



1 North Buona Vista Drive
Singapore 138675
Robinson Road P. O. Box 746
Telephone: (65) 6879 6114
Facsimile : (65) 6775 5826
Website : www.moe.gov.sg
Email : contact@moe.edu.sg

Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

6 June 2012
The Editor
Forum Page
Lianhe Zaobao

Dear Editor

1. We refer to the letters published in Lianhe Zaobao entitled “What’s the point of grading this way?” (Mu Rong Xin, 24 May 2012) and “What is the rationale for such marking?” (Liang Yu Hai, 29 May 2012).

2. The Primary Mother Tongue curriculum aims to develop students into proficient language users who can communicate effectively using the language in real-life contexts in various forms – inter-personal communication, listening and reading for comprehension, and presenting in spoken and written forms. Students will continue to be exposed to culture and values through mother tongue instruction. In achieving these goals, Master Teachers and curriculum officers have been working very closely with teachers to develop pedagogical approaches that would bolster students’ confidence in learning, as well as to enable them to enjoy learning. The feedback from the writers has been useful – we will continue to evolve our pedagogical approaches to make the learning of mother tongue attractive to students.

3. We also thank the writer for the specific feedback on answering of comprehension questions. The reading comprehension question aims to assess a candidate’s ability to both comprehend the passage as well as to respond in sentences that are grammatically correct. Candidates would be given full marks if their answers satisfy these two requirements. There is no requirement for the answers to be expressed in any prescribed or predetermined manner and candidates would not be penalized for this reason. We thank the writers for their feedback and we will continue to work closely with our Chinese Language teachers on the marking criteria.

Thank you.

Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching
Director
Curriculum Planning and Development Division
Ministry of Education

Ms Tan Lay Choo
Chief Executive
Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board