

SEAB-ling

Issue 15 ♦ Mar 2012

Integrity. Value People. Commitment. Professionalism. Team Work

Commitment

As the nation's examining authority, SEAB embraces commitment as one of its core values. Amid the various demands which SEAB attends to each year, our focus continues to be the advancement of quality in assessment, as depicted in our mission statement. We dedicate ourselves to giving our best to meet the assessment needs of schools. For the outcomes of academic assessment to be valid, reliable and fair, assessment has to be conducted with proper procedures and clear specifications. With this as our backdrop, SEAB provides quality and timely support to schools.

There are two interrelated themes in this issue:

1. SEAB's focus on advancing the quality of assessment. To this end, we conduct workshops as well as a Specialist Diploma programme for teachers. We have included feedback from participants and we hope you will find these useful in helping you decide which workshops to attend. For schools which have specific assessment needs, we have assessment specialists who are committed to helping you. Let us know how we can help.

2. Our commitment to advancing the quality delivery of assessment. SEAB's commitment to this is affirmed by notes of appreciation received from schools and we would like to share some of these with you.

Our overarching commitment has not changed: we are here to work with you.

Do take a couple of minutes to read SEAB-ling, and it will prove to be a profitable investment for you in 2012 ☺.

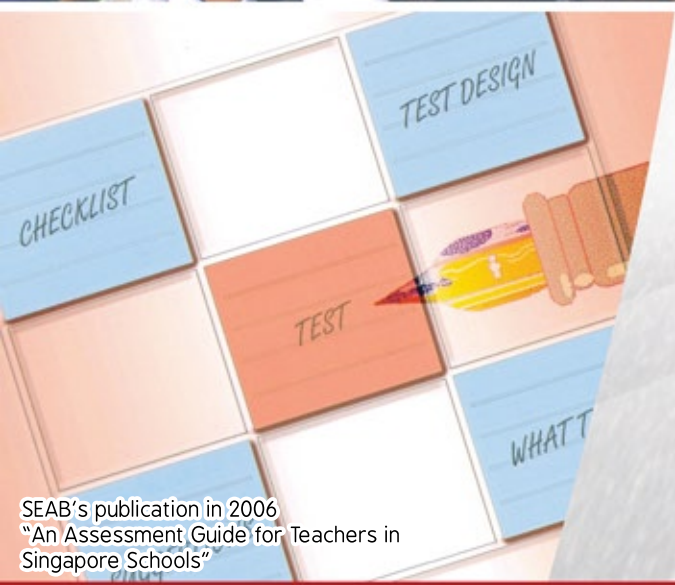
The SEAB-ling Editorial Team



SEAB's publication in 2008
"Examinations in Singapore - Change and continuity"



SEAB's publication in 2010
"Assessing Learning in Primary Science - A Guide for Teachers"



SEAB's publication in 2006
"An Assessment Guide for Teachers in Singapore Schools"

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Advisors: Tan Eng Hong, Toh Poh Guan

Commendation

My name is Shamshuddin Bin Talib and I am a CSO from Commonwealth Sec Sch. I wish to highlight that one of your staff Mrs Gopala Krishnan was a real big help for me. I had forgotten to make the payment for the appeal of one of our ex-students, but yet she called me to remind me about it. She showed courtesy and understanding in dealing with me. I felt very glad and thankful that she was there to help, instead of scolding me or throwing a tantrum.

I am happy to say that your staff has done a good job and we are able to work and communicate in a healthy way.

Dear Ms Tang,
I would like to express my thanks to you and your team for your patience and assistance. I have gathered some information on how to improve the work processes at our end so that in the following year we could participate in the exam registration exercise in a more efficient way, at least to avoid sending so many emails to SEAB for amendments. Our school is very grateful that your team is very helpful. Have a good day!

Regards, Ms Joyce Quek
 Administration Manager,
 Clementi Town Secondary School

Just a note of appreciation to the SEAB PSLE Oral Team for your unwavering support in answering my numerous queries before, during and after the exam. It's the first time I have been given the responsibility and I was really most nervous overseeing such an important NATIONAL exam! Two of my students were absent for their Day 2 English Oral. I believe I will be informed of the details for the make-up by 31st August. Keep up the excellent support, SEAB!

With appreciation,
 Ms Rosidah Ahmad, Teacher
 St Stephen's School



SDEA Graduation 2012

Congratulations to our 2nd batch of SDEA Graduates

23 February was a special day for our Specialist Diploma in Educational Assessment graduates. After being diligent part-time students and committed full-time teachers in 2011, each received their specialist diploma from our Guest-of-Honour, Professor Tan Oon Seng, Dean, Teacher Education, National Institute of Education. Congratulations to each of our graduates!

Name

Audra Amir Liow
 Denny Aw Yong Sze Wee
 Foo Hui Ming Ann
 Paramjit Kaur
 Lau Mui Tian
 Neo Leng Choo Jenny
 Seow Joo Hwang
 Tan Chee Lay
 Tan Lea Boon
 Tan Yah Hui
 Teo Choon Mei
 Tey Siew Leng
 Aileen Toh Chai Hoong

School

Cedar Girls' Secondary School
 Victoria School
 Clementi Primary School
 Woodgrove Secondary School
 Greenview Secondary School
 Bukit Batok Secondary School
 Pioneer Primary School
 Singapore Centre for Chinese Language
 Fuchun Secondary School
 Cedar Girls' Secondary School
 Chung Cheng High School (Main)
 Zhangde Primary School
 Geylang Methodist School (Primary)



Workshops

Would you like to attend some assessment related workshops?

In your discussions with your supervisors, you may have indicated your need to attend workshops on assessment. In our commitment to advancing the quality of assessment, we thought it would be a good idea for you to know of the workshops we are conducting. The Academy of Singapore Teachers (AST) has conveyed to SEAB the training needs of our educators. In partnership with AST which has commissioned us, we have designed each workshop to be subject specific and to meet your training needs.

(A) INTRODUCTION TO ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNING TEACHERS

Subject	Level	Date of Training (1-day Workshop)
English Language	Primary	2 March 2012 6 March 2012 21 March 2012
Chinese Language	Primary	1 March 2012 2 August 2012
Mathematics	Primary	11 April 2012 13 April 2012
Science	Primary	19 April 2012
English Language	Secondary	23 March 2012 3 April 2012
Chinese Language	Secondary	10 May 2012
Mathematics	Secondary	10 April 2012 12 April 2012 23 April 2012 25 April 2012
Science	Secondary	9 April 2012 12 April 2012 16 April 2012

(B) ASSESSMENT LITERACY TRAINING FOR PRIMARY 4 TEACHERS

Subject	Date of Training (1-day Workshop)
English Language	10 April 2012 13 April 2012 20 April 2012
Mathematics	29 March 2012 20 April 2012 10 July 2012
Chinese Language	12 April 2012 16 August 2012
Malay Language	28 March 2012 11 July 2012
Tamil Language	12 April 2012



Engaged participants, deep in thought

For more information about training activities in (A) and (B), please refer to TR AISI.

Workshops

(C) i2i WORKSHOP FOR PRIMARY SCIENCE TEACHERS

i2i stands for ideas to items. This workshop enables Primary Science teachers to design good test items. This workshop is intended for teachers who have basic assessment literacy (e.g. ability to check a test item for accuracy).

Dates of Training (2-day Workshop)	Time and Venue
28 - 29 March 2012	
11 - 12 April 2012	
25 - 26 April 2012	9 am - 5 pm
9 - 10 May 2012	Block D, Training Room (D1-4)
4 - 5 July 2012	SEAB
17 - 18 July 2012	298 Jalan Bukit Ho Swee
22 - 23 August 2012	



Here's the feedback from two teachers who attended the 2-day workshop in 2011:

"The resources shared by the presenters are engaging and useful."

- Danessa Foo, Hong Wen School

"The awareness of the requirements in setting a paper and how to change my ideas into items was a major takeaway from this course for me."

- Tan Ying Fong, Telok Kurau Primary

Training activities (D) to (F) can be conducted by SEAB upon request.

(D) ITEM SETTING WORKSHOP FOR SCIENCE (PRIMARY)

This workshop focuses on the general principles and practices of item setting for Science. Through learning about the setting of multiple-choice and open-ended items, participants will be able to better assess their pupils' knowledge, understanding, application and process skills in Primary Science.

(E) ITEM SETTING WORKSHOP FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE (PRIMARY)

This workshop focuses on the general principles and practices of item setting for English Language covering a range of item types such as MCQs, cloze and comprehension.

(F) CUSTOMISED WORKSHOP

SEAB also offers customised workshops that are tailored to the needs of our teachers. Our workshops are delivered with a balance of "minds-on" knowledge presentation and "hands-on" skills acquisition. We are pleased to meet up to discuss your school's needs on assessment issues. Please [contact us](#) for further information.

Hear what participants had to say about our customised workshop conducted in the Philippines, entitled *Introduction to Assessment (Primary English Language)*:

"My major takeaway was knowing what I can do to make my tests and the results more reliable, valid and fair."

- Ida Tomines

"The construction of cloze tests and inferential questions was a major takeaway for me."

- Regina De Galicia

"A teacher should always include the marking scheme in the preparation."

- Rosemary Rocha

*Dates are accurate as of 29 February 2012

we Value your Views

Give us your feedback at SEAB_Seabling@seab.gov.sg



Examination Calendar 2012*

GCE N(T)-Level and GCE N(A)-Level Examination Dates

Exam Event		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oral	EL (Syll A), EL (Syll T)			3 - 12					
	MTL, BMTL			23 Jul - 1 Aug					
Listening Comprehension	EL (Syll T)					3			
	MTL, BMTL					4			
Practical Examination	Computer Applications					11			
Written						3 - 5, 12	1 - 9		

GCE O-Level Examination Dates

Exam Event		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mid-year MTL (Written)		28							
Mid-year MTLB (Written)		29							
Oral	EL				15 - 29				
	MTLB (Mid-year)		28						
	MTL		29	3 - 13					
	CL / ML Bahasa Indonesia / Arabic (Special Programme)				13, 14				
	MTLB (Year-end)					24			
	Foreign Languages							2 - 9	
Listening Comprehension	MTL / MTLB (Mid-year)			17					
	MTLB (Year-end) CL / ML (Special Programme)							15	
	Bahasa Indonesia / Arabic (Special Programme)						12		
	Foreign Languages						12, 24		
Practical Examination	Music Performing					26 - 28	2		
	Science						9 - 18		
Written (Year-end)							8 - 31	1 - 16	

* Examination calendar is accurate as of 29 February 2012

For details (i.e. date, time and duration of papers), please visit our website at www.seab.gov.sg

Examination Calendar 2012*

GCE A-Level Examination Dates

Exam Event		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mid-year MTL (Written)		28							
Oral	MTL			3 - 16					
	MTLB					24			
	Foreign Languages						9 - 11		
Listening Comprehension	MTL			18					
	MTLB								3
	Foreign Languages						19, 22, 25		
Practical Examination	Music Performing						2 - 4		
	Science						23, 30	2	
Written (Year-end)							15 - 31	1 - 30	3

PSLE Examination Dates

Exam Event		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oral	EL / FEL / MT / FMT				16, 17				
	NTIL / FNTIL				17				
Listening Comprehension						14			
Written						27, 28	1 - 3		

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For details (i.e. date, time and duration of papers), please visit our website at www.seab.gov.sg