



SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)



OFFERING DIFFERENT SUBJECT COMBINATIONS



Subject-BASED Banding (Primary)

- Offers students the option of Standard and Foundation Subjects, depending on their strengths.
- Allow students to focus on and stretch their potential in the subjects they are strong in while building up the fundamentals in the subject they need more support in.
- The new PSLE scoring system **will not change** the considerations for deciding on a student's subject combination.

Flexibility



Subject-BASED Banding (Primary)

- Schools will continue to recommend based on the following:
 - Student's aptitude, motivation and performance in each subject;
 - Student's ability to cope with a particular subject combination; and
 - Whether the subject combination focuses sufficiently on literacy and numeracy, and facilitates the student's articulation to secondary school and beyond.
- Offering subjects at Foundation level is **not a disadvantage to the students**. It enables them to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepares them for progression to secondary school.

SCORING FOR FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECTS



FOUNDATION SUBJECTS GRADED IN 5 BANDS TODAY

- Under the current PSLE grading system, Foundation subjects are graded in 5 scoring bands from Grade 1 to U.

Current System	
Grade	Raw Mark Range
1	85 – 100
2	70 – 84
3	50 – 69
4	30 – 49
U	< 30

FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECT GRADES TO BE LESS FINELY DIFFERENTIATED

- Under the new AL system, to reduce fine differentiation among students, Foundation subject grades will be graded in 3 scoring bands from AL A to C.
- Like Standard subject ALs, the Foundation subject ALs will reflect a student's level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100
B	30 – 74
C	< 30

FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECT GRADES

- For the purpose of S1 posting, Foundation level AL A to AL C will be mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.
- Similar to the current PSLE scoring system, this mapping is based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects, and informs students of their readiness to access the curriculum at the secondary level.

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Subject AL	Standard Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100	6	45-64
B	30 – 74	7	20-44
C	< 30	8	<20

SCORING OF FOUNDATION SUBJECTS FOR S1 POSTING

- A student's PSLE Score is the sum of the four AL scores across his/her Standard and Foundation subjects.
- Students taking Foundation subjects are eligible for the Express Course, as long as they meet the course placement criteria.
- With Full Subject-based Banding in secondary schools, students may also take subjects at a higher level for those that they are strong in.

ENGLISH	AL3
FOUNDATION MOTHER TONGUE	ALB
FOUNDATION MATHEMATICS	ALB
SCIENCE	AL5

PSLE SCORE: 22

PLACEMENT OUTCOME	PSLE SCORE
EXPRESS	4 – 20
EXPRESS / N(A) option	21 – 22
N(A)	23 – 24
N(A) / N(T) option	25
N(T)	26 – 30, with AL7 or better in both EL and MA

ELIGIBILITY FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE (HMTL)



ELIGIBILITY FOR HMTL IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- The eligibility criteria for taking HMTL is intended to ensure that students can cope with the higher academic load, and takes reference from the current criteria.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HMTL

(i) PSLE Score of 8 or better

OR

(ii) PSLE Score of 9 to 14 inclusive; and attain

- AL1 / AL2 in MTL or
- Distinction / Merit in HMTL

- For students who do not meet the above criteria, secondary schools will continue to have the flexibility to offer HMTL to students, if they are assessed to have high ability and interest in MTL and are able to take HMTL without affecting their performance in other subjects.

USE OF HCL FOR ADMISSION INTO SAP SCHOOLS









USE OF HCL for admission INTO SAP SCHOOLS

New System

The HCL posting advantage for entry to SAP schools will continue

- Students will be ranked taking into account their performance in HCL.
- This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 posting.

1st		7	NO HCL
2nd		8	DISTINCTION
3rd		8	MERIT
4th		8	PASS
5th		8	NO HCL
6th		9	DISTINCTION

**SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND
STUDENTS STUDYING AN ASIAN
LANGUAGE/ FOREIGN LANGUAGE
(AsL/FL) IN LIEU OF AN MTL**



SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- For students who are exempted from MTL or take an AsL/FL in lieu of an official MTL, their PSLE result slip will only reflect the three subjects they have taken.
- However, for the purposes of Secondary 1 posting, these students will need an assigned MTL score so that they have a PSLE score comprising four subjects
 - To determine the assigned MTL score, reference is made to MTL scores of other students who have achieved similar scores in English, Mathematics, and Science.
 - This is the same approach taken in today's T-score system.



SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- Under the new scoring system, the assigned MTL score will :
 - Take reference from peers with similar scores for English, Mathematics and Science;
 - While maintaining parity of treatment with students who take Foundation MTL (who will score between AL 6 to 8).
- Hence, students will receive an assigned MTL score between AL 6 to 8 in PSLE.

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Every child is unique, and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents. Our schools believe in providing a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.

Subject-based Banding (Pri) was introduced as a refinement to the streaming process to help each child realise his potential, based on his strengths and needs.

WHAT IS SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRI)?

Subject-based Banding (Pri) provides greater flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths. For example, if he excels in English and Mother Tongue but needs more support in Mathematics and Science, he may choose to take the first two subjects at the standard level and the others at the foundation level.

Such a choice will allow your child to focus on and stretch his potential in the subjects that he is strong in while building up the fundamentals in the subjects that he needs more support in.

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRI) AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION: HOW ARE THEY RELATED?

Progression to secondary level depends on your child's PSLE score. The different expectations of standard and foundation subjects will be taken into account when your child's PSLE score is calculated. If he excels in his subjects, he will have the opportunity to pursue higher-level options at secondary school.

Offering subjects at the foundation level is not a disadvantage to your child. It enables him to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepares him for progression to secondary school.



HOW DOES SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRI) WORK?

@ PRIMARY 4

Student sits for school-based examinations

School recommends a subject combination based on the student's results.

Parents fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination.

@ PRIMARY 5

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents

English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language are available at standard and foundation levels.

Higher Mother Tongue Language is also available.

School assesses student's ability to cope with the current subject combination at the end of the year. Adjustments to the number of standard and foundation subjects can be made, if necessary.

@ PRIMARY 6

Student takes subject combination decided by his school and sits for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) at the end of Primary 6.

P4 SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT

- Exam format and marking scheme follow guidelines given by Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB)
- Grading System:
 - Band 1 85 marks & above
 - Band 2 70 – 84 marks
 - Band 3 50 – 69 marks
 - Band 4 below 49 marks

SCHOOL'S RECOMMENDATION AT THE END OF P4

Students who

- score **below 23 marks** in a subject

AND

- are generally **weak in 2 or more subjects**

will be recommended to take

Foundation subject(s)

SCHOOL'S RECOMMENDATION AT THE END OF P4

Students who score

- **Band 1** in Mother Tongue Language

AND

- **Band 1** in English, Mathematics and at least **Band 2** in Science

will be recommended to take

Higher Mother Tongue

HIGHER MOTHER TONGUE

- Parental option to take Higher MT in P5 at the end of P4
- **To continue to do Higher MT in P6**, your child will need to meet school's criteria i.e. she must obtain **at least B in MT and pass in Higher MT at P5**



FOUNDATION VS STANDARD SUBJECTS

- Different syllabus e.g. Foundation Mother Tongue focuses on oral components
- Different examination paper

Higher Mother Tongue (MT) vs Standard MT

- Two extra examination papers (over and above the Standard MT papers – Composition & Language Use)
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SUBJECT COMBINATIONS NORMALLY OFFERED

- 4S (**majority**)
- 4S + Higher Mother Tongue
- 3S + 1F (Mother Tongue)
- 2S + 2F (combination of Maths / Science / MT)
- 4F (English/ Maths / Science / MT)

S = Standard

F = Foundation



PARENTAL OPTION - KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Foundation Subjects (FS) are less demanding.

- Only opt for FS if your child faces difficulties in 2 or more subjects.
- Students are not encouraged to offer Foundation English as literacy is a basic skill and is needed for them to cope with all other subjects.
- Students should only offer Foundation Maths if they are very weak in 2 or more subjects as it is critical to build a strong foundation in numeracy at primary school to enhance their long-term options.



OPTING FOR SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

- Parental Option Forms will be given to all pupils together with their report books in Term 4.
 - Please return option forms promptly so that we can start working on class allocation.
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Comparison of Number of Periods

Subject	Standard	Foundation	Higher MTL
English	12	P5 – 14 (2 outside curriculum time) P6 - 14	
Mother Tongue	9	9	11 (2 outside curriculum time)
Mathematics	11	P5 – 13 (2 outside curriculum time) P6 - 13	
Science	6	6	

Note: Girls exempted from MTL will still need to attend 3 periods of Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) lessons conducted in English.

Thank you



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