

Commonwealth Secondary School

2020 Handout for Parents

Secondary 4E & 5NA

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 st group of relevant subjects
	1 subject from the 2 nd 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:

- [Nanyang Polytechnic](#)
- [Ngee Ann Polytechnic](#)
- [Republic Polytechnic](#)
- [Singapore Polytechnic](#)
- [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 st group of relevant subjects	R1	1 subject from the 1 st group of relevant subjects
		B3	Best 3 other subjects excluding CCA	R2	1 subject from the 2 nd 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>