St. Mary's College
Guidelines for Form 4 Subject Selection

Introduction

Before the promotion of your son into Form Four, he will have to choose subjects. He will prepare for his CSEC Level Examinations in these chosen subject areas. While the ideal situation would be to allow each student their choice of subjects, it is often not feasible and, on occasion, not in the student's best interest. As such, students will have to qualify for **ALL** non-compulsory subject classes.

CSEC Subjects Offered at CIC

Our timetable structure can only facilitate students doing a total of EIGHT (8) subjects in Forms 4 & 5.

There are THREE compulsory subjects, namely:

1. Mathematics
2. English A (English Language)
3. English B (English Literature)

In addition to these compulsory subjects, students must select **any 5 subjects** from the table below.

Additional Maths	French	Physical Education	Technical Drawing
Biology	Geography	Physics	Visual Arts
Caribbean History	Human & Social Biology (HSB)	Principles of Accounts	
Chemistry	Information Technology	Principles of Business	
Economics	Music	Spanish	

**For students wishing to pursue Technical Drawing and Information Technology, note that you will need to have access to a laptop (students are to check the respective teachers for particular specifications).*

Students qualifying to pursue any of the Science subjects (except HSB) will also have to pay Lab Fees. Current fees (per year) are: Chemistry ($250), Biology ($150) and Physics ($100).

Subject Selection Criteria

Please note that Form 4 subject qualification **will be based primarily on marks obtained in the Form 3 End of Year Report (Term 3), general academic progress in Terms 1 and 2 and teacher recommendations (if necessary).**

Furthermore, the limited seating capacity in our laboratories/specialised rooms and, in some cases, due to teacher constraints, a **set quota of students** will be allowed to do the following subjects:

Subject	Number of Students
Biology	75
Chemistry	75
Physics	80
Information Technology	75
Technical Drawing (Building & Mechanical)	40
Principles of Accounts (POA)	75
Principles of Business (POB)	100

For the above subjects, the selection criteria will be based on the **students' ranking (across all Form 3 classes)** in the specific prerequisite subjects (shown below), as well as their **overall End of Year average grade**.

Subject(s)	'Prerequisite' Subjects
Chemistry/Physics	Mathematics & Integrated Science
Biology/ Human & Social Biology	Integrated Science
Information Technology	Information Technology
Technical Drawing	Technical Drawing
Principles of Accounts (POA)	Mathematics

In other cases, the following must be considered for some Form 4 subjects:

- Students wishing to pursue Additional Mathematics must attain a **passing grade of 60%** in Mathematics and in some cases, a recommendation from their Maths teacher. It is **highly recommended** that students wishing to pursue Physics and Economics, beyond the CSEC level, also select Add Maths as one of their CSEC subjects.

- Students wishing to pursue any Business subject are generally selected based on their **overall average grade** obtained in the End of Year report. Furthermore, students wishing to pursue Principles of Accounts (POA) must attain a **passing grade of 50%** in Mathematics.

- There will be TWO groupings for Technical Drawing (TD) in Form 4, namely Building and Mechanical. Students wishing to pursue Architecture and Civil Engineering in the future should choose the Building option, while students pursing other fields in Engineering should choose Mechanical. Students will not be able to do both options.

- Students wishing to pursue ALL three (3) Natural Sciences (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) and Additional Mathematics and would like to do a Business subject as their fifth (5th) subject, will only be allowed to choose between Economics or Principles of Accounts (POA).

- Students wishing to pursue ALL Business subjects (POA, POB and Economics) and would like to do a Science subject as one of their remaining subjects, will only be allowed to choose between HSB or Biology.

- Students wishing to pursue Human and Social Biology (HSB) **cannot** choose any other Natural Science subject (Physics, Chemistry or Biology). HSB caters more for students who may want a Science background, but do not want to do the intense laboratory sessions of the pure sciences.

Pursuing Additional CSEC Subjects (outside of St. Mary's College)

In **limited cases and upon an official request**, students may be afforded the opportunity to pursue subjects in addition to the eight subjects they selected. These additional subjects (consideration will only be given for non-Science subjects) will have to be done outside of school; however, arrangements can be made for students to write the exams for those subjects internally in St. Mary's. In addition, for those subjects which may include a SBA component, arrangements will also have to be made for a teacher to agree to conduct that component with the student internally. Parents wishing for their sons to pursue additional subjects will need to **send a formal request to the Form 4 Dean at the start of the Academic Year in Form 4.**

Subject Selection Online Application

The subject selection process will be done using an Online Application Form. There will be a specific link for each Form 3 class, so please ensure you select the correct link.

Please ensure that the data entered on the form is accurate, as this will also be used for CSEC registration when students reach Form 5 (this includes the correct spelling of students' names). For those students without a T&T Birth Certificate Pin Number, you would need to enter whatever identifying number is present on whichever international Birth Certificate that is in your possession.

In the "Choice of Subjects (First Choice)" Section of the Application Form, there will be **five (5) choices** labelled 'Choice 1', 'Choice 2', 'Choice 3', 'Choice 4' and 'Choice 5'. Several subjects offered in Form 4 will be listed under each choice, in a drop-down menu. You are to select ONE subject under each 'Choice', ensuring that **five different subject choices** are entered for the Section.

In the "Choice of Subjects (Second Choice)" Section of the Application Form, **five (5) alternative subjects** are to be selected, **in order of preference,** in the event that a student does not qualify for one or more of his chosen subjects from his First Choice list. **Please DO NOT re-enter subjects previously selected in the First Choice Section. It is also recommended that the subjects with quotas NOT be selected as Second Choice options.**

Please note that there is a small possibility that the 5 subjects requested may not fit into our Form 4 Timetable schedule. This will result in the need for you to replace one or more of the subjects selected. In such cases, you will be notified in early July about the options available.

The deadline date for the submission of the Online Application Form is **Friday, 29th May 2026.** Changes can be made online on the form up to this date. Please DO NOT submit multiple forms for the same student. After this date, changes will NOT be allowed.

Form 6 Application

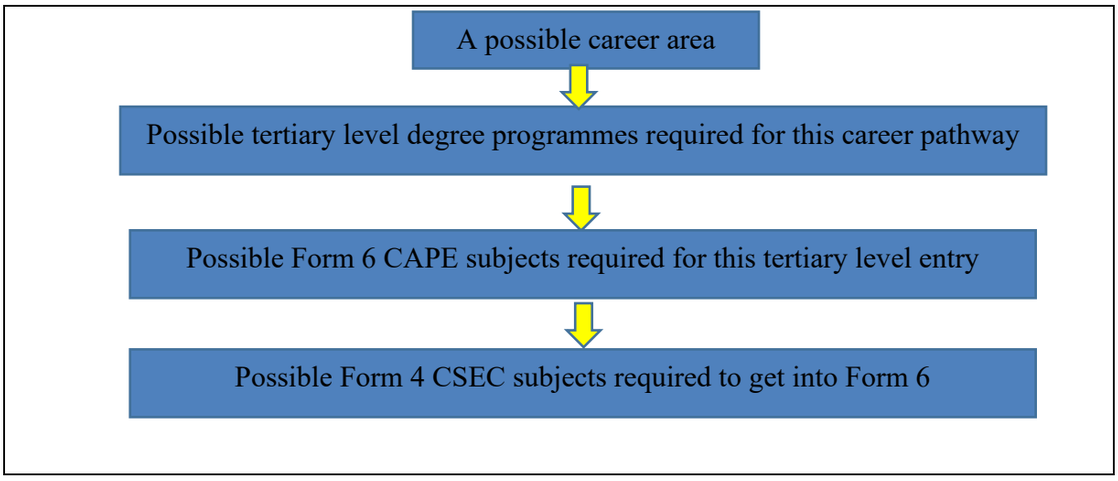
In selecting subjects now, it is very important to also consider the subject prerequisites for entry into Form 6 (generally the same across all schools). The table below lists the subjects offered at Form 6 CAPE Level at CIC, as well as the respective prerequisite CSEC subject(s).

Subject Choice-CAPE	Prerequisite - CSEC
Applied/Pure Math	Math **AND** Add Math
Biology	Biology **AND** Chemistry
Chemistry	Chemistry
Physics	Physics
French/Spanish	French/Spanish **AND** English B
History	History
Geography	Geography
Economics	Economics
Accounts	P.O.A.
Management of Business	P.O.A.
Entrepreneurship	P.O.B. **OR** Economics
Computer Studies	I.T.
Building, Mechanical & Electrical Drawing (BMED)**	Technical Drawing
Art	Visual Arts
Literature	English A **AND** English B
Environmental Science	Biology **OR** Geography **AND** Physics or Chemistry
Physical Education	P.E.

***To be confirmed for Academic Year 2026/2027*

Further Study after Form 6

When choosing the five non-compulsory Form 4 subjects, students should consider the following:



Tertiary Level Funding Options (Ministry of Education)

There are currently 10 National Scholarship Subject Groupings with only 10 scholarships being awarded per Group. In addition, the government currently provides National Bursaries to assist students with studies at local and regional institutions.

Cognate Groupings	Group A (Cognate Subjects)	Group B	Group C
Business Studies	• Accounting • Management of Business • Economics **Any 2 compulsory**	Any **third** subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both compulsory**
Creative and Performance Studies	• Art & Design • **Performing Arts*** • **Physical Education and Sports *** **Any one above compulsory**	Any other two subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both Compulsory**
Environmental Studies	• Environmental Science with Geography OR **Agricultural Science ***	Any **third** subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both compulsory**
General/Overall Studies		Any three subjects	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both Compulsory**
Modern Studies /Humanities	• Literatures in English • History • Geography • Sociology • Law **Any 2 compulsory**	Any third subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both compulsory**

Information and Communication Technology Studies	• Computer Science • Information Technology **Both compulsory**	Any **third** subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both Compulsory**
Language Studies	• French • Spanish • Literatures in English **Any 2 compulsory**	Any **third** subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both compulsory**
Mathematics	• Applied Mathematics • Pure Mathematics **Both compulsory**	Any **third** subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both compulsory**
Natural Sciences	• Physics • Chemistry • Biology **Any 2 compulsory**	Any **third** subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both compulsory**
Technical Studies	• Electrical and Electronic Technology with Physics • Building and Mechanical Engineering Drawing with Physics • Food & Nutrition with Chemistry • Agricultural Science with Biology **Any group above compulsory**	Any **third** subject	• Caribbean Studies • Communication Studies **Both Compulsory**

For further information, visit the MOE's Scholarship website: https://www.scholarships.moe.gov.tt/

Possible CSEC Subject Combinations, based on broad National scholarship groupings & career fields (*subjects highlighted indicate compulsory subjects per grouping*)

Business
Accounts, Business Administration, Finance, Economics, Management, Sports Management
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
POA
POB
ECON
PE
ADD MATHS
SPANISH/FRENCH
HSB/BIOLOGY

Creative Arts
Graphic Designer, Fashion, Architecture, Animation, Interior Design
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
ART
PE
TD
IT
PHYSICS
ADD MATHS
GEOGRAPHY/HISTORY

Environmental Science
Geography, Environmental Studies/Engineering, Marine Studies, Renewable Energy, GIS
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
GEOGRAPHY
BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
PHYSICS
ADD MATHS
IT
ECONOMICS

Languages
Interpreter, Translator, International Relations, Diplomatic Work, Writing, Communication
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
SPANISH
FRENCH
GEOGRAPHY
HISTORY
ECONOMICS
HSB/BIOLOGY

Mathematics
Actuarial Science, Statistician, Finance, Data Analysis, Investments, Meteorology, Engineering
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
ADD MATHS
POA
POB/ECONOMICS
PHYSICS
GEOGRAPHY
IT

Modern Studies
Law, Researcher, Education, Policy Development
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
HISTORY
GEOGRAPHY
ECONOMICS
POB/ECONOMICS
BIOLOGY/HSB
IT

Natural Sciences
Medicine, Engineering, Biochemistry, Forensic Science
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
PHYSICS
ADD MATHS
FRENCH/SPANISH
POA/ECON
IT/TD
HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY

Technical Studies
Animation, Engineering, Software Design, Architecture
MATHS/ENG A/ENG B
PHYSICS
TD
ADD MATHS
IT
GEOGRAPHY
FRENCH/SPANISH
POA/POB/ECON

***Subjects in red are highly recommended options for the particular grouping.*

Any questions relating to the choosing of subjects for Form 4, and/or any problems in filling out the online Application Form can be addressed to the Dean of Form 3 at dean3@stmarys.edu.tt. In your messages, please state the student's name and class.