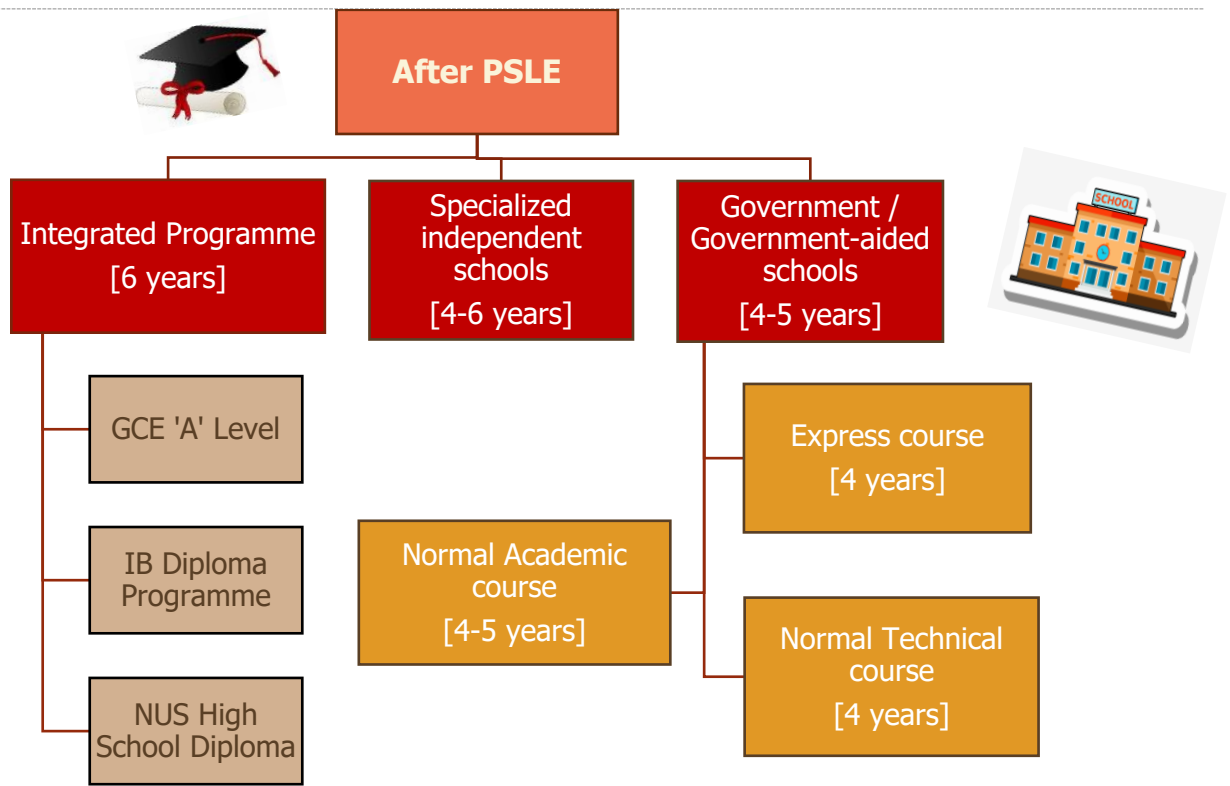




Mathematics Education Article | 2022

Educational Pathways after PSLE

What happens after PSLE? Having conquered your first major examination, it is now time to consider the various schools available for the next step of your education journey. Here is a breakdown of the various pathways and considerations to ponder upon before you take the next step.





Pathway Analysis

Pathway #1: Integrated Programme (IP) [6 years]

Course outline: A 6 years course that offers the GCE 'A' level certificate, IB diploma or NUS High school diploma. Students need not sit for the GCE 'O' level examination in the 4th year of their course. There are 17 schools in Singapore currently offering this programme¹.

Different certificates offered	GCE A level certificate	IB Diploma Programme	NUS High School Diploma (available in NUS High school of Mathematics and Science)
Subjects offered in 5th-6th year	Mother Tongue languages, Economics, English Literature, Geography, History, Music, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computing	Studies in language and literature, 2 nd language acquisition, Economics, Business management, Geography, History, Computer science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Visual Arts, Music 3 Core areas to fulfil: Theory of knowledge, Extended Essay, Creativity action and service	Year 1-3: Foundational courses Year *4-6: 3 chosen majors in Mathematics and Science, Optional 4 th major in Science, Humanities, Music or the Arts Compulsory graded Advanced Research Project

Recommended for: For more self-regulated, independent learners who prefer activity and research-based approaches to learning. This helps you develop better critical-thinking skills with real-life applications on contemporary issues. The flexible curriculum (beyond the GCE O level syllabus) also allows for early exposure to more in-depth studies and debates on real-world issues and topics over the course.

Early exposure can better help you identify your areas of strengths and interests early for further pursuit upon graduation. If you are intending to pursue a future career in research and knowledge development, this could potentially be a good platform to start. The IP programme also helps develop your leadership and public speaking skills while also providing early exposure to specific industries through school attachments.

How AlphaOmegaMath can support you:

- ❖ Our Ability Assessment Diagnostic Test (AAA) can help you analyze and assess your metacognition level as well as your current Mathematical abilities. Being more aware can assist you in making a more informed decision about your chosen educational pathway.
- ❖ We also adopt customized approaches and usage of differentiated materials to strengthen your foundations in the Mathematics, which is foundational for many of the core subjects under the Integrated Programme (IP).
- ❖ Our lessons provide earlier exposure to concepts and content ahead of school syllabuses, complementing the research-based and activity-based approaches to learning under the Integrated Programme (IP).



¹ <https://www.moe.gov.sg/secondary/courses/express/integrated-programme>

Pathway #2: Specialized Independent schools [4-6 years]

Course outline: A 4-6 years course providing specialized education for students who display strong talent and passion in Applied Learning, Mathematics, Science, Sports or the Arts². There are currently 4 specialized independent schools in Singapore.

NUS High School of Mathematics and Science	School of the Arts	Singapore Sports School	School of Science and Technology
<p>Specialization: Strengthen aptitude for Mathematics and Science</p> <p>Unique subjects/courses offered: Research Innovation and Enterprise, Engineering, Computer Science, Robotics, Astronomy, French, Japanese</p>	<p>Specialization: Develop artistic dispositions and creative awareness in students</p> <p>Unique subject/courses offered: IB Diploma Programme (IBDP), IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) to give students a headstart in suitable industries</p>	<p>Specialization: Groom and hone young athletes in their sports specialization</p> <p>Unique subject/courses offered: IB Diploma Programme (IBDP), Diploma in Business, Diploma in Business studies, Specialized sports programmes</p>	<p>Specialization: Innovation through ICT, Applied Learning to strengthen concepts in Science, Technology, Art, Engineering and Mathematics</p> <p>Unique subject/courses offered: Biotechnology, Computing, Design Studies and Electronics</p>

Recommended for: For those who are clear about their strengths and interests and wish to further develop their niche areas. There are also many networking opportunities created and early exposure to related career industries through the specialized programmes can give you a strong headstart. Self-discipline is required to handle the rigor of balancing both academic and talent development. The learning process aims to nurture distinguished individuals who are both competent and confident in their area of interest and talent.

How AlphaOmegaMath can support you:

- ❖ We ensure rigour in our practices and exposure to a wide range of questions based on the latest examination trends. These supplements school materials and builds up your competency in Mathematics. It frees up your capacity to further nurture your talent areas during the school curriculum.
- ❖ Our focused sessions also help target and close any learning gaps for more challenging topics, transforming your weaknesses into strengths.
- ❖ Under the patient guidance of our passionate MOE-trained tutors, we aim to inspire you in cultivating a deeper love for the Mathematics.



² <https://www.moe.gov.sg/education-in-sg/our-schools/types-of-schools>

Pathway #3: Government and government aided schools [4-5 years]

Course outline: 4-5 year course leading up to the GCE 'O' level and GCE 'N' level national examinations in the final year of study. There are currently more than 100 over government schools across Singapore. Some government-aided schools are also Autonomous; offering additional programmes to enhance your learning experience. Others are Special Assistance Plan (SAP) schools that aims to nurture bilingual and bicultural students in the Chinese language and culture.³

Different streams offered	Express [4 years]	Normal Academic [4-5 years]	Normal Technical [4 years]
Subject Based Banding subjects available (Eligibility criteria may differ slightly from school to school)	-	English, Mother Tongue, Mathematics, Science, Humanities (History, Geography, English Literature) offered at a higher demand level *Offered at the start of Secondary 1 based on PSLE scoring for respective subject. May also be offered at the end of Secondary 1 based on aptitude and interest for subject, shown in the year*	English, Mother Tongue, Mathematics, Science, Humanities (History, Geography, English Literature) offered at a higher demand level *Offered at the start of Secondary 1 based on PSLE scoring for respective subject. May also be offered at the end of Secondary 1 based on aptitude and interest for subject, shown in the year*

Recommended for: Those who prefer a more structured curriculum and are gradually progressive in their learning process. If you are in the process of exploring and discovering possible niche areas, a more structured curriculum could give you more bandwidth to explore your strengths. The Ministry of Education has also recently introduced Full Subject based banding (FSBB), which gives you the flexibility to take up niche subjects at a higher demand level. Most schools also offer the option of a lateral transfer from a lower demand stream to a higher demand stream, based on one's aptitude and consistency.

How AlphaOmegaMath can support you:

- ❖ We provide bridging support for those keen on taking up subjects at a higher demand level (FSBB). Our bridging classes are conducted during Term holidays (March/September) and Semester holidays (June/December) to address and close any learning gaps. Our Masterclasses are also back by popular demand to support those newly minted to FSBB classes to help you keep up.
- ❖ We also tap on our in-house publications as resources for practice, with progressive levels of difficulties to stretch and train you in tackling higher order thinking questions; which are common for Mathematics at a higher demand stream.



³ <https://www.moe.gov.sg/education-in-sg/our-schools/types-of-schools>

With numerous pathways and courses to choose from, perhaps it would be good to ponder on some guiding questions while making your decision;

- a. What are your areas of interests and strengths
- b. What is your preferred learning style
- c. What is your personality type (eg: enjoy socializing and engaging in debates to explore societal issues, enjoy research-based group projects that involve working closely with others etc.)
- d. Are you better suited for a more structured or flexible curriculum

Lastly, do not forget to consider the distance of your preferred school from your place of residence. Afterall, long travelling hours on a daily basis can take up much precious learning time and energy.

You may also find out more about each of the various schools around your neighbourhood via the link below:
<https://www.moe.gov.sg/schoolfinder?journey=Secondary%20school>

Wise decisions are best made
when we are well aware of our
strengths, talents and interests.

Editorial Team

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