

Subject-Based Banding

for students in the Normal course



WHY SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB)?

- Every student is unique and possesses different strengths.
- Subject-Based Banding can:
 - Nurture students' strengths**
 - Provide more educational opportunities**
 - Encourage students to be more engaged in learning**
 - Allow students to build a stronger foundation in subjects that they are good at**

SCHOOLBAG
THE EDUCATION NEWS SITE

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Providing Greater Flexibility with Subject-Based Banding

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Miss Donna Koh of CHIJ St Theresa's Convent shares about the importance of working in partnership with parents to provide opportunities for students to cope academically and emotionally.



EXAMPLE: ANGELA FROM 2 Angela

Sec 1 End of Year

- Offered Exp English at PSLE
- Offered Exp Science at Sec 1 mid-year juncture
- Offered Exp History at Sec 1 End-of-year juncture
- Moving into Sec 2, Angela has 3 SBB subjects



Subjects to be taken in Sec 2

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| N(A) Math | Express History |
| Express English | Express Science |



WILL MY DAUGHTER CONTINUE WITH SBB SUBJECTS ALL THE WAY TO SEC 4 OR 5?

- Entry into SBB at Lower Secondary **does not automatically guarantee transition** to subjects at the more demanding level at Secondary 3.
- Child's performance need to meet the **school's criteria** at the end of Secondary 2 (*subject combination criteria applies*), and offering of subjects at the more demanding level will depend on minimum class size and school resourcing.



JUNCTURES TO TAKE UP SUBJECTS AT THE MORE DEMANDING LEVEL

- via school-based assessment, after Sec 2 year-end examinations, based on:

- (a) Excellent and consistent performance in the subject;*
- (b) Positive learning attitude to cope with the higher academic demand; and*
- (c) Teachers' recommendations*



2023 Sec 2 EOY SBB Criteria: EL, MT

| Subject | For current SBB students | For non-SBB students (for N(A) students only) |
|------------------------|--|--|
| English Language | At least 50% for EOY results (written paper) ¹ and overall results in the subject | At least 75% for EOY results (written paper) ¹ and overall results in the subject |
| Mother Tongue Language | ¹ written paper in languages includes oral and listening components | |



2023 Sec 2 EOY SBB Criteria: Science

| Subject | For current SBB students | For non-SBB students (for N(A) students only) |
|--|---|---|
| Science <i>*Students would be offered Combined Science only</i> | At least 50% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject | At least 75% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject |



2023 Sec 2 EOY SBB Criteria: Math

| Subject | For current SBB students | For non-SBB students (for N(A) students only) |
|---------|---|--|
| Math | At least 50% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject | At least 75% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject |



2023 Sec 2 EOY SBB Criteria: Humanities

| Subject | For current SBB students | For non-SBB students (for N(A) students only) |
|--|--|--|
| History Geography Literature (for 2NA students offered 3E combined Hum/SS only) | a) At least 50% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject <i>Note: Current SBB students will only be offered the corresponding elective of the humanities SBB subject that they did in Sec 2</i> | a) At least 75% for EL EOY results (written paper) ¹ and overall results in EL (N(A) level) OR b) At least 65% or better in O-Level EL (for students taking SBB EL) AND c) At least 75% for two Humanities (Hist, Geog, or Lit) EOY results (written paper) and overall results <i>¹written paper in EL includes oral and listening components</i> |



EXAMPLE: ANGELA FROM 2 Angela

Sec 2 End of Year

- Did not meet criteria to continue with Exp History but met criteria for Exp English and Science
- Decided to take up Exp English
- Chose to take N(A) Science



Subjects to be taken in Upper Sec

N(A)
Math

N(A)
History/SS

Express
English

N(A)
Science

Taken at O levels!

Taken at N levels!



WHAT IF MY DAUGHTER STRUGGLES WITH THE SBB SUBJECT(S)?

- Constant monitoring of students' progress
- Monitoring of students' socio-emotional and academic needs
- Provision of necessary support to students to help them cope, e.g. bridging lessons will be conducted for all SBB inserts

TODAY MENU ▾ 🔍

A struggle at first, but taking higher-level subjects helped boost confidence

By FARIS MOKHTAR



Jurong Secondary student Ismahani Azmi, 15, struggled with taking higher-level subjects when she first entered secondary school, but has seen her confidence blossom from the experience, with some help from her teachers, including Mdm Siti Hawa Zaini, her Malay language teacher (seated). PHOTO: FARIS MOKHTAR

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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING UP SUBJECTS AT A MORE DEMANDING LEVEL?

- To help each student **find fulfilment** in learning and be motivated to excel in what she is good at
- Taking subjects at a more demanding level at Lower Secondary, where possible, **builds a stronger foundation** for Upper Secondary
- Eligible for **grade conversion** at the national examinations for desired courses (where applicable)



CONVERSION OF GRADES FOR PFP ADMISSION

- For N-Level students offering O-Level subjects, their grades will be converted to the N(A)-Level grades for admission to the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), as shown below.

| GCE O-Level Grade | GCE N(A)-Level Grade |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| A1-B3 | 1 |
| B4-C6 | 2 |
| D7 | 3 |

Subject to changes



CONVERSION OF GRADES FOR DPP ADMISSION

- Computation of ITE aggregate points for Normal (Academic) subject grades for merit-based ranking for admission to full-time 3-year *Higher Nitec* and 2-year *Nitec* courses, is tabulated below.

| GCE N(A)-Level Grade | ITE Aggregate Points |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1, 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 |
| U | 5 |

Subject to changes



FOR FURTHER QUERIES ON SBB

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