

Sec 3 Subject Offering 2023 Sharing Questions and Answers (Express Course)

This document responds to questions posed by participants during the session on 1 July 2022.

1. Why is coursework not offered in a 7-subject combination?

Coursework is a subject which requires considerable work outside of curriculum time, especially when students enter Secondary 4. Students are required to complete their coursework assessment within a fixed timeline stipulated by SEAB. In a 6-subject combination, students would have optimal bandwidth to manage their coursework requirement and strengthen their foundation and mastery in their subjects.

2. Are students allowed to change their subject combination mid-way of Secondary 3? Can students drop a subject at the end of Secondary 3 if they are not coping well with the 7 subjects?

Students are not allowed to change their subject combination once they commence lessons in Secondary 3. Students would need to invest a significant amount of time and effort to understand their subject content and its best they maintain their subject combination across upper secondary.

Hence, it is essential that parents and child make an informed decision when choosing the subject combinations and take ownership for the decision.

Dropping of an elective subject is subjected to approval from school management. Conversations with parents/child would be facilitated to inform the family on the implications on such a move on ECG options, so that the decision can be an informed one.

3. What are the chances of getting the subject combination they apply for?

It depends on the merit of the student's performance, take up rate and available resources to offer the subject combination. Each student will be allowed to indicate three subject combinations of their choice and the school will work towards providing them one of these options

4. What happens if a subject combination is oversubscribed?

Allocation will be based on merit and upon meeting the specific subject criteria (if any). In most cases, students will be given their 2nd or 3rd choice if they do not qualify for their 1st choice.

5. When will the students be choosing their subject combination?

Students are given from 28 Oct – 03 Nov to exercise their options after getting back their holistic report. A student briefing will be scheduled after their End-of-Year examination to inform on the details.

6. Why is Express (Option A) more suitable for JC route as some poly courses may need the student to take Pure Science?

Express (Option A) would provide a strong foundation for students who intend to pursue a JC education as the Pure Sciences and A. Math are closely aligned to the H2 science and mathematics curriculum in JCs. In general, polytechnic courses do not specific Pure Science and A. Math as prerequisites for admission. Nonetheless, admission to JC is by merit and all subject combinations would enable students to access JC education if they perform well at the national examinations.

7. So it looks like there are only 4 options of subject combinations and first 2 options are recommended for those going the JC route. So that leaves only 2 options for Poly education?

While it may appear that there are only 4 main options for Express Course, there are avenues for further customization such as the choice of Science, Humanities and Electives (for options C and D). There is a total of 60 unique combinations that students can choose from.

Rest assure that every combination will allow the child to progress to the next post-secondary journey, be it JC or Poly.

8. Your ECG brief shared that my child should select a combination which he is interested in. Why isn't triple science offered then if my child is strong in Science?

Our subject combinations are designed to provide students with the space to pursue a balanced education and explore their personal interests and strengths. Hence, it is important for a subject combination to right-sized. As shared, Pure Science operates at a more demanding level, where students are expected to devote more time and effort to attain subject mastery. Taking into consideration other essential school experiences and curriculum such as CCA involvement, a double Pure Science combination would allow students to further their interest in the subjects while allowing them to make the most of these school experiences.

9. Considering MTL (B) has an impact on students' post-secondary path, can you please tell us a bit more about that?

While MTL (B) it is an examinable subject, it does not contribute to aggregate calculation for post-secondary admission. Students taking 6-subject combination, with MTL(B) being one of the subject or are taking 6-subject combination but have been exempted from MTL will only

have 5 subjects that can be used for aggregate calculation. Such students will only be eligible for Polytechnic education and not JC.

For entry to Junior College (JC), a minimum MTL (B) pass grade is required.

10. What is Malay literature?

The syllabus aims to expose students to literary devices that will instill values pertaining to morality, culture and citizenship so as to develop them holistically. In addition, students will learn to appreciate the beauty of the language used in literary texts, thus cultivating a reading culture.

Students will be taught to analyse literary texts in terms of theme, plot, background, values, language used and the intent of the writer. Students will also learn how to interpret and respond appropriately to a given text in a clear and coherent manner.

For details, please refer to the subject information booklet.