

Sec 3 Subject Options & Combinations FAQs



Materials for 2026 Secondary 3 Subject Combinations

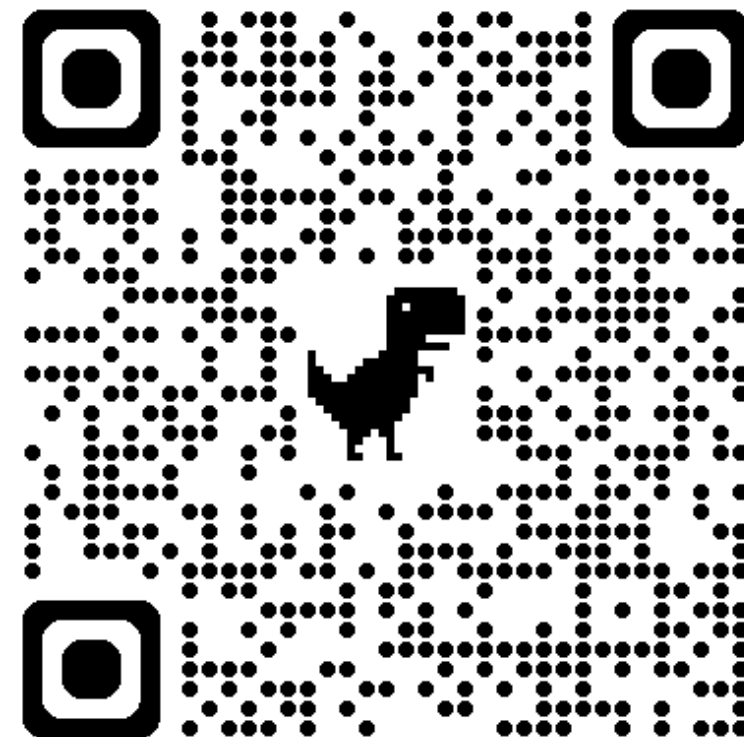
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your daughter/ward has been briefed on the 2026 Secondary 3 Subject Options and Combinations on 22 April 2025.

We look forward to having both you and your daughter/ward join us at the Sec 2 ECG & Subject Combinations Talk (online) this Wednesday (30 April 2025, 7pm). We will be able to share more details and address any questions you may have during the session.

Please find below the materials for your reference:

1.  [2026 Sec 3 Subject Options and Combinations Briefing Slides \(For Students\).pdf](#)
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<https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/2026-secondary-3-subject-combinations/>

Subject Combination & Requirements

What are the mandatory subjects?

- Students will need to read the following subjects – English, Mathematics, Mother Tongue, Humanities and Sciences under 'Compulsory subject' and 'Subjects from Cluster 1 and 2'
- Students can take 5–6 subjects and indicate **NIL** (as their first rank order) for 'Subjects Cluster 3 and/or 4'

What is the maximum & minimum number of allowable subjects at N & O Levels?

- Students taking mostly G3 subjects takes between 5 and 8 subjects.
- Students taking mostly G2 subjects takes between 5 to 6 subjects.
- Students taking at least one G1 subject take between 4 to 6 subjects.
- Please take note of the entry requirements to post secondary education institutions.

Is there a standard subject combination that the students can choose?

- Students have the flexibility of doing the subjects based on her eligibility.
- The mandatory subjects that take must take will be English, Mathematics, Mother Tongue, Humanities and Sciences.

Are there subject combination options unique to PL (e.g. Computing, Arts electives)?

- We do have Art and Music, G3, offered in the subject combination option, there will be selection test/audition and Interview.
- Do note the subject criteria for the offering of the subject.

With the new changes to JC entry criteria in 2028, can this cohort of students continue to take 8 G3 subjects?

- Students who have performed well in her subjects (overall results), they will be still eligible to take 8 G3 subjects.
- However, parents and students should consider the latest changes in post-secondary pathways (JC, MI, Poly, PFP, Higher Nitec admissions).
- Do also note that students need not offer triple science for course like Medicine or have 7-8 subjects as "buffer" for aggregate computation.

Is there any chance of appeal or are the cutoff marks strictly applied?

- Students can appeal for their preferred subject option, however, this is subjected to the available spaces in the subject option after all the allocations have been assigned.

What are the pros and cons of different subject combinations and time needed for different combinations?

- Parents and students to consider subject combination options in relation to:
 1. **Students' strength and interests** – to have conversation on the areas learning that you are interested in and have done well in.
 2. **Students' aspirations** – to look into the latest changes to post-secondary pathways (JC, MI, Poly, PFP, Higher Nitec admissions) and to consider that students need not offer triple science for course like Medicine or have 7-8 subjects as "buffer" for aggregate computation.
 3. **Students' well-being** – students will have later school end-times if they are taking more subjects and need to consider the readiness of taking up the different subjects together.

I would like to know if MEP is considered an 8th subject and can be used as one of the R4? Can it be considered as a 9th subject also?

- Students wishing to participate in MEP lessons must apply to study Higher Music (G3) at either Dunman High School or Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) when they are admitted to PLMGS(S) in Sec 1.
- This program spans four years, contingent upon students successfully completing the selection process. PLMGS(S) also offers Music (G3)/Higher Music (G3) within the school for Sec 3 students.
- According to school policy, students are not permitted to take on a 9th subject at Upper Secondary Level, even if they are enrolled in Higher Music at an external centre.

My child is interested in taking Arts as an examination subject but is not confident of what type of arts will be tested for O level. And how will the lessons be conducted as most of the pupils in PL do not take Arts

- Art (G3) at the Upper Secondary level takes place on Thursday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.
- Students wishing to take Art (G3) must achieve at least a B3 in their Sec 2 Art and successfully pass an Art Selection Test and Interview.

Any science combination without chemistry?

- The school does not offer any combination without Chemistry as Chemistry is a key science prerequisite for many courses at JC and many university science courses.

Does the school offer D&T as a subject for Upper Secondary?

- The school does not offer D&T as a subject in Upper Secondary.

Does the school offer POA as a subject in Upper Secondary?

- Yes, the school offers POA as an Upper Secondary Subject for G2 and G3.

Subject Option Processes

How are students streamed into Sec 3 subject combination?

- Firstly, students must meet the requirements for the various subjects.
- After which, students will rank order their subject option based on their eligibility and based on the subject attainment merit.
- Students will be streamed into their Sec 3 Combination according their ranked choices if they have met the requirements for the various subjects.

Do the students have a "trial" term in Sec 3, where they are given a chance to change their subject combination?

- There will not be any trial term. Students should spend time considering their subject combination in consultation with their parents and teachers.
- There are also no trial lessons for students. Most of the subject content (EL/Math/Humanities/Science/Mother Tongue) will be a continuation from the lower secondary course.
- For new subjects like Additional Maths/POA, you may refer to the subject combination booklet on the upper secondary subject content for the different subjects.

Can students opt for G2 or G3 in specific subjects if they know they can take on the challenge?

- Students will be offered to take specific subjects at a G3 Level if they meet the following criterias:
 - Obtained 75% or better for Overall (at End-of-Year) for core subjects
 - Teacher's Recommendation

Will there be a sec 5 class if a student is currently taking mostly G2 subjects but wants to do subjects at mostly G3 ?

- Secondary 5 remains an option for students who take mostly G2 subjects.
- Students must meet the criteria for S5 which is EMB3 less than 19.

Post-Secondary Pathways

Could you please help us understand subject combination and the career prospects so that we can help our daughters make informed decision in selection process?

To support your daughters in making an informed decision about their subject combination, it is important to:

- have a long-term outlook on the possible careers or industries that align to your daughter's strengths and interests.
- do research on possible educational pathways that lead to their aspirations.
- take note of the next stage's pre-requisites would help to reverse engineer what post-sec institutions and courses would help to pave the way.

What's the minimum G3 subjects required for Poly or JC qualification?

- Poly Year 1 --> 4G3
- JC/MI --> 5G3
- Poly PFP --> No minimum (because minimum is 5G2).

My daughter have 2 G3 and 5 G2 subjects. The chances for her to qualify for PFP will be high?

- Admission to PFP clusters is by respective cluster cut-off points. If G3 subjects are taken, the grades will be mapped to G2 equivalent. The computation to qualify for PFP is ELMAB3 less than or equal to 12. These 5 subjects: EL, Math, best 3 subjects are computed at the G2 level/equivalent.

Where can we go to see the cut-off points for the individual courses for different post-secondary institutions?

- You can find the cut-off for post-secondary institutions at this site: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/coursefinder>

How accurate is the RIASEC at this age and can the child's preference change over the course of 2 years?

- Preferences will change with time so the RIASEC is a tool to create self-awareness and to start conversations because sometimes tools may not be 100% accurate. The limitation of RIASEC is that it assesses the responses at that point in time and if there are major changes in the student's journey, then perhaps it would be a good idea to do the RIASEC assessment again. Students can easily access it on MySkillsFuture website

New Scoring System

For the new L1R4 requirement which affects this Sec 2 cohort, what are the relevant subjects?

- The four relevant subjects are Math, Science, Humanities and any other best-scoring subject
- Please note that students cannot be Mother Tongue if Higher Mother Tongue was used as L1.

How does the new structure of L1R4 scoring will affect the students intending to apply for JC or Poly in year 2028 onwards?

- The new L1R4 does not affect admissions to Polytechnic.
- It will only affect JC & MI admissions. L1R4 is calculated the same way for both JC & MI, except JC is $L1R4 \leq 16$ and MI is ≤ 20 .

Other administrative questions

Will there be a recorded session for the Sec 2 Subject Combination Briefing?

- The slides and the information booklet has been posted on the school website for your easy reference.





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