

Sec 3 Subject Options & Combinations FAQs

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Number of Subjects & Exam Scoring



What is the maximum & minimum number of allowable subjects at N & O Levels?

- Most students in Express Course (mostly G3) take between 6 and 9 subjects.
- Most students in Normal (Academic) Course (mostly G2) take between 5 and 8 subjects.
- Most students in Normal (Technical) Course (mostly G1) take between 5 and 7 subjects.
- Please take note of the entry requirements to post secondary education institutions.

What is the maximum number of subjects a G3~Express student can take in a single exam sitting?

Max. of 9 subjects in a single exam sitting

- This means that a student can take

8th subject – Pure Subj (Phy/Geog/Hist/Lit)

9th subject – MEP/3rd Language

10th subject – HMT (Students will take MT exam in Sec 3 & HMT exam in Sec 4. Considered as 9 subjects in an exam sitting at Sec 4)

What is National Exam scoring system like?

- More information can be found on
- JAE Booklet: [2024-jae-courses.pdf \(moe.gov.sg\)](https://moe.gov.sg/2024-jae-courses.pdf)
- JIE Booklet: [gce-n-admission-booklet-2024.pdf \(ite.edu.sg\)](https://ite.edu.sg/gce-n-admission-booklet-2024.pdf)
- If your child intends to apply to a Junior College, their admission is based on their LIR5 scores.
- If your child intends to apply to Polytechnics, their admission is based on their ELR2B2 scores.
- If your child intends to apply to ITE, admissions is based on aggregate of best 4 GCE 'N' Level subjects, including pre-requisite subjects and bonus points (refer to JIE Booklet Page 15).

Criteria for Subject Combinations



Criteria for Subject Combinations

- Please refer to the Subject Combinations Information booklets for the available subject combinations and criteria.



2025 Sec 3 Subject Combinations - Exp

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	
Languages	English Language Mother Tongue/ Higher MT	English Language Mother Tongue/ Higher MT	English Language Mother Tongue/ Higher MT	
Mathematics	Mathematics Additional Mathematics	Mathematics Additional Mathematics	Mathematics	
Sciences	Pure Chemistry Pure Biology	Pure Chemistry Pure Physics	a. Combined Science (Physics, Chemistry) or b. Combined Science (Biology, Chemistry)	
Combined Humanities (select one)	a. Social Studies & Elective Geography or b. Social Studies & Elective Literature* or c. Social Studies & Elective History			
Total subjects	<u>7 subjects</u>	<u>7 subjects</u>	Choose one from Grp. A and/or Grp. B	
8 th subject^ – for those eligible (max 40 studs per subject except for Pure Literature cap extends to option 3)	a. Pure Physics		<u>Grp. A</u>	<u>Grp. B</u>
	b. Pure Geography	a. Pure Geography	a. Additional Mathematics or	c. Principles Of Accounts
	c. Pure History	b. Pure History	b. Nutrition & Food Science	d. Pure Geography
	d. Pure Literature*	c. Pure Literature*		e. Pure Literature*
Total subjects	<u>8 subjects</u>	<u>8 subjects</u>	<u>6 or 7 subjects</u>	

* Subjected to availability of staff resource. At maximum the school can offer 1 Pure Literature and 1 Elective Literature class. If additional teacher resource is available, we may extend to 2 Elective Literature classes across the Express combinations.

^ Art/Music will be offered as the 8th subject. They will be conducted at the same time with the 8th subject-offerings under Options 1 and 2. The 8th subject will be offered at the end of the schooling day.



Subject Criteria

Points to note:

1. To be eligible for **Option 1 (Physics - 3rd Pure Science subject)**,
 - students should obtain a **minimum average of 70%** for English Language, Science and Mathematics.
 - student should obtain an overall average of **70% and above**.
 - subject to **minimum** of **20** students and **maximum** of **40** students class size per subject.
2. To be eligible for **Option 1 or 2 (2nd Pure Humanities subject)**,
 - students should obtain a **minimum average of 65%** for English Language, Science and Mathematics.
 - student should obtain an overall average of **65% and above**.
 - subjected to **minimum** of **20** students and **maximum** of **40** students class size per subject.
 - offering of the **Pure Literature** subject is subjected to the availability of manpower resources for the year.



2025 Sec 3 Subject Combinations – N(A)

	Option 1	Option 2
Languages	English Language	English Language
	Mother Tongue	Mother Tongue
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Humanities	Social Studies & Literature	Social Studies & Geography
Combined Science	a. (Physics, Chemistry) or b. (Biology, Chemistry)	
Other Elective subjects (select one)	a. (O-Level) Nutrition & Food Science or b. Principles of Accounts or c. Additional Mathematics	
Total subjects	<u>6 subjects</u>	<u>6 subjects</u>
7 th subject^ – for those eligible (max 40 studs per subject)	a. Pure Geography	
Total subjects	<u>7 subjects</u>	

^ Students who are interested in Art/Music (as the 7th subject), please note that the 7th subject will be offered at the end of the schooling day.



Subject Criteria

Points to note:

1. Students are eligible to take the more demanding subjects (i.e. O-Level subjects),
 - subjected to a **minimum** of **20** students, manpower resources and timetable combination
 - more demanding subjects that are being offered at O-Level include English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Combined Science (Physics/Chemistry), Nutrition & Food Science, Art and Music. School has limited resources to offer Combined Humanities; MDL offering will depend on take-up and resource availability.
2. To be eligible for N(A)-Level Pure Geography subject,
 - students should obtain a minimum of **65%** for Sec 2 Geography.
 - subjected to **minimum** of **20** students and **maximum** of **40** students class size per subject.
 - offering of the Pure Geography subject is subjected to the availability of manpower resources for the year.
3. To be eligible for N(A)-Level Additional Mathematics,
 - students should either obtain **60%** in Sec 2 Express Mathematics or
 - obtain a minimum **70%** in Sec 2 Normal (Academic) Mathematics.



2025 Sec 3 Subject Combinations – N(T)

Do refer to the S3 Subject Combinations Information Booklet for the details on subject content and assessment.

Subjects
English
Mathematics
Basic Mother Tongue
Computer Applications
Science NT
Elements of Business Studies
<u>6 Subjects</u>
Social Studies (Non-examinable)
NFTE Programme (Non-examinable)

1. Students are eligible to take the subjects at more demanding level (MDL) (i.e. N(A)-Level subjects) if they meet the school-based criteria.
2. Students who are taking N(A) subject(s), to be eligible to continue taking the subject at MDL, they must obtain a pass Grade 5 (Overall) for their Sec 2 MDL subjects that they are taking.
3. Subjects offered at MDL are English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics and Science (Physics/Chemistry) subjects.



Is there flexibility to allow students to select subjects that are not within the school's combination?

- Unfortunately, you are not allowed to take subjects not within the school's available subject combinations.
- The available subject combinations is based on the school's resource availability. (Timetabling, Manpower)

Triple Sciences, Pure Sciences & Combined Sciences



What are the benefits of taking Triple Science?

- It depends on your child's preferred education & career pathway.
- Even if your child wishes to pursue a career in Medicine, your child need not pursue triple science. Medicine prerequisite - A good H2 pass in Chemistry and H2 pass in either Biology or Physics.
- Please note that Triple Pure Science is NOT an option in JC as students are required to take contrasting subjects.

What is the number of Pure Science classes in Sec 3?

- Offering of the subject is subjected to minimum of 20 students and maximum of 40 students class size per subject.

'Does it mean that physics-chemistry Subject combination opens the most doors?'

- It depends on your child's preferred education & career pathway.
- There are many post secondary education options which do not require pure sciences as a pre-requisite.

'Can my child still study pure science if her overall average score is 68?

- To qualify for Triple Science: Minimum average of 70% for English Language, Science and Mathematics. Student should also obtain an overall average of 70% and above.
- To qualify for Pure Science (2 Pure Sciences): student should obtain a minimum average of 65% for English Language, Science and Mathematics. Student should also obtain an overall average of 65% and above.

Are students taking MEP allowed to do triple science?

- Students who are taking MEP are allowed to take triple Science.
- This is because Upper sec MEP is held on Wednesday and does not interfere with the 8th pure subject lessons which are held at the end of the schooling day on Mon, Tue, Thur & Fri.
- However, students who are taking Music/Art are not allowed to do triple science as Music & Art lessons are conducted at the same time as Pure Physics.

Is it difficult to study/cope with Triple Science?

- You may refer to the G3 subject combination info booklet for more information on the syllabus of the different pure science subjects.

'Is Additional Math offered to G3 students who take Combined Sciences instead of Pure Sciences?

- Yes. Please see Option3 Grp A in the G3~Express Subject Combinations.

Humanities Subject Combinations



Is Combined humanities compulsory?

Is there a compulsory Humanities subject the child must take for o levels eg. Literature?

Is there flexibility to allow students to select subjects that are not within the school's combination?

- Yes, Combined Humanities is compulsory (Humanities) subject.
- However, a child may take either Elective Literature, Geography or History with Social studies.
- Unfortunately, you are not allowed to take subjects not within the school's available subject combinations.

Is English Literature compulsory?

- Pure Literature is not compulsory.
- For Combined Humanities, students may choose to take either Elective Geography, Elective History or Elective Literature.

**Does the school have the following combination:
Pure Physics, Pure Chemistry, Pure Geography and
Elective History and Social Studies?**

- Yes. Please see Option 2 in the G3~Express Subject Combinations.

Can the school offer Pure History Elective instead of combining with social studies?

- Electives are always paired with Social studies – to form the Combined Humanities subject.
- Alternatively, a student may take Elective Geography or Literature with Social studies and take Pure History as a subject.

Are there wider choices for NT students? Can they be considered for Combined Humanities in secondary 3

- Combined Humanities is not offered to students from the NT(course).

Choice of Subjects for G1~NT Course



What subjects can a NT student choose?

- Please see details of the subjects offered in the G1~NT Subject Combinations Information booklet.

Subjects
English
Mathematics
Basic Mother Tongue
Computer Applications
Science NT
Elements of Business Studies
<u>6 Subjects</u>
Social Studies (Non-examinable)
NFTE Programme (Non-examinable)

CCA & Education Pathways



How does CCA contribute to a student's education pathway?

- Refer to <https://www.moe.gov.sg/education-in-sg/our-programmes/cca/leaps2-0> for information on LEAPS.

At the end of the graduating year, students' co-curricular attainment will be recognised according to Excellent/Good/Fair. The level of attainment will be converted to a bonus point(s) which can be used for admission to Junior Colleges/ Polytechnics/ Institutes of Technical Education (JC/Poly/ITE).

Co-Curricular Attainment	Details
Excellent (2 bonus points)	Student who attains a minimum Level 3 in all four domains with at least a Level 4 in one domain.
Good (1 bonus point)	Student who attains a minimum Level 1 in all four domains with any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. At least Level 2 in three domains;ii. At least Level 2 in one domain and at least Level 3 in another domain; oriii. At least Level 4 in one domain.
Fair	Student's attainment in co-curricular will not translate into any bonus points.

Subject Combinations & Education Pathways



How does choice of subject combinations affect post-secondary education options? How do we know which subjects play to our daughter's strengths and interests.

- It depends on your child's preferred career & education pathway.
- You may refer to the following websites for more information:
- <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/programmes/ecg/ecg-tips-for-parents>
- <https://www.moe.gov.sg/coursefinder>

What is PFP and DPP?

- You may refer to the following websites for more information:
- PFP: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/pfp>
- DPP: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dpp>


Subject Combinations Selection & Appeal Process



'What are the chances of getting into the combination of subjects of your choice and what happen if not able to get into the selected choice?'

- Allocation is based on these 3 Principles – Merit (Overall Percentage and Subject Eligibility Criteria), Choice, Vacancy of places (for the subject).
- If there is an oversubscription of the subject selection, merit and choice order will be used for allocation.
- Results of allocation will be released by end-Oct/early-Nov. If none of student's choice is available, she will be assigned to the subject option with remaining space.

Are there any trial lesson for student to have a feel on each of the different subjects before making their selections?

- We do not have any trial lessons for students.
 - Most of the subject content (EL/Math/Humanities/Science/Mother Tongue) will be a continuation from the lower secondary course.
 - For new subjects like Additional Maths/POA, you may refer to the subject combination booklet on the upper secondary subject content for the different subjects.
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Can I appeal to the school if my child did not get the subject combinations that she wanted?

- Appeal is available, however it is subjected to the available spaces in the subject option after all the allocation is assigned.

Will changes be allowed after my child has chosen a subject but does not enjoy it?

- Students will not be able to switch their subjects once they have been assigned for their Upper Secondary learning.
- If they are not able to cope with the demands of the subject, students with their parent consent can choose to drop the subject after completion of Sec 3 curriculum.

**Students taking subjects at a
More Demanding Level**



What are the processes involved in choosing my child's subject combination if she is taking both NA and NT subjects?

- Students will progress in their NT course for their subject option.
- Based on her NA subject performances, she will be able to opt in to read the subject at NA level for her upper secondary subject learning.

If my daughter promotes to NA this year, will she be able to go to Sec 3 NA or she will have to repeat Sec 2?

- For NT course students who are offered NA course after Sec 2 results attainment, she will proceed to Sec 2NA in the following year if she accepts the offer.

What happens if we have selected the subjects based on NA in Sec 2 but my child is promoted to Express in Sec 3?

- Student will be given the hardcopy subject option form to select Sec 3 Express subject combination and also to complete the subject option for NA course in the subject option portal.
- Once the decision for progression is confirmed, the subject combination will be offered accordingly.

My daughter has both Express and NA subjects. How does that work when it comes to N levels and O levels exams? Will she be taking O levels at Sec 4 for the Express subjects and will that mean she has fewer subjects at Sec 5? What are the options?

- Student will attempt her allocated subjects in O and N levels accordingly in the same year. (Sec 4)
- Once the N and O level results are released, students can progress to PFP/DPP/Sec 5 based on her results attainment. PFP/DPP – students will be assigned with an aggregate conversion for her O level results.
- Sec 5 progression – students can re-sit for the subject or if she has done well, she need not register for the subject for O levels again.

My daughter has both Express and NA subjects. How does that work when it comes to N levels and O levels exams? Will she be taking O levels at Sec 4 for the Express subjects and will that mean she has fewer subjects at Sec 5? What are the options?

The following GCE 'O'-Level Grade conversion matrix will be adopted during the computation of aggregates.

O-Level Grade	N(A)-Level Grade
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7	3
E8	4

What is the criteria to continue taking a subject at a more demanding level?

- Students' subject combination selection is based on the course that a student is in.
 - Students doing majority G2 subjects are eligible to take the more demanding subjects (i.e. O-Level subjects/G3).
 - Students doing majority G1 subjects are eligible to take the more demanding subjects (i.e. N- Level subjects/G2).
- However, it is subjected to a minimum of 20 students, manpower resources and timetable combination.

COURSE	Available MDL Subjects
O-Level/G3	English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics, Combined Science (Physics/Chemistry), Nutrition & Food Science, Art and Music
N-Level/G2	English Language, Mother Tongue Language, Mathematics and Science (Physics/Chemistry) subjects

Miscellaneous



Please advise on the O Level exam schedule for students taking Higher Mother Tongue.

- Higher Mother Tongue students (O Level Programme) typically sit for the GCE O Level Mother Tongue Examination at Secondary 3 level and the GCE O Level Higher Mother Tongue Examination at Secondary 4 level.
- Refer to Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board website <https://www.seab.gov.sg/> for the N & O level exam schedules.