

INFO SHEET



Ministry of Education

22 May 2013

Aligning the use of Information and Communication Technology in Teaching, Learning and Assessment of Mother Tongue Languages

1. About 300 first year students from 20 junior colleges will sit the 2013 'A' Level Mother Tongue Language (MTL) B examination, which has a computer-based component, in November 2013.
2. To nurture active learners and proficient users of MTL, the 2010 Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) Review Committee had made several recommendations to enhance the teaching and learning of MTL in schools¹. One of the key recommendations was to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enrich students' learning.
3. The Review Committee also called for greater alignment of teaching and testing so that students are assessed on the knowledge and skills acquired in their course of learning. With computer-based writing as the norm in the workplace and in social communication, students should therefore have opportunities to practise and be assessed on computer-based writing for MTL.
4. In implementing these recommendations, a variety of ICT-based resources, including the iMTL portal², have been developed to support ICT-based teaching and learning. Through authentic language tasks and interactive features, the iMTL portal is designed to enhance students' oral and written interaction skills and supports students using MTL as a living language.
5. To align learning and assessment, computer-based writing will be introduced in Paper 1 (Functional Writing) of the 2013 'A' Level MTL B examination, where students will be required to compose either an email response or a blog entry. Students will key in their responses on a laptop. This section constitutes 20 per cent of the 2013 'A' Level MTL B examination.

¹Details on the MTL Review Committee's recommendations in 2011 can be found at <http://www.moe.gov.sg/media/press/2011/01/enhancing-the-teaching-and-testing-of-mtl.php>.

²Details on the iMTL Portal and its features can be found at <http://www.moe.gov.sg/media/press/2012/08/new-imtl-portal-to-help-students.php>.

6. Short video clips will also be introduced as stimulus in the 'O' and 'A' Levels MTL B oral examinations from 2014, so as to provide more engaging and authentic contexts for oral conversation. Students will have a conversation with the oral examiner after viewing a short video clip depicting various real-life situations such as school events and weekend activities, instead of using pictures.

7. Computer-based writing and video stimulus for oral examinations are new modes of assessment. These will align the national examinations with the curriculum and with the increasing use of ICT in our education system. The Ministry of Education will continue to work with schools and teachers to review and enrich the teaching, learning and assessment of MTL using ICT so as to nurture proficient users of MTL.

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SINGAPORE EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT BOARD