



15 January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT AT BOWEN SECONDARY (2024 Term Assessment 1) – SECONDARY 1

1. Aligned with MOE's Learning for Life movement to provide more time for deep learning and reduce overemphasis on academic results, Bowen Secondary adopts an assessment framework that balances alternative and traditional modes of assessment. We would like to share an overview of how assessment at our school supports your child/ward's learning.
2. Assessment Structure and Weightings
 - In Terms 1 to 3, students' learning in each subject is assessed through a Term Assessment (TA). The TAs are carefully spread across a 'TA Window' (Weeks 5-8) to manage the demands on students and enable them to continue enjoying learning during lessons.
 - In Term 4, students will sit for End-of-Year Exams (EYE) (Weeks 3-5).
 - The weightings of the TAs and exams are as follows:

Subjects	Term 1 (TA1)	Term 2 (TA2)	Term 3 (TA3)	Term 4 (EYE)	Overall
All Examinable Subjects <i>(Except for FCE, D&T and Art)</i> <i>Please see Para 3 for details)</i>	15%	15%	15%	55%	100%
Art		15%	15%	CW: 70%	100%

3. Modular Subjects

- To help Lower Secondary students manage curriculum demands and for optimal use of resources (e.g. learning spaces), the school adopts a modular approach for Design & Technology (D&T) and Food & Consumer Education (FCE). Under this approach, students will focus on a specific subject for one semester before switching to the other subject in the next semester.
- The assessment for both D&T and FCE consists of 2 Term Assessments (15% each) and Coursework (70%). For the subject taken in Semester 1, the final grade will be reflected under TA2; for the subject taken in Semester 2, the final grade will be reflected under EYE.

Subjects	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Overall
D&T	TA: 15%	TA: 15% CW: 70%			100%
FCE			TA: 15%	TA: 15% CW: 70%	100%

4. Assessment Modes for TAs

- **Alternative Assessments (AAs)** allow students to demonstrate their learning more creatively and holistically and are distinct in form from pen and paper tests. Types of AAs include practical tasks / portfolios / class presentations, etc. Teachers will brief students on expectations and success criteria and provide details through a 'Task Sheet' issued 2-3 weeks before the submission deadline. The deadlines for various AAs are typically spread out over **Weeks 5 to 8** to help students manage their workload/time. AAs in selected subjects may be due in other weeks, based on the scope/sequence of learning.
- **Pen and Paper (PPs)** tests comprise written assessments that are more aligned with examination requirements. These help students to better understand and work towards established national standards. All PPs are spread out throughout **Weeks 7 and 8**. The duration of each PP is typically 50 min long and is conducted in the first two periods of the day. Normal timetabled lessons will resume from 9.00am onwards.

5. In each term, students' learning in a subject will be assessed through either AA or PP (not both). For example, a student offering 7 subjects will have a mix of 7 AAs or PPs in total during each TA Window. About 3-5 subjects will be assessed through AAs while the rest will be assessed through PPs.

6. We strongly advise all students to take TAs seriously as these will provide important information about their subject mastery and learning gaps. Any absences **must be** supported by a Medical Certificate or reason deemed valid by the school.

7. Please refer to the **Annex** included at the end of this letter for the **TA1 Schedule**.

8. Progression to Next Level of Study

- From 2024, under Full Subject-Based Banding, all Sec 1 students will generally progress to Sec 2. Where applicable, teachers will check in with students and parents to discuss the subject levels that best suit the student going forward. This can include offering subjects at a more/less demanding level, based on the student's interests and learning progress.


9. Termly result slips will be issued to keep parents/guardians informed of their child's/ward's progress. Please note that Form Teachers may meet or speak with parents/guardians of selected students following the release of termly result slips.

10. Should you need any clarification, please feel free to contact your child/ward's Form Teacher. We seek your support in ensuring that your child/ward prepares well for all assessments.

Warmest Regards,



MR BENJAMIN CHEN
VICE-PRINCIPAL

		Term Assessment 1		
		Secondary 1		
Term/Week	Date / Day	Alternative Assessment	Pen and Paper (8-8.50am)	Venue
Term 1 Week 5 - 6 (29 Jan - 9 Feb 2024)	Students will submit tasks during lessons	G1 Science - A.A. (Practical)	NIL	
		G2 & G3 Science -A.A. (Project)		
Term 1 Week 6 (5 - 9 Feb 2024)	Students will submit tasks during lessons	Design & Technology - A.A. (Ideation) (DDL)	NIL	
Term 1 Week 7 - 8 (12-23 Feb 2024)	Students will submit tasks during lessons	G2 & G3 Literature - A.A submission		
Term 1 Week 7 (12-16 Feb 2024)	15 Feb 2024 Thurs		G3 Higher Mother Tongue / G1, G2 & G3 Mother Tongue Languages	TG Venues*
	16 Feb 2024 Fri		G1, G2 & G3 English	TG Venues
Term 1 Week 8 (19 - 23 Feb 2024)	20 Feb 2024 Tue		G1, G2 & G3 Mathematics	TG Venues
	21 Feb 2024 Wed		G2 & G3 History	TG Venues
	22 Feb 2024 Thurs		G2 & G3 Geography	TG Venues
Note:				
1. Students will sit for the assessments for Common Curriculum according to their Form Classes and Core Curriculum according to their Teaching Groups				
2. During TA, students exempted from scheduled assessment (e.g. not taking MTL or certain electives) are still expected to report to school by 7.30 am either for self-revision or lesson.				
* Students should check with MT teachers for details				