Frequently Asked Questions

On the O-Level Computing Subject and the Centre-Based Approach

1.   **What is the O-Level Computing Subject?**

The O-Level Computing subject (7155) is a two-year course offered at the upper secondary level. It enables students to

1. Acquire knowledge and understanding of core areas in computing, covering concepts of logic, algorithms, data analysis, data representation and networking;

2. Develop and apply computational thinking skills such as abstraction and decomposition to solve real-world problems by designing, writing, testing and debugging programs using a personal computer;

3. Develop an appreciation of computing as a dynamic and creative field including awareness of recent developments in computer systems;

4. Develop an understanding of the social, ethical, legal and economic implications of computing; and

5. Develop relevant attitudes and 21st Century Compentencies such as inventive thinking, perseverance, collaboration, communication as well as striving for accuracy and thoroughness.

The syllabus[1] aims to provide students with the foundation to continue further studies in computing and skills to participate in a rapidly changing technological environment. The concepts and skills learnt would also be applicable in other fields that require computing.

2.   **Can I take N-Level Computer Applications (CPA) and O-Level Computing at the same time?**

No. GCE N-Level CPA (to be replaced by G1 Computing in 2026) and O-Level Computing (to be renamed as G3 Computing in 2026) belong to the same category of subjects, catering to different levels of proficiency.

3.   **How many external students can be offered O-Level Computing at each centre?**

In the steady state, each centre can take from 20 to 40 students per level (Sec 3, Sec 4) from Secondary 3 onwards. For the pilot, each centre can take 20 to 25 students for the Secondary 3 class in 2025.

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[1] The Computing syllabus for examination from 2025 onwards will be uploaded to the SEAB website later in 2024. The syllabus for examination in 2024 is available at https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/national-examinations/syllabus/olevel/2024syllabus/7155_y24_sy.pdf

4. What do the computing classes consist of? How many hours in a week do the computing lessons take?

The computing classes consist of face-to-face and synchronous/ asynchronous virtual lessons, with lessons spanning up to three hours per week, which may be conducted over 1 or 2 afternoons. Centres may also organise enrichment activities such as learning journeys and workshops for the students.

5. Does MOE envision any difficulties for the external students in terms of travelling time and timetable coordination?

Computing lessons for the external students will be held in the afternoon after students end their lessons in their respective schools. This is similar to the current arrangements for the Art and Music Centres and MOE Language Centres.

- Sending schools may wish to consider looking into timetabling or special considerations to support students offering Computing at the centres, in line with the school's existing practices for current students that offer external lessons outside the school.

- Sending schools will appoint a teacher-coordinator/Point of Contact to liaise with the centre.

Requirements on the students

6. What does the selection process for external computing students involve?

Selection will be based on the submission of an online application form which will be reviewed by MOE. Students will be selected to offer O-level Computing based on a holistic assessment of their eligibility as listed below. Balloting will be applied in the event of over-demand.

To be eligible to offer O-level Computing, students will need to
   a. demonstrate consistent good performance in Mathematics, as it provides the foundation to learn O-level Computing.
      i. Specifically, students should attain an overall score of at least 60% in Secondary 1 Mathematics and an overall pass in Mathematics at the end of Secondary 2.
      ii. Students who did not attain an overall pass in Mathematics at the end of Secondary 2 may have their offers rescinded.

b. be recommended by their school to have the commitment and ability to cope with the overall Secondary 3 academic load, including the demands of taking up an external subject.

c. provide a personal statement of not more than 200 words to share about their interest to offer O-level Computing.

7. Do parents need to pay additional fees for their children to be enrolled?

Parents do not need to pay additional fees for their children to be enrolled.

8. Is it compulsory for Computing students to take Additional Mathematics at O-Level? Why?

There are no conditions for Computing to be taken with other subjects at the upper secondary level.

9. Do students need to purchase additional devices?

No. All Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) that students are using based on their schools' PLD Programme are sufficient for the learning of the subject. Centres are also equipped with sufficient SSOE devices that students can use in addition to their PLDs for Computing lessons and assessments.

10. Will students have a choice in which centres they can go to?

For the 2025 intake, students will be assigned to centres by zone, with consideration given to the distance / travelling time between centres and their school.

11. Can the students pull out at any time?

Students and their parents should take into consideration the level of commitment before applying. Students are to stay committed as there are limited places. Withdrawals are strictly subjected to approval by MOE on a case-by-case basis.