

O-LEVEL AND N-LEVEL ARE GOING AWAY

The SEC exam, explained



Which exam your child sits, the grades, and L1R4 for JC.

Which exam

Grades

L1R4 for JC

FROM 2027, THREE EXAMS BECOME ONE: THE SEC

N(T)-Level



G1

N(A)-Level



G2

O-Level



G3

Which exam will **my child** sit?

Your child in 2026	National exam
Sec 4	O-Level or N-Level 2026, the last ones
Sec 3 and below	SEC 2027 onwards, at the end of Sec 4

FIRST SEC

Today's **Sec 3s** sit it in 2027. Results: mid-January 2028.

SEC 5 IN 2027?

An N(A) student who takes Sec 5 in 2027 also sits the **SEC**.

What **changes**, what stays

	Until 2026	SEC, from 2027
Papers	O-Level, N(A), N(T)	Same format and standard
Certificate	One per exam	One, every subject at its level
English & MTL	O-Level: Oct–Nov · MTL twice	Both in September, once
Results	N: Dec · O: Jan	One release, in January
JC entry	$L1R5 \leq 20$	$L1R4 \leq 16$, all G3 from 2028

SEC grades, by level

Level	Grades	Certificate needs
G3	A1 A2 B3 B4 C5 C6 D7 E8 9 like O-Level · A1 to C6 = pass	One subject at E8 or better
G2	1 2 3 4 5 6 like N(A)-Level	One subject at Grade 5 or better
G1	A B C D E like N(T)-Level	One subject at Grade D or better

MYTH

“A1 = 75 marks” is a **school-test** band. SEAB publishes **no** mark ranges for SEC grades.

L1R4: JC from 2028

Slot	Best G3 subject from
L1	English (or Higher Mother Tongue)
R1	Humanities
R2	Math or Science
R3	Humanities, Math or Science
R4	Any other subject
Total	$JC \leq 16 \cdot MI \leq 20$

MATH

JC needs **G3 Math or G3 A–Math** at D7 or better. G2 Math cannot count.

Poly, ITE and Sec 5

Polytechnic Year 1

Last “best” subject may be G2

ELR2B2 $\leq$ 22

net, after bonus

Polytechnic Foundation Programme

G3 grades counted at G2

ELMAB3 $\leq$ 12

at G2

ITE 2-year Higher Nitec

A mix of G3 and G2 is fine

ELMAB3 $\leq$ 19

at G2

A fifth year (Sec 5)

3+ G3 passes, or ELMAB3 $\leq$ 21 at G2

Stays

if eligible

DPP

From the 2028 ITE intake

Ends

ONE EXERCISE

From 2028, JC, poly and ITE are all applied for through the **PSE**. Its 6-day window opens on SEC results day.