



GENERAL

"Every Child Can Learn... Every Child Must Learn"

Schools' Bulletin

**ATTENTION: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMEN AND PRINCIPALS
OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS**

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRIMARY EXIT PROFILE (PEP) EXAMINATION

Dear Colleagues,

As of February 26, 2019 the Ministry of Education Youth and Information will implement the New National Assessment Programme. The Primary Exit Profile will be administered annually in all primary level institutions at Grades 4, 5 and 6.

For the academic year 2018/2019, the first component to be tested is the Ability Test for Grade 6 which will be administered, February 26, 2019. It will measure students' ability to reason with words and quantities (Quantitative and Verbal Reasoning). It represents 30% of students' profile. This test consists of 40 Single Select Multiple Choice Items. Students will complete the test in Test booklets (similar in layout as in the Practice papers distributed to the system), and not on a separate answer sheet.

General Tips for Preparing for 2019 PEP – Ability Test

Schools are reminded to advise parents of students sitting the PEP of the following:

1. Students should gather materials needed for the examination before the day arrives. Students should gather all the tools and items they will need for their examination from the previous night to avoid searching for things on the morning of the examination. Searching may cause the child to become flustered.
2. Students should not study on the night before the examination. This may result in an overload on the brain and may cause temporary memory loss.

Winnie Berry
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

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3. Students should be encouraged to go to bed early the night before the exam. A good night's rest is important to the students functioning at their best the next day.
4. Students should have a healthy breakfast on the morning of the exam, but should not over eat.
5. Parents must ensure that students get to the venue at least 30 minutes before the start of the examination. They should arrive at the exam centre early on the morning of the exam. This will help them to relax and settle down and minimize nervousness. Arriving just in time to go into the exam room, or worse arriving late may cause you to get agitated and unnecessarily nervous.
6. Remind students that on entering the examination room they should remain calm and pretend they are in a regular class.
7. Students should read examination questions carefully before providing answers.

Parents should encourage students to read options given carefully before selecting their answers. Remind students that if they select an incorrect answer they are to erase clearly then make their next choice.

8. Students should be informed that the Ability Test contains 40 multiple choice questions. There is only one answer for each question. Encourage them to make sure they select ONLY ONE answer for each question. Remind them to check and ensure that they have answered all forty (40) questions for the test.
10. Remind students to ensure that they shade their answers in the booklet..
11. Students are not to make stray marks on the booklets. They are to use the rough work paper provided
12. Encourage students to use time wisely, do not hurry because persons sitting next to them have finished.
13. Remind the students to insert their rough work paper into the booklets.

Tips for Students

- Check the booklet to ensure that you have received the correct booklet.
- Answer all questions in the booklet. There are 40 Multiple Choice questions in this test. There is only one answer to each question.

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- Remain calm and obey the instruction given by the Presiding Examiners.
- Do not communicate with other students in the examination.
- Do not spend too much time on one question. If you are having challenges with a problem, leave it and come back to it later, if there is enough time.
- Check over your test after you are done with it. If you have time, redo the problems to see if you come up with the same answers the second time around.
- Look for careless mistakes. If you want to change your answer, make sure to erase your answers carefully and reshade your new answer.
- Ensure that you read the directions correctly; that you calculated using the correct numbers.
- Remember to insert your rough work paper into your test booklets.
- Do not leave the examination with any material. Make sure you hand in all papers,

The Performance Task

The performance task is an activity or assessment that asks students to solve a problem by demonstrating their knowledge, understanding and proficiency. It is curriculum based and assesses students' grasp of concepts, principles and procedures coming from content Language Arts and Mathematics. The scores for the Performance Tasks for Language Arts and Mathematics will be combined with the scores the students received in the respective Curriculum Based Tests to give an overall score of the students' achievement of the NSC for the different subject. Students will sit their Grade 6 Performance Tasks in their classroom under the supervision of their class teachers.

The days for this examination for Grade 6 students for the academic year 2018-2019 are:-

- **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 – Language Arts Performance Tasks**
- **Thursday, March 28, 2019 – Mathematics Performance Tasks**

Structure of the Examination

Language Arts Performance Task – 2 hours

This test will assess students' ability to gather information from multiple sources. Here students will be assessed in Reading, Writing and Research. This test will

Winnie Berry
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

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have four to six questions. In Part 1, students will be given the option to choose 1 of 2 questions to answer. **PERFORMANCE TASK** will cover the following areas: Grammar & Conventions, Comprehension, Vocabulary (Term 1, Unit 1) Writing, Research/Study Skills (Term 1, Unit 2)

Mathematics Performance Task – 2 Hours

This test assesses students' ability to demonstrate understanding of mathematical concepts. Students will be assessed in concept and procedure, problem solving, communication and modeling. Students will be given four to six questions; they will be given an opportunity based on a scenario to make their unique choices. **PERFORMANCE TASK** will cover the following areas: Number and Measurement (Term Units 1 and Unit 2).

In an effort to prepare our teachers to provide support for our students the following is being planned.

Teacher Engagement Activity

Teachers are required to do an engagement activity with students prior to start of students doing their individual performance task. The intent of this engagement activity is to provide equity in the content knowledge that forms the scenario for each task. As such, teachers will receive these Teacher Engagement Activities through training workshops planned for the period:

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Date	Region	Parish
March 4, 2019	1	Kingston and St Andrew
	2	Portland
		St Thomas
		St Mary
March 5, 2019	4	St James
		Hanover
		Westmoreland
	5	St Elizabeth
		Manchester
March 7, 2019	3	St Ann
		Trelawny
	6	Clarendon
		St Catherine

Teachers during the training will be taken through, among other things, the administrative procedure of the Performance Tasks as well as how the Teacher Activity should be used to bridge the gap if any that would be present when the students complete their individual tasks.

Curriculum Based Test

This component of PEP will comprise items that may span between the DOK levels 1 to 3. At the lowest level, students may be asked to reproduce facts or simple procedures. DOK Level 2 requires engagement of mental processing beyond recalling or reproducing a response. That is, students will take the simple facts (from DOK-1) and further process them to illustrate knowledge that was not directly taught. At the DOK level 3, students are expected to make short-term use of higher order thinking processes, such as analysis and evaluation, to solve

Winnie Berry
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

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real-world problems with predictable outcomes. Stating one's reasoning is a key marker of tasks that fall into this particular category.

The Days for this examination for Grade 6 students for the academic year 2018-2019 are:-

April 16, 2019 – Language Arts and Science

April 17, 2019 – Mathematics and Social Studies

The Curriculum Based Test in Language Arts, Science, Mathematics and Social Studies will assess students' knowledge and procedure at the Grade 6 level. It will be based on the Grade 6 Component for this subject area.

Areas to be assessed in the Curriculum Based Tests:

Subject	Curriculum Objectives Tested
Language Arts	<p>CURRICULUM BASED TEST</p> <p>Terms 1 and 2 ALL UNITS</p> <p>Grammar & Conventions, Comprehension, Vocabulary, Research/Study Skills</p>
Mathematics	<p>CURRICULUM BASED TEST</p> <p>Terms 1 and 2 ALL UNITS</p> <p>Number , Measurement , Geometry ,Data Handling, Statistics, Probability and Algebra</p>
Social Studies	<p>CURRICULUM BASED TEST</p> <p>Roots of Caribbean culture and identity: the Chinese and East Indians</p> <p>(Term 1, Unit 1)</p> <p>Independence and nationhood (Term 1, Unit 2)</p> <p>Showing honour and respect for our country (Term 1, Unit 3)</p> <p>Mountains (Unit 1, Term 2)</p> <p>Landmasses (Term 1, Term 2)</p>

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	Leadership and Governance (Term 2, Unit 3)
Science	CURRICULUM BASED TEST The Environment (Term 1, Unit 1) Energy: Light & Sound (Term 1, Unit 2) Materials: Properties & Uses (Term 2, Unit 1) Human Body Systems (Term 2, Unit 2) Mixtures (Term 2, Unit 3)

Format of the CBT Components			
	Tests	Number of Question	Item Types
Curriculum Based Test	Mathematics	40	Selected response: Table Grid, Multiple Choice with one answer, Multiple Choice with more than one answer and order match.
	Social Studies	40	Selected response: Table Grid, Multiple Choice with one answer, Multiple Choice with more than one answer and order match.
	Science	40	Selected response: Table Grid, Multiple Choice with one answer, Multiple Choice with more than one answer and order match.
	Language Arts	40	Selected response: Table Grid, Multiple Choice with one answer, Multiple Choice with more than one answer and order match.

Winnie Berry
Chief Education Officer (Acting)

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We ask that our Schools' Administrators share this bulletin with all our stakeholders as we prepare the way forward for the smooth administration of this crucial examination.

Winnie Berry

Chief Education Officer (Acting)

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2 - 4 National Heroes Circle, Kingston 4, Jamaica, Tel: 922-1400, e-mail: winnie.berry@moev.gov.jm