



Changes to the PSLE wef 2021



Changes to the PSLE

From T-Score to ALs

Each PSLE subject will be scored using **8 Achievement Levels (ALs)**, with AL 1 being the best. Each AL will reflect your child's individual level of achievement in that subject, regardless of how his or her peers have performed.

AL	Raw mark range
1	≥90
2	85-89
3	80-84
4	75-79
5	65-74
6	45-64
7	20-44
8	<20

Starting from Primary Five onwards, your child will receive their school-based examination results in ALs to help familiarise them with the new scoring system.

Scoring for Foundation Level Subjects



- Foundation level subjects support students who require additional help to build up strong fundamentals, giving them confidence to learn at a pace and level suited to them.
- Foundation level subjects will be graded AL A to AL C under the new scoring system.

Grades for Foundation Subjects	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Level AL
A	75-100	6
B	30-74	7
C	<30	8

- Students' PSLE Score will be the sum of the four AL scores of all Standard and Foundation subjects they take.
- For S1 posting, Foundation level subject scores will be converted to the equivalent standard level subject scores before the total score is calculated.

Presentation of Results in Achievement Levels (ALs)

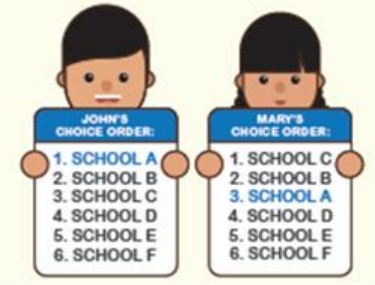


- Starting from the 2020 Primary Five (P5) cohort, school-based examination results of P5 and P6 students will be presented in ALs to help familiarise them with the new scoring system.

Holistic Development Profile (HDP)		
Subject	Mark	AL
English	85	2
Mathematics	75	4
Science	65	5
Mother Tongue	55	6
Total AL Score: 17		

Information on Secondary Schools' indicative Cut-Off Points (COPs) will be provided in AL terms in the first half of 2021. These AL COPs will be derived from the PSLE scores and choice patterns of the 2020 Secondary 1 (S1) posting exercise.

Choice Order of Schools Matters More in Posting



- While academic merit remains the first criterion for Secondary School posting, choice order as a new tie-breaker is designed to recognise the different considerations families have when choosing a suitable secondary school.
- If 2 students with the same PSLE Score vie for a place in a school, the following tie-breakers will be used:
 - Citizenship
 - Choice Order of Schools
 - Computerised Balloting



Changes to the PSLE

Eligibility for Sec Sch Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL)



- Students who are eligible for HMTL in Secondary Schools will be based off the criteria below.

Criteria Under The New Scoring System
PSLE Score of 8 or better
OR
PSLE Score of 9 to 14 inclusive; and AL1/AL2 in MTL or Distinction/Merit in HMTL

- Secondary schools 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.



Calculating PSLE score and course placement

Your child's PSLE score will be the sum of the four AL scores across their Standard and Foundation level subjects. The PSLE score ranges from 4 to 32, with 4 being the best possible total score.

Your child will be placed in the Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical) course, based on their PSLE score. They will be able to take all subjects in secondary school at the level they are placed at.*

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 <i>with AL 7 or better in both English Language and Mathematics</i>

- * Students who progress to the N(T) course must score at least an AL 7 in both English and Mathematics. This criterion is not applicable to all other secondary courses.

Subject-Based Banding eligibility in secondary school

Subject-Based Banding (SBB) in secondary school recognises and develops students' subject-specific strengths, and provides them with opportunities to reach their fullest potential.

SBB allows eligible N(A) and N(T) students to take selected subjects at a more demanding level at Secondary 1, based on their AL scores for individual subjects rather than the overall PSLE score.*

For students offered the N(A) or N(T) course	
PSLE Standard/ Foundation subject grade	Option to take a subject at
AL 5 or better in a Standard level subject	Express level
AL 6 or better in a Standard level subject <u>or</u> AL A in a Foundation level subject	N(A) level

- * Students in the Express course will take all subjects at the Express level, regardless of their individual subject AL scores at the PSLE.

If your child is exempted from taking Mother Tongue Language, or is considering taking Higher Mother Tongue Language in secondary school, you can find out more via the PSLE-FSBB microsite or reach out to the school.



Full Subject-Based Banding

Implemented across most secondary schools in 2024





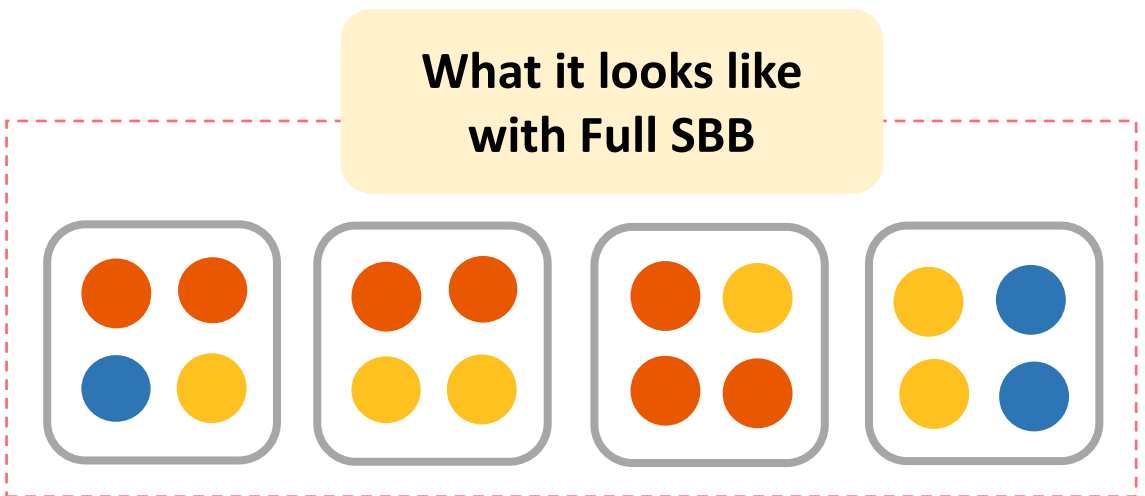
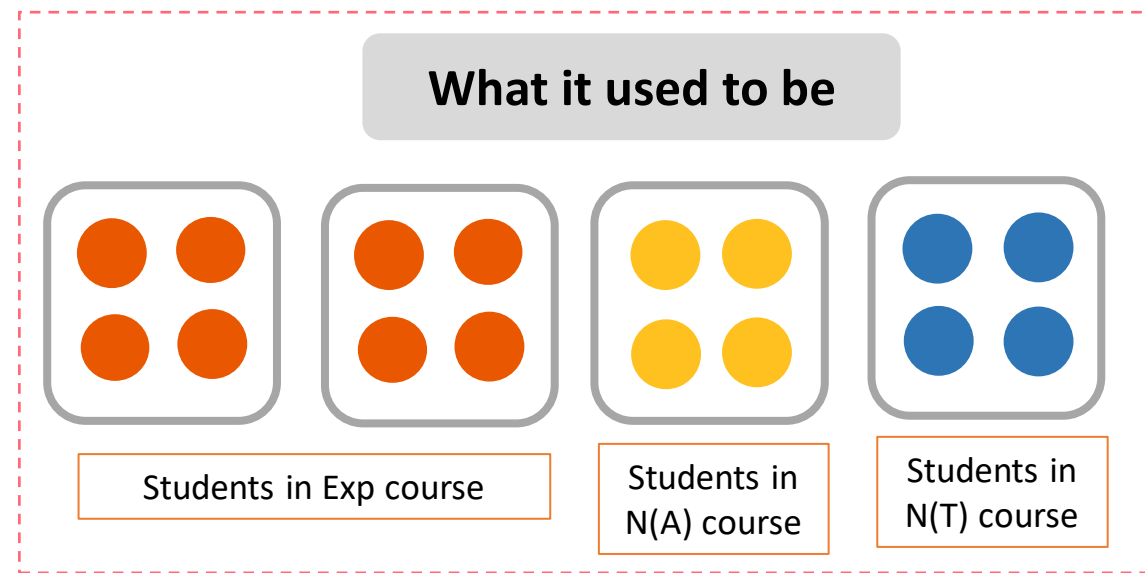
[Explaining Full Subject-Based Banding](#)

(Click the link above to watch the full video)

Implementation of Full SBB

1. Mixed Sec 1 Form Classes

Illustrative Example:



- In order to create more opportunities for students of different backgrounds and academic courses to learn and play together,
- This changes the way we organise form classes to ensure a **good mix of student profiles**.
- This enables students from different backgrounds to build meaningful friendships and learn to value different perspectives.

Implementation of Full SBB

6 Common Curriculum Subjects

Examinable Subjects:

- Art
- Design & Technology (D&T)
- Food and Consumer Education

Non-examinable Subjects:

- Character & Citizenship Education (CCE)
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)

The six common curriculum subjects would each have a single syllabus for all students at Lower Secondary levels.

For other subjects (English Language, Humanities, Mathematics, Mother Tongue Languages and Science), students will attend classes with others taking the subject at the same subject level, regardless of their course of study.

Implementation of Full SBB

3. Offering Humanities subjects at a more demanding level

- Students from the Sec 2 N(A) and N(T) cohorts may also offer **Humanities subjects** at a more demanding level, on top of English Language, Mathematics, Mother Tongue Languages and Science, **if they meet subject-specific criteria by the end of their Sec 1 year.**



An example



Let's follow one girl's journey to see what her secondary journey would look like with Full SBB.



P6 Student Card

2023

Margaret

12 years old

- Enjoys reading English storybooks and writing
- Loves running and swimming
- Struggles with Mathematics and Science
- Tends to compare herself with her peers, as she thinks she is not good enough
- Does not handle stress well

2023

Margaret takes her PSLE and attains a score of 23 points.

Subject	AL
English	4
Mother Tongue	7
Mathematics	6
Science	6
Total	23

She does well for English.

PSLE Score Subjects to be offered at Sec 1

26 – 30* G1 Suite of Subjects

25 G1 Suite or G2 Suite of Subjects

23 – 24 G2 Suite of Subjects

21 – 22 G2 Suite or G3 Suite of Subjects

4 – 20 G3 Suite of Subjects

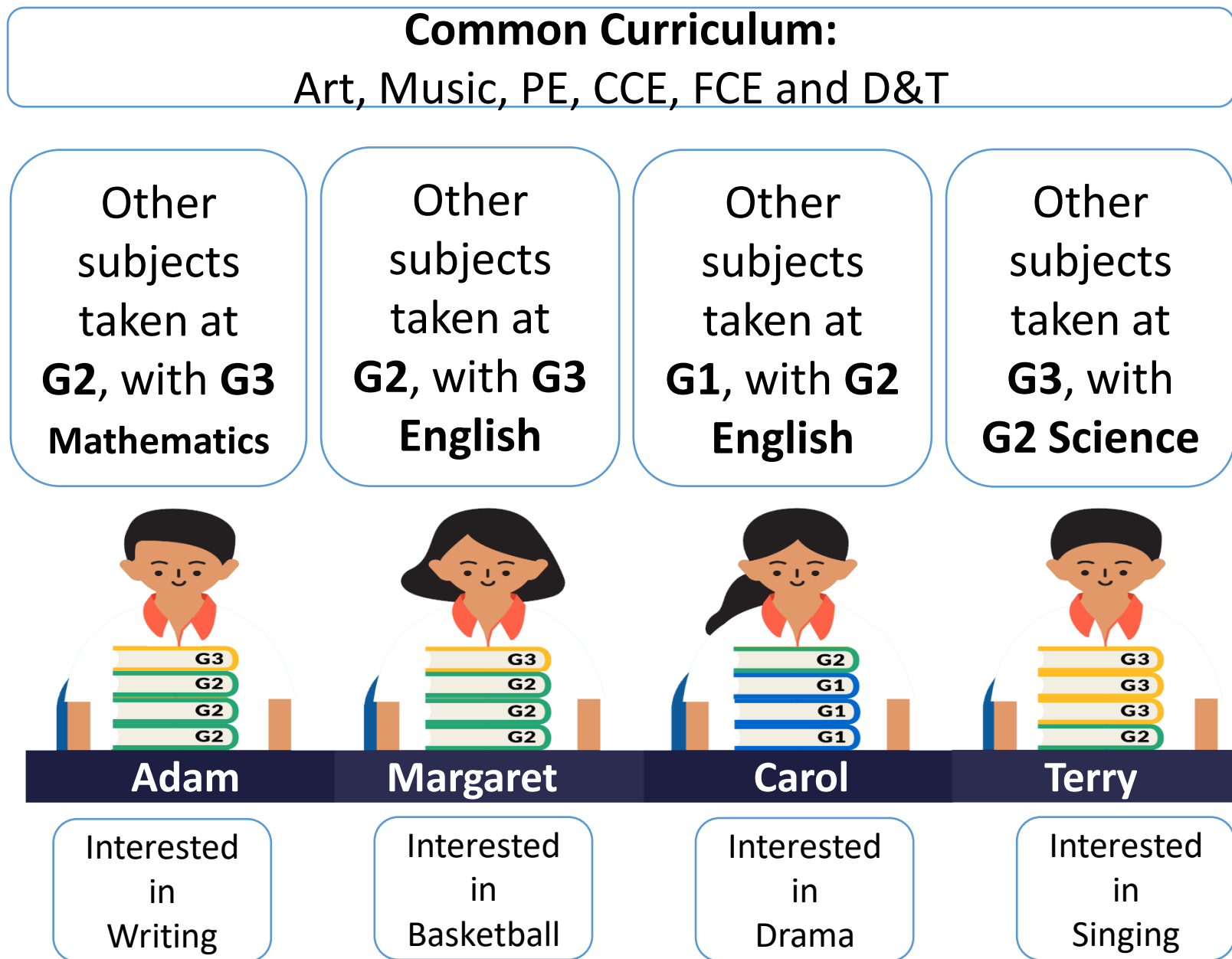
**with AL 7 or better in both EL and MA*

Based on her PSLE results, Margaret is offered these subjects at Sec 1.

Subjects in Sec 1	Level offered
English	Choice of G3 or G2
Mathematics	G2
Science	
Literature in English	
Geography	
History	
Mother Tongue	
Art/Music/PE/CCE FCE/D&T	Common Curriculum

Margaret meets her classmates in her Sec 1 form class

With a common curriculum and flexibility to take subjects at different levels, the traditional concept of a 'form class' has changed.



Based on her Sec 1 results, Margaret is offered these subjects at Sec 2.

Humanities subjects can be offered at a more demanding level from Sec 2.

Subjects in Sec 2	Level offered
Literature in English	Choice of G3 or G2
History	Choice of G3 or G2
English	G3
Mathematics	G2
Science	
Geography	
Mother Tongue	
Art/Music/PE/CCE FCE/D&T	Common Curriculum

2027

Margaret sits for a common national exam at Sec 4

2028

She uses the results to apply for post-secondary institutions



N- and O-Level examinations will be consolidated into a common national examination, where the **common national certificate will state the level at which each subject is taken.**

MOE will review the post-secondary admissions framework to ensure that students have more opportunities to progress to post-secondary courses that match their strengths and interests.



For more information, please refer to



CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity
Simple in Virtue, Steadfast in Duty

2020

Start of Full SBB pilot in 28 secondary schools

2021

First cohort of Primary 6 students undergo new PSLE scoring and Secondary 1 (S1) posting system

2022-2024

Progressive roll-out of Full SBB to more secondary schools

2027

First cohort of students to sit for a common national examination, and receive a common national certification

2028

First cohort of students to be admitted to Post-Secondary Education Institutes (PSEIs) under revised admissions criteria



What is Full SBB?

Full SBB is part of MOE's ongoing efforts to nurture the joy of learning and develop multiple pathways to cater to the different strengths and interests of our students.



Secondary school experience under Full SBB

Find out more about Secondary 1 postings, form classes, subject offerings, Common Curriculum and other changes under Full SBB.



Which schools are currently implementing Full SBB?

By 2023, about 90 schools would have implemented Full SBB.



FAQ

Read this list of commonly asked questions and answers on Full SBB.



Thank you!

