

## Comparing Charlotte Mason curricula

	<b>A Modern Charlotte Mason (MCM)</b>	<b>Living Books Curriculum (LBC)</b>	<b>Higher Up and Further In Curriculum (HUFIC) from Charlotte Mason Help</b>
What is it?	Curriculum and support (videos, blog, etc)	“teaching guides,subject guides, classic living books” and support system	Curriculum, blog (ceased in 2013), yahoo-based forum; also offered in Spanish
What they say about themselves	“a living and evolving curriculum”	“a truly unique learning experience using CM's methods”; designed to be taken to other countries (ie Africa) as well; “K-8 Christian homeschooling solution”	“practical ways to apply the lofty ideas of CM”
Cost? (ie do they charge you anything; all require obtaining books)	“Bundles” incl lessons and assignments for a year for all ages (\$100; does not incl math); free booklists available online	Teaching guides run \$60-85 and cover one year/grade; Has an affiliate program where you sell materials and earn credit (as I understand it)	“Program and schedules are offered free of charge”; includes bookshop with resources
How much work is done for you (the parent)?	“We provide you with a booklist, and a step by step guide for your day, and daily lesson plans. You will find both a warm, caring community and lots of support on the Facebook group.”	The parent must do 45 minutes of planning once a week. They give week-by-week schedules but parents must decide what is done each day. Sample schedules are provided.	Seems to be booklists but not specific schedules
Is it flexible?	“The idea for A Modern Charlotte Mason was developed from listening to new and long time Charlotte Mason homeschooling Moms. They wanted a curriculum that would hold their hand, or not. They wanted a curriculum they could keep all their children	They try to offer “the best structure and the most flexibility”	It is more of a loose guide and in that way is flexible

	together most of the day, or give each child their own year. They wanted a curriculum that would challenge their gifted child, and one that wouldn't overwhelm their dyslexic child.”		
Is it inherently Christian?	Includes Bible reading as well as things like CS Lewis and biographies of saints	The creators mention their Christian faith many times and include a statement of faith on their website; it is designed to be a Christian curriculum; emphasis on discipleship; in addition to Bible, Christian heroes and history are covered; they say they don't proselytize but that it would be hard to use their curriculum in a secular way	Includes Bible readings and hero tales
What subjects are done together as a family?	Bible is listed as part of the “morning meeting” and it seems to be set up so the whole family can study the same time period of history; there are occasional notes along the lines of “if doing together with other forms . . .”	“Subjects such as history, art, science, narration, nature study, picture study, and geography can be combined for multiple grade levels.” Math, writing and reading may need individual instruction.	It's not clear but many could likely be combined
History	Seems to begin in middle ages in form 1;	Emphasis on God's work in history; possibly assumes creationist view; American history and world history are covered every year	“two cycles of history in chronological order”; 1 <sup>st</sup> through 3 <sup>rd</sup> years do world and American history; 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> do world and British; 6 <sup>th</sup> through 11 <sup>th</sup> do in depth world history
When do we begin Shakespeare and Plutarch?	Plutarch seems to begin in form 3 (middle school?); Tales from Shakespeare begins in	Shakespeare begins in grade 3	Tales from Shakespeare in year 2; Plutarch in year 5

	form 1 and more serious study in form 2.		
Math	Does not include math; recommends specific living math curricula as a supplement to your curricula	Foundation concepts are provided for grades 1-3 but not specific curricula; no math is provided for higher grades	Gives living math resources for early years but you must find your own curriculum
Early education, or when to begin	Oral narration begins at age 6; before that living books may be used but it is unclear how much instruction/help is given for the early years	Includes “foundation year” before grade 1 which includes “pre reading and pre writing”	Offers (low key) preschool ideas and K curriculum
Exams/testing	Unknown	End of term narration questions are provided for the parent to assess and provide documentation if needed	Provides sample exam questions
Language Arts	LA is laid out in a “natural way” beg w living books; composition through narration; early grammar and spelling through copwork; dictation begins in 2 <sup>nd</sup> form(4 <sup>th</sup> or 5 <sup>th</sup> ?) as does written narration; “Grammar instruction is also laid out in the lesson plans for those in form 2 and above.”; written narration evolves into other kinds of writing; lists some living resources for grammar-- I don't see another specific resources for grammar mentioned	Begins w oral language instruction through storytelling, narration, recitation; grammar begins in gr 3 along with dictation and written narration;uses “grammar guides”; composition begins in grade 8	Taught initially through copywork and no more than 10 minutes of daily writing; lists Daily Grams as optional; written narration and dictation, using passages from school books, begin in year 4; formal grammar with Easy Grammar begins around age 10
High school science	Not exclusively about high school but: includes microscope use in nature study and makes use of online	Only goes through grade 8; covers specific subjects each year in addition to nature study/journaling; uses	Uses Apologia; in general less specificity is given for years 7+

	videos; uses living books in high school	Apologia in grades 7 and 8	
Geography	Living books and map drawing	Emphasis on map skills and then turns to studying continents one by one	Living books and map activities
Art and Music	Includes modern artists	Picture study and composer study which includes “baroque, classical, romantic and contemporary periods, as well as Christian worship music”	6 reproductions from one or two artists per term (3 terms per year)
Foreign Language	“Foreign language lesson plans are also outlined to provide short, multi-sensory exposures to foreign language throughout the week.”; “several foreign languages”; lists resources for “Spanish, French or another foreign language” for form 1 and add Latin in form 2; Greek resources are also given for form 4	Latin beg in gr 3 or 4 using Latinae Christiana	You pick a language to begin in year 1 using tales and copywork; Greek and Latin roots begin in year 4
Books: old or new? Availability?	“modern living books” and “time honored classics”; “we try to keep your budget in mind”; lists public domain resources where available	Speaks of “classic” books that “have endured and made a contribution to our understanding of what it means to be human”	Seems to list mainly older books