

**Commonwealth Secondary School
2020 Handout for Parents
Secondary 4NA**

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 'N(A)' and 'O' level 2020 can be found at the following websites:

GCE N(A)-Level: [https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n\(a\)-level/n\(a\)-level-syllabuses-examined-for-school-candidates-2020](https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/gce-n(a)-level/n(a)-level-syllabuses-examined-for-school-candidates-2020)

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

3. Post-N Level Options

The post-N Level options available in Singapore are:

- (a) Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP)**
- (b) Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP)**
- (c) 'O' Level Examination**
- (d) Institute of Technical Education**

Students with exemplary 'N(A)' Level results may be eligible for Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) or Direct-Polytechnic Programme (DPP).

(a) Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP)

Eligibility for PFP, refer to <https://pfp.polytechnic.edu.sg/PFP/index.html>

- (i) ELMAB3 (English, Mathematics, Best 3 Subjects) raw aggregate score of 12 points or better (excluding CCA bonus points) at the GCE 'N'-Level examination
- (ii) Satisfy the following minimum required grades

Subjects	Group 1 Courses Requirement	Group 2 Courses Requirement
English	3	2
Math/A Math	3	3
One of the following relevant subjects: - Design and Technology - Food and Nutrition - Science (Chemistry, Biology) - Science (Physics, Biology) - Science (Physics, Chemistry)	3	-
One of the following relevant subjects: - Art - Literature in English - History - Combined Humanities - Geography - Principles of Accounts	-	3
Any two other subjects excluding CCA	3	3

Conversion of 'O' Level Examination Grades

'O' Level Grade	Aggregate Point for PFP
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7	3

(b) Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP)

Eligibility for DPP, refer to <https://www.ite.edu.sg/admissions/full-time-courses/higher-nitec/direct-entry-scheme-to-polytechnic-programme>

- (i) ELMAB3 (English, Mathematics, Best 3 Subjects) raw aggregate score of 19 points or better (excluding CCA bonus points) at the GCE 'N'-Level examination
- (ii) Satisfy the following minimum required grades

Subjects	Applied Sciences, Engineering and Info-Communications Technology Courses Requirement	Business & Services Courses Requirement
English	4	3
Math/A Math	4	4
Any three other subjects excluding CCA	5	5

Conversion of 'O' Level Examination Grades

'O' Level Grade	Aggregate Point for DPP
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7-E8	3

(c) 'O' Level Examination

There are multiple pathways available for students graduating from N(A) stream which provides for a wide range of abilities and interests. Students aspiring towards a degree should understand that there are alternate pathways to university. Visit <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/whats-next-for-gce-n-level-students/where-do-i-want-to-go/index.html> for more details.

Students who wish to pursue an "O" Level Certificate must continue with Secondary Five N(A). Eligibility for Secondary 5NA is a EMAB3 raw aggregate score of 19 points or better.

(d) Institute of Technical Education (ITE)

For students with an EMAB3 raw aggregate score of 20 points or more, they may consider to pursue a course in ITE.

4. 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 4NA Mid-Year Examinations Scope and Format

Subject / Code	English Language/1190 (N Levels)
Duration	Paper 1: 1h 50mins Paper 2: 1h 50mins Paper 3: 45mins Paper 4: 20mins
Marks	Paper 1: 70m Paper 2: 50m Paper 3: 30m Paper 4: 30m
Format	<p><u>Paper 1</u> Section A: Editing Section B: Situational Writing Section C: Continuous Writing</p> <p><u>Paper 2</u> Section A: Visual Text Comprehension Section B: Narrative Text Comprehension Section C: Non-narrative Text Comprehension</p> <p><u>Paper 3</u> Listening Comprehension</p> <p><u>Paper 4</u> Part 1: Reading Aloud Part 2: Spoken Interaction</p>
Scope	<p><u>Paper 1</u> Grammar skills Different text type formats Narrative & exposition essays</p> <p><u>Paper 2</u> Reading comprehension skills</p> <p><u>Paper 3</u> Listening and note-taking skills</p> <p><u>Paper 4</u> Oral communication skills</p>

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

Subject / Code	Chinese Language/1196 (N Level)
Duration	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 30mins
Marks	Paper 1: 60 marks, Paper 2: 60 marks, Paper 3: 80 marks
Format	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral and Listening Comprehension
Scope	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral and listening skills

Subject / Code	Malay Language/1197 (N Levels)
Duration	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 30mins
Marks	Paper 1: 60 marks, Paper 2: 60 marks, Paper 3: 80 marks
Format	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral and Listening Comprehension
Scope	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral and listening skills

Subject / Code	Tamil Language/1198 (N Levels)
Duration	Paper 1: 2hrs, Paper 2: 1hr 30mins
Marks	Paper 1: 60 marks, Paper 2: 60 marks, Paper 3: 80 marks
Format	Paper 1: Part 1- Email Writing, Part 2- Essay Writing Paper 2: Language Use and Comprehension Paper 3: Oral and Listening Comprehension
Scope	Format on Email Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essay Language Usage Comprehension Skills Oral and listening skills

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

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

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

Subject / Code	MATHEMATICS / 4045 (N Levels)
Duration	Paper 1: 2 hours Paper 2: 2 hours
Marks	Paper 1: 80 marks Paper 2: 60 marks
Format	Paper 1: about 25 short answer questions. Candidates are required to answer all questions. Paper 2: Section A will contain 9 to 10 questions of varying lengths. The last question in this section will focus specifically on applying mathematics to a real-world scenario. Candidates are required to answer all questions. Section B will contain 2 questions of which candidates will be required to answer only one. There will be one question from the 'Geometry and Measurement' strand and one from the 'Statistics and Probability' strand.
Scope	All Topics from Sec 1 to 4

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

Subject / Code	ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS/4044
Duration	4044/Paper1 and Paper 2 : 1hour 45 minutes
Marks	Paper 1/ Paper 2 : 70 marks / 70 marks
Format	Paper 1 : 13 to 14 questions Paper 2 : 9 to 10 questions
Scope	Paper 1 and Paper 2 Topics 1 Equations and Inequalities 2 Indices and Surds 3 Polynomials 4 Binomial Expansions 5 Trigonometric functions, identities and equations 6 Coordinate geometry in two dimensions 7 Differentiation and Integration

Subject / Code	Science (<u>Chemistry</u>) / 5105 or 5107 depending on combined Science elective
Duration	Paper 3 & 4: 1 h 15 min
Marks	Paper 3: 20 marks Paper 4: 30 marks
Format	Paper 3: 20 compulsory multiple choice questions Paper 4: Consists of two sections. Section A will carry 14 marks and will contain a small number of compulsory structured questions. Section B will carry 16 marks and will contain three structured questions. Candidates must answer only two out of these three questions.
Scope	Topics covered: 1) Kinetic Particle Theory 2) Measurement and experimental techniques 3) Separation and purification 4) Elements, compound and mixtures 5) Atomic structure 6) Chemical Bonding 7) Writing chemical equations 8) Chemical calculations 9) Acid and bases 10) salts 11) metals 12) Periodic Table 13) Air and atmosphere

Subject / Code	Science (<u>Physics</u>) / 5105
Duration	Paper 1 & 2 : 1 h 15 min
Marks	Paper 1: 20 marks Paper 2: 30 marks
Format	Paper 1: 20 compulsory multiple choice questions Paper 2: Consists of two sections. Section A will carry 14 marks and will contain a small number of compulsory structured questions. Section B will carry 16 marks and will contain three structured questions. Candidates must answer only two out of these three questions.
Scope	Topics covered: 1.Physical Quantities and Units 2.Kinematics 3.Dynamics 4.Mass, weight and density 8.Kinetic Model of Matter 9.Transfer of Heat 10.Thermal Properties 11.General Wave Theory 12.EM Waves 13.Sound 14.Current E. 15.D.C. Circuits 16.Practical Electricity

Subject / Code	Science (Biology) / 5107
Duration	Paper 5 & 6: 1 h 15 min
Marks	Paper 5: 20 marks Paper 6: 30 marks
Format	Paper 5: 20 compulsory multiple choice questions Paper 6: Consists of two sections. Section A will carry 14 marks and will contain a small number of compulsory structured questions. Section B will carry 16 marks and will contain three structured questions. Candidates must answer only two out of these three questions.
Scope	Topics covered: 1) Cells 2) Movement of Substances 3) Nutrients 4) Enzymes 5) Nutrition in Humans 6) Nutrition in Plants 7) Transport in Humans 8) Transport in Plants 9) Respiration in Humans 10) Reproduction in Plants 11) Reproduction in Humans

Subject / Code	Principles of Accounts (7088)
Duration	Paper 1 - 1 hour, Paper 2 - 2 hours
Marks	P1 - 40 marks, P2 - 60 marks
Format	P1 - Answer 3 or 4 compulsory structured questions. P2 - Section A - Answer 3 or 4 compulsory questions, including 1 on financial statement Section B - Answer 1 out of 2 questions
Scope	Chapters 1 to 17 (textbook)

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

Subject / Code	Pure Geography/2246
Duration	Paper 1: 1hr 40 mins Paper 2: 1hr 30 mins
Marks	Paper 1: 50 marks Paper 2: 50 marks
Format	Paper 1: Section A: GFI (Coasts/Tourism) - 25 marks Section B: Choice: Complete 1 out of 2 questions - 25 marks Paper 2: Choice: Complete 2 out of 3 Questions Section A - 25 marks Section B - 25 marks
Scope	Paper 1: GFI Tourism Coasts Paper 2: Plate Tectonics Food Resources

Subject / Code	English Literature/2022
Duration	Paper 1 - 1h 40mins Paper 2 - 1h30mins
Marks	Paper 1 - 50m Paper 2 - 50m
Format	Paper 1 Section A: 2 essays and 1 PBQ choose 1 Section B: 2 poems choose 1 Paper 2 2 essays choose 1 and 1 compulsory PBQ
Scope	Paper 1 Section A: Character analysis and theme Section B: Poet's style, character analysis and own impressions and feelings Paper 2 Theme, character analysis and writer's style

Subject / Code	Food and Nutrition / 6072
Duration	1hour 30 minutes
Marks	80 marks
Format	Section A: Short type questions - 20 marks Section B : Structured/Data response questions - 28 Marks Section C: Open ended questions (Essay) - 32 marks
Scope	Topics covered: Chapter 2: Guidelines for Meal planning Chapter 3: Different types of Nutritional Needs Chapter 4: Carbohydrates Chapter 6 : Fats Chapter 7 : Proteins Chapter 10: Vitamins Chapter 11: Minerals Chapter 12: Water and Dietary Fibre Chapter 17: Keeping Food safe Chapter 18: Convenience Foods

Subject / Code	Art / 6125/1
Duration	3hrs
Marks	100
Format	Preparatory studies board - 60% Final work art piece - 40%
Scope	Coursework - Shells, Pebbles and Driftwood

Subject / Code	Design and Technology [7055/1]
Duration	1hr 30min
Marks	60 marks
Format	Candidates are to answer all questions. Questions will be design-centric. Section 1: Design [24 marks] Question 1 Knowledge application of Design Section 2: Technology [36 marks] Question 2 & 3 Knowledge application of Mechanisms & Electronics
Scope	Design, Mechanism & Electronics