



Raffles Institution

The 'A' Level Curriculum

Students in Year 5-6 will offer the Revised 'A' Level Curriculum implemented in Singapore from 2006. A summary of the requirements of the curriculum is given below. For more information on the A level curriculum, please refer to www.moe.gov.sg/cpdd/alevel2006/experience/exp.htm

1. Knowledge Skills subjects

H1 Project Work (PW) is compulsory. In addition, students must offer either H1 General Paper (GP) or H2 Knowledge & Inquiry (KI).

2. Mother Tongue Language (MTL)

Students who have obtained a grade of D7 or better in Higher MT at the GCE 'O' Level need not offer H1 MTL as they would be deemed to have fulfilled the H1MTL requirement. As MTL is an integral part of the GCE 'A' level curriculum, H1MTL cannot be replaced with another subject and students should continue to be engaged in the learning of MTL.

At RI, we strongly encourage students who obtained a grade of D7 in Higher MT to offer H1 MTL as D7 is a failure grade. Do note that C6 is the minimum grade for the Raffles Diploma to be awarded.

3. Content-based subjects

Students must offer a contrasting subject, i.e. they must offer at least one subject from each of the two groups: Mathematics & Sciences, Humanities & the Arts. The contrasting subject can be at H1 or H2 level.

Knowledge and Inquiry (KI) serves as a contrasting subject for both Mathematics & Sciences and Humanities & the Arts. KI must only be offered as the fourth content-based subject.

4. Total number of units

The total number of units (including the compulsory components PW, MT and GP/KI) offered must be at least 10 and at most 12. (H1: 1 unit; H2: 2 units; H3: 1 unit).

Students will be allowed to offer 11 units comprising GP, PW, MT and four H2 subjects if they have obtained a GPA of 3.2 and above (for Year 4 RI and RGS students) or an L1R5 score of 11 or better at the 'O' Level Examination.

5. H3 Subjects

H3 subjects are designed for highly able students and must be offered together with the corresponding subject(s) and/or other stipulated pre-requisite subject(s) at H2. Students will be informed of the H3 application process at the end of Year 5, after their Promotion Examination.

6. KI, Music and Art

Students intending to offer KI, Music, or Art will have to sit for placement tests/auditions before being allowed to offer the subject.

7. Foreign Language

Lessons for H1 and H2 French, German or Japanese will be conducted at the Ministry of Education Language Centre (MOELC).

Subjects offered in RI

Group	Subject	H1 1 unit	H2 2 units	H3 1 unit
CONTENT-BASED SUBJECTS				
Mathematics & Sciences	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
	Biology	✓*	✓	✓
	Chemistry	✓*	✓	✓
	Physics	✓*	✓	✓
Humanities & Arts	Economics	✓	✓	✓
	Geography	✓*	✓	✓
	History	✓	✓	✓
	Literature in English	✓	✓	✓
	English Language & Linguistics	N.A.	✓*	N.A.
	Art	✓*	✓	✓
	Music	N.A.	✓	✓
	Chinese Language and Literature	N.A.	✓	✓
	Malay Language and Literature	N.A.	✓	✓
	Tamil Language and Literature	N.A.	✓	✓
Japanese/French/German	N.A.	✓	N.A.	
OTHER SUBJECTS				
Languages	Mother Tongue: Chinese/Malay/Tamil/NTIL	✓✓ (see para 2)	N.A.	N.A.
	Japanese/French/German	✓	N.A.	N.A.
Knowledge Skills	General Paper	✓✓ (see para 1)	N.A.	N.A.
	Knowledge & Inquiry	N.A.	✓✓ (see para 1)	N.A.
	Project Work (compulsory)	✓✓	N.A.	N.A.

Note: ✓✓ denotes compulsory subjects
 ✓* may not be offered if there is insufficient interest

The institution reserves the right not to offer a non-compulsory subject if there is insufficient interest in that subject.

The detailed syllabus for each subject can be found on the SEAB website at:

http://www.seab.gov.sg/aLevel/syllabusSchool_Info.html

Subject Combinations for the A Level Curriculum (Year 5-6)

The following standard subject combinations are available at RI:

(a) 11-unit subject combinations

Only for students who have obtained a GPA of 3.2 and above or an L1R5 score of 11 or lower, and have met the subject requirements stated in para 4 of the FAQs.

(i) 4H2 Science Combinations

Group	KS	H2 Subj 1	H2 Subj 2	H2 Subj 3	H2 Subj 4
BCM	H1GP H1PW	Mathematics	Biology	Chemistry	Economics Geography History Literature in English Art Music
PCM	H1GP H1PW	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	English Lang & Linguistics Chinese Lang & Literature Malay Lang & Literature Tamil Lang & Literature French / Japanese / German
PME	H1GP H1PW	Mathematics	Physics	Economics	Geography History Literature in English Art Music
CME	H1GP H1PW	Mathematics	Chemistry	Economics	English Lang & Linguistics Chinese Lang & Literature Malay Lang & Literature Tamil Lang & Literature French / Japanese / German
KBCM	H2KI H1PW	Mathematics	Biology	Chemistry	(optional) H1 Economics H1 History H1 Literature in English H1 Geography
KPCM	H2KI H1PW	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	

(ii) 4H2 Arts Combinations

Group	KS	H2 Subj 1	H2 Subj 2	H2 Subj 3	H2 Subj 4
HLEM	H1GP H1PW	History	Economics	Literature in English	Mathematics
GLEM	H1GP H1PW	Geography	Economics	Literature in English	Mathematics
GLM	H1GP H1PW	Geography	Literature in English	Mathematics	Art Music English Lang & Linguistics Chinese Lang & Literature Malay Lang & Literature Tamil Lang & Literature French / Japanese / German
HLM	H1GP H1PW	History	Literature in English	Mathematics	
GEM	H1GP H1PW	Geography	Economics	Mathematics	
HEM	H1GP H1PW	History	Economics	Mathematics	
KGLE	H2KI H1PW	Geography	Economics	Literature in English	
KHLE	H2KI H1PW	History	Economics	Literature in English	(optional) H1 Mathematics

(b) 10-unit subject combinations

Students offering standard 10-units combinations will undergo an enhanced curriculum. The enhanced curriculum provides additional academic support, with smaller class size, specially selected teachers and customised pedagogy.

(i) 3H2 Science Combinations

Group	KS	H2 Subj 1	H2 Subj 2	H2 Subj 3	H1 Subject
BCM	H1GP H1PW	Mathematics	Biology	Chemistry	Economics Geography History Literature in English
PCM	H1GP H1PW	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	

(ii) 3H2 Arts Combinations

Group	KS	H2 Subj 1	H2 Subj 2	H2 Subj 3	H1 Subject
GLE	H1GP H1PW	Geography	Economics	Literature in English	Mathematics
HLE	H1GP H1PW	History	Economics	Literature in English	Mathematics

Besides the standard subject combinations, students can propose their preferred subject combinations as long as their choices comply with the requirements of the A level curriculum and our guidelines listed in para 6 of the FAQs.

While the Institution will consider all student requests for subject combinations, **students are to note that all requests are subject to approval.** Where requests are not feasible and/or recommended, the Institution will advise students on alternative subject combinations.

Frequently Asked Questions

A MOTHER TONGUE

- 1 *If I have already fulfilled the Mother Tongue requirement by passing Higher Mother Tongue at 'O' level, can I replace the 1 unit allocated for Mother Tongue with another subject, like H1 Economics?*

The maximum number of units a student can offer is 12. MOE's policy is that the 12 units comprise 11 units + Mother Tongue (1 unit). If you have already fulfilled the Mother Tongue requirement, the maximum number of remaining units you can offer is still 11. In other words, you cannot 'replace' the MT unit with another subject.

- 2 *Are lessons for H1 Mother Tongue conducted over 1 year or 2 years? How many lessons are there in a week?*

H1 Mother Tongue (H1MT) lessons will be conducted over two years. However, you will have three opportunities to sit for the Examination: end-Oct in Y5, end-May in Y6 and end-Oct in Y6. Once you have achieved a satisfactory grade at any one of these sittings, you may stop offering the subject.

4 periods per week are allocated to H1MT lessons in Y5. In Y6, the number of lessons is reduced. Depending on the demand and the resources available, we may start a H1CL accelerated class for selected students who scored B3 for HCL at O levels. 2 periods per week are allocated to the H1CL accelerated class.

B SUBJECT INFORMATION AND PRE-REQUISITES

- 3 *Where can I find information on the subjects?*

Please refer to Annex B for brief write-ups on the subjects. For detailed syllabus, please go to www.seab.gov.sg

- 4 *Are there any subject pre-requisites?*

The subjects with pre-requisites are:

Subject	RP students	O level students
H2 Knowledge & Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min GPA of 3.6 • Min GP of 3.6 for English • Good grades for Philosophy • Pass placement test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 6 A1s in O Levels • A1 for English • Pass placement test
H2 Maths	Min Grade Point of 2.0 for both Maths 1 and Maths 2	B3 or better for Additional Maths
H2 Biology	Min Grade Point of 2.0 for Biology	B3 or better for Biology
H2 Chemistry	Min Grade Point of 2.0 for Chemistry	B3 or better for Chemistry
H2 Physics	Min Grade Point of 2.0 for Physics	B3 or better for Physics
H2 English Language & Linguistics	Min Grade Point of 3.6 for English	A for English
H2 Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed min Grade 5 for Music Theory <i>and</i> Practical Exams • Pass placement test/audition 	
H2 Art	Portfolio and placement test	

- 5 *What are the requirements for offering H3 subjects?*

H3 subjects are designed for highly-able students who are passionate about the subject and wish to study the subject at a deeper level. H3 subjects must be offered together with the corresponding pre-requisite subjects at H2. Students will be briefed about application for H3 subjects after the Year 5 Promotional Examinations.

Students intending to offer one H3 subject must have achieved good academic results in the Year 5 Overall Results.

Students with excellent academic and CCA records may offer up to two H3 subjects. Approval will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

C SUBJECT COMBINATIONS, CLASSES, CURRICULUM HOURS

6 *I understand that we can request to offer a non-standard subject combination. Are there any guidelines on the subject combinations? When will I know if my request is approved?*

The broad guidelines are as follows:

- Students offering H2 science subjects must offer H2Maths.
- Students offering H2Biology must offer H2Chemistry.
- Students may not offer H2 Geography and H2 History concurrently.
- Students may offer *at most* one of the following subjects: KI, Art, Music, English Language & Linguistics, Chinese Language & Literature, Malay Language & Literature, Tamil Language & Literature.

RP and DSA students will be informed of the outcome of your request when you report to school in 2015.

7 *I have submitted an appeal as I have not met the pre-requisites to offer the subject combination. When will I know the outcome of my appeal?*

RP and DSA students will be informed of the outcome of your appeal when you report to school in 2015.

8 *Are we allowed to change our subject combination after Matriculation?*

You can submit a request to change your subject combination when you report for school in January 2015. As we would have made our deployment plans in Nov/Dec based on the Matriculation data, request for changes after matriculation will be subject to availability of resources and on a case-by-case basis.

9 *There are so many possible subject combinations. Will students still be grouped in classes?*

As far as possible, students will be grouped into civics classes according to their subject combinations. In cases where a subject combination cannot form a complete class, students offering similar combinations may be combined in a class. Students in these classes will attend lessons for the common subjects with their civics class and join other classes for the other subjects.

10 *How are students grouped in classes? I heard that students are allocated into class by their GPAs. Is this true?*

Students are classed by subject combinations, including mother tongue. Within each subject combination, classes are broadly banded, using results of pre-requisite subjects, so as to facilitate more effective classroom learning and teaching. At the same time, we also consider gender, ethnicity, scholar, RP/JAE mix to ensure a more balanced and enriched overall learning experience for students.

11 *What are the curriculum hours like? What time will lessons end every day?*

5 periods a week are allocated to H2 science subjects, while 4 periods per week are allocated to the other H2 subjects. 3.5 periods are allocated to GP and 2 periods to PW. In addition, students also have to attend PE, Civics and Assembly. In total, students attend 26 – 32 periods weekly, depending on their subject combination.

Unlike in a secondary school, where the dismissal time is fixed every day, students are generally allowed to leave after their last lesson of the day. Typically, the last lesson ends between 2 – 4 pm, although some lessons may end after that. The last timetabled period ends at 5:05 pm.

12 *Considering the long curriculum hours at Y5 & 6, when will CCA activities be conducted?*

CCA and enrichment activities are scheduled on Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm and 5 - 7pm on other weekdays.

Come to our Open House in Jan 2015 to find out more about CCAs and life as a JC student. Open House will be held immediately after the release of O level results. Do check our website (ri.edu.sg) for the announcement of the exact date.

D FOREIGN LANGUAGES

13 *What are the requirements for offering French, Japanese or German?*

The MOE Language Centre (MOELC) is designated as the LEP centre for French, Japanese, and German. Students who wish to offer these languages at H1 or H2 are to check the MOELC's website for registration details.

14 *Are lessons for foreign languages conducted over 1 year or 2 years?*

MOELC conducts H1 French, H1 Japanese and H1 German in one year. You will sit for the 'A' level exam for these subjects at the end of the 1-year course. You are not allowed re-sit the 'A' level exam for these subjects at the end of Year 6. H2 French, H2 Japanese and H2 German lessons are conducted over 2 years.

15 *I notice that H1 foreign languages are classified under "Languages" rather than "Humanities & the Arts" or "Mathematics & Science". Does this mean that they are not considered as content-based subjects?*

H1 foreign languages are considered content-based but they cannot serve as contrasting subjects. For example, the subject combination H2Biology + H2Chemistry + H2Maths + H1Japanese does not have a contrasting subject and hence is not allowed, but H2Chemistry + H2Maths + H2Economics + H1Japanese meets the requirements.

E SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

16 *I am interested in applying for the Humanities Scholarship. What are the requirements of the scholarship? When do I apply?*

The Humanities Scholarship is offered by the MOE to encourage highly-able students to offer humanities subjects in Year 5 & 6. Your academic performance, CCA records and teacher recommendations will be taken into consideration. In addition, you will need to submit a personal statement and attend an interview with the selection panel at MOE.

Successful applicants must offer Literature in English at H2 level. For more information on the Humanities Scholarship and the other subject requirements, please visit

www.moe.gov.sg/education/scholarships/moe-preu/humanities/

The online application period for IP students is Oct/Nov 2014. Applications for O level students will begin in Jan 2015 after the release of the O-Level Exam results. Please check the above website for the exact dates.

17 *What are the other scholarships available for Pre-U students? What are the requirements for these scholarships? When do I apply?*

The other scholarships offered by MOE are Language Elective Scholarship (English, French, German, Japanese), MOE Pre-University Scholarship, Music Elective Scholarship, Regional Studies Programme Scholarship.

For details on these scholarships, please visit

www.moe.gov.sg/education/scholarships/moe-preu/

The online application period for MOE Pre-University for IP students is Oct/Nov 2014. Applications for O level students will begin in Jan 2015 after the release of the O-Level Exam results. Please check the above website for the exact dates.

Applications for the Language Elective Scholarships (English, French, German, Japanese), Music Elective Scholarship will open in Jan 2015. Students currently awarded the Regional Studies Programme Scholarship will continue to be on the Programme provided they obtain good Y4 results and offer H2 History with the Advanced Conversational Malay Language module at Y5-6.

Some organizations also offer scholarships to JC students (eg DSTA, S*STAR). Applications for these normally open in Jan/Feb. Please refer to their respective websites for more information.

18 *(For IP student) I am currently on EESIS/ESIP. Will this continue in Y5-6? Do I have to fill in any forms?*

The EESIS/ESIP will continue in Y5-6 for eligible IP students. There is no need for you to fill in any forms.

19 *(For JAE student) How can I find out if I am eligible for EESIS/ESIP? Do I need to fill in any forms?*

Your EESIS/ESIP eligibility is indicated in your personalised Form A issued by your secondary school together with your O Level results. There is no need for you to fill in any forms.

20 *Where can I find more information on RI's Financial Assistance?*

Please refer to www.ri.edu.sg or check with the staff at the Student Affairs Centre.

F UNIVERSITY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

21 *What are the university entry requirements for specific faculties like medicine or law? Are there specific subjects I need to offer if I am interested in certain careers?*

Different universities in various countries have different subject requirements for each discipline. You need to do your own research as the variations are too numerous to put down on one list. If you have specific courses or universities in mind, do visit their respective websites for more information.

For information on admissions into local universities, please refer to

www.moe.gov.sg/cpdd/alevel2006/university/uni.htm

22 *What are the requirements for prestigious overseas undergraduate scholarships, eg PSC Scholarships, SAF Overseas Scholarships, A*STAR Scholarships?*

For more information on scholarships, please refer to brightsparks.com.sg

If you have any other queries, please email Ms Chen Yee Chien (Dean/Systems) at yeechien.chen@ri.edu.sg