

Warmest Greetings to  
All Parents / Guardians!

# 2024 Sec 3 Subject Combination Briefing

Sharing for **Sec 2 Express Course**

LEADERS OF CHARACTER | SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



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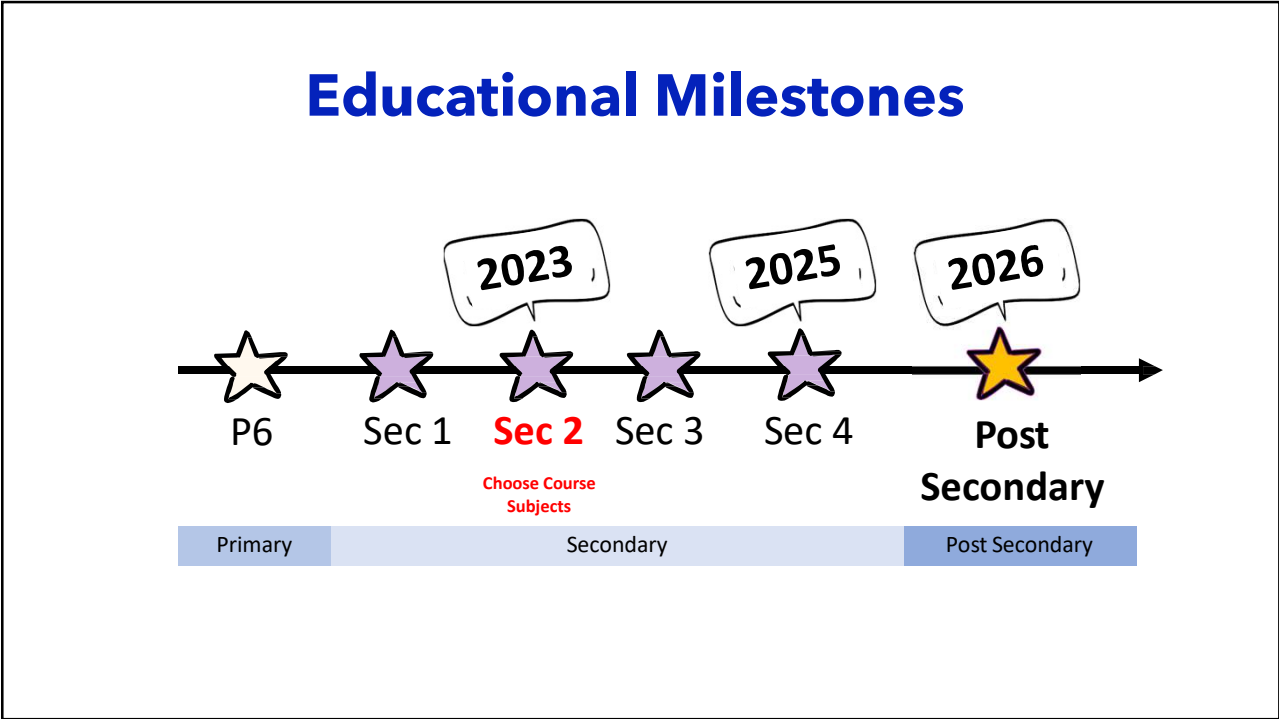
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# How can I help my child to make an **informed** decision?




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- 1 Emerging Skills for 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
Being prepared and relevant
- 2 Know Your Child**  
Empower them to take ownership of their goals
- 3 Know the Post-Secondary Course Requirements**  
Matching strengths, interests, aspirations and requirements
- 4 Making the Choice**  
Which subject combination should your child choose?
- 5 Know the Subject Electives**  
Overview of subject electives
- 6 Schedule**  
Timeline to subject combination exercise

**How can I help  
my child to make  
an informed decision?**

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**Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
Being prepared and relevant

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# Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Post Secondary Landscape has **Changed Significantly:** Beyond Academic Grades

## Going beyond grades: Evolving the Singapore education system

Apr 2016, Straits Times

The PSLE revamp is part of a larger shift away from academics towards broadening opportunities for students to discover their interests and talents, and develop life skills, a sense of curiosity and a love for learning. Experts say that while this is a necessary change, it will take time for the country to embrace it and move away from its preoccupation with marks.



Nov 2018, Straits Times  
New direct school admission portal to be launched; NUS, NTU to drop O-level grades when taking in poly grads



## NUS law faculty to shortlist more JC, MI students

May 2022, Straits Times

It is also seeking out strong candidates from polytechnics as part of bid to cast net wider

Amelia Teng  
Education Correspondent  
The National University of Singapore's (NUS) law faculty, which offers one of the most popular...  
that we had the capacity to shortlist, interview and test applicants who were in the top 10 per cent. In parallel, we have also sought to identify strong candidates from Singapore's polytechnics," said Prof Chesterman.  
...their performance at the writ-

## Looking beyond grades for course on social work

Feb 2022, Straits Times

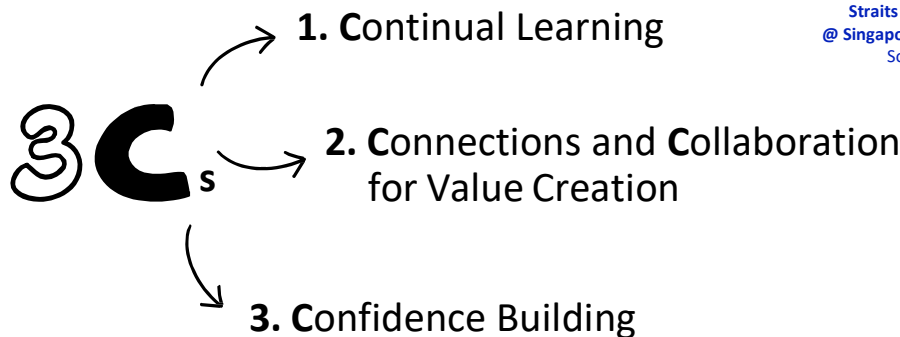
In this part of the askST education series, The Straits Times answers two questions from parents on the Singapore University of Social Sciences

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# Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Minister Chan Chun Sing at the Straits Times Education Forum @ Singapore Management University  
Source: Straits Times  
10 Feb 2022



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# Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## 1. Continual Learning

- Learning throughout Life because success is never static
- Must stay relevant and competitive, to anticipate and be adaptable to future challenges

## 2. Connections and Collaboration for Value Creation

- Broaden personal perspectives through network and internships/ work attachments
- Gain exposure to life skills beyond academia

## 3. Confidence Building

- Understanding our strengths, weaknesses and interests as individuals
- Appreciate talents and diversities



Minister Chan Chun Sing at the Straits Times Education Forum @ Singapore Management University

Source: Straits Times  
10 Feb 2022



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# Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

 Building the 3Cs in NBSS

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><u>Secondary 1</u><br/>Ready for School</p> <p><b>I am</b></p>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know myself</li> </ul>   | <p><u>Secondary 2</u><br/>Ready for the Community</p> <p><b>I can</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know myself</li> <li>• I can make informed decisions</li> <li>• I know my community</li> </ul>  |
| <p><u>Secondary 3</u><br/>Ready for the Society</p> <p><b>I will</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know myself</li> <li>• I can make informed decisions</li> <li>• I know my role in society</li> </ul> | <p><u>Secondary 4</u><br/>Ready for the Future</p> <p><b>I will be</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know myself</li> <li>• I can make informed decisions</li> <li>• I know my role in society</li> <li>• I can make a difference</li> </ul> |



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# Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Building the 3Cs in NBSS**

- **Curriculum**
  - Cohort wide Coding Program for all Sec 2s
  - Sec 2 Leadership Modules
  - IPW- Environment
  - ALP & LLP
  - Cultivate Learning Dispositions – reading habits

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# Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

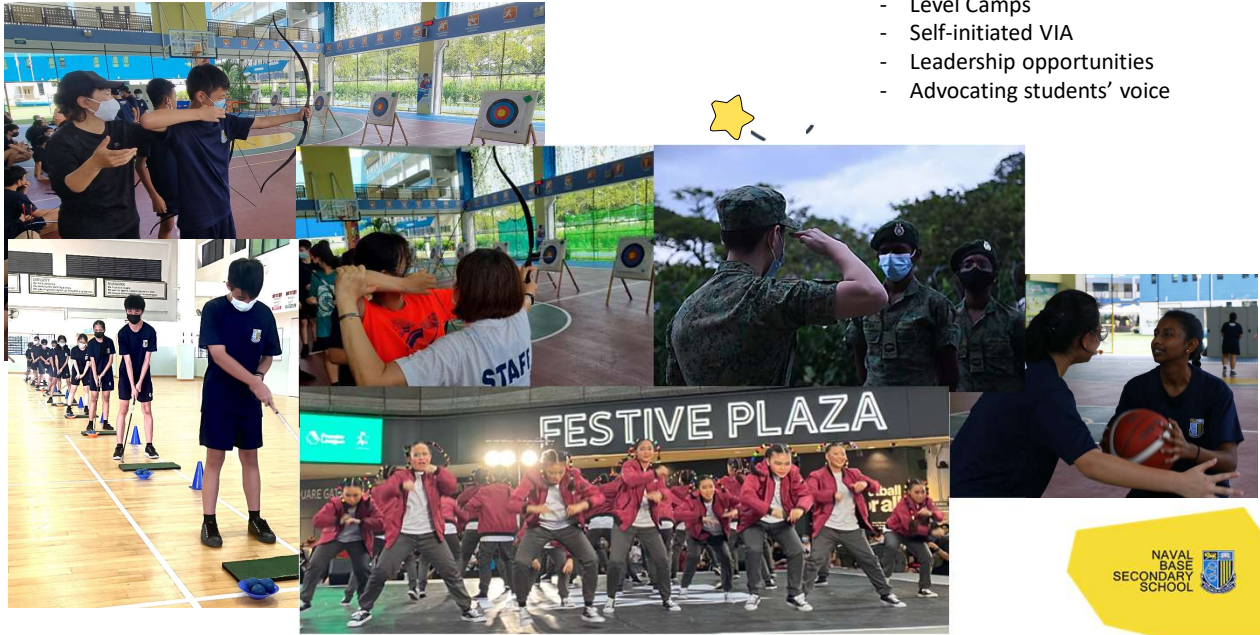
**Building the 3Cs in NBSS**

- **Opportunities & Exposure**
  - Learning Journeys
  - Work attachment/ Internship in Sec 3
  - AEM & EM
  - Assembly talks
- **Internationalization**
  - Every Navalite will have an opportunity for an overseas learning experience

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# Emerging Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- CCAs
- Level Camps
- Self-initiated VIA
- Leadership opportunities
- Advocating students' voice



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# Know Your Child

Empower them to take ownership of their goals

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## Know Your Child



### 1. Strengths

Your child's **strengths** in the subjects - realistic expectations of your child's ability to cope with the demands of various subjects.



### 2. Interests

Your child's **interests** and hence the intended course of study beyond secondary school.



### 3. Aspirations

Engage your child in conversations and activities to explore their career **aspirations**.

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## Know Your Child



What are their ...

- ✓ **Favourite subjects**  
e.g. Humanities, Sciences, Mathematics, Language
- ✓ **CCAs**  
e.g. growth areas, leadership opportunities
- ✓ **Interest areas**  
e.g. IT, reading, arts, sports
- ✓ **Strengths**  
e.g. Proactive in problem solving, reading in area of interests
- ✓ **Career interest**  
e.g. Computing, Engineering, Science, Public Service, Health Care, Finance, Tourism

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# Know Your Child: Explore *MySKILLSfuture* Portal With Your Child

Google

<https://www.myskillsfuture.gov.sg/content/student/en/secondar>

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# Know Your Child: Explore *MySKILLSfuture* Portal With Your Child

Google

<https://www.myskillsfuture.gov.sg/content/student/en/secondary.html>

## Self Profiling

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# 3<sup>+</sup> Know the Post Secondary Course Requirements

Matching strengths, interests, aspirations and requirements

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## Know the Post-Secondary Course Requirements

- 1. Strengths**  
Your child's **strengths** in the subjects - realistic expectations of your child's ability to cope with the demands of various subjects.
- 2. Interests**  
Your child's **interests** and hence the intended course of study beyond secondary school.
- 3. Aspirations**  
Engage your child in conversations and activities to explore their career **aspirations**.
- 4. Requirements**  
The **requirements** for the course your child intends to pursue after secondary school.

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**4** **Making the Choice**

Which subject combination should your child choose?


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## Know Your Child: A Recap



**1. Strengths**

Your child's **strengths** in the subjects - realistic expectations of your child's ability to cope with the demands of various subjects.




**2. Interests**

Your child's **interests** and hence the intended course of study beyond secondary school.



**3. Aspirations**


Engage your child in conversations and activities to explore their career **aspirations**.



**4. Requirements**

The **requirements** for the course your child intend to pursue after secondary school.

**Seek professional advice from our teachers!**



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# Parents & Schools: Partners in Education

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## Attendance and Conduct

1. Leave from school
  - Concerns about part-time jobs
2. Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)
3. Discipline and Guidance
  - Place emphasis on care and understanding
  - A culture of care, zero tolerance for bullying

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## Importance of Communication

- We are good role models to your child.
- We want the best for your child.
- We look into the well-being of our teachers so that they can give the best to your child.

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## Communication Channels

1. Student-Teacher-Parent Conferencing (SPTC)
2. Termly Letters to Parents
3. Parent Gateway
4. Facebook & Instagram
5. School website: [www.navalbasesec.moe.edu.sg](http://www.navalbasesec.moe.edu.sg)
6. Email: [nbss@moe.edu.sg](mailto:nbss@moe.edu.sg)
7. Admin Centre Tel no : 62571996
8. Student Handbook

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Home > [Raising a teenager is like flying a kite: Learn when to pull in or let go](#)

## Raising a teenager is like flying a kite: Learn when to pull in or let go

03 JAN 2019



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Home > [When family problems affect children in school](#)

## When family problems affect children in school

24 JUN 2015


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HOME EDUCATION FEATURES TEACHERS' DIGEST MULTIMEDIA

Home > [Getting through tough times with our teens](#)

## Getting through tough times with our teens

21 OCT 2021






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# Home Environment

- Ensure that there is a conducive environment for his/her revision, for e.g. a study table
- Set some house rules (e.g. no hp during mealtimes)
- Build rapport with your child



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**A**ffirm effort  
**C**elebrate success  
**E**mpathise with challenges



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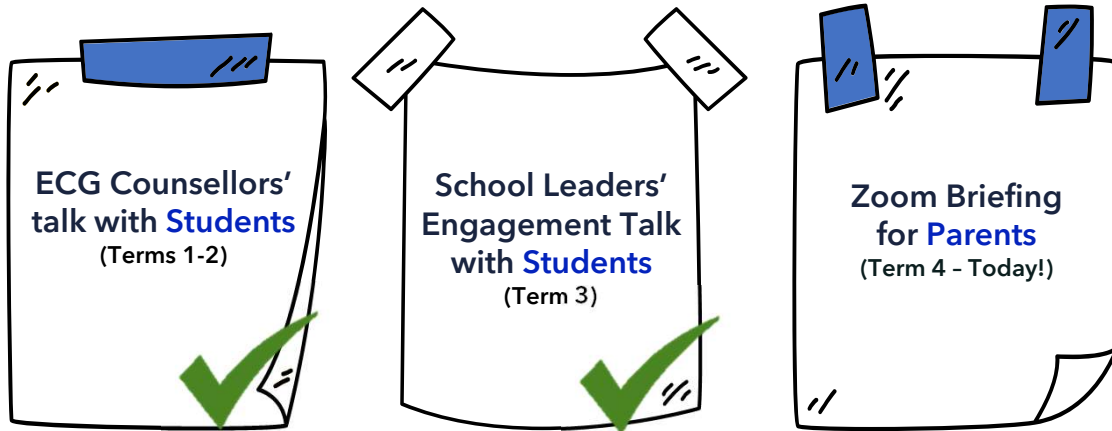


**Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.**

**Helen Keller**

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## Secondary 3 Subject Combination Talks




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## Purpose of Subject Combination Exercise

- **All** courses offered allow students to progress to post-secondary education (e.g. JC/CI, Polytechnic or ITE)
- Every student should get the most appropriate subject combination to develop to the best of his/her ability, interests and potential
- Choosing different subjects impacts the choice of courses in post-secondary institutions


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## Guiding Principles




**Holistic Development**

Balance studies, CCA, friends, family and external activities




**Interests & Aspirations**

Post-secondary



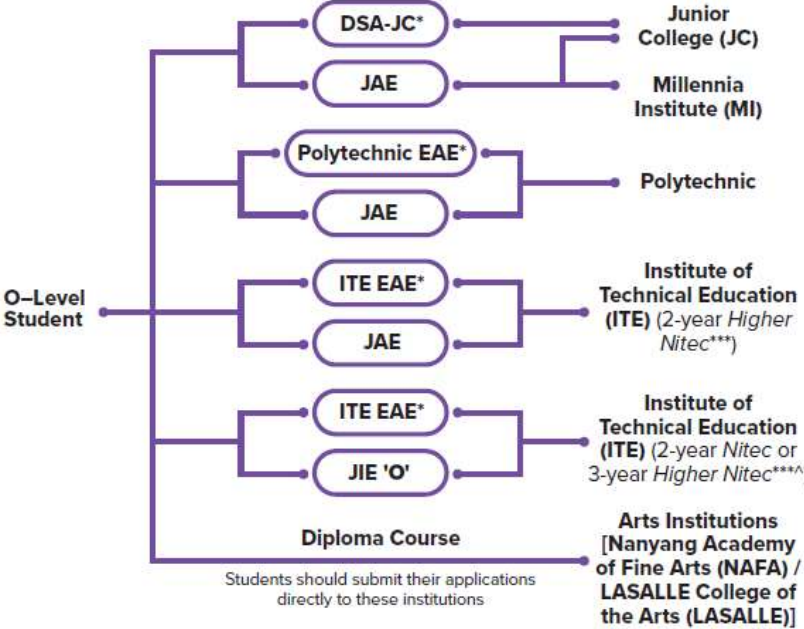
**School Resources**

Availability and capacity



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## Post-Sec Pathways



```

    graph LR
      OS[O-Level Student] --> DSA[DSA-JC*]
      OS --> JAE1[JAE]
      OS --> PE[Polytechnic EAE*]
      OS --> JAE2[JAE]
      OS --> ITE1[ITE EAE*]
      OS --> JAE3[JAE]
      OS --> ITE2[ITE EAE*]
      OS --> JIE[JIE 'O']
      OS --> DC[Diploma Course]
      
      DSA --> JC[Junior College (JC)]
      JAE1 --> MI[Millennia Institute (MI)]
      
      PE --> P[Polytechnic]
      
      ITE1 --> ITE["Institute of Technical Education (ITE) (2-year Higher Nitec***)"]
      JAE3 --> ITE
      
      ITE2 --> ITE2["Institute of Technical Education (ITE) (2-year Nitec or 3-year Higher Nitec*****)"]
      JIE --> ITE2
      
      DC --> AI["Arts Institutions [Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) / LASALLE College of the Arts (LASALLE)]"]
      
      subgraph Note
        Note[Students should submit their applications directly to these institutions]
      end
  
```

Source: A Guide to Post-Secondary Admissions (MOE)



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## When Choosing a Subject Combination (1)

- ✓ What subjects does my child enjoy doing?
- ✓ What are my child's strengths? What have people/myself praised him/her for?
- ✓ What are my child's aspirations? How will the subjects chosen be useful for jobs that he/she likes?
- ✓ Is this ability / skill in line with my child's interests and learning style?



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## When Choosing a Subject Combination (2)

- ✓ Different entry requirements to the different post-sec institutions
- ✓ Positive learning experience for your child, learning what they are good at and what they enjoy
- ✓ Encouraging them to take up different activities and help them to reflect on their strengths and interests



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## Entry Requirements for Junior College

### Admission Criteria

- L1R5 of 20 points and below
- A1 - C6 for English Language
- A1 to D7 for MTL and E Math or A Math

| <b>Aggregate Computation: L1R5 : For Junior College Course</b> |   |
|--|---|
| First Language   | English Language / Higher Mother Tongue                 |
| Relevant Subject 1   | Humanities  |
| Relevant Subject 2   | Mathematics / Science                                   |
| Relevant Subject 3   | Humanities / Mathematics / Science                      |
| Relevant Subject 4   | Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge) |
| Relevant Subject 5   | Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge) |

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## Entry Requirements for Millennia Institute

### Admission Criteria

- L1R4 of 20 points and below
- A1 - C6 for English Language
- A1 to D7 for MTL and E Math or A Math

| <b>Aggregate Computation: L1R4 : For Millennia Institute Course</b> |   |
|---|---|
| First Language  | English Language / Higher Mother Tongue                 |
| Relevant Subject 1  | Humanities (H) / Mathematics (M) or Science (S)         |
| Relevant Subject 2  | Humanities (H) / Mathematics (M) or Science (S)         |
| Relevant Subject 3  | Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge) |
| Relevant Subject 4  | Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge) |

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## Polytechnic Diploma Route

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## Entry Requirements for Polytechnics (1)

### Admission Criteria

**1** English Language (EL) +

**2** Relevant Subjects (R2) +

**2** Other Best Subjects (B2)

Excluding co-curricular activities (CCA)

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## Entry Requirements for Polytechnics (2)

| R2   | Humanities, Media                     | Business   | Engineering, Science, IT | Architecture, Design |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Group of Relevant Subject</b>  | Art<br>Comb Hum<br>Geography<br>Music | Elementary Mathematics<br>Additional Mathematics |                          |                      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Group of Relevant Subjects</b> | A Math                                | Art  | Biology                  | Art                  |
|  | Art                                   | Comb Hum   | Chemistry                | Biology              |
|  | Comb Hum                              | POA  | D&T                      | Chemistry            |
|  | E Maths                               | Geography  | NFS                      | D&T                  |
|  | NFS                                   | Music  | Physics                  | NFS                  |
|  | Higher MTL                            |  | Sc(Phy/Chem)             | Physics              |
|  | POA                                   |  | Sc(Chem/Bio)             | Sc(Phy/Chem)         |
|  | Geography                             |  |                          | Sc(Chem/Bio)         |
| MTL  |                                       |  |                          |                      |

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# Allocation of Subject Combination

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## Subject Allocation Process

Students would be allocated based on:

- **Merit** (overall performance across subjects)
- **Vacancy** (for a subject combination)
- **Choice**

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## Subject Allocation Process

- In the event there is a high demand for a certain course, vacancies will be filled **according to the order of merit**.
- Being eligible for a particular course **does not guarantee** that you will be offered the course of your choice.
- Allocation will be based on the **Overall Results** and not just on the End-of-Year Examination results.

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## Weighting of Assessments

| Subject    | Term 1<br>WA1 | Term 2<br>WA2 | Term 3<br>WA3 | Term 4<br>EYE |
|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| D&T, FCE   | 30%*          | 70%*          | -             | -             |
| All others | 15%           | 15%           | 15%           | 55%           |

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## Subject Combination

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## Number of Subjects

Students will take:

- Total number of subjects: **6 to 8**
- Compulsory subjects + Elective(s)

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## Key Considerations in Choosing Subjects

- Impact on curriculum **time & joy of learning**
  - ✓ Fewer subjects may increase curriculum time for EL, Math and Science
  - ✓ Helps students gain confidence and build stronger foundation in core subjects
- Impact on student **performance & well-being**
  - ✓ Allows for more enjoyment in the learning process
  - ✓ Improves their L1R5/L1R4 and increases their chances of getting desired courses



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## Key Considerations in choosing subjects

- Impact on **sustainability**
  - ✓ All courses are for 2 years
  - ✓ Once subjects are allocated and finalised, changing mid-way is not possible.
  - ✓ Help your child select a combination they would be able to cope with and have the potential to do well in



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## A. Compulsory Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Combined Humanities
- Mother Tongue Language (unless exempted)



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## B. Science Options

### Pure Science

- Chemistry and Biology
- Chemistry and Physics

### Combined Science

- Science (Chemistry/Physics)
- Science (Chemistry/Biology)



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## C. Combined Humanities Options

Social Studies with

- Geography Elective
- History Elective
- English Literature Elective

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## D. Electives

- Additional Mathematics
- Art
- Design and Technology
- Nutrition and Food Science
- Principles of Accounts
- Pure Geography

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## Subject-Specific Performance Criteria

1. **Additional Mathematics:** Should obtain at least B4 in Mathematics
2. **Pure Sciences:** Should obtain at least B4 in Science **and** Mathematics
3. **Pure Geography:** Should obtain at least B3 in Geography
4. **Social Studies with Literature:** Should obtain at least B3 in English Language



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## Subject Combinations (Express)

|          | Subject 1        | Subject 2              | Subject 3   | Subject 4   | Subject 5                    | Subject 6  | Subject 7   | Subject 8 |
|----------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|---|------------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| <b>A</b> | English Language | Mother Tongue Language | Mathematics | Social Studies with Geography <i>or</i> History <i>or</i> Literature Elective | Chemistry                    | Biology <i>or</i> Physics  | Additional Mathematics                                    | #Art      |
| <b>B</b> |                  |                        |             |   | Science (Chemistry, Biology) | Pure Geography   | Additional Mathematics                                    |           |
| <b>C</b> |                  |                        |             |   | <i>or</i>                    | Principles of Accounts   | *Additional Mathematics                                   |           |
| <b>D</b> |                  |                        |             |   | Science (Chemistry, Physics) | Art <i>or</i> Design & Technology <i>or</i> Nutrition & Food Science | * Additional Mathematics <i>or</i> Principles of Accounts |           |



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## Combination A (7 Subjects)

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Subject 1 | English Language  |
| Subject 2 | Mother Tongue Language  |
| Subject 3 | Mathematics   |
| Subject 4 | Social Studies with<br>Geography or History or English Literature |
| Subject 5 | Pure Chemistry  |
| Subject 6 | Pure Physics or Pure Biology                                      |
| Subject 7 | Additional Mathematics  |

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## Combination B (7 Subjects)

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Subject 1 | English Language  |
| Subject 2 | Mother Tongue Language  |
| Subject 3 | Mathematics   |
| Subject 4 | Social Studies with<br>Geography or History or English Literature |
| Subject 5 | Combined Science (Chemistry with Biology or Physics)              |
| Subject 6 | Pure Geography  |
| Subject 7 | Additional Mathematics  |

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## Combination C (6 or 7 Subjects)

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Subject 1        | English Language  |
| Subject 2        | Mother Tongue Language  |
| Subject 3        | Mathematics   |
| Subject 4        | Social Studies with<br>Geography or History or English Literature |
| Subject 5        | Combined Science (Chemistry with Biology or Physics)              |
| <b>Subject 6</b> | <b>Principles of Accounts</b>                                     |
| Subject 7        | Additional Mathematics  |

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## Combination D (6 or 7 Subjects)

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Subject 1        | English Language  |
| Subject 2        | Mother Tongue Language  |
| Subject 3        | Mathematics   |
| Subject 4        | Social Studies with<br>Geography or History or English Literature   |
| Subject 5        | Combined Science (Chemistry with Biology or Physics)                |
| <b>Subject 6</b> | <b>Art or Design &amp; Technology or Nutrition and Food Science</b> |
| <b>Subject 7</b> | <b>Additional Mathematics or Principles of Accounts</b>             |

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Q: Is Additional Mathematics a compulsory subject for admission into JC or polytechnic?**

**JC:** AMath is **not** compulsory. Students without AMath but wants to take H2 Math can be offered at certain JCs. They would have to take the JC's internal proficiency test before being offered.

**Poly:** Admission requires **EL R2 B2**. For engineering courses, the relevant subjects include **Math** or Science depending on the course. For Math, this could be EMath or AMath **whichever** is better.

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## Q: My child wants to study Medicine. Do I need Triple Science or Biology?

To study Medicine in NUS (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine) or NTU (Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine), a student only requires:

- a good H2 pass in **Chemistry and**
- a good H2 pass in either Biology **or** Physics at A levels.
- This means students only need to study Chemistry **and** either Biology or Physics at O level.



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## Q: Where can I find details of the assessment demands for each subject?

The specific demands can be found on the exam board website (<http://www.seab.gov.sg>).

For the subject combination exercise, the school has prepared a **booklet for the electives** which is available on the school website and will also be sent via Parents Gateway.



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## **Q: Can my child drop a subject if he or she is unable to cope?**

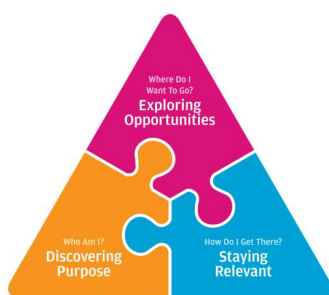
- The school does not encourage students to drop subjects.
- Changing subject mid-way is not possible as the O-level syllabus is spread over Sec 3 and 4.
- Compulsory subjects cannot be dropped and students must take minimally 6 subjects.

## **Q: If my child cannot cope with MTL, when can he/she take MTL 'B' Syllabus?**

- MTL 'B' syllabus **cannot** be counted for both JC/Poly admission.
- If your child wants to go JC, your child must have 6 other subjects.
- NBSS only offers MTL 'B' in **Secondary 4**.

# Education and Career Counselling

***Need someone to talk to about your Education and Career journey?***



Education & Career Guidance

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and odd Fridays  
8.30am to 5.30pm  
ECG Room or via Zoom

[Jerlyn\\_poh\\_yoke\\_hui@schools.gov.sg](mailto:Jerlyn_poh_yoke_hui@schools.gov.sg)  
Appt Link - <https://go.gov.sg/nbssmsjerlyn>



<https://go.gov.sg/nbssmsjerlyn>

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## Schedule for 2023 Secondary 2 Students

| When?                   | What?  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Term 2                  | Subject Combination Talk by ECG Counsellor       |
| Term 3 W5 to W9         | School Leaders Talk                              |
| Term 3 (3 Aug)          | HOD Briefing to students on electives            |
| T3 W7                   | SLS Resources for Subject Combination Selection  |
| 15 Sep                  | Briefing for Parents (Issue of Digital Booklets) |
| <b>25 Oct to 30 Oct</b> | <b>Subject Combination Exercise</b>              |
| 8 Nov (Wed)             | Release of Sub Choice Results + Start of Appeal  |
| 12 Nov (Sun)            | End of Appeal                                    |
| 20 Nov (Mon)            | Release of Sub Choice Appeal Results             |

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