



THE 2020/2021 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PLANS

Diagnostic Assessments for 2020 – (E – Testing)

As a result of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, learning and assessment activities scheduled for the final term of the 2019/2020 school year were not completed as planned. Students, however, were promoted to the next grade level of the education system without the usual formal assessments to inform learning plans.

As the system prepares for the resumption of learning activities, there is a need for diagnostic tests to be administered to determine the readiness of students for the new curriculum targets. Consequently, the teams at Curriculum Support Services and the Student Assessment Unit were tasked with developing a suite of diagnostic assessments for the NSC at Grades 2 to 10. Over 40 assessment instruments were developed over a 5 months period. The process included but was not limited to:

- identification of curriculum clusters
- training in the writing of the diagnostic instruments
- writing of the diagnostic instruments and accompanying scoring guide
- peer reviews
- internal and external reviews
- standardization and preparation of Google Forms
- preparation of the camera-ready copy via Google Forms
- review of Google Forms and alignment of data analysis.

The assessments will be sent to the system as outlined below:

Grade Level	Type of Assessment	Subjects to be assessed	Schools Access Dates
Grades 1-10	School Level - Exam Administration Preparation Phase	As per grade level below	September 14-18, 2020
Grades 7 – 9	Multiple choice	Mathematics Language Arts Science Social Studies Health and Family Life Education	September 28– 30
Grade 10	Multiple Choice	Mathematics Language Arts History Geography	September 28- 30
Grades 2 - 6	Multiple choice	Mathematics Language Arts Integrated Studies Health Family Life Education	September 28 – 30
Grade 1		Grade One Individual Learning Profile	October 5 - 30

*School access dates are the dates the tests will be emailed to the schools.

All diagnostic instruments will be made available, via Google Forms, to schools during the week of September 20 to October 2, 2020. All schools have been issued a Ministry Google Suite email address from which they will have access to all diagnostic tests for their students. Schools without internet access will be sent a printable version of each test. Schools have the option to print the test as access printing service at their regional offices. All Regional Offices have been alerted and are ready to print test forms for schools without the resources.

How will Diagnostic Instruments be delivered?

1. Principals /School administrators will be sent an email with a link for each test. They will share this link in the Google Classroom for each grade. Data on how each child performance will be made available at the end of each test.
2. A Scoring and Interpretation Guide will accompany each test. Teachers will use this to develop their intervention plan.
3. A pdf version of the test will also be sent and can be printed for those students without access to the Google Forms.
4. The tests can be redone at the end of the semester as a post-test to determine if the students have shown improvement over the period.

National Assessments

Due to the amended start of the school term, the MoEYI will adjust the administration of all national assessments in an effort to ensure that the students are exposed to sufficient content to adequately measure the achievement of the NSC. Where necessary, future adjustments will be done based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Primary Exit Profile (PEP)

The Primary Exit Profile (PEP) assessment instruments are designed to ascertain students' performance through demonstration of 21st Century Skills aligned to the National Standards Curriculum (NSC) and will provide an account of the academic profile of each student. PEP will require students to demonstrate their competencies by applying knowledge and skills with emphasis on students' higher order thinking skills such as problem solving, analysis and synthesis.

The Purpose of PEP

- It is used to generate a credible profile of each student
- It provides accurate information about students' knowledge, abilities, and skills across several subject areas
- It provides evidence of students' readiness for Grade 7.
- It functions as a means of placing students in secondary schools and will inform the kind of approach that will be required for their success at the secondary level.

Some benefits of PEP -

- ✓ More valid claims will be made about students.
- ✓ Students' achievement of the curriculum and their progress will be monitored more regularly.
- ✓ More opportunities will be provided for teachers to identify students' strengths and weaknesses and therefore plan lessons to meet the specific needs of students, and to enhance their strengths.
- ✓ Enhance the relationship between assessment and curriculum as well as school – home/community relationship.
- ✓ Students can monitor their own learning

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF PEP?

PEP comprises three components (curriculum based test, ability test and the performance task) that are used to generate each student's profile. This profile when generated provides data on the instructional pathway for students as they transition to the secondary level and allow for targeted learning based on their individual needs.

Curriculum Based Test (CBT)

- Subjects to be assessed are Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.
- Assessed content is based on the objectives in the NSC at Grade 6.
- Consist of selected-response items and constructed-response questions.

Ability Test

- assesses students' aptitude in areas of numeracy and abstract thinking.
- Requires students to read analytically and demonstrate quantitative reasoning skills.
- NOT based on curriculum at Grade 6 but on the general ability and knowledge students are exposed to up to Grade 4. It assesses verbal and quantitative reasoning
- Administered in Grade 6

Performance Task (PT)

- A performance task is an activity or assessment that asks students to solve a problem by demonstrating their knowledge, understanding and proficiency

- Performance Tasks use real world scenarios
- It will require students to apply a variety of skills to complete the task; not just recall of information
- Will be curriculum based and assess students' grasp of concepts, principles and procedures coming from Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies
- Performance Tasks is prepared by the MoEYI and sent to schools
- It is administered once in Grade 4, once in Grade 5 and once in Grade 6.
 - **Grade 4** students do a Performance Task in Language Arts and Mathematics. From the Grade 4 Performance Tasks students' Literacy and Numeracy Index will be established.
 - **Grade 5** students do a Performance Task in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science
 - **Grade 6** students do a Performance Task in Language Arts and Mathematics.

Components for each Grade level:

The overall profile of the students transitioning to high school comprises of ALL components listed below:

Grade 4

Performance Tasks – Language Arts and Mathematics

Grade 5

Performance Tasks – Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies

Grade 6

Ability Test

Performance Tasks – Language Arts and Mathematics

Curriculum Based Tests – Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

Proposed changes in the component for PEP to transition students to high schools for 2020/2021:

What currently exists?

Students who are currently in Grade 6 did not sit the Grade 5 Component of the PEP because of the disruptions caused by the COVID19 pandemic. Therefore, their profile will consist of Grade 4 Performance Tasks done in 2019 and Grade 6 Components of the PEP to be done in 2020/2021.

Grade Level	PEP Components and Administration Dates	PEP Components and Scenarios
Grade 6 2020	<p>Ability Test – Administration Date: February 23, 2021</p> <p>Performance Tasks In Language Arts and Mathematics Administration Dates: March 11 and 12, 2021</p> <p>Curriculum Based Tests in: Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies Administration Dates: April 22 and 23, 2021</p>	<p>Scenario 1 – to be selected if cases of covid19 have declined and teaching and learning is not disrupted further Grade 4 Performance Tasks (Language Arts and Mathematics) done in 2019 E Testing (decision to be taken based on empirical evidence from research conducted) Grade 6 Component - Ability Test, Performance Tasks – Language Arts and Mathematics, Curriculum Based Tests – Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics) to be done in 2021.</p> <p>Scenario 2 - – to be selected if cases of covid19 are still present and increasing, thereby disrupting the teaching and learning process Grade 4 Performance Tasks (Language Arts and Mathematics) done in 2019 E Testing (decision to be taken based on empirical evidence from research conducted)</p> <p>CBT and Ability Test Content for CBT will be derived from Grade 5 (based on data garnered from the diagnostic tests) and from the first term of Grade 6.</p> <p>Scenario 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 4 Performance Tasks (Language Arts and Mathematics) done in 2019

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified CBT to include additional items <p>Cancellation of Performance Tasks.</p> <p>Scenario 4 – Worst case - COVID 19 still present with rapid increase in infection rate to the point where schools may remain closed physically and teaching is suspended for periods of time.</p> <p>Grade 4 Performance Tasks (Language Arts and Mathematics) done in 2019</p> <p>PEP release will be the third Friday in June 2021</p>
Grade 5 2020	<p>Performance Tasks in: Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies</p> <p>Administration Dates: May 27 and 28, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 5 Performance Tasks (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) to be done in 2021 – Worst case scenario this would be cancelled Students will sit ALL four (4) tests: If things are normalised and schools are opened for face to face
Grade 4 2020	<p>Performance Tasks in: Language Arts measuring Literacy index and Mathematics measuring Numeracy index</p> <p>Administration Dates: June 24 and 25, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 4 Performance Tasks (Language Arts and Mathematics) to be done in 2021 - Worst case scenario this would be cancelled. Students will sit BOTH (2) tests: If things are normalised and schools are opened for face to face

Implementation Schedule for PEP Online Registration System

The Student Assessment Unit will implement an online registration for Grade 6 students for 2020/2021 examination period.

School administrators will be trained in using this online method of registering the students for PEP 6. Plans are being finalized for same.

The web platform that will facilitate the online registration of students for the Grade 6 2021 examination will be made available to schools by Thursday, October 15, 2020. Schools will have a minimum of six (6) clear weeks to complete their registration. Therefore, registration will close on Monday, November 30, 2020.

Virtual training of school administrators at the QEC level will commence on Monday, October 12, 2020. The training of school administrators and/or teacher will continue throughout the registration period. School administrators may also request individual training sessions to provide further guidance throughout the registration process.

Overview of the PEP Online Registration System

The PEP Registration website will allow for school administrators to remotely register the students enrolled in their schools for the Grade 4, Grade 5 and Grade 6 PEP Examinations for the first time this year. The registration process for Grade 6 PEP involves the most tasks to be completed and will be scaled back for the Grades 4 and 5 PEP examinations. The Grade 6 PEP Registration involves the following key tasks which are completed by school administrators:

1. Verify the list of candidates by stating who are still attending and those who are no longer attending their schools. The lists of candidates are pre-populated by SAU based on the students who would have sat the previous grade level PEP examination at that school.
2. Add new students who are enrolled in the school by stating their full name, gender, date of birth
3. Assign a class name to each student
4. Specify the students seven (7) high school preferences, in rank order from first to seventh
5. Make corrections to student biographical details (name spelling, gender, date of birth) based on the student's birth certificate record. A copy of the birth certificate is submitted to corroborate the update to the student's information

6. Add the parent/guardian contact information for each student (name, address, contact number and email)

Based on the aforementioned tasks, a dynamic website will be used to manage all data collected and updated during the registration process for the PEP examination. The purpose of the website is to serve as a platform for efficiently and securely collecting and storing all relevant data required for the specific grade level PEP Registration.

The PEP Registration website will operate independent of other applications, but will interface through an APIs with the SAU's internal Examination Registration Data Management (ERDM) system, whenever this is activated by SAU authorized personnel or automatically at a frequency that can be set in the system.

The following is the estimated structure of the PEP Registration website:

1. Log in page
2. Home Page/ Landing Page
3. Four (4) Dynamic Pages:
 - a. List of Candidates
 - b. Individual Student Form
 - c. Register Teacher
 - d. Assignment of Class

The PEP Registration website will have the following functions:

- i. Allow school personnel to indicate the students who are eligible for the PEP examination
- ii. Allow school personnel to add new students to their list of candidates or request transfer of students from another school
- iii. Allow school personnel to register class teachers' names and assign each student to a class
- iv. Enable school personnel to select the 7 preference schools for each student
- v. Enable school personnel to enter parent/ guardian information for each student
- vi. Enable school personnel to enter comments for each student's record
- vii. From the above data, generate comprehensive school summary report on the registration information being submitted for each student to the SAU

- viii. Have school summary report export capability
- ix. Make a request for corrections to be made to student biographical information (name, gender, date of birth)
- x. Allow school personnel to upload pdf versions of documents for each student (for example, birth certificate, psycho-educational evaluation reports, medical reports and letters from parents etc.)
- xi. Enable school personnel to view students' status and results from the previous year's examination
- xii. Enable SAU to perform central system administration functions
- xiii. Enable schools to perform school- level system administration functions.

Assessment Schedule

The following assessments will be done during the 2020/2021 academic year

EXAMINATIONS	DATES
Early Childhood Age 4 Assessment	March 15, 2021 – April 15, 2021
Primary Exit Profile (PEP) Ability Test (Grade 6)	February 23, 2021
Primary Exit Profile (PEP) Performance Tasks (Grade 6)	March 11 and 12, 2021
Primary Exit Profile (PEP) CBT (Grade 6)	April 22 and 23, 2021
Grade 5 Performance Task	May 27 and 28, 2021
Grade 4 Performance Task	June 24 and 25, 2021
Grade Three Diagnostic	June 10 and 11, 2021
Jamaica School Certificate (JSC)	July 5 – 8, 2021
Grade One Individual Learning Profile (GOILP)	Oct 5-31, 2020