



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT FORM III

OCTOBER 2011

Guidelines

For

Heads of Schools

Ministry of Education & Human Resources

June 2011

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GUIDELINES FOR HEADS OF SCHOOLS

The Education and Human Resource Strategy Plan (2008-2020) recommends, *inter alia*, the introduction of a National Assessment at Form III which aims at evaluating the competencies acquired by students and identifying their educational orientations according to their aptitudes and inclinations.

This Assessment will not serve as an exercise to compare or to benchmark the performance levels of schools. Rather, it will help gauge the level of competencies reached by students so that proper action may be taken and that transition to upper secondary be done more smoothly.

The National Assessment is being implemented in a **phased** manner to give all parties concerned sufficient time for adaptation and to develop school preparedness for this mode of assessment.

As a first step, the National Assessment was carried out in 2010 **on a pilot basis** in 33 State and Private Secondary Schools and four subjects, namely, English, French, Mathematics and Computer Studies/literacy were assessed. This year, it will again be piloted with '**Sciences**' as an additional subject. This paper will comprise three sections (Biology, Chemistry & Physics).

A full-fledged Form III National Assessment will subsequently be institutionalized in the system as from 2012.

With regard to the other subjects taught in Form III, schools will conduct, as usual, the end of year internal examinations based on papers set by the schools themselves. The overall assessment for the end-of-year examination and promotion to Form IV will be at the discretion of the school after taking into account the entire range of subjects taught and the criteria set by the school for promotion to the next grade.

Through consultation with a fairly representative sample of Educators from both Private and State Secondary Schools and bearing in mind

the content of the curriculum currently adopted by secondary schools, a common list of expected competencies and learning outcomes has been established for each of the five subjects. These have been circulated to schools for the guidance of teachers. A specimen question paper for each subject will also be provided to schools.

For the end of year assessment, a common set of question papers to cover the whole ability range will be provided for the five subjects mentioned.

Aims of the National Assessment

The National Assessment at Form III will have a two-fold aim:

1. To evaluate the level of competencies acquired by
The students.
2. To identify their academic strengths and weaknesses
and take corrective action where needed.

Modalities of National Assessment Form III - Year 2011

- The assessment will be held on a pilot basis in October 2011 in all State Secondary Schools and Private schools willing to participate.
- Final question papers for all Form III students of the pilot schools and marking schemes prepared by the MES will be provided to the schools.
- Distribution of question papers to schools will be the responsibility of MES and Zone Directorates.
- Students will sit for their Assessment in their respective schools.
- Supervision and invigilation of the Assessment will be under the responsibility of the Head of School who will ensure that standard examination conditions prevail throughout.

- The marking of scripts will be done at school level by subject teachers as per marking schemes provided. However, educators will not mark the scripts of their own students.
- A common examination time table will be provided for the five subjects to be assessed so that each paper is examined simultaneously in all the pilot schools.
- By mid July 2011, Heads of pilot Schools will have to confirm the exact number of students in Form III to the Zone Directorates/PSSA.