

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT BOARD

Update on Upper Sec Assessment and Post-Sec Progression Matters



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE



Recent Shifts in the Education System

- **Nurturing students to learn for life**
 - **Reduce overemphasis on academic results**
 - Help students develop an intrinsic motivation to learn and nurture their **joy of learning**
 - Provide **multiple educational pathways** to cater to our students' diverse strengths, interests and learning needs
- Some of the shifts to achieve the above include:

Reduction in
school-based
assessment

Increase in places
for Direct School
Admission

Changes to PSLE
Scoring and
Secondary 1
Posting System

Progressive
Implementation
of Full Subject-
Based Banding

Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB)

- Full SBB builds on the positive outcomes of SBB in secondary schools to create a more customised secondary school education experience for all students.
- Full SBB aims for students to:

1

Have greater ownership of their learning and to customise their learning according to their strengths, interests and learning needs

2

Develop a growth mindset and an intrinsic motivation to learn for life

3

Have more opportunities to interact with peers with different strengths and interests

4

Have increased access to post-secondary pathways while having strong fundamentals to thrive in the pathways they choose

Minimum and Maximum Number of Upper Secondary Examinable Subjects will be Aligned for All Students

- From the 2023 Sec 3 cohort, **all students will offer at least 5 and up to 9 upper secondary examinable subjects.**
- This change aligns the number of upper secondary examinable subjects for all students as our schools progressively implement Full SBB.
- Schools will continue to advise students to ensure they have a manageable number of subjects and, a broad range of learning experiences in different subjects.

Changes to Grades Reflected on Result Slip and Examination Certificate

To recognise students' efforts in attempting a subject regardless of their achievement, with effect from the 2023 graduating cohort:

- **Grade U in N(A)- and N(T)-Level examinations will be replaced with Grade 6 and Grade E respectively.**
 - This naming convention is similar to Grade 9 for O-Level examinations.
 - There is no change to the examination standards.
 - N(A)-Level Grade 6 and N(T)-Level Grade E cannot be used for aggregate computation for admission to Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) and Sec 5, similar to current practice for Grade U. They can be used for ITE admissions (except for courses with specific Minimum Entry Requirements).
- **All grades, including the O-Level Grade 9, N(A)-Level Grade 6 and N(T)-Level Grade E, will be reflected in the student's result slip and examination certificate.**
 - This will apply for result slips and examination certificates for students taking secondary school national examinations in 2023 and beyond.

Downward Grade Mapping Tables for Computing Aggregates Scores will be revised

- For N(A) and N(T) students taking subjects at more demanding levels, downward grade mapping is used to compute aggregate scores across subjects taken at different subject levels for post-secondary progression.
 - For example, a student who took a subject at a more demanding level and obtained an O-Level Grade D7 will have the grade mapped to an N(A)-Level Grade 3.
- The revised grade mapping table provides an updated reflection of the relative curricular and assessment demands between subject levels, and **will be implemented from the 2023 graduating cohort onwards**.
- The downward grade mapping table has been revised based on data from recent years' examinations.

From	To
O-Level	N(A)-Level
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7	3
E8	4
9	5
	6

From	To
N(A)-Level	N(T)-Level
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	D
	E

Impact on Admissions to ITE

- The revised grade mapping table provides an updated mapping of grades and will allow students to make a more informed decision to take subjects at a more demanding level to access post-secondary pathways suited to their strengths. Hence, **ITE Bonus points for students from the N(A) and N(T) courses taking pre-requisite subjects at N(A)-Level examinations for the *Nitec* course they are applying for will no longer be applicable from AY2024 ITE admissions** (i.e. from the 2023 graduating cohort).
- **Minimum Entry Requirements (MERs) for ITE's Nitec courses (or 3-year Higher Nitec courses)** will continue to apply for admissions. These MERs are intended to ensure students would be able to cope with the course.
 - For students who obtained N(A)-Level Grade 6 or N(T)-Level Grade E for certain subjects, they will be able to use the grades for aggregate computation if the subjects are not prerequisite as MERs. They will also continue to be able to apply for courses which do not have any prerequisite subjects as MERs.



Thank you



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