

CHANGES TO



SCHOOL-BASED

ASSESSMENTS



Debunking -----
Assessment Myths



MYTH 1



I cannot monitor my child's progress in school without the mid-year exams.



FACT:

Through using a variety of assessments conducted at regular checkpoints, teachers can provide more timely feedback on our children's learning, instead of only through grades and marks at the end of the semester.

Continue to support your child's learning by:

- Using the teacher's feedback or comments on assignments and daily work to learn about your child's strengths and areas for improvement, instead of focusing only on the marks awarded.
- Affirming your child in areas he/she has done well in, and sharing ideas on how he/she can improve in the areas as identified by the teacher.

MYTH 2



Without exams, I do not know how to support my child in his learning.



FACT:

Instead of periods of last-minute cramming for exams, assessments conducted at regular checkpoints can provide our children with ongoing opportunities to check on and consolidate their learning as they go.

Help your child stay on top of revision by:

- Drawing up a regular study timetable together with your child, and guiding him/her to keep to the schedule.
- Talking to your child to find out about his/her "day-to-day" learning experience in school. This will help your child reflect on his/her learning, and help him/her remember the lesson better.

MYTH 3



Without exams, it is difficult to motivate my child to study.



FACT:

Assessments conducted at regular checkpoints teach our children to take charge of their own learning, which would benefit them in the long run. With too many exams, children can end up feeling anxious and demotivated.

Continue to motivate your child to learn by:

- Providing him/her with a conducive environment for learning, so he/she can learn effectively.
- Helping your child see the relevance of what he/she has learnt, in his/her everyday life, and encourage him/her to enjoy the process of learning.

QUESTION 1



**How can I be kept updated
of my child's learning progress
in school?**

The removal of mid-year exams at P3, P5, S1 and S3 affects **only one of four exams in the 2-year learning block.**

Instead of relying on just marks from a few assessment points, you can draw different sources of information on your child's learning progress via:

- Teachers' written feedback provided through classroom assessment practices such as, in-class work, homework, projects and class tests;
- Teachers' meetings with parents;
- Holistic Development Profile also known as the 'report book'.

QUESTION 2



How will schools ensure that my child will have had sufficient practice to be ready for national exams?

The removal of mid-year exams at P3, P5, S1 and S3 is only doing away with one exam every two years.

The end-of-year and mid-year exams in other academic years, as well as other forms of assessments, will continue to provide sufficient opportunities for teachers to assess students' ability to apply their learning across a range of topics or subjects.

Teachers can also **familiarise students with the exam requirements during the course of the academic year.**

QUESTION 3



Doesn't the removal of mid-year exams make the end-of-year exams even more stressful for my child?

All school-based assessments conducted in schools, including end-of-year exams, are not meant to be high stakes. **They are meant for schools and teachers to assess how well their students have learned** and to identify areas in which the students may need more support in.

There are guidelines for schools to assign appropriate weight for the different assessments throughout the year, and it will not raise the stakes of end-of-year exams.