

3. CONDUCT OF THE TSA

Administration

The Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) consisted of written, oral and Chinese audio-visual (CAV) assessments. The oral assessments for both languages were conducted in the morning and afternoon sessions within two days. Each secondary school participated either in one session on 26 or 27 April 2006 while each primary school took part in the oral and CAV assessments in one session on 9 or 10 May 2006 for P.3 and 23 or 24 May 2006 for P.6. A total of 452 schools participated in the S.3 oral assessments, 619 schools in the P.3 oral assessments and 670 schools in P.6 oral assessments. Depending on the size of the school, 12 or 24 students were randomly selected to take part in the oral assessments for each language. They were only informed that they had been selected on the actual day. Secondary students were assessed by two external assessors and primary students were assessed by one internal and one external oral assessor.

The S.3 written assessments in Chinese, English and Mathematics were held on 28 and 29 June 2006. On 4 and 5 July 2006, P.3 and P.6 written assessments took place. A total of some 220,000 students at P.3, P.6 and S.3, from 452 secondary schools and 708 primary schools, took part in TSA 2006. Invigilation was done by school teachers. Hundreds of Assessment Administration Assistants (AAAs) were recruited to facilitate with the conduct of the written assessments. A summary of the assessments is highlighted in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Allocation of Sub-Papers to Students

Chinese Language	
Reading and Writing	Students randomly allocated to one of three sub-papers
Listening	Each class randomly allocated to one of two sub-papers
Speaking	Randomly selected students allocated to one sub-paper (six sub-papers at P.3 and P.6 and 16 sub-papers at S.3)
Chinese Audio-visual (CAV)	Each class at P.3 and P. 6 randomly allocated to one of two sub-papers while each class at S.3 allocated to one paper
English Language	
Reading and Writing	Students randomly allocated to one of three sub-papers
Listening	Each class randomly allocated to one of three sub-papers
Speaking	Randomly selected students allocated to one sub-paper (eight sub-papers at P.3 and P.6 and 16 sub-papers at S.3)
Mathematics	Students randomly allocated to one of four sub-papers

Marking and Check-marking of Written Papers

Centralised marking of TSA 2006 written papers was conducted from 17 to 28 July 2006 at five secondary school venues. Approximately 1,000 markers and 100 check-markers were recruited for the three subjects. For English Language, markers and check-markers were teachers with the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT) qualification in English. Markers' meetings for the three subjects at P.3, P.6 and S.3 were conducted on 8 and 15 July 2006 to familiarise markers with the marking schemes. Writing papers for the two languages were double marked. A ratio of one check-marker to 10 markers was adopted to monitor the quality of marking and the complete process was supervised by HKEAA staff members.