

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**.