

# History, Bahasa Melayu Remain Compulsory For Public University Admission - Zambry

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PUTRAJAYA—The Bahasa Melayu and History subjects in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination remain compulsory requirements for admission into public institutions of higher learning (IPTA), including for students from outside the national education system, said Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

Zambry said SPM remains compulsory for students from tahfiz institutions, private schools, and SMPC seeking admission to IPTA. This follows Cabinet decisions on admission pathways for students from these education streams. He explained that the UPUOnline assessment system is based on SPM results. Therefore, students must sit for the SPM examination. They are also required to pass Bahasa Melayu and History. These subjects are recognised as essential by the Malaysian examination system. He said this after presenting the 2025 excellent service awards to Department of Polytechnic and Community College Education staff. Earlier, Zambry stressed that IPTA admission must still be based on the national SPM system. Although pathways are opened for students from other education streams, the main principle remains unchanged. Students from any stream must meet SPM-based entry requirements. He said some parties had misunderstood the government's decision as compromising the national education system. However, the policy does not weaken national education standards. Candidates from these streams with a full SPM certificate may apply for programmes through UPUOnline. In another development, Zambry said the government is upgrading polytechnics and community colleges. He stressed these institutions must evolve with national development and global changes.

