

2022 JC1 Parents' Dialogue Session – Q&A (collated)

<b>Question Type: Academic (General)</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Do you teach study skills before they begin their class?	Yes, a session on Learning how to Learn will be conducted during Orientation Day 5. Teachers will also share the study skills required for each subject with students. Some of the study skills are common across all subjects. At the A levels, critical thinking skills are required and such skills take time to be honed and cannot be developed at the last minute. Hence, consistent hard work is important throughout the 2 years.
Will there be any supplementary lessons given to weaker students?	Students are encouraged to proactively seek help from their tutors if they need to clarify their doubts. Teachers may also arrange for additional consultation sessions for students who may be weak academically. There will be sufficient resources provided to support all students in their learning.
How does SAJC assist DSA students in preparations of exams or in identifying to quickly assist them should their results start to get bad?	As all DSA students have different subject combinations, we don't have a specific programme that gives academic support to all DSA students. Instead, students are encouraged to proactively seek help from their tutors if they need to clarify their doubts. Civics Tutors and CCA Tutors will also be monitoring the progress of these students.
For O-Level Chemistry, I understand Organic Chemistry was removed. Will the teachers be teaching those topics that were removed or will they teach only the original syllabus that is pitched at H1/H2?	Common Last Topics (CLT) @ O levels will be covered through a just-in-time approach to ensure that students have the sufficient prerequisite before covering the JC topic. E.g. For H2 Chemistry, the CLT is covered in July before the H2 Organic Syllabus is taught in Aug - Sept. This would usually be done using a blended learning approach e.g. tapping on SLS.
Since the MT A level exam is in Nov, when does the child need to submit the document to school for Access Arrangement?	More information will be given to the students by their Civics Tutors (Form Teachers) after their Civics Groups have been formed. Students could then apply for Access Arrangement then.

<b>Question Type: Blended Learning</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
What is the HBL arrangement like?	There are a total of 8 HBL days on even week Tuesdays that will take place in T2 and T3. On HBL days, students do not need to report to school but they will have to do approximately 5.5h of academic learning and 1h of student-initiated learning to pursue their passion/interest/strength. Other than HBL days, students are expected to view online lectures after school on weekdays. Students will receive a suggested online lecture schedule to help them pace their viewing of lectures each week. Students will also be briefed on the above.
Do students go home in the afternoon to view their online lectures? If so, are they expected to come back for their CCA?	Students are encouraged to view their online lectures on weekday afternoons. This is flexible, which means that if they end late on a certain day or have CCA training, they can choose to view the lectures on other afternoons when they go home earlier. They may also view the lectures during the free periods in school or while waiting for their CCAs to start.
<b>Question Type: Promotion</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Can a pass in HMT at O Level be considered as one of the H1 passes for the JC1 promotional criteria?	Yes, such a student will need 2 H2 passes and 1 other H1 pass to meet the JC1 Promotional Criteria.
What is the criteria for students taking 3H2 to be promoted?	All students will have to meet the Promotional Criteria of 2H2 and 2H1 passes to be promoted to JC2. H1 GP, MT and any of the H1 content subjects can count towards the JC1 promotional criteria.
What will happen if the child does not pass JC1? How many times can the student repeat their JC1?	Students who fail to meet the Promotional Criteria would not be eligible to progress to JC 2, and would be offered to repeat JC1. Repeat students who fail to meet the Promotional Criteria at the end of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year would be asked to consider alternate pathways that may be more suited to their strengths.

<b>Question Type: Subject Combination</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Do SAJC allow “odd” combinations, such as 2 Sciences 2 Humanities?	You can refer to pg. 8 - 9 of the SAJC prospectus on the various subject combinations offered in SAJC. A combination involving 2 sciences and 2 humanities can be the 2S4 combination comprising H2 Chemistry, H2 Geography and H2 Math, with the H1 subject being a humanities subject.
How likely will my child get their desired subject combination? What happens when you cannot get your desired subject Combination?	Students are assigned subject combinations based on their choice, merit and availability of places. Students who are unable to get their choice of subject combinations can seek guidance from their teachers and our College ECG Counselor on a suitable subject combination for them.
My son is thinking of taking both Biology and Economics but is not sure whether at H1 or H2 level. If he chooses to take Bio at H2 level and Economics at H1 level but at the end of Y1, he does better at Economics than Biology, can he switch to doing Biology at H1 and Economics at H2 in Y2?	It is not advisable to consider switching levels between H1 and H2 in JC2. The H2 Economics syllabus is significantly more than the H1 Economics syllabus, hence it would not be reasonable for a child to catch up on all the topics missed in H2 Economics after a year. Furthermore, the assessment format is different for both H1 and H2 Economics - H1 Economics only has case studies but H2 has both case studies and essays. It would be hard for the child to pick up essay skills only in the second year.
Can my child switch from arts to science stream with a nett of 10 raw of 12	The cut-off point for Science this year is nett 9, so we are unable to process such a switch for your child. We would encourage your child to explore the options that the Arts combinations offer. Those combinations with Math may be good alternatives for those interested in the subject.
What are the benefits of taking 4H2 subjects?	<p>Taking 4H2 does not necessarily provide an advantage when calculating University Rank Points. However, students who can cope academically and wish to pursue an additional H2 subject at a greater depth, may choose to study 4H2.</p> <p>We have had students with 4H2 as well as 3H2/1H1 entering reputable universities, and securing scholarships in the process. So the overall performance of the student and strong recommendations by their referees would arguably be more important.</p>

<p>If my child has 12 pt., can he still request for 4H2? Is there an option for him to try for 4H2?</p>	<p>Students would need to have a raw score of L1R5 = 9 or L1R5 = 10 (on a case basis) in order to offer 4H2 subjects. Students should note that taking 4H2 does not necessarily provide an advantage when calculating University Rank Points. So the overall performance of the student and strong recommendations by their referees would be more important.</p>
<p>If my child chooses 4 H2 subjects and is not accepted, will he/she be given that same combination but at 3H2 and 1H1?</p>	<p>Students not eligible to offer 4 H2 subjects will be considered for 3 H2 combination based on the options chosen by the students. You can refer to the prospectus pg. 8 - 9 on the subject combinations offered at SAJC.</p>
<p>Can my child take double H2 sciences even if he has Combined Science?</p> <p>Is it difficult to cope with H2 Chemistry and Biology if my child has taken combined science in secondary school?</p>	<p>Students are assigned subject combinations based on their choice, merit and availability of places (due to limited resources e.g. classes &amp; teachers).</p> <p>Students who scored less than A2 for Combined Science or less than B4 for Pure Sciences, are further advised to choose a single science combination. This is to allow them to cope better with the rigour of H2 science subjects.</p>
<p>My son took physics for O-Levels. However, is it allowed for him to take up Biology as a replacement science of Physics?</p>	<p>For H2 Sciences, the minimum requirement is a Combined Science with the respective Science subject.</p>
<p>How should my child decide between Biology and Physics?</p>	<p>You might want to consider your child's interest, as well as aptitude for the subject. Biology is more content-heavy, while Physics involves more applications and calculations.</p>
<p>My child switched from a pure science stream in secondary school to the arts stream in junior college. Do you have any advice on how she can readily transition to the arts subjects?</p>	<p>Your child can build on her experience learning a Humanities subject at the O-levels, so the transition will not be as tough as it might seem. Every Humanities subject (Econs, Geog, Hist, Lit) has its own peculiar characteristics, but generally to do well, students need to be prepared to read widely and to demonstrate their critical thinking skills through writing (e.g. essays) and speak up in class. There may not always be one correct answer in these subjects and students must be willing to consider multiple perspectives to arrive at a well-reasoned judgment.</p>

<p>If my child did not take Geography for O levels, is it advisable to take it as a H1 subject for the science stream?</p>	<p>Geography has no prerequisites, and the syllabuses were designed in such a way that O-level exposure is not a major advantage. Our teachers will provide the necessary guidance to help your child do well, provided he or she puts in the required effort.</p>
<p>What advice would you give if my child wants to take H2 Geography and H2 History, knowing it's a very content heavy load?</p>	<p>The EGH combination was set up to cater to the learning needs of students who are passionate in the Humanities. This combination has produced some of our top students in previous years.</p> <p>Students with an aptitude for these subjects may not find the combined learning load heavy, as compared to say another student who chose Math and is struggling with it because he/she has no aptitude for it.</p> <p>Consistency, accumulating learning and knowledge from the beginning, rather than waiting to compress revision just before the exams, would help students in managing the content of these subjects.</p>
<p>Do H1 and H2 Economics differ only in breadth as H1 Economics has 8 topics and H2 has 10 topics?</p>	<p>Other than breadth (i.e. H1 topics are a subset of H2 topics), the assessment format is also different. In H1 Economics, there are only Case Studies, but for H2 Economics, there are both Case Studies and Essays.</p>
<p>What is the criteria to apply and qualify for H3 Economics?</p>	<p>To qualify for the H3 subject, the student must ensure that they have obtained a distinction for all H2 subjects in the JC1 promotional examinations. This is to ensure that the child has the right academic foundation to handle an additional subject which has added rigor.</p> <p>Currently our college is not offering MOE H3 Economics but students keen on pursuing H3 Economics can choose to apply for the H3 Economics offered by SMU on Game Theory.</p>

<b>Question Type: Mother Tongue</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Are students required to take MTL if they had taken HMTL and passed at O Levels?	Students who scored at least D7 for Higher MTL at O levels will not be required to offer H1MTL.
If a student has taken MTL at O levels, does he need to take the MTL again at JC?	If your child did not take Higher MTL at O level, then your child would take H1 MTL at A level during JC1.
Can I replace the contrasting H1 subject with my O levels HMTL grade, should my contrasting H1 subject grade at A levels be lower than that of my O levels A2 grade?	No. HMTL cannot be used to replace the H1 contrasting subject for the computation of rank points.
If my child already passed HMT at O level, how will it be counted for rank points? Do they lose the opportunity to get a better rank point with MTL?	The O-Level HMTL grades when converted to A-Level grades are: A1 & A2 is equivalent to A; B3-B; B4-C; C5-D; C6-E; D7-S. Rank points will be re-based back to 90 after adding the converted HMTL grades. (HMTL/ H1MTL will not be used for computation if it does not improve overall rank points.)  Students can retake H1 MTL to improve their MTL grade.
If my son is exempted from offering MTL, how or will he qualify for a local University?	MTL will not be considered for the rank points calculation. Maximum Rank Points calculation = scores from 3 H2 + 1 H1 (content subject) + H1 GP + H1 PW.
My son is exempted from taking MTL, how does this work out? Does he need to take a replacement subject?	No, your son does not need to take a replacement subject. The 90 rank points for local university admission will also not take MTL into account in this instance.
If the child is weak in Mother Tongue Language (MTL), does that mean the RP will be pulled down?	Students have to minimally obtain an S grade for MTL for admission to local universities. MTL will not be used for computation if it does not improve overall rank points.

Are MTL A-level exams taken during the JC1 year? If so, is the schedule also the same for MT-in-lieu exams?	Yes, MTL A-Level exams are taken at the end of JC1. It is scheduled with MT-in-lieu exams.
Are students eligible to sit for MTL A-Level exams for a second time, similar to O-Level?	Yes, students may sit for the MTL A-levels for first time at the end of JC1, second time at mid-year of JC2. If students did not clear MT (meaning getting a U grade) the first time, they can opt to take MTB the second time.
Is there any impact on the child's university admission if he takes CLB?	As long as the student passes CLB, he will be eligible for local university admission. It does not affect his university admission unless he wants to apply for a course which looks at his performance in CL.
What is the criteria to offer to CLB?	The criteria to offer CLB at JC 1 is D7 for CL at O level. Students who passed their CL at O Level would not be able to offer CLB at JC1.
<b>Question Type: Project Work</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Can you give some details on Project Work like when it happens, duration, individually or in teams etc.?	Project Work starts at the end of Term 1 and carries on until the exam in Term 4. Students have to work on their project in a group of 4-5 people. They also have to submit one personal reflection. For more information, please refer to <a href="https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/national-examinations/syllabus/alevel/2022syllabus/8808_y22_sy.pdf">https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/national-examinations/syllabus/alevel/2022syllabus/8808_y22_sy.pdf</a>
Is Project Work graded in JC1? How can parents help their child in the preparation?	Parents can help by encouraging their child to read the news widely, bounce ideas off each other. They could also recommend suitable respondents when students do their primary research, for example, when students need to interview someone for their project.
For PW, how does it work and also does the student need to have a laptop to do this?	For PW, students work on a project in groups of 4-5. It is useful to have a laptop/personal device as a lot of stuff needs to be typed and printed. They can use the computers in the computer lab or borrow laptops from the school.

**Question Type: Personal Learning Device (Laptops/iPads)**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<p>Is it a must for my child to have a laptop or iPad during her 2 years in SAJC?</p> <p>If so, does the school have any ties with vendors for purchases of such devices or we have to buy our own?</p>	<p>Blended learning is now an integral part of the JC learning programme where lectures are conducted online. It is therefore useful to have a computing device for self-directed learning.</p> <p>We do have computer labs that teachers can book for IT-based lessons and laptops for students to borrow for a short duration. The school however does not have any tie-up with vendors.</p>
<p>What are the specs for the computer for the HBL?</p>	<p>Any suitable laptop or computers that can run typical applications like Microsoft Office, Internet Browser and watching YouTube videos will suffice.</p>
<p>Will my child get a personal learning device?</p>	<p>No, MOE's Personal Learning Device Programme is currently only applicable to Primary and Secondary Schools.</p>
<p>In addition to a laptop, is it necessary to have an iPad as well? My child has heard from her seniors that it is advisable to have an iPad to help them in note taking.</p>	<p>It is not a requirement to have an iPad.</p>
<p>For Laptop equipment, any preference if the student uses a Mac or Windows equipment?</p>	<p>There is no preference. We have students using both operating systems smoothly in their studies.</p>
<p>Will school loan laptops for home based learning?</p>	<p>Laptops are not available for a long term loan. We do provide short term loans, subject to availability.</p>



<b>Question Type: CCA</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Is CCA important and compulsory?	CCA is an integral part of the holistic education of a child. We expect every Saint to participate and actively contribute to a CCA.
Do CCAs have any effect on A level results?	Universities do consider CCA achievement and contributions under certain circumstances, but over and above this, students are urged to think about CCA as a key part of their holistic development. Increasingly, being 'educated' is not just about being knowledgeable or qualified in a certain field. Employers are looking for college graduates who can, among other things, display leadership, solve problems and work well in teams. Students gain these competencies through experiences such as organising Service Learning projects, taking on responsibilities in their CCA or Class. This is an integral part of the educational experience at SAJC and we believe it prepares students for life.
May I know when the students need to submit their CCA choices?	Students could sign up directly for trials/ auditions for their CCA of choice. They should confirm their CCAs by the end of Term 1.
Are there any admission or specific criteria for some CCA e.g. Rugby?	Sports and Performing Arts CCAs will hold trials/auditions for interested students. Your child should check the trials schedule for the CCA that he/she is interested in.
If my child is not able to join the CCA trial sessions, can my child still join that CCA?	You may want to ask your child to contact the teacher-in-charge separately. Some CCAs conduct multiple trial sessions to cater to students' needs. More details can be found on the Orientation 2022 Microsite.
What time does CCA usually end?	We target to end latest by 7:30pm
How frequent are the CCA sessions?	It depends on which CCA. Wednesday is designated CCA day for most CCAs. Additional 1-2 sessions may be scheduled on other days of the week.
Does the student have to stick with 1 CCA for JC1 and JC 2 or can they change?	The JC journey is rather short. We would like our students to serve and contribute actively in one CCA.

For team sports CCA e.g.: football, are the kids allowed to train in full teams now or still in groups of 5 max?	Training is still in groups of 5 except for selected sessions where it is classified as MOE Pilot and students will take an ART test before training. These students will be allowed to play 5 v 5, with a maximum of 10 in a group.
Is the Student Council considered under the servant leadership component of the TDP?	The Student Council is a CCA, separate from the TDP. Involvement in Student Council is one of the many ways in which a TDP student can engage in Servant Leadership Development.
<b>Question Type: Talent Development</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
What is TDP and how will it affect the students involved? What do students need to do if they are involved in the TDP?	TDP in SAJC is geared towards developing students' scholastic achievements, Servant Leadership qualities and ability to take on different perspectives (eg. global awareness, knowledge on the world of work).  A range of activities and programmes are curated for the students with the aim of achieving the above.
How can students apply for TDP?	TDP is offered to the top 10% of the cohort. For J1 students who qualify for TDP, they have been given an invitation letter for parents' consent to join. For other J1 students who aspire to join TDP, they can look for the 2nd round of invitation which will be given at the end of J1 based on their JC1 Promotional Examination performance.
If my child is not in the top 10% of humanities students, is there any other or later opportunity for the child to join the Humanities scholars program?	The Humanities Scholars Program (HSP) is a part of TDP. If a J1 student has not have received an invitation to join TDP at the start of the year, they can aspire to be invited for TDP at the end of the year based on their JC1 Promotional Examination performance.
If a TDP student does not do well by the end of year 1, is he/she allowed to drop down to three H2 subjects?	A TDP student does not necessarily have to take a 4H2 combination. We do have many TDP students who take the 3H2 combination. Should a TDP student not do well for his/her JC1 Promotional Examinations, he/she may be asked to exit the programme, so as to have more time to focus on his/her studies.

Is TDP available to J2s?	TDP is available for students to join at JC2, provided that they have done well for their JC1 Promotional Examinations.
How often will TDP activities be held? What's the time commitment associated with the TDP?	TDP activities are typically held in the afternoons after their lessons. Students often have a choice on the type of activities that they wish to participate in (eg. activities which are aligned to their area(s) of interest). The frequency of their participation is dependent on the types of TDP activities that they wish to further pursue in.
If a student has taken the TDP programme, is he still able/need to join MUN, since MUN is under the 'Expanding perspectives' pillar of TDP	TDP students have the freedom to pursue any activity which helps to expand their perspectives, including Saints Model United Nations (MUN) Conferences. If the student is passionate in the nature of MUN, he/she is also encouraged to join our Saints MUN, which is a CCA.
<b>Question Type: SAJC Life</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
What is the JC1 cohort size and the percentage in the Arts and Science streams respectively?	There will be about 7 Arts classes and 22 Science classes.
Without supplementary lessons and CCAs, what time does a school day typically end	For Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, lessons typically end by 4 pm. For Wednesday, lessons end by 3.30 pm.
Kindly brief on JC school fees. Can we proceed to apply payment via EduSave for the second-tier of miscellaneous fees as per MOE website?	Students who are Singapore Citizen may choose to pay the second-tier miscellaneous fees from their EduSave account. More information can be found at MOE website link: <a href="https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/fees">https://www.moe.gov.sg/financial-matters/fees</a> .

<p>Will there be time given to purchase the uniform during Orientation? The opening hours are 10am-4pm and most orientation days end around 3+pm with sports trials in the late afternoon into the evening.</p>	<p>Students can purchase uniforms during lunch or after the day's programme is over. Students can also purchase their uniforms after orientation, up till 18 Feb, which is the final day where the uniform vendor will be in college. Beyond which, they can purchase their uniform from the photocopying/bookshop.</p>
<p>What were SAJC A level results performance been the previous years?</p>	<p>In line with MOE's emphasis on holistic education and moving away from an over-emphasis on grades, detailed data on results performance is not released. Suffice to say that each year, our students have been doing well and have achieved results above the national average.</p>
<p>What is the opening and closing time for the side gate?</p>	<p>The side gate is opened on weekdays from 7.00am till school reporting time (i.e. 8.10am except Thursday, when reporting time is 8.40am). In addition, the side-gate is also opened to facilitate students to leave after their lessons from 12:30pm onwards until 7:30pm.</p>
<p>Is there a dress down day?</p>	<p>Students are in general allowed to dress down every day (College bottoms and t-shirt) due to the ongoing pandemic.</p>
<p>Can my child take the bus to St Andrew's Village and walk through the sec school/primary school to get to SAJC?</p>	<p>Presently, due to the Covid-19 situation, students would not be able to walk through the other campuses. From the bus stop along Jln Toa Payoh, instead of entering SAV, students may walk down towards the park connector/Kallang River. It will lead them to the side gate of SAJC.</p>
<p>Will students be issued school emails for corresponding with teachers? Will the school be resetting the icon email for students?</p>	<p>Yes, all students will be issued a school email account. We can help students to reset their passwords.</p>
<p>Is there any penalty for students who are coming late to school?</p>	<p>Students who persistently come late to school will face disciplinary action and this may affect their chances in future scholarship applications.</p>

<b>Question Type: SA Hall</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<p>Would you be able to tell us more about the hall? How long is the commitment and why would a local student wish to stay in the hall? Thanks</p>	<p>Local students often choose to stay in SA Hall to minimise the travelling time to school. Students will typically be required to stay for minimally one year. You can get more information about the hall from the following link: <a href="https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/st-andrews-family/sa-hall">https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/st-andrews-family/sa-hall</a></p>
<p>How to sign up for SA hostel?</p>	<p>Interested students can write to <a href="mailto:sajc@moe.edu.sg">sajc@moe.edu.sg</a> or call 62858820 to find out more. They could also go directly to the General Office of St. Andrew's Hall (which is next to the college) to apply.</p> <p>There will be an interview for the parents and their child with the hostel staff to assess the suitability of the student to stay in the hostel.</p>
<b>Question Type: Partnership with Parents</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<p>How can we join PSG?</p>	<p>You can sign up to join PSG via the link or QR code at <a href="https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/parents/parent-support-group">https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/parents/parent-support-group</a></p>
<p>How do parents get updates from the college? Can we have a WhatsApp group for JC1 parents?</p>	<p>The college regularly updates parents on the various student experiences, school events &amp; other key information through various platforms such as Parents Gateway and Termly Letters to Parents. Resources are also regularly posted on the college website &amp; parents are informed of these updates through Parents Gateway. Parents can also contact the respective teachers of individual students through email should they wish to receive specific information related to your child. Our Parent Support Group has a WhatsApp group for parents in PSG and info is also shared through this channel.</p>