

HOW DOES SUBJECT-BASED BANDING WORK?

At 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.

At Primary 5

Student takes subject combination chosen by parents
English, 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.

At 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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For Primary Schools

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING

Catering to Your Child's Abilities

Every child is unique, and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents. Our schools believe in providing a balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child so that we can prepare him for life.

Subject-based Banding was introduced as a refinement to the streaming process to help each child realise his potential, based on his interests and strengths.



WHAT IS SUBJECT-BASED BANDING?

Subject-based Banding provides greater flexibility for your child by offering him the option of a combination of standard and foundation subjects, depending on his strengths. For example, if he excels in English and Mother Tongue but needs more support in Mathematics and Science, he may choose to take the first two subjects at the standard level and the others at the foundation level.

Such a choice will allow your child to focus on and stretch his potential in the subjects that he is strong in while building up the fundamentals in the subjects that he needs more support in.

WHY INTRODUCE SUBJECT-BASED BANDING?

- To recognise the different abilities of students and give them greater flexibility to concentrate on the subjects they are good at.
- To encourage more interaction among students with different strengths.

SUBJECT-BASED BANDING AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION : HOW ARE THEY RELATED?

Progression to secondary level depends on your child's PSLE score. The different expectations of standard and foundation subjects will be taken into account when your child's PSLE score is calculated.

Previously, students from EM3 stream would mostly enter the Normal (Technical) course at secondary level.

With Subject-based Banding, some students with clear strengths in some areas are able to offer at least one subject at the standard level. If they excel in these subjects, they will then have the opportunity to pursue higher-level options at secondary school.

Offering subjects at the foundation level is not a disadvantage to your child. It enables him to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepares him for progression to secondary school.

WHAT ARE SOME CHOICES AVAILABLE?

If your child (for P4 exam)	Your child may be recommended to take
Passes all 4 subjects and performs very well in Mother Tongue Language	4 standard subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language
Passes all 4 subjects	4 standard subjects
Passes 3 subjects	4 standard subjects
Passes 2 subjects or less	4 standard subjects; or 3 standard subjects + 1 other foundation subject; or 2 standard subjects + 2 other foundation subjects; or 1 standard subject + 3 other foundation subjects; or 4 foundation subjects

WE ARE ALWAYS HERE TO HELP

Schools will help recommend subject combinations, based on your child's needs and abilities.

If you have any questions on Subject-based Banding, you should approach your child's school for help.

SUPPORT AND CONTACT

For more information, please visit the MOE website at www.moe.gov.sg/education/primary.

You can also call the MOE Customer Service Centre at 6872 2220, or connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/moesingapore.

