

WESTWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL



**Subject Options Briefing
Express Stream
2023**

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Secondary School Education

- A Broad Base Education where students are able to articulate to next stage of their learning and development.
- Secondary schools offer different courses which are pathways that help shape a student's school journey. Each course offers a suite of subjects catering to students' strengths and interests.
- At the 4th or 5th year of secondary education, students will then sit for the GCE (General Certificate of Education) Examination.



Key considerations in choosing subjects

Various progression pathways and careers that the student is interested in

Competency and ability to cope with the number of subjects and choice of subjects

Interests in learning the subjects of choice



When choosing subjects.....

- Discuss with your child his/her career aspirations and educational pathways
 - Keep an open mind
 - Explore a range of possibilities instead of deciding on one too early
- Know your child's strengths and interests
 - Actively explore a range of learning opportunities provided by the school
- Avoid imposing your aspirations on your child



Our School's approach to subject options

- Allocation to the desired subject choice depends on
 - Merit
 - Choice
 - Vacancy
 - Availability of resources



Merit Criteria

- For some subjects, students need to meet the criteria set out. It's important for students
 - to understand the criteria, set targets and work towards achieving them
 - to assess whether they can cope with the demands of the subject and overall combination
- Should there be overwhelming response for a particular subject, students will be offered the subject based on merit



Criteria for Promotion (2EX to 3EX)

- Obtain a **pass in EL** and **50% average** in overall results

If students do not meet the above promotion criteria, they will be laterally transferred to 3NA.

There is no retention in Express course.



Subject Combinations for 2023

Express stream




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Sec 3 Express

Compulsory subjects

1. English Language
2. Mother Tongue
3. Mathematics
4. Combined Humanities (Choose **one**)
 - Social Studies & Geography Elective
 - Social Studies & History Elective
 - Social Studies & Literature Elective
5. Science (student's choice)



	Combination 1a (8-Subject option)	Combination 1b (7-Subject option)	Combination 2 (7 or 6 -Subject option)	Combination 3 (6 -Subject option)
5.	Chemistry	Chemistry	Choose one : • Science (Physics & Chemistry) Or (Chemistry & Biology)	Choose one : • Science (Physics & Chemistry) Or (Chemistry & Biology)
6.	Choose one : • Physics • Biology	Choose one : • Physics • Biology	Choose one : • History <u>OR</u> • Geography <u>OR</u> • Design & Technology <u>OR</u> • Food & Nutrition <u>OR</u> • Principles of Accounts <u>OR</u> • Economics	Choose one : • Literature in English <u>OR</u> • Art
7.	Additional Mathematics	Additional Mathematics	Choose one : • Additional Mathematics <u>OR</u> • No Subject	
8.	Choose one : • Geography <u>OR</u> • History <u>OR</u> • Literature in English <u>OR</u> • Economics			

Combination 1a (8-subject option)

5th subject

● Chemistry

6th subject

● Physics OR Biology

7th subject

Additional Mathematics

8th subject

● Geography OR History OR
Literature OR Economics



Combination **1b** (7-subject option)

5th subject

● Chemistry

6th subject

● Physics **OR** Biology

7th subject

● Additional
Mathematics



Combination 1a / 1b

- The subjects in this combination are catered for students pursuing the Pure Science option.
- Students who wish to offer the Pure Science combination should be aware that they should not drop A.Math in this combination.



Combination 2 (7 or 6 -subject option)

5th subject

Science

(Physics &
Chemistry)

OR

(Biology &
Chemistry)

6th subject

Choose one:

● History OR

● Geography
OR

● Principles of
Accounts OR

● Economics
OR

● D&T OR

● F&N

7th subject

● Additional
Maths OR

● No Subject



Combination 3 (6 -subject option)

5th subject

● Science
(Physics &
Chemistry)

OR

(Biology &
Chemistry)

6th subject

Choose one:

- Literature OR
- Art



Entry Criteria for **3Exp** Options

Additional Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a good pass in Math
Pure Science option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong aptitude for Science
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a good pass in English Language
Principles of Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a good pass in Math
Literature in English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a pass in Literature
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a pass in Geography
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a pass in History



Entry Criteria for **3Exp** Options

D&T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on students' preference and merit• Based on teachers' recommendation on student aptitude & attitude for the subject
F&N	
Art	



Key highlights in subject combination for 2023

- Students need to have a strong foundation for Sec 2 Math in order to be offered Additional Mathematics at Upper Secondary level.
- A. Mathematics is not compulsory for Express stream.
- If students do well for A. Mathematics, it is a strong booster for JC enrolment and certain courses in Polytechnics
- Students who wish to offer 8 subjects should have strong overall results.



Trial Run on Subject Option

- There will be a trial run scheduled on 1 Aug 2023.
- The purpose of the trial run is to get a sensing of students' preference and to work out the requirement to best meet their needs.
- A briefing for students for the trial run will be conducted on 25th July.



Some further pointers

- Requirements at next level of education eg. JC, CI or polytechnic courses
- Interest and aptitude in subjects
- Students who performed well in Science are strongly encouraged to take up Pure Science subjects



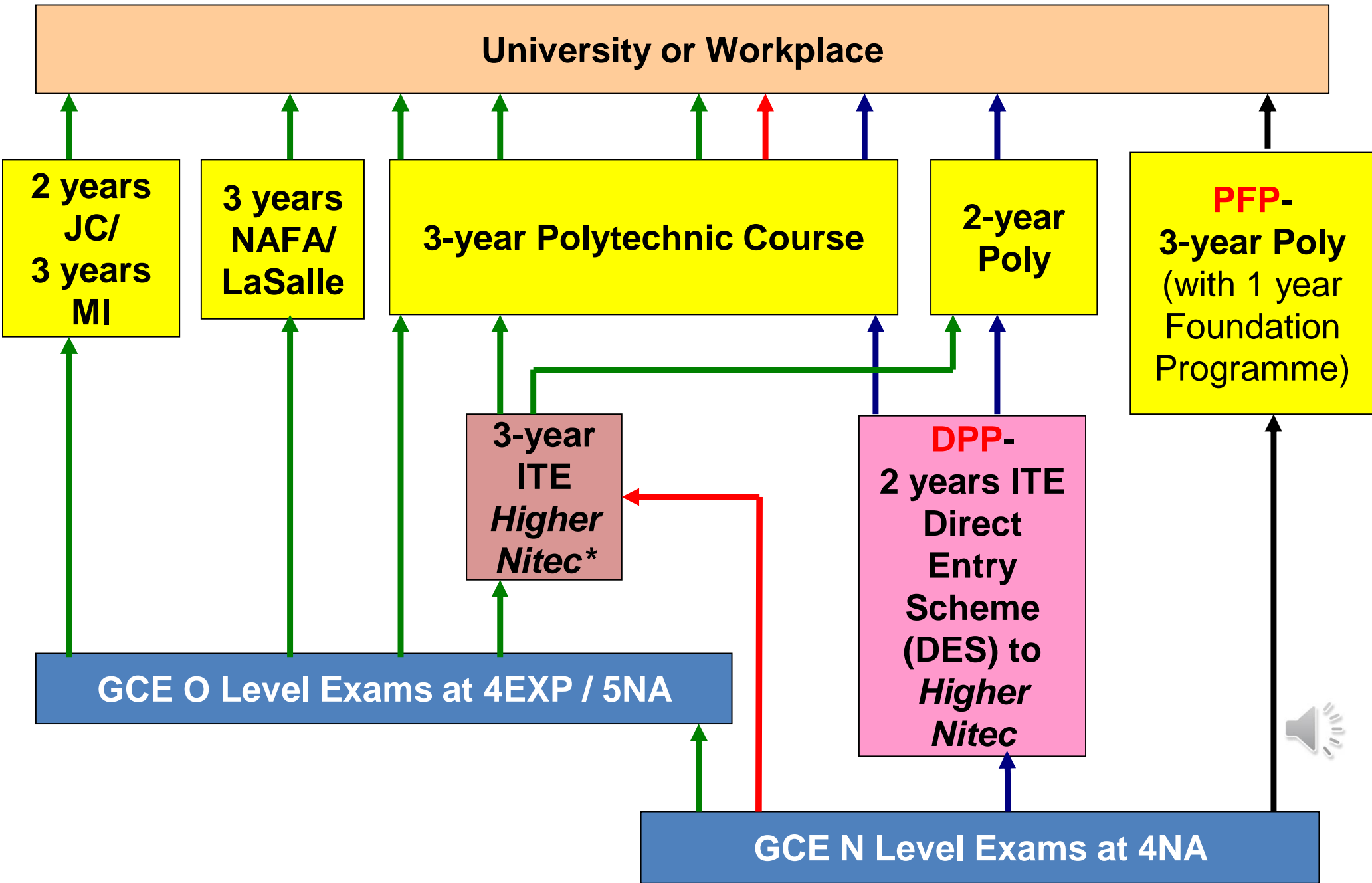
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Information about post-secondary pathways





**PATHWAYS FOR EXP & NA STUDENTS
2022 ONWARDS (PROGRESSIVELY)**

'A' Level Curriculum @ JC/CI

- Compulsory H1 subjects
 - General Paper
 - Mother Tongue Language
 - Project Work
- Content-based subjects
 - 3 subjects must be at H2 level and the 4th subject may be at H1 or H2 level
 - At least 1 of the 4 subjects must be a contrasting subject



To be admitted to polytechnic diploma courses....

You will need to obtain a net ELR2B2 aggregate score of **26** points or better*

EL	R2	B2
English Language	Two Relevant Subjects	Two Best Subjects



* *Exception is for Nursing courses, which requires a net ELR2B2 aggregate of 28 points or better.*

To be admitted to polytechnic diploma courses....

You will need to take relevant subjects depending on the course type

There are **4** course types – A, B, C, and D, and courses are broadly categorised according to their nature

A Humanities or Media courses

B Business courses

C Engineering, Science, Facility Management or IT courses

D Architecture or design courses



To be admitted to polytechnic diploma courses....

Besides meeting the minimum net ELR2B2 aggregate score, you will need to meet the **subject-specific Minimum Entry Requirements (MERs)** for the course



This is to ensure you have the necessary proficiency to cope with the academic demands for the course, e.g. Science subjects for Science-related courses

To be admitted to polytechnic diploma courses....

The subject-specific MERs stipulate the subjects that are required and the minimum grades required for each subject

Subjects that are relevant to the course, and typically comprise subjects relevant to the course type

	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Grade</u>
a)	English Language	1-7
b)	Mathematics (Elementary/Additional)	1-6
c)	Any one of the following subjects:	1-6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology• Biotechnology• Chemistry• Combined Science• Computing / Computer Studies• Design & Technology• Electronics / Fundamentals of Electronics• Physics / Engineering Science• Science (Physics, Biology)• Science (Chemistry, Biology)• Science (Physics, Chemistry) / Physical Science	

The grades that students would need to obtain for each subject to be eligible for the course



From 2024 intake, students applying for admissions to the polytechnics will generally need to meet three subject-specific MERs

In general, the subject-specific MERs will comprise three subjects*:

EL

a. English Language

R2

a. Two relevant subjects drawn from the R subject list for the associated course type

** Exceptions may be made in special circumstances, especially for regulated courses with specific requirements*



Note: The subject-specific MERs for admissions in AY2024 will be available in 2023.

From 2024 intake, students applying for admissions to the polytechnics will generally need to meet three subject-specific MERs

Illustration of changes to subject-specific MERs for NYP's Diploma in Mass Media Management (ELR2B2-B)

New (from AY2024)	
EL	English: C6
R1	Mathematics: C6
R2	Any one of the <u>2nd group of Relevant Subjects</u> for the ELR2B2-B Aggregate Type: C6

3 subject requirements



It is safer to select a combination to keep all options open?

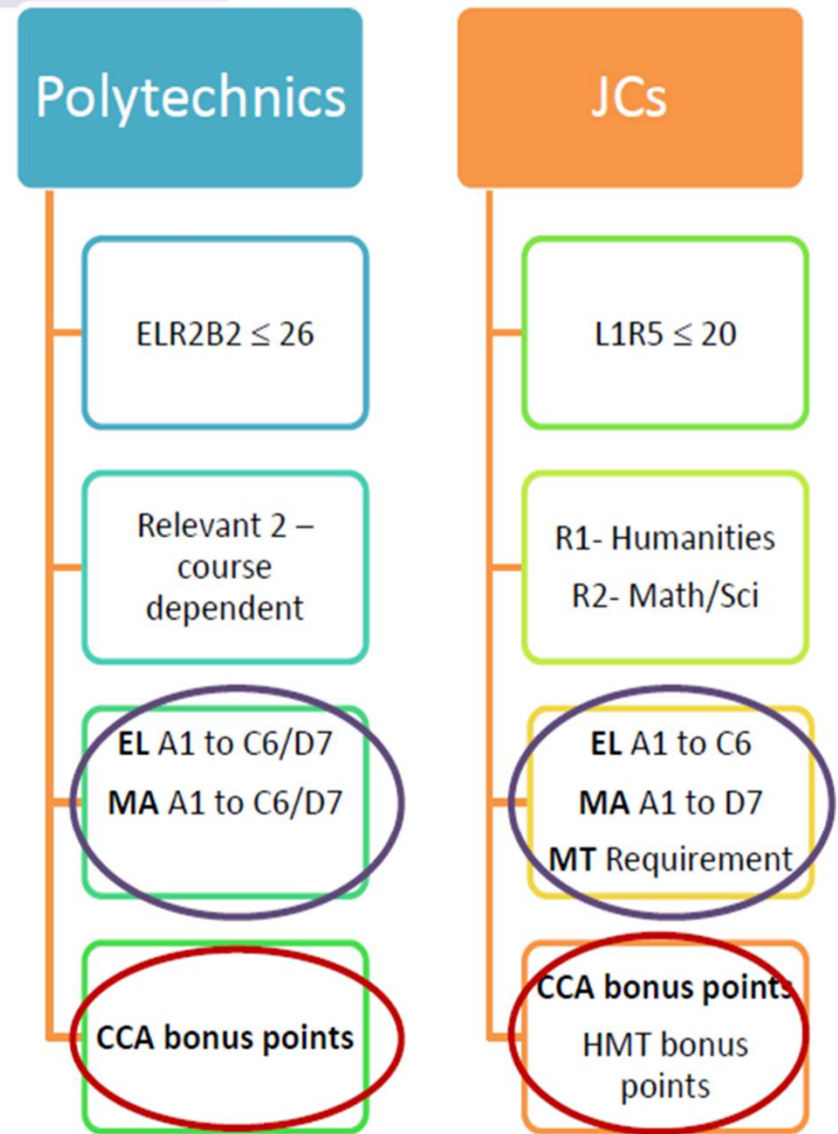


Not True

Consider your child's **interest** and **ability**

Look at **overall load**

- Academic subjects
- Demands of each subject
- CCA grade (Leadership, Service to Community, Participation)



Need to do triple science/ need to do Biology to go into medical/ life science related fields? **Not True**



Single Degree Course	Subject Pre-requisites	Selection test/interview
Medicine	H2 pass in Chemistry and either Biology or Physics.	Yes

STEM related fields are 'out' if I don't do A Math

Qualifications	Requirements
Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H2 Pass in Chemistry and H2 Pass in either Biology or Physics. All H2 subjects and attempted General Paper (GP) or Knowledge & Inquiry (KI) must be taken at one sitting. Meet Mother Tongue Language (MTL) requirement. More details can be found here.

ENGINEERING	
	Subject Grade
Aeronautical & Aerospace Technology ⑤	a) English Language 1-7 b) Mathematics (Elementary/Additional) 1-6 c) Any one of the following subjects: 1-6
Aerospace Systems & Management ⑤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Biotechnology Chemistry Combined Science Computing / Computer Studies Design & Technology Electronics / Fundamentals of Electronics Physics / Engineering Science Science (Physics, Biology) Science (Chemistry, Biology) Science (Physics, Chemistry) / Physical Science
Aerospace / Electrical / Electronics Programme	
The first semester is common to all students and they will opt for one of the following 3 Diploma courses at the end of semester 1:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerospace Systems & Management ⑤ Electrical Engineering with Eco-Design ① Electronic Systems ① 	

Research together with your child

- 'Update' our knowledge
- Multiple pathways



More information

- Polytechnic Foundation Programme

[https://www.sp.edu.sg/sp/admissions/admissions-exercises/polytechnic-foundation-programme-\(pfp\)/home](https://www.sp.edu.sg/sp/admissions/admissions-exercises/polytechnic-foundation-programme-(pfp)/home)

- DES-to-Poly Programme

<http://www.ite.edu.sg/wps/portal/definitely-des>

- JAE Information Booklet
- JC/CI websites
- Polytechnics websites
- ITE website




Important dates to take note




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Important Dates

<p>Subject Options Briefing for students (Brief on final subject combinations offered and online submission of subject options) <i>* A letter to parents will be issued to students</i></p>	<p>17 Oct</p>
<p>Submission of subject options (Students submit subject options through e-streaming portal using PLDs in their classrooms)</p>	<p>24 Oct</p> 
<p>Acknowledgement of subject options by Parents/Guardians (Parents/Guardians to sign on hardcopy subject options form)</p>	<p>27 Oct</p>

Important Dates

Release of streaming results (Refer to noticeboard outside General Office or check online through e-streaming portal)	8 Nov 9 am
Deadline for appeals (Submit appeal slips through General Office or online appeal via the school website)	9 Nov 5 pm
Release of appeal results (Refer to noticeboard outside General Office or check online through e-streaming portal)	15 Nov 9 am 

Make your choices based on
ability and **interest** in
subjects **NOT** on your
friends' choices!



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Thank you



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