

Subject-Based Banding

Secondary Two Parent Talk
30 January 2026



Why Subject-Based Banding (SBB)?

- Every student is unique and possesses different strengths.
- Subject-Based Banding can:
 - a. **nurture students' strengths**
 - b. **provide more educational opportunities**
 - c. **encourage students to be more engaged in learning**
 - d. **allow students to build a stronger foundation in subjects that they are good at**



EXAMPLE: JANE FROM 2 Angela

End of Sec 1

- Offered G3 English at PSLE
- Offered G3 Science at Sec 1 mid-year juncture
- Offered G3 History at Sec 1 end-of-year juncture
- Moving into Sec 2, Jane has 3 more demanding level (MDL) subjects



Subjects to be taken in Sec 2

G3 English	G3 History
G2 Math	G3 Science
G2 MTL	G2 Geography
Common Curriculum Subjects	G2 Literature

Junctures to take up subjects at a more demanding level

- via school-based assessment, after Sec 2 year-end examinations, based on

- (a) excellent and consistent performance in the subject;*
- (b) positive learning attitude to cope with the higher academic demand; and*
- (c) teachers' recommendations*



Will my child continue with the subject at Upper Sec?

- Entry into MDL subjects at Secondary 1 **does not automatically guarantee transition** to subjects at the more demanding level at Sec 3.
- Child's performance needs to meet the **school's criteria** at the end of Secondary 2 to offer subjects at the more demanding level (*subject combination criteria apply*)
- Subject to minimum class size and school resourcing



Sec 2 EOY Criteria: EL, MT

Criteria to Offer Subjects at MDL – G3

Subject	Students currently offering MDL (G3)	Students currently offering G2 EL or MTL
English Language Mother Tongue Languages	At least 50% for EOY results (written paper ¹) and overall results in the subject	At least 75% for EOY results (written paper ¹) in G2 English and overall results in the subject
¹ Including oral and listening components.		



Sec 2 EOY Criteria: Science

Criteria to Offer Subjects at MDL – G3

Subject	Students currently offering MDL (G3)	Students currently offering G2 Science
Science *Students will be offered Combined Science only	At least 50% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject	At least 75% for EOY results (written paper) in G2 Science and overall results in the subject



Sec 2 EOY Criteria: Mathematics

Criteria to Offer Subjects at MDL – G3

Subject	Students currently offering MDL (G3)	Students currently offering G2 Mathematics
Mathematics	At least 50% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject	At least 75% for EOY results (written paper) in G2 Mathematics and overall results in the subject
	Offering of G3 Additional Mathematics is contingent on meeting subject-specific criteria of: 55% for students offering G3 Mathematics at Sec 2 75% for students offering G2 Mathematics at Sec 2	



Sec 2 EOY Criteria: Humanities

Criteria to Offer Subjects at MDL – G3

Subject	Students currently offering MDL (G3)	Students currently offering G2 History/Geography/Literature
History Geography Literature	At least 50% for EOY results (written paper) and overall results in the subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least 75% for EOY (written paper)¹ and overall results in G2 English Language (OR at least 65% for EOY and overall in G3 English Language)At least 75% for EOY and overall results in the subject
*Students will be offered Combined Humanities (Social Studies + Geog/History/Lit) only	Note: Current SBB students will only be offered the corresponding elective of the G3 Humanities subject offered in Sec 2.	¹ written paper in EL includes oral and listening components



EXAMPLE: JANE FROM 2 Angela

End of Sec 2

- Did not meet criteria to continue with G3 History but met criteria for G3 English and G3 Science
- Decided to take up G3 English
- Chose to take G2 Science even though she is eligible (student's choice)

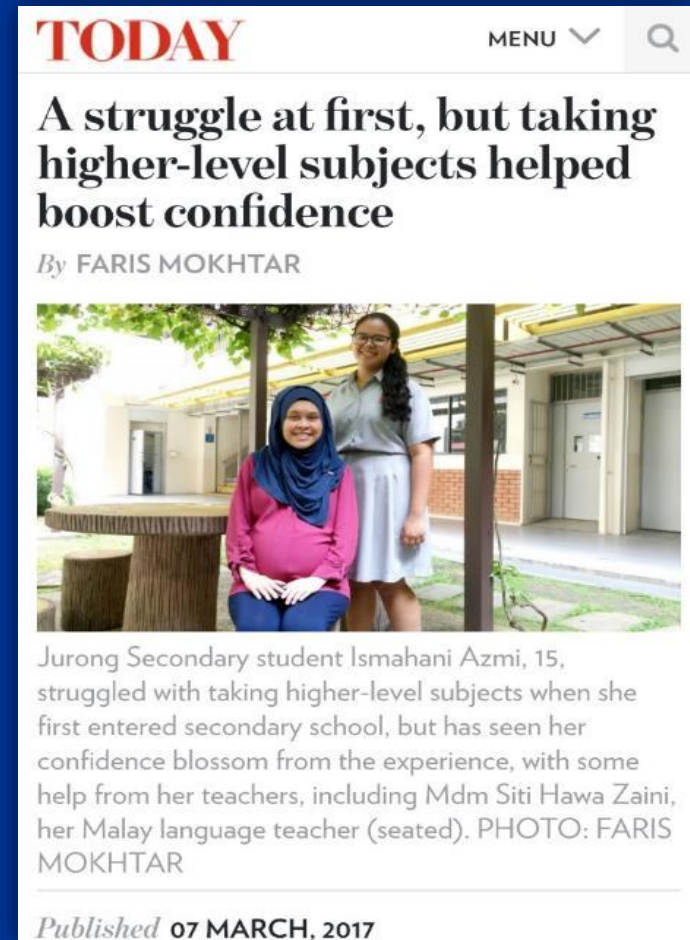


Subjects to be taken in Upper Sec

G2 Math	G2 SS/History
G3 English	G2 Science
Other subjects	G2 MTL

What if my child/ward struggles with the subject(s) at MDL?

- Constant **monitoring** of students' progress
- Monitoring of students' **socio-emotional and academic needs**
- Provision of **necessary support** to students to help them cope, e.g. bridging lessons will be conducted for all SBB inserts



What are the benefits of taking up subjects at MDL?

- To help each student **find fulfilment** in learning and be motivated to excel in what she is good at
- Taking subjects at a more demanding level at Lower Secondary, where possible, **builds a stronger foundation** for Upper Secondary
- Eligible for **grade conversion** at the national examinations for desired courses (where applicable)



Revised Downward Grade Mapping

- Students can use grade mapping to aggregate scores across subjects offered at different subject levels for post-secondary progression

<u>Downward grade mapping table from G3 to G2</u>	
G3	G2
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7	3
E8	4
9	5
	6

<u>Downward grade mapping table from G2 to G1</u>	
G2	G1
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	D
	E

For Further Queries

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