

## Summary of the new PSLE scoring and Secondary One (S1) Posting systems

### PSLE scoring

Each PSLE subject will be scored using 8 Achievement Levels (ALs), with AL 1 being the best. The PSLE Score is the sum of ALs across the four subjects, ranging from 4 (best) to 32.

A student's AL for each subject will reflect his/her own level of achievement, rather than how he/she has performed relative to his/her peers. Hence, students are able to set goals and work towards their desired aggregate score with more certainty.

The 8 ALs are set based on the learning objectives of the curriculum, and designed to reflect students' levels of understanding and mastery of a subject. The mark distribution strikes a careful balance between reducing undue differentiation between students' examination results and ensuring meaningful secondary school posting outcomes.

AL	Reference Raw Mark Range
1	≥ 90
2	85-89
3	80-84
4	75-79
5	65-74
6	45-64
7	20-44
8	< 20

Table1: Reference raw mark range for respective ALs

Students taking Foundation level subjects will be graded from AL A to AL C. For the purpose of S1 posting, Foundation levels AL A to AL C will be mapped to AL 6 to AL 8 of Standard level subjects respectively, as listed in the following table, to derive a student's overall PSLE Score.

Achievement Level (AL) reflected on result slip	Foundation Raw Mark Range	Equivalent Standard Level Achievement Level (AL)
A	75-100	6
B	30-74	7
C	<30	8

Table 2: Scoring of Foundation level subjects from PSLE 2021

This mapping reflects the demands of the curriculum and assessment at the Foundation level when compared against the Standard level, given that the curriculum of a Foundation level subject is a subset of that of a Standard level subject.

### Secondary 1 Posting

Students will continue to be admitted to a secondary school and course - Express, Normal (Academic) and Normal (Technical) - based on their overall PSLE Score. Under the new PSLE scoring system, the proportion of students qualifying for the

different courses is expected to be broadly similar, as the curriculum and assessment standards have not changed.

Placement Outcome	PSLE Score (AL)
Express	4-20
Express / N(A) option	21-22
N(A)	23-24
N(A) / N(T) option	25
N(T)	26-30, with AL 7 or better in both English Language and Mathematics

Table 3: Range of overall PSLE Scores to be eligible for the respective courses

Students will continue to have six choices in selecting their secondary schools and will be posted based on academic merit, i.e. the student with the better PSLE Score will be admitted ahead of a student with a poorer PSLE score. In the event that students with the same PSLE Score are vying for the last place in a school, the following tie-breakers will be used in the order:

- i. Citizenship
- ii. Choice Order of Schools
- iii. Computerised Balloting

For the tiebreaker on citizenship, a Singapore Citizen will be admitted ahead of a Singapore Permanent Resident, and a Singapore Permanent Resident will be admitted ahead of an International Student.

The tie-breaker based on school choice order means that if two students have the same PSLE Score and citizenship status and are vying for the last remaining place in a school, the student who ranked the school higher will be considered first. This also recognises that students and their parents have different considerations in choosing a secondary school, e.g. a school's ethos, culture, programmes and CCAs, as well as distance between the school and a student's home.

Students who pass Higher Chinese Language (HCL) will receive a posting advantage for admission to Special Assistance Plan (SAP) schools. If students with the same PSLE Score are vying for limited places in the same SAP school, those with better HCL grades [in the order of Distinction (D), Merit (M) and Pass (P)] will be allocated a place ahead of other students. This posting advantage applies before the tie-breakers for S1 posting.

#### Subject-Based Banding (Secondary) [SBB (Sec)] eligibility criteria

Over the years, MOE has introduced out-of-stream subjects and Subject-Based Banding (SBB) in all secondary schools with N(A) and N(T) courses. SBB (Sec) provides students with greater flexibility to take various subjects at a more demanding level at Secondary 1 based on their subject-specific strengths and aptitudes.

Under the new PSLE scoring system, students from the N(A) and N(T) courses will continue to be eligible to take subjects at a more demanding level at Secondary 1, based on their PSLE AL scores for individual subjects rather than the overall PSLE Score.

PSLE Standard / Foundation subject grade	Option to take a subject at
AL 5 or better	Express level
AL 6 or better / AL A	N(A) level

Table 4: SBB (Sec) eligibility criteria for students in the N(A) and N(T) courses.

As students progress in secondary school, if they demonstrate aptitude and competencies, they will have further opportunities to take subjects at more demanding levels at various junctures, to further pursue their strengths and interests, and develop to their fullest potential.

#### Eligibility for Higher Mother Tongue Language in Secondary Schools

Under the new PSLE scoring system, students will be eligible to take Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL) in secondary school if they receive:

- (a) An overall PSLE Score of 8 or better; or
- (b) An overall PSLE Score of 9 to 14 (inclusive); and attain AL 1 / AL 2 in MTL or distinction/merit in HMTL.

For students who do not meet the above criteria, secondary schools will have the flexibility to offer HMTL to students if they are assessed to have high ability and interest in MTL, and are able to take HMTL without affecting their performance in other subjects. This is similar to the existing practice.