

# **SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)**

## **OFFERING DIFFERENT SUBJECT COMBINATIONS**



# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

- Offers students the option of Standard and Foundation Subjects, depending on their strengths.
- Allow students to focus on and stretch their potential in the subjects they are strong in while building up the fundamentals in the subject they need more support in.
- The new PSLE scoring system will not change the considerations for deciding on a student's subject combination.



# SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRIMARY)

- Schools will continue to recommend based on the following:
  - Student's aptitude, motivation and performance in each subject;
  - Student's ability to cope with a particular subject combination; and
  - Whether the subject combination focuses sufficiently on literacy and numeracy, and facilitates the student's articulation to secondary school and beyond.
- Offering subjects at Foundation level is **not a disadvantage to the students**. It enables them to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepares them for progression to secondary school.



## HOW DOES SUBJECT-BASED BANDING (PRI) WORK?

### @ PRIMARY 4

**Student sits for school-based examinations**

School recommends a subject combination based on the student's results.

Parents fill up an option form indicating the preferred combination.

### @ PRIMARY 5

**Student takes subject combination chosen by parents**

English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Language are available at standard and foundation levels.

Higher Mother Tongue Language is also available.

School assesses student's ability to cope with the current subject combination at the end of the year. Adjustments to the number of standard and foundation subjects can be made, if necessary.

### @ PRIMARY 6

**Student takes subject combination decided by his school and sits for the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) at the end of Primary 6.**

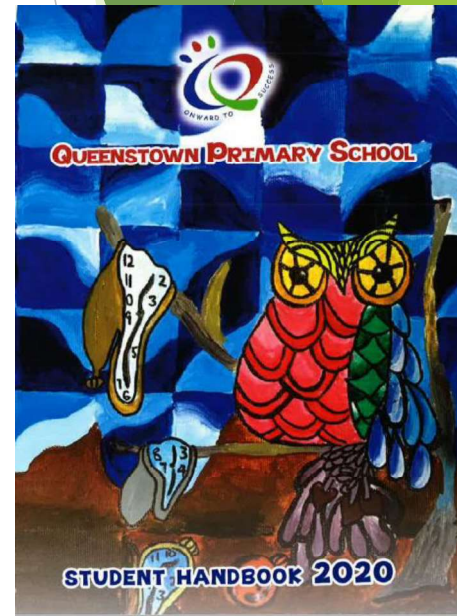
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### AT THE END OF P4

RESULTS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Good pass in all 4 subjects and at least 80 marks in MTL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Standard Subjects + Higher MTL</li> </ul>
Pass at least in 3 subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Standard Subjects</li> </ul>
Pass 2 or fewer subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Standard Subjects + Foundation MTL</li> <li>• 3 Foundation Subjects + Standard MTL</li> <li>• 4 Foundation Subjects</li> </ul>

### AT THE END OF P5:

Students should generally continue with the same subject combination in P6 unless they perform exceptionally well or poorly in one or more subjects at P5.



## Subjects at P5

<b>English</b>	Offered at <b>standard</b> and <b>foundation</b> levels
<b>Mathematics</b>	Offered at <b>standard</b> and <b>foundation</b> levels
<b>Science</b>	Offered at <b>standard</b> and <b>foundation</b> levels
<b>Mother Tongue</b>	Offered at <b>higher</b> , <b>standard</b> and foundation levels

## How shall parents choose?

- Understand the **abilities** and **needs** of your child
- Understand the **scoring system** for **PSLE**
- Understand the **future pathways** for your child  
(eg to qualify for polytechnic education, a pass in Mathematics at `O' levels is needed)

# SCORING FOR FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECTS





## FOUNDATION SUBJECTS GRADED IN 5 BANDS TODAY

- Under the current PSLE grading system, Foundation subjects are graded in 5 scoring bands from Grade 1 to U.

Current System	
Grade	Raw Mark Range
1	85 – 100
2	70 – 84
3	50 – 69
4	30 – 49
U	< 30

## FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECT GRADES TO BE LESS FINELY DIFFERENTIATED

- Under the new AL system, to reduce fine differentiation among students, Foundation subject grades will be graded in 3 scoring bands from AL A to C.
- Like Standard subject ALs, the Foundation subject ALs will reflect a student's level of achievement, rather than how they have performed relative to their peers.

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100
B	30 – 74
C	< 30

## FOUNDATION LEVEL SUBJECT GRADES

- For the purpose of S1 posting, Foundation level AL A to AL C will be mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.
- Similar to the current PSLE scoring system, this mapping is based on the learning and assessment load of the subjects, and informs students of their readiness to access the curriculum at the secondary level.

Foundation Level AL Reflected on Result Slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Subject AL	Standard Raw Mark Range
A	75 – 100	6	45-64
B	30 – 74	7	20-44
C	< 30	8	<20

# SCORING OF FOUNDATION SUBJECTS FOR S1 POSTING

- A student's PSLE Score is the sum of the four AL scores across his/her Standard and Foundation subjects.
- Students taking Foundation subjects are eligible for the Express Course, as long as they meet the course placement criteria.
- With Full Subject-based Banding in secondary schools, students may also take subjects at a higher level for those that they are strong in.



ENGLISH	AL3
FOUNDATION MOTHER TONGUE	ALB
FOUNDATION MATHEMATICS	ALB
SCIENCE	AL5

**PSLE SCORE: 22**

PLACEMENT OUTCOME	PSLE SCORE
EXPRESS	4 – 20
EXPRESS / N(A) option	21 – 22
N(A)	23 – 24
N(A) / N(T) option	25
N(T)	26 – 30, with AL7 or better in both EL <u>and</u> MA

# SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND STUDENTS STUDYING AN ASIAN LANGUAGE/ FOREIGN LANGUAGE (AsL/FL) IN LIEU OF AN MTL



# SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- For students who are exempted from MTL or take an AsL/FL in lieu of an official MTL, their PSLE result slip will only reflect the three subjects they have taken.
- However, for the purposes of Secondary 1 posting, these students will need an assigned MTL score so that they have a PSLE score comprising four subjects
  - To determine the assigned MTL score, reference is made to MTL scores of other students who have achieved similar scores in English, Mathematics, and Science.
  - This is the same approach taken in today's T-score system.



# SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- In reviewing the score assignment for these students under the new PSLE scoring system, we needed to strike a balance between:
  - Acknowledging that students have valid reasons for seeking MTL exemption or taking an AsL/FL, and
  - Ensuring some parity between scoring for exemption, Foundation and Standard MTL.

# SCORING FOR MTL-EXEMPT AND AsL/FL STUDENTS

- Under the new scoring system, the assigned MTL score will :
  - Take reference from peers with similar scores for English, Mathematics and Science;
  - While maintaining parity of treatment with students who take Foundation MTL (who will score between AL 6 to 8).
- Hence, students will receive an assigned MTL score between AL 6 to 8 in PSLE.





In summary

## FAMILIARISING STUDENTS AND PARENTS WITH THE NEW SYSTEM AND GUIDING THEM IN MAKING SUBJECT CHOICES

