

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENT IN BRUNEI SCHOOLS

Assessment is an integral part of the National Education System for the 21st Century (SPN21) which plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of education in Brunei Darussalam. One of the Ministry of Education's initiatives in relation to the Assessment in SPN21 (AiSPN21) program is the introduction of a new School Based Assessment (SBA) system at both the primary and secondary level.

This system uses School Based Assessment (SBA) practice for formative intent (Assessment for Learning) as a stimulus for improving student learning and raising students' achievement. It prioritises the learning process and reduces emphasis on exam-oriented instruction.

SBA encourages more frequent teacher-based assessment than an external summative assessment. It assesses skills or knowledge that may not be best judged by an external examination. For example, Art might use portfolios of work, Science might use practical work and investigations while English Language might use reading assessments and research essays to assess learning. In each case the SBA moves beyond paper-pencil testing and assesses skills and knowledge that might be better suited to an internal assessment.

SBA supports formative assessment which focuses on improving individual's student learning continuously rather than summative assessment, which involves making 'snapshot judgement' on students' performance based on what they should have been taught over a period of time. The feedback obtained from the SBA should be used for formative purposes (to inform learners of their learning), as well as for diagnostic and intervention purposes to plan for more effective teaching. Learners who are having difficulties in their learning or in understanding certain concepts should be identified early so that they can receive the support they need from the teachers and the school.

The SBA system also provides differentiated assessment that helps promote students' growth mindset, self-efficacy and development of 21st Century skills which is essential for them to succeed in a globalized knowledge-based world, as part of the MoE's educational strategy to fulfill the Brunei Visions 2035 (Wawasan Brunei 2035) goals.

SBA at primary level focuses on strengthening of formative assessment (Assessment for Learning) practice in the classroom via the EDS (Emerging, Developing, Secure) assessment model starting with three core subjects i.e. English Language, Mathematics and Science (EMS), from Years 1 to 6 in 2018. This will be followed by Years 1 to 6 non-EMS subjects (*Pengetahuan Ugama Islam, Melayu Islam Beraja, Bahasa Melayu* and non-core subjects) in the year 2021.

SBA at secondary level adopts the 'Task Based Model' approach, that is, using differentiated SBA tasks designed to promote students' literacy, numeracy and scientific literacy proficiency level as well as the essential 21st Century skills. The new SBA has been implemented at Years 7 and 8 for English Language, Mathematics and Science this year, and this will be followed by Years 9 and 10 EMS in the consecutive years. By 2022, Non-EMS subjects for secondary level will be included in the SBA system.