

Subject Combination Briefing FAQs

(Questions taken verbatim during Subject Combination Briefing on Zoom 18 Feb 2022)

1. At which level will Computing be introduced and will it be offered to N(A) level students?

The Computing syllabus is currently offered only to Express students at the Upper Secondary level. For N(T) students, we offer the Computer Applications syllabus throughout their four years of study.

2. What happens when a student fails in both History/Geography? How is he/she going to be streamed into the Humanities subject?

Students are given their choice of offering either elective History or elective Geography. Allocation is based on students' score in History and Geography and subject to available vacancies.

3. Is there any pre-requisite to take Principles of Accounting or Art?

There is currently no pre-requisite for these two subjects. We encourage students who show the passion and aptitude for Art to opt for the subject so as to further develop their talent in this area.

4. My son is in 2N(A) and is interested to go into the Science stream. What are the subjects that he should focus?

There is no "Science stream" in our school system. All N(A) students have to offer Chemistry as the compulsory subject in the Combined Science syllabus and they could choose either Biology or Physics as the other elective Science subject. We encourage you to discuss with your son on his passion and aptitude for either Biology or Physics so that he could make an informed choice when choosing his elective Science subject.

5. What if my child is unsure if he/she is good at a particular elective subject?

We encourage your child to speak to his or her form teacher and subject teachers to find out more about his or her strength and passion. We also have an Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Counsellor if your child needs further counsel and guidance in his or her aspirations and post-secondary educational path.

6. What if my child fails to meet the cut off mark for Maths/Science but is very interested in the subject?

Students who did not meet the cut off mark for the subjects offered can appeal to the school in writing and all appeal cases will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7. What is the GCE O-Level score required for students to get into the polytechnics?

The pre-requisite for students to get into the polytechnics is ELR2B2 (English Language, 2 relevant subjects and 2 best subjects). Students have to pass these 5 subjects to meet the minimum entry requirement. However, do note that meeting this requirement does not guarantee a place in the course of the students' choice as selection is based on merit (the ELR2B2 aggregate score).

8. What does the abbreviation ELMAB3 stand for?

ELMAB3 stands for English Language, Mathematics and 3 best subjects. The aggregate score for ELMAB3 will determine the students' educational pathway after the GCE N(A) Level e.g. Secondary 5, PFP (Polytechnic Foundation Programme), DPP (Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic Programme) etc.

9. For Express combination 7(b), can a student take Pure Biology in place of Computing?

In 7(b), Biology is offered as part of Combined Science while Computing is compulsory. Students can only offer either Pure or Combined Science.

10. For Express combination 7(b), do students take "POA and Computing" OR "POA or Computing"?

In 7(b), students will offer EITHER Principles of Accounts OR Computing.

11. Are there ECG sessions on selecting a suitable subject combination for JC/Poly education prior to the streaming exercise?

The ECG sessions are tweaked into the CCE syllabus progressively when students join us in Secondary 1 as they discover, explore and research the different pathways available to them. The school also has an ECG counsellor who comes in on a weekly basis to assist students who needs more guidance in terms of career prospects.

12. What grade must a student offering Combined Science score at 'O' level in order to study Science in JC?

Parents and students will have to refer to the website of their choice of JC for more information and subject pre-requisite as each college has different set of requirements.

13. Which courses in the polytechnics require students to have sat for O level Additional Mathematics even if it is not included in L1R4?

The polytechnic courses do not require students to take Additional Mathematics, but it will be an added advantage when it comes to certain modules in some courses, particularly in Engineering.

14. If my child is in the N(A) stream and with only 6 subjects, what are their chances of getting into a JC after Sec 5?

The entry requirement to enter a JC is L1R5 (pass all 6 subjects) with no more than 20 points. If a student is offered 6 subjects and he/she aspires to go into a JC, he/she will be expected to work exceptionally hard and perform very well academically in order to fulfil the minimum requirements, and there may be additional pre-requisites for some subjects depending on the JC that your child chooses.