



GEYLANG METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY)

Frequently Asked Questions

General

Q1: Can you explain the rationale of the various courses offered by GMS(S)? Why and how are these combinations chosen to be offered?

We provide subject combinations based on students' interests and strengths, bearing in mind post-secondary school courses/ options and school resources available (which includes teachers, timetabling constraints).

Q2: Where can I get the information of all the subject syllabi?

You may refer to the Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board (SEAB) website. The link to the various syllabi could be found at <https://www.seab.gov.sg>

Q3: Is it possible for my child to drop 1 subject out of the 7 when he reaches Secondary 4 to help him/her better focus?

Yes. However, the dropping of subjects is only done after a comprehensive review of the student's overall performance, as well as based on the recommendation of the subject teacher and form teacher. A student is not allowed to drop a pure science subject if he/she is a double science student as every student is required to take at least two sciences.

Q4: If there are not enough students to make up a class of a particular subject (e.g. Core Literature), will the school not open a class for this subject?

To maximize the learning experience in class (for peer learning and support, meaningful discussions and interactions), and to make sure that school resources are properly utilised, if less than 10 students opt for the subject, we will not open a class and will look at the student's alternative choice instead (except Art and ESS, due to the nature of the disciplines).

Subject Matters

Q5: If my child fails his Mother Tongue, is he/she still eligible for entry to the polytechnic or the JC?

Mother Tongue is not a compulsory relevant subject in JC and Poly. However, to qualify for JC, he/she must still attain A1 to D7 for his/her Mother Tongue, or A1 to E8 for Higher Mother Tongue, or a Merit or Pass for CLB/MLB/TLB.

Q6: What is the main difference between the Pure and Combined Sciences? Are the choices for my child limited when he progresses to the Poly/JC if he/she chooses to take Combined Science?

The main difference is the depth of the subject covered. Pure science may prepare the child better for the A level syllabus, but there may be bridging lessons at JC for students who took combined science. In addition, different JCs have different prerequisites for taking A level science. It is therefore important to visit the JC's website for more information.

For Poly, most courses do not require Pure Science as a pre-requisite. However, it is still in the students' best interest to visit the Poly websites to find out what specific prerequisites there are for the course that the child is interested in.

Currently, it is important to consider the child's interests and aptitude at this stage, in selecting subjects.

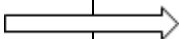
Q7: My child is not confident in Chemistry after going through the Lower Sec Science syllabus? Is it possible for my child to take a Physics/Biology combination instead?

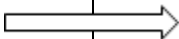
No. The school does not offer Physics/ Biology combination.

Q8: The school only offer Pure Physics and Pure Chemistry. Can my child take Pure Biology and Pure Chemistry combination instead?

In offering the various subject combinations, the school takes into account the progression to Institutes of Higher Learning. As such, the school offers the Physics and Chemistry combination as this gives students more options to courses at Institutes of Higher Learning than the Biology and Chemistry combination. Physics is a fundamental science to higher level Biology and Chemistry. Hence, in selecting a subject combination, students are encouraged to offer Physics or Science (Physics) at O-level.

The charts below show topics studied at O-level Physics is a progression to topics covered at higher level Biology and Chemistry:

O-level Physics		Higher Biology
Optics		Microscopy and Chromatic Aberrations
Kinetic Model of Matter		Understanding Rates of Enzymatic Reactions
Electromagnetic Spectrum		Effect of Ionising Radiation Contributing to Cancer Development

O-level Physics		Higher Chemistry
Kinetic Model of Matter		The Gaseous State
Thermal Properties of Matter		Chemical Energetics (Thermochemistry)
Current of Electricity		Electrochemistry

Q9: Must my child take Pure Sciences if he/she wants to pursue the Science course in the JCs?

The rigor in Pure Sciences will set a stronger foundation. However, it is not critical to take Pure Sciences for Sciences at H1 level in JC. But if the child wishes to take Sciences at H2 level in JC, the prerequisites will differ from JC to JC.

Q10: Is it possible for my child to switch to Combined Science in Secondary 4 if he/she is not able to cope with the Pure Sciences?

It is not encouraged as the practical component is different. The child will have to change to a combined science class and this may not be feasible because the class may not have the vacancy as well as the same subject combination as the pure science class. Students are advised to choose carefully and commit to the subject combination that they are allocated to.

Q11: My child is in the NA program taking Science at Express level. Is it possible for him/her to continue with the Pure Sciences in Sec 3?

No, this is highly discouraged. He/she can continue with Science at Express level. The demand and rigour of Pure Science is very high as it requires a deeper knowledge of English and Math, which are only offered at the Express level. Obtaining a good grade in Science at Express level will also open up more opportunities for him in the Polytechnic courses through DPP, PFP.

Q12: Is it possible for my child to take the same elective and core humanities subject? Eg. Take SS/Elective Geography and Core Geography.

No, this is not possible. MOE does not allow students to take the same core and elective subjects as this is a repetition and it does not allow students to have a broad perspective of other humanities subjects.

Q13: What is the main difference between the humanities subject taken at Core and Elective level?

The main difference is the depth of the subject covered. It also means taking an additional paper at the Core level.