

Briefing for Parents of Secondary 4 and 5 Students

Frequently Asked Questions

Educational Pathways and Admission Criteria	
Question	Response
1) What are the eligibility criteria for admission to Junior College (JC)?	<p>Students may gain admission to a Junior College (JC) through either the Direct School Admission – JC (DSA-JC), or Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE).</p> <p>a) Direct School Admission – JC (DSA-JC) DSA-JC allows students to apply to selected JCs before taking the GCE O-Level examinations, based on talents or achievements in areas such as sports, CCAs, leadership, or specific academic strengths that may not be fully reflected in examination results.</p> <p>Students who are successfully admitted via DSA-JC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot participate in the JAE; and• Must commit to the chosen JC for the full duration of the programme. <p>More information: https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa</p> <p>b) Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) The JAE is conducted annually in January after the release of the GCE O-Level results. Eligible applicants may apply to JCs, Millennia Institute (MI), polytechnics, and ITE via the JAE Internet System (JAE-IS).</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria for JC (via DSA-JC or JAE) Students must meet both of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• L1R5 gross aggregate score of 20 points or better; and• Meet the subject-specific grade requirements of the JC. <p>L1R5 Computation $L1R5 = L1 + R1 + R2 + R3 + R4 + R5$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• L1: English Language or Higher Mother Tongue• R1: Best Humanities subject• R2: Best Mathematics or Science subject• R3: Best Humanities, Mathematics, or Science subject

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R4 & R5: Best two remaining subjects (excluding Religious Knowledge) <p>More information: https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae/junior-colleges-and-millennia-institute</p>
2) Is DSA-JC suitable for my child? What should my child consider when applying via DSA-JC?	<p>DSA-JC may be suitable for students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have demonstrated strengths or achievements in specific talent areas (e.g. sports, arts, leadership); • Are motivated to continue developing these talents in JC; and • Are able to balance talent development with academic demands. <p>Key considerations when applying via DSA-JC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify personal strengths, interests, and long-term goals; • Research JCs that offer DSA in the relevant talent areas (e.g. attend open houses or DSA briefings); • Consider the programmes, culture, and opportunities offered by each JC; • Ensure that academic requirements for DSA admission can be met; and • Understand and be prepared for the commitments and expectations placed on DSA students. <p>More information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa • https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/overview
3) What are the eligibility criteria for admission to Polytechnic after O-Level?	<p>Students may gain admission to a polytechnic through the Polytechnic Early Admissions Exercise (Poly EAE), Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE), or Direct Admissions Exercise (DAE).</p> <p>a) Polytechnic Early Admissions Exercise (Poly EAE) An aptitude-based exercise that allows students to receive conditional offers before the release of O-Level results.</p> <p>b) Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) Conducted in January after the release of O-Level results.</p> <p>c) Direct Admissions Exercise (DAE) Conducted by individual polytechnics for applicants who are not eligible under other admission exercises.</p>

	<p>Eligibility Criteria for Polytechnic Admission</p> <p>Students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attain an ELR2B2 net aggregate score of 26 points or better (<i>Exception: Diploma in Nursing – ELR2B2-C of 28 points or better</i>); and • Meet the Minimum Entry Requirements (MER) of the chosen course. <p>MERs can be found on MOE CourseFinder: https://www.moe.gov.sg/coursefinder</p> <p>More information: https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae/polytechnics</p>
<p>4) How do I know if my child is suitable for polytechnic?</p>	<p>Polytechnics offer practice-based, applied learning with strong industry exposure, including work attachments ranging from 6 weeks to 6 months.</p> <p>Polytechnic education may suit students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer hands-on and experiential learning; • Have clear interests in applied fields such as business, IT, engineering, design, or healthcare; and • Wish to be prepared for both employment and further university education. <p>Students and parents are encouraged to explore courses based on interests, aggregate scores, and learning preferences using MOE CourseFinder.</p> <p>Polytechnic graduates may also apply to universities based on their diploma qualifications. In addition, polytechnics offer post-diploma and Work-Study programmes for further skills development.</p> <p>More information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/overview • https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae
<p>5) What are the submission requirements, deadlines, and processes for DSA-JC and JAE applications?</p>	<p>Indicative timelines (based on recent cohorts):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSA-JC: Application period typically opens in early May https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa • Poly EAE: Application period typically opens in mid-June https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITE EAE: Application period typically opens in early May https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae • JAE: Conducted in January after the release of national examination results https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae
6) What are the different pathways after my child completes N-Level?	<p>For students in the N(A) stream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progression to Sec 5N(A) if $ELMAB3 \leq 19$ points (excluding bonus points); • Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) if $ELMAB3 \leq 12$ points and subject-specific requirements are met; • Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) leading to Higher Nitec and subsequently Polytechnic, subject to GPA requirements; • 3-year Higher Nitec courses, with progression opportunities to Polytechnic; • NAFA Foundation Programme for students interested in the arts ($EMB3 \leq 15$). <p>For students in the N(T) stream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-year Higher Nitec courses, which may lead to Work-Study Diploma, ITE Technical Diploma, or Polytechnic Diploma pathways.
7) How are the Best 4 subjects calculated for students offering NT and NA subjects?	<p>Students offering N(A) subjects may convert their N(A) grades into ITE aggregate points for computation of the Best 4 subjects for admission to 3-year Higher Nitec courses.</p> <p>NA Grade to ITE Aggregate Conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 1–3 → 1 point • Grade 4 → 2 points • Grade 5 → 3 points • Grade 6 → 4 points <p>The converted points are combined with relevant N(T) subjects to compute the Best 4 aggregate.</p>
8) What advice does the school provide regarding the timing of applications for	<p>Students are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on their learning preferences and suitability for applied or academic pathways;

<p>different post-secondary options?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify courses aligned with their interests, strengths, and career aspirations; and Consider multiple viable pathways (e.g. Sec 5, PFP, DPP, ITE) before making decisions. <p>Students eligible for PFP are required to return to Sec 5N(A) while awaiting application outcomes. Those offered PFP will withdraw from Sec 5N(A) by end-January. Students applying for DPP may proceed directly upon accepting an offer.</p> <p>Parents and students are encouraged to discuss options with teachers, ECG counsellors, and post-secondary institutions before finalising decisions.</p>
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Preparation for N-Level and O-Level Examinations	
Question	Response
9) How does the school prepare students to pass N-Level and progress to O-Level?	<p>At the start of the year, Character Coaches guide students to set clear academic targets based on their post-secondary aspirations.</p> <p>To support all graduating students (N-Level and O-Level), the school has put in place the following academic support programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After-School Academic Intervention: Subject-specific support targeted at identified learning needs; Friday Intervention Programme: Weekly timed practice sessions conducted after CCA stands down (from 8 May 2026); Term 2 Leadership Learning Week (LLW): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive coursework support to help coursework students complete key components; and Intensive revision programmes for non-coursework students.
10) When will CCAs stand down for graduating students to prepare for the National Examinations?	<p>Secondary 4 and 5 students will stand down from their CCAs from 8 May 2026.</p> <p>Following this, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in structured revision programmes during Friday CCA time; and Engage in weekly timed practice for examinable subjects.

	<p>Students should refer to the schedules published on the Student Portal for details.</p>
11) How does the school help graduating students manage stress during National Examination preparation?	<p>The school adopts a holistic approach to support the social-emotional well-being of graduating students. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular well-being check-ins by Character Coaches; • Termly social-emotional check-ins conducted by Character Coaches; • Year Head sharing sessions on effective study strategies and revision techniques; and • School Counsellor sharing during morning assemblies on stress management strategies.
12) What guidance does the school provide if a student wishes to discontinue a subject? What are the implications?	<p>Upper secondary students are required to offer a minimum of five examinable subjects, including compulsory subjects such as English Language, Mathematics, and Mother Tongue Language. This ensures a strong academic foundation and preserves access to viable post-secondary pathways.</p> <p>If a student wishes to discontinue a subject, the school will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the student to understand the reasons for the request; • Explore whether additional support can be provided to help the student continue with the subject; • Discuss the student's aspirations and intended post-secondary pathways; and • Advise on whether the subject is a prerequisite for desired courses. <p>The school's ECG Counsellor will be involved in providing guidance during this process.</p> <p>If the student still chooses to discontinue the subject:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The request must be submitted by end-January, before official subject registration for national examinations; and • The student is required to commit to a structured revision plan to make purposeful use of the additional time freed up.
13) What updates or changes have been made to Mother Tongue Language examination formats	<p>The format changes in the past two years for the written examinations were the introduction of e-examinations for both Paper 1 and Paper 2 at the N(T) level from 2024, and the introduction of e-examination for Paper 2 at the N(A) level from 2025. Students are required to sit for</p>

<p>and requirements that parents should be aware of?</p>	<p>these papers using laptops, and basic typing skills are therefore necessary.</p> <p>The school supported students in familiarising themselves with these formats by implementing them in school-based examinations as well. Students are also given regular opportunities to practise on the SLS platform during classroom lessons, weighted assessments, and school-based examinations, to better prepare them for the national examinations.</p>
<p>14) What happens if student is unwell and cannot turn up for the examinations?</p>	<p>We encourage students to take good care of their health and well-being in the lead up to the examinations. If a student is unable to sit for examination due to unforeseen situations, e.g. medical reasons, they may apply for special consideration provided (i) the student has completed at least 50% of the component weighting for the affected subject; and (ii) student has the relevant evidence and supporting documents to support your application (e.g. medical report).</p> <p>For special consideration applications due to medical illness, only Medical Certificates with diagnosis or medical letters with diagnosis, covering the examination period and issued by doctors endorsed by the Singapore Medical Council, are accepted as supporting document for the applications. Medical certificates and medical letters must clearly state the doctor's diagnosis and be dated before or on the same day as the affected examination date(s), and state that the student was unwell while taking the examination or are unfit to take the examination.</p> <p>Students may access the latest rules and regulations for national examinations via SEAB website (https://www.seab.gov.sg/).</p>