

FAQs for 2021 Primary 6 Parents' Briefing on the New PSLE Scoring System

Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)/ Assessment Matters

1. If the school's cut-off point ranges from 4(D) to 7(D), will my child be offered admission to the school if he/ she attains a score of 6(P)? Would a pass in Higher Mother Tongue be considered an advantage for her?

Yes, a student with a score of 6(P) will be offered admission into the school if the school's cut-off point for that year ranges from 4(D) to 7(D). When applying to SAP schools, HMT students will continue to receive an advantage. If students with the same PSLE score are applying for limited places in the same SAP school, those with better HMT grades will be allocated a place ahead of other students. This applies before the tiebreakers for Secondary 1 posting.

2. What is the mark range for Distinction, Merit and Pass for Higher Mother Tongue (HMT)?

Grade	Mark Range
Distinction	≥80-100
Merit	65-79
Pass	50-64
Ungraded	<50

3. Will my child's Preliminary Examinations result be taken into consideration in the event that he/ she is absent for PSLE as he/ she was unwell?

Your child has to submit his/ her medical documents to the Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB) through the school if he/ she falls sick. SEAB has a process in place, which takes into account the adverse or unforeseen circumstances in which a candidate sat for, or missed a paper, to ensure that he/ she is still fairly

assessed and not disadvantaged. Examples of such circumstances include an illness or an injury.

4. Will Ministry of Education (MOE) consider removing Common Last Topic (CLT) for Mathematics & Science if the COVID-19 situation does not improve?

MOE will continue to monitor and review the situation. As of now, there is no news from MOE on the removal of CLT. All topics will be tested in this year's school-based and national examinations.

5. How long will we be given to shortlist and submit our six secondary choices after the release of the PSLE results?

The S1 Internet System (S1-IS) opens for 24-hour online submission at 11am on the day of PSLE results release. You can submit your child's six preferred school choices online within the next seven calendar days.

Direct School Admission (DSA)

1. For Direct School Admission (DSA), does a student need to achieve a certain cut-off for IP schools?

Your child's PSLE score still matters. Students offered placement in a DSA-Sec school still need a PSLE score that qualifies them for the course offered by the school. Parents are encouraged to approach the DSA-Sec school that they are interested in for more information on their criteria and selection processes.

2. How will schools be able to accurately assess students' talents and potential without in-person trials and auditions, and given the suspension of the National School Games (NSG), Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation and CCAs?

Due to the exceptional circumstances this year, in-person trials and auditions, and events like the NSG and SYF Arts Presentation cannot be used to assess students' talent, potential, passion and character. This means that besides using e-modes or input from the students' primary or secondary schools, the DSA schools will need to

rely more heavily on students' track records in school and information provided in their application. In-person assessments and placements in national events are only one of the many ways to assess students' competencies, dedication and training attitude. Each school has its own criteria and assessment, but all schools look at a range of skills and attributes when shortlisting students. This includes students who demonstrate potential and personal qualities like resilience, which can be assessed through e-modes or input from the students' primary schools. These are all existing DSA selection practices that schools will continue to utilise.

3. Will the school be releasing the Mid-Year Examination results to students for Direct School Admission (DSA) application? If the school is not, which academic results will the secondary schools be looking at during when they assess the DSA applicants?

For DSA, secondary schools will adopt a holistic approach towards selection. Selection will be based on students' diverse range of achievements and talents, beyond academic performance. Schools will consider various qualities and attributes and continue to shortlist students with potential, exemplary character and desirable personal qualities such as character, resilience, drive and leadership.

4. Can my child's co-curricular activity (CCA) teacher write a recommendation letter or testimonial for him/ her if my child is applying for DSA?

The school does not write a recommendation letter or testimonial for DSA as your child's primary school information will be shared with the secondary schools that he/ she has applied to. This includes your child's P5 and P6 academic results, remarks, leadership roles, Co-curricular Activities (CCA), Values in Action (VIA) involvement, school-based achievements/ awards such as Edusave awards, NAPFA results, Junior Sports Academy and National School Games participation. However, in the event that the school that your child is applying for DSA needs further information, they can get in touch with the school's Administration Manager.

5. Will the school be submitting my child's information such as his/ her leadership positions to the secondary schools that my child is applying for?

Your child's primary school information will be shared with the secondary schools that you have applied to. This includes your child's P5 and P6 academic results, leadership roles, Co-curricular Activities (CCA), Values in Action (VIA) involvement, School-based achievements/ awards such as Edusave awards, NAPFA results, Junior Sports Academy and National School Games participation.