

# Understanding TSA

## Objective



TSA assesses students' Basic Competencies so as to help them build a solid foundation for effective learning at the next key stage

Basic Competencies, which are essential knowledge that students should acquire, are part of the curriculum and covered in daily teaching

## Design

A low-stake assessment

**For students:** Not providing assessment results of individual students  
No implications on Secondary School Places Allocation

**For schools:** Not used to evaluate schools

(Removed from External School Review; not affecting promotion to a higher level or Secondary School Places Allocation; not for school ranking, assessing the performance of schools and teachers or closing down schools)

## Support for TSA

- Online assessment item bank Student Assessment Repository (STAR) (<http://star.hkedcity.net>)
- Ready-made teaching materials Web-based Learning and Teaching Support (WLTS) (<http://wlts.edb.hkedcity.net>)

## For Schools

Strengthening support for students and refining teaching strategies

## Myths about TSA

### Myth 1

**Does TSA affect the allocation of Secondary 1 school places or school ranking?**

TSA is not an assessment for individuals. It **does not provide assessment results of individual students**. It does not affect promotion to a higher level or Secondary School Places Allocation. TSA is **not for school ranking**, assessing the performance of schools and teachers or closing down schools.

### Myth 2

**Why is it necessary to conduct TSA while schools have internal examinations?**

While **school examinations** help schools understand students' performance in various subjects, these **alone do not suffice** because **levels of difficulty in school examinations vary** among schools and **students' standards are not fully reflected**. TSA serves as an **objective reference tool** that enables schools to know the overall performance of students and take timely follow-up actions.

### Myth 3

**Are TSA questions tricky and difficult?**

- A comprehensive review was conducted in 2016. **Assessment papers and question design have been improved**. The questions are now more straightforward and relevant to students' learning experience.
- TSA past papers are available **at the HKEAA website for public's free browsing and downloading**.

### Myth 4

**How should schools/parents prepare for TSA?**

The scope of TSA is part of the curriculum and **covered in daily teaching**. **Extra preparation or supplementary exercises are not required**.