

Compilation of DSA Q&A

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Section 1: General Questions

1. Can I visit NYJC for a better understanding of the environment?

Yes, you can. Please submit your request in writing via our college email, nyjc@moe.edu.sg. Alternatively, you can also visit our DSA microsite: <https://www.dsaatnyjc.net/> to gain a better understanding of our school campus and environment.

2. After accepting the DSA-JC offer and joining the college, can I still join another CCA?
For example, if I am offered a place through DSA via Leadership, can I still join another CCA such as Floorball?

Yes, but this only applies to DSA applicants who are accepted via Leadership or Science Research. For applicants who have been accepted via a specific CCA, the college expects your utmost commitment to the CCA that has offered you a place. Furthermore, given the rigour of the GCE 'A' Level examination, DSA students should avoid taking on more than one CCA so as to better manage their CCA and academic commitments.

3. How long are CCA sessions and how frequent are they?

The number of CCA sessions per week depends on the nature and requirements of the specific CCA. In general, most sports and performing arts CCAs will meet twice a week for approximately 3 hours for each session. This will usually increase to three sessions a week when approaching SYF or competition season.

4. How long is a normal day in JC?

The timetable will vary depending on your subject combination. In general, students can expect to have lessons from 8.30am to 3.00pm, especially for the more common subject combinations. The timetable will include break times for meals and for recharging in between lessons.

5. What sort of programmes does NYJC offer to help hone and develop a student's skills?

You can refer to our college website under the section "LIFE@NYJC" to find out about the various programmes offered by NYJC.

6. Is there a bridging programme for the DSA students?

Yes there is. For three working days prior to the start of the JC1 academic term, we will conduct the DSA headstart programme for DSA students to attend talks and sampler lectures so as to help them make an informed decision about their subject combination.

7. I understand that if my DSA application is successful, I just need to achieve an L1R5 score of 20 and below to be admitted into a JC. However, would I be at a disadvantage when it comes to allocation of subject combination and also struggle with my academic workload as compared to my peers who are admitted via JAE. How do I deal with the academic challenges?

Most of our DSA students will get the subject combinations of their choice which should be based on their interests, strengths and future aspirations. If a DSA student is admitted into NYJC with a weaker L1R5, we will strongly encourage them to take up 3 H2 and 1 H1 subjects instead of 4 H2 subjects. Firstly, it does not make a difference to the local autonomous universities whether you are offered 4 H2 or 3 H2 and 1 H1 subjects. Secondly, you will have more time to balance your different commitments and that helps you as a student to focus on different areas of your development, to do well for your CCA, your talent area and at the GCE 'A' Level examinations which is an important milestone.

Any student, regardless of the mode of admission into JC, may struggle with their academics. During Civics lessons, NYJC tutors will conduct lessons on the Growth Mindset model that will teach each student how to develop resilience in themselves so that they can overcome not just academic challenges but any other challenges they may face in NYJC and in their future endeavors as well. Students at NYJC are well supported by our dedicated and committed teaching and non-teaching staff. We also have a very unique and innovative timetable structure that allows students pockets of time during the day to seek consultation from their teachers, complete their homework and even hang out with their friends. One college-wide programme that helps students deal with their academic challenges is the Night Study Programme (NSP) where students stay in school to do their revision for milestone assessments. During the NSP, there will be teachers from the various departments who will be around to provide consultation to the students.

8. Are DSA students treated differently from those who enter JC via the JAE process?

No. All students, regardless of their mode of admission, are given equal support during their stay in NYJC.

9. Is there a quota on the number of students accepted via each talent area?

The quota is not fixed, and it depends on the number of applicants in that talent area, quality of applicants as well as the needs of the talent areas.

10. If I enter NYJC via DSA with a specific sport, can I eventually not join that sport after I join NYJC?

No. This applies to DSA via any talent area in any JC. Once a student joins the college via DSA through a particular talent area, he is expected to fulfill his commitments towards that talent area. Therefore, students should consider carefully before accepting the DSA offer.

11. Is it compulsory for me to take on a leadership role in the sport that I got into NYJC via that sport DSA?

No, it is not compulsory for students accepted via DSA to take on a leadership role in their respective talent areas. This applies to all talent areas except for those applying through leadership.

Section 2: Questions on NYJC DSA Criteria and Application Procedure

12. What is the DSA application procedure like and when is the deadline to submit the application?

The DSA-JC timeline (including the application and online interview period) and application procedure can be found on our DSA microsite: <https://www.dsaatnyjc.net/>.

13. What is the selection criteria for DSA in relation to each talent/skill area?

Applicants can review the selection criteria [here](#).

14. What documents do I need to submit for my DSA application?

You do not need to submit any documents/video when submitting the online application form. If you are shortlisted for the audition/trial, we will inform you of the date and time of the trial via email or SMS. In the same email and SMS, we will also let you know whether you need to submit any video and the items you will need to prepare. Possible documents to prepare for the interview are relevant certifications and records of achievement in zonal or national competitions related to the area of talent/skill, art portfolio (applicable for students interested in pursuing Art Elective Programme) and academic result slips.

15. Are testimonials from teachers considered during the DSA selection process?

Testimonials from teachers are not required for the DSA selection process. However, if you wish to submit the testimonials, we will look at them as well.

16. Can I apply for DSA to more than one JC?

Yes. However, you can only accept one offer even if you receive offers from more than one college.

17. What can I use to apply for DSA to NYJC?

You can apply for DSA to NYJC via one of the following Talent/Skill Areas.

Art Elective Programme	Contemporary Dance	Mathematics/ Science Olympiad	Netball (Girls)
Language Elective Programme - Chinese (CLEP)	Choir	Badminton	Table Tennis
Debate - English	Guzheng Ensemble	Basketball	Tennis
Leadership	Concert Band	Floorball	Volleyball
Chinese Orchestra	Science Research	Football (Boys)	

18. In the application form, under the DSA application basis, there is an option stating "Others. Please provide additional details in the 'Application Basis-Others field below.'" What does this 'Application Basis-Others' option entail?

This category caters to students who want to apply for DSA to NYJC via a talent area that our college does not offer. The student should be exceptional in that talent area (e.g. representing Singapore in a National Team) that our college does not offer as a CCA. It is also preferable that the student has his/her own coach so that they can continue developing his/her talent area as our college is unlikely to have the expertise to assist them in their area of talent.

19. Can I apply for DSA to NYJC via more than 1 talent/skill area? If I am shortlisted in both the talent areas that I apply for, like leadership and a sport, will the interviews clash?

Yes, applicants may apply for DSA through 2 or more areas of talent/skill. Please submit a separate application for each area of talent/skill. For example, a student should complete one full application if he/she applies through Volleyball and another full application if he/she also wishes to apply through Science Research. The panel for the talent/skill areas will shortlist the applicant according to the selection criteria.

If an applicant is shortlisted for both the talent areas that he/she has applied for, then the applicant should take the initiative to inform the teacher who has contacted him/her and make arrangements to avoid the interviews from clashing.

20. Do I apply for DSA through my secondary school or on my own?

You will apply for DSA on your own by submitting the online application provided by each JC.

21. What is the selection criteria for Phase 2 if I am not offered a place after Phase 1?
Do I need to submit another application form for Phase 2?

The selection criteria for Phases 1 and 2 are the same. You will be considered for Phase 2 if you do not receive an offer under Phase 1. You do not need to submit another application form for Phase 2 if you have already submitted one during Phase 1.

22. When will I know if I am rejected or accepted in NYJC based on DSA?

The college will contact successful candidates by telephone. All applicants will also be notified of the outcome of their application by email, latest by **6 Sep 2023**.

23. Will my application still be considered if the talent area that I would like to DSA through is not my CCA in secondary school?

Yes your application will still be considered so long as you meet the criteria of the talent area that you are interested to DSA through.

24. How does Phase 1 and Phase 2 work?

For phase 1, there is an earlier offer and acceptance period. Usually, there will also be more time for us to conduct trials and auditions for applicants who submitted their applications in Phase 1 and to offer the available vacancies to the successful applicants at the end of Phase 1. If there are vacancies that are not taken up, we will then offer them in Phase 2. During this phase, in addition to looking at applications that are submitted in Phase 2, we will also still be reviewing the applications submitted in Phase 1.

25. In the application form, the applicant is only asked to answer the reasons for wanting to join NYJC. As such, how does the school shortlist applicants for interview/trial/audition?

When an applicant browses through the questions asked in our application form, they will only see the question on the reasons for wanting to join NYJC. However, after the applicant selects the application basis: AEP, CCA, leadership or science research, the other hidden questions related to the application basis will appear for them to fill in. For example, if an applicant indicates to DSA through leadership, then there will be a follow up question (which is hidden initially) asking the applicant to indicate whether he/she has held key leadership positions in or demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities through organising school activities or events at national, school, cohort or CCA level.

Based on the applicants' replies to the questions asked in the application form as well as the selection criteria published on the college website, we will then shortlist the applicants for interview/trial/audition. We trust that the applicants will exercise integrity and fill up the application form as accurately as possible. As such, we will usually request for documents to be submitted to support what the applicants have indicated in the application form after the applicants have been shortlisted. Applicants will then be informed on how to submit the documents if necessary via email. Alternatively, during the stage when an applicant is submitting his/her application form, he/she could also submit any supporting documents to our college email: nyjc@schools.gov.sg

26. Under the best CCA Achievements section, do I exclusively include CCA achievements, or should I include any other significant qualifications (eg: ABRSM certificates, or significant leadership roles outside of my CCA)?

While you do not need to exclusively include only the achievements relevant to the talent area that you are applying via, doing so is still the first thing you should write about in order to be strategic as these are the important information relevant to the talent area you are applying the DSA via.

If you would like to include other significant qualifications or significant leadership roles outside of your CCA, that will be considered as supplementary and complementary to helping us assess your application holistically.

27. The question in the application form on Reason to join NYJC is optional. Does it penalise the applicant if this is not answered?

No.

Section 3: Questions on DSA Selection Process

28. What kinds of questions will be asked during the interview?

For a start, the panel aims to find out more about the applicant through the questions asked. Some areas of panel interest would be to find out from the applicants, their aspirations, their learning attitudes, and their approach towards developing their talent/skill in the specific talent/skill area they are applying for.

29. What will the interviewers be looking out for during the interview?

Interviewers will be looking out for the applicant's skill level in the specific talent/skill area as well as his/her overall attitude.

30. How many interviewers will there be?

There will be 2 to 3 interviewers (usually one to two teachers, with a coach/instructor, if applicable).

31. How much emphasis does NYJC place on students' academic performance (Common Test, MYE or EOYs) when selecting DSA students?

The intent behind requiring the submission of academic results for shortlisted applicants is to allow the teachers to understand the subjects the applicant is reading currently, as well as the potential subjects the applicant wishes to read if he/she is admitted to NYJC. With the current results of the applicant, our teachers are also able to find out the challenges the applicant is facing currently in his/her learning as well as how the applicant is managing the situation and coping with these challenges.

32. How does NYJC assess the academic potential of the DSA applicant?

We look at your secondary 3 results as well as the results of your weighted assessments in secondary 4 to give us a general sensing of where you stand academically. We also look at your teachers' comments as your teachers would have described you and your learning dispositions and your character: For example, whether you have the resilience to push through things. So, we do not just look at how skillful you are in your talent area, we also look at your character, your values, your academic potential before we decide whether to offer a place via DSA-JC for you.

We do that because we don't want you to come and serve the talent area but not do well in the A level exams. We are mindful that you come to NYJC not just to develop yourself holistically but also to be well-prepared for the A-level examinations. On top of that, we also hope to prepare you for university and for life.

33. My current CCA is basketball. Is it still possible to DSA to Guzheng Ensemble, providing that I have experience playing the guzheng outside of school?
34. Can I DSA into a CCA that I did not partake in Secondary School?
35. Can I DSA to the school not using my CCA but my hobby?

Responses to Q33 to Q35

Yes, you may still be eligible for the audition/trial/interview. However, if there is a big pool of applicants applying for the same talent area, the chances of being shortlisted is very low. You may want to indicate under “CCA Achievements (Others)” in the application form what you have done to show your passion and hone your skill in that talent area. The achievements could be the outcome of a competition that you signed up outside of your secondary school, a training course you had undergone, etc.

36. Since most of the secondary 4 students this year would have all the years before them in secondary school affected by the pandemic, would that be taken into account for if a student would not be able to take part in as much events because of the pandemic?

The entire cohort across all the secondary schools went through the pandemic and all of us are constraint by the number of activities, the number of performances and the number of sports competitions they can participate in. So, in a way, it is fair to all. We will not just look at whether you have participated in competitions, performances, or projects. We will look at each applicant holistically. How skillful you are in the talent that you apply the DSA via is important to us, but we will also look beyond whether you have participated in that one activity or otherwise. We will not disadvantage students who have not participated in a certain activity. The more important thing is that you are really passionate about the talent area that you would like to DSA via and when you are shortlisted, you convince us during the audition/trial/interview that you would like to join NYJC.

37. What kind of student stand a higher chance to be offered a place via DSA-JC?

A student who is very skillful and shows passion in the area of talent, shows that he should be able to cope with the rigour of the A-level curriculum, is of sound character and is a good fit to the team whom you will be interacting with in his area of talent will stand a higher chance to be offered a place via DSA-JC.

38. Since no external documents are required when submitting the application form, does it mean that DSA acceptance is entirely based on an applicant's audition/trial/interview?
39. Is the performance during trial or past achievements more important when assessing an applicant shortlisted for DSA via a particular sport?

Responses to Q38 & Q39

DSA acceptance is based on a combination of factors and not just on an applicant's audition/trial/interview results. Students may be requested to submit relevant supporting documents such as their academic results, relevant certificates, etc after they are notified that they are shortlisted for audition/trial/interview.

We will assess applicants holistically regardless of the talent area that they are applying via. Of course, applicants should be skillful in the talent that they are applying under. However, we are not looking out for one specific skill, or one specific achievement or one specific competition that applicants have participated in. While applicants will need to go through an audition or trial and/or interview or submit a portfolio when shortlisted, we do not assess applicants just based on one thing. We will assess applicants based on a combination of a few factors such as

- Does the applicant show that he is really passionate about the talent he is applying DSA via?
- Does the applicant show that he is really interested to come to NYJC and to take on A level as his route towards higher education?
- Does the applicant show certain character or have certain values that show that he is able to cope with the rigour of the A level curriculum?
- Does the applicant show that he is a team player?

Please note that we are not just limited by the above factors as we hope to assess our applicants holistically.

Section 3.1: Questions on DSA through Sports

40. How are the DSA sports trials conducted and how will the applicants be assessed?
Does the trial have to constitute playing against a team member from the NY team?
Could it be something else? Will the trial and interview be conducted concurrently
and which one comes first?

For sports trials, the applicants will likely play matches with current team members or with fellow applicants. The purpose of this is to let the teacher and coach assess your skills and how you perform in match play situations. Prior to the match play, you will be given time to warm up and do some drills. The interview and trial will be done on the same day.

41. Will the absence of awards or lack of competition experience disadvantage one's chances for DSA?

Students applying for the same talent/skill area will be in the same situation. For example, all basketball or football players did not have the opportunity to play in the NSG in 2020 and 2021. The selection panel is aware of the situation and the absence of awards or lack of competition experience will not disadvantage them. The college is committed to accept applicants who are strong in their talent/skill area and passionate in developing themselves to be better players, hence selection is not based purely on awards and competition outcomes.

42. Can I still apply for DSA-JC if I do not meet the application criteria, e.g., a key member of the basketball school team?
43. Should I wish to DSA via sports but do not represent my school rather previously played for a club and currently play it as a hobby, will I still be eligible for the trials?
44. Can I DSA to NYJC using a sport that I do not have experience in school but have private training for?
45. If you only have experience in the talent area you want to apply for in primary school but play another sport in secondary school, can you still apply?

Responses to Q42 to Q45

You can still apply. However, if there is a big pool of applicants applying for the same sport, e.g., basketball, the chances of being shortlisted is low. You may want to indicate under "CCA Achievements" or "CCA Achievements (Others)" in the application form what you have done to show your passion and hone your skill in that talent area. The achievements could be the outcome of a competition that you signed up outside of your secondary school, a training course you had undergone, etc.

Section 3.2: Questions on DSA through Performing Arts

46. How will performing arts auditions take place and how will applicants be assessed?

The audition can consist of performing one or two prepared items, audition tasks and interview components. Shortlisted students are to prepare either one or two items. The duration of the item may range from 1-2 min for choir and dance and from 3-6 min for Band, Chinese Orchestra and Guzheng. The audition tasks could be to do scales/sight-reading or to do certain dance movements on the spot. The last component is an interview. Shortlisted students will be assessed based on their competency in the talent/skill area as well as their overall attitude.

47. Can I still apply for DSA through contemporary dance even if my dance background is in other areas (e.g., Chinese dance, ballet etc)?

Yes, you can. You will be assessed based on your competency and potential during the audition/trial.

48. Will I need to prepare my own instrument for the audition?

Yes. For bulky instruments (e.g., piano, drum set, double bass, guzheng), our college will prepare the instrument for your use on the day and time of your audition/interview. We will ensure that the instruments are properly wiped down before and after your use.

49. Does Band accept DSA via piano?

No. This is because not all pieces performed by Band require piano accompaniment.

50. My school does not have a Chinese Orchestra but I played the double bass for four years in a string ensemble. Would I be considered for DSA through Chinese Orchestra (double bass) even if I don't have prior experience playing in a Chinese Orchestra?

Yes, you may still be eligible to be shortlisted for an audition.

Section 3.3: Questions on DSA through Art Elective Programme (AEP)

51. What traits and attributes does the school look out for in a successful DSA AEP applicant?

We are looking for students with a deep interest and strong aptitude for Art. Besides showing competency in handling a range of materials, successful applicants are typically able to articulate the concepts behind their work and their views on certain art-related issues. We are interested in students whose artworks effectively communicate their personal perspectives and demonstrate that they have worked through various problems and challenges. As the study of Art at A-Level is rigorous and demanding, we will also look out for evidence indicating that applicants are coping with their studies.

52. What is the general expectation of DSA students in AEP?

Students are required to stay committed to the programme throughout their period of enrolment in NYJC. They are also required to join the AEP Club as their CCA.

53. For the AEP application, what must be included in the art portfolio?

A good portfolio should highlight a range of craft types, mediums, subject matter and processes that the applicant has explored. They can come in various forms, for example, drawing, painting, photography, graphic design, sculpture, digital work, video or animation, just to name a few. The works can also range from quick, spontaneous sketches to something more detailed and refined.

54. How do I submit my portfolio?

Shortlisted applicants can share their e-portfolio with NYJC's art teachers via email.

55. Must I have any achievements in the art field (i.e. competitions)?

No. You will need to fulfill the following criteria to apply for DSA through AEP:

- currently taking 'O' level Art or Higher Art
- able to demonstrate my talents through submission of art portfolio

56. Will it be a bonus if I am in AEP in my secondary school?

No. We will consider all applicants regardless of the type of secondary art programme they are enrolled in, i.e., AEP, EAP or General Art. Applicants currently taking 'O' level Art or Higher Art and can demonstrate their talents through an art portfolio submission are eligible to apply.

57. Can I apply to DSA through AEP if I did not get an A1/A2 in Sec 3 or Sec 4 school-based assessments, and/or did not take Higher Art at O-Level?

You can still apply, but there is no guarantee that you will be shortlisted.

We will consider applicants that fulfill the following criteria:

- currently taking 'O' level Art or Higher Art
- able to demonstrate my talents through submission of art portfolio

58. What will students learn under the AEP syllabus and what are the special programmes/outdoor learning trips offered by the AEP department in NYJC?

Our art programme places equal emphasis on the practical and theoretical aspects of art making, encouraging students to explore their thoughts, feelings and ideas through a variety of art practices and processes.

In JC1, the AEP students will go through a series of modules which expose them to different types of art making, e.g., drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, design and video. In JC2, the AEP students will embark on their A-Level Coursework for 9 months, working on their chosen topic and craft type. During this time, students will be guided by their tutors through one-to-one consultation.

AEP students can also look forward to exciting combined-schools art workshops, artists' talks, competitions and learning journeys to graduation shows, museums and galleries. There is also a biennial AEP exhibition in which students from all secondary and JC AEP schools have an opportunity to showcase their work to a larger public audience.

59. What opportunities can I get in the future using AEP?

Our AEP alumni have gone on to do well in different courses of study, including both art-related and non-art related courses. Our rigorous art programme has helped our AEP students develop a broad set of skills, sound work habits, strong conceptualisation and communication skills which prepare them well for undergraduate studies. Graduated students will have a strong portfolio of works to show when they apply for art and design-related undergraduate studies.

60. What are some recommended subject combinations for AEP students to take to hopefully have a better overall balance?

NYJC has a very flexible subject combination system. Usually, students would be granted their choice of subjects if they meet the individual subject prerequisites and fulfil the contrasting subject requirement. Over the years, we have had students, from both the Arts and Science Streams, taking Art with a wide range of other subjects. Students are strongly encouraged to reflect on their interest, aptitude as well as future educational and career aspirations when choosing their subject combination.

61. What's the grade an AEP DSA applicant usually gets in O levels?

It varies from year to year.

62. Are there more specific requirements for the portfolio to be submitted for DSA via AEP?

Yes, more details will be shared with the students after they are shortlisted.

Some brief details of the e-Portfolio submission are:

- Students are required to prepare and submit a personal e-portfolio featuring five original works.
- Works chosen:
 - Should be completed within the last three years and can include (but not limited to) works done during art lessons, CCA, or enrichment classes.
 - Should reflect the student's interests, experiences, and abilities (e.g. in observing/ perceiving/ imagining, etc.).
 - Can include 2D, 3D, and/or time-based works (e.g. drawing, painting, photography, graphic design, sculpture, digital illustration, video, animation, etc.). If a piece of 3-D work is selected, please include photos taken from different angles.
- Works should be compiled into a simple set of presentation slides (in ppt or pdf format only).

Section 3.4: Questions on DSA through Debate

63. I understand that one of the areas students can apply for DSA is English Debate. What are some of the qualities of applicants that interviewers will particularly take note of during the selection process?

We are looking for someone who is ready to enter the competition field. Hence, we primarily look at the case-set, choice of substantives and depth of analysis. In other words, we are looking for debaters who can lead in deciding case set-up for the team. Content and Strategy play a bigger role than Style in assessing whether the applicant is a suitable candidate. The applicant will also be judged on his/her rebuttals (both quality and delivery - confidence and familiarity with the case are key here). Preferably, the applicant should have had experience in the Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championships (SSSDC).

64. What if my main role is the 3rd speaker, will I still need to craft a 1st speaker's speech?

Yes. All applicants will be required to do a 1st speaker's speech. It is usually in the 1st speaker's speech that the case, stance and burdens are presented, and these will allow us to assess the competence of the debater. Because the 3rd speaker does not deliver any substantive or new material and focus purely on rebuttals, it is not possible to audition a candidate based on the 3rd speaker's role in the absence of the remaining members of a team. We are also looking for a versatile debater who can easily slip into more than one role.

65. What are some of the competitions that NY debaters go for?

The competitions that NY debaters go for are:

- Oldham Cup organised by ACJC
- MOE Intercollegiate Debating Championship
- Lasallian Debate League organised by SJI (International)
- Infernus Cup organised by NYJC
- Chancellor's Challenge Shield and Debate Series organised by NUS Political Association

66. What exactly is the rigour of JC debate? Is it similar to secondary school debate or is it more rigorous? Will there be a fixed team who will participate in all competitions?

The Competitive Wing has training sessions twice a week - during normal CCA hours on Wednesdays, and after CCA hours on Fridays. The number of teams sent for competitions depends on the number allowed by the organisers. The type of competition would also determine the kind of team sent for the competition. For example, the Competitive Wing team would not participate in debating competitions that cater to novice debaters.

67. What experiences are unique to DSA students compared to if I apply to join NYDO after admitted to the school via JAE.

DSA students are immediately chosen to represent college in external competitions. They will also be given the opportunity to undergo selections for Singapore's WSDC (world school's debating championship) shadow team.

68. What experience should a student who want to DSA via debate have in order for him to be shortlisted for an interview?

A DSA student is likely to have represent his school in the SSSDC competition or an equivalent competition. A DSA student is also likely to have held a leadership position in his debate club in secondary school.

However, we have had past applicants, who because of certain circumstances, were not able to take part in the SSSDC competition in his graduating year but was part of the preparation or reserve team and the teacher-in-charge was able to provide a full reason as to why he was not able to participate that year and endorse the student's ability in debate as well as his capability in leading the CCA.

69. My daughter wants to apply DSA through debate, but she is not part of debate CCA in her secondary school but has participated in a class debate competition, inter school oratory competition organised by ACJC and she was in top 6. Can she apply?

Members of the official school debating team who have represented the school in national competitions are preferred.

Section 3.5: Questions on DSA through Science Research

70. What criteria/qualities do you look for in DSA applicants via Science Research?

71. What should be in my portfolio when applying for DSA via Science Research? What documents specifically should be submitted (e.g., competition experience, participation in Math Olympiad, etc.)? Do we need to submit the portfolio during the application or present it during the interview? If we are to submit the portfolio during the application, how can we do so?

Responses for Q69 and Q70

We are looking for students who have a strong interest and good grounding in Math and Science, as most research work involves independent study and understanding concepts from a multi-disciplinary approach. We are also looking for students who have had research experience.

Your portfolio can consist of one or more of the following documents that support:

- any science-related projects that you have done
- any science or math Olympiad achievements that you have been awarded
- any other science research competitions achievements that you have been awarded
- any special skills (e.g., computer coding) that you have

You do not need to submit the portfolio during the application. Once you are shortlisted, we will inform you via email or sms to submit your portfolio or to present it during the interview.

72. What will the interview process for DSA via Science Research be like?

The interview can either be conducted in a group or individually. Applicants will be interviewed by two teachers, and we will ask about the applicant's experience in science research and research-related competitions. The applicant can also share about any special skills that they may have mentioned in the application.

73. What commitment is required if a student is offered DSA Science Research?

The student is expected to take up a research project with an external research institute. The student will have to choose an area of interest and apply to the respective research partners. This will involve literature research and independent study. The research project will be a year-long commitment.

74. What opportunities are available in NYJC for Science Research (both in-house and external)?
75. What types of science research competitions or projects would students be exposed to?
76. It sounds like the science research area is very engineering and programming/STEM-based. Would my area of interest in molecular biology and chemistry be relevant?

Responses for Q73 – Q75

Students who are interested in science research will get the opportunity to participate in various programmes with local universities and statutory boards, such as Science Research Programme (NUS), Nanyang Research Programme (NTU) (which also offers research topics on Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences), Young Defence Scientists Programme (DSO), and Overseas Student Attachment Programme (Science). There is also our school-based Scientist-in-School Programme in collaboration with A*STAR.

The research projects available depend on the projects offered by the external organisations, and they range from environmental engineering, materials science, machine learning, molecular biology and chemistry, etc.

Selected students will have the chance to take part in the Singapore Science & Engineering Fair (SSEF) which is a national competition organised by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), and Science Centre Singapore (SCS). The SSEF is affiliated to the prestigious International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which is regarded as the Olympics of science competitions. Usually top awardees from the SSEF will go on to submit projects for the ISEF.

You can click [here](#) for more information on the types of Science Research Projects that our students have taken up.

77. If I apply for DSA through Science Research, do I have to take H3 Science Research?

No.

78. What is the content of H3 Science Research?

H3 Science Research is an examinable A-Level subject. H3 subjects are only offered to students who are academically able to cope with an additional subject on top of their H1 and H2 subjects. For H3 Science research, students undertake projects under the supervision of researchers with research institutes such as NUS, NTU or A*Star.

You can click on the following links for more information.

<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/education/talent-outreach/NRP/nrp-as-h3-science-research>

<https://nusmods.com/modules/SP1230/nus-h-3-science-research-programme>

79. Will my Mid-Year Examination (MYE) results for Mathematics and Science subjects affect my chances of admission? What if my school did not have MYE for Secondary 4 students?

The applicant's MYE results for Mathematics and Science subjects will be considered as it gives an indication of the student's strengths. The selection panel will also look at the applicant's portfolio and consider other relevant experiences. Students without Secondary 4 MYE results can also submit their Secondary 3 results.

80. Are there any subject combination restrictions for applicants who would like to apply for DSA through Science Research?

Students should take at least 2 H2 Science subjects.

81. Are there any minimum requirements that we need to meet if we want to apply for DSA through Science Research?

Students should have obtained good results in their Science and Mathematics subjects in Secondary 3 and 4, and have prior experience in research.

82. What is the difference between the SRP and NRP H3 Science Research Programmes, other than it is offered by different universities?

The project titles offered by SRP (NUS) and NRP (NTU) differ, and they have slightly different application and selection processes. Both SRP and NRP offer research projects that can be offered either as an enrichment project or as an examinable H3 subject. Students must complete their research individually if they choose to take up H3 Science Research. Students are encouraged to apply for both programmes based on their areas of interest in research.

83. Would the Science Research DSA be considered a CCA or would a student who is offered a Science Research DSA need to take up a CCA as well?

The Science Research Programme is not a CCA. All J1 students have a chance to sign up for a research project. This is held in partnership with external institutes such as A*STAR, NUS and NTU. The student will apply by doing a write-up to explain why they want to be involved in a particular research area. Once successful, students will embark on the actual work of their research for around a year, from April in their J1 year to around March in their J2 year.

Most of our students who participated in the Science Research Programme also took up a CCA or Student Interest Group (SIG) on top of their Science Research project. If you want to focus on the Science Research Programme, you can just be a member of a CCA without taking up a key position so that you can better manage your time between your CCA and the Science Research Programme. You can also consider joining a SIG that meets up less frequently, for example, once a fortnight. These are suggestions on how you can still participate in other activities while ensuring that your time commitment is not too heavy. We hope that you can make good use of your 2 years in JC to participate in as many activities as possible so as to have a fulfilling and enjoyable experience in JC.

84. Can I send in a DSA application without the results from the Science Olympiads or should I wait till the results are back before I submit my application?

You can submit the application first and then inform us of your results via our college email: nyjc@schools.gov.sg later on or during your interview if you are shortlisted.

85. How would the students usually initiate their science projects and what resources does the school have to support them?

Students will be able to apply from a list of projects available at NUS or NTU. The list of projects differs from year to year. The universities offer projects based on a wide range of topics such as Environmental Engineering, Materials Science and Biological Sciences etc. Students are advised to look through the list to identify projects that match their interests and complete a write-up for application for the project. Teacher mentors will help to advise students on their write-up and applications.

86. In the application form for Science Research, what exactly are the science research skills that one of the questions requires?

Students can highlight any research skills they have picked up during their research project. These skills can range from experimental techniques such as cell culture or plant DNA extraction, literature review skills (please specify the topic/subject area), and data analysis skills using programmes such as Excel and Python etc.

Section 3.6: Questions on DSA through Math/Science Olympiad

87. If I would like to DSA via Math/Science Olympiad, is having experience in Math Olympiad a compulsory criteria?

No. If an applicant does not have experience in Math Olympiad but has very good grounding in Mathematics as seen in his Mathematics and Science results in school, he could still be shortlisted for an interview.

In addition, we also look at achievements in national/international competitions, activities, courses, or workshops that the applicant has participated in that are related to the learning of Mathematics and/or Science beyond the school curriculum.

88. Will there be a placement test for Science/Maths Olympiad DSA and if so, what will we be tested on? Will the test be Specific to a single subject or would the questions be from the 3 Sciences and Maths?

No, there is no placement test for Math/Science Olympiad DSA candidates.

89. How is the selection process like for students interested in entering NYJC through Maths/Science Olympiad (DSA)?

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by a panel of teachers. The panel will be assessing the students' knowledge, problem-solving abilities, collaborative skills, and passion for Math/Science. Shortlisted applicants should have obtained at least a Silver medal in the relevant Singapore Math/Science Olympiads.

90. What opportunities are available in NYJC for students who are offered a place through DSA via Math/Science Olympiad?

Training by our own teachers will be conducted to prepare you for the various Math/Science Olympiad and competitions.

NYJC believes strongly in giving students autonomy and encouraging them to take ownership of their learning and development. It is important that students be given the time and space to explore and decide how they want to develop their passion in the learning of Math and Science. As such, students who are offered a place through DSA via Math/Science Olympiad are strongly encouraged to identify competitions that interest them, and the teachers will be there to mentor them in the preparation should they sign up for the competitions.

91. If I am interested in both Math and Science Olympiad & Science Research, should I submit 1 application or 2 applications?

You should submit 2 applications. You can only take up 1 of the offers eventually. You are required to fulfill the commitments expected for the talent area that you have been selected for.

But if you are offered the place for Math and Science Olympiad, you can still apply to take part in the Science Research opportunities that are open to all NYJCians. However, you should weigh your priorities when deciding to take on more than the commitment that you are expected to fulfill.

Section 3.7: Questions on DSA through Leadership

92. What leadership qualities do you look out for in Leadership DSA applicants?

We will be looking out for students with an excellent leadership history, as well as quality answers submitted in response to the questions posed on the DSA application form.

93. What is required in the portfolio when applying for DSA through Leadership? Is there a minimum hierarchical position I must have served as?

There is no portfolio needed for submission. In terms of the application process and requirements, all the details are available on the DSA microsite: <https://www.dsaatnyjc.net/>.

Generally, we will be looking for students with an excellent leadership history, as well as quality answers submitted in response to the questions posed on the DSA application form.

94. Can I include leadership positions in external organisations or self-initiated 'Values in Actions' projects (e.g. fundraising)? Will these positions/projects give students an advantage in being selected for DSA via Leadership?

Yes, you are free to include leadership positions beyond those in your secondary school. However, we cannot say for certain if these will give you an advantage as it will depend on the position/project itself, as well as the responsibilities/ complexity of project planning and execution, especially if compared to leadership in CCAs.

95. What will the interview process for DSA via Leadership be like?

There will be a group interview session with a series of questions about leadership styles or scenario planning. Once we have arranged an interview slot, we will inform you of all the details. Our advice is not to worry, as the questions are meant for us to know more about your leadership history and to understand you as an individual.

96. If a student is accepted into the school through Leadership DSA, what will their commitment or CCAs be in the school? Are they immediately part of any leadership board?

You are not automatically part of any leadership board, but you will be required to run for elections for the Student Council. Once you are elected into the Student Council, you will be part of the organising committee of various events (such as J1 Orientation, Dialogue Session with School Leaders, Council Investiture, et cetera) which the Student Council is in charge of. Students play a bigger role in JC than in secondary school in deciding how the various events that they are in charge of will be run, from the planning stage to the execution stage, with teachers as facilitators and advisors. You will be mentored by your seniors and teachers-in-charge when you are in J1 and then you will take over the mentoring role when you are in J2.

97. If I get into the school through Leadership DSA, is it a must to join the Student Council? Can I be a CCA leader instead or serve through another form of leadership?

Yes, you must join the Student Council. Of course, if you are able to manage your time, you could also join another CCA, but this is dependent on your ability to cope with your academic workload and the additional commitment and responsibility from a second CCA.

98. Are there any minimum requirements that we need to meet if we want to apply for DSA through Leadership?

You can refer to the microsite for the various positions. Ideally students chosen for the interviews will be from top tier leadership positions in CCAs such as UGs, Student Council and Prefectorial Boards.

99. For applicants who are applying for DSA through leadership, what are some values and experiences that NYJC is looking out for in these applicants?

We are looking for students with leadership positions in their secondary schools. We also are looking for students who exhibit the qualities encapsulated by CSI - that is the ability to Communicate with confidence, having Strategic thinking and being able to Influence others positively.

100. Do I still stand a chance to get an offer through Leadership DSA if I am only in the planning/executive committee of my CCA, i.e. I am not the chairperson/vice-chairperson of my CCA in secondary school?

The competition for places is very stiff and while we cannot say for sure, there is a tendency to look at students who have higher profiles of CCA leadership experience. This is mainly in top tier leadership positions in leadership CCAs.

101. What opportunities (e.g. courses, conferences, overseas exchange programme, internship) can a student who is offered DSA through Leadership look forward to?

Student leaders who have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities will be given a chance to enter our talent development programme, Galileo. Under this programme, they will be mentored and given opportunities to attend conferences, leadership talks et cetera.

Section 4: Questions on Eligibility Criteria for Admission to JC

102. What is the cut-off point for students who are successful DSA-JC applicants?

Students who are successful in seeking admission through DSA-JC based on their achievements and talents/skills will only need to fulfill the minimum eligibility criteria for admission to a Junior College after completing their O Level Examinations. In other words, they need not meet the cut-off points of any particular JC if they are successful DSA-JC applicants.

The eligibility criteria for admission to Junior College is to have an L1R5 of 20 or less. In addition, students will also need to fulfill the following O Level subject requirements:

- A1 to C6 for English Language
- Mother Tongue Language
 - A1 to D7 for Chinese Language, Malay Language or Tamil Language
 - **OR** A1 to E8 for Higher Chinese Language, Higher Malay Language or Higher Tamil Language
 - **OR** Merit or Pass for Chinese Language 'B' Syllabus (CLB), Malay Language 'B' Syllabus (MLB) or Tamil Language 'B' Syllabus (TLB)
- A1 to D7 for Mathematics or Additional Mathematics

103. I understand that to be eligible for DSA-JC, the applicant must score 20 points and below for L1R5 at the O Levels. However, are bonus points for CCA and Higher Mother Tongue applicable for deduction for DSA-JC applications? That means if the applicant scores 21 points for L1R5 but has 4 bonus points for deduction (e.g. 2 bonus points for Higher Mother Tongue and 2 for CCA), does that mean his eligibility points become 17, hence fulfilling the eligibility criteria for DSA-JC?

Bonus points for CCA and Higher Mother Tongue are not applicable for DSA-JC applications. If the applicant scores a raw aggregate score of 21 at the O-Levels, he does not fulfil the eligibility criteria for admission to a Junior College.

Section 5: Questions on Subject Combinations

104. Can I have a list of subject combinations offered by NYJC?

NYJC takes pride in its flexible subject combination system. As long as a student meets the individual subject criteria and fulfils the contrasting subject requirement of the posted stream, he will most likely be offered his choice of subjects.

On average, the college offers more than 60 different subject combinations each year. We also offer what students commonly call 'hybrid subject combinations' – where students can read 2 subjects from the Mathematics and Sciences as well as 2 subjects from the Arts and Humanities.

To make a more informed decision on what subject combinations to take, you may also click [here](#) to find out more about the A Level subject requirements by various university faculties for their 2021 Admissions.

105. If my DSA application is successful, will I be able to choose the subjects I want to study in NYJC? For example, I'd love to take Biology and Chemistry. Will there be a cut off point for me to take these subjects?

No, there is no cut-off point. Please refer to Q78 below for further elaboration.

106. Can I still take H2 Science subjects if I took Combined Science at O Level. Are there specific requirements that I will need to fulfil to do so?

Yes, students can take any science subjects as long as they have taken the relevant science subject at O Level. For example, a student who took Combined Science (Biology/Chemistry) can offer H2 Biology or H2 Chemistry. Students are also advised to consider their aptitude as well as future career and university aspirations when choosing their subject combination.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

107. How do I apply to the Chinese Language Elective Programme (CLEP) in NYJC?

You would need to indicate that you wish to read CLEP when completing the acceptance form. We will then inform you whether your application to read CLEP is approved during the subject combination period which will take place within the first two days of reporting to NYJC, after posting results are released for all O Level students.

108. What are the criteria to be eligible for Chinese Language Elective Programme?
What will be covered in the Chinese Language Elective Programme?

Please click [here](#) for the eligibility criteria and an overview of the Chinese Language Elective Programme.

109. If I did not take Biology, either Pure or Combined Science (Biology), in secondary school, can I still take H2 Biology?

The requirement for taking H2 Biology is O Level Biology or Combined Science (Biology).

The A Level H2 Biology syllabus is developed as a seamless continuum from O Level to A Level, without the need for topics to be revisited at A Level. The O Level syllabus is foundational and thus provides the necessary background for study at A Level. Students who intend to offer H2 Biology will therefore be assumed to have knowledge and understanding of O Level Biology, either as a single subject or as part of a balanced science course (taken from Pg 3 of [H2 Biology Syllabus SEAB](#)).