

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from Sec 2 Subject Combination Briefing

1. Subject Level Selection (G2 vs. G3 / Subject-Based Banding)

- **If my child who is offering G2 subjects is offered G3 in a subject, can he/she choose to remain at G2?**

Yes. In the case of a student who is offering G2 subjects and is offered G3 in a subject, he or she may choose to remain at G2. Students should take into consideration their overall academic load, well-being, interests, and post-secondary aspirations when making this decision.

- **Can my child who is offering G3 subjects change a few subjects to G2 even though my child is doing ok for these subjects?**

We strongly encourage students to offer subjects at as high a level as possible as long as they can manage the subject loading. Offering subjects at a less demanding level may narrow their post-secondary options at a very early stage.

- **Is the selection of subject levels decided by the teacher or by the parents?**

The subject level is determined through a collaborative process. Eligibility is based on your child's academic performance — for example, achieving 75% or better in a subject is the suggested criterion for moving to a more demanding level. Within these guidelines, the school will make a holistic assessment taking into account your child's results, teacher recommendations, and your child's interests and well-being. Parents and students are very much part of this conversation, and we encourage you to discuss your child's subject level choices with their teachers during PTM or by booking an appointment with our ECG Counsellor Ms Cheryl.

- **If my child is studying some G2 subjects in Sec 2 now but is close to G3 in performance, can he elect to do G3?**

Yes, this is possible. The eligibility criterion for moving from G2 to G3 is achieving 75% or better in that specific subject based on school-based results. If your child meets this criterion at the end of Sec 2, they may be eligible to offer that subject at G3 from Sec 3. The school will assess suitability holistically, taking into account your child's overall readiness and well-being. Do speak with your child's subject teacher or form teacher for guidance.

- **If a child is currently in G3 but performs poorly, fails slightly, or fails specific subjects (like Math and Mother Tongue), will they be downgraded or dropped to G2 in Sec 3?**

Under Full SBB, there is no automatic downgrading. However, if your child is struggling with a subject at G3, the school may have a conversation with you and your child about whether it would be more appropriate to offer that subject at G2 in Sec 3, particularly if it affects their overall well-being or ability to cope with other subjects. Any such adjustment would be made with your child's best interests and post-secondary aspirations in mind, and the school will involve both parents and students in this discussion.

- **Will the subject banding continue to Sec 4 regardless of how students fare in Sec 3?**

Generally, yes — students continue with their subject levels into Sec 4. However, there is flexibility to adjust subject levels along the way based on the school's holistic assessment of each student's performance, well-being and aspirations. A common academic requirement applies at the end of Sec 3, and students' curricular load for Sec 4 may be calibrated accordingly. The school will engage parents and students in any such conversations.

- **Under G3, is it possible for all subjects to be in G3 and Mother Tongue in G2?**

Yes, this is possible. Under Full SBB, students can offer different subjects at different levels. A student may offer most subjects at G3 while offering Mother Tongue Language at G2, for example if they find MTL more challenging. Do note that offering MTL at G2 instead of G3 may have implications for JC/MI admission, where MTL requirements apply. We encourage you to discuss this with Ms Cheryl to understand the impact on your child's post-secondary options.

2. Subject Combinations & Criteria (Sciences & Math)

- **My child (G3) wants to take 3 pure sciences, how do we make it possible? Is a triple science combination a strict prerequisite for medical courses later in university?**

LVSS does not offer a triple science combination. The maximum number of subjects a student can take is 7, and triple science is no longer offered at most secondary schools or Junior Colleges. Importantly, triple science is also not a requirement for entry to Medical School in Singapore. Generally, A-Level students applying for Medicine are required to have attained a good H2 pass in Chemistry and Biology or Physics. Students with strong aspirations to pursue Medicine could consider offering Pure Chemistry and either Pure Biology or Pure Physics at upper secondary to better prepare for taking them at a higher level in JC. We recommend

checking the specific university websites for the most up-to-date prerequisites for their Medicine courses.

- **Is it a requirement to take pure science subjects if a student wishes to take Additional Mathematics, or vice versa?**

At LVSS, the Pure Science combinations (Option C) come packaged with Additional Mathematics, meaning that if your child wishes to take Pure Sciences, they will also need to qualify for and take Additional Mathematics.

The reverse is not true — students in Option B can take Additional Mathematics with Combined Science. The qualifying criteria for Additional Mathematics is achieving 70% for both the EOY and Overall in Sec 2 G3 Mathematics. For Pure Science (Option C), the criteria is 70% for both EOY and Overall in Sec 2 Science and Mathematics at G3 level.

3. Specific Subjects & Electives Offered

- **Is G3 Art offered in this school?**

Yes, G3 Art is offered at LVSS and is available as part of the subject combinations.

- **Is English Literature offered at Secondary 3?**

Literature is not offered at LVSS at the upper secondary level. Students with a love of reading and literature are encouraged to continue pursuing this interest independently.

- **Can a G2 student take Music G3 as an elective?**

G3 Music is offered externally (at another centre), not within LVSS. Students interested in G3 Music would need to apply to an external centre. The subject level eligibility would also need to be assessed. Do note that the total number of subjects, including external ones, must not exceed 7.

- **Are subjects like FCE (Food & Consumer Education) and D&T (Design & Technology) still gender-based selections?**

No, FCE (Food & Consumer Education, now known as Nutrition & Food Science or NFS) and D&T (Design & Technology) are not gender-based. Any student who meets the relevant eligibility criteria is welcome to take either subject regardless of gender.

- **Can a student choose not to take elective subjects such as Art/D&T/NFS/POA/A Math?**

The minimum number of subjects for Sec 3 is 6 for most students. Elective subjects form part of this total, so students are generally expected to take at least one elective. If you have concerns about your child's workload, you may wish to bring this up for further discussion. However, we would recommend allowing your

child to take the full number of subjects and to review the number of subjects over the next 2 years.

4. Course Selection Process & Criteria

- **Are the subject combinations largely based on the final Sec 2 overall and exam results?**

The Sec 2 End-of-Year (EOY) examination and Sec 2 overall results are the primary basis for determining eligibility for subject levels and combinations in Sec 3. However, teacher recommendations and your child's interests and aptitude are also taken into consideration. We encourage students to make choices that align with both their strengths and their interests.

- **How is the overall result taken/calculated, especially if the child joined from Sec 2?**

If your child joined the school at Sec 2, the school will assess their performance based on the results obtained during their time at LVSS.

- **How many choices/options can the student input during the course selection? Is it only 2 options available for G2 classes?**

Students will submit 5 to 6 ranked choices via the AllEars platform during the final selection in Term 4. For G2 students, there are two options available (Option A and Option B), each with a choice of elective subject within the option. Please refer to the subject combination slides for the full list of options available to your child based on their subject level profile.

- **Will the school give the students their recommended subject combination before they choose their options?**

Yes, the school will guide students through the process. Subject talks by subject teachers will be held in Term 3 to help students understand the elective subjects available. Teachers will also provide recommendations as part of the eligibility criteria for certain subjects. Students and parents are encouraged to consult Ms Cheryl and subject teachers during the PTM on 24 July for personalised guidance before making their final selection in Term 4.

- **What happens if a student finds a subject overwhelming and is unable to cope?**

We understand that the transition to upper secondary can be challenging, and some subjects may feel new and demanding at first. Teachers will ensure a gradual increase in difficulty so that students are eased into the curriculum. Should your child find a subject overwhelming and is unable to cope despite support, the school will engage both parent and child in a conversation to explore the best course of action for your child. This may include adjusting the subject

level or reducing the number of subjects, always with your child's well-being, strengths and post-secondary aspirations in mind.

- **If my child is interested in a subject where they have an average score but still want to take it up in Sec 3?**

If your child is keen on a particular subject, they are encouraged to indicate it as a choice — the school will assess suitability holistically. Successful appeal cases, including those for more demanding levels, will be placed on a monitoring list. There is a 3-day appeal window after results are released if your child is not allocated their preferred combination.

5. Humanities Structure

- **Is G3/G2 Social Studies + Elective (Humanities) considered as 1 subject and not 2?**

It is counted as 1 subject in your child's total subject count. Social Studies is the compulsory component, and the Elective (Geography or History) is paired with it — together they form one Humanities subject. This is the same structure as the current O-Level Humanities subject.

6. Logistics, Timings & External Classes

- **How many subjects are not held in school, and what is the timing of external classes (e.g., Computing and Music)?**

At LVSS, G3 Computing and G3 Music are the subjects offered at external centres. The specific timings of external classes will depend on the external centre's schedule. Do note that students taking external subjects may need to leave school early for the last period or miss afternoon remedial or enrichment programmes.

- **What is the timing for the ECG consultation next Friday during PTM?**

Our ECG Counsellor (Ms Cheryl) will be available from 1.00pm-5.00pm on the day of PTM at the Student Services Hub.

- **At the allocation stage, do we need to be physically present or can it be done online?**

The selection exercise will be done online, thus being contactable online is sufficient. Parents should ensure they are contactable during the allocation period in case the school needs to reach out regarding their child's subject combination.

- **What is a "VR" (Valid Reason), and how does it affect the student if a CCA falls on the same day as an elective subject or external class?**

Students will be given a Valid Reason (VR) for CCA attendance when their external subject lessons clash with CCA. A VR means the absence is recorded as excused and will not negatively affect their CCA grading. However, if the clash is recurring (e.g., every Thursday throughout the two years), the VR would apply consistently for those sessions.

Not being present for CCA even if the absence is excused may lead to fewer opportunities to take part in competitions and leadership positions. This may affect the students' final LEAPS points. Hence, we advise parents to weigh this against taking a subject at an external venue especially if the lesson falls on a Thursday, our main CCA day.

7. Post-Secondary Pathways (Polytechnic, PFP, DPP, JC)

- **What is the difference between the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) and the normal Poly route? Is the PFP certificate less recognized?**

The Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) is a one-year programme that prepares polytechnic-bound students for progression into relevant polytechnic diploma courses through a practice-oriented curriculum. The programme is conducted over 2 academic semesters at the polytechnics by polytechnic lecturers. Students will be admitted to the PFP in three broad clusters before being posted to a diploma course at the end of the PFP year. Upon successfully completing the PFP, students progress into Year 1 of their chosen Polytechnic Diploma course. Both routes lead to the same Polytechnic Diploma, so the end qualification is the same.

- **For G2 students who do not qualify for PFP after Sec 4, what are their options since there is no Sec 5 option? Is there a DPP (Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic Programme) offered?**

The Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) will cease from the AY2028 ITE intake. From 2028, students taking at least five G2 subjects (including English Language and Mathematics) will be able to apply for direct entry into Higher Nitec Year 2. Students need to obtain a gross ELMAB3 (using G2 equivalent grade) aggregate score of 19 points or better and meet the minimum entry requirements (MERs) of the course. Students will also be eligible for the 3-Year Higher Nitec course.

The option of a 5th year in secondary school will continue to be available for eligible students to pace their learning and take subjects at a more demanding level to access more post-secondary pathways. Students with a gross ELMAB3 (at least Grade 5 for all subjects computed at G2) aggregate score of 19 points or

better can offer all their subjects at G3 in the 5th year. Students eligible for the 5th year should approach the school directly about taking up this option.

- **What happens if a G3 student doesn't meet the Poly or JC entry criteria? Can they still apply for PFP?**

From 2028, students taking G2 and/or G3 subjects will be able to access PFP. To be eligible for PFP, students need to obtain a gross ELMAB3 (using G2 equivalent grade) aggregate score of 12 points or better and meet the minimum entry requirements (MERs) of the cluster/course. Students who offer G3 subjects will have these subjects mapped to G2 grade.

8. Grading, Scoring & Aggregate Mapping

- **If my child is in G3, when looking at the ELR2B2 score, do I need to map their G3 grade to a G2 grade to get a net aggregate?**

From 2028, one 'Best' [B] subject can be fulfilled at G2 or G3 as part of the ELR2B2 aggregate score for admission to Polytechnic Year 1. The aggregate score is computed based on 4 G3 and 1 G2 grade. Students who offer both [B] subjects at G3 will have the [B] subject with a lower grade mapped from G3 to G2 based on a grade mapping table.

- **To get into poly via ELR2B2, is it correct that the "R2" (Relevant 2 subjects) does not need to be Math if the specific poly course does not require it?**

The requirement for different polytechnic courses varies. We recommend visiting the respective polytechnic's website or Course Finder on MOE's website for the specific entry requirements of the course your child is interested in.

- **Can I confirm if the relevant subjects for Poly Year 1 entry are Math and Combined Science?**

For admission to Polytechnic Year 1, the ELR2B2 aggregate score includes English Language, two relevant subjects (R2) and two best other subjects (B2). The relevant subjects (R2) for Polytechnic Year 1 entry vary depending on the specific diploma course and Polytechnic. Please visit the respective Polytechnic's website for the latest entry requirements for the course of interest.

- **For the G3 pathway, can POA and A-Maths not be the 6th subject for Option A? For Option B, do they need to take external subjects?**

For Option A (G3), the 6th subject is an elective chosen from Art, D&T or NFS — POA and Additional Mathematics are not available as the 6th subject under Option A. These are available under Option B instead. For Option B, G3 Computing and G3 Music are listed as external subjects, meaning students who choose these would need to attend classes at an external centre. Other Option B electives such

as POA and Additional Mathematics are offered within the school. Students do not need to take an external subject if they choose POA or Additional Mathematics as their 6th subject under Option B.