



2023 Subject Combination

For Engagement with Parents / Students

15 Sep 2023

We nurture students to become **Reflective Thinkers** and **Caring Citizens**
who **Lead to Serve** the Nation and the World.



Key Points of Engagement Session

- Clarify parents' questions regarding Subject Combination Exercise.
- Questions raised - 3 Areas we will be addressing
 - Subject Choices
 - Subject Criteria
 - Exercise Procedures

Preparation for Subject Combination 2023



- Important exercise for all Sec 2 students
 - Relevant Subject Options at upper secondary.
 - This will be a **compulsory exercise** for all Sec 2 students after EOY (Oct – Nov).
- Useful materials (Class Relays + School Website + Parent Gateway)
 - Pdf documents – briefings + subject groups slides
 - Videos - 1 Introductory video, respective subject groups (G1/G2/G3) videos
 - Other support to students – Subject Talks, advice from teachers and ECG counsellor



Subject Combination Timeline (Important Dates)



Important Dates Subject Combination Exercise

No	Activity	Date
1	Brief parents and students on Subject Combination (Sec 2 e-MTP)	T2W6 (27 Apr)
2	Sharing with parents and students on subject combinations	T3W1 (30 Jun)
3	Subject Talks for students by IP Heads during CCE Lessons	T3W9 to T4W1 (24 Aug & 14 Sep)
4	Online Subject Combination Parent Engagement Session	T4W1 (15 Sep)
5	Check and confirm EOY scripts and overall results	T4W6 (by 18 Oct)
6	Admin Briefing for students on Subject Combination Exercise	T4W6 (18 Oct)
7	Conduct Online Subject Combination Selection Exercise – Compulsory for all students	T4W7 (25 Oct to 27 Oct, 12pm noon)
8	Release of Subject Combination Results	T4W9 (8 Nov, 12pm noon)
9	Confirmation of Subject Combination Results by Parents	T4W9 (8 Nov, 12pm noon to 10 Nov, 12pm noon)
10	Appeal Period	T4W9 (8 Nov, 12pm noon to 10 Nov, 12pm noon)
11	Release of Appeal Results / Final Posting Results	T4W10 (15 Nov, 12pm noon)

Choosing Subject Combinations

Key Considerations for students

- Understand your strengths and interests
- Keep pathways flexible – e.g. E Math is compulsory for most courses
 - Start researching into the post-secondary course requirements
 - Each post-secondary option will have different specific course requirements
 - Speak to people (home, school & peers)



School Policy for Subject Combination Allocation

We nurture students to become **Reflective Thinkers** and **Caring Citizens**
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Allocation Criteria

MERIT

- Based on **overall Sec 2 performance**
- Students who perform better in overall results will have priority.

CHOICE

- Each choice will be considered in sequence.

VACANCY

- Allocation is possible when there is vacancy for the choice subject combination.

Note: Subject offer depends on factors like take up rate, class size and resource availability (teacher and venue).

Number of Subjects Offered for Sec 3 Students in 2024



Sec 3 students offering predominantly		
G1 subjects	G2 subjects	G3 subjects
6 Subjects	6 Subjects	8 Subjects 7 subjects or 7+1 subjects for selected students



Subjects Offered at G1 Level

We nurture students to become **Reflective Thinkers** and **Caring Citizens**
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Subjects to be offered at G1 Level

Subject No.	Subject
1 st	English Language*
2 nd	Mother Tongue Languages*
3 rd	Mathematics*
4 th	Computer Applications
5 th	Science*
6 th	Design & Technology / Art/ Nutrition and Food Science/ Smart Electrical Technology

Note:
*: Subjects offered at G1, G2, G3 levels. Students may be offered out-of-stream subjects i.e. **G2 or G3** English and/or Maths and/or Mother Tongue and/or Science if they meet the criteria

Total Possible Subject Combination Offerings (G1 Level)

	Combi A	Combi B	Combi C	Combi D
Subject 1	English Language			
Subject 2	Mother Tongue Language			
Subject 3	Mathematics			
Subject 4	Computer Applications			
Subject 5	Science			
Subject 6	Art	D&T	NFS	SET

Note:

Compulsory subjects at upper secondary: English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Computer Applications and Social Studies. Only Social Studies is non-examinable.

Offering of subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.

Academic Counselling will be provided.



Criteria for Offering Out of Stream Subjects at the G2 Level

We nurture students to become **Reflective Thinkers** and **Caring Citizens**
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Criteria to offer out-of-stream subjects for G2 SBB (Overall Subject Results)



**G2 OOS
English**

- Pass for G2 SBB English

**G2 OOS
Mathematics**

- Pass for G2 SBB Mathematics

**G2 OOS
Mother Tongue
Languages**

- Pass for G2 SBB Mother Tongue Languages

**G2 OOS Science
(Chemistry / Biology)
(Chemistry / Physics)**

- Pass for G2 SBB Science

- *OOS subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.*
- *Academic Counselling will be provided.*



Criteria to offer out-of-stream subjects for non-SBB (Overall Subject Results)

**G2 OOS
English**

- Grade A for G1 English

**G2 OOS
Mathematics**

- Grade A for G1 Mathematics

**G2 OOS
Mother Tongue
Languages**

- Grade A for G1 Mother Tongue Languages

**G2 OOS Science
(Chemistry / Biology)
(Chemistry / Physics)**

- Grade A for G1 Science

- *OOS subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.*
- *Academic Counselling will be provided.*



Subjects Offered at G2 Level

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Subjects to be offered at G2 Level

1st	English Language*	
2nd	Mother Tongue Languages*	
3rd	Mathematics*	
4th	Humanities* Social Studies & Elective (History/ Geography/ Literature in English/Literature in Malay**)	
5th	Science (Chemistry/Biology)*	Science (Chemistry/Physics)*
6th	Design and Technology**/ Art**/ Nutrition and Food Science**/ Literature in Malay**/ POA <u>OR</u> N(A) Additional Maths (<i>only for students offering 'O' Level Math</i>)	

Note:

*: Subjects offered at G3 and G2 Level. Students may be offered out-of-stream subjects i.e. G3 English and/or Maths and/or Mother Tongue and/or Science and/or Humanities if they meet the criteria

** : subject is offered at only G3 level

6th subject will be offered only if there is a critical mass of students or possible teacher deployment

New G2 Subject: Humanities

- Humanities is **COMPULSORY**
- This is a subject that is made up of 2 sub-subjects. *Social Studies + Humanities (Elective), also known as Combined Humanities.*

Social
Studies +
E.
Geography

Social
Studies +
E.
History

Social
Studies +
E.
Literature
in English

Social
Studies +
E.
Literature
in Malay

Humanities (G2 Level)



Students can offer **Double Humanities**

Pure Literature in Malay

Humanities

- Social Studies
- E. Literature in English or E. Geography or E. History

The SAME SUBJECT cannot be offered as both as Pure and Elective

Total Possible Subject Combination Offerings (G2 Level)

	Combi A	Combi B	Combi C	Combi D
	•Cater to students interested in music / business or finance-related courses at post-sec institutions	•Cater to students interested in Science-based courses at post-sec institutions	•Cater to students interested in Humanities-based courses at post-sec institutions	•Cater to students interested in hands-on subjects Art of Design courses at post-sec institutions
Subject 1	English Language			
Subject 2	Mother Tongue Language			
Subject 3	Mathematics			
Subject 4	SS with Electives			
Subject 5	Science (Chem/Bio) Or Science (Chem/Phy)			
Subject 6	POA	Additional Mathematics	Literature in Malay**	DAF**

Note:
 Subjects 1 to 5 are compulsory subjects.
 Offering of subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.
 Academic Counselling will be provided.



Criteria for Offering Out of Stream Subjects at the G3 Level

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Criteria to offer out-of-stream subjects (G3 SBB)

(Overall Subject Results)



G3 OOS English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass for G3 SBB EL
G3 OOS Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass for G3 SBB Mathematics
G3 OOS Mother Tongue Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass for G3 SBB MTL
G3 OOS Science (Chemistry / Biology) (Chemistry / Physics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass for G3 SBB Science
G3 OOS Humanities Electives (History, Geography, Literature in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass for G3 SBB History, Geography, Literature in English
G3 OOS Literature in Malay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade B or better for G3 SBB Malay Language• Grade 3 or better for G2 Malay Language

- *OOS subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.*
- *Academic Counselling will be provided.*

Criteria to offer out-of-stream subjects (G3 SBB) for students not offered SBB subjects (Overall Sec 2 Subject Results)



G2
Subjects (EL,
Math, MTL,
Sci,
Humanities)

**75% or higher in the
specific subject**

- *OOS subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.*
- *Academic Counselling will be provided.*



Subjects Offered at G3 Level

We nurture students to become **Reflective Thinkers** and **Caring Citizens**
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Note:

1. Compulsory subjects - English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Science, Humanities (with Social Studies)
2. Lessons for O-Level Music will have be taken in another school.
3. Offering of subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.
4. POA, NFS and D&T cannot be used to replace a Humanities subject.

	G3 Subjects
1st	English Language
2nd	Higher Mother Tongue or Mother Tongue Languages
3rd	Elementary Mathematics
4th	Additional Mathematics
5th	Chemistry or Science (Chem/Bio)/ Science (Chem/Phy)
6th	Humanities Social Studies & Elective (Literature in English/ Literature in Malay/ Literature in Chinese/ History/ Geography)
7th and/or 8th	Biology/Physics/ Geography/ History/ Literature in English/ Literature in Malay/ Music/ Design and Technology/ Nutrition & Food Science/ Higher Art / POA



New Subject at G3 level: Humanities

- Humanities is **COMPULSORY**.
- This is a subject that is made up of 2 sub-subjects. *Social Studies + Humanities (Elective)*, also known as *Combined Humanities*.

Humanities (Electives)

Social Studies + E. Geography

Social Studies + E. History

Social Studies + E. EL Literature

Social Studies + E. ML Literature

Social Studies + E. CL Literature

Humanities (G3 Level)



Students can offer **Double Humanities**

Pure
Literature (EL/ML/CL)

Pure
Geography

Pure
History

Humanities

- Social Studies
- E. Geo or E. Hist or E. ML/EL/CL Lit

Humanities

- Social Studies
- E. ML/EL/CL Lit or E. Hist

Humanities

- Social Studies
- E. ML/EL/CL Lit or E. Geo

The SAME SUBJECT cannot be offered as both as Pure and Elective

Number of Subjects Offered for Sec 3 Students in 2024



Sec 3 students offering predominantly		
G1 subjects	G2 subjects	G3 subjects
6 Subjects	6 Subjects	8 Subjects 7 subjects or 7+1 subjects for selected students

	Pure Sciences (G3 Levels)						Combined Sciences (G3)	
	Combi A	Combi B	Combi C	Combi D	Combi E	Combi F	Combi G	Combi H
	Triple Sci	Double Hum + 2 Sci	Double Sci + DAF/Music/POA	Double Sci + 1 Hum	Double Hum + 1 Sci	DAF/Music/POA + 1 Sci	Combined Sci + 2 Hum	Combined Sci + DAF /Music/POA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth study of 3 Pure Sciences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth study of contrasting combination of Pure Humanities and 2 Pure Sciences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cater to students interested in music / business or finance-related / Art / Design Hands on subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth study of 2 Pure Sciences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth study of Pure Humanities and 1 Pure Science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cater to students interested in music / business or finance-related / Art / Design Hands on subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth study of Pure Humanities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cater to students interested in music / business or finance-related / Art / Design Hands on subjects.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare students for Science-based courses at JC or Polys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexibility for students to pursue Arts or Science-based courses at JC or Polys. 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexibility for students to pursue Arts or Science-based courses at JC or Polys. 	
Subject 1	English Language						English Language	
Subject 2	Higher Mother Tongue / Mother Tongue						Higher Mother Tongue / Mother Tongue	
Subject 3	Elementary Mathematics						Elementary Mathematics	
Subject 4	Additional Mathematics						Additional Mathematics	
Subject 5	Chemistry						Science (Chem/Bio) Or Science (Chem/Phy)	
Subject 6	SS with Electives						SS with Electives	
Subject 7	Biology	Biology Or Physics	Biology Or Physics	Biology Or Physics	Pure Humanities	DAF/Music/POA	Pure Humanities	DAF/Music/POA
Subject 8	Physics	Pure Humanities	DAF/Music/POA					

Note: Offering of subjects are subjected to vacancies and critical number of students met per subject.



Criteria for G3 Level Subjects

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Criteria to offer Various Combinations for G3 Subjects (Overall Subject Results)

Double Humanities
(Geography)
(History)

- **Grade B or better** for Sec 2 Geography/History

Double Humanities
(Literature in English)

- **Grade B or better** for Sec 2 Literature AND Sec 2 English Language

Double Humanities
(Literature in Chinese)

- **Grade B or better** for Sec 2 Chinese Language

Literature in Malay

- **Grade B or better** for Sec 2 Malay Language
- **Grade C or better** for Sec 2 Higher Malay Language

Triple Sciences

- **Grade B or better** for Sec 2 Science

Double Sciences

- **Grade C or better** for Sec 2 Science

Craft and Technology subjects

- **Grade B or better** for Sec 2 Art, D&T, FCE

Music

- **Grade A** for Sec 2 Music
- A selection test will be administered.



Actual
Online Subject Combination Exercise
26 Oct 2023

- The actual online subject combination exercise will be on **Wednesday 26 Oct 2023**
- **Student must bring their completed hardcopy form in order to do this online exercise.**
- Your choices in the online exercise should match the choices in your physical form. Your FT will check before you submit.
- Students are **advised not to miss this exercise without valid reasons** to ensure they will have a fair opportunity in the selection process.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: What post-secondary options do students have in terms of further studies? How do I support my child?**
- **Q: How do we support and guide our children to choose the combination which we think is better for him/her but not reciprocated?**
 - All our subject combination options provide a wide range of post-secondary tertiary options for our students.
 - In helping your child/ward to make the best-informed decision for their Secondary 3 Subject Combination, we strongly encourage parents to discuss with your child/ward on their interests, academic strengths as well as aspirations, and explore the possible tertiary options. It is not uncommon to hear from your child/ward that the subjects in the combination are not of their interest.
 - Your child/ward may make an appointment with our school Education and Career Guidance (ECG) counsellor, Mr Low Jeng Wye, or the teachers to explore his/her possible options.
- Helpful resources for Parents by MOE:
 - Journeying with Our Children, Supporting their Aspirations: ECG Tips for Parents
 - This booklet can be found at: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/programmes/ecg/ecg-tips-for-parents.ashx>

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: By taking certain subject combinations, how does that exclude/impact them from future choices in life?**
- **Q: I want to know more of the subject combination if my child is interested in architecture?**
 - The subject combinations offered have been carefully designed to provide your child/ward with a wide range of post-secondary tertiary options.
 - MOE has launched a CourseFinder at: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/courses> for students and parents to explore courses based on aggregate type, score, type of institute and area of interest.
 - We strongly encourage parents to explore this platform with your child/ward on the tertiary options.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: How is the student assigned the best / most appropriate subjects?**
- **Q: Does both the Sec 1 and Sec 2 academic performance matters?**
 - Allocation of the above will be based on students' Sec 2 overall results and subject academic performance and aptitude, subjected to the availability of school resources.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: Is there a maximum number of students for each subject, how is the student assigned the subjects?**
- **Q: What will happen to the students who have selected the subject and are not accepted for the subject?**
 - Allocation of subject combination is based on the guiding principles of merit, choice and vacancy. Students who are not allocated what they opted for, will be allocated a subject combination according to the student's academic strengths.
 - The maximum enrolment size for subject combinations vary according to the demand from students who meet the pre-requisite criteria and availability of school resources to meet the demand.
 - Students will be able to submit an Appeal Form to the General Office during the appeal period to request a change to their combination, if need be. The appeals will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: How is the grading system for humanities like?**
- **Q: What is the difference between pure and elective subjects?**
 - The pure humanities will cover a broader range of content and at a greater depth compared to the electives.
 - The grading and details of specific assessment demands for each subject can be found at the exams board website at <http://www.seab.gov.sg> .

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: How do I choose Elective subjects such as Humanities, SET, D&T, Art or NFS subjects?**
 - For elective subjects, students are strongly advised NOT to have the same elective subject for all their choices. If the first choice was unsuccessful due to "no vacancy", it is likely the remaining three choices would be unsuccessful too.
 - Instead, students are advised to choose subject combinations with different elective subjects.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: How many triple science students are there typically each year?**
 - Based on the past data, we have around 50 students who took on the triple sciences combination. As the subject allocation is by the guiding principles of merit, choice and vacancy, this number may vary from year to year.
 - In addition, there are students who qualified but chose not to offer Triple Science for various reasons.
 - The triple science combination offers a more rigorous, in-depth study of the pure sciences and is suited for students who are clear they wish to pursue a science-based course in the JC/Poly.
 - Note: For the JC Science course, there is no need to have offered triple sciences to be able to offer 2 H2 Science subjects.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: Is Hindi considered as one of the R5 in L1+R5 combination in final O level grading?**
 - Yes. Hindi may be considered as the R4, R5 subjects of L1R5 computation for JC courses.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: Is there a criteria to take higher MTL?**
 - The Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL) is a four-year course leading to the GCE O-Level examination for HMTL in Sec 4. Students are offered the subject at Sec 1 entry level. HMTL is only offered to students who are assessed to have the ability in MTL and are able to do HMTL without affecting their performance in other subjects.
 - You may contact **Sec 2 Year Head, Ms Ng Poh Keow** (ng_poh_keow@schools.gov.sg) for further clarifications.

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: Can my child opt for computing at O levels? If not, can he take as private candidate?**
 - Our school does not offer the subject Computing currently.
 - Your child/ward is not allowed to register for the GCE-Level examinations as a private candidate if they are currently studying in a Government/ Government-aided/ Independent/ Specialised school.
 - For national exam registration matters, you may direct your queries to Sec 2 Year Head, Ms Ng Poh Keow (ng_poh_keow@schools.gov.sg).

FAQ: Subject Choices

- **Q: Will the school allow my child to drop subjects at the end of Sec 3 should he/she be unable to cope with all the subjects?**
 - The compulsory subjects cannot be dropped and students must take the minimum number of subjects as stipulated by the ministry.
 - We strongly encourage students to choose a subject combination that enables them to balance their academic and non-academic learning as a holistic package of learning and development.
 - It is more important for students to pace and enjoy their learning, rather than front load learning by maxing out the number of subjects taken at the expense of their well-being.
 - For students who find themselves unable to cope with their subjects, the school will provide counselling to help them decide on the best option moving forward that is in the best interest of the child.

FAQ: Subject Criteria

- **Q: What is the minimum requirements for promotion to Sec 3 level?**
 - This information can also be found in the e-Student Guidebook.
 - You may contact **Sec 2 Year Head, Ms Ng Poh Keow** (ng_poh_keow@schools.gov.sg) for further clarifications.

FAQ: Subject Criteria

- **Q: Is POA offered at G2 level? If Yes, what are the subjects that the students have to pass so that they can offer POA?**
 - Yes. Based on the subject nature of POA, we will consider the academic performance of the subjects Mathematics and English Language for the student so that they are able to cope with the rigour of the subject.

FAQ: Subject Criteria

- **Q: Can a student take MTLB?**

- Students who obtain E8 or below for the overall Sec 2 results may opt to take MTL 'B'.
- Depending on the class size, students may need to travel to another school for MTLB lessons.
- Student can check with their MTL subject teacher for more details.

FAQ: Subject Criteria

- **Q: To be offered a particular subject combination, are there specific requirements the students must meet?**
 - Yes. Please refer to the slides shared on the specific criteria for the respective combinations and levels.

FAQ: Subject Criteria

- **Q: How to decide whether the student should take 7 or 8 subjects? Will it shortchange my child in future?**
 - Students are advised to take into consideration their total curriculum workload (including co-curricular areas and external academic areas e.g. third languages) in upper secondary levels for their selection of 7 or 8 subjects.
 - We strongly encourage students to choose a subject combination that enables them to balance their academic and non-academic learning as a holistic package of learning and development.
 - It is more important for students to pace and enjoy their learning, rather than front load learning by maxing out the number of subjects taken at the expense of their well-being.
 - Regardless of 7 or 8 subjects, the subject combinations offered have been carefully designed to provide your child with a wide range of post-secondary tertiary options.

FAQ: Exercise Procedure

- **Q: Will sec 2 form classes be reshuffled for sec 3, 4? Based on subj combi?**
 - The structure for the upper secondary form classes will be tied to the subject combinations.

FAQ: Exercise Procedure

- **Q: My child is taking mostly G2 subjects and is keen to continue with three G3 subjects (Maths, Eng & Chinese). May I know how to select the subject combination in her case?**
 - Your child/ward will submit the form - "For students taking predominantly G2 subjects" to indicate the choices.
 - There will be a separate engagement for students who are eligible to be offered out of stream subjects (OOS) if he/she meets the requirements based on the overall assessment results.
 - Please note that OOS are subjected to vacancies and the critical number of students met per subject.

FAQ: Exercise Procedure

- **Q: When will the subject combination result be shared for the selection the student made?**
 - Refer to the slides on the details of the timeline and important dates.
 - Students will be informed of all results via their school's email accounts.
 - Students will need to check the results and do not assume they will be allocated their first choice.

FAQ: Exercise Procedure

- **Q: What happens if a student misses the cut off for a combination? can appeal?**
- **Q: Does the school allow appeal if a student would still like to get their 1st choice?**
 - The appeal period is from 8 Nov, 12pm noon to 10 Nov, 12pm noon.
 - Students will be able to submit an Appeal Form to the General Office during the appeal period to change their combination, if need be.
 - The appeals will be subjected to availability.
 - No future appeal is allowed after the appeal period.

WHEN IN DOUBT

- You may visit <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary> to find out more about the different schools and courses offered after secondary school.
- These sets of slides are made available in the school website.
- If you have any further questions, you may contact me at the following:
 - Office Phone call: 6631 8146
 - Email: ng_poh_keow@schools.gov.sg