

## 2006 ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AT VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

Discipline	Subject	H1	H2	H3	Pre-requisite / Remarks
Knowledge skills	General Paper	*			Not contrasting subject; Compulsory if KI is not offered
	Project Work	*			Not contrasting subject; Compulsory
	Knowledge Inquiry		*		Contrasting subject for either Arts or Science; taken in lieu of GP
Languages	Mother Tongue Language (Chinese, Malay, Tamil)	*			Need <b>not</b> offer if student obtained grade D7 or better in 'O' level HMTL; Not a contrasting subject
	Malay Lang and Literature Chinese Lang and Lit Tamil Lang and Lit		*	*	H2 can be a contrasting subject for the Science course
	General Studies in Chinese	*			Can be a contrasting subject for the Science Course 'O' level Higher Chinese is a pre-requisite
	French	*	*		Taught at VJC H1 is not a contrasting subject but H2 is a contrasting subject for the Science course
	German	*	*		Taught at MOELC H1 is not a contrasting subject but H2 is a contrasting subject for the Science course
	Japanese	*	*		
Mathematics & Sciences	Biology	*	*	*	'O' level Biology or Combined Science with Biology
	Chemistry	*	*	*	'O' level Chemistry or Combined Science with Chemistry
	Physics	*	*	*	'O' level Physics or Combined Science with Physics
	Mathematics	*	*	*	'O' level Mathematics for H1 Mathematics; 'O' level Additional Mathematics for H2 Mathematics
	Computing		*		
Humanities & the Arts	Art		*		
	Economics	*	*	*	
	Geography	*	*	*	
	History	*	*	*	
	English Literature	*	*	*	
	Theatre Studies & Drama		*		

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. How many subjects must students offer?

The norm is for students to offer **three H2 and one H1** content-based subjects, one of which is a **contrasting subject**. All students must also offer **General Paper, MTL and Project Work**. This would present a manageable workload for students to enjoy a holistic education. Students who have the ability, passion and strong interest for a particular subject and have the time to go beyond the norm may offer an additional H3 subject. Other than H3 Math that is taught in JC1 semester 2, the other H3 subjects are taught in JC2. Selection is based on the performance of students in their JC1 examinations. For most students, they should not offer more than the norm so that they have time for co-curricular and other activities.

### 2. What is a contrasting subject? Why should students offer a contrasting subject?

A contrasting subject is a content-based subject taken outside a student's main area of specialisation. For example, students doing three H2 Maths/Science subjects could offer H1 Literature as a contrasting subject. This is for the purpose of broadening the students' experience. Contrasting subjects could be offered at H1 or H2 level. The new subject, Knowledge and Inquiry, will be considered a contrasting subject for both Humanities & the Arts, and Mathematics & Science, as it requires students to read widely from the different disciplines.

### 3. Will students be able to sit for the Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) and Foreign Languages (FL) examinations at the end of JC1?

There will be no change of MOE policy with regard to the offering of MTL and FL. Students will continue to be allowed to sit for the H1 MTL and FL examinations at the end of JC1. These subjects are not regarded as contrasting subjects. *All FL lessons are conducted at Foreign Language Centre at Bishan except French which will be conducted at VJC.*

### 4. If a student has already obtained a pass in 'O' level Higher MTL and does not wish to do H1 MTL, is this allowed? Does it mean that he/she must do another H1 subject in lieu of H1 MTL?

There is no change in MTL policy. If a student has obtained a D7 or better in 'O' level HMTL, he need not offer H1 MTL. He/she would have been deemed to have fulfilled the H1 MTL requirement and need not replace the H1 MTL with another subject.

### 5. Can MTL and FL at H2 level be considered content subjects?

MTL and FL at H2 level are considered content subjects. MTL at H2 level have significant literature content, covering classical and modern prose and poetry while H2 FL have wide-ranging topic areas that include political, cultural and social issues. H2 MTL and FL can therefore be offered as contrasting subjects for science students. H2 French is offered at VJC.

### 6. What are the demands of H3 subjects? Who should offer H3 subjects?

H3 subjects are meant to allow exceptionally strong students to pursue a subject or area in which they have the interest and aptitude. Besides passion for a particular subject, students must have the time to manage a workload beyond the norm subject combination as H3 subjects have separate syllabuses that take students beyond the H2 syllabus. Students are allowed to take a maximum of two H3 subjects. The school will select students who applied to offer H3 subjects based on their performance in the JC1 examinations.

## 7. What is Knowledge Inquiry? Is it a content-based subject?

KI is a H2 subject. It has both a knowledge (content) component and a skills-based component. KI may be offered in lieu of GP. At the same time it is regarded as a contrasting subject for both the Science and Arts. For admission to NUS and NTU, half of the KI grade points will be counted towards GP and the other half can be counted as a H1 content-based grade. Students who drop KI would need to take up GP and a contrasting subject if they have no contrasting subject.

KI is an intellectually demanding subject. Students offering the subject should have a good command of the English Language, a curious mind and a keen interest in the world around them. They are expected to do much reading. There is an independent study component where students are required to work on a research topic of their choice for six months, so students offering KI should be capable of and comfortable with working independently.

## 8. How will the students be graded?

The grading system for the three levels of study is shown below:

H1 Subjects	H2 Subjects	H3 Subjects
A	A	Distinction
B	B	Merit
C	C	Pass
D	D	Ungraded
E	E	
S	S	
Ungraded	Ungraded	

'S' and 'Ungraded' are grade points below pass; 'S' is used to denote a sub-pass

## 9. What are the criteria for admission to local universities?

**APPLICATION to NUS and NTU**, you need to have:

At least two H2 passes

Attempted General Paper (GP) or Knowledge & Inquiry (KI) in the same sitting

A minimum of 'S' grade in Mother Tongue Language (MTL)

### **SELECTION**

NUS and NTU will select you based on your grades in:

GP (or KI)

PW

Three H2 and one H1 content-based subjects (at least one has to be a contrasting subject)

As with existing practice, some faculties have additional admission requirements, e.g. interviews, portfolios, and aptitude tests.

You can also get a place in university on account of your special strengths and talents under NUS' and NTU's **Discretionary Admission Scheme**. The universities will consider your achievements in CCA, CIP, H3 subjects and other pursuits, independent of your other examination grades. Currently, up to 10% of students in each intake may be admitted to NUS and NTU under this scheme.