

**Use of the Hong Kong Attainment Tests for diagnostic purposes**

**(taken from the Hong Kong Attainment Test Junior Secondary Series II English Teacher's Handbook with slight adaptations)**

**I. Testing Areas**

Questions are set on the following language aspects: -

1. Functions - pupils' ability to give correct responses in dialogue.
2. Forms - pupils' ability to appreciate the basic forms and structures of the English language including the verbs, vocabulary, prepositions and sentence structures.
3. Reading Comprehension - pupils' ability to give correct responses or carry out tasks according to information given.
4. Writing - pupils' ability to write in simple, correct English according to cues given.
5. Integrated Activity - pupils' ability to complete integrated reading and writing tasks. This is for JS 2 and JS 3 only.
6. Listening Comprehension - pupils' ability to respond to oral English by selecting the right answer from options given or completing some tasks as required.

**II. Distribution of Items among Various Testing Areas**

The distribution of test items on these different language aspects, the score of each section and the total score of each test are shown as follows: -

| Testing Area                                       | Secondary 1 Test B (JS 1B) |  |       | Secondary 2 (JS 2) |  |       | Secondary 3 (JS 3) |   |       |
|--|----------------------------|--|-------|--------------------|--|-------|--------------------|---|-------|
|  | Section                    | No. of Items   | Score | Section            | No. of Items                           | Score | Section            | No. of Items                              | Score |
| 1. Functions                                       | A                          | 15   | 15    | A                  | 10                                     | 10    | A                  | 10  | 10    |
| 2. Forms   | B                          | 15   | 15    | B                  | 10                                     | 10    | B                  | 10  | 10    |
| 3. Reading Comprehension                           | C                          | 15   | 25    | C                  | 9                                      | 18    | C                  | 9   | 18    |
| 4. Writing   | D                          | a letter of about 40 words and a composition of about 50 words | 25    | D                  | a composition of about 80 words        | 18    | D                  | a composition of about 100-120 words      | 18    |
| 5. Integrated Activity (reading and writing tasks) | -                          | -  | -     | E                  | 3 items and a letter of about 50 words | 30    | E                  | 3 items and a paragraph of about 50 words | 30    |
| 6. Listening Comprehension                         | E                          | 10   | 20    | F                  | 14                                     | 14    | F                  | 14  | 14    |
| Total  |                            | 55 + 2 pieces of writing                                       | 100   |                    | 46 + 2 pieces of writing               | 100   |                    | 46 + 2 pieces of writing                  | 100   |

The new JS 1A Test (Series II) will be ready for use in the 1997 - 98 school year. The corresponding Teacher's Handbook containing the Norm Table for the new JS 1A Test (Series II) will not be available until around April 1998.

**III. Interpretation of Test Results**

After marking the tests, teachers can compare their pupils' scores with those of the standardisation sample of the same level by referring to the Statistical

## Information in the Norm Tables.

### 1. Comparison by Mean Score

For instance, a pupil's raw score can be compared against the mean scores listed by level below: -

| Test | JS 1B | JS 2  | JS 3  |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mean | 46.14 | 38.67 | 40.06 |

### 2. Comparison by Percentile

From Norm Table 1, teachers can find out the relative standing of each pupil among the pupils in the standardisation sample of the same level. For example, according to Table 1, the percentile of an S.1 pupil who got a raw score of 56 in JS 1B test is 62.1. This means that 62.1% of the pupils in the standardisation sample achieved that particular level of score or a level lower than that. In other words, about 37.9% of the pupils scored higher marks than this S.1 pupil in the same test.

### 3. Comparison by Standardised Score

A comparison of the performance of a pupil in different tests can be made on the basis of the standardised score. The mean of the standardised score found in the norm tables is 100. Should a pupil get a standardised score of above 100, he has an above average standard. If he should have a standardised score of below 100, his standard is below the average. For example, if an S.1 pupil had standardised scores of 96.29, 100.53 and 110.37 in the Mathematics test, the English test and the Chinese test respectively, then his level of achievement would be slightly below average in Mathematics, average in English, and above average in Chinese.

### 4. Reading Test Results for Diagnostic Purposes

To diagnose pupils' weak areas in the language so as to plan for remedial teaching, teachers can look for the appropriate percentile in Table 2. For example, an S.1 pupil had the following results in JS 1B test: -

| Testing Area | Functions | Forms | Reading Comprehension | Writing | Listening Comprehension |
|--------------|-----------|-------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Raw Score    | 3         | 4     | 13                    | 11      | 9                       |
| Percentile   | 20.5      | 34.8  | 51.6                  | 58.5    | 55.0                    |

They reveal that in Reading Comprehension, Writing and Listening Comprehension, the pupil had a standard comparable to that of the average pupils in the standardisation sample but he was relatively weak in Functions and Forms.

### 5. Glossary

(a) Raw Score

The score given by a teacher after marking according to the answer key and the marking scheme is called the raw score.

(b) Standardised Score

It is inappropriate to draw direct comparison of a pupil's performance in different tests in terms of the raw scores because they have not been standardised. Before valid comparison can be made, it is necessary to convert the raw scores to scores on a common scale. Standardised score is a kind of such common-scale score.

In this handbook, the mean and the standard deviation of the standardised scores are 100 and 15 respectively. For example, in Table 1, a raw score of 33 is equivalent to a standardised score of 91.95.

(c) Percentile

The percentile provides information of the relative standing of a score in a distribution. The percentile of a test score is the percentage of scores in the distribution that falls at or below that score. Percentile ranges from 1 to 100. For example, in Table 1, the percentile of a raw score of 29 is 30. This indicates that in the standardisation sample, 30% of the pupils have a raw score of 29 marks or less.

Table 1

**Hong Kong Attainment Test  
(Junior Secondary Series II)  
JS 1B English  
Norm Table**

| Raw Score | Standardised Score | Percentile | Raw Score | Standardised Score | Percentile |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| 0         | 71.74              | 0.2        | 51        | 102.98             | 55.9       |
| 1         | 72.35              | 0.4        | 52        | 103.59             | 56.8       |
| 2         | 72.97              | 0.8        | 53        | 104.20             | 58.2       |
| 3         | 73.58              | 1.4        | 54        | 104.81             | 59.8       |
| 4         | 74.19              | 2.1        | 55        | 105.43             | 60.9       |
| 5         | 74.80              | 2.8        | 56        | 106.04             | 62.1       |
| 6         | 75.42              | 3.7        | 57        | 106.65             | 63.3       |
| 7         | 76.03              | 5.0        | 58        | 107.26             | 64.1       |
| 8         | 76.64              | 6.1        | 59        | 107.88             | 65.7       |
| 9         | 77.25              | 7.0        | 60        | 108.49             | 66.7       |
| 10        | 77.87              | 8.3        | 61        | 109.10             | 67.9       |
| 11        | 78.48              | 9.6        | 62        | 109.71             | 69.0       |
| 12        | 79.09              | 10.8       | 63        | 110.33             | 70.4       |
| 13        | 79.70              | 12.0       | 64        | 110.94             | 71.7       |
| 14        | 80.32              | 12.9       | 65        | 111.55             | 73.0       |
| 15        | 80.93              | 14.0       | 66        | 112.16             | 74.1       |
| 16        | 81.54              | 15.1       | 67        | 112.78             | 75.6       |
| 17        | 82.15              | 16.0       | 68        | 113.39             | 77.3       |
| 18        | 82.77              | 17.4       | 69        | 114.00             | 78.6       |
| 19        | 83.38              | 18.6       | 70        | 114.61             | 80.2       |
| 20        | 83.99              | 20.2       | 71        | 115.23             | 81.5       |
| 21        | 84.60              | 21.1       | 72        | 115.84             | 82.6       |
| 22        | 85.22              | 22.0       | 73        | 116.45             | 83.9       |
| 23        | 85.83              | 23.4       | 74        | 117.06             | 84.9       |
| 24        | 86.44              | 24.3       | 75        | 117.68             | 86.2       |
| 25        | 87.05              | 25.6       | 76        | 118.29             | 87.2       |
| 26        | 87.67              | 26.6       | 77        | 118.90             | 88.4       |
| 27        | 88.28              | 27.8       | 78        | 119.51             | 89.3       |
| 28        | 88.89              | 28.8       | 79        | 120.13             | 90.5       |
| 29        | 89.50              | 30.0       | 80        | 120.74             | 91.6       |
| 30        | 90.12              | 31.3       | 81        | 121.35             | 93.0       |
| 31        | 90.73              | 32.1       | 82        | 121.96             | 93.9       |
| 32        | 91.34              | 33.1       | 83        | 122.58             | 94.9       |
| 33        | 91.95              | 34.4       | 84        | 123.19             | 95.5       |
| 34        | 92.57              | 35.4       | 85        | 123.80             | 96.2       |
| 35        | 93.18              | 36.2       | 86        | 124.41             | 96.7       |
| 36        | 93.79              | 37.8       | 87        | 125.03             | 97.6       |
| 37        | 94.40              | 39.3       | 88        | 125.64             | 98.3       |
| 38        | 95.02              | 40.0       | 89        | 126.25             | 98.8       |
| 39        | 95.63              | 41.4       | 90        | 126.86             | 99.0       |
| 40        | 96.24              | 42.6       | 91        | 127.47             | 99.1       |
| 41        | 96.85              | 43.5       | 92        | 128.09             | 99.4       |
| 42        | 97.47              | 44.5       | 93        | 128.70             | 99.5       |
| 43        | 98.08              | 46.0       | 94        | 129.31             | 99.7       |
| 44        | 98.69              | 47.2       | 95        | 129.92             | 99.8       |
| 45        | 99.30              | 48.5       | 96        | 130.54             | 99.9       |
| 46        | 99.91              | 49.6       | 97        | 131.15             | 100.0      |
| 47        | 100.53             | 51.0       | 98        | 131.76             | 100.0      |
| 48        | 101.14             | 52.1       | 99        | 132.37             | 100.0      |
| 49        | 101.75             | 53.2       | 100       | 132.99             | 100.0      |
| 50        | 102.36             | 54.5       |           |                    |            |

Table 2

**Hong Kong Attainment Test  
(Junior Secondary Series II)  
JS 1B English  
Norm Table (By Testing Area)**

| Raw Score | Standardised Score           | Percentile | Raw Score | Standardised Score             | Percentile |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|
|           | <i>Functions</i>             |            | 20        | 113.52                         | 75.4       |
| 0         | 73.30                        | 2.1        | 21        | 115.46                         | 83.2       |
| 1         | 76.45                        | 7.2        | 22        | 117.39                         | 84.0       |
| 2         | 79.60                        | 13.7       | 23        | 119.33                         | 93.5       |
| 3         | 82.75                        | 20.5       | 24        | 121.27                         | 93.7       |
| 4         | 85.90                        | 27.2       | 25        | 123.20                         | 100.0      |
| 5         | 89.05                        | 33.5       |           | <i>Writing</i>                 |            |
| 6         | 92.20                        | 39.2       | 0         | 77.46                          | 12.8       |
| 7         | 95.35                        | 44.6       | 1         | 79.87                          | 15.8       |
| 8         | 98.49                        | 49.5       | 2         | 82.27                          | 19.6       |
| 9         | 101.64                       | 54.2       | 3         | 84.68                          | 23.7       |
| 10        | 104.79                       | 59.5       | 4         | 87.09                          | 27.8       |
| 11        | 107.94                       | 65.4       | 5         | 89.50                          | 31.5       |
| 12        | 111.09                       | 71.6       | 6         | 91.91                          | 35.0       |
| 13        | 114.24                       | 77.9       | 7         | 94.32                          | 39.1       |
| 14        | 117.39                       | 86.2       | 8         | 96.73                          | 43.7       |
| 15        | 120.54                       | 100.0      | 9         | 99.14                          | 48.4       |
|           | <i>Forms</i>                 |            | 10        | 101.55                         | 53.5       |
| 0         | 72.38                        | 2.3        | 11        | 103.96                         | 58.5       |
| 1         | 76.67                        | 7.3        | 12        | 106.37                         | 64.8       |
| 2         | 80.96                        | 15.1       | 13        | 108.78                         | 71.7       |
| 3         | 85.25                        | 24.1       | 14        | 111.19                         | 76.6       |
| 4         | 89.54                        | 34.8       | 15        | 113.60                         | 82.0       |
| 5         | 93.83                        | 43.0       | 16        | 116.01                         | 86.2       |
| 6         | 98.11                        | 51.4       | 17        | 118.42                         | 90.1       |
| 7         | 102.40                       | 59.7       | 18        | 120.83                         | 92.8       |
| 8         | 106.69                       | 68.9       | 19        | 123.24                         | 95.4       |
| 9         | 110.98                       | 77.6       | 20        | 125.65                         | 97.3       |
| 10        | 115.27                       | 85.3       | 21        | 128.06                         | 98.9       |
| 11        | 119.55                       | 92.0       | 22        | 130.47                         | 99.6       |
| 12        | 123.84                       | 96.1       | 23        | 132.88                         | 99.8       |
| 13        | 128.13                       | 98.6       | 24        | 135.29                         | 99.9       |
| 14        | 132.42                       | 99.7       | 25        | 137.70                         | 100.0      |
| 15        | 136.71                       | 100.0      |           | <i>Listening Comprehension</i> |            |
|           | <i>Reading Comprehension</i> |            | 0         | 76.73                          | 9.3        |
| 0         | 74.80                        | 5.2        | 1         | 79.38                          | 9.4        |
| 1         | 76.73                        | 8.2        | 2         | 82.03                          | 18.6       |
| 2         | 78.67                        | 12.5       | 3         | 84.68                          | 18.9       |
| 3         | 80.60                        | 15.1       | 4         | 87.33                          | 29.1       |
| 4         | 82.54                        | 18.5       | 5         | 89.99                          | 29.3       |
| 5         | 84.48                        | 22.1       | 6         | 92.64                          | 40.9       |
| 6         | 86.41                        | 25.3       | 7         | 95.29                          | 42.0       |
| 7         | 88.35                        | 28.8       | 8         | 97.94                          | 53.5       |
| 8         | 90.29                        | 32.4       | 9         | 100.59                         | 55.0       |
| 9         | 92.22                        | 36.6       | 10        | 103.25                         | 63.7       |
| 10        | 94.16                        | 39.9       | 11        | 105.90                         | 65.6       |
| 11        | 96.09                        | 44.8       | 12        | 108.55                         | 73.5       |
| 12        | 98.03                        | 47.3       | 13        | 111.20                         | 75.3       |
| 13        | 99.97                        | 51.6       | 14        | 113.85                         | 81.3       |
| 14        | 101.90                       | 53.6       | 15        | 116.51                         | 83.9       |
| 15        | 103.84                       | 58.6       | 16        | 119.16                         | 89.0       |
| 16        | 105.78                       | 60.6       | 17        | 121.81                         | 91.8       |
| 17        | 107.71                       | 65.8       | 18        | 124.46                         | 95.1       |
| 18        | 109.65                       | 67.4       | 19        | 127.11                         | 97.3       |
| 19        | 111.58                       | 74.2       | 20        | 129.77                         | 100.0      |