



Hougang Secondary School

Subject Combination Briefing

26 May 2025

**GRATITUDE
RESPECT
EMPATHY
ADAPTABILITY
TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Programme Outline

Content	Time
1 Principal Opening Address to Parents	6.00pm to 6.05pm
2.1 Key Milestones 2.2 Tentative 2026 Sec 3 Subject Combinations 2.3 FAQ	6.05pm to 6.25pm
3 Q&A Session	6.25pm to 6.35pm
4 ECG Sharing via 3 Breakout rooms (G3/G2/G1)	6.35pm to 7pm

Date	Details	Remarks
✓ 22 May (Thu)	Subject Combination Briefing (students)	Students will complete Subjects Preference Survey on 22 May
✓ 26 May (Mon)	Subject Combination Briefing (parents)	Term 2 Week 9, 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
1 Oct - 10 Oct (Wed – Fri)	End-of-Year Exam	Term 4 Weeks 3 and 4
14 Oct (Tue)	Subject Combination Submission Briefing (students)	Term 4 Week 5
24 – 28 Oct (Fri – Tue)	Submission of Subject Combination (online portal)	PTM on 24 Oct (last day of school)
10 Nov (Mon)	Release of Subject Combination outcome (online portal)	Term 4 Week 9
10 – 12 Nov (Mon – Wed)	Appeal period (email)	Deadline: 3 pm with consent from parents. Student is required to inform his/her Character Coaches.
By 21 Nov (Fri)	Release of Appeal outcome (email)	

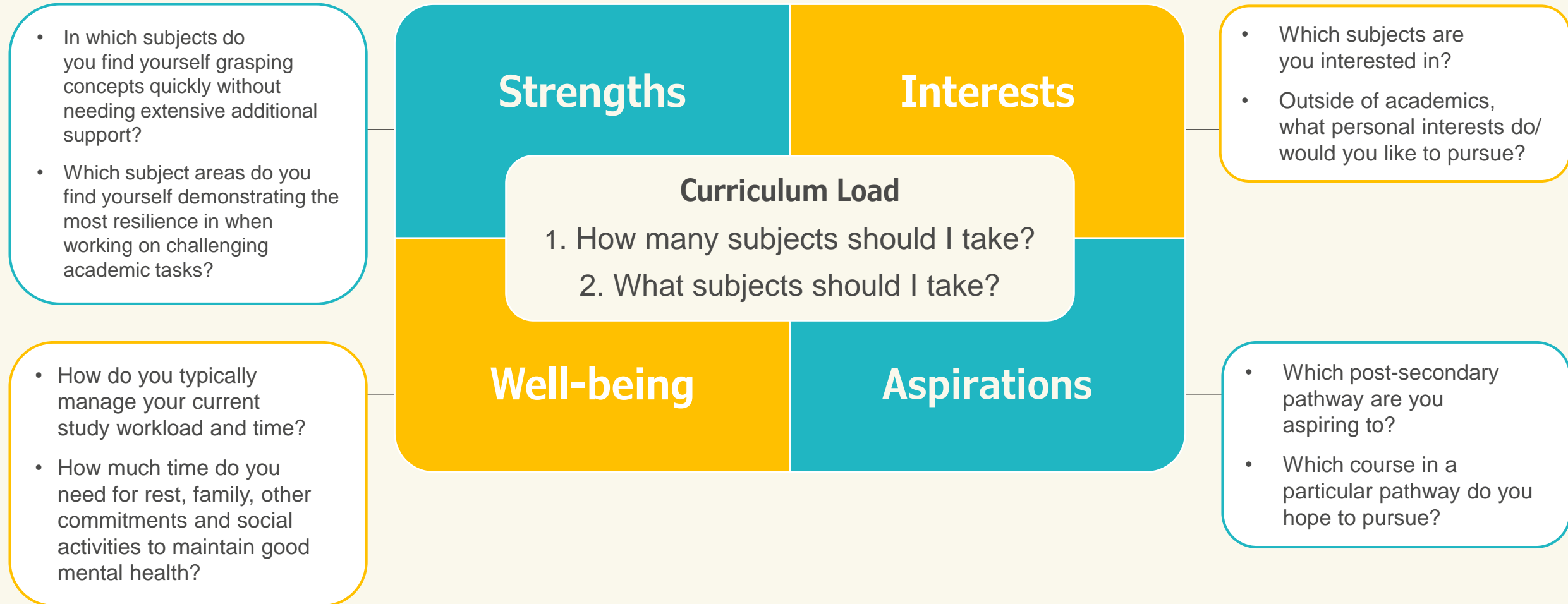
Revised JC Admission Criteria

1. From the 2028 Joint Admissions Exercise, the JC admission criteria will be adjusted from **$L1R5 \leq 20$ to $L1R4 \leq 16$** to count one fewer subject.
2. In counting one fewer subject, the raw aggregate score will be lower.
To ensure that bonus points do not give students a disproportionately large advantage for posting, the cap on bonus points will be lowered from **a maximum of 4 to 3 points.**

You are encouraged to choose a subject combination that matches your strengths, interests and aspirations.

- There is no need to take more than 7 subjects to be adequately prepared for the JC.
- You are encouraged to use your freed time for learning beyond the examinations.
- You should also explore your interests and engage in activities to maintain well-being.

When deciding how many and what subjects you want to take, you can consider the following:



How many / What subjects should I be taking?

1. With **6-7 G3 subjects**, you can access a **good range of JC courses**.
2. If you can manage your learning well and have a strong interest in a particular area (e.g., 3rd language, Art), you can choose to offer more than 7 G3 subjects.
3. Carefully consider your subjects based on your interests, strengths, well-being and aspirations.

✓	✗
Take time to talk to your teachers, ECG Counsellors and parents to work through your strengths, interests and aspirations	Choose based on what you think will “look good” on your exam certificate or what your friends are taking
Think about what you genuinely enjoy and what would give you time and space to develop yourself holistically	Choose solely based on what you think you will score best at



Did you know?

Each additional subject you take amounts to approximately 3 hours of curriculum time a week!

How many / What subjects should I be taking?

4. If I want to take H2 Science and H2 Math at JC/MI, do I need to take Pure Science and Additional Mathematics (A Math)?
- If you are coping well with your studies and have strong aspirations to pursue H2 Science and H2 Math in JC, you are encouraged to take G3 'Pure' Science and G3 A Math at upper secondary respectively. These subjects cover content that will be built upon in H2 Science and H2 Math at JC.
 - If you do not take 'Pure' Science or A Math, you can still take H2 Science or H2 Math in JC but would need to bridge the necessary content and catch up on the topics you have not covered in Combined Sci and/or E Math. However, having to bridge **multiple** subjects will be challenging and is not encouraged.
 - The final subject offerings would depend on the respective JC/MI's available subject combinations.

Tentative* Subject Combination for G3-dominant students (Posting Group 3)

*Subject to demand, staff availability and timetabling constraints

Tentative Subject Combination for G3-dominant Students

1.	English Language			
2.	Mother Tongue Language			
3.	Mathematics			
4.	Humanities (Social Studies with History) or Humanities (Social Studies with Geography) or Humanities (Social Studies with Malay Literature)			
5.	Chemistry	Science (Chemistry & Physics) or (Chemistry & Biology)	Science (Chemistry & Physics) or (Chemistry & Biology)	Science (Chemistry & Physics) or (Chemistry & Biology)
6.	Additional Mathematics	Additional Mathematics	Design and Technology or Nutrition and Food Science or Art	<i>Additional Mathematics (optional)</i>
7.	Physics or Biology	Geography [@] or Computing or Principles of Accounts		English Literature or Principles of Accounts

@ Student will not be allowed to take Humanities (Social Studies with Geography) in this combination.

Criteria for Sec 3 G3 Subjects 2026

Subjects	Criteria
Pure Sciences	B3 or better in Mathematics and Science
Computing	B4 or better in Mathematics Selection test
Additional Mathematics (for Combined Sciences)	B4 or better in Mathematics
English Literature	B3 or better in either English or English Literature
Pure Geography	B4 or better in Geography

Tentative* Subject Combination for G2-dominant students (Posting Group 2)

*Subject to demand, staff availability and timetabling constraints

Tentative Subject Combination for Students taking G2-dominant subjects

1	English Language
2	Mother Tongue Language
3	Mathematics
4	Humanities (Social Studies with Geography or Social Studies with History)
5	Science (Chemistry and Physics)
6	<u>Choose 1 elective:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of Accounts English Literature Computing Design & Technology Nutrition and Food Science Art

Tentative* Subject Combination for G1-dominant students (Posting Group 1)

*Subject to demand, staff availability and timetabling constraints

Tentative Subject Combination for Students taking G1-dominant subjects

1	English Language
2	Mother Tongue Language
3	Mathematics
4	Science
5	Humanities (non-examinable)
6	<u>Choose 1 elective:</u> Computing Design & Technology Nutrition and Food Science

FAQs

1: What are the criteria for a Sec 2 student to be promoted to Sec 3?

A: Under Full Subject-Based Banding, the criteria for student progression aligns to the broader efforts by MOE to:

- give students greater ownership of their learning according to their readiness, strengths, interests and learning needs, and
- encourage students to develop a growth mindset and an intrinsic motivation to learn for life.

All students generally progress to the next year of learning, guided by a common academic requirement that applies at the end of Secondary 2. At the end of Secondary 2, students need to meet the academic requirement to offer subjects at the same subject levels.

2.What is the maximum and minimum number of subjects that students from G3, G2 and G1 can offer? Is it possible to drop any subjects after subject allocation has been confirmed? Can students be offered a lower demand subject mid-way in Sec 3?

A: Students taking predominantly G3 subjects will be offered 6 or 7 subjects and students taking predominantly G2 or G1 subjects are offered 6 subjects. Students need a minimum of 5 subjects to be registered for their national examination.

At the end of Secondary 3, the student's results will be reviewed and discussed with parents and subject teachers.

Students are to consult their subject teachers and ECG Counsellor before they consider dropping any subject, as it may have an impact on his/her post-secondary options in terms of educational institutions or courses.

3. Can a student opt for lower demand Mother Tongue Language in Upper Secondary?

A: Students who face exceptional difficulties coping with their Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) will have the option to offer G1 or G2 MTL.

Students may offer subjects at a less demanding level, based on their performance and schools' holistic assessment, to calibrate their academic load.

School also has the discretion to allow students with difficulties coping with MTL to offer MTL at a less demanding level, based on holistic considerations.