

Assessment is closely related to learning and teaching. “Assessment for learning” refers to a learning process where teachers collect ongoing information about students’ learning, diagnose learning difficulty, and provide timely and quality feedback to enhance learning and plan for follow-up action.

Basic Competency Assessments

In 2000, the Education Commission released its report entitled “*Learning for Life, Learning through Life*” and proposed to implement Basic Competency Assessments (BCA) in the subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at various key stages of learning. Apart from the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA), BCA also comprises Student Assessment (SA) and Web-based Learning and Teaching Support (WLTS).

In 2001, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) was commissioned by the Education Bureau (EDB) to develop and implement SA and TSA under BCA. SA is an online assessment item bank which is capable of providing instant assessment reports on the performance of participating students for teachers’ reference through a computer system. All primary and secondary schools can use it any time during the school year on a voluntary basis. The related feedback collected helps teachers review individual students’ learning progress and difficulties with reference to the key learning points, and set the next learning objectives for the students. SA was upgraded as the Student Assessment Repository (STAR) platform in January 2017. Schools can log in to the platform through the HKEdCity website (<http://star.hkedcity.net>) for use.

TSA is a low-stake assessment that is mainly used to enable an understanding of the performance of Primary 3 (P.3), Primary 6 (P.6) and Secondary 3 (S.3) students in the three subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics on a regular basis. TSA data helps schools understand students’ overall academic standards in the main key learning areas and as a reference for the follow-up action of learning and teaching. TSA was first implemented at P.3 in 2004, and extended to P.6 and S.3 in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

WLTS is an online platform which provides ready-made teaching activities and materials to address students’ relevant learning difficulty in Basic Competencies (BCs) for teachers’ reference and use.

Schools can make use of the data and the above resources provided by BCA to adjust teaching plans and teaching strategies.

Review of Basic Competency Assessments

The Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy (the Committee) conducted a comprehensive review of the P.3 TSA in October 2015. Views collected from different stakeholders, including school sponsoring bodies, school heads, teachers and parents via various channels such as questionnaires, focus groups, seminars and meetings reflected that most stakeholders affirmed the function and importance of TSA in providing feedback to learning and teaching at both the territory-wide and school levels. This year, the HKEAA continues to collect views on the arrangements for P.3 TSA from Focus Group Meetings and questionnaire surveys to be conducted.

Arrangements for Primary 3 Territory-wide System Assessment in 2018 and beyond

In March 2018, the EDB accepted the Committee's recommendations on handling the arrangements for P.3 TSA in 2018 and beyond at the territory-wide and school levels separately. At the territory-wide level, about 10 per cent of P.3 students from each public sector and Direct Subsidy Scheme school are sampled for the P.3 TSA each year. At the school level, schools which would like all their P.3 students to participate in TSA and obtain school reports may approach the HKEAA directly to make relevant arrangements. The HKEAA will issue school reports to schools directly. The EDB will not obtain school reports of individual schools. These arrangements re-affirm TSA data will not be used to evaluate the performance of schools, and re-establish TSA as a low-stake assessment with its original intent in mind. Among the enhancement measures, the HKEAA is responsible for improving assessment papers and question design and enhancing school reports. The arrangement of the 2019 P.3 TSA was also based on the Committee's aforementioned recommendations.

2019 Territory-wide System Assessment Report

This report introduces the 2019 TSA and describes the overall performance of P.3, P.6 and S.3 students participating in the assessments this year.

The contents of this report include: Chapter 2 outlining the assessment design and the development of the assessment items; Chapter 3 reporting on the assessment arrangements, introducing the process of TSA on-screen marking, etc.; Chapter 4 elaborating on how to set and maintain standards and reporting on the proportion of students achieving BCs across years; Chapter 5 describing in detail the different types of reports provided to schools by the HKEAA; Chapters 6 to 8 describing in detail the performance of students of different levels in the three subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics, and providing examples which elaborate on the performance of students achieving BCs; and Chapter 9 concluding with the experience gained this year.