

## 2021 JC1 Parents' Dialogue Session – collated Q&A for Parents' Gateway

| <b>Question Type: Academic</b>   |  |
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| <b>Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>   |
| How is the A level syllabus divided throughout the two years?  | The curriculum time over the two years is rather short, considering the various holidays and time set aside for exams. Typically, a subject's syllabus will be covered over a total of about 5 terms (about 3 terms in JC1, and 2 terms in JC2 since most syllabuses will be completed somewhere in Aug or earlier).   |
| Will there be coverage on topics that were removed due to COVID during O levels?   | CLT (Common Last Topics) @ O levels will be covered as a just-in-time approach to ensure that students have the sufficient pre-requisite before covering the JC topic. E.g. For H2 Chemistry, the CLT is covered in July before covering the H2 Organic Syllabus in Aug - Sept. This would usually be done using a blended learning approach e.g. tapping on SLS.  |
| What is the criteria for promotion to JC2? What is the percentage of students who get promoted?                          | Students will have to meet the Promotional Criteria of 2H2 and 2H1 passes to be promoted to JC2. Students who do not meet this criteria would be given the option to repeat JC1. They can also consider alternative educational pathway. The percentage promoted to JC2 is cohort-dependent. Based on 2020, close to 95% was promoted to JC2 this year. It is important for students to remember that consistency is often the key to promotion and doing well academically. |
| For JC1 promotional criteria, can you take H1 Mother Tongue as one of 2 H1 subjects?                                     | H1 GP, MT and any of the H1 content subjects can count towards the JC1 promotional criteria.   |
| Can you share what the weightage of term tests & assignments, and EOY exam towards the end of JC1 promotion criteria is? | 10% CA (Continual Assessment) ongoing through the year<br>5% MSA (Milestone Assessment) Term 2<br>20% CT (Common Test) Mid-Year<br>65% FE (Final Exam) Term 4  |
| What is the average rank points and subject distinction rates for last year's A level results?                           | In line with MOE's emphasis on holistic education and moving away from an over-emphasis on grades, we will not be revealing any stats on our distinctions for any subject. Suffice to say that each year we have students who obtained the perfect 90 rank points for the A-level exams.   |
| What percentage of students get into local universities?   | More than 90% of our students are eligible to articulate into local AUs. The college supports the education aspirations of our students through various programmes and platforms to ensure that they are holistically developed and well-positioned to enter the IHL of their choice.  |
| Does SAJC provide guidance to students who wish to apply to foreign universities?  | Students may get in touch with the school's ECG Counsellor, Ms Saira Kuttan for more information and support for university applications.  |
| How did SAJC fare for the JAE for the last 2 years?  | The JAE cut-off for SAJC has remained at 10 for Science & 11 for Arts for the past 2 years.  |
| What are the key challenges faced by JC1 students and how does the college support students                              | The learning pace at the A-levels is generally faster than the O-levels, given the shorter runway. Time management and handling personal distractions, like their mobile devices, are key challenges faced by JC students. As a college, we have regular touchpoints to  |

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| who are academically weaker?   | check on students' learning and attitude. For students who require additional help, support is always available through means such as consultations with teachers or student study groups.  |
| Is private tuition necessary?  | We have sufficient resources to help support your child in all the subjects that he or she takes. Students should seek the subject tutors for help and consultation first before considering external help. The subject tutors will be the most familiar with how to best help your child.  |
| My child has some learning difficulties and has been given extra time for the completion of her tests and exams. Does this still apply in JC?              | As long as there is medical document or any other relevant documents to certify the diagnosis, we will assist the student to apply for Access Arrangement with SEAB. Student can approach the Civics Tutor to assist in this matter.  |
| <b>Question Type: Subject Combination</b>  |   |
| <b>Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>  |
| Is there any selection criteria for approving students' subject combination?   | Students are assigned subject combinations based on their choice, merit and availability of places (due to limited resources e.g. classes & teachers).  |
| May I know the advantage/disadvantage of taking 4H2 as opposed to 3H2 1H1?   | <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>With regard to admission into overseas universities, it depends on their criteria. We have students with 4H2 as well as 3H2/1H1 entering reputable universities too, and securing scholarships. So the overall performance of the student and strong recommendations by their referees would arguably be more important.</p> |
| If child takes 3H2 and 1H1 subject combination, can still drop 1 subject at end if JC1 if results are not good?  | As all students have to take at least 3 H2 and 1 H1 content subject, it will not be possible to drop any one of these content subjects.   |
| If I choose a subject as H1, is it possible to switch to H2 in future?   | It is not advisable to change subject combination as H1 is half the content and the pace of the curriculum would be different. The mode of assessment may also differ between H1 and H2 for some subjects. Hence, switching from H1 to H2 would put the students at a disadvantage and can be disruptive to students' learning.   |
| Will students have to change their CG if they drop from 4H2 to 3H2 or just for the subject dropped to H1?  | Yes there is a possibility of a change in CG due to incompatibility of the timetable with the classmates after the change in subject combination.   |
| If the student decides to switch their subject combi within the 1st term (i.e. does not find this combi suitable for him/her), does the school allow that? | Changes in subject combinations are allowed till the end of Term 1, based on a case-by-case consideration.  |

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| Any disadvantage for taking Arts as H2 in science stream?        | Any subject combination ought to be considered on the basis of whether it will satisfy the pre-requisites of the desired University courses, as well as whether it plays to the academic strengths of the student. An Arts subject in a Science combination at H2 level is not a disadvantage to the student if it doesn't affect the student's choice of university course, neither is it a disadvantage if it broadens the exposure of the student to other possible university courses. For example, for Medicine, Chemistry is a must, but having Geography in the combi will not be a disadvantage. For engineering, Maths and Physics are important, and having Economics will help broaden the student's learning. |
| Is BCME a hard combination to pass for promos?                   | BCME is generally a content heavy subject combination. Students need to exercise consistent work through their 2 years in JC in order to be able to have the sufficient skills to cope with the subject requirements.   |
| May I know how many classes of BCMg are there?                   | This depends, as it varies year to year depending on how many students apply for this combination.  |
| What subjects would you recommend for those who got through DSA? | Students should decide on their subject combination choices carefully. Factors a student should consider include his/her academic strengths, as well as likely courses he/she would like to apply for in the University as a number of these have pre-requisites. We have produced a SAJC Prospectus which delineates the possible subject combinations we offer as well as the subject requirements for various courses in our local universities. This is available at <a href="https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/curriculum/academic">https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/curriculum/academic</a> .  |

**Question Type: Languages**

| Questions  | Responses   |
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| Noted that the grading system didn't include A level MTL. Does it mean that students only need to pass the subject at the national exam at the end of J1? How does a better grade impact the overall grades? | <p>Students have to meet the minimum requirement of a "S" grade for Mother Tongue for local university admission.</p> <p>Mother Tongue results can be included in the total rank points computation if it improves the student's average score. If a student's Mother Tongue grade does not improve the rank points, then it need not be counted.</p> <p>For example, if a student attained 85 rank points (out of 90) from his other subjects, and scored an A in Mother Tongue, his total points would be 95 (out of 100), and after rebasing, it becomes 85.5 (out of 90). 85.5 will now be used as his rank points as it is the better score.</p> |
| My child scored C6 for his Chinese in O level as this is weakest subject. If he is not confident in doing Chinese at H1 level, will he be able to offer CLB instead? Thanks.                                 | Because he passed his O Level Chinese paper, he cannot begin with CLB at JC1. He needs to offer H1 Chinese.   |
| My child attained a D7 for Higher Chinese in O levels. It meets the requirement of not having to take H1 Chinese but will it affect my child applying for any scholarships?                                  | Generally no, unless for specific scholarships that require good performance in Chinese.  |

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| My daughter studied CLB at O levels. What are her language options at JC1? How is this going to affect her in any scholarship opportunities?                                     | She will study CLB in JC also. Her opportunity at a scholarship will not rest on whether she has studied CLB, unless it is specified that a strong command of Chinese is necessary, e.g. a scholarship articulating to a Chinese university.  |
| Will my kid then be moved to CLB if he fails his JC1 H1 Chinese?   | Yes.  |
| If a student is doing CLB, does it mean he/she won't qualify for local university?   | As long as the student passes CLB, he/she will be eligible for local university admission.  |
| <b>Question Type: Mathematics</b>  |   |
| <b>Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>  |
| Is it mandatory to get a B3 and above for A Math to take H2 Maths?   | There is no grade pre-requisite to take H2 Mathematics. However, students should be mindful of whether they could cope with the curricular demand when opting for a subject. The final allocation of subjects will be subject to availability of places due to limited resources e.g. classes & teachers.   |
| If my son has not taken Additional Math, but want to take H2 math, will there be any bridging classes to help him cope?  | Students should be mindful of whether they could cope with the curricular demand when opting for a subject. Students without any prior knowledge in Additional Math will very likely struggle with H2 Math. While the Math department may provide relevant resources and lessons to help the students, these students must also take ownership of their learning and proactively bridge the gap in content knowledge. |
| <b>Question Type: Sciences</b>   |   |
| <b>Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>  |
| For one who wishes to enter pharmacy in University, will they be required to take Biology during JC.   | Not necessarily so, as the general pre-requisite is H2 Chemistry. However, some universities may have their specific requirements such as another H2 Science or H1 Maths, together with H2 Chemistry. In particular, for Pharmacy NUS, H2 Chemistry is compulsory with either H2 Physics / H2 Biology + H2 Math.  |
| <b>Question Type: General Paper</b>  |   |
| <b>Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>  |
| There is a general opinion that GP is tough and it needs good preparation. Could you please advise on the ways parents can assist in helping their children to ace this subject? | Parents can help by engaging their children in daily conversations at home on contemporary issues (both local and global issues) and getting their children to adopt a critical mind as they think through the implications of these current issues in our own society.   |
| <b>Question Type: Personal Learning Devices</b>  |   |
| <b>Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>  |
| Does my child need to bring a personal learning device to class? If so, what kind of device is preferred?  | We do not require students to buy new notebooks or PCs for school related work. Students has the option to borrow a device from the Library on overnight loan basis if they need one.   |
| Does the school have any appointed vendor or student discount deals for the purchase of personal   | The school does not have any appointed vendor or student discount deals for the purchase of personal learning devices at the moment   |

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| learning devices (eg. laptop)?  |   |
| Can student bring own iPad to lecture and tutorial for notes taking?  | Yes. While not required, students may choose to use their own learning devices for note-taking. But students should be careful with their belongings should they decide to bring something valuable such as an iPad or a laptop.  |
| <b>Question Type: CCA</b>   |   |
| <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Responses</b>  |
| Is CCA 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.  |
| Can my child take external CCA, what would be recognized as external CCA?   | Yes. If it a MOE approved CCA conducted externally, then students need not join another CCA in college. It will count as fulfilling the CCA requirement.  |
| Does CCA help in the university application?  | 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 a 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. |
| In O levels, we have LEAPS programme. Does A level have something similar? Thank you!   | There is no LEAPS or CCA points in JC. At the end of JC2, however, they will receive a CCA Record that reflects their CCA involvement & participation   |
| I see that "leadership" e.g. "Saints for Christ" is put under CCA. In this case, what if a child is interested in a sports item, as well as he/she is interested to be a part of "Saints for Christ" or "Choir" etc. How will this be considered? Will it be considered as taking two CCAs? | Saints For Christ and Choir are two separate CCAs. Multiple CCAs are not encouraged as the commitments would be onerous and students would encounter clashes in their CCA schedules. That being said, there are leadership opportunities available in every CCA. A student can experience leadership within a CCA by taking up a CCA Exco position. CCA Exco has an important role in influencing peers within each CCA to excel both academically and in their CCA endeavours.   |
| Can a student be in the Student Council as well as another CCA e.g. sports or clubs?  | Student Council is a CCA which is rather demanding in terms of commitment level. Hence student councillors are discouraged from joining another CCA because it would be difficult to balance commitments from both CCAs, on top of academic workload.   |
| How many days of CCA training is there? Under what circumstances will the student be forced to drop CCA?  | The number of CCA training days varies depending on the CCA as well as the timing/season of the year. For example, training sessions may increase in the lead-up to the competitions.<br><br>Students who have heavier CCA commitments such as in those in student leadership (for example, Student Council), are generally recommended not to have another CCA. Students who have two  |

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|   | CCAs may be recommended to drop one if they are struggling to cope with their academics and their CCAs at the same time.  |
| Where can I find out more about the CCA offerings in SAJC?  | You can find out more about them here:<br><a href="https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/e-open-house-2021/ccas">https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/e-open-house-2021/ccas</a>   |
| Are sports CCA for those newbies?   | Many of the sports CCAs do not mandate prior experience in the particular sport.  |
| <b>Question Type: Talent Development</b>  |   |
| <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Responses</b>  |
| What is the criterion for Talent Development Programme (TDP)?   | The selection for JC1 TDP is based on L1R5 raw score of 10 points for Science and 11 points for Arts. Students who are not selected for TDP in JC1 can still be offered admission to TDP in JC2 if they perform well for JC1 internal examinations.   |
| By being in the TDP, will mentor or teacher be guiding the student on how to get good referees for overseas university application? | A whole school approach is adopted to ensure all our students are supported in their aspirations for higher education. The cohort is provided timely information of the various workshops, internal and external scholarships and awards that are available for different groups of students. This is to ensure that all students are well supported in their scholarship aspirations, and not just the TDP students. |
| <b>Question Type: General College Life in SAJC</b>  |   |
| <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Responses</b>  |
| What is the usual reporting time for J1 students in the morning? Will the starting time change after the pandemic is over?          | Currently, students are expected to be in the classroom by 8:10 am for assembly. The only exception is on Thursday where assembly begins at 8.40am. We will be reviewing the start time after the pandemic is over, bearing in mind the impact on the students' schooling experience and well-being.  |
| Can they wear half uniform to school every day? Also if so does it have to be only the PE shirts or any school shirt?               | Due to the Covid-19 SMMs, students are allowed to wear half-uniform together with their face mask. During non-pandemic period, dress-down days are Wednesday and Friday. Any SAJC T-shirt with the college skirt/ pants is acceptable as half-uniform.  |
| Our family does not have a religion belief. How would this impact my daughter in the next 2 years in SAJC?                          | We welcome everyone regardless of race or religion as we believe that "No one is here by chance". Character development has been a key emphasis of the college over the years and platforms such as our morning reflections and chapel are integral in complementing our SLEAD lessons to inculcate values in our students. These values are universal and applicable to all students, regardless of their faith.     |
| Do you allow time out for Friday prayers for Muslim boys?   | Muslim male students may attend Friday prayers if there are no scheduled activities in their timetable. The students may refer to their issued timetable and discuss with their Civics Tutors of Year Head if needed.   |
| What is the school fees?  | For Singapore Citizens, it will be \$33 a month. You may check with the General Office for the school fees for the other groups of students.  |
| <b>Question Type: Partnership with Parents</b>  |   |
| <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Responses</b>  |
| How can the parents support the college?  | All parents are invited to join the Parent Support Group (PSG). The PSG partners with the school to organise various events across the  |

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|   | <p>year to support and celebrate the students' development. These include the distribution of care packs to students nearing major assessments as well as packed snacks during events such as CNY celebrations and Farewell Assembly.</p> <p>For more information, refer to:<br/> <a href="https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/parents/parent-support-group">https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/parents/parent-support-group</a></p>   |
| <p>Is there a routine communication protocol between parents and teachers such as Whatsapp group?</p> | <p>The college issues regular letters to parents to keep them updated on key information for the JC1 / JC2 cohort. Civics Tutors (CTs) and Subject Tutors (STs) would touch base with parents through emails and phone calls when necessary. Parents are also welcome to email the relevant CTs and STs, should they wish to have an update of their child's progress. Email addresses of our teachers can be found at<br/> <a href="https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/parents/communication/tutors-email">https://standrewsjc.moe.edu.sg/parents/communication/tutors-email</a></p> |
| <p>As a parent of a foreign scholar, how can I keep in touch with the teachers and the school?</p>    | <p>We have a team of teacher mentors overseeing foreign scholar matters. Parents can find out the relevant teacher mentor from their child and communicate with these mentors via email.</p>  |