

ANNEX B

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 *How will Sec 3 students be allocated to classes?*

Students will be allocated to classes based on their course options. They will no longer attend classes with the same group of students across all subjects. Class sizes will remain small to facilitate the applied learning instructional approach and collaborative learning.

2 *What are the course options offered by SST at the upper secondary levels and how would these impact students' education down the road?*

SST offers its students a broad-based and holistic curriculum that is aimed at paving the way for further studies at both the Junior Colleges and Polytechnics, and ultimately at Universities. Academic rigour is conscientiously maintained within an applied learning instructional environment at SST. Conventional 'O' Level subjects such as Additional Mathematics and Mathematics, English Language and the Higher/Mother Tongue Languages, pure Sciences, and Combined Humanities are offered in addition to applied subjects. Refer to Annexes A and B in this booklet for the upper secondary course options.

In this way, students will be prepared to take on the rigorous academic programmes at JC as well as the applied subjects at Polytechnics.

3 *Are there any guidelines on the grades or marks that students must obtain before they can be considered for a subject or a course of study?*

Students at SST may offer either 8 or 9 subjects at the upper secondary levels. Those who wish to offer 9 subjects must be very strong academically. They must obtain a minimum overall score of 70% in addition to a minimum of 75% for both Math and Science at the end of Sec 2.

There are no entry requirements or pre-requisites for applying for any examinable 'O' Level subject. This includes the applied subjects except for Computing where students need to sit for an aptitude test. Students are, however, strongly advised to opt for subject combinations comprising subjects they are stronger in or that would further their interests or aspirations for future careers.

Allocation of course options to students will be based on merit, their expressed choices as well as resource availability.

4 *Will all course options chosen by students be offered by the school?*

Students will very likely be given the course option of their choice. In rare instances, resource availability issues may cause a subject option not to be offered by the school.

5. ***What is a good course option to offer?***

Any option that includes a balance of pure sciences and humanities subjects will prepare students for future courses of study at Junior Colleges or Polytechnics. In essence an 8-subject combination comprising 2 sciences and a humanities on top of the 5 compulsory 'O' level subjects will allow students more time to learn and do well in the 'O' levels as compared to a 9-subject combination. They will also have time for other activities that will develop them holistically.

6 ***Will it be better to take the Junior College or Polytechnic route to University?***

This is a very personal choice that you and your child will have to make. We encourage you to access Junior Colleges and Polytechnics websites (or through other means), to find out more about their course offerings, instructional approaches, and learning exposures and opportunities, as well as the opportunities for higher education that follow, in order to determine the best fit for your child. However, an obvious advantage of a Polytechnic education preceding a University education is that the students would have obtained a firm grounding in the fundamentals of related courses, which will hold them in good stead for University education in the same or related field. In some cases Polytechnic students may be given exemptions from related courses at University. JC education on the other hand would be more theoretical and academic in nature and better suited for some students.

7 ***Will students offering 8-subject options have equal opportunities, compared to those offering 9-subject options, to engage at a deeper level in subject(s)/areas that they have an aptitude for?***

Regardless of the number of subjects offered, all students will be given equal opportunities to participate in the wide range of talent and enrichment programmes organised by the school.

8 ***My child would like to offer an additional pure humanities subject on top of the Combined Humanities (Social Studies + Geography or History). Is this allowed?***

As a school of Science and Technology we would strongly encourage all our students to focus on subjects in the sciences and technology. The combined humanities that all students will be offering should be sufficient to provide a balanced education and the contrasting subject that is required in the 'O' levels computation of the L1R5³ aggregate score (for admission to JCs).

9 ***Applied Subjects: What are the selection criteria for each of the applied subjects? Will every student have to take at least 1 applied subject? Will places offered be based on minimum /maximum numbers of students for each applied subject?***

As for other 'O' Level examinable subjects, there are no selection criteria for applied subjects except for Computing where students need to take an aptitude test. The number of classes to be offered under each applied subject will be determined by the number of

students who have expressed interest in it as well as the availability of expertise and resources to conduct those classes.

All SST students will offer 1 applied subject only as the demands of applied subject projects are heavy and will require much time and effort to be spent on the subject.

10 *Will the applied subjects be taught in-house or will students have to go to Ngee Ann Poly or other places?*

Ngee Ann Polytechnic lecturers conduct applied subjects in SST assisted by SST teachers.