



23 January 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT AT BOWEN SECONDARY – SECONDARY 1

1. Aligned with MOE’s Learning for Life movement to provide more time for deep learning, reduce overemphasis on academic results and promote student well-being, 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).
 - Please note that the weightings of the TAs and exams are as follows:

Subjects	TA1 Term 1 Weeks 5-8	TA2 Term 2 Weeks 3-7	TA3 Term 3 Weeks 3-7	EYE Term 4 Weeks 3-5	Overall
All Examinable Subjects <i>(Except for FCE, D&T and Art. Please see Para 4 for details)</i>	15%	15%	15%	55%	100%
Art	15%	15%	15%	CW: 55%	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 (CW) (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

- In each term, students' learning in a subject will be assessed through either Alternative Assessments (AAs) or Pen and Paper tests (PPs), but not both. For example, a student offering 7 subjects will have a mix of 7 AAs or PPs in total during each term. About 3-5 subjects will be assessed through AAs while the rest will be assessed through PPs.
- **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 termly PPs will be conducted during curriculum time (i.e. a timetabled lesson for the relevant subject, unless otherwise stated). The duration of each PP will typically be 45 min, with minor differences based on individual subject requirements.
- **Alternative Assessments (AAs)** allow students to demonstrate their learning more creatively, holistically and are distinct in form from pen and paper tests. Types of AAs include practical tasks / portfolios / class presentations, etc. The deadlines for various AAs will be spread out over Weeks 5 to 8 (Term 1) or Weeks 3 to 7 (Terms 2 and 3) to help students manage their workload/time. AAs in some selected subjects may be due in other weeks, based on the scope/sequence of learning. Teachers will continue to brief students on expectations and success criteria and provide details through a 'Task Sheet' issued 2-3 weeks before the submission deadline.
- Please refer to the **Annex** included at the end of this letter for the TA Schedule. To enable students to take ownership of their learning, subject teachers will communicate submission dates for AAs, assessment dates for PPs, rubrics (where applicable) and coverage of each assessment directly with students via channels such as Google Classroom and Class Notice Boards.
- To help students manage their workload, there will be no more than 2 Term Assessments conducted for students per day. This includes AA deadlines, PPs and other school-wide assessments (e.g. oral examinations).

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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

					Annex	
2025 Term Assessment Schedule - Secondary One						
TERM 1						
Level/Stream	W5	W6	W7	W8		
1 (G3)	3/2 to 7/2	10/2 to 14/2	17/2 to 21/2	24/2 to 28/2		
	Design & Technology (AA)		Geography (PP)			
	English Language (PP)		History (PP)			
	Mother Tongue (PP)		Literature (AA)			
	Science (AA) Project		Mathematics (PP)			
Level/Stream	W5	W6	W7	W8		
1 (G2)	3/2 to 7/2	10/2 to 14/2	17/2 to 21/2	24/2 to 28/2		
	Design & Technology (AA)		Geography (PP)			
	English Language (PP)		History (PP)			
	Mother Tongue (PP)		Literature (AA)			
	Science (AA) Project		Mathematics (PP)			
Level/Stream	W5	W6	W7	W8		
1 (G1)	3/2 to 7/2	10/2 to 14/2	17/2 to 21/2	24/2 to 28/2		
	Design & Technology (AA)		Mathematics (PP)			
	English Language (PP)		Science (AA) Practical			
	Mother Tongue (PP)					
TERM 2						
Level/Stream	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	
1 (G3)	7/4 to 11/4	14/4 to 18/4	21/4 to 25/4	28/4 to 2/5	5/5 to 9/5	
	English Language (AA)	ART (AA)		Geography (AA-GI)		
		Design & Technology (AA)		History (AA)		
		Mother Tongue (AA)		Literature (PP)		
				Mathematics (PP)		
				Science (PP)		
Level/Stream	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	
1 (G2)	7/4 to 11/4	14/4 to 18/4	21/4 to 25/4	28/4 to 2/5	5/5 to 9/5	
	English Language (AA)	ART (AA)		Geography (AA-GI)		
		Design & Technology (AA)		History (AA)		
		Mother Tongue (AA)		Literature (PP)		
				Mathematics (PP)		
				Science (PP)		
Level/Stream	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	
1 (G1)	7/4 to 11/4	14/4 to 18/4	21/4 to 25/4	28/4 to 2/5	5/5 to 9/5	
	English Language (AA)	ART (AA)		Mathematics (PP)		
		Design & Technology (AA)		Science (AA) Project		
		Mother Tongue (AA)				

TERM 3					
Level/Stream	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1 (G3)	14/7 to 18/7	21/7 to 25/7	28/7 to 1/8	4/8 to 8/8	11/8 to 15/8
	English Language (PP)	ART (AA)		Geography (PP)	
		Food Consumer Education (AA)		History (PP)	
		Mother Tongue (PP)		Literature (PP)	
		Science (AA) Practical		Mathematics (AA)	
Level/Stream	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1 (G2)	14/7 to 18/7	21/7 to 25/7	28/7 to 1/8	4/8 to 8/8	11/8 to 15/8
	English Language (PP)	ART (AA)		Geography (PP)	
		Food Consumer Education (AA)		History (PP)	
		Mother Tongue (PP)		Literature (PP)	
		Science (AA) Practical		Mathematics (PP)	
Level/Stream	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1 (G1)	14/7 to 18/7	21/7 to 25/7	28/7 to 1/8	4/8 to 8/8	11/8 to 15/8
	English Language (PP)	ART (AA)		Mathematics (PP)	
		Food Consumer Education (AA)		Science (PP)	
		Mother Tongue (PP)			
Notes					
- All PPs will be conducted during curriculum time (i.e. during timetabled lessons for the relevant subject, unless otherwise stated)					
- The duration of each PP will typically be 45 min, with minor differences based on individual subject requirements.					
- Subject teachers will inform students of the exact assessment dates nearer the relevant assessment window. Teachers will also inform students if there are any changes to assessment windows for a specific subject.					