

**NORTHBROOKS
SECONDARY SCHOOL**
SOARING YET ROOTED

***Subject-
Based
Banding (for
incoming Sec
1 parents)***





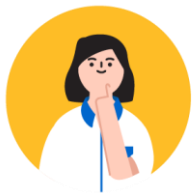
What is Subject-based Banding (Secondary)?

Subject-Based Banding (Secondary) [SBB (Sec)] is one of many pathways for students to nurture their aptitudes and enhance their access to opportunities throughout their educational journey. SBB (Sec) allows your child to take specific subject(s) at a more demanding level starting from Secondary 1 if he/she is found to be suitable. If he/she is posted to the N(A) or N(T) course, he/she may be able to take some subjects at Express or N(A) level to stretch him/herself and acquire deeper competencies in area(s) of strengths.

Eligibility Criteria for incoming Sec 1 students (1st Intake)

- Sec 1 students posted to the N(A) and N(T) courses may be offered EL/Math/Sc/MTL at a higher level, based on their PSLE subject grades.
- Students have a choice to reject the offer.
- PSLE eligibility criteria for offering higher level subjects:

Course	PSLE Standard subject	PSLE Foundation subject	Option to offer subject at
N(A)	AL 5 or better	-	Express
N(T)	AL 5 or better	-	Express
	at least AL 6	A	N(A)



Can my child take higher level subjects? What subjects are these and when are the entry points?

- Students posted to the N(A) and N(T) course are eligible to take some subjects (English Language, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue Languages) at a more demanding level starting from Secondary 1, if they have performed well in these subjects at the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE).
- If the Sec 1 N(A) or N(T) course students did well during their mid-year or end-of-year exam and met the eligibility criteria, they will still have the opportunity to be offered higher level subjects.
- Students posted to the N(A) or N(T) course who do well in school-based examinations may also be considered to offer Humanities subjects, in addition to the above subjects, at a more demanding level from Secondary 2, if found suitable by the school.

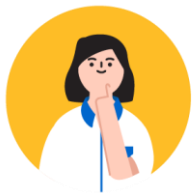




Will student be made to give up the higher level subject if he/she fails the examination?

- Students are encouraged to continue with the higher-level subjects until the end of Secondary 2, as students do need time to adjust to the greater academic demands. Schools will endeavour to provide the necessary support for them to cope better with the higher-level subjects.
- Before a decision is made to drop the subject, advice from subject teachers should be sought on the students' academic progress.





How will SBB affect my child's post-secondary options?

- Today, admissions to Post-Secondary Education Institutions (PSEIs) recognise the efforts of students who take relevant subjects at a more demanding level through the provision of SBB(Sec).
- For example, students in the N(A) course can use their O-Level subject grades to apply for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) or the Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP). Similarly, students in the N(T) course can also use their O-Level or N(A)-Level subject grades to apply for ITE Nitec and 3-year Higher Nitec courses.
- This will continue for all students who take subjects at a more demanding level.
- The post-secondary admissions framework is currently under review, to take into consideration the changes under Full SBB. Details on changes to post-secondary admissions and pathways will be made available when the review is completed.



Post-Secondary Progression for N(A) Students

- Students may combine their GCE 'O' and 'N(A)' Level results to compute their ELMAB3 aggregate score, for merit-based admission into Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) and NAFA Foundation Programme (NFP).

Conversion Table for 'O' Level to 'N(A)' Level Grade

GCE 'O' Level Grade	GCE 'N(A)' Level Grade
A1 – B3	1
B4 – C6	2
D7 E8 (<i>for DPP and NFP only</i>)	3

Post-Secondary Progression for N(T) Students

- Students can compute the ITE aggregate points based on the N(A) and N(T) subjects taken. The grades for merit-based admission is shown in the tables below.

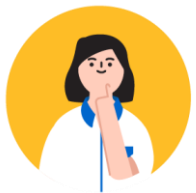
N(A) Grade	ITE Aggregate Point
1, 2	1
3	2
4	3
5	4
U	5

N(T) Grade	ITE Aggregate Point
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
U	5

Post-Secondary Progression for N(T) Students

- N(T) students who take and pass subjects at N(A) level may be able to benefit from bonus points if the N(A) subjects are pre-requisite subjects for the course applied for.

Types of Bonus Points	Number of Bonus Points Awarded
<u>N(A) Passing Grades:</u> Grades 1–5 for pre-requisite subjects (e.g. English, Mathematics, Science) for the course applied for.	2 points for each pre-requisite subject, up to a max of 4 points



Does my child still have to take GCE O/N Levels at Sec 4/5 respectively?

- Your child will continue to sit for their corresponding national examinations at the end of secondary education based on the academic level of the subject taken.
eg. a student doing Math at N(A) level will continue to sit for the Math paper at N-Levels at the end of four years of secondary education.
- Currently, admissions to PSEIs already recognise the efforts of students who take relevant subjects at a higher level. This will continue for all students who take higher level subjects.

Useful Links :

1. Secondary school experience under Full SBB
 - <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/full-subject-based-banding/secondary-school-experience.html>
2. Northbrooks Secondary Website information regarding FSBB
 - <https://northbrookssec.moe.edu.sg/>