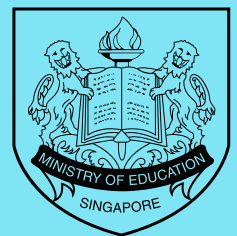


# Special Consideration and Arrangements for Candidates Taking the National Examinations



Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE

MOE and SEAB have put in place arrangements for the coming national examinations for those who may be affected by COVID-19.

Schools will continue to implement safe management measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff during the conduct of the national examinations.

MOE and SEAB will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and provide updates if there are any changes to the examination arrangements.



**Q. What happens when my child misses a paper? How is the grade projected if he/she misses the examination?**

**A.** If your child misses an examination paper, he/she can apply for special consideration through their schools if they have valid reasons (e.g. COVID-19 related reasons, medical leave or compassionate reasons).

Special consideration is a procedure which awards your child with **projected grades** using a **well-established, fair** and **rigorous evidence-based** methodology.

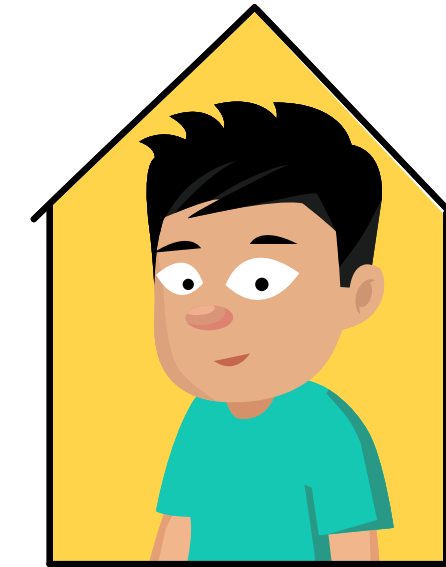


## To ensure a fair assessment for all students, SEAB considers multiple sources of data:

- The student's performance in the other papers for the affected subject in the national examinations
- The student's performance for that subject in school-based examinations
- The school cohort's performance in national and school-based examinations

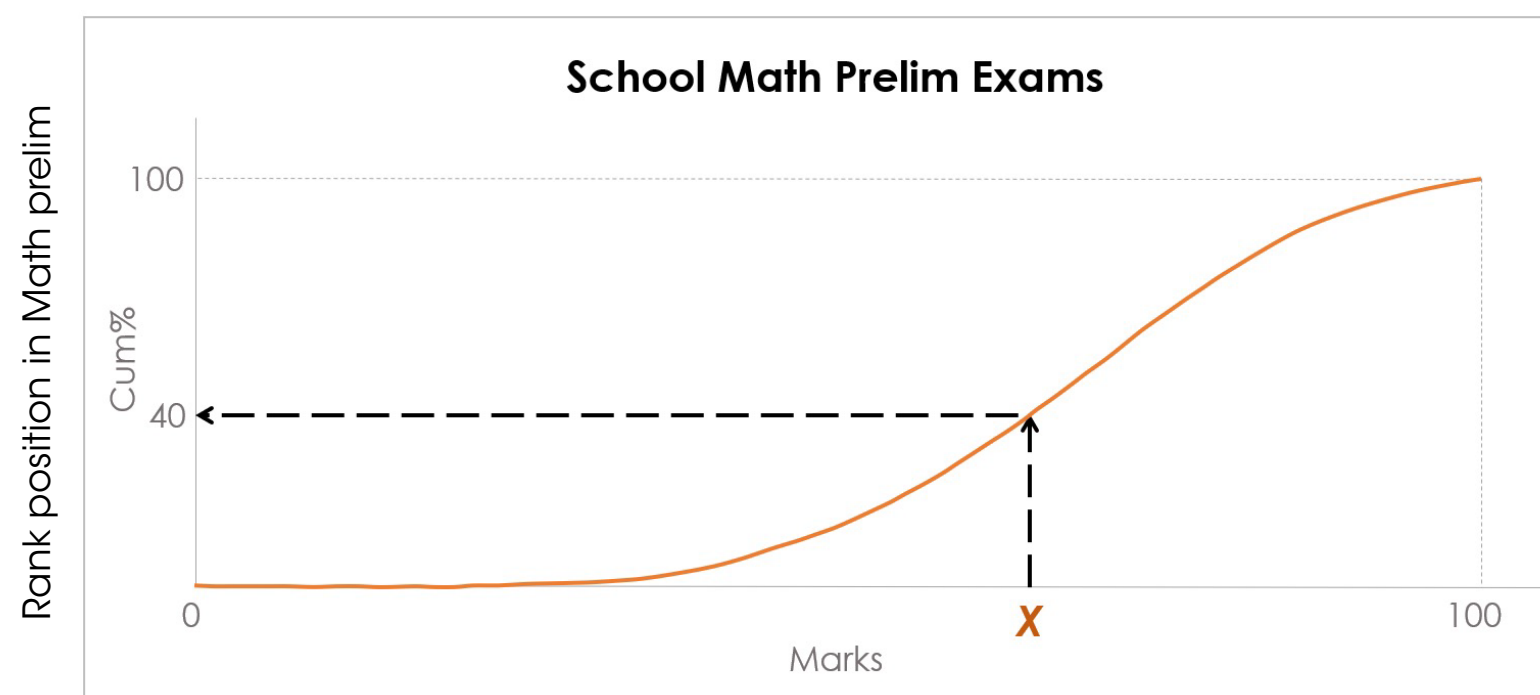


# Scenario 1: Missing all papers of the subject



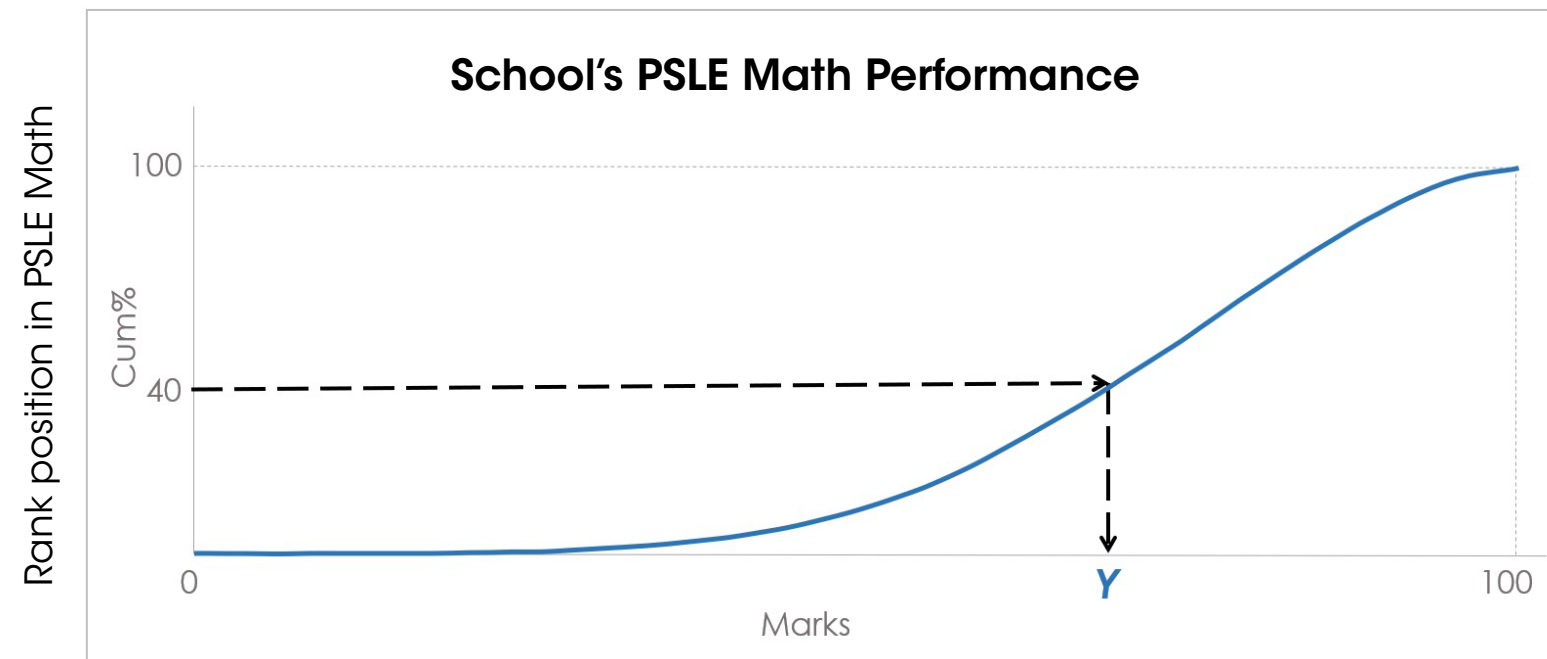
- 1 Student A missed all papers of the Mathematics subject during the national examinations and has applied for special consideration.

## 2 Determining Student A's rank position

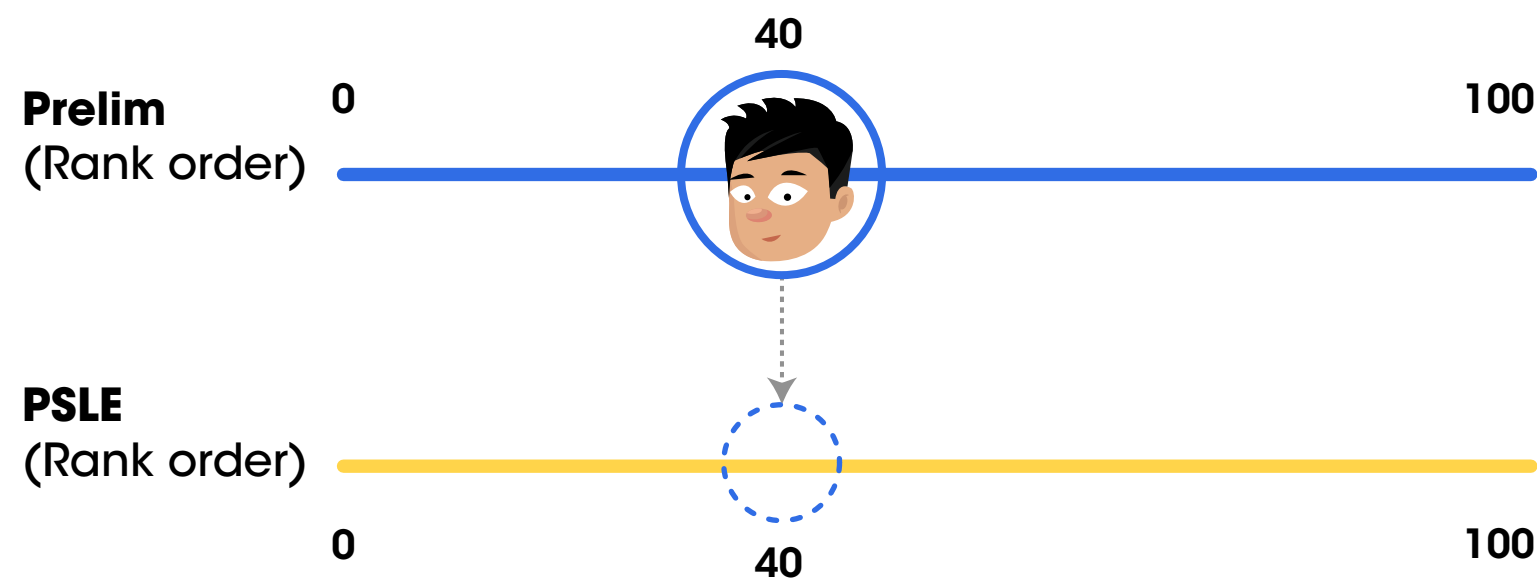


- Student A's prelim results for Mathematics will be used to determine his relative rank position among his peers in the school cohort.
- E.g. Student A's marks in prelim Mathematics is **X** (out of 100), which corresponds to the **40<sup>th</sup> rank position** within his school.

### 3 Projecting Student A's PSLE mark based on his rank position



- His rank position in the school will then be used to derive a projected mark for Mathematics in the national examination.
- E.g. Since Student A is in the 40th rank position of his school cohort, his projected mark for Mathematics is Y marks.
- His projected Mathematics mark will be used to derive his Achievement Level (AL)/grades.



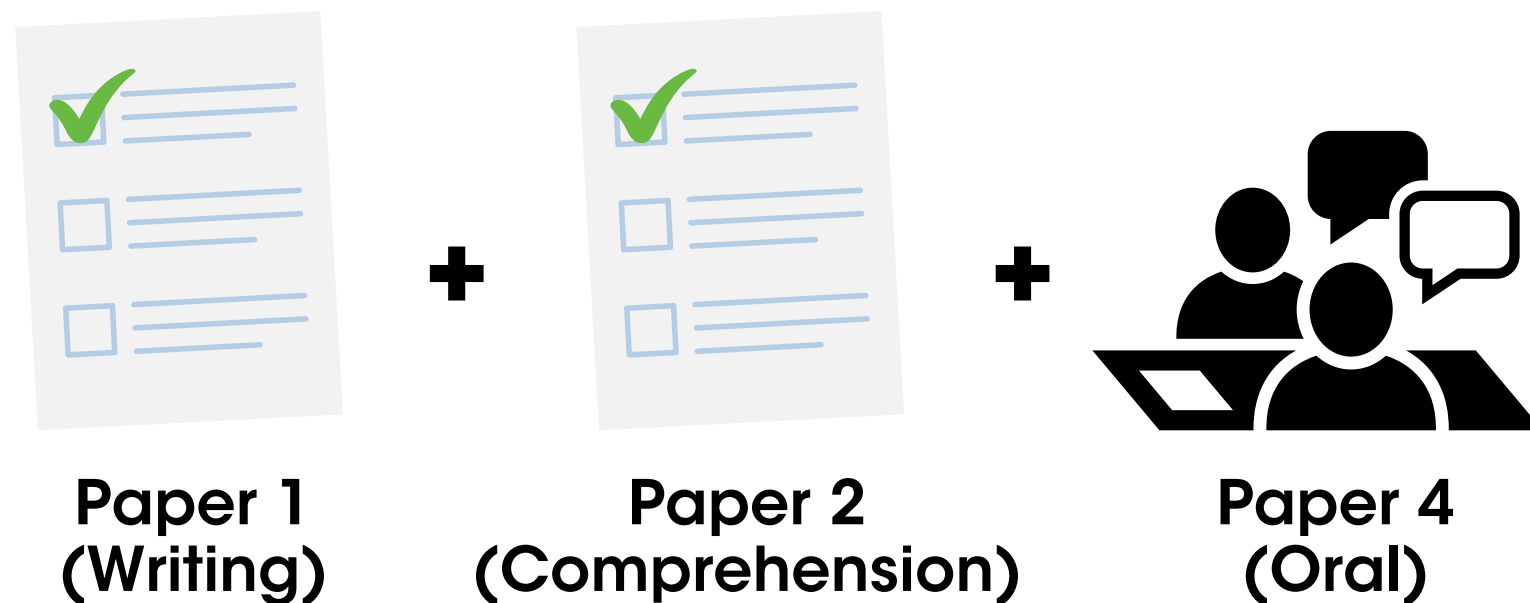
Student A's results for Mathematics during the national examinations will be determined by his relative rank position among his peers in the school cohort during the prelim examinations.

## Scenario 2: Missing one paper of the PSLE subject



- 1 Student B missed her Paper 3 (Listening Comprehension or LC) in the PSLE English Language (EL) examination and has applied for special consideration.

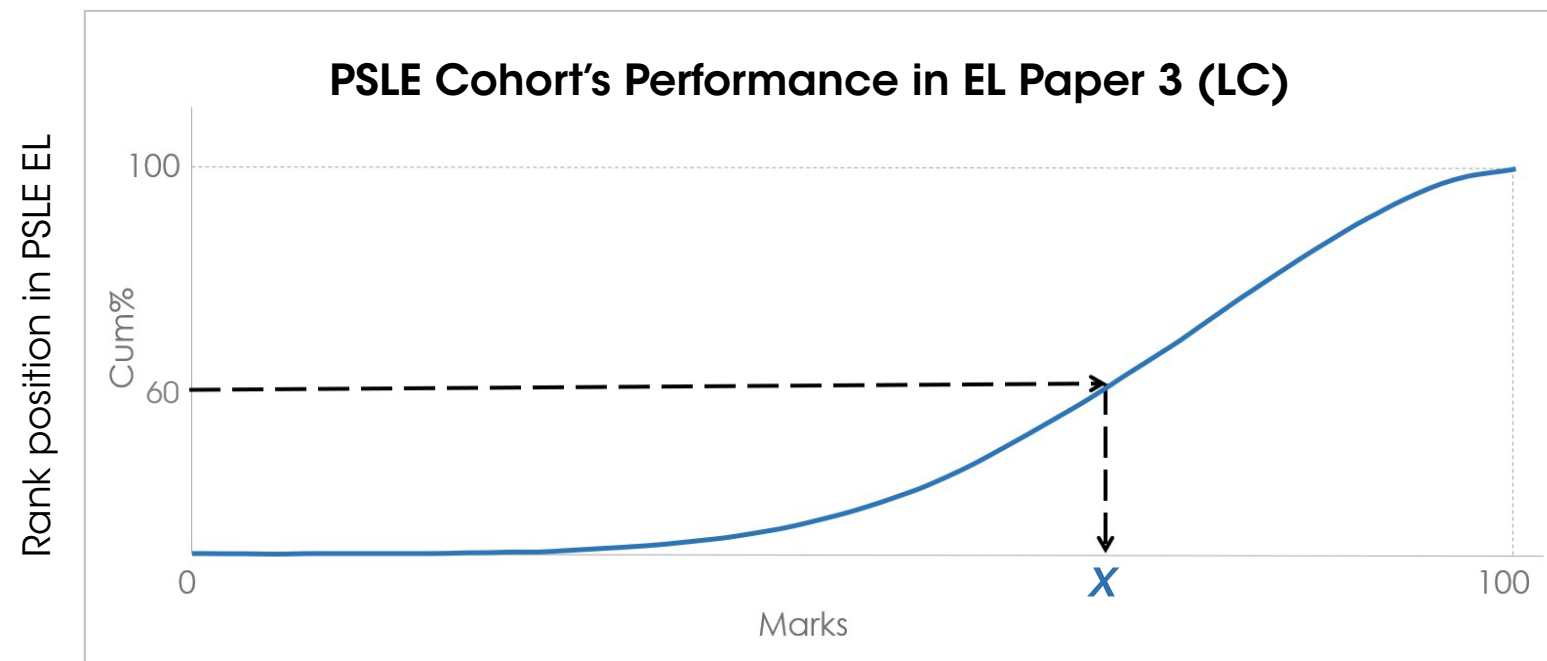
### 2 Deriving Student B's rank position in the PSLE cohort



Student B's relative rank position in the PSLE cohort

- Student B has taken Papers 1, 2 and 4 in the PSLE EL examination.
- SEAB will use her total marks in the three papers to work out her relative rank position within the PSLE cohort.
- E.g. Student B's performance in Papers 1, 2 and 4 places her at the 60th rank position in the PSLE cohort.

### 3 Projecting Student B's PSLE mark based on her rank position



- This relative rank position will be used to derive her Paper 3 mark (LC) from the cohort's performance on Paper 3 (LC).
- Student B's derived Paper 3 (LC) mark will be added to her total marks for the three other papers she has taken to derive her Achievement Level (AL) for EL.

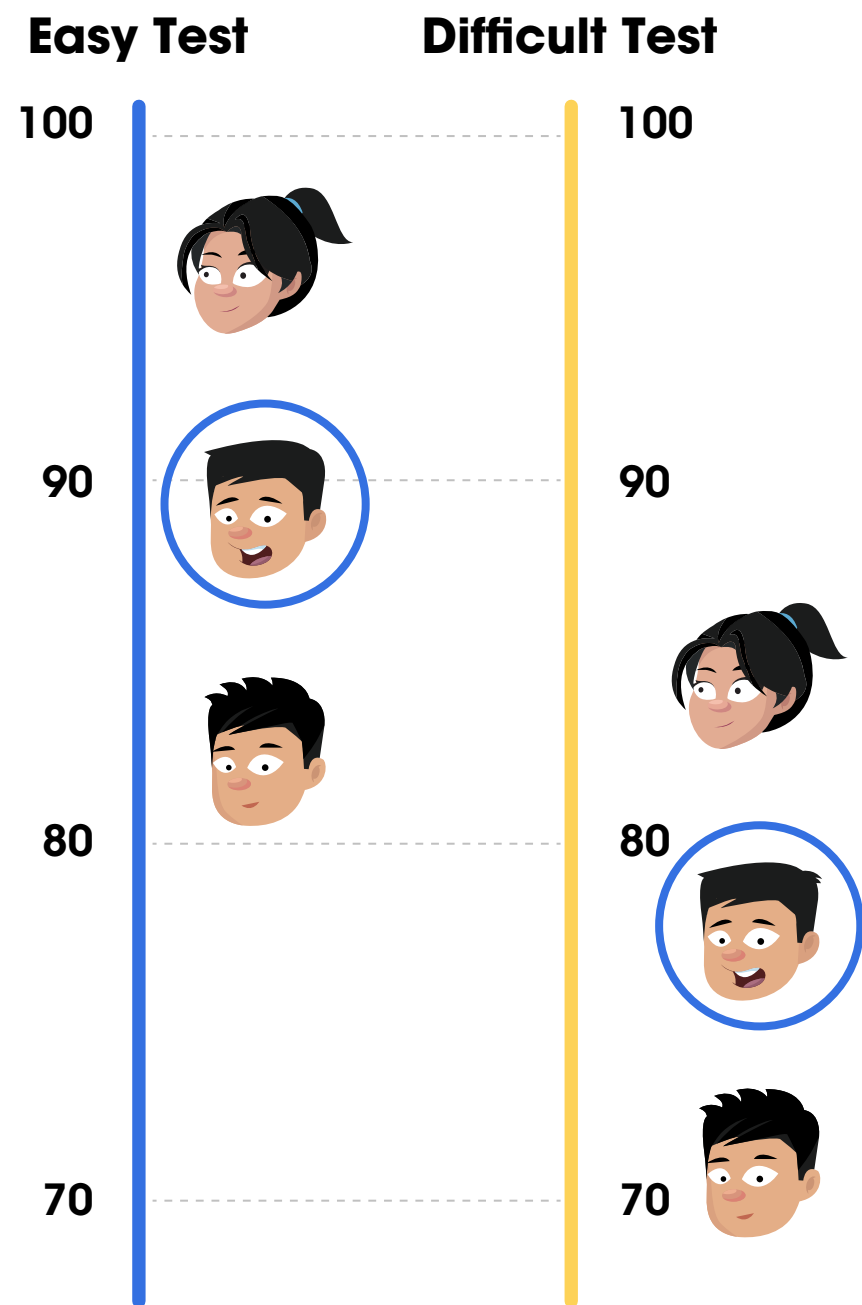
### 4 Checking against school prelim results

- As an additional check, SEAB will compare the relative performance of Student B with the other candidates in her school EL prelim examinations.
- If she is ranked at a significantly different position for her school EL prelim examinations as compared to that at PSLE, her case will be flagged for further review.





# Would the test difficulty of school prelim examinations affect a student's projected AL?



- If the school prelim examination is difficult, students may score lower marks as compared to an easy test. However, the **rank positions** of the students **remain largely unchanged**.
- SEAB uses students' rank position, not marks, to project their AL.
- For students who missed one paper of the subject (e.g. Listening Comprehension), the AL is projected based on the other papers taken at the national examinations. SEAB will only use their prelim results as an additional check.
- **Therefore, the test difficulty of school prelim examinations will not affect the projected AL.**

All special consideration applications are assessed on each case's merit, so that the grades awarded are as accurate and fair as possible.

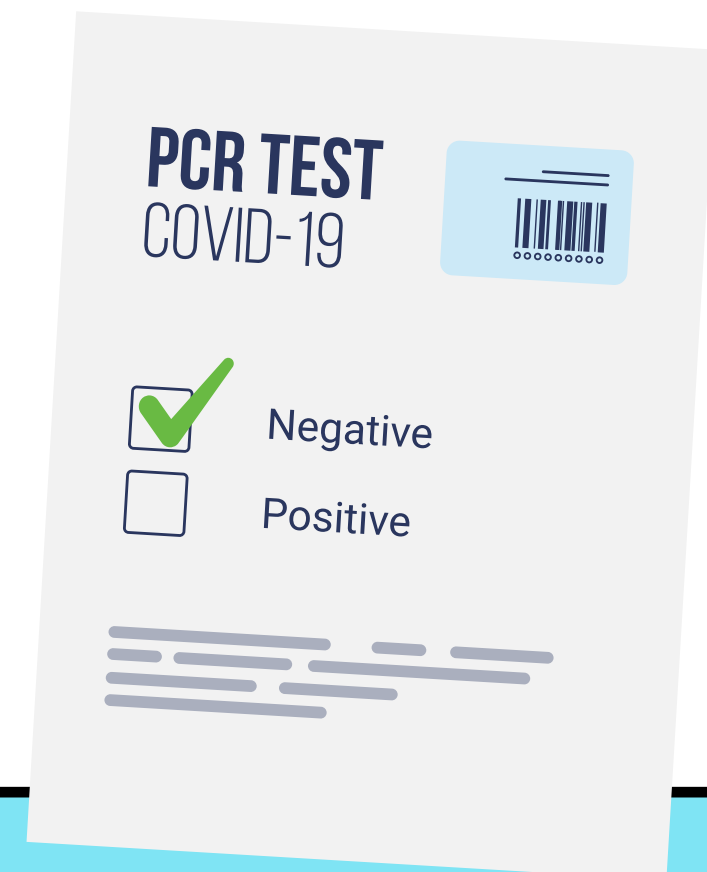


## **Q. What can I do if my child is issued a Quarantine Order before his/her national examinations?**

**A.** Inform the school that your child has been placed on Quarantine Order and would like to sit for the national examinations.

Please take a **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test** at the beginning of the Quarantine Order. If the PCR entry swab test is negative, your child can apply for leave with MOH to sit for the examinations.

Students must do a self-swab with an **Antigen Rapid Test (ART)** kit at their place of residence and test negative (Ag-) within 24 hours before taking each examination paper.



## Q. What is the criteria to apply for leave if my child is issued a Quarantine Order and wishes to take the national examinations?

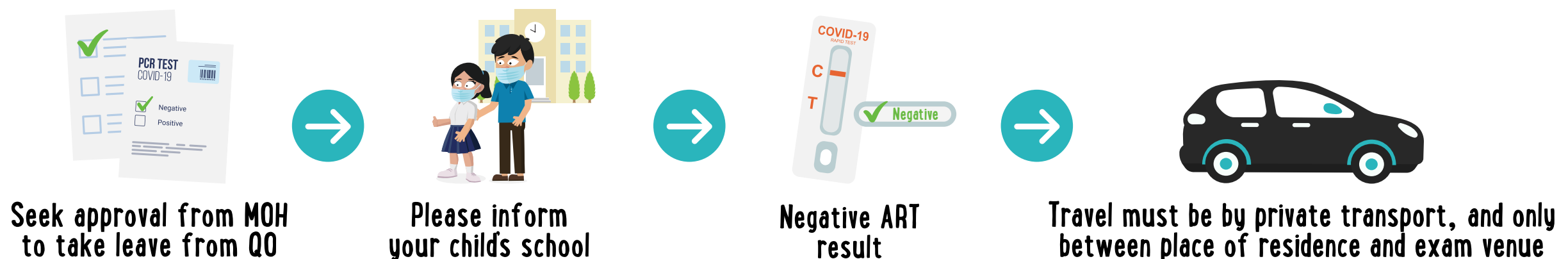
**A.** To get approval from MOH, your child must obtain a negative PCR entry swab at the beginning of the QO. Please inform the school of the intention to take the paper, administer a **self-swab with Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits at their place of residence**, and test negative within 24 hours before the examinations.

**For all candidates: Travel arrangements** to their examination venue must be by private transport (i.e. by private vehicle or private hire transport) or on foot, and only between their place of residence and examination venue with no additional stops in between.

**For PSLE candidates:** In view of the younger age of PSLE candidates, you or your child's caregiver can accompany the child to their examination venue. However, if the accompanying adult is on QO, he/she must have been approved to take leave from QO by MOH and have a negative ART result.

More details will be provided in due course and on the MOE FAQ website:

**<https://www.moe.gov.sg/faqs-covid-19-infection>**



**Q. Why is a retest not considered for those who miss the national examinations?**

**A.** The national examinations are conducted once a year with all students sitting for the same paper. Make-up examinations for all subjects will lengthen the duration of national examinations and impact downstream processes such as marking, results release and posting to schools. The start of the new academic year will be affected for the students as well.

If students miss any examinations due to COVID-19 reasons, they can apply for special consideration, which will ensure that a fair grade is awarded.



For more details on the special arrangements, visit:  
**<https://www.moe.gov.sg/faqs-covid-19-infection>**

