

**ZHONGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL
MOTHER TONGUE DEPARTMENT
MALAY SPECIAL PROGRAMME (MSP)**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Malay Special Programme (MSP)

1. Q: What is Malay Special Programme (MSP)?

A: MSP is one of the Ministry of Education's 3rd language programme. It used to be a program that is offered only to the top 30% of the PSLE cohort but has been expanded to anyone with the interest and inclination to do so beginning year 2006.

2. Q: What is the objective of MSP?

A: The objective of MSP is to develop communication skills and build an understanding about the socio-cultural aspect of the Malays in Singapore and in the region through the learning of the language.

3. Q: Who can take up MSP?

A: Pupils from the Express and Normal (Academic) stream who did not offer Malay or Higher Malay at PSLE may opt to study the Malay (Special Programme) in addition to English Language and the Mother Tongue Language, i.e. as a third language.

4. Q: How can students register for the programme?

A: Students can apply for MSP online upon the release of their PSLE results. In the event that the number of applicants exceeds that of vacancies at the MSP centers, selection will be based on their PSLE results. Successful applicants will be informed through their respective schools during posting of their secondary schools. After which, they need to register at the school / centre.

5. Q: When do MSP lessons commence?

A: Lessons will commence on fourth week of Term 1 for Sec 1 levels. Do check with respective school / center on the commencement date.

6. Q: Is MSP an examinable subject?

A: Yes. The programme will prepare pupils for the Malay (Special Programme) examination at GCE 'O' level. Semestral exams will also be carried out every year and the results will be reflected in the students' record book.

7. Q: What is the incentive of joining the programme?

A: Besides learning a new language, MOE has put in place the following incentives:

- i) Students who pass MSP at 'O' level will be awarded two bonus points for admission to Junior College (JC),
- ii) Students taking MSP will be able to count their MSP/CSP grade in-lieu-of a humanities subject within the aggregate score (L1R5) for admission to JC.

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8. Q: Are there assessments/tests in MSP?

A: Yes. Tests are carried out in class during lesson time, similar to other subjects.

9. Q: When are MSP lessons carried out?

A: All lessons are conducted after school hours, that is, 3.00pm onwards. As Zhonghua Secondary School is the South Zone Centre for MSP, students from other schools will also be attending their MSP lesson here.

10. Q: How long is each MSP lesson?

A: The minimum requirement is 3 hours of lesson per week. In ZHSS, each lesson is 3 hrs, conducted once a week for each level.

11. Q: Is there a textbook/workbook for MSP?

A: Yes. The current textbook and workbook is *Fasih Bahasa*. The books are based on the latest syllabus. The books can be bought at the school bookshop.

12. Q: What happens if the student is not able to attend classes?

A: The student has to inform the teacher if he/she is unable to attend. Medical certificate or letter is to be provided explaining the student's absence from class. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as it is considered truancy. Monthly attendance report will be sent to the student's secondary school.

13. Q: Is MSP offered as one of the subjects in Secondary 3?

A: Yes, MSP is offered as an O-Level subject. As such, if your child is keen to take up this subject, your child must opt for the subject combination with MSP as the 8th subject. This arrangement is in the interest of your child to enable him/her to have more time to cope with the heavier workload in the following year.

14. Q: Can the student withdraw from the programme?

A: Yes. For Secondary 1 and 2 students, they are able to withdraw from the programme only after Term 2 and Term 4 of the year. However, they will not be able to do so when they are in Secondary 3 or 4, as it will be part of their 8-subject combination.

Thank you for your kind attention.