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Languages and Bible Knowledge as electives

PETALING JAYA: Bible Knowledge and several language subjects are allowed to be taken as elective subjects in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination, said Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok.

In a statement yesterday, he clarified that the Cabinet had decided on Wednesday to allow students to choose two elective subjects from Arab, Chinese, Tamil, Iban, Kadazandusun and Bible Knowledge.

This means a student is able to sit for a maximum of 12 papers only. The other 10 papers are from six core and four additional subjects.

“The first 10 subjects are the prerequisite in awarding deserving students with federal scholarships. The two elective subjects would be included in the SPM result but not as a scholarship benchmark,” he said.

Earlier this month, Education director-general Tan Sri Alimuddin Mohd Dom said the two extra subjects students can take are limited to Chinese, Tamil or Arabic Language, and Chinese or Tamil Literature.

The omission of Bible Knowledge from the list had created ripples through Christian groups.