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DSS/2022/059

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Sec 2 N(A) and N(T) students

Update on Upper Sec Curriculum, Assessment and Post-Sec Progression Matters

We wish to draw your attention to the following updates as announced by MOE recently in line with its theme 'Learn for Life: Confidence for a New Tomorrow'. Your child/ward may be affected by some of these changes.

1. From the 2023 Sec 3 cohort, all students will offer at least 5 and up to 9 upper secondary examinable subjects. This change aligns the number of upper secondary examinable subjects for all students as schools progressively implement Full Subject-Based Banding. We will continue to advise students to ensure that they have a manageable number of subjects and a broad range of learning experiences in different subjects.
2. To recognise students' efforts in attempting a subject regardless of their achievement, with effect from the 2023 graduating cohort,
 - a. The last grades in N(A)- and N(T)-level examinations, which are currently 'Ungraded – Grade U', will be replaced with Grade 6 and Grade E respectively. The N(A)-Level Grade 6 and N(T)-level Grade E cannot be used for aggregate computation for admission to Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), Direct-Entry-Scheme to Polytechnic Programme (DPP) and Sec 5, similar to current practice for Grade U. They can be used for ITE admissions (except for courses with Specific Minimum Entry Requirements.)
 - b. All grades, including the N(A)-Level Grade 6 and N(T)-level Grade E, will be reflected in the student's result slip and examination certificate. Currently Grade U in the N-level examination is reflected in the students' result slip and not reflected in the examination certification.
3. For N(A) and N(T) students taking subjects at a more demanding level, the downward grade mapping is used to compute aggregate scores across subjects taken at different subject levels for post-secondary progression. A revised grade mapping, which reflects the relative curricular and assessment demands between subject levels, will be implemented from the 2023 graduating cohort onwards. The downward grade mapping tables are appended for your reference.
4. With the revised grade mapping, students will be able to make more informed decision to take subjects at a more demanding level to access post-secondary pathways suited to their strengths. Hence, the ITE Bonus points for students from the N(A) and N(T) courses taking pre-requisite subjects at N(A)-level examinations for the NITEC course they are applying for will no longer be applicable from AY2024 ITE admissions.

A summary of the updates is appended for your reference.

You may wish to contact me at email: Chan_wan_siong@schools.gov.sg for clarifications, if any.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Chan Wan Siong

Ms Chan Wan Siong
Principal

Downward Grade Mapping Tables

Downward Grade Mapping Tables for Computing Aggregates Scores will be revised

- For N(A) and N(T) students taking subjects at more demanding levels, downward grade mapping is used to compute aggregate scores across subjects taken at different subject levels for post-secondary progression.
 - For example, a student who took a subject at a more demanding level and obtained an O-Level Grade D7 will have the grade mapped to an N(A)-Level Grade 3.
- The revised grade mapping table provides an updated reflection of the relative curricular and assessment demands between subject levels, and **will be implemented from the 2023 graduating cohort onwards**.
- The downward grade mapping table has been revised based on data from recent years' examinations.

From	To
O-Level	N(A)-Level
A1-B3	1
B4-C6	2
D7	3
E8	4
9	5
	6

From	To
N(A)-Level	N(T)-Level
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	D
	E

Summary of Updates

Curriculum	2023 Sec 3 cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All students will offer at least five and up to nine upper sec examinable subjects.
Assessment	2023 graduating cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grade U in N(A)- and N(T)-Level examinations will be replaced with Grade 6 and Grade E respectively. All grades including the last grades will be reflected in the examination certificates.Revised grade mapping tables will be implemented.
Post-Sec Articulation	2023 graduating cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ITE Bonus points for students from the N(A) and N(T) courses taking pre-requisite subjects at N(A)-Level for the <i>Nitec</i> course they are applying to will be removed.N(A)-Level Grade 6 and N(T)-Level Grade E will continue to be disallowed for fulfillment of MERs for prerequisite subjects for ITE's <i>Nitec</i> courses.