



## Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes

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### LETTER CIRCULAR

**Information:** X **Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
**Action Required:** X **Ref:** DLAP 054/2018  
**To:** All College Principals, Heads of State Primary and Secondary Schools and Sections  
**From:** Director, Learning and Assessment Programmes  
**Subject:** Teaching, Learning and Assessment following the New Sectorial Agreement 2017

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College Principals, Heads of School and Teachers are kindly informed that following the Government of Malta and Malta Union of Teachers sectorial agreement signed on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017, the subsequent changes in teaching, learning and assessment will be implemented in all state schools.

#### **Kinder 1, Year 3 and Year 7 (Form 1)**

- New syllabi will be introduced in Kinder 1, Year 3 and Year 7 (Form 1) in all subjects as from scholastic year 2018-2019. These syllabi have been revised by Education Officers and Heads of Departments (in the case of Year 7) following the consultation meetings held with educators in April/May 2017. Training sessions/workshops for educators will be held in the coming months and during the last session of inset courses in July 2018.

#### **Changes in Assessment in the Primary Cycle**

- In Early Years up till Primary Year 3, assessment will continue to be in the form of continuous assessment and reporting on broad competences to the parents. Parents will be receiving termly reports on the broad competences of their children.
- As from scholastic year 2018-2019, the Half-Yearly examinations in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be substituted with teacher-led continuous assessment, which will provide 40% of the annual examination mark in Mathematics, English and Maltese in Years 4 and 5. A review of the End of Primary Benchmark is presently being conducted.
- As from scholastic year 2018-2019, the Half-Yearly and Annual Examination for Religion and Social Studies will be substituted with teacher-led continuous assessment in Years 4, 5 and 6.
- Science will be assessed in Year 6, as part of the End of Primary Benchmark, as from 2021-2022.
- All annual examinations will continue to be set nationally by Education Officers and Heads of Departments through the Education Assessment Unit.

## **Changes in Assessment in Middle and Secondary Cycles**

- As from scholastic year 2018-2019, the Half-Yearly examination in Year 7 and 8 (Form 1 and 2) will be substituted by teacher-led continuous assessment. This assessment will provide a percentage of the annual examination mark in all subjects except Home Economics, Music, Art, Design & Technology, and PSCD, where the present assessment system will be kept. The percentage weight of the continuous assessment and the annual examinations will be communicated per subject by the Education Officer.
- As from scholastic year 2019-2020, the Half-Yearly examination in Year 9 (Form 3) will be substituted by two school-based assessment tasks which will form part of the SEC syllabus and examination. These school-based assessment tasks will be teacher-led. Appropriate exemplars together with a marking rubric to be provided in the new SEC syllabus of each subject. In the following scholastic year 2020-2021, the Half-Yearly examination in Year 10 (Form 4) will also be replaced by two school-based assessment tasks. In scholastic year 2021-2022, in Year 11 (Form 5), one school-based assessment will be conducted.
- As from scholastic year 2021-2022, a national mock examination in Year 11 (Form 5) will be conducted in February/March. This examination will be provided by the Education Officers and Heads of Departments through the Education Assessment Unit. The Secondary Education Certificate examinations (SEC) will then be conducted in May/June, in schools.
- All annual examinations will continue to be set nationally by Education Officers and Heads of Departments through the Educational Assessment Unit.
- All VET subjects will keep the present structure of continuous and summative assessment.

**Training sessions/workshops for all grades of educators related to the above changes will start as from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018, as per separate Letter Circular to be issued shortly.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Gaetano Bugeja**  
**Director, Learning and Assessment Programmes**