



**The National Standards Curriculum and the Primary Exit Profile
A Synopsis
September 2018**

The National Standards Curriculum (NSC) has been introduced to the system since 2016. It is the groundwork on which the Primary exit Profile is set, and follows the same content. The full implementation of the NSC commenced on a phased basis in September 2016 in all public educational institutions at the Grades 1-9 levels. The curriculum was changed to reflect a greater focus on concepts and 21st century skills and competencies. Since the curriculum has changed to include an emphasis on skills, the assessment must also change to measure students' knowledge of concepts and application of the skills. One of the measures to determine the effectiveness of this curriculum and to assess students' knowledge and demonstration of the 21st century skills (creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication) is the administration of the Primary Exit Profile (PEP).

PEP does not consist of just one hit or miss exam. It is a series of evaluations that reflect the policy shift of the government and the need to track students' progress over time. PEP is series of assessments that will be administered to students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 and will provide multiple assessment opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills based on the standards outlined in the NSC by applying knowledge and skills with emphasis on higher order thinking skills such as problem solving, analysis and synthesis.

PEP comprises three components that will be used to generate a profile for each student. All students will be allowed to sit the various components of the PEP. The results of the students' profiles, coupled with a psycho educational assessment (where indicated as being necessary) will be used to place students as they transition to their secondary education and allow for targeted learning based on their individual strengths and needs.

The Primary Exit Profile (PEP) will comprise a Curriculum Based Test (CBT), an Ability Test and Performance Tasks.

- The Curriculum Based Test (CBT) will sample content in the Grade 6 curriculum only. Subjects to be assessed are Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.
- The Ability Test will not be based on the curriculum but on analytical reading and quantitative reasoning.
- The Performance Tasks will be administered in Grades 4, 5 and 6 and will require students to use a variety of skills to complete a task. It will be administered and marked at selected times during the school year by class teachers.

PEP will be implemented on a phased basis, in an effort to ensure that ALL students are adequately prepared for the first administration. The examination will be implemented in the following ways:

- I. Those students who are currently in Grade 6 will be the first PEP cohort. They will do only the Grade 6 components in 2019.
- II. The students who are currently in Grade 5 will do their Grade 5 Performance Task in 2019 and in 2020 they will do the Grade 6 components.

- III. The students who are currently in Grade 4 will be the first cohort that will sit ALL THREE components, that is they will do the components at Grades: 4(in 2019), 5 (in 2020) and 6 (in 2021).
- IV. **The PEP will capture a profile for each student. The weighting of each component is as follows**
- V. **Curriculum Based Test – 50%**
- VI. **Ability test – 30%**
- VII. **Performance Task 20%** (5% at grade four, 7% at grade 5 and 8% at grade 6).

The scores will be computed using the same approach as we did for GSAT which is the use of standard scores summed into composite scores which are used to rank and place students. The percentage score then shows in a simple way the students' performance.

Results will be available as is the custom in the third week of June.

The following shows the areas that will be assessed for 2019.

Subject	Curriculum Objectives Tested
Language Arts	PERFORMANCE TASK Grammar & Conventions, Comprehension, Vocabulary (Term 1, Unit 1) Writing, Research/Study Skills (Term 1, Unit 2) CURRICULUM BASED TEST Terms 1 and 2 ALL UNITS Grammar & Conventions, Comprehension, Vocabulary, Research/Study Skills
Mathematics	PERFORMANCE TASK Number and Measurement (Term Units 1 and Unit 2) CURRICULUM BASED TEST Terms 1 and 2 ALL UNITS Number , Measurement , Geometry ,Data Handling, Statistics and Probability ,Algebra

Social Studies	<p>CURRICULUM BASED TEST</p> <p>Roots of Caribbean culture and identity: the Chinese and East Indians (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> <p>Leadership and Governance (Term 2, Unit 3)</p>
Science	<p>CURRICULUM BASED TEST</p> <p>The Environment (Term 1, Unit 1)</p> <p>Energy: Light & Sound (Term 1, Unit 2)</p> <p>Materials: Properties & Uses (Term 2, Unit 1). Human Body Systems (Term 2, Unit 2)</p> <p>Mixtures (Term 2, Unit 3)</p>
Ability Test	<p>Covers information not beyond grade 3</p> <p>Basic reading and quantitative ability</p>

Further information is captured in the Registration Booklet in PEP Resources.

Practice items are available as needed on the website.