Assessment Arrangements

The TSA 2023 consisted of written assessments of the three subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics, oral assessments of the subjects of Chinese Language and English Language and Chinese audio-visual (CAV) assessments of the subject of Chinese Language for P.3, P.6 and S.3. Students from a total of 500 primary schools and 443 secondary schools participated in the assessment.

Oral Assessment

The oral assessments of the subjects of Chinese Language and English Language were conducted over two days. P.3 and P.6 students took part in one session (either AM or PM) of the oral and CAV assessments on 2 or 3 May 2023 and 9 or 10 May 2023 respectively. S.3 students took part in one session (either AM or PM) on either 18 or 19 April 2023.

For the P.3 2023 TSA, P.3 students from each school were sampled by the HKEAA to take part in the oral and CAV assessments. For P.6 and S.3, as in previous years, 12 or 24 students were randomly selected to take part in the oral assessments of the subjects of Chinese Language and English Language, depending on the number of students in each school. The list of students selected for the assessments was not revealed until the day of the assessment. S.3 students were assessed by two external Oral Examiners (OEs) while P.3 and P.6 students were assessed by one internal and one external OE. To alleviate the workload of school administrative officers and OEs, an Assessment Administration Assistant (AAA) was sent to each school on the day of the oral assessments to provide administrative support and to ensure the smooth implementation of the assessments.

In view of the volatility of the COVID-19 epidemic, the mode of delivery of the Oral Assessment training for the TSA 2023 was conducted online only. Teachers without prior experience as OEs were required to attend the Webinar before they could take part in the Online Oral Training Workshop. The Webinar focused on introducing assessment administration and the marking scheme illustrated with oral exemplar videos as well as details required in conducting the oral assessments. The Online Oral Training Workshop included assessment administration procedures, oral exemplar demo videos and a recruitment test. Teachers with prior experience as OEs were only required to take part in the Online Oral Training Workshop. These workshops were held from February to March for S.3 and from March to April for P.3 and P.6. Teachers had to pass the recruitment test and meet specific requirements before they were appointed as OEs by the HKEAA. In total, around 4,800 teachers were trained this year.

Written Assessment

Written assessments for P.3 and P.6 students took place on 7 and 8 June 2023, and those for S.3 students took place on 14 and 15 June 2023. Invigilation was carried out by teachers at their own schools. AAAs were appointed by the HKEAA to assist in the conduct of the written assessments. The allocation of sub-papers is highlighted in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1   Allocation of Sub-Papers to Students

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

After the completion of the P.3, P.6 and S.3 assessments, the HKEAA uploaded the question papers of the subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics together with the suggested answers and the marking schemes to the HKEAA's BCA website (www.bca.hkeaa.edu.hk). For P.3, information on item design (e.g. each item paired with its corresponding learning objective, BC and question intent) was also uploaded to the aforementioned website.

Support Measures for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students

The EDB and the HKEAA have provided various support measures for SEN students and NCS students to facilitate their participation in the TSA.

For the SEN students, the measures include the following:

1. Use of coloured paper (i.e. green) and single-paged printing of question papers for the SEN students upon request from schools; and

2. Students with visual disabilities could choose Braille scripts or use screen readers to answer questions. For those who used screen readers, encrypted "WORD" files with the content of the papers of Chinese Language and English Language were delivered to schools by the HKEAA on the days of assessments.

For the NCS students, the measures to facilitate their participation in the Chinese Language component of TSA are as follows:

1. A bilingual version of "Instructions to Students" was provided in the form of a supplementary sheet for the Reading, Writing, Listening, CAV and Oral assessments to enable NCS students to better understand the requirements in answering questions;

2. For the Listening assessment, schools might use a special version of the CD (with all the questions and answer options read aloud) for NCS students as needed; and

3. An instruction sheet with further information specifying the answering requirements for the Chinese Language Reading assessment was distributed to the invigilators who could read out the requirements to NCS students as needed before the assessment started. This facilitated the NCS students' understanding of the requirements in answering questions.
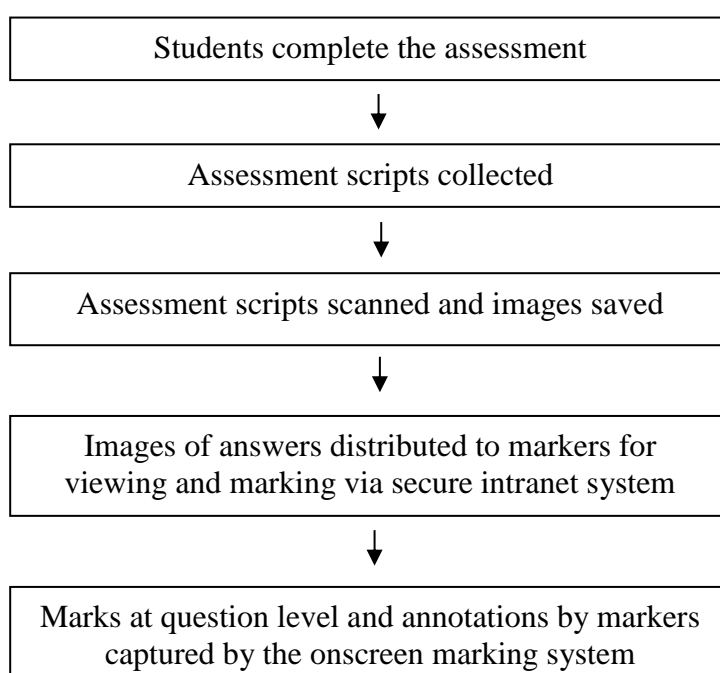
The relevant information was uploaded to the Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section of the HKEAA's Basic Competency Assessments website for reference.

Marking and Check-marking – Onscreen Marking System

The HKEAA is committed to enhancing the quality of marking. Technology has been used to enhance the marking quality and efficiency as well as the reliability and validity of the assessments. Starting from 2008, Onscreen Marking (OSM) has been adopted for the marking of TSA papers.

OSM is a computerised marking system. Images of students' scripts are captured and retained in a secure intranet system for marking by markers at the HKEAA's assessment centres. The workflow of OSM is shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2   The Workflow of Onscreen Marking

Students complete the assessment

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Assessment scripts collected

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Assessment scripts scanned and images saved

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Images of answers distributed to markers for viewing and marking via secure intranet system

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Marks at question level and annotations by markers captured by the onscreen marking system

After the completion of the written assessments in June 2023, the HKEAA recruited 38 Marking Assistants, 769 Markers and 87 Assistant Examiners to assist with marking and check-marking which took place at the assessment centres from 8 to 28 July 2023. All the Markers and Assistant Examiners were qualified serving teachers. Attainment of the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers in English was also one of the requirements for English Language Markers and Assistant Examiners. Before marking commenced, training workshops on the functionality of OSM were provided to Markers and Assistant Examiners. Moreover, Markers' meetings were conducted in July to familiarise Markers with the marking schemes.

OSM not only enhances the marking quality but also improves the efficiency of the marking process. The writing scripts of Chinese Language and English Language can be distributed by the OSM to two Markers for marking instantly and independently. When the scores between two Markers exceed the pre-set range, the OSM will automatically distribute the scripts to the

Assistant Examiners for third marking to ensure consistency in marking. During the marking period, the Assistant Examiners cross-check the scripts of Markers randomly. Subject managers and officers of the HKEAA are able to instantaneously monitor the marking progress, and take prompt actions when necessary.

In view of the impact on the marking progress due to the social distancing measures adopted during the COVID-19 epidemic, the HKEAA trialled an Internet-based On-screen Marking system (iOSM) for the TSA 2023 in order to explore the feasibility of marking outside the HKEAA's assessment centres. All Chief Examiners and Assistant Examiners were given accounts to use the iOSM. Due to the limited quota, Markers could only be iOSM users through random selection. A total of 592 marking personnel used the iOSM system this year. Online training was provided to all iOSM marking personnel in June 2023. Technical support was provided during the entire period of OSM. Positive feedback from iOSM users was received. Whether or not iOSM could be further developed and regularised, or as a contingency plan in future needs to be further studied.