

INTRODUCTION

Beginning from the year 2012, the Malaysian Examinations Council (MEC) will implement a new STPM assessment system to enhance the form six education programme in accordance with the Education Transformation Programme and as one of the approaches to fulfil the National Key Economic Area (NKEA).

NEW STPM ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

In the new system, the duration of form six studies is similar to the present system which is based on one-and-a half years of form six studies comprising the lower and upper six form. The allocation of teaching periods remains the same: eight periods per week for each subject (one period = 40 minutes).

The subjects offered remain at 23 subjects.

Code	Subject	Code	Subject
900	General Studies	946	Business Studies
910	Malay Language	948	Accounting
911	Chinese Language	950	Mathematics (M)
912	Tamil Language	954	Mathematics (T)
913	Arabic Language	956	Further Mathematics
920	Literature in English	958	Information and Communications Technology
922	Communicative Malay Literature	960	Physics
930	Syariah	962	Chemistry
931	Usuluddin	964	Biology
940	History	966	Sports Science
942	Geography	970	Visual Arts
944	Economics		

The curriculum is divided into three parts based on topic areas. Each part will be taught and studied in either the first, second or third term. Students' assessment will be carried out each term with the results being released at the end of each respective term. The overall STPM results will be based on the best combined results of the three terms.

Soft skill such as communication skills, teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, problem solving, information management and ethics are included in the new curriculum.

There will be two forms of assessment: School-Based Assessment (SBA) with a weighting of 20% to 40%, and the centralised examination with a weighting of 60% to 80%. (The weighting varies according to subjects).

SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT (SBA)

The introduction of SBA in this system is in line with the aspiration of the Education Ministry to develop human capital who embrace intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical values in line with the National Educational Philosophy. The SBA consists of project work, field study and practical work. The coursework question/task is prepared by the Council and will be conducted either over three terms or as determined by the individual subject requirements.

EXAMINATION

Acentralised written examination is administered at the end of each term. Question types consist of multiple choice, structured and essay questions. Question papers are prepared and provided by the Council, and the marking of answer scripts will be carried out by Council-appointed examiners.

GRADING

The grading system in the new STPM assessment system is similar to that of the existing STPM system. The score (question paper level) acquired by students for each term will be aggregated to determine the overall subject grade. There is no prerequisite minimum pass grade in each term for students to qualify to continue their studies in the following term.

Paper Grade	Subject Grade	SGP*	Status
A	A	4.00	Full Pass
A-	A-	3.67	Full Pass
B+	B+	3.33	Full Pass
B	B	3.00	Full Pass
B-	B-	2.67	Full Pass
C+	C+	2.33	Full Pass
C	C	2.00	Full Pass
C-	C-	1.67	Partial Pass
D+	D+	1.33	Partial Pass
D	D	1.00	Partial Pass
F	F	0.00	Fail

*Subject Grade Point (SGP)

ADVANTAGES

With School Based Assessment, teaching and learning are integrated with assessment. SBA humanises assessment making schooling a cooperative enterprise between teachers and students.

Through the new examination system, students will also have more opportunities to obtain better results. Students are allowed to improve on their first term and second term results by retaking these term examinations at the end of the third term. Students who do not obtain satisfactory results for the third term may also re-sit it.

STANDARDS AND RECOGNITION

Standards and recognition will be maintained. A representative from Cambridge Assessment (CA), United Kingdom attends the Standards Setting Committee meeting to endorse the results. The CA representative gives his opinion on the analysis of the STPM examination results for each paper, and a collective decision is made on the standards.

VISION

The implementation of this system is expected to strengthen and enhance pre-university studies in order to attract more students to take up the programme. It is also a positive step to improve the achievements of students, expending their potential and providing more accurate information on student achievement than the impersonal pencil and paper test.

This new system is also consistent with the Ministry's vision to strengthen and make assessment and evaluation system more holistic, with emphasis on outcome-based education, that focuses more on students, and is less exam-oriented. Students will acquire knowledge, skill and values which will prepare them for tertiary studies, the workplace and the needs of 21st century.

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Series : 16 March 2012

