



*2017 SEC 3 COURSE OF STUDY*

*INFORMATION BOOKLET*

*Updated: 29 January 2016*

## INTRODUCTION

1 SST offers a holistic and broad-based education designed to equip students with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary for further education as well as to develop the values-based, innovative and responsible person and global citizen.

2 In line with this, students at the lower secondary levels offer<sup>1</sup> Language Arts; Higher Mother Tongue Language/Mother Tongue Language; Mathematics; Science; Integrated Humanities (History, Geography); Interdisciplinary Research Studies; Art, Design, Media, & Technology; Information and Communication Technology; Character, Leadership, and Citizenship Education; Innovation & Entrepreneurship; and Sports and Wellness.

3 The lower secondary students also participate in extension and enrichment programmes such as the Global Citizenship Programme, SST Talent Development Programmes, Ngee Ann Polytechnic I&E Camp, NTU-SST Flagship Programme, Animation and Games Development workshops, all of which are aimed at developing leadership, uncovering talents, and sparking interests and aspirations for future careers.

## SEC 3 COURSE OF STUDY

4 When students move up to Sec 3, subjects become more rigorous and demanding, with the scope in each subject expanding both in breadth and depth.

5 A further change from Sec 2 is in the increased number of subjects offered at Sec 3. The Mathematics curriculum will comprise 2 subjects: Mathematics and Additional Mathematics; Science may be offered as 3 subjects: Physics, Chemistry and Biology; and Combined Humanities will be offered as either Social Studies and Geography, or Social Studies and History. There will also be the option to offer one of the following applied subjects: Biotechnology, Design Studies, Electronics, and Computer Studies.

6 As students decide on their Sec 3 course of study, they will have to choose the number of subjects and the subject combinations wisely so that they have the time to participate actively in co-curricular and other school activities, and engage at a high level in their areas of aptitude. This will help to ensure that their upper secondary school years are meaningful, stimulating and fulfilling.

7 At SST, the general course of study for Sec 3 students comprises the following:

### **Six compulsory 'O' Level examinable subjects**

1. English Language
2. Mother Tongue Language (MTL) /Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL)
3. Additional Mathematics
4. Mathematics
5. Chemistry
  
6. Combined Humanities (Social Studies + (Geography or History))

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<sup>1</sup> Some students offer an additional Third Language.

Choice of 2 or 3 'O' Level examinable subjects from the following subject categories:

**Science Subjects (choice of 1 or 2)**

- Physics or Biology

**Applied Subjects (choice of 1 only)**

- Biotechnology, Design Studies, Electronics, and Computing

**UPPER SECONDARY SUBJECT COMBINATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

8 The norm at SST is for students to offer 8 'O' Level examinable subjects. The table below outlines the possible composition for the 8-subject Option. (Ref Annex A for Legend.)

**8-subject Course Option**

<b>5 COMPULSORY SUBJECTS</b>					<b>6<sup>th</sup> COMPULSORY SUBJECT</b>		<b>1 SCIENCE</b>		<b>1 APPLIED SUBJECT</b>			
<b>EL</b>	<b>MT/ HMT</b>	<b>A-MA</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>CHEM</b>	<b>1 COMBINED HUMANITIES</b>							
					<b>SS- HIS</b>	<b>SS- GEO</b>	<b>PHY</b>	<b>BIO</b>	<b>BT</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>EN</b>	<b>CP</b>

9 Students who wish to read 9 subjects will have to 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. This means that only students who have demonstrated strong academic performance should consider opting for 9 'O' Level subjects. The following table shows the possible composition for the 9-subject Option. (Ref Annex A for Legend.)

**9-subject Course Option**

<b>5 COMPULSORY SUBJECTS</b>					<b>6<sup>th</sup> COMPULSORY SUBJECT</b>		<b>2 SCIENCES</b>		<b>1 APPLIED SUBJECT</b>			
<b>EL</b>	<b>MT/ HMT</b>	<b>A-MA</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>CHEM</b>	<b>1 COMBINED HUMANITIES</b>							
					<b>SS- HIS</b>	<b>SS- GEO</b>	<b>PHY</b>	<b>BIO</b>	<b>BT</b>	<b>DS</b>	<b>EN</b>	<b>CP</b>

10 Students who offer HMTL in Sec 2 are eligible to continue with HMTL at Sec 3. They will sit the GCE 'O' Level MTL Examination in Sec 3. They will also sit the GCE 'O' Level HMTL Examination in Sec 4. Those who fail HMTL at Sec 2 may consider offering MTL at Sec 3.

11 Application for transfer from HMTL will be based on lower sec overall academic results AND MT teacher's recommendation.

12 Students already offering a third language at Sec 2 and who wish to continue to offer the subject at Sec 3 and Sec 4 will have to offer the subject as the 9th subject option.

### **SST TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (TDP)**

12 As at the lower secondary levels, SST will continue to nurture exceptional talents in the Sciences, Mathematics, and Information Communication Technology by offering those who can go beyond the regular programme accelerated and deep learning experiences to take their exceptional domain talents to the highest possible levels.

13 Selection for the respective TDP courses will be based on the breadth and depth of students' knowledge and understanding of the subject discipline as evidenced by their Sec 2 subject results and overall results, results of selection tests, and teacher recommendations.

14 Selected students will be grouped with like-ability students during TDP classes and allowed to learn, discover and explore at a pace and level commensurate with their high abilities.

### **APPLIED SUBJECTS**

15 Applied subjects are an integral part of the SST curriculum and are 'O' Level examinable subjects like the other *conventional 'O' Level subjects*<sup>2</sup>. They will count towards students' 'O' Level results.

16 Owing to the heavy demands of project work, each student will only be allowed to offer 1 applied subject at the upper secondary levels. Offering 2 or more applied subjects may stretch students too thin with precious time being taken away from other subjects or from school activities that will grow and develop them holistically.

17 With the exception of Computing where students need to take an Aptitude Test, there are no selection criteria for the applied subjects Biotechnology, Design Studies and Electronics. A student will be allocated an applied subject based on merit, his/her expressed choice, as well as the availability of resources.

18 Each applied subject class will be kept to 24 students or less, owing to the practical hands-on nature of applied subjects as well as the need for specialised equipment and lab/learning environments.

### **ASSESSMENT AND PROMOTION CRITERIA**

19 The Overall results for Sec 3 and Sec 4 will be computed based on *all* the 'O' Level *examinable* subjects offered by students.

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<sup>2</sup> Conventional 'O' Level examination subjects include English Language, Math, Chemistry, Physics, etc.

20 Sec 3 students will need to achieve a pass (C6 or better) in English Language and 2 other subjects, and an overall result of 50% or better, in order to be promoted to Sec 4.

21 Students will be given academic counselling where necessary to help them achieve their best results.

22 Students will sit the GCE 'O' Level Examinations at the end of Sec 4. The results of the examination will determine their placement in a Junior College or Polytechnic.

- To qualify for a Junior College, students must achieve 20 aggregate points or lower in their L1R5 computation, the details of which are explicated below.

L1	First Language	English/Higher Mother Tongue
R5	Relevant Subject 1	Humanities/Higher Art/Higher Music/Malay (Special Programme)/Chinese (Special Programme)/Bahasa Indonesia
	Relevant Subject 2	Mathematics/Science
	Relevant Subject 3	Humanities/Higher Art/Higher Music/Mathematics/Science/Malay (Special Programme)/Chinese (Special Programme)/Bahasa Indonesia
	Relevant Subject 4	Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge and CCA)
	Relevant Subject 5	Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge and CCA)

- To qualify for a Polytechnic course of study, students' must meet the admission criteria stipulated by the respective Polytechnics for the area of study.

### ONLINE COURSE OPTIONS EXERCISE

23 Students should access the SDM website (url: <http://sst.sdm.sg>) from 1 – 3 Nov (Tue - Thu) to submit your course options.

24 All students must submit your options online by Thu 3 Nov, failing which you will be placed in any available course of study.

25 Results of course options will be released on 16 Nov and will be published on the SDM website. Any appeals after the release of course options results must be submitted to SST by **18 Nov 16**. **No further appeals will be entertained after this date.**

26 In summary, the schedule for the 2016 Sec 3 Course Options exercise is given below for your ease of reference.

	<b>S3 Course Options Exercise</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Briefing of S2 students and parents (Part 1) - General course options + Applied Subjects Time: 1830 h - 2000 h Venue: Auditorium, SST	T1W4 29 Jan 2016 (Fri)
2	Briefing of S2 students (Part 2) – Subject briefing Time: 1310 h – 1400 h Venue: Auditorium, SST	T2W1 21 Mar 2016 (Mon)
3	Online submission of Course Options via Student Data Management System (SDM) <b>by students</b>	T4W8 1 – 3 Nov 2016 (Tue – Thu)
4	Release of course options results via SDM	T4W10 16 Nov 2016 (Wed)
	Appeals after the release of course options results must be submitted online via SDM  Appeals submitted to SST <b>after 18 Nov will not be entertained.</b>	By 18 Nov 2016 (Fri)
5	Outcomes of course option appeals will be sent to parents' email	25 Nov 2016 (Fri)

## ANNEX A

## LEGEND

<b>‘O’ LEVEL EXAMINABLE SUBJECTS</b>	
<b>EL</b>	English Language
<b>MT</b> <b>or</b> <b>HMT</b>	Mother Tongue Language: Chinese, Malay, Tamil Higher Mother Tongue Language: Chinese, Malay, Tamil
<b>CHEM</b>	Chemistry
<b>PHY</b>	Physics
<b>BIO</b>	Biology
<b>MA</b>	Mathematics
<b>A-MA</b>	Additional Mathematics
<b>CH: SS-HIS</b> <b>or</b> <b>CH: SS-GEO</b>	Combined Humanities: Social Studies + History Combined Humanities: Social Studies + Geography
<b>BT</b>	Biotechnology
<b>DS</b>	Design Studies
<b>EN</b>	Electronics
<b>CP</b>	Computing

All students will also offer the following non-examinable subjects: Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Character, Leadership and Citizenship Education; and Sports and Wellness as part of the holistic SST learning experience.