

# Commonwealth Secondary School

## 2020 Handout for Parents

### Secondary 4E

#### SECTION A Journeying with my child

##### THINGS YOU CAN DO

###### **1. Be present and take an interest**

*Examples:* learn about your child's interests (music, movies, games) and the friends they are close to, role-model the qualities you want your child to have; monitoring your child's school/out-of-school activities, helping with homework, working alongside your child, setting limits on TV watching and use of electronic devices, arranging for after-school care, calling them to check when you are not at home, have family meals together (weekday dinners, weekend breakfasts), ask about child's performance in school (ask about specific events, ideas, people) .

###### **2. Have high but realistic expectations**

*Examples:* setting goals and standards that are appropriate for children's age and maturity, recognize and encourage special talents, informing friends and family about successes, role-model excellence (talk about achievements at work, being punctual), question and challenge opinions, emphasize the importance of doing things now rather than later.

###### **3. Develop good habits**

*Examples:* early rising, early sleeping, keeping parents informed of their whereabouts, willingness to try, doing good rather than perfect work, being punctual, keeping calm, doing regular (rather than just-in-time) work, speaking respectfully and politely, taking pride in appearance (proper attire for different events), being open to advice and new experiences, reading and discussing what you watch/see/read about with your child.

##### THINGS YOU CAN SAY

###### **4. Praise for effort not just achievement**

*Examples:* complement hard work, genuine and consistent effort more than achievement, understand that perfection is detrimental to good performance, say "I saw how hard you worked on that project and I'm very proud of your perseverance" rather than "so proud you got an A+ for the project", highlight the value of hard work in achieving success.

###### **5. Mean what you say, say what you mean**

*Examples:* don't promise what you cannot fulfil, if you are angry or disappointed, express it calmly, if you are proud, express it emphatically, threats need to be enforced, keep to agreed time/spending limits, avoid mixed messages, take time to explain your thinking not just your decision.

###### **6. Focus on the positives**

*Examples:* use positive language when giving feedback, say "you can do better" rather than "why did you fail?", avoid attributing lack of performance to luck, past failure is not an indication of future lack of success, give feedback not only when things are done wrongly.

##### THINGS YOU CAN PROVIDE

###### **7. Specific place/tools for study**

*Examples:* a small, permanent space where your child can be quiet and revise, sufficient lighting, basic stationery (pens, highlighters, notebooks), warm drinks or simple snacks when your child is studying/in the midst of examination preparations.

## 8. Family routine

*Examples:* time for study, regularity in daily proceedings, assigning responsibility for household chores, being firm about bedtime and having meals together.

## SECTION B Where can I find out more?

### 1. Subject Syllabus

The subject syllabi for the various subjects can be found at

<http://www.moe.gov.sg/education/syllabuses/>

### 2. Examination Syllabus

The examination syllabus for 'O' level 2020 can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-o-level/o-level-syllabuses-examined-for-school-candidates-2020>

### 3. **Post-Secondary Education Options**

The post-secondary education options available in Singapore are:

- (a) **Junior Colleges/Centralised Institute**
- (b) **Polytechnics**
- (c) **Institute of Technical Education**
- (d) **Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts**
- (e) **LASALLE College of the Arts**

Refer to <http://www.moe.gov.sg/education/post-secondary/> for further information. To find out more about these organizations, refer to the individual organization website.

#### 4. Admission Criteria and Aggregate Computation for Admission to Post-Secondary Education

**(a) Junior College:** To be eligible for admission to a junior college, students must have passed

English, Mother Tongue and Mathematics, and obtained an L1R5 aggregate of 20 or better, excluding bonus points.

*Note: Students may be granted conditional admission if they meet other specific requirements (refer to JAE Booklet).*

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)

**(b) Centralised Institute:** To be eligible for admission to a centralised institute, students must

have passed English, Mother Tongue and Mathematics, and obtained an L1R4 aggregate of 20 or better, excluding bonus points.

*Note: Students may be granted conditional admission if they meet other specific requirements (refer to JAE Booklet).*

L1	First Language	-	English/ Higher Mother Tongue
R4	Relevant Subject 1	-	Humanities*/ Higher Art/ Higher Music/ Mathematics/ Science/ Malay (Special Programme)/ Chinese (Special Programme)/ Bahasa Indonesia
	Relevant Subject 2	-	Humanities/ Higher Art/ Higher Music/ Mathematics/ Science/ Malay (Special Programme)/ Chinese (Special Programme)/ Bahasa Indonesia
	Relevant Subject 3	-	Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge)
	Relevant Subject 4	-	Any GCE 'O' Level subjects (except Religious Knowledge)

(c) **Polytechnic:** (ELR2B2A/B/C/D)

EL	English
R2	1 subject from the 1 <sup>st</sup> group of relevant subjects
	1 subject from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> group of relevant subjects
B2	Best 2 other subjects excluding CCA

Refer to the list below for the selection criteria for entry into Polytechnic courses:

- (a) [Nanyang Polytechnic](#)
- (b) [Ngee Ann Polytechnic](#)
- (c) [Republic Polytechnic](#)
- (d) [Singapore Polytechnic](#)
- (e) [Temasek Polytechnic](#)

(d) **Institute of Technical Education**

For GCE O-Level Holders (ELB4, ELR1B3 or ELR2B2)

ELB4		ELR1B3		ELR2B2	
EL	English	EL	English	EL	English
B4	Best 4 other subjects excluding CCA	R1	1 subject from the 1 <sup>st</sup> group of relevant subjects	R1	1 subject from the 1 <sup>st</sup> group of relevant subjects
		B3	Best 3 other subjects excluding CCA	R2	1 subject from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> group of relevant subjects
B2	Best 2 other subjects excluding CCA				

*Note: Grades for both Higher Mother Tongue Language and Mother Tongue Language cannot be used in the same aggregate computation.*

For more information about admission to junior colleges, centralised institutes, polytechnics and institutes of technical education, please refer to the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE) booklet at <https://www.moe.gov.sg/docs/default-source/document/education/admissions/jae/files/booklet.pdf>

## 5. Bonus Points

Bonus points are given to students in the computation of their nett aggregate scores. Bonus points are used to determine the net aggregate scores of students during posting and are not taken into consideration in determining whether applicants are eligible for specific courses.

Type of Bonus Points	No. of Bonus Points Available	Maximum Bonus Points Allowable	
For students seeking admission to JC/Poly/ITE and with the following CCA grades: a. Grades of A1 – A2 b. Grades of B3 – C6	2 points 1 point	Limited to a maximum of <u>4 Bonus Points</u> only for these 4 sections.	Limited to a maximum of <u>6 Bonus Points</u> only.
For students seeking admission to JC/MI courses and with grades of A1 to C6 in both their first languages (i.e. English and a Higher Mother Tongue). This is provided that these choices come before any Poly/ITE choices.	2 points		
For students seeking admission to JC/MI courses and with grades of A1 to C6 in Malay/Chinese (Special Programme) (MSP/CSP) or Bahasa Indonesia (BI) as their third language. This is provided that these choices come before any Poly/ITE choices.	2 points		
For students who had applied for the CLEP or MLEP and have been selected for the programme.	2 points	2 Bonus Points	

## 6. Co-curricular Activities (CCA)

For information on CCA matters, refer to

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/education/programmes/co-curricular-activities>

## 7. Mid-Year Examinations

The Mid-Year Examinations 2020 will be held from 27 April 2020 to 15 May 2020. A Parent's Letter with attached Mid-Year Examination Timetable was sent via Parent's Gateway on 12 February 2020. We have attached in **Annex A the Scope and Format for the Mid-Year Examinations 2020** for your reference. Please use the Scope and Format to help guide your child/ward's revision planning.

## Annex A: Sec 4 Exp Mid-Year Examinations Scope and Format

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>English Language/1128</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> 1h 50mins <b>Paper 2:</b> 1h 50mins <b>Paper 3:</b> 45mins <b>Paper 4:</b> 20mins
<b>Marks</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> 70m <b>Paper 2:</b> 50m <b>Paper 3:</b> 30m <b>Paper 4:</b> 30m
<b>Format</b>	<p><b><u>Paper 1</u></b> Section A: Editing Section B: Situational Writing Section C: Continuous Writing</p> <p><b><u>Paper 2</u></b> Section A: Visual Text Comprehension Section B: Narrative Text Comprehension Section C: Non-narrative Text Comprehension</p> <p><b><u>Paper 3</u></b> Listening Comprehension</p> <p><b><u>Paper 4</u></b> Part 1: Reading Aloud Part 2: Spoken Interaction</p>
<b>Scope</b>	<p><b><u>Paper 1</u></b> Grammar skills Different text type formats Narrative &amp; exposition essays</p> <p><b><u>Paper 2</u></b> Reading comprehension skills</p> <p><b><u>Paper 3</u></b> Listening and note-taking skills</p> <p><b><u>Paper 4</u></b> Oral communication skills</p>

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Chinese Language/1160</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 30mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 60 marks, Paper 2: 70 marks, Paper 3: 70 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral and Listening Comprehension
<b>Scope</b>	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral and listening skills

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Malay Language/1148</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 30mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 60 marks, Paper 2: 70 marks, Paper 3: 70 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral and Listening Comprehension
<b>Scope</b>	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral and listening skills

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Tamil Language/1157</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 30mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 60 marks, Paper 2: 70 marks, Paper 3: 70 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral and Listening Comprehension
<b>Scope</b>	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral and listening skills

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Higher Chinese Language/1116</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 45mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 80 marks, Paper 2: 80 marks, Paper 3: 40 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral
<b>Scope</b>	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral Skills

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Higher Malay Language/1117</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 45mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 80 marks, Paper 2: 80 marks, Paper 3: 40 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral
<b>Scope</b>	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral Skills

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Higher Tamil Language/1147</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 45mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 80 marks, Paper 2: 80 marks, Paper 3: 40 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral
<b>Scope</b>	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral Skills



<b>Subject/code</b>	<b>Mathematics / 4048</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2 hr; Paper 2: 2 hr 30 mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 80 marks; Paper 2: 100 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: 23 - 26 structured questions: Paper 2: 10 - 12 long structured questions
<b>Scope</b>	Sec 1 - 4 topics taught

<b>Subject/Code</b>	<b>Additional Mathematics / 4047</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2 hr; Paper 2: 2 hr 30 mins
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 80 marks; Paper 2: 100 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: 11 - 13 long questions: Paper 2: 9 - 11 long questions
<b>Scope</b>	Sec 3 - 4 topics taught

	<b>Humanities (SS + History) / 2273</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1 (SS) - 1 hour 45 min Paper 2 (History) - 1 hour 40 min
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1 (SS) - 50m Paper 2 (History) - 50m
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1 (SS) Section A - Source Based Case Study (5 questions) Section B - Structured Response Question (2 questions)  Paper 2 (History) Section A - Source Based Case Study (5 questions) Section B - Structured Essay Question (2 questions, choose 1 question & answer both sub-parts)
<b>Scope</b>	Paper 1 (SS) Section A - Issue 2 (Chapters 4-7) Section B - Issue 1 (Chapters 1-3) or Issue 3 (Chapters 8-11)  Paper 2 (History) Section A - Sec 3 Chapters 2 & 3, Sec 4 Chapters 2 & 3 Section B - Sec 3 Chapters 4 - 7, Sec 4 Chapter 1

<b>Subject/Code</b>	<b>Humanities (SS + Geography) / 2272</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1 (SS) - 1 hour 45 min Paper 2 (Geography) - 1 hour 40 min
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1 (SS) - 50m Paper 2 (Geography) - 50m
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1 (SS) Section A - Source Based Case Study (5 questions) Section B - Structured Response Question (2 questions)  Paper 2 (Geography) Section A - Fieldwork (13m) Section B - Structured questions (12m) Section C - Structured questions (25m)
<b>Scope</b>	Paper 1 (SS) Section A - Issue 2 (Chapters 4-7) Section B - Issue 1 (Chapters 1-3) or Issue 3 (Chapters 8-11)  Paper 2 (Geography) Section A - Tourism Section B & C - Tourism, Food Resources, Weather and Climate, Plate Tectonics

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Chemistry / 6092</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>P1:</b> 1 hour <b>P2:</b> 1h 45min
<b>Marks</b>	<b>P1:</b> 40m <b>P2:</b> 80m
<b>Format</b>	<p>Paper 1: 40 MCQs</p> <p>Paper 2: consist of 5-7 compulsory structured questions, This paper will consist of two sections.  Section A will carry 50 marks and will consist of a variable number of compulsory structured questions.  Section B will carry 30 marks and will consist of 3 free response questions. The first two questions are compulsory questions, one of which will be a data-based question requiring candidates to interpret, evaluate or solve problems using a stem of information. This question will carry 8–12 marks. The last question will be presented in an either/or form and will carry 10 marks.</p>
<b>Scope</b>	<p><u>Secondary 3 Topics</u>  Kinetic Particle Theory  Separation Technique &amp; Experiment  Atomic Structure  Chemical Bonding  Mole concept  Acids, Bases &amp; Salts  Qualitative Analysis  Ammonia</p> <p><u>Secondary 4 Topics</u>  Periodic Table  Air  Metals  Redox Reaction  Speed of Reaction</p>

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Physics / 6091</b>
<b>Duration</b>	P1: 1 hour P2: 1h 45min
<b>Marks</b>	P1: 40m P2: 80m
<b>Format</b>	<p>Paper 1: 40 MCQs</p> <p>Paper 2:  This paper will consist of two sections.  Section A will carry 50 marks and will consist of a variable number of compulsory structured questions.  Section B will carry 30 marks and will consist of 3 structured questions. The first two questions are compulsory questions, one of which will be a data-based question requiring candidates to interpret, evaluate or solve problems using given information. This question will carry 8–12 marks. The last question will be presented in an either/or form and will carry 10 marks.</p>
<b>Scope</b>	<p>Topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Physical Quantities, Units &amp; Measurement</li> <li>2.Kinematics</li> <li>3.Dynamics</li> <li>4.Mass, Weight &amp; Density</li> <li>5.Turning Effect of Forces</li> <li>6.Energy, Work, Power</li> <li>7.Pressure</li> <li>8.Temperature</li> <li>9.Kinetic Model of Matter</li> <li>10.Transfer of Thermal Energy</li> <li>11.Thermal Properties of Matter</li> <li>12.Light</li> <li>13.General Wave Properties</li> <li>14.EM Spectrum</li> <li>15.Sound</li> <li>16.Static Electricity</li> <li>17.Current Electricity</li> <li>18.DC Circuits</li> <li>19.Practical Electricity</li> <li>20.Magnetism</li> <li>21.Electromagnetism</li> </ol> <p>Not tested: Topic 22 Electromagnetic induction &amp; Practical (Paper 3).</p>

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Biology / 6093</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 1hr Paper 2: 1hr 45min
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 40 marks Paper 2: 80 marks
<b>Format</b>	<p>Paper 1: Consist of 40 compulsory multiple choice items.  Paper 2: Consist of 5-7 compulsory structured questions.  This paper will consist of two sections.  Section A will carry 50 marks and will consist of a variable number of compulsory structured questions.  Section B will carry 30 marks and will consist of 3 free response questions. The first two questions are compulsory questions, one of which will be a data-based question requiring candidates to interpret, evaluate or solve problems using a stem of information. This question will carry 8–12 marks. The last question will be presented in an either/or form and will carry 10 marks.</p>
<b>Scope</b>	<p>Sec 3 Topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cell Structure and Organization</li> <li>2. Movement of Substances</li> <li>3. Nutrients</li> <li>4. Enzymes</li> <li>5. Nutrition in Humans</li> <li>6. Transport in Humans</li> <li>7. Respiration in Humans</li> <li>8. Excretion in Humans</li> <li>9. Homeostasis</li> </ol> <p>Sec 4 Topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Hormones</li> <li>11. Nervous System</li> <li>12. The Human Eye</li> <li>13. Nutrition in Plants</li> <li>14. Transport in Flowering Plants</li> <li>15. Cell Division</li> <li>16. Reproduction in Plants</li> <li>17. Reproduction in Humans</li> </ol>

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Geography / 2236</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 1 hour 40 minutes Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 50 marks Paper 2: 50 marks Total: 100 marks
<b>Format</b>	<p>Candidates will answer a total of four questions and each question carries equal weighting (25% each). The question in Section A of Paper 1 consists of no more than 10 parts, including sub-division of parts. Each question in Section B of Paper 1 and in Paper 2 consists of no more than five parts, including sub-division of parts. This includes an open-ended question, which will be marked according to level descriptors and capped at a maximum of 8 marks. Each open-ended question will be marked based on 3 levels. The question in Section A of Paper 1 and the remaining part-questions in Section B of Paper 1 and in Paper 2 will be marked using point marking.</p> <p>Paper 1</p> <p>Section A (25%) One structured question on Geographical Investigations will be set based on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coasts</li> <li>• Global Tourism</li> </ul> <p>The question will be set on a specific topic or combination of topics. The question carries 25 marks. Candidates must answer the question in this section. They are advised to spend 55 minutes on the question.</p> <p>Section B (25%) Two structured questions will be set based on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coasts</li> <li>• Global Tourism</li> </ul> <p>One question will be set on a specific topic. One other question will be set on a combination of topics. Each question carries 25 marks. Candidates must answer one question from this section. They are advised to spend 45 minutes on the question.</p> <p>Paper 2</p> <p>Section A (25%) Two structured questions will be set based on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living with Tectonic Hazards</li> <li>• Variable Weather and Climate</li> </ul> <p>One question will be set on a specific topic. One other question will be set on a combination of topics. Each question carries 25 marks. Candidates must answer one question from this section. They are advised to spend 45 minutes on the question.</p> <p>Section B (25%)</p>

Two structured questions will be set based on the following topics:

- Food Resources
- Health and Diseases

One question will be set on a specific topic. One other question will be set on a combination of topics. Each question carries 25 marks. Candidates must answer one question from this section. They are advised to spend 45 minutes on the question.

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>English Literature/2065</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> 1h 40mins <b>Paper 2:</b> 1h 30mins
<b>Marks</b>	<b>Paper 1:</b> 50mins <b>Paper 2:</b> 50mins
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1 Section A: Code Name Verity Section B: Unseen Poetry  Paper 2 Section A: Essay Section B: Passage Based Question
<b>Scope</b>	Character, Theme, Plot, Style, Atmosphere

<b>Subject / Code</b>	<b>Computing / 7155</b>
<b>Duration</b>	Paper 1: 2 hours Paper 2: 2 hours 30 min
<b>Marks</b>	Paper 1: 80 marks Paper 2: 50 marks
<b>Format</b>	Paper 1: short answer questions; matching questions; cloze passage; structured questions Paper 2: 4 structured questions
<b>Scope</b>	Entire syllabus