

# **Subject-Based Banding (SBB)**

*Briefing for Parents @ Secondary 1 Registration*

*20 December 2018, Thursday*

# *What is Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?*

- As part of MOE's efforts to nurture aptitudes and enhance access to opportunities, all secondary schools offering the Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical) course will offer Subject-Based Banding from 2018 onwards.
- This is to provide greater flexibility in subject offering from lower secondary levels, to better cater to the academic strengths of students in different subjects.
- Sec 1NA and Sec 1NT students can take English, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue at a higher academic level (capped at 3 subjects) if they had performed well in these subjects at the PSLE, or if they performed well in school-based assessments.

# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (SBB)

## MOE's Implementation Journey

2014:

- 12 schools selected as SBB Prototype schools
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2017:

- Phase 1 rolled out to 46 more secondary schools
  - 1<sup>st</sup> batch of SBB students (12 prototype) schools sat for national exams
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2018:

- Phase 2 rolled out to ALL remaining Sec schools offering NA/NT courses
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## Rationale & Intents

- SBB implementation is in line with MOE's continuous efforts to support an inclusive education ecosystem with opportunities for all, so as to nurture a nation of well-rounded lifelong learners, where every individual matters.
  - Every child is unique, and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents.
  - MOE believes in providing a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.
  - SBB allows students to stretch themselves and acquire greater depth in subjects they are strong in, while finding motivation and fulfilment in learning.
  - Starting SBB from the lower secondary levels will better cater to the academic strengths of each student, helping them lay a stronger foundation in the subject(s) they are good at.
- SBB implementation is to create a more diverse and flexible education system with opportunities for all, through a broad and inclusive approach.

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## Eligibility Criteria (Based on PSLE Results)

Course	PSLE Standard Grade	PSLE Foundation Grade	Option to offer subject at
N(A)	A*, A	-	Express
N(T)	A*, A	-	Express / N(A)
	B, C	1	N(A)

- Each student should take no more than 3 subjects at higher level so as to ensure that students can cope with the overall academic demands.
- Students can choose to not accept the offer.

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## Eligibility Criteria (Based on School-Based Assessments)

- At any point after the start of Secondary 1, students posted to the N(A) and N(T) courses may also be offered the opportunity to take subjects at a higher-level if found suitable to do so.
  - Sec 1 students who perform well in school-based assessments consistently may be offered EL/Math/Sc/MTL at a higher level.
  - Their end-of-year overall results for the subjects would be based on students' overall academic performance in both semesters (e.g., NA results in Sem 1 + EX results in Sem 2).

Course	School-Based Assessments Results	Option to offer subject at
N(A)	75% or higher in specific subject & 60% or higher in the overall average	Express level starting from next semester
N(T)	75% or higher in specific subject & 60% or higher in the overall average	N(A) level starting from next semester

**Note: There should be no “double jump” in the course of a year, that is, from N(T) to N(A) after MYE, then to EXP after EOY, as we need to take into consideration the student’s overall academic workload.**

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## Positive Outcomes & Benefits

*“It was overwhelming initially due to the intensity of the lessons, it was much faster than what I expected. However, taking the subject at an advanced level motivated me to challenge myself and improved my attitude towards learning.”*

- Mohamad Rifa'i B Mohamed, Sec 3 student from Queenstown Sec Sch

*“We see renewed passion in our students and it does not just apply to the subject itself, but also in the development in the students' confidence level, self-esteem and attitude towards learning. More importantly, they worked towards being a role model to their friends.”*

- Mdm Vijayarani Govindasamy, SBB Tamil Language teacher, Queenstown Sec Sch

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## Benefits for Admission to ITE (NITEC Programme) for Students in NT Stream Offered NA Subjects

- Admission criteria based on best 4 GCE 'N' subjects (includes pre-requisites & bonus points)
- 2 bonus points awarded for a pass in each pre-requisite subject (capped at 4 bonus points)

N(A) Grade	N(T) Grade	ITE Aggregate Point
1	A	1
2	B	2
3	C	3
4	D	4
5	U	5

Type	Bonus Points
CCA (A1 - A2)	2
CCA (B3 – C6)	1
Grades 1-5 for Pre-requisite NA Level Subjects	2 for each Pre-requisite Subject, (Capped at 4)



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## Benefits for DPP and PFP for Students in NA Stream offered Exp. Subjects

- GCE 'O' Level subjects may be used in the computation of aggregate to be considered for DPP and PFP eligibility.
- 'O' Level Prelims Results can be used for application to DPP prior to the release of the actual GCE 'O' level results.
- The same subject grades cannot be used twice (e.g., 'N' and 'O' Level grades) i.e., only the better grade will be considered

GCE 'O' Level Grade	GCE 'N' Level Grade
A1 – B3	1
B4 – C6	2
D7 – E8 (E8 is not considered for PFP)	3

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## MOE Lateral Transfer Policy

- **Min 70%** for 'Overall' Percentage at end of lower secondary years
- This policy will apply to **ALL** students, including students offered SBB subjects.
- Sec 4NT students taking SBB subjects may use their NA results for lateral transfer consideration to 4NA.

Subject	NT level	NA level
EL	A	Pass
Math	A	Pass
1 Best Other Subject	B	Pass

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## Progression to Secondary 4

	<b>Sec 1 to Sec 2</b>	<b>Sec 2 to Sec 3</b>	<b>Sec 3 to Sec 4</b>
<b>Criteria for students to continue be offered SBB subjects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pass in SBB subjects</li><li>• Students are encouraged to continue taking their SBB subjects until end of Sec 2 as they need time to adjust to new academic demands</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achieve good overall grades at the EOY examinations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pass in SBB subjects</li><li>• Students are encouraged to continue with the SBB subjects and sit for the national exams</li></ul>
<b>Promotion Criteria to next level</b>	MOE guidelines for promotion applies.		

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## Mark Conversion

- MOE provides guidelines for conversion of marks to derive an equivalent score for a lower secondary SBB student offered subjects at a higher level, e.g., Conversion from Exp. Level subjects to NA Level and NA Level subjects to NT Level.
- This is to ensure fairness for promotion, streaming, lateral transfers and MOE Edusave Awards selection purposes.
- For upper secondary students offered out-of-stream subjects, the prevailing MOE mark/grade conversion guidelines apply.

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## National Examination Policy

Policy	NA	NT
Minimum No. and Compulsory Subjects	5 distinct subjects (including EL, MTL, MA, Combined Humanities and Science)	5 distinct subjects (including EL, MTL, MA, CPA and one elective subject)
Subject Cap	8 subjects	7 subjects
Duplicate Subjects	No cap on duplicate subjects but must be within the 8-subject cap	2 sets of duplicate subjects, within the 7-subject cap

- For school-based assessments (i.e., common tests and exams), SBB students will only be required to sit for the paper at the higher level.

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## Dropping of SBB Subjects

- Students (with their parents/guardians' consent) can make the final decision to continue or drop any SBB subject(s).
- However, students are strongly encouraged to give themselves ample time to adjust to the demands of the higher-level subject(s) before making any decision to drop.
- Parents/guardians should speak to their child/ward's Subject Teachers, Form Teacher, Year Head, and/or School Leaders to find out more about their child/ward's academic progress and potential before allowing them to drop any SBB subject.

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## Data on Secondary 1 Students eligible for SBB Subjects

	EL	MA	SC	CL	ML
<b>N(A) Students Eligible for EXP (scored A/A*):</b>	4	4	2	10	14
<b>N(T) Students Eligible for EXP (scored A/A*):</b>	0	0	0	1	1
<b>N(T) Students Eligible for N(A) (scored B/C/1):</b>	28	4	10	10	9

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## School's Support for Students taking SBB Subjects

- Core Team led by Vice-Principal Mrs Teo and SBB Coordinator Ms Lindy Ong (HOD Maths)
- Additional manpower support to cater to the needs of classes with students taking SBB subjects
- Suitable and competent teachers identified and deployed to teach and oversee the academic development of students taking SBB subjects
- Strong professional development support provided by MOE HQ and School Leaders/KP to level-up teachers' competencies in delivering quality lessons for the students
- Structured time-table arrangement for students taking SBB subjects



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Structured time-table arrangement for students taking SBB subjects

Level	EL	Math	Science	CL	ML
<b>1NT</b>	Pull out class Ms Filzah	Pull out class Mr Rafi	Pull out class Ms Sing Geok Qing	Combined Class with 1NA Ms Zhang Ming Yue	Combined Class with 1NA Mdm Kamariah
<b>1NA</b>	Combined class with 1 Express Ms Kiran	Pull out class Mr Alvin Chua	Pull out class Mr Liang Tian Fa	Pull out class Mr Benedict Ng	Combined Class with 1 Express Ms Jamilah

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## School's Expectations for Students taking SBB Subjects

1. Continue to work hard for **ALL** your subjects
2. Challenge yourself to achieve good grades in the SBB subjects
3. Always maintain a positive attitude with an open mind
4. Share any concerns or issues faced with your subject teachers, form teachers or the Year Head
5. Seek **EARLY** help when necessary!

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## What's Next...

1. 2 booklists (i.e., original level + higher level) issued
2. Sign & return the letter of offer to your child's Form Teacher on the 1st day of school on 2 January 2018 (Wed), or anytime earlier at the school's general office
3. Purchase the correct textbooks for your child according to the booklist of the correct stream
4. If you have any further query, you may contact Ms Lindy Ong (HOD Mathematics) @ Tel: 6582 7864.

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## Tips for Parents of Students taking SBB Subjects

- It may be tempting for parents to have certain expectations of children whom have shown the capacity to take subjects at a higher level. However, Miss Donna Koh of CHIJ St Theresa's Convent warns against such tendencies and also provides some tips to parents whose child may have been given the option for subject-based banding:

*“Students must feel that that they can cope academically, but also emotionally. All of us, educators and parents, want our children to do well. Learning must be an enjoyable process for our children and it should not be overly fixated on grades. It is not an easy task for the students so we certainly hope that schools can work in partnership with parents in providing as many opportunities as possible for them to excel.”*

<https://www.schoolbag.sg/story/providing-greater-flexibility-with-subject-based-banding>

**Thank you! 😊**