

Briefing for Parents of Secondary 4 and 5 Students

Frequently Asked Questions

Educational Pathways and Admission Criteria	
Question	Response
1) What are the eligibility criteria for admission to Junior College (JC)?	<p>Students may gain admission to a Junior College (JC) course via the Direct School Admission (DSA-JC) or the Joint Admission Exercise (JAE).</p> <p>a) DSA-JC allows students to apply to a DSA school before taking the GCE O-Level examinations. Students can apply based on their talent in sports, CCAs and specific academic areas that may not be demonstrated at the O-Level examinations. If students are admitted to a school through DSA-JC, they cannot:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) Transfer to another school. You must commit to your chosen school for the duration of the programme. <p>For more information, please visit: https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa</p> <p>b) The JAE is conducted annually in January after the release of GCE O-Level results. Eligible applicants can apply for admission to JC and other institutions (e.g. MI, polytechnics and ITE) by submitting an online application through the JAE Internet System (JAE-IS).</p> <p>To be eligible for admission to a JC via JAE or DSA-JC, a student must meet the following 2 criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> L1R5 gross aggregate score must not exceed 20. Meet the grade requirements for specific subjects. <p>L1R5 gross aggregate score = First Language (L1)+ Relevant Subject 1 (R1) + R2 + R3 + R4 + R5 L1 - English or Higher Mother Tongue Language R1 - Any 1 best-scoring subject from Humanities R2 - Any 1 best-scoring subject from Mathematics or Science R3 - Any 1 best-scoring subject from Humanities, Mathematics or Science R4, R5 - Any 2 best-scoring subjects except Religious Knowledge</p> <p>For more information, please visit: https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae/junior-colleges-and-millennia-institute</p>
2) Is DSA-JC suitable for my child? What should my child consider when applying to JC via DSA-JC?	<p>DSA-JC allows students to secure a place in a JC based on their talents and achievements, rather than solely on academic results. Broadly, DSA-JC might be suitable for students who</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> have talents or achievements in specific areas (e.g., sports, arts, leadership) and are passionate about continuing to develop their talents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) strong academic abilities and meet the academic requirements of their target JCs, are interested in pursuing a University education. c) Can balance talent development with academic studies. <p>Some key considerations a student should take into account when applying to JC via DSA-JC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Students should identify their own strengths and talent areas. b) Research JCs that offer DSA in the student's talent areas (e.g. attend JC open houses and DSA briefings). c) Consider the programmes and opportunities provided by each of the target JCs. d) Ensure student is able to meet the academic criteria for DSA at each JC. e) Understand the expectations for DSA students at each JC and ensure student is prepared for these commitments. f) Consider how the DSA pathway aligns with the student's university and career goals. <p>For more information on DSA-JC, please visit: https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/overview</p>
<p>3) What are the eligibility criteria for Polytechnic?</p>	<p>Students may gain admission to a Polytechnic course via the Polytechnic Early Admissions Exercise (Poly EAE), the Joint Admission Exercise (JAE) or Direct Admissions Exercise (DAE).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Polytechnic Early Admissions Exercise (Poly EAE) is an aptitude-based admissions exercise that allows students to apply for and receive conditional offers for admission to polytechnics prior to receiving their O-Level examination results or final Higher Nitec Grade Point Average (GPA). b) The JAE is conducted in January after the release of GCE O-Level results. Eligible applicants can apply for admission to JC and other institutions (e.g. MI, polytechnics and ITE) by submitting an online application through the JAE Internet System (JAE-IS). c) Each polytechnic runs its own DAE for students with local or international qualifications who are not eligible to apply for courses under other admissions exercises. <p>To be eligible for admission into a polytechnic course, a student must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ELR2B2 net aggregate score must not exceed 26. The exception is the Diploma in Nursing, whereby your ELR2B2-C net aggregate score must not exceed 28. b) Meet the minimum entry requirements (MER) of the course that you are applying for. <p>Find out the MER of specific courses on MOE CourseFinder (https://www.moe.gov.sg/coursefinder).</p> <p>For more information on Polytechnic eligibility, please visit: https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae/polytechnics</p>

<p>4) How do I know if my child is suitable for polytechnic?</p>	<p>Polytechnics provide hands-on, practice-based learning experience within a dynamic and progressive learning environment. Work attachments with industry partners, ranging from 6 weeks to 6 months, are also offered as part of the curriculum.</p> <p>Consider your child’s interests, academic strengths, and career goals viz the relevant courses and learning experiences offered by the various educational institutions to make the preferred choice. Students who prefer practical, hands-on learning and are interested in specific fields like business, IT, or healthcare could consider polytechnics. Polytechnic offers diplomas and prepares students for both the workforce and further university education. Students could consider exploring courses offered by these polytechnics based on aggregate type, score, and fields of interest via the CourseFinder (moe.gov.sg/coursefinder/).</p> <p>Furthermore, polytechnic graduates who wish to further their studies may be considered for admission to universities based on their diploma qualifications. The polytechnics also provide programmes at diploma and post-diploma levels, including Work-Study Post-Diplomas, for adult learners who want to deepen their skills across a range of disciplines and industries.</p> <p>Information on Polytechnic https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/overview https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae</p>
<p>5) What are the submission requirements, deadlines, and processes for DSA-JC and JAE applications?</p>	<p>The following links would provide further information for students and parents on the admission procedures:</p> <p>Information on Junior Colleges (DSA - Direct School Admission) https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa Application period: Early May 2025</p> <p>Information on Polytechnic (EAE - Early Admission Exercise) https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/poly-eae Application period: Mid June 2025</p> <p>Information on ITE (EAE - Early Admission Exercise) https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/ite-eae Application period: Early May 2025</p> <p>The Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) is conducted in January after the release of GCE O-Level results. Eligible applicants can apply for admission to JC, MI, polytechnics and ITE by submitting their online application through the JAE Internet System (JAE-IS). https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/jae</p>
<p>6) How is the ELMAB3 calculated for an N-Level student who took GCE O-Level subjects?</p>	<p>An N(T) and N(A) student who is sitting for GCE 'O' Level subjects will be able to convert the grade taken at O-Level to the N(A)-Level grade.</p> <p>For example, a student who scored</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A1, A2, B3 at O-Level will have the subject grade converted to a grade 1 in N-Level. B4, C5, C6 at O-Level will be converted to a grade 2 in N-Level. D7 at O-Level will be converted to a grade 3 in N-Level. E8 at O-Level will be converted to a grade 4 in N-Level.

	<p>e) F9 at O-Level will not be allowed to use the subject for conversion and computation of their EMB3.</p> <p>The converted points for the O-Level subject can then be combined with the relevant subjects from the N-Level to compute the student's EMB3.</p> <p>You may like to refer to our 4N Parents Briefing Slides for more information on how to calculate ELMAB3.</p>
<p>7) How are the best 4 subjects calculated for an N(T) student who took N(A) Level subjects?</p>	<p>A student who takes SBB NA(A) subjects will be able to convert the grade taken to an ITE aggregate for computation of his/her best 4 subjects for admission into an 3 year higher Nitec course.</p> <p>For example, a student who scored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1, 2, 3 for the NA() subject will be converted to ITE aggregate point 1 b) 4 for the NA() subject will be converted to ITE aggregate point 2 c) 5 for the NA() subject will be converted to ITE aggregate point 3 d) 6 for the NA() subject will be converted to ITE aggregate point 4 <p>The converted points for the N(A) subject can then be combined with the relevant N(T) subjects to consider for his/her best 4 subjects.</p>
<p>Education and Career Guidance Efforts (ECG)</p>	
<p>8) Does the school arrange for talks by post-secondary institutions?</p>	<p>Unity Secondary is committed to providing students with the exposure to various post-secondary pathways, helping them make informed decisions about their future. Our approach includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consolidated information on Polytechnic and JC open houses: At the beginning of the year, students have been provided with a comprehensive list of Polytechnic and JC Open House dates at the beginning of the year. We encourage our students to visit the preferred institutions over the weekend to minimize curriculum loss during this critical year. b) Annual Education and Career Guidance (ECG) Fair: This year, our ECG Fair will be held in May. Students will be given the opportunity to explore post-secondary options and they will get to hear about the different courses available in the Polytechnics and JC. This allows our students to gain valuable insights into the various programmes and ask questions directly to institution representatives and explore different post-secondary options in a convenient setting within the school. c) One-to-one guidance: Our ECG counsellor is available for individual sessions to help students who need more personalised advice on their post-secondary options and career aspirations.
<p>9) What are the different pathways after my child completes N-Level?</p>	<p><u>For students in the N(A) stream:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sec 4N(A) students can be promoted to Sec 5N(A) if they obtained an ELMAB3 aggregate score of 19 points or less (excluding bonus points). b) In lieu of progressing to Sec 5N(A), Sec 4N(A) students may consider enrolling into two-year Higher Nitec courses at ITE

	<p>through the Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) if they obtained a raw ELMAB3 aggregate score of 19 points or less (excluding CCA bonus points); and met the subject-specific entry requirements (e.g. English and Math obtaining a grade 4 and below). DPP students who successfully complete their Higher Nitec courses and attain the minimum qualifying Grade Point Average (GPA) are subsequently guaranteed a place in a polytechnic diploma course mapped to their Higher Nitec course.</p> <p>c) Sec 4N(A) students may consider enrolling in the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) if they obtained a raw ELMAB3 aggregate score of 12 points or less (excluding CCA bonus points); and met the subject-specific entry requirements (e.g. English and Math obtaining a grade 3 and below). The PFP is a diploma-specific foundation programme conducted over two academic semesters at the polytechnics by polytechnic lecturers. Students who pass all modules in the one-year PFP will progress to the first year of the relevant diploma course in the same polytechnic.</p> <p>d) Students may also apply for a 3-year Higher Nitec course and then proceed to polytechnic to do a related course provided the student meets the GPA requirement.</p> <p>e) Students who are interested in the arts can apply for Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Foundation programme if their EMB3 is 15 and below.</p> <p><u>For students in the N(T) stream:</u> Students may apply for a 3 year Higher Nitec course which could lead to either Work study diploma, ITE technical diploma or Polytechnic diploma.</p> <p>Parents may want to refer to the USS 2025 4NA Parents Briefing Slides for more information.</p>
Preparation for National Examinations	
10) When will CCAs stand down for Secondary 4 and 5 students to allow more time National Examinations preparation?	Secondary 4 and 5 students will stand down from their CCA from 2 May 2025. Thereafter, Secondary 4 and 5 students will have intensive revision scheduled on Fridays during CCA time. Students are to refer to the schedule provided in the Student Portal to prepare for weekly timed practice of examinable subjects.
11) How does the school prepare students for the National Examinations?	<p>At the beginning of the year, the character coaches would guide the students to set targets for themselves based on their aspirations post-secondary education.</p> <p>The following academic support programmes are in place to support all graduating N-Level/ O-Level students.</p> <p>a) After-school academic intervention starting from Term 1</p> <p>b) Friday intervention programme which includes weekly timed practice after CCA stands down from 2 May 2025</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Intensive coursework during Term 2 Leadership Learning Week to ensure students complete as much of their coursework as possible d) Intensive revision schedule for non-coursework students during Term 2 Leadership Learning Week
<p>12) How does the school help graduating students manage stress during the National Examinations preparation?</p>	<p>We employ a multi-faceted approach to help graduating students manage stress during National Exam preparation. Besides the academic support programmes listed above (response to Question 11), we also support the social-emotional needs of our graduating students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regular check-ins by Character Coaches on students' well-being b) Regular sharing by Year Heads on study strategies to manage learning and revision effectively to reduce stress (e.g. exam skills) c) Sharing by School Counsellors on stress management strategies
<p>13) How can my child improve their grades at Secondary 5 if they want to go to JC?</p>	<p>Students who are promoted to Sec 5 after N-Levels would need to consistently work hard to close the gap between the N-Level and O-Level requirements. Students can familiarise themselves with the O-Level requirements by practising questions using the ten-year series.</p> <p>To be eligible for JC course, the L1R5 gross aggregate score must not exceed 20 and the student must meet the grade requirements for the specific subjects.</p>
<p>14) How can I support my child this year as they prepare for the National Examinations?</p>	<p>To support children in their graduating year, parents could consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Foster open communication: create a non-judgment space where your child can freely discuss their academic challenges and concerns. Regularly check in on their progress and well-being. b) Discuss post-secondary plans: Engage in conversations about your child's goals and aspirations to help them maintain focus and motivation. c) Encourage effective organisation: Help your child develop time management skills by introducing tools like planners and to-do lists. This will enable them to balance schoolwork with necessary breaks and relaxation. d) Provide emotional support: Acknowledge the stress your child may be experiencing and reassure them that challenges are a normal part of the learning process. Promote a growth mindset by framing mistakes as opportunities for improvement. e) Emphasise well-being: Remind your child that their overall well-being is just as important as academic achievement. Encourage a healthy lifestyle with adequate sleep, proper nutrition, and regular exercise. f) Promote help-seeking behaviour: Encourage your child to seek academic assistance from teachers or emotional support from school counsellors when needed. g) Establish a conducive study environment: Help create a quiet, comfortable space at home for studying and revision.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Monitor and limit distractions: Set boundaries on potential distractions such as excessive screen time or social media use during study periods. i) Celebrate progress: Acknowledge and celebrate your child's efforts and achievements, no matter how small, to boost their confidence and motivation.
<p>15) How can I encourage and help my child to focus so my child can work towards achieving his/her goals and preferred pathway?</p>	<p>Parents could help their children stay focused and motivated in pursuing their goals and preferred pathways with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify interests and strengths: Work with your child to recognise their passions and abilities. This self-awareness can guide them towards suitable post-secondary options and career paths. b) Set clear, realistic goals: Help your child establish specific, achievable objectives for their post-secondary education. These goals will provide direction and purpose to their efforts. c) Break down goals into manageable steps: Assist your child in dividing larger goals into smaller, actionable tasks. This approach can prevent overwhelm and make progress feel more attainable. d) Establish a consistent routine: Encourage your child to develop a balanced study schedule that includes regular breaks and time for personal interests. Consistency often leads to improved focus and productivity. e) Provide positive reinforcement: Celebrate your child's achievements, both big and small. Regular encouragement can boost motivation, especially when facing challenges. f) Maintain open communication: Ensure your child knows they can turn to you for support and guidance. Regular check-ins can help address any concerns or obstacles promptly. g) Explore resources together: Research post-secondary options, career paths, and study techniques with your child. This collaborative approach can deepen their engagement with their goals. h) Encourage self-reflection: Prompt your child to regularly assess their progress and adjust their strategies as needed. This fosters autonomy and self-awareness. i) Seek professional guidance: Encourage your child to consult with the school's ECG counsellor for additional support and insights into potential pathways. <p>Parents' ongoing involvement and support plays a crucial role in inspiring their child to put forth their best effort and achieve their goals.</p>