist

Course Descriptions for Social Sciences

HIF101- Exploring Family Studies (Open)

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