

9. CONCLUSION

Accomplishments in TSA 2012

The 2012 Primary 3 and Secondary 3 TSA were conducted and taken by a full cohort of students. The oral assessments for the two Language subjects Chinese and English for the above two levels were conducted in April and May respectively. Written assessments for Chinese, English and Mathematics of P3 and S3 were also smoothly conducted from mid to the end of June.

Among the three subjects P3 students undertook, in 2012, students performed slightly better in Mathematics with the attainment rate at 87.3% which is an increase of 0.3% when compared with last year. Their performance in English Language is similar to that of last year with the attainment rate at 79.7% while that of Chinese Language is at 86.1%. The attainment rates of S3 subjects are: Chinese Language 76.9%, English Language 69.1% and Mathematics 79.8%.

Apart from the facilitation measures already provided to Non-Chinese Speaking Students (NCS) in taking the TSA since 2010, further enhancement measures were applied to P3 NCS students in the 2012 TSA. In order to enable P3 NCS students to have a better understanding of the requirements of answering Chinese Reading Comprehension question items, an instruction sheet with further information listing all the answering requirements was distributed to the invigilator who was requested to read the answering requirements out to students before the assessment started. We will consider extending this measure to other levels in the coming year.

The 2012 TSA results were released at the end of October 2012. Schools participating in the assessment can download their own school report and other supplementary reports from the BCA website within one month through the designated account which is assigned and mailed to the school by the Authority. On the day of release of TSA results, a TSA report with detailed information and students' performance exemplars, all question papers and marking schemes are uploaded to the HKEAA BCA website for public access. Schools can gather information from the website, particularly students' performance in different areas, and read together with the school reports in analyzing and evaluating the teaching strategy which can serve the feedback purpose of TSA.

After the release of results, every year around November to December, the HKEAA will hold TSA seminars for teachers. At the seminars, the HKEAA subject managers and senior officers will share with the audience their professional views on students' general performance as well as giving comments on students' strengths and weaknesses in particular areas. They will also help teachers to accurately interpret and understand the TSA data on hand. Teachers can, by using the assessment data properly, enhance their understanding about students' strengths and weaknesses, adjust progress and formulate teaching plans accordingly to cater to their students' learning needs.

The Way Forward

In future, the HKEAA will continue to provide professional, reliable and fair TSA assessments as well as high quality services in the administration of the assessment.

The TSA results and data have been well received by teachers and schools and have proven to be very useful in providing valuable diagnostic feedback for teachers to adjust their teaching strategies in helping students learn better. The HKEAA will keep on providing a high standard of assessment services aimed at assisting teachers and schools in learning how to best use the assessment data to enable the utmost effectiveness in teaching and learning. The HKEAA will work with the Education Bureau in reviewing TSA and keep communicating with various stakeholders, with a view to strengthening the TSA's function in providing feedback in learning and teaching.