



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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6 May 2022

To: Heads of all primary and secondary schools, excluding Heads of ESF and International Schools

Dear Principal,

**Arrangement for the
“Gainful Use of Territory-wide System Assessment 2022 Materials”**

This circular letter aims to invite all local schools to participate in the “Gainful Use of Territory-wide System Assessment 2022 Materials” arrangement (“Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials”), which is commissioned by the Education Bureau (EDB) and organised by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) and the Hong Kong Education City (EdCity).

Background and Purpose

2. In view of the volatility of the COVID-19 epidemic, the EDB announced on 14 February 2022 to suspend the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) 2022 (including all speaking assessments and pen-and-paper assessments) so that schools can make the most out of the remaining school year to conduct face-to-face lessons. With reference to the experience of the past two years, the EDB will implement the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” to enable schools to gainfully use the TSA 2022 assessment materials¹, which are readily prepared and consolidated by the HKEAA, with a view to timely obtaining the relatively objective and quality data to understand the impact on the learning situations of students under the epidemic, as well as

¹ As in the past two years, the HKEAA has compiled the TSA 2022 assessment items of the three subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics into several sets of assessment materials and will upload them onto the STAR Platform for schools’ deployment. Schools can also use the printed version of the assessment materials based on their school-based situations.

following up on their learning support needs. At the same time, the EDB will, without identifying individual schools, teachers, parents or / and students through any information or data, obtain the overall data at the system-level of students at Primary 3 (P3), Primary 6 (P6) and Secondary 3 (S3) to understand how the epidemic and the class suspensions have affected the overall learning situations and the mastering of the basic competency of these students.

Enhancing Assessment Literacy

3. Upon the resumption of face-to-face lessons, schools may have different priorities in handling teaching and school affairs, but attempts to understand students' learning progress are of paramount importance. The arrangement for the "Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials" would, through the various performance analyses provided on the Student Assessment Repository (STAR) Platform, enable teachers to identify students' strengths and weaknesses timely, and provide corresponding support and guidance, or adjust the curriculum plans for the next school year based on the assessment feedback. Meanwhile, the STAR Platform is able to provide students with the **instant individual assessment report**, which would enable parents to understand their children's learning situations more objectively, and thus enhance home-school cooperation and strengthen the understanding of basic competency and assessment literacy by various stakeholders. Besides, schools can also opt to participate in the arrangement in the pen-and-paper mode. The HKEAA will continue to mark the various sub-papers (i.e. the reading, writing and listening papers of language subjects and all sub-papers of Mathematics)² for these schools. Additionally, the "Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials" consists of a questionnaire survey, of which the related analyses would also enable schools to review the teaching arrangements and effectiveness during the epidemic from multiple perspectives.

4. As in the past two years, schools may decide whether to participate in this arrangement according to the school-based situations. We hope that schools would proactively participate in the arrangement to understand students' learning situation, as well as assisting the HKEAA to collect sufficient data to provide the school sector with analyses of higher reference value on students' performance at the system level. With regard to the P6 TSA, schools can participate in the P6 assessment in an even-numbered year on a voluntary basis. Nevertheless, we hope that schools can also arrange the P6 students to participate in the arrangement as far as possible to understand their learning progress.

Summary of Arrangements for the "Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials"

5. Upon consolidating the experience of the "Gainful Use of TSA Materials" arrangement of past years, the "Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials" has been

² The HKEAA will also mark the Writing sub-papers of the language subjects for the schools which are using the STAR online platform.

enhanced under the original framework. The entire arrangement is summarised as below –

(a) Comprehensive assessment data

- Schools participating in the assessment of the language subjects need to complete the sub-papers of reading, writing and listening, with a view to assisting schools to understand students' learning progress comprehensively;
- Schools can opt for the mode and subject for participation in the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” and enroll via the online form of the HKEAA. The related enrollment period is extended to four weeks; and
- Arranging schools to use the assessment materials within the designated 5 days based on class levels, with a view to fulfilling the requirement of statistical data collection and maintaining the quality of the data.

(b) Continuous technical support

- Trial assessment materials will be provided on the STAR Platform in May and June to familiarise teachers with the platform operation when conducting the assessments;
- Providing technical support for the STAR Platform (e.g. EdCity account setting, operational guidelines of STAR); and
- Uploading the related workshops / seminars about the STAR Platform to the webpage of the EdCity for review.

(c) Assessment feedback

- The performance analysis at “School Level” will be provided to participating schools by phases starting from early August 2022 the earliest. The performance analysis at “All Participating School Level” will be provided to participating schools in late October 2022.
- Some schools reflected that they would like to obtain the average percentage of correct responses of each sub-paper. The average percentage of correct responses of each sub-paper of “Individual Participating Schools” and “All Participating Schools” will be provided to participating schools starting from late October 2022.

- The EDB, HKEAA and EdCity will also organise related seminars / sharing sessions and workshops. Please refer to the details of the above at **Annex 1**.

Enrollment

6. The “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” is comprised of **two parts**, which are (i) the use of the assessment materials and (ii) completion of the related questionnaire survey respectively. Schools which are interested to join have to choose the date(s), mode and subject(s) of using the assessment materials and arranging the completion of the related questionnaire survey via the **online form (the link or QR code at Annex 2)** provided by the HKEAA, and submit it to the HKEAA **on or before 2 June 2022**.

7. At the same time, participating schools have to update the information of the P3 / S3 students or / and upload the information of the P6 students at the Basic Competency Assessment Website (<http://www.bca.hkeaa.edu.hk>) of the HKEAA **on or before 2 June 2022**. The Web-based School Administration and Management System (WebSAMS) will also be available for schools to upload the information of the P6 students. Please note that schools participating via the STAR Online Mode are required to update the account information of the students on the website of EdCity.

Details and Support for the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials”

8. The further detailed arrangements of the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” are as follows –

Part 1: Using the Assessment Materials

		Suggestions / Points to Note
Applicable Period	Primary 3 / Primary 6 / Secondary 3 18 July 2022 (Monday) – 22 July (Friday) 2022 <i>(25 July (Monday) is a fallback date)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When filling in the online enrollment form, schools can choose to use the assessment materials on <u>any date(s) within the applicable period</u> according to the school-based schedule. • Wherever possible, schools should arrange students to use the assessment materials <u>at school</u>. • If schools cannot participate in the assessment during 18 – 22 July, they can contact the HKEAA for alternative

		arrangements. However, we encourage schools to participate in assessments during the above-mentioned period as far as possible.
Subject	<p>Chinese Language (Reading, Writing <u>and</u> Listening)</p> <p><i>Time for using the assessment materials³</i> Primary 3: Reading (25 mins) / Writing (40 mins) / Listening (around 20 mins)</p> <p>Primary 6: Reading (30 mins) / Writing (55 mins) / Listening (around 20 mins)</p> <p>Secondary 3: Reading (30 mins) / Writing (75 mins) / Listening (around 20 mins)</p> <p>English Language (Reading, Writing <u>and</u> Listening)</p> <p><i>Time for using the assessment materials⁴</i> Primary 3: Reading (20 mins) / Writing (10 mins) / Listening (around 20 mins)</p> <p>Primary 6: Reading (30 mins) / Writing (20 mins) / Listening (around 30 mins)</p> <p>Secondary 3: Reading (35 mins) / Writing (40 mins) / Listening (around 35 mins)</p> <p>Mathematics</p> <p><i>Time for using the assessment materials⁵</i> Primary 3: 40 mins (pen-and-paper) / 35 mins (STAR) Primary 6: 50 mins (pen-and-paper) / 45 mins (STAR) Secondary 3: 65 mins (pen-and-paper) / 50 mins (STAR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools can opt for using the assessment materials of Chinese Language, English Language or / and Mathematics according to the school-based needs. • With a view to understanding students' learning situations in language subjects more comprehensively, students need to complete all the sub-papers (i.e. Reading, Writing and Listening) of the language subjects.
Mode	<p>STAR Online Mode <i>All subjects and sub-papers (except for the Writing sub-paper of language subjects)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students' submitted answers will be marked by the system of the STAR Platform automatically (except for the

³ Counting only the time for students to use the assessment materials but excluding the time needed for steps such as logging into the STAR Platform, etc.

⁴ Counting only the time for students to use the assessment materials but excluding the time needed for steps such as logging into the STAR Platform, etc.

⁵ Counting only the time for students to use the assessment materials but excluding the time needed for steps such as logging in to the STAR Platform, etc. As the assessment materials of the pen-and-paper mode and STAR online mode are comprised of different items, the assessment time is slightly different. However, both cover more or less the same Basic Competency Descriptors.

	<p>Pen-and-Paper Mode <i>All subjects and sub-papers</i></p>	<p>Writing sub-paper of language subjects).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If schools would like to obtain feedback within a short period of time, they should opt for using the assessment materials via the “STAR Online Mode”. • With regard to the listening assessment of the language subjects, schools may choose to use the centralised broadcasting to allow the whole class (or other special groups set up on the STAR Platform) to conduct the listening assessment(s) together, as well as choosing to arrange students to complete the listening assessment(s) during the corresponding applicable period. • If schools opt for participating via the “Pen-and-Paper Mode”, the HKEAA will provide the schools with the printed version of the assessment materials two to three days before the assessment and collect the assessment materials on the last day of the assessment or the day after. • The HKEAA will mark the completed assessment materials (including the Writing sub-paper of the language subjects) of the “Pen-and-Paper Mode”.
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Part 2: Completing the related questionnaire survey

- The HKEAA will collaborate with the research team of a tertiary institution to analyse the assessment data and the questionnaire survey information obtained from the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” arrangement and to holistically understand the learning situations and effectiveness of **overall students under the epidemic**. The target of the questionnaires includes schools, teachers, students and parents. Schools can arrange students to complete the questionnaires at home.

There are Chinese and English versions of the questionnaires, and it is expected to take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

- School Questionnaire and Teacher Questionnaire are online questionnaires while Student questionnaire and Parent questionnaire are printed questionnaires. The HKEAA will provide schools with the link of the online questionnaires and the printed version of the questionnaires **on or before 4 July 2022**, and expect schools to complete the questionnaires **on or before 29 July 2022 (Friday)**. The HKEAA will arrange couriers to collect the completed questionnaires from schools **on 1 August 2022 (Monday)**.
- The information obtained from the questionnaire survey **will not affect students' academic results at school or result reports**. The HKEAA **will not announce or publicise the responses from individual schools, teachers, parents or students**. The EDB **will not receive information that can identify individual schools, teachers, parents or students**. Parent consent should be obtained for student participation.

Providing Schools with Support for Participating in the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials”

9. During May and June, the EDB, HKEAA and EdCity will provide schools with the trial arrangement (applicable to the STAR Online Mode), technical support, workshops and talks of the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” with a view to familiarising schools with the arrangement of this year, learning more about the operation of the STAR Platform, as well as enhancing the understanding of assessment literacy. In July, the EDB, HKEAA and EdCity will also assist schools in handling problems and enquiries encountered when using the assessment materials or completing the questionnaires during the assessment period of individual class levels. Information of the related support and activities is follows –

- (May / June) Assisting schools in handling the EdCity accounts to use the STAR Platform (EdCity)
- (May / June) The trial arrangement (**applicable** to the STAR Online Mode⁶) of the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” (EDB, HKEAA, EdCity)
- (Every week in mid-May to mid-July or on a need basis) “Workshops on STAR” (EdCity)

10. Furthermore, since October 2020, the assessment resources of the STAR Platform has been developing to cover the basic competency and full curriculum. The related “Web-based Learning and Teaching Support (WLTS) has also updated 100

⁶ Under the trial arrangement, teachers can log in to the STAR Platform via the “individual teacher accounts” to experience the procedures and arrangements of the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” this year, including the trial of distributing the assessment materials to students on the platform, allowing students to complete the trial assessment materials and submit answers.

online interactive games (Please refer to details at **Annex 3**). We encourage schools to experience the latest development of the two platforms and gainfully use the newly added resources.

Arrangements of Briefing Sessions and Calendar

11. With a view to facilitating schools’ understanding on the details of the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials”, the EDB, HKEAA and EdCity will organise briefing sessions (conducted in online mode). The HKEAA will arrange school representatives to attend the briefing sessions according to the sequence of schools returning the Reply Slip (The link and QR code for enrollment of the Briefing Sessions are at **Annex 2**).

Arrangements of Briefing Sessions

	First Event	Second Event	Third Event
Date	16 May 2022 (Monday)	17 May 2022 (Tuesday)	18 May 2022 (Wednesday)
Time	2:15 pm – 4:15 pm	2:15 pm – 4:15 pm	2:15 pm – 4:15 pm
Venue	Online mode		
Target	Principals, Vice-principals, Panel Heads of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics and IT Coordinators of primary and secondary schools		
Quota	4 representatives at most from each school at each event The three events of the briefing sessions are identical. Each school can arrange teaching staff to attend different events of the briefing sessions in batches. The HKEAA will send confirmation emails to those who successfully enrolled one working day prior to the related events of the briefing sessions.		

12. The calendar of the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” are at **Annex 2** for schools’ reference.

Enquiries

13. We eagerly look forward to your school’s attendance of the above-mentioned briefing sessions and active participation in the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials” arrangement (especially the STAR Online Mode). For enquiries, please contact the following colleagues of the EDB, EdCity and HKEAA –

General enquiry on the “Gainful Use of TSA 2022 Materials”:
Service Hotline of the HKEAA
(Tel.: 3628 8181 (primary schools) / 3628 8191 (secondary schools))

Enquiry on the operation of STAR Platform and technical support:
Service Hotline of the EdCity (Tel.: 2624 1000)

Enquiry on general policy on assessment:

Ms Cassia YU, Assistant Secretary of the EDB (Tel.: 3165 1197)



(Ms Wendy AU)
for Secretary for Education

c.c.

Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum Development), Education Bureau

Principal Assistant Secretary (Quality Assurance), Education Bureau

Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum Support), Education Bureau

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

Hong Kong Education City