



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Building Young Futures**  
MBSSE's Senior Secondary School Curriculum



## Changing the Curriculum

### What is the main advantage of this new SSS curriculum?

A much wider range of subjects that are better organised in terms of form & structure, so that learners have greater choice in what subjects they can study based on their own interests and career aspirations. It unleashes the potential of all learners in an equitable manner rather than imposing the tyranny of compulsory sets of subjects on learners based on requirements of WAEC and universities, that may need to be revisited in these changing times.

### Do we have the right teachers to deliver the new SSS Curriculum, particularly in the new subjects? What is the role of teachers?

This is a major challenge and various strategies are being examined for addressing the issue of teachers, especially for new subjects. Some strategies include re-orienting existing competencies of teachers (e.g. to teach applied subjects), providing micro-credentials so that experienced practitioners can acquire skills for teaching their areas (e.g. IT, Dance, Music), and employing team teaching for some subjects (e.g. Environmental Science). But most importantly, massive support to teachers through a resource-intensive approach should help to bridge the gap in teacher requirements for implementing the new curriculum.

### What are the roles of parents and communities in the new SSS Curriculum? And how will they be brought on board?

We will engage parents through presentations that explain the greater choice available to learners, so that they can fulfil their potential in a wide range of occupations. Aspirations that parents and communities have for their young can be influenced so they support the new curriculum as a welcome transformation of education in Sierra Leone.

## Accessing university

### How many subjects have to be passed to gain entrance to university?

This is for the universities to determine. The new curriculum seeks recognition of the wide range of new subjects available as appropriate for entry to various courses in the different universities. This enhances the chances that learners wishing to enter university can do so.

### Is the new SSS Curriculum in line with other West African countries that participate in WASSCE, especially for pupils who may want to attend foreign universities, e.g. in Ghana?

The Framework reflects the needs and priorities of Sierra Leone as a member country of WAEC. As it is based on globally recognised forms of knowledge it has credibility in any part of the world where learners may wish to study after WASSCE.

### The university entrant requirement in Sierra Leone is 5 WASSCE (with six or better in English and Maths). Will there be a change in the new SSS Curriculum?

Negotiations with the universities will determine how the new curriculum meets requirements for general entry to university and for specific courses.

### How many subjects have to be passed in the Core, the Applied and the Everyday to gain entrance to university?

New guidelines on this will be available based on negotiations with the universities, and will be shared with those learners wishing to enter university.

## Understanding streams and subjects

### Are there any compulsory subjects that cut across all streams? For example, English Language?

There are no compulsory subjects that pupils must study, though we anticipate most schools will offer subjects from the Languages and Literature stream and the Mathematics and Numeracy stream, given that such topics are fundamental to most education systems and underpin learning in all other subjects. Depending on interests, aspirations, and career ambitions, learners will be guided on which subjects they need to take.

### In the new SSS Curriculum, Principle of Cost Accounting and Financial Accounting are not visible in the Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship stream, how will this be addressed?

One of the core subjects is Principles of Accounting, which would cover Cost Accounting and Financial Accounting at levels appropriate for senior secondary education.

### Statistics, Probability and Calculus used to be topics in Mathematics, but the new SSS Curriculum indicates them as individual subjects; are they going to remain as standalone subjects?

The subject experts decided to have these as stand-alone subjects to give greater flexibility to learners in selecting what is most appropriate for their needs in mathematics.