

# EDUCATORS' GUIDE FOR PEDAGOGY AND ASSESSMENT

USING A LEARNING OUTCOMES APPROACH



# ENGLISH

LEVELS **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10**



Learning  
Outcomes  
Framework



## Learning Outcomes Framework

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# Introduction

Following the endorsement of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) in 2012, an ambitious plan was launched with the aim of putting theory into practice. Built upon the National Minimum Curriculum (2000), it addressed the gaps in Malta's learning processes where emphasis shifted from teaching the subject to teaching the learner.

The National Minimum Curriculum framework took important policy-related documents issued by the European Commission into consideration. These included the *Key Competences for Lifelong learning – A European Reference Framework* (included in the annex of the Recommendations; 2006/962/EC); the *Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training* (ET 2020; 2009) and *Europe 2020 – A Strategy for Smart Sustainable and Inclusive Growth* (COM (2010) 2020) which is the follow up to the *Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs* (Memo 06/478/12 Dec 2006).

Against the background of Malta's historical development and on the basis of the curriculum and EU documentation the NCF seeks to provide strategic direction by rationalising the necessary changes and their implications for area/subject content, pedagogies and assessment. The NCF was presented within a lifelong learning perspective and celebrates diversity by catering for all learners at each stage of their education. It aims to introduce more equity and decentralisation in the national system. The NCF seeks to present a seamless curriculum which reflects smooth transitions, building and extending on the firm foundations in early childhood education. In essence, the NCF aims to provide a quality education for all learners, reducing the percentage of early school leavers and encouraging their enrolment in further and higher education.

The NCF proposed a Learning Outcomes Framework (LOF) as the keystone for learning and assessment throughout the years of compulsory schooling. The aim of the Learning Outcomes Framework is to free schools and learners from centrally-imposed knowledge-centric syllabi and to give them the freedom to develop programmes that fulfil the framework of knowledge, attitudes and skills-based outcomes that are considered national education entitlement of all learners in Malta. The LOF is thus intended to eventually lead to more curricular autonomy of colleges and schools so as to better address the learning needs of their learners.

A number of other local policy documents published in recent months have also contributed to the need of a learning outcomes-based approach in today's educational structures. In particular, the *Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta 2014 – 2024* (2014), *A National Literacy Strategy for All in Malta and Gozo 2014 – 2019* (2014), *A Strategic Plan for Early School Leaving in Malta 2014* (2014), *Education for All: Special Needs and Inclusive Education in Malta* (2014), *Malta National Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020* (2015) and *Respect for All Framework* (2015) all point toward the need to provide equitable opportunities for all learners to achieve educational outcomes at the end of their schooling which will enable them to participate in lifelong and adult learning, reduce the high incidence of early school leaving and ensure that all learners attain key competences in literacy, numeracy, science and technology.

The ESF 1.228 Project – *Design of Learning Outcomes Framework, Associated Learning and Assessment Programmes and Related Training* is intended to deliver this Learning Outcomes Framework approach to the educators and all relevant stakeholders within compulsory schooling. It addresses the holistic development of all learners and advocates a quality education for all as part of a coherent strategy for lifelong learning which aims to ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain the necessary skills and attitudes to be future active citizens and to succeed at work and in society irrespective of socio-economic, cultural, racial, ethnic, religious, gender and sexual status.

The LOF will allow for flexibility in teaching and learning programmes in order to address specific needs and to build upon strengths within the context of the learning communities in different colleges and schools. This concept of flexibility is promoted throughout the entire framework. While acknowledging that out-of-school factors such as poverty and social exclusion affect learner achievement, the LOF seeks to improve learners' learning experiences by encouraging creativity, critical literacy, entrepreneurship and innovation at all levels. This will allow learners to reach their potential by connecting what they have learnt to their individual contexts. Consequently, this will help learners develop a positive attitude towards learning and a greater appreciation of its usefulness.

The move from a prescriptive content-based curriculum towards a learning outcomes approach will impact all programmes in schools and all external examinations and assessment at the end of compulsory education in Malta.

The LOF was also designed to meet the four broad education goals outlined in the *Education Strategy for Malta 2014 – 2024* (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2014), namely to:

- reduce the gaps in educational outcomes between boys and girls and between students attending different schools, decrease the number of low achievers, raise the bar in literacy, numeracy and science and technology competence and increase student achievement.
- support educational achievement of children at-risk-of-poverty and from low socio-economic status and reduce the relatively high incidence of early school-leavers.
- increase participation in lifelong learning and adult learning.
- raise levels of learner retainment and attainment in further, vocational and tertiary education and training.

The Learning and Assessment Programmes (LAPs) which were drawn up for each subject will ensure that the focus is on the learner. As such, learning activities will be geared to stimulate creativity and imagination; enable learners to make correct value judgements when editing/correcting their own work; develop learners' investigative and constructive skills by making use of different media and promote receptive skills (listening and reading) which lead to productive skills (speaking and writing). LAPs are also intended to create an atmosphere where learners develop their own problem solving skills and their ability to think and reason logically; reflect on outcomes and consequences and explore possible alternatives and apply interesting and realistic contexts that are personally meaningful to them.

With the use of LAPs, teachers will be encouraged to create situations and resources which are intrinsically interesting, culturally embedded and cognitively engaging and enable learners to connect the various types of information that they have acquired.

## THE LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLISH

This document, which is aimed at policy makers, educators and educators in the classroom, presents the Learning and Assessment Programme (LAP) for English.

The LAP comprises:

- **The Learning Outcomes Framework (LOF)** -this encompasses a set of subject learning outcomes (SLOs) that set out what a learner is expected to know, understand or be able to do as a result of a process of learning. These learning outcomes are designed to be used in a range of delivery contexts and taught using different methods. They state the end result rather than describe the learning process or the learning activities.
- **Notes on Pedagogy and Assessment** - the learning outcomes are written in a way that informs pedagogy and, in conjunction with the assessment strategies related to each outcome, set a clear assessment expectation. This document sets down good practice teaching and assessment guidelines which educators may wish to take on board and adapt to meet the needs of their learners.

This document has been collaboratively developed by the Outlook Coop Learning Outcomes Framework Joint Venture comprising Outlook Coop as the lead partner, East Coast Education Ltd. and the University College London Institute of Education together with the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education (DQSE). Mr Barry Smith (Joint Venture Technical Director), Mr Godfrey Kenely (Joint Venture Contract Director), Dr Michelle Attard Tonna (Head of Project) and Mr Gaetano Bugeja (Project Leader) directed the project experts.

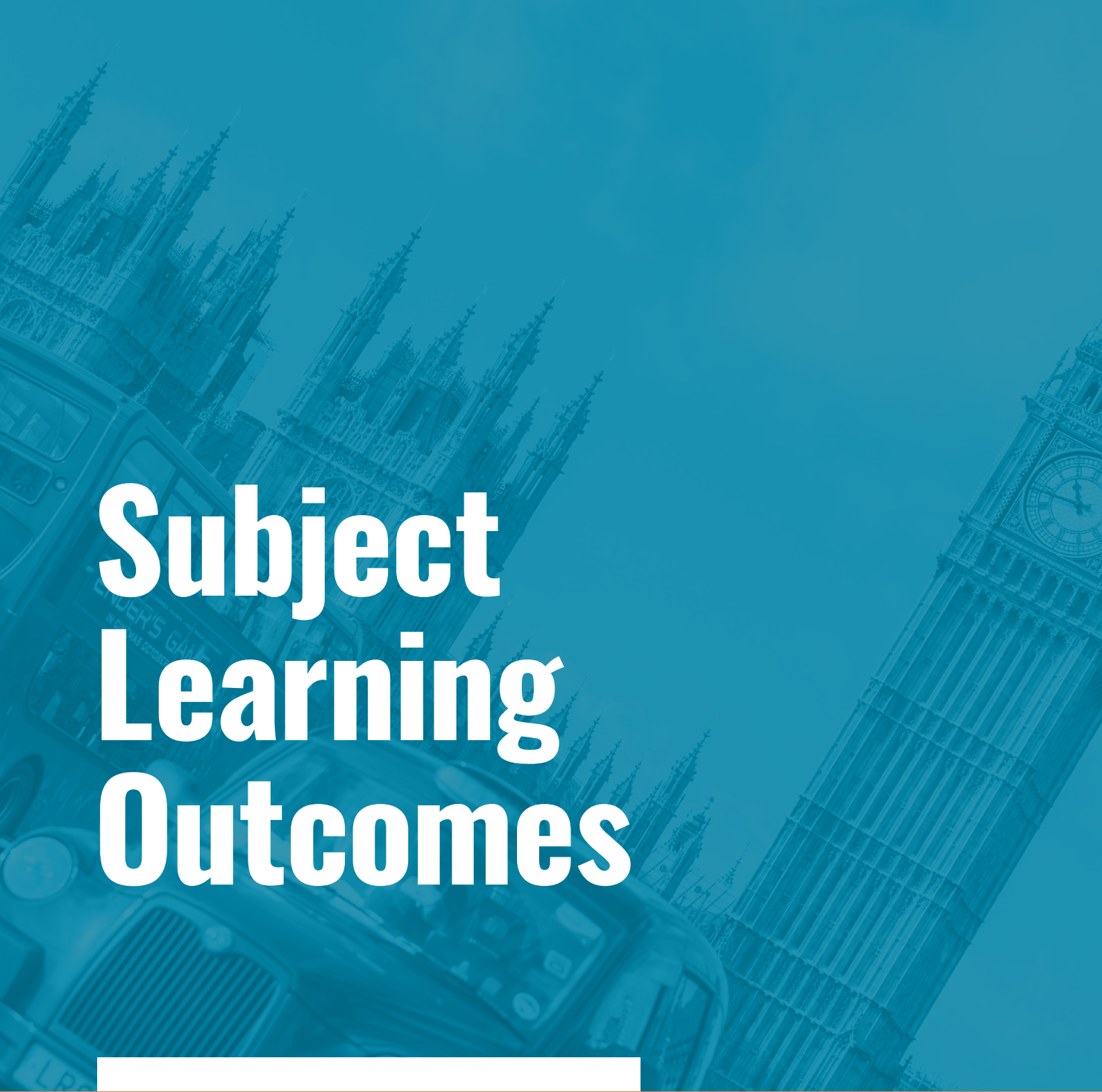
## Contributors

We wish to thank the following experts who contributed to the development of the English Learning Outcomes Framework and Pedagogy and Assessment Document.

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# Subject Learning Outcomes

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## ENGLISH

LEVELS 5 6 7 8 9 10

The Subject Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for English span from Attainment Level 5 to Attainment Level 10.

Within the Learning Outcomes Framework, Level 10 is viewed as the ‘gifted and talented’ level. Outcomes within this level sit at the upper end of the ability spectrum and extend learners further.








The core concept is *better* rather than *more*. At Level 10 learners demonstrate a deeper understanding and wider application of Level 9 content which marks the end of compulsory schooling. Level 10 outcomes may draw on three main areas:

- increased sophistication of understanding of the Level 9 content
- greater learning autonomy in developing understanding and skills
- increased application and problem solving.





It should be noted that each Attainment Level can be extended further and suggestions for this will be included in the Pedagogy and Assessment section of the document.

## LEVEL 5




### Subject Focus: Listening and speaking

1. I can listen attentively to text read aloud and demonstrate understanding by responding to questions about the content of the text and by making some inferences.
2. I can understand audio-visual texts across a range of genres, identifying the main idea and specific information.
3. I can recite/narrate/perform poems, songs, play scripts, and stories using the correct intonation which will help demonstrate an understanding of the author’s intent.  
 LISTENING AND SPEAKING
4. I can suggest some ideas of my own in the same style as the original story, poem or song in a discussion.  
 PRACTICAL
5. I can make use of language to make relatively plausible predictions and describe characters, scenes, objects, and pictures, as well as respond to questions about an oral text.
6. I can respond to a story or poem read aloud and comment on the characters and events.
7. I can order my ideas and describe them effectively as I contribute to discussions supported by the teacher.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
8. I can convey my own experiences, likes and dislikes fluently and accurately with some allowance to self-correct in the process.
9. I can use appropriate language and specific vocabulary fluently to suit different purposes when interacting with others.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
10. I can listen to others, letting them put forward their point of view and take turns in a discussion and/or conversation.  
 LEARNING TO BE
11. I can, in my own words, retell a story, poem or song, ordering the main events in the correct order.  
 LEARNING TO KNOW
12. I can retell a story, poem or song ordering the main events in the correct order.
13. I can ask questions and make simple contributions in a discussion.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
14. I can listen carefully and follow a sequence of simple instructions.
15. I can convey a simple message accurately.
16. I can understand spoken language at a level higher than my own.
17. I can give clear instructions to guide an activity.

### Subject Focus: Language awareness and production

1. I can continue simple and compound sentence patterns showing an awareness of language structure.  
 LISTENING AND SPEAKING
2. I can use the correct word order when writing and speaking.  
 WRITING
3. I can write and speak about present and past events adopting simple linguistic forms *e.g. using simple present and past tenses, using simple and compound sentences.*  
 WRITING
4. I can write for a stated purpose, using grammar and sentence starters to suit my needs.  
 WRITING
5. I can write and speak effectively for a range of purposes.
6. I can narrate events adopting simple linguistic forms *e.g. using simple present and past tenses, using simple and compound sentences.*
7. I can describe persons and objects adopting simple linguistic forms *e.g. using simple present and past tenses, using simple and compound sentences.*
8. I can, at an elementary level, use the language necessary to show time, place and movement in a sentence *e.g. prepositions of time, place and movement.*








### Subject Focus: Reading

1. I can read aloud clearly and with some confidence as well as express clear diction.
2. I can read silently on my own and demonstrate understanding *e.g. by answering comprehension questions.*
3. I can read and understand a wide range of age-appropriate texts across genres, independently and in groups.
4. I can read and understand age-appropriate texts online across genres as well as understand the different parts of the text *e.g. headings and subheadings, and the way hyperlinks work.*
5. I can use a range of strategies to aid comprehension and find the required information in the text.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
6. I can express my opinions about a story at my own reading level, giving clear reasons why I like or dislike the text.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
7. I can make informed assumptions about a book or other long work from its title.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
8. I can read across genres for different purpose *e.g. to find out new information, for enjoyment, to learn new things.*
9. I can understand the basics of text organisation.

### Subject Focus: Literature











1. I can learn and recite simple poems with the help of prompts.
2. I can read and listen to literary texts *such as poetry, prose and drama* being performed or read aloud. I can show my understanding of these texts by answering simple questions about some aspects *e.g. events and character behaviour.*
3. I can respond to simple poems, stories and drama by speaking and writing briefly about how I feel about the literary texts and about the events and characters in these texts.
4. I can identify the use of simple literary devices *e.g. stanzas, similes, onomatopoeia and rhyming words.*
5. I can participate in simple activities *e.g. role-play and dialogue* based on poems and stories I have read or listened to.
6. I can, at an elementary level, show my personal response to the literary text I encounter *e.g. by drawing or using crafts inspired by the text, and keeping a simple journal with my thoughts.*
7. I can respond to a play by participating in its performance and understand the meaning of dramatic devices *e.g. acts scenes and stage directions.*

## Subject Focus: Writing





1. I can write well-formed letters that are legible.  
 WRITING
2. I can, at an elementary level, use appropriate format and features of presentation to convey the purpose of a text.
3. I can control the basic formation of letters and join letters to write in cursive.
4. I can edit and revise my written work and with support.
5. I can write simple sentences in response to a range of texts.  
 COGNITIVE
6. I can use words to achieve particular effects in my writing. I can make use of some vocabulary that sets specific moods and depicts particular scenes.  
 CREATIVE LEARNING
7. I can express my opinions in writing on a range of topics.  
 LEARNING TO DO
8. I can participate in writing for a range of purposes and write in some genres.  
 WRITING
9. I can write a paragraph appropriately for an audience and with a purpose.
10. I can make up a story and write it down in a way that makes it interesting.
11. I can add detail and interest to basic sentence structures in a variety of ways.  
 WRITING
12. I can, with support, make a text more interesting or more relevant to me by changing the vocabulary.
13. I can, with support, use various strategies to spell correctly.
14. I can use resources to help me plan my written work and present it accurately.
15. I can, with support, organise my ideas into clear, cohesive and coherent paragraphs.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
16. I can write simple instructions to explain the steps of a process *e.g. how to make a cold drink*.

# LEVEL 6





## Subject Focus: Listening and speaking

1. I can listen attentively to text read aloud and demonstrate understanding by making inferences as well as justifying and explaining statements.
2. I can understand audio-visual text across a range of genres, identifying main ideas, specific information and key words.
3. I can recite/narrate/perform poems, songs and play scripts with emphasis, intonation and pronunciation that demonstrate understanding of literary effects.  
 LISTENING AND SPEAKING
4. I can add several ideas of my own in the same style as the original story, poem or song.  
 PRACTICAL
5. I can make use of language to make relatively plausible predictions, give vivid descriptions, and answer a range of questions about an oral text.  
 LEARNING TO BE
6. I can express my ideas about a story or poem read aloud, backing up my comments with evidence concerning the characters and events.  
 LEARNING TO do
7. I can contribute to class and group discussions in a range of topics by asking questions to find out more.  
 SOCIAL LEARNING
8. I can participate in role-playing exercises and school performances by articulating clearly, demonstrating fluency and emphasis where appropriate.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
9. I can express my own opinions clearly and I can also take turns in a discussion and conversation.
10. I can listen to others, demonstrating that I respect and understand their point of view and ask for clarification when I don't understand using the correct grammar.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
11. I can share my opinion with others because I understand that my opinions are important.  
 SOCIAL LEARNING
12. I can ask questions and make contributions in a discussion to clearly make my point and respond to the ideas of others.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
13. I can listen carefully, follow a series of instructions, and participate in discussions.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
14. I can convey a simple message containing time sequence and instructions accurately.
15. I can speak fluently and accurately in terms of content and sound patterns, using some complex sentence structures.
16. In a conversation with speakers of similar or higher linguistic competence, I can speak relatively fluently and accurately in terms of content and sound patterns.
17. I can give clear instructions using a logical sequence to guide an activity.

### Subject Focus: Language awareness and production

1. I can continue and generate my own simple, compound and complex sentence patterns showing an awareness of language structure.  
 LISTENING AND SPEAKING
2. I can use the correct word order when writing and speaking.  
 WRITING
3. I can consistently use the correct form of the past and present tenses as well as refer to the future most of the time.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
4. I can communicate effectively, altering my language choices according to purpose.
5. I can use basic punctuation *e.g. fullstops, speech marks, commas and capital letters* appropriately. I can show this understanding when writing or reading.  
 ACCURACY
6. I can narrate events adopting simple linguistic forms *e.g. using the simple present and past tenses, using simple and compound sentences*.
7. I can use the resources available to expand my production of words *e.g. using a dictionary and a thesaurus including online versions*.
8. I can use the language necessary to show time, place and movement in a sentence *e.g. prepositions of time, place and movement*.








### Subject Focus: Reading

1. I can read aloud clearly, confidently and fluently as well as express clear diction.  
 READING AND UNDERSTANDING
2. I can read silently on my own for longer periods of time *e.g. by answering comprehension questions*.
3. I can show understanding and react to a different range of genres and of age-appropriate texts.  
 READING AND UNDERSTANDING
4. I can read and understand as well as know how to search online for age-appropriate and relevant texts across genres.
5. I can use a range of strategies to aid comprehension and find the required information in the text.
6. I can make informed assumptions about a book or other long work from its title and introductory material.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
7. I can express my opinions about a story at my own reading level, giving clear reasons as to why I have these opinions.  
 SOCIAL LEARNING
8. I can understand the author's point of view and make evaluative comments about it.
9. I can read more complex texts across genres for different purposes *e.g. to find out new information, for enjoyment, to learn new things*.
10. I can understand text organisation and how a text develops *e.g. in the development of an argument or the climax of a story*.
11. I can use the layout and organisation of age-appropriate texts to aid comprehension *e.g. alphabetical order*.
12. I can, at an elementary level, use available resources to expand my understanding of words *e.g. using a dictionary and a thesaurus including online versions*.

## Subject Focus: Literature









1. I can learn simple poems and recite them in a way that brings out their meaning as well as their rhythm and rhyme.
2. I can read and listen to literary texts *such as poetry, prose and drama* being performed or read aloud. I can show my understanding by answering questions about some aspects *e.g. events, setting, subject, topic, characters, their and behaviour.*
3. I can respond to poems, stories, prose and drama by speaking and writing about how I feel about the literary texts and about the events, characters or themes in these texts.
4. I can identify the use of several literary devices *e.g. alliteration and personification.*
5. I can participate in activities *e.g. role-play and dialogue* based on poems and stories I have read or listened to.
6. I can show my personal response to the literary text I encounter *e.g. by drawing or using crafts inspired by the text, and keeping a simple journal with my thoughts.*
7. I can respond to a play by participating in its performance and understand the meaning and function of dramatic devices *e.g. acts, scenes, stage directions and monologues.*

## Subject Focus: Writing





1. I can write well-formed letters that are legible.  
 WRITING
2. I can use appropriate format and features of presentation to convey the purpose of a text.
3. I can control the formation of letters and join letters to write confidently in cursive.
4. I can use resources to help me plan my written work and present it accurately.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
5. I can edit my written work and with minimal support, I can revise it.
6. I can write increasingly complex sentences in response to a range of texts.  
 COGNITIVE
7. I can use words to achieve particular effects in my writing and use a range of vocabulary and expressions that set specific moods and depict particular scenes.  
 CREATIVE LEARNING
8. I can express my opinions effectively in writing on a range of topics.
9. I can participate in writing for a wide range of purposes and genres.  
 LEARNING TO DO
10. I can write a text organised in a series of paragraphs.
11. I can write appropriately for an audience and with a purpose. I can write down what I think, together with the reasons for this.
12. I can write to convey emotions and thoughts effectively.
13. I can add detail and interest to more complex sentence structures in a variety of ways.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
14. I can make a text more interesting or more relevant to me by changing the vocabulary.  
 COGNITIVE LEARNING
15. I can confidently use various strategies to spell a word correctly.
16. I can organise my ideas into clear, cohesive and coherent paragraphs sustained over an extended piece of writing.
17. I can write clear and precise instructions to explain the steps of a process *e.g. how to make a kite.*

# LEVEL 7


## Subject Focus: Listening and speaking

1. I can, for the most part, understand what people say to me in everyday situations.
2. I can take part in a role-playing exercise, taking on a character role and adopting the appropriate communicative strategies of familiar situations.  
 SOCIAL LEARNING
3. I can recount the main points of what somebody says or of a performance and summarise them succinctly.  
 LEARNING TO KNOW
4. I can, having listened to their statements about a topic, explain a person's point of view and the likely consequences of his/her opinion.  
 LEARNING TO BE
5. I can report on and evaluate the impact of presentations and performances I have seen.  
 COGNITIVE
6. I can state what I think and give my reasons. I can prepare a presentation and take part in discussions.  
 SOCIAL LEARNING
7. I can give and receive instructions as well as clarify any points that may be unclear.
8. I can ask appropriate questions to clarify my understanding on areas which are unclear, using appropriate, precise and correct language.  
 READING AND UNDERSTANDING
9. I can listen to a number of different views, understand how they relate to each other, and express my own views in response.  
 COGNITIVE LEARNING
10. I can express my opinion in response to other speakers' opinions.  
 LEARNING TO DO
11. I can listen for gist and subsidiary ideas.
12. I can listen and make inferences.
13. I can distinguish between formal and informal register in spoken English.
14. I can make use of language to compare and contrast *e.g. a book and a film*.
15. I can understand and identify individual words in continuous speech.
16. I can produce continuous speech with some L1 interference but which is generally intelligible.
17. I can give clear and precise instructions using a logical sequence to guide an activity.





## Subject Focus: Language awareness and production

1. I can write and talk about things as they are using accurate sentences.  
 WRITING
2. I can write sentences correctly using a wide range of words and sentence forms.  
 WRITING
3. I can use the past and present tenses and refer to the future accurately when speaking and writing.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
4. I am aware of all the various tenses used in everyday language and can make use of the main ones.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
5. I can understand and use language which expresses hypothetical situations and possibilities *e.g. modals and conditionals*.
6. I can report, both in speech and in writing, what others have said or written.
7. I can understand how certain words behave together *e.g. collocations, false friends* and use these patterns in context of specific situations.



8. I can make use of affixes *e.g. -ness, -ly, -ful, -un, -dis*, to build new words.
9. I can identify and make use of link words to list, add up ideas, compare and contrast ideas.
10. I can use tense and number accurately.
-  **COGNITIVE LEARNING**
11. I can narrate events/stories, describe persons/objects/scenes, and accurately express simple arguments for and against in writing.
12. I can use the resources available to expand my production of words *e.g. using a dictionary and a theaurus including online versions*.
13. I can confidently use the language necessary to show time, place and movement in a sentence *e.g. prepositions of time, place and movement*.

### Subject Focus: Reading




1. I can work out what some unfamiliar words mean.
-  **PERSONAL LEARNING**
2. I can show understanding and react to a different range of genres and of age-appropriate texts.
-  **READING AND UNDERSTANDING**
3. I can extract and summarise the main points from a text.
-  **PLANNING AND REFLECTION**
4. I can make informed assumptions about a book or other long works from its title and introductory material.
-  **EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE**
5. I can tell the difference between the main and supporting points of a given text.
6. I can distinguish between fact and opinion when I read.
7. I can read more complex texts across genres for different purposes *e.g. to find out new information, for enjoyment, to learn new things*.
8. I understand text organisation and can recognise techniques the writer uses to bring across the argument, story or instruction.
9. I can interpret information derived from graphs and maps.
10. I can evaluate and respond to texts which may include visuals and graphics.
11. I can identify intended audience and purpose of text.
12. I can make use of inference and deduction when I read.
13. I can make use of skimming and scanning to help me read effectively.
14. I can identify referents in a text.
15. I can available resources to expand my understanding of words *e.g. using a dictionary and a thesaurus including online versions*.

### Subject Focus: Literature

1. I can recite appropriate poems demonstrating that I can pay attention to how rhyme pattern and rhythm help me bring out the musicality of the poem.
2. I can read and listen to literary texts *such as poetry, prose and drama* being performed and read aloud. I can demonstrate my understanding by answering questions about some themes, character development, and plot and setting.
3. I can respond to age-appropriate poems, stories, prose and drama by speaking and writing about how I feel about the literary texts and about the plot, characters, imagery and themes in these texts.
4. I can identify the use of a range of literary devices *e.g. stanzas, rhyme, onomatopoeia, free verse, formal verse, metaphor, simile, comparisons, personification, connotation and alliteration*. I can comment on their function and effect.
5. I can participate creatively in activities based on literary texts I have read or listened to *e.g. role-play, dialogue, audio-visual projects, writing or performance of creative pieces*.










6. I can show my personal response to the literary texts I encounter *e.g. by keeping a reading journal, writing paragraphs using different perspectives*, and also by speaking about the text in a creative and engaging way.
7. I can put up a simple production of a dramatic text in a team.
8. I can speak or write about a prose text by referring to its features *e.g. contrast, descriptive detail, flashback, plot, choice of words, first/third person narrative and humour*.
9. I can distinguish between theme and subject in poetry.
10. I can compare and contrast characters in drama and prose.

### Subject Focus: Writing





1. I can write complex sentences correctly.  
 WRITING
2. I can write a text organised in a series of paragraphs.
3. I can write a text using the appropriate language.  
 MANAGING LEARNING
4. I can edit and revise my own writing.
5. I can write appropriately for an audience and with a purpose.
6. I can vary what I write according to the intended reader.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
7. I can produce different text types *e.g. email, informal letter, advert, instructions*.
8. I can correct punctuation, spelling and the use of language in my own writing and that of my peers.
9. I can organise and summarise information.
10. I can write clear and detailed instructions using a logical sequence to explain the steps of a process *e.g. how to prepare a meal*.

# LEVEL 8



## Subject Focus: Listening and speaking

1. I can prepare presentations on a variety of topics, adjusting the presentation to the nature of the audience.  
 COMMUNICATION FOR DIVERSITY
2. I can contribute to joint presentations or performances in a style that is appropriate to the event.  
 SOCIAL LEARNING
3. I can assess the likely impact of texts of different genres *e.g. a literary, journalistic or scientific piece*, on the audience.  
 SOCIAL CHANGE
4. I can detect and report on bias in the reporting of others.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
5. I can create a complex and logical case around an issue of social importance *e.g. global warming*.  
 LEARNING TO KNOW
6. I can adapt my spoken style to all familiar situations, observing the appropriate use of register and vocabulary.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
7. I can use language in a variety of persuasive forms *e.g. rhetorical questions*.  
 INTERPERSONAL
8. I can listen to a range of formal presentations and summarise their content fluently and accurately.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
9. I can acknowledge a well-made point and adjust my views in consequence.  
 PERSONAL LEARNING
10. I can follow narratives including those which do not follow a chronological sequence.
11. I can follow a range of audio-visual text *e.g. advertisements, weather forecasts, short news clips and public announcements*.
12. I can follow texts that include wide range of vocabulary and language structure *e.g. documentaries and bulletins*.
13. I can recognise the attitude of a speaker and comment on it.
14. I can describe simple personal experiences, reactions, dreams, hopes, and ambitions.
15. I can explain and give reasons for actions, plans or intentions fluently.
16. I can relay information that I have obtained *e.g from an announcement* or that other speakers have given me.
17. I can make suggestions in a discussion.
18. I can distinguish between asking questions in a formal and in an informal context.
19. I can understand and produce clusters of words in continuous speech intelligibly.




### Subject Focus: Language awareness and production

1. I can use the full range of punctuation marks.  
 ACCURACY
2. I can construct complex sentences.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
3. I can use and explain spelling rules. I am aware of well-known exceptions to these rules.  
 ACCURACY
4. I can use the passive voice accurately and can apply it to appropriate contexts *e.g. report writing in science subjects*.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
5. I can understand and use language which expresses hypothetical situations and possibilities *e.g. modals and conditionals*.
6. I can report, both in speech and in writing, what others have said or written.
7. I can understand how most words behave together *e.g. collocations, false friends* and use these patterns in context of specific situations.
8. I can make use of affixes *e.g. -ness, -ly, -ful, -un, -dis*, to build new words.
9. I can make use of link words to sum up and to compare and contrast ideas.
10. I can distinguish between compound and complex sentences, and I can use them accurately to achieve some stylistic variety in my writing.
11. I can narrate events/stories, describe persons/objects/scenes, and accurately express simple arguments for and against in writing.







### Subject Focus: Reading





1. I can read through a long text and summarise the main points.  
 READING AND UNDERSTANDING
2. I can understand how language is being used to create a particular mood or feeling.
3. I can show how a story is constructed, describing plot, character and action.
4. I can compare and contrast ideas from different texts.
5. I can infer meanings suggested in a text.
6. I can make informed assumptions about a book or other long work from its title and introductory material.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
7. I can read more complex texts across a wider range of genres for different purposes *e.g. to find out new information, for enjoyment, to learn new things*.
8. I can understand connotation.
9. I can distinguish between contemporary and non-contemporary writing.
10. I can retrieve information from a range of sources.
11. I can identify the main theme of a text.
12. I can identify and comment upon the writer's use of language and structure in a text.
13. I can read with understanding articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems.
14. I can distinguish between various forms of discourse *e.g. creative, technical and scientific*.
15. I can distinguish between scientific and technical writing.

### Subject Focus: Writing





1. I can use a wide range of complex sentence structures.  
 WRITING
2. I can edit and revise my own writing.
3. I can write in an appropriate way with the right tone as well as make use of words to create a particular mood or feeling.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
4. I can write a longer text organised in a series of paragraphs.  
 LEARNING TO DO
5. I can write appropriately and with a purpose for an audience.
6. I can write using the appropriate register.
7. I can produce texts in different genres.
8. I can order and link my sentences and paragraphs in a way that makes sense.
9. I can produce scientific and technical pieces of writing.

### Subject Focus: English Literature in time and place


1. I can, with guidance, engage with and respond orally to a wide range of literary texts *such as poetry, prose and drama*, written for adults and young people in English *e.g. simpler narrative texts which deal with less complex issues*.  
 LISTENING AND SPEAKING
2. I can, with support, understand and appreciate how literary texts reflect on life and ideas in different contexts and on how people respond to these.
3. I am aware that and can discuss how literary texts show how different people react differently to life and what it presents.  
 SELF AWARENESS
4. I can show my understanding of characters by putting myself in their shoes *e.g. by participating in role plays or writing diary entries from their perspective*.  
 LEARNING TO BE
5. I can engage with literary texts which deal with aesthetic, personal, emotional, social, moral and political issues. I can answer questions and write short paragraphs about these issues as they appear in the literary texts I study.  
 LEARNING TO BE
6. I can understand how literature presents different points of view on aesthetic, personal, emotional, social, moral and political issues. I can answer questions and write short paragraphs about these issues as presented in the literary texts I study.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
7. I am aware that literature can help me develop the ability to keep an open mind. I can allow literature to help me become more creative, innovative and critical *e.g. by writing a diary entry from the point of view of a character; by taking part in discussions and role plays about the subject*.  
 COGNITIVE

8. Through my reading of texts from different cultures, I can understand how literature portrays different ways of living and being. I can read texts from different cultures which are appropriate for my age and language abilities.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
9. Through my reading of texts from or about different contexts, I can see where the ideas and expectations of the writer's time have influenced his/her writing.
10. I am able to use online resources to find out more about English literature.  
 COMMUNICATION
11. I can, with support, read selected texts from past centuries, negotiating changes in vocabulary, vocabulary use and sentence structure.  
 READING AND UNDERSTANDING
12. I can explain that plays, poems and novels are written for different sorts of audience and that different practices in reading, performing and listening are sometimes required. Therefore, I can read novels silently; I can recognise the aural quality of poetry; and the dramatic nature of play scripts.  
 READING AND UNDERSTANDING
13. I can respond to a literary text I have read, a drama performance or poetry presentation I have observed, by expressing my opinions in a clear manner.
14. I can reply aloud and in writing to questions that show I have an understanding of different layers of meaning and how these meanings are conveyed about a literary text I have read, a drama performance or poetry presentation I have observed.

### Subject Focus: Awareness of literary genres and devices











1. I can recognise the voice and viewpoint of the narrator in the texts I read and can begin to differentiate between the voices of author, narrator and characters.
2. I recognise characterisation in literary texts and can comment on the development of these characters as the story/plot/poem unfolds.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
3. I understand how character, plot, setting, themes and imagery all come together to make up a literary text.
4. I can, with guidance, apply knowledge learnt in new and creative ways *e.g. by writing my own poems, play scripts, or short stories*.  
 PRACTICAL
5. I am aware of the differences between prose, poetry and drama. I can describe the differences between these three types of literary texts.
6. I can identify a range of literary devices *e.g. imagery, personification, poetic sound devices* and poetic forms *e.g. sonnet* and can explain the literary effects and functions of these devices.
7. I can, with support, interpret the meaning, theme, structure of poems and other pieces of literary texts.  
 COGNITIVE LEARNING
8. I am aware of the different types of imagery *such as visual and aural*, and can understand the effectiveness of such imagery. I can find examples of each type and comment on their function.
9. I am aware of the sounds of poetry *e.g. rhyme, rhythm, alliteration and assonance*. I can find examples of these devices and comment on their effectiveness.
10. I can tell others how a literary text makes me feel. I can give my opinion about it as a piece of text and decide whether I would recommend it to others or not and give reasons for this.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

## Subject Focus: Writing about English Literature

1. I can write paragraphs and short essays about different aspects of the literary texts I have studied *e.g. poetic form and structure, characterisation, theme and plot*.
2. I can answer questions, *such as those which ask about structure and literary devices*, set for both studied and unseen literary texts.  
 CREATIVE LEARNING
3. I can, with guidance, answer both higher-order and lower-order questions, including those which ask for my analysis of unseen prose, drama and poetry texts.
4. I can, with guidance, answer questions which ask for my synthesis and interpretation of ideas about unseen prose and poetry texts. I can include my own personal reaction/s to the text, deciding whether to recommend it to others or not.
5. I can write a short paragraph expressing my views and opinions about an unseen prose, drama or poetry text, giving reasons for these views and opinions.
6. I can write essay-length critical appreciations of the set literary text/s based on the question or title given. I am able to write an answer which is direct and to the point using the correct terminology. I am aware that I should avoid simply giving a summary of the literary text/s.
7. I can write about setting, plot, character, theme of set literary text/s, always referring back to the set question/title.
8. I can provide my personal views of the set literary text/s in my writing, justifying my statements.
9. I can refer closely to the set literary texts by using evidence, *such as quotations, paraphrase and commentary*, to support my writing about them. I can present these quotations using proper established conventions.



# LEVEL 9

## Subject Focus: Listening and speaking


1. I can ask and understand detailed questions. I can respond with supplementary questions and evaluate the response.  
 LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
2. I can conduct conversations which have complex implications to observe the need to be polite, sensitive and tactful.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
3. I can communicate my thoughts and emotions through a wide variety of media *e.g. the telephone, and web interaction*, using an appropriate tone and style.  
 COMMUNICATION
4. I can use language in a way that is highly persuasive with the intention of influencing emotions or actions.  
 INTERPERSONAL
5. I can ask others about themselves and their views, and evaluate their responses according to how they relate to my own views.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
6. I can defend my point of view against reasonable questioning.  
 LEARNING TO KNOW
7. I can communicate effectively in unfamiliar situations using a variety of media.
8. I can adapt my use of language to various media, observing the emerging etiquette and grammar of new media.  
 USE OF DIGITAL MEDIA
9. I can listen to a conversation, presentation or dramatic performance and summarise the overt messages as well as the sub-text of motivation and bias.  
 SOCIAL CHANGE
10. I can engage in a debate and identify where there is common ground, as well as the main issues of any disagreement.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
11. I can respond to and speak about hypothetical situations.
12. I can follow descriptions which are complex in terms of linguistic, thematic and lexical content.
13. I can discuss values, attitudes and assumptions conveyed through language use and choice in spoken texts dealing with challenging themes and issues.
14. I can, with ease of speech, produce patterns of English with minimal interference from L1.
15. I can research information through a variety of media *e.g. telephone*, and use this to produce a concise summary for formal presentation to an informed audience.  
 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
16. I can describe complex personal experiences, reactions, dreams, hopes and ambitions.
17. I can explain and give reasons for actions, plans or intentions fluently and accurately.
18. I can provide quite complex directions *e.g. how to get from A to D*.
19. I can relay information that I have obtained and add brief related comments *e.g. from an announcement* or that other speakers have given me.
20. I can make suggestions in a discussion by being fluent and accurate.
21. I can follow a debate which is complex in terms of linguistic, thematic and lexical content.





## Subject Focus: Language awareness and production

1. I can construct more complex sentences.  
 PLANNING AND REFLECTION
2. I can understand the need for consistency in tense, voice, mood, person, and number *e.g. the shift from past to present, active to passive, indicative to imperative.*
3. I understand the need for the accurate use of tense and number.  
 COGNITIVE LEARNING
4. I can understand and use language which expresses hypothetical situations and possibilities *e.g. modals and conditionals.*
5. I can report, in speech or writing, what others have said or written.
6. I can understand how words behave together *e.g. collocations, false friends* and use these patterns in context of specific situations.
7. I can make use of affixes *e.g. -ful, -ness* to change grammatical class *e.g. help- helpful; kind-kindness.*
8. I can correctly make use of the past and present tenses as well as refer to the future when speaking and writing.
9. I can make use of the gerund *e.g. smoking as a verb, noun and adjective.*
10. I can identify the difference between tense and aspect.
11. I can accurately narrate events/stories, describe persons/objects/scenes, express arguments for and against, and formulate opinions at a level of complexity which is age-appropriate.
12. I can produce various forms of discourse *e.g. creative, technical and scientific.*

## Subject Focus: Reading










1. I can understand how language is used persuasively.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
2. I can read for different purposes across a very wide range of genres *e.g. to find out new information, for enjoyment, to learn new things.*
3. I can identify and comment upon the cultural content of a text.
4. I can evaluate the ability of writers to achieve their effects through the use of linguistic, structural, stylistic, and presentation devices.
5. I can detect bias in a piece of writing.
6. I can distinguish between complex scientific and technical writing.
7. I can read complex texts across a wider range of genres for different purposes *e.g. to find out new information, for enjoyment, to learn new things.*

## Subject Focus: Writing

1. I can use a very wide range of complex sentence structures correctly with appropriate punctuation.  
 ACCURACY
2. I can write for a particular purpose.
3. I can convey complex ideas in writing.  
 EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE
4. I can convey information using diagrams within my writing.
5. I can produce texts in different genres *e.g. narrative, descriptive, discursive.*
6. I can write different types of sentences accurately, arranging these to make meaning clear as well as showing the relationship between paragraphs.
7. I can produce complex scientific and technical pieces of writing.

# LEVEL 10



## Subject Focus: Listening and speaking

1. I can engage in detailed discussions with others on technical, literary and scientific issues, using an appropriate register according to context.  
 COMMUNICATION
2. I can create complex pieces of a literary or technical nature. I am able to fully engage my audience.  
 INTERPERSONAL
3. I can understand how language is used through a variety of media to manipulate opinions and actions.  
 READING AND UNDERSTANDING
4. I can review a range of commentaries from a variety of media and summarise the main issues and viewpoints involved.  
 MANAGING MEDIA
5. I can defend my position on a complex issue.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
6. I can project myself into hypothetical situations and rehearse appropriate responses to situations I have never experienced.  
 CREATIVE LEARNING
7. I can speak in public for a sustained period of time, adapting my register and style to the nature of my subject and of my audience.  
 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY
8. I can synthesise information from a range of sources *e.g. conversational or formal presentations*, and by a variety of media, and report on these accurately.  
 COGNITIVE LEARNING
9. I am aware of potential areas of bias or inadequate information in my own views and am able to acknowledge these where appropriate.  
 SOCIAL CHANGE


## Subject Focus: Language awareness and production

1. I can understand the importance of grammatical rules and the implications of when they are ignored.
2. I can understand how fine grammatical distinctions lead to changes in meaning *e.g. different ways of talking about the future*.
3. I can use a wide range of grammatical constructions to achieve stylistic variety in my writing.

## Subject Focus: Reading

1. I can gather information from long and complex articles and books.  
 LEARNING TO BE
2. I can extract the necessary information from complex texts.
3. I can see the link between an author's motivation and the way a piece is written.  
 SOCIAL CHANGE
4. I can read across all genres for different purposes *e.g. to find out new information, for enjoyment, to learn new things*.

## Subject Focus: Writing

1. I can write highly complex sentences using the full range of punctuation marks.  
 ACCURACY
2. I can write long and complex texts for a variety of purposes.
3. I can engage in extended writing accurately.



# Pedagogy

## A. PEDAGOGY AND GOOD PRACTICE LEARNING

Educators need to keep up-to-date with the latest pedagogical strategies and concepts in order to be able to better understand and respond to learners' needs. Europe's *Education and Training 2020* strategy puts special emphasis on the teachers' role in the lives of their learners. Teachers play a crucial role in guiding their learners towards their goals and shaping their perceptions (European Commission, 2015).

English in Malta is constitutionally one of two official languages. Together with Maltese, English is the vehicle of the collective's national identity. Malta's bilingual population deems English to be an intrinsic part of its social and personal makeup. For cultural, historical and political reasons, English is an essential part of the nation's definition. The complexity of Malta's national identity entails that English is the second language for most people, the first language for a significant proportion of the population, and the main foreign language for an increasing number of migrants from the EU and the rest of the world. English is omnipresent in Malta from a child's early years up to active participation in society later on in life. Hence, English in Malta is inherently bound to who you are, what you do, and how you do it.

English is not only present in the personal domain but plays a crucial role in the public, occupational and educational domains. Together with Maltese, English is used to communicate with family and friends, to study and work, as well as to carry out one's civic duties. The written and spoken forms of the language permeate Maltese society and are employed in a broad range of contexts on a continual basis. The ability to navigate through this linguistic landscape by deftly switching between the two languages depending on the exigencies of context, purpose and interlocutor constitutes a fundamental set of skills that any bilingual speaker in Malta needs to develop from a very young age in order to function effectively. For the majority of the population this necessitates a near-native proficiency in English.

In Malta it is considered paramount that young people are enabled to develop a high level of proficiency in English for active participation in society, success in education, employment and personal life, and the expression of identity. According to *A National Curriculum Framework for All*, the learning of English "provides access to near-universal knowledge and culture" (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2012:34). Moreover, there is a "need to have proficiency in English for competitiveness in a globalised economic environment" (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2012:41). Hence, the school experience should complement the home environment in nurturing the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed by the country's bilingual speakers.

At primary level, learners should be provided with plenty of exposure to English and constant opportunities to practise the four skills, enrich their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, and enhance their pronunciation. English literature can serve an important function in this respect by providing opportunities for further language learning through poetry, prose and other literary genres. This sustained approach to English needs to happen as a whole school approach in which learners are enabled to develop mastery in English via the classroom context, extra-curricular activities, as well as play and recreation. The multimodal use of authentic and literary texts as well as digital media and film is crucial for this purpose. For the purposes of formative and summative assessment, all four skills will need to be factored in (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2012:53).

Given learners' bilingual identity, exposure to English and opportunities for use need to occur from the very first day of their enrolment and be on a par with those provided for the learning of Maltese. The two languages should develop simultaneously (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2012:51) and schools should actively "[p]romote a policy of bilingualism and biliteracy in Maltese and English" (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2014b:8). In the classroom, English should be a permanent fixture of the learning experience and not simply assigned an hour in the daily timetable. In line with one of the recommendations made by *A National Literacy Strategy for All in Malta and Gozo 2014-2019* (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2014b:29), educators should employ a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach when teaching Science, Mathematics, Drama, English and Digital Literacy. It is fundamental that educators do not merely use English as the medium of instruction but also use their teaching of content subjects in order to foreground the language of the subject being taught.

Educators' methodological practice needs to be made up of a repertoire of approaches and methods that make the English language learning experience a learner-centred one. Learners should be enabled to master the language in a communicative manner with regular opportunities for interactive, task-based, inductive learning. Language learning should give primacy to meaningful activities propelled by learners' real-life needs and stimulating their desire to communicate. Such activities should also cultivate learners' creativity, thinking skills and learning-to-learn skills. Learners' ability to remember, understand and apply knowledge should be fostered. This is in line with the recommendation that language learners should be able "to explore and effectively use questioning, information, critical thinking, decision-making and memory" (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2012:53).

With regard to secondary education, many of the principles outlined above should continue to be considered premium qualities of the English language learning experience. Classroom and non-classroom activities should continue to underscore the value of interactivity and dialogic processes. Learners should be able to engage with relevant materials, literary texts and self-created content. The development of critical thinking skills at this stage becomes more important and hence learners should be encouraged to be even more analytical, evaluative and creative. Language learning should not be restricted by a syllabus that prioritises grammatical competence, but a functional-notional syllabus should be also considered. It is also very important to regularly expose learners to literary texts as literature expresses an enriched form of English that can significantly enhance their sensitivity to language and fire their imagination. A focus-on-form approach is recommended so that learners' language learning potential can be optimised through opportunities to notice emergent language.

Educators need to consider language and literature as interconnected components of English. Many of the skills and systems that learners master in the classroom serve the purpose of both components. Educators need to adopt a balanced approach to the use of literary and non-literary texts, providing learners with substantial exposure to different text types and purposes as well as various forms of discourse, such as creative, technical and scientific.

In English language lessons adequate attention should be given to the four skills as well as language awareness and production. Special attention should be given to different sets of registers pertinent to speaking and writing in order to facilitate an understanding of the formality continuum ranging from informal to formal use of language that is dependent on context and purpose (i.e. communicative purpose, text content, lexicogrammatical features, etc.) (Flowerdew, 2013). All the above foci should feature in learners' instruction from the very beginning of the school year; the relevant learning outcomes should be achieved through a holistic approach rather than a fragmented one. The different foci should complement each other and equal emphasis placed on the attainment of the corresponding learning outcomes for each focus. This is facilitated by a topic-based or functional approach to language teaching and learning.

Given that literature is conceived as an integral part of English at all levels, educators should provide learners with ample and regular opportunities for a focused engagement with literary texts. Enabling learners to attain the learning outcomes for literature should be a running feature built into the design of educators' schemes of work. From Levels 5 to 7, the emphasis in literature lessons should be on maximising learners' awareness of and engagement with different genres. Educators should prioritise the cultivation of positive attitudes toward literature on the part

of learners so that they are encouraged to read for pleasure. Lessons at Levels 8 to 10 should intensify the focus on literature by simultaneously developing learners' understanding of English literature in time and place, their awareness of literary genres and devices, and their ability to write about literary texts. In all literature lessons at these levels, educators should undergird learners' appreciation of and critical engagement with literary texts. In their efforts to help learners attain the learning outcomes for literature at all six levels, educators should equip learners with the capacity to capitalise on the skills and systems they would be acquiring in their English language lessons.

Similarly, learners' engagement with literary texts should be developed via a pedagogy that underscores their personal and critical response and gives added value to the performative aspect. Literature lessons should engage learners on a personal and social level with texts that are relevant and enriching for them. A multimodal approach to texts in language and literature lessons should be promoted so that learners' engagement is as holistic as possible. Moreover, learners should be able to engage with self-created content. Language and literature lesson activities should cultivate learners' creativity, thinking skills, and learning-to-learn skills. Learners' ability to remember, understand and apply knowledge should be fostered. This is in line with the recommendation that learners should be able "to explore and effectively use questioning, information, critical thinking, decision-making and memory" (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2012:53). The development of critical thinking skills at Levels 7 to 10 is especially important and hence learners should be encouraged to be even more analytical, evaluative and creative.

Given that one of the greatest effects on learning is when learners become their own educators (Hattie, 2012), a pedagogy that cultivates learner autonomy should be cultivated. For both language and literature, educators should promote opportunities for deep learning, which is defined as "the process through which an individual becomes capable of taking what was learned in one situation and applying it to new situations" (Pellegrino and Hilton, 2012:5). In this process, learners should have the possibility of engaging in shared learning by interacting with a community of learners. This entails the formation of learning partnerships between educators and learners so that new knowledge is generated and connected to the world by means of digital tools and resources (Fullan and Langworthy, 2014). The use of the flipped classroom model reinforces active learning and thus prevents an educator-centred, transmissive pedagogy (Keengwe, Onchwari and Oigara, 2014). Lastly, learning is more effective when educators are aware of their teaching styles and learners are aware of their learning styles. Hence, educators should employ a pedagogy that caters for the different learning styles of their learners and encourages them to exploit these styles for autonomous learning (Rosenberg, 2013).

### Learning to Learn Strategies

The following are examples of the strategies which form part of the 'learning to learn process', one of the eight competencies featured in the document *European Reference Framework Key Competencies for Lifelong Learning* (European Commission, 2007):

- Pedagogical discussions between learners where, on a voluntary basis, learners explain how they carried out a specific task and how they managed to overcome the difficulties encountered, resulting in an exchange of strategies and techniques in a cooperative environment.
- Teaching learners to make use of punctuation marks, pictures, additional information outside the text, such as accompanying explanation of difficult keywords and identification of keywords during reading/ comprehension tasks.
- Teaching and guiding on the different stages of essay writing and the different tools and methods which could be adopted during each stage.

The Subject Learning Outcomes (SLOs) have been written in a way which helps educators to adopt engaging, enterprising and active learning approaches in a variety of contexts to promote and enable learner-centric teaching and learning strategies. Curriculum planners at all stages should regularly consider the opportunities presented by the SLOs to develop active learning throughout the levels in the Learning Outcomes Framework. Planning should be responsive to, as well as encourage participation by, the learner who can and should influence and contribute to the process.

To support curriculum planning and to ensure that all learners have access to an active, enterprising learning environment, a coherent approach to planning learning, teaching and assessment and to sharing information about progress and achievements is needed. In undertaking this type of curriculum planning, it is important not to see the SLOs as limiting factors containing the learning potential of learners and preventing any deviation of learning beyond that contained within the SLOs. This view fails to take into account the scope and flexibility provided by the learning outcomes approach. How, where and when the outcomes are taught and learned is at the discretion of the educator. The SLOs are there to demystify the assessment process by setting out straightforward learning expectations. In doing so, assessment is bound to evidencing the meeting of these same expectations.

Once the learning expectations are set educators can begin to introduce the flexibility in curriculum design and delivery that has been difficult to do up to this point. The learning outcomes approach allows educators to lean towards learner-centric teaching and learning strategies. This will mean knowing the many ways in which learners are different from one another, which of the many ways of learning are significant to the learning at hand and how to deal with this variance in ways that are supportive of the individual learners and allow them to progress. Section C: Reaching different learners within each level offers guidance on how this can be done.

## B. EMBEDDING THE DELIVERY OF THE CROSS CURRICULAR THEMES

Across Europe there has been a shift from an exclusively subject-based approach to a more cross curricular, thematic, inter-disciplinary and collaborative approach that reflects real life situations and encourages transfer of skills from one learning area to another. Through a cross curricular approach, many curricular areas have been given a higher profile and a number of transversal competences have enhanced their status (European Commission, 2012). The CCTs connect the subjects by highlighting common learning objectives which are also reflected at in the school ethos (Ministry for Education and Employment, 2012: 31, 39).

The Cross Curricular Themes (CCTs) have been introduced in the LOF to ensure that all learners, as they progress through the levels, come into continual contact with the types of knowledge, skills and understanding needed to participate actively, prosper and contribute to Maltese society.

The embedding of the CCTs in the Subject Learning Outcomes offers access to a new learning identity that goes beyond the subject; learners will value the CCT learning when they see that it is an integral part of the Learning Outcomes Framework and that it is vital in helping them become holistic learners.

Each CCT is presented as a set of additional learning outcomes that young people need to encounter and develop a knowledge and understanding of as they progress through the Learning Outcomes Framework.

**The Cross Curricular Themes are:**

**Digital Literacy**



**Education for Diversity**



**Education for Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation**



**Education for Sustainable Development**



**Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning**



**Literacy**



The Cross Curricular Themes can be found in the Appendix and online at <http://www.schoolslearningoutcomes.edu.mt/en/category/cross-curricular-themes>



The CCTs need to be embedded within the learner's learning journey and experiences, the main point being that the CCT knowledge and understanding needs to be learned, consolidated and secured within a context. The context is important in order to add meaning and purpose and to reinforce the usefulness of the CCT. There is no one effective way of organising the embedded learning of the CCTs. However, directly linking a CCT outcome to an appropriate practical task within an SLO and then ensuring that there is an opportunity for CCT support at the time the practical task is undertaken is a particularly effective way of embedding a CCT.

Embedding is not just about interlinking different curricula. Mapping where the CCT content might fit in with SLOs or Subject Foci is only a starting point. The educator needs to establish how the CCT content adds value to the SLOs being taught and how something greater than just the sum of the different parts can be achieved. In essence, the CCT learning adds value in the establishment of key transferable knowledge, skills and understanding by starting with meaningful 'situated' engagements with the learning.

### Embedding as a process

There are three main ways to approach the delivery of the knowledge, skills and understanding addressed in the CCTs in the learning process. These are:

- through delivery of and the learning associated with the SLOs
- by choosing particular teaching methods and strategies over others to deliver the SLOs.
- undertaking specifically constructed cross curricular or whole school activities.

This process implies an important shift in the way teachers approach the teaching of the subject content in the classroom. Integrating the cross curricular learning outcomes in the teaching of separate subjects requires teachers to step outside their traditional boundaries and work in close collaboration with one another to develop their approach to the CCTs and to exchange information about the learning development of specific learners in relation to the CCTs (European Commission, 2012:25).

### Delivering CCTs through the SLOs

The first approach to the delivery of CCT content is by integrating the CCT learning with that of particular SLOs. The framework provides guidance on the best opportunities to do this. Where a particular SLO presents a good opportunity to address learning related to a Cross Curricular Theme a CCT icon appears after the SLO. This indicates that the SLO:

- creates a naturally occurring opportunity to begin to look at learning and skills development associated with a particular aspect of a CCT.
- can be enhanced or enriched by introducing a particular aspect of one of the CCTs.

To guide the educator to the specific learning outcomes of the CCT that are most relevant, the CCT icon which is attached to the SLO in question also includes a heading to identify which particular aspect of the CCT is the 'best fit', i.e. the part of the CCT content that is most closely linked to the knowledge, understanding and/or skills addressed within the SLO.

Although only one CCT has been identified this does not necessarily mean that other CCTs are not relevant. The identification of a particular theme merely suggests that the educator may find the one identified to be the most relevant, most appropriate or easiest to embed at that particular point, allowing the educator to teach the subject and the CCT in an integrated way.

Examples of this type of embedding in English include:

- I can express my opinions about a story at my own reading level, giving clear reasons as to why I have these opinions.

 SOCIAL LEARNING

Taken From Level 6, Subject Focus: Reading

- I can write in an appropriate way with the right tone as well as make use of words to create a particular mood or feeling.

 PLANNING AND REFLECTION

Taken from Level 8, Subject Focus: Writing

- I can ask others about themselves and their views, and evaluate their responses according to how they relate to my own views.

 COMMUNICATING FOR DIVERSITY

Taken from Level 9, Subject Focus: Listening and Speaking

### Example: Finding opportunities to address CCT learning in English SLOs

- I can express my opinions about a story at my own reading level, giving clear reasons as to why I have these opinions.

#### SOCIAL LEARNING

Taken From Level 6, Subject Focus: Reading

The CCT embedding opportunity identified above offers a naturally occurring opportunity to address some of the Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning CCT expectations focused on Social Learning. The opportunities here exist at two levels. The first is in the immediate demonstration of the SLO, which is enriched by demonstrating the following CCT expectations at the same time:

- I am confident in discussing my views with others.
- I can debate and support my argument without being judgemental and still being empathic towards others.




Both of the above help the learner as contributor. However, by focusing more on this SLO as an opportunity to develop and consolidate group discussion skills, educators can look at the opportunity to look not just at the learner as group contributor but as a confident and constructive group participant. These types of behaviour help draw out the chance to explore the learning and skills development associated with the following Social Learning outcomes:

- I can appreciate diverse viewpoints and personalities.
- I can follow the ideas of others and comment on their views.
- I can follow group discussions and collaboration and summarise what is being said or done.


Thus the Social Learning Dimension can be developed further to the benefit of the learner and eventual English SLO performance. In order to make the most of the opportunities within the CCT embedding process, time will need to be given to helping the learner understand the learning, skills development and practice that underpins each of the CCT expectations.

### Addressing CCTs through use of particular teaching methods and strategies

CCTs can be used to inform the creation of English Departmental policies and strategies, for example, by deliberately structuring learning to maximise the use of digital technologies. At the departmental level, the following CCTs may be particularly suitable to help inform the pedagogy choices and delivery styles selected to maximise the flexibility introduced by the LOF:

-  Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning
-  Digital Literacy
-  Education for Diversity

Educators may find that the following CCTs have a role to play in the choice of topics to stimulate interest and debate:

-  Education for Sustainable Development
-  Education for Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation.





It will become evident that some of the CCTs are naturally suited to particular learning and teaching styles. Section C *Reaching different learners within each level* provides guidance on how particular CCTs can equip learners to thrive in particular learning environments. Deliberately choosing particular teaching strategies involving active and/or experiential learning and problem solving approaches where a certain degree of learner autonomy as well as team work is required will help frame learning in ways conducive to the introduction of the Digital Literacy and Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning CCTs.

For example, the Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning CCT comprises a category of learning outcomes on Personal Learning and, by addressing the learning related to this category of the CCT, learners will be developing the learning skills to bring to any task where a degree of autonomy and self-management is required. Similarly, the Social Learning category within the same CCT can help learners develop a framework of skills, attitudes and behaviours that will help them make the most of group or team work and other social learning strategies.

The Digital Learning CCT will help learners develop the competencies related to managing learning, sourcing, manipulating, communicating and presenting information. Having these types of learning skills embedded in the learning before they are most heavily used or required will help the learner approach the tasks with greater confidence in both the process of learning about SLOs and in demonstrating achievement of the outcomes themselves.

#### Addressing CCTs through cross curricular or whole-school activities

All the CCTs can be used as whole-school strategies for creating a high quality learning environment that values all learners and sets high expectations for all. Schools may see the benefit in having whole-school policies on the advancement of:

-  Literacy
-  Digital Literacy
-  Education for Diversity
-  Education for Sustainable Development

These types of CCTs can be used to help inform whole-school policies as well as add real value to the learning within the classroom. However, other CCTs may be used to form the basis of whole Year Group activities, or wider all-learner school initiatives around environmental issues. For example:

- The Education for Sustainable Development CCT could be used to form the basis of whole-school extra-curricular activities related to the Eko-Skola type of initiatives or low energy use initiatives. Fundraising activities to help with a school pursuit of renewable energy sources might bring together learning from this CCT with that of the Education for Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation CCT.
- The Education for Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation CCT could be used to underpin the learning and experiences associated with activities ranging from a 'learner-owned' tuck shop to a school event or whole-school initiatives about the world of work.

## C. REACHING DIFFERENT LEARNERS WITHIN EACH LEVEL

One of the benefits of working within a Learning Outcomes Framework (and at the same time one of the challenges) is the ability to allow learners to progress at their own speed and to be able to adapt the teaching methodology and curriculum to meet their learning needs. The SLOs clearly show where the learning ‘finish line’ is at each level for each learner but educators need to acknowledge and plan for those learners who will reach this point quicker than some and also for those who may need more time and more scaffolding to be able to get to the standard required.

The Subject Foci are not rigid or restrictive and do not have to be delivered in a particular sequence or as discrete content areas taken in isolation. Subject Foci can be overlapped and blended into larger (or smaller) learning programmes. Educators may prefer to approach the learning contexts in a different order depending on the situation, or to deliver aspects of the learning through preferred topics.

### Diversity of learners

The NCF embraces diversity and requires that this be promoted through an inclusive environment.

The NCF addresses the needs of:

- gifted and talented learners for whom the process of learning needs to be sufficiently challenging to engage and motivate them to develop their talents.
- learners with special educational needs for whom the curriculum should be written in a way that allows the teachers to appreciate how every student can access the same curriculum in every learning area and allows for the assessment of a continuum of ability.
- learners with severe disabilities for whom the curriculum should offer an education based on a continuum of abilities expressed in terms of developmental phases.
- learners from disadvantaged social backgrounds for whom the school, in collaboration with key local and institutional stakeholders in the community, needs to up-skill and support families and the local community to provide an environment that is educationally rich and stable.
- learners from diverse social, cultural and linguistic backgrounds including children of refugees and asylum seekers for whom the curriculum should include access to an educational programme which is embedded within an emotionally and psychologically supportive environment that respects their individual circumstances.

*A National Curriculum Framework for All, Ministry for Education and Employment (2012:41)*

All classrooms, even where setting is used, will comprise a range of abilities. This is because learners will have different strengths and limitations and will develop at different rates. To define a ‘mixed ability’ class simply as a group of learners with a range of abilities is overly simplistic. What about the range of learning styles and preferences, interest levels and home backgrounds, which all impact on the learning experience? Each learner will show strengths at different times depending on the topic being studied and the learning style being used. When they are outside their learning comfort zone they will perform less well. It is unrealistic to expect any group of learners, whatever their ability, to progress through a body of work at exactly the same pace. Two thirds of learners in a classroom will be working outside their learning style unless the task is varied.

One of the most effective ways to ensure that different learners are reached within each level and throughout the LOF is to teach learners to think for themselves. Some of the CCTs provide the toolkit of knowledge and skills for learners to be able to become more effective, resilient, resourceful and autonomous learners.

#### **Progression and differentiation in learning**

The principles of diversity and inclusion which underpin the NCF imply that at all stages learners of all aptitudes and competences should experience success, challenge, and the necessary support to sustain their effort. They need flexible learning programmes providing diverse learning experiences that cater for a wide spectrum of learners and allow for different rates of progression as children and young people work through their school years. Different approaches are needed to address different learning needs. With the focus increasingly on the learner, and with more mixed-ability classes in schools, differentiated approaches are becoming more important and teachers need to adopt strategies that build on children's and young people's previous learning and help them progress.

*A National Curriculum Framework for All, Ministry for Education and Employment (2012:40)*

#### **Strategies for teaching a mixed ability class**

The teacher in the classroom must start by making a connection with each learner in their classes on a personal level by knowing and using their names and getting to know what interests them. Incorporating areas of interest into the learning can be a good way to engage learners. Similarly, using this type of knowledge when setting homework or individual class work can be a useful motivator and may help keep learners engaged.

#### **Personal Learning:**

- I can identify the support and resources I need to learn.
- I am aware of my preferred way to learn and can use this to plan my own learning.
- I manage goals and time efficiently in learning.
- I feel competent in managing my own learning.
- I am open to feedback from others and am able to consider it.
- I reorganise myself by explicitly changing my assumptions over time.
- I am able to follow my own interests as this helps me to reflect on 'who I am'.
- I am pleased when I succeed at difficult tasks.

Taken from the Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning CCT

### Ways to empower learners and make them more able to thrive within the LOF

Create a dynamic learning environment by:

- managing the classroom and creating opportunities for learners to work individually, in pairs and in groups.
- changing the layout of the classroom to match the learning taking place.
- providing a choice of differentiated activities, allowing learners to select their level of engagement and challenge. This will help with the 'ownership' suggestion listed further down.
- using carefully selected and differentiated resource banks.
- presenting different ways to learn the same thing.

Engage learners by:

- creating a sense of learner ownership of the learning process by, for example, allowing learners to choose their own project.
- allowing learners to demonstrate their understanding in different ways, for example through self-selected means, be it a visual representation, an oral presentation or physical demonstration.
- building in the higher order thinking skills using Bloom's taxonomy (at all levels) and working with the SLOs to keep learning tasks interesting, providing useful stretch and challenges as SLOs are given added dimensions or are approached from different directions. This can be done by giving learners problem-solving tasks with the opportunity to transfer and apply their knowledge to a new context.

Turn learners into resilient learners by:

- at an early stage introducing the learners to the key learning strategies encompassed by the Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning CCT.
- discussing the learning objective in each lesson with learners, making them aware of what they are expected to achieve by the end of the lesson. The SLOs (written in the first person) are directed at the learner.
- making learners aware of different learning styles; teaching learners techniques for learning new content using visual, auditory and kinaesthetic modes of learning and varying teaching strategies to cater for visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learners.
- teaching learners how to be less dependent on the teacher. For example, how do they get themselves 'unstuck' if they are stuck?

Use group work to:

- allow for reinforcement and extension (by using flexible groups).
- encourage learners to engage in Social Learning and to appreciate diverse viewpoints and personalities; build confidence in discussing their views with others; collaborate with other learners as part of their learning; seek out guidance and support from other learners; talk with others about learning; listen to others talk about learning and discuss various subjects and learning strategies with peers (by using mixed ability groups).

An inclusive approach to teaching and curriculum planning needs to be ensured. While the school will want to create an ethos of achievement for all learners, valuing a broad range of talents, abilities and achievements, the teacher will need to work out what that means in their classroom. At a basic level this starts with promoting success and self-esteem by taking action to remove barriers to learning, thus making sure that all learners in all groups thrive in the classroom. Teachers can overtly promote understanding and a positive appreciation of the diversity of individuals in their class and use the Diversity CCT as a catalyst for this approach extending it to include the learner directly.

### Values- based education

Education is as much about building character as it is about equipping students with specific skills. The way forward for the implementation of the framework is through values-based education. Values-based education refers to any explicit and/or implicit school-based activity which promotes student understanding and knowledge of values and which develops the skills and dispositions of students so they can enact particular values as individuals and as members of the wider community. It ensures that those leaving school should have qualities of self confidence, high self esteem, optimism and commitment to personal fulfilment as a foundation for their potential life roles as family, community and employees. Furthermore they should have the capacity to exercise judgement and responsibility in matters of ethical and social judgements.

Adapted from *Respect for All Framework*, Ministry for Education and Employment (2014:10)

Schools should have a vibrant and progressive culture, promoting well-being and respect, with ambition and achievement for all learners as its focus. This type of approach needs to be taken in each classroom. A great school is a caring school that supports every single person, irrespective of background or learning need. Such schools work in an atmosphere of unconditional positive regard. They work tirelessly to promote healthy and productive attitudes to learning, to life and to work. Developing an ethos of achievement and ambition defines the aspirational nature of successful schools, making the connection between expectation and success - success which covers all aspects of developing skills for life, for work and for learning - a hallmark of excellence.

From the perspective of the classroom, an inclusive approach addresses learners' needs through a variety of approaches including: early intervention strategies and a curriculum and approaches to learning and teaching which are designed to match the needs of all learners. Educators should have high expectations of their learners because they need to be encouraged to have high aspirations and goals for themselves. It is imperative that educators ensure that their learners know where they are in relation to their learning and how they can improve. Learners should be praised regularly, selectively and effectively to keep motivated.

As learners progress within the levels and between levels they should be encouraged to reflect on, take increasing ownership of and assume more responsibility for their own learning. Educators should start to introduce techniques to allow learners to make increasingly greater use of self-assessment to identify their strengths and development needs from the evidence of their efforts and act on feedback given from peers as well as educators in order to plan their next steps.



Given that gifted and talented learners are those possessing above-average general and specific abilities, and high levels of task commitment and creativity (Renzulli, 1978), it is important that they are provided with the opportunity to demonstrate their attainment of the learning outcomes by means of a more intense and broad engagement with the different foci for language and literature. Enrichment is one way of catering for the needs of such learners, and this might involve providing them with activities and resources that are more demanding in nature, assigning them independent projects, giving them the opportunity of using higher order thinking skills on a regular basis and engaging them in extension activities (Townsend, 1996).

For example, the productive and receptive skills of gifted and talented learners could be enhanced further by being asked to read and write longer and more creative texts or by being encouraged to participate in national debating competitions. Being asked to lead peer-teaching activities could increase their understanding of language systems.

Gifted and talented learners are most often voracious readers (Vosslamber, 2005) and hence their engagement with literature can be reinforced by means of guidance on the educator's part as to which books to read and how to respond to them in writing and speaking, using a wide array of creative and critical responses that learners could be encouraged to publish online or in print. Their creative mastery of different literary genres could also be shared in this way.

#### **Opening up challenging text in Shakespeare**

Learners can often find it difficult to peel away the surface of the soliloquies and comprehend their many layers.

To analyse the tone and symbolism of Macbeth's soliloquy in Act 1, Scene 7 (where he contemplates the consequences of murdering King Duncan), consider getting the class to use Play-Doh or similar.

Thinking laterally, have the learners create ambition in a tangible form, paying attention to shape and texture, then explaining their rationale. Those who find the text difficult to access can explore this theme in a visual manner while sharpening their critical thinking.

Then the educator can read the soliloquy to the class and have them in pairs write down the key words or phrases that relate to ambition on sticky notes. Using these words, learners draw a conceptual image relating to the text.

Educators could finish this exercise by presenting a spectrum of colours and asking pupils to associate them with particular words in the soliloquy. In addition to obvious links – such as red for blood – words such as “assassination”, “vaulting” and “consequence” can generate interesting discussion and debate.

This type of exercise creates opportunities to introduce aspects of Learning to Learn and Cooperative Learning CCT especially in Cognitive and Social Learning.

*Adapted from New York Times Education Supplement 12 June 2015 (Bernard, 2015)*

## D. TEACHING DIFFERENT LEVELS WITHIN ONE YEAR GROUP

There will be learners within each class that need more time to be able to achieve the learning needed to demonstrate achievement of the SLOs. As learners progress through their learning journey they may move to a new year and start a new level but still have areas of unsecured learning from the previous level. The first important factor here is clarity of information on progress following this learner that makes it clear to their new teacher what support or additional work they may need to ensure that they can progress on to the new level.

**Section C** *Reaching different learners within each level* referred to the use of a range of strategies designed to respond to the different learning preferences of each learner. Where learners are entering the class in need of support to secure some aspects of the previous level it is important that:

- there is clear information about where the areas in need of support are.
- it is clear how these areas relate to progression and achievement in the new level.
- there are a range of strategies and learning devices available to match the learning style to the learner preference to assist with early progression.
- conversation with the learner about areas in need of support or reinforcement remains positive, learner-affirming and constructive.

One of the benefits of the LOF structure is that Levels 7 and 8 are delivered across two-year curriculum windows allowing time to develop learning programmes and deploy a range of learning methods to help learners progress and achieve.

There are a few models to consider when looking at introducing a measure of stretch for learners able to achieve SLOs well within the delivery time associated with the level. Educators may want to consider:

- exploring the SLOs in a broader and/or deeper way, perhaps looking to transfer or apply learning associated with the SLOs in new contexts.
- using more exacting or challenging texts.
- adding stretch by setting more challenging or complex tasks which exposes the learner to more challenging texts and vocabulary or introduces new Subject Foci or new areas of existing Subject Foci, remembering that the SLOs do not set a ceiling on the learning.
- looking at opportunities offered by the CCTs as sources of inspiration for introducing new areas of content to provide additional curriculum content that both enhances the subject learning experience and looks at CCT content in perhaps different or more challenging ways.

One other key source of material related to provision of additional challenge or stretch is the Subject Foci and SLOs from the level above. While it may not always be appropriate to begin to address these directly, educators may want to look at the contextual learning or preparation work that serves as a good introduction to learning at the next level. The focus here is on looking at the bridges between the learning in each level and how the learner can begin to access this learning. In this type of approach, as with the other areas of extension work, it will be important to keep a proper record of achievement to be able to inform teaching staff working with the learners when they move formally to the next level.

Although the above suggestions will help educators address the challenges of differentiation, it is nevertheless acknowledged that it is hard to implement differentiated instruction in a heterogeneous classroom, especially if educators are not supported or they do not know what they are differentiating – the curriculum or the instructional methods used to deliver it. It is hence important to give teachers clear guidance and support on what they need to do to differentiate instruction and be responsive to the needs of each learner by taking into account what they are teaching and who they are teaching. Time should also be factored in for teachers to assess their learners' needs, interest and readiness levels and to plan and design appropriate activities for each learner. These concerns can be addressed through effective professional development that strongly encourages teachers to apply their skills and which provides coaching throughout the process of using differentiation as a teaching approach.

## E. TEACHING ONE LEVEL ACROSS TWO YEAR GROUPS

Within the LOF, Levels 7 and 8 have an added additional layer of challenge in curriculum planning and design in that both levels run across two different years. For example, Level 8 SLOs sit across Years 9 and 10. This means that educators need to consider how they might want to structure the delivery programmes needed to achieve the SLOs that will allow learning to take place in a meaningful and coherent way across two years that capitalises on any progression opportunities within the level. However, this wider window to reach the standard of a level also helps deal with some of the challenges discussed in the previous chapter.

When looking at the content shaped by the SLOs within a level, educators may be able to identify SLOs that are considered to be prerequisites for others in the same level and structure the curriculum accordingly. Some Subject Foci may naturally be delivered before others or educators may look to design and implement a curriculum that has more of a spiral curriculum progression feel to it. Educators may even feel that there are different ways to work with the Subject Foci, wrapping them up and addressing the SLOs by creating new subject areas incorporating the Subject Foci.

The decision on how best to approach the Subject Foci and the SLOs within the Subject Foci is essentially a local one. It is up to the educators to use their professional judgement on how best to do this based on their learners' needs, their preferred way of structuring the curriculum and the types of resources they intend to work with.

There are at least three obvious potential approaches that educators may wish to consider:

- Developing a period of ground work or preparation style learning before proceeding on to the curriculum directly associated with the SLOs.
- Developing a developmental approach across the existing SLOs where some suitable Subject Foci and corresponding SLOs are addressed before others with these supporting the learning of the SLOs to be covered in the second year.
- Developing a curriculum and learning programme approach that exhibits a mixture of the above two approaches.

There are also the more ambitious approaches where the Subject Foci and SLOs are absorbed into a more locally designed approach that may meet the strengths and interests of the staff and learners in a better way. Educators have the freedom to decide if there is a more integrated way to deliver and learn the subject. The LOF allows educators this measure of control and innovation to the benefit of their learners. Whichever the method selected, curriculum planning, resource selection and the selection of teaching strategies will all be important.



# Assessment

## A. METHODOLOGIES THAT WILL ENSURE FIT FOR PURPOSE ASSESSMENT

English language and literature should be assessed by means of a blend of summative and formative modes of assessment (Marshall, 2011). Ensuring that assessment of learning is complemented by assessment for learning is crucial given that the latter “provides information to be used as feedback by educators, and by their learners in assessing themselves and each other, to modify the teaching and learning activities in which they are engaged” (Black et al., 2003:2). Learner learning is enhanced even further by means of assessment as learning, in which the key assessor is the learner who engages in self-monitoring, self-correction and adjustment with reference to personal goals and external standards (Earl, 2003). A balance of all three approaches to assessment should be sought.

Both activities conducted in class and under examination conditions should serve as opportunities for learners to demonstrate they have attained specific learning outcomes related to the foci for each component. For example, with respect to speaking and listening, engaging in a debate could be used for ongoing assessment, whereas giving a presentation and summarising the content of a listening text could be used for summative purposes. Expressing their opinions about a text could be a means of assessing learners’ reading skills in an ongoing manner, whereas asking them to infer the meanings suggested in a text and summarising it could feature in summative assessment. Demonstrating the ability to edit and revise their writing could be used to assess learners’ writing skills in a formative fashion, while expecting them to write a longer text organised in a series of well-constructed paragraphs could be a form of summative assessment. Language awareness and production can be assessed in an ongoing manner through activities centring on the four skills, while for the purposes of summative assessment learners could be asked to demonstrate the ability to use the appropriate verb forms in a gap-fill task based on the principle of grammar in context. Learners’ engagement with a broad range of literary texts could be assessed in an ongoing manner by means of a literature portfolio incorporating a series of personal, critical and creative responses that could be written or multimodal. Learners’ ability to critically engage with an unseen literary text and to write at some length on set texts could be forms of summative assessment of their knowledge and skills.

While language and literature should be assessed, in schools, as one subject in Levels 5-8 (Years 3-10), in the context of end of secondary school high stakes exams (Year 11), we recommend that learners should be given the opportunity to sit for two exams, English Language and English Literature, and to choose the Level of Certification (1, 2 or 3) that they will be sitting for in each of the two subjects. This would allow learners to get certification that reflects what they can do in both language and literature, even if they have reached different levels of ability in these different areas.

Continuous assessment for language and literature used to determine whether learners attain certification at any level should be collected within the pedagogic context of language and literature being taught transversally in class, that is, in the context of a class situation in which both literature and language play a central part of the learners’ experience on a weekly basis. The continuous assessment should be based on the same criteria for everyone (irrespective of whether learners will opt for Level 1, 2 or 3 at the end of secondary school). Continuous assessment should be rigorously and externally moderated in order to ensure that it is as objective and reliable as possible, thus pre-empting the possibility of it being perceived as not functioning properly which, in turn, could lead to a shift to the exclusive use of summative assessment, which would be detrimental to learners.

### Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the learning and teaching process, providing students and their parents with continuous, timely and qualitative feedback about their children's progress, giving teachers' information about their practice and providing schools and colleges with information about their curriculum planning, learning and teaching.

Assessment *for* learning (assessment for formative purposes) is a process carried out as learning is taking place. Learners and their teachers use the outcomes to find what learners know and are able to do in relation to learning.

Assessment *of* learning (assessment for summative purposes) is carried out at the end of a unit, mid-year or at the end of the year.

Assessment *as* learning (ongoing assessment) is the use of ongoing self-assessment by learners in order to monitor their own learning.

In subjects that are taught as modules, assessment of learning will take place at the end of a module. Information and judgments about learning are pulled together in a summary form for purposes of reporting to parents and sharing information with other teachers in the next class or school. If learners are fully aware of what is expected of them (the learning intentions) and the success criteria against which their learning will be evaluated, they will develop the self-evaluation skills which will help them become self-directed learners.

Well-designed and appropriately implemented, classroom assessment processes can:

- support learners to use self-assessment to gauge their learning, identify their strengths, their learning needs and their next steps.
- encourage learners to support one another's learning through peer assessment.
- help teachers to understand children's learning better, use evidence to monitor learners' progress, reflect on their practice and adapt or match their teaching to their learners' needs.
- help teachers plan for the learning of individuals and groups and ensure that all children receive appropriate attention.
- support parents to share their children's learning experiences, interpret assessment information and follow their children's educational development.
- promote the reporting on individual progress and achievement in an incremental manner.

Colleges and schools are required to develop an assessment policy. The policy should seek to address the quantity and quality of assessment practices as well as reporting to parents and other stakeholders.

Adapted from *A National Curriculum Framework for All*, Ministry for Education and Employment (2012:41-42) and *Assessments as learning*, Lam (2015:1)

Learners and others involved in their learning need timely, accurate feedback about what they have learned and how much and how well they have learned it. This helps to identify what they need to do next and who can help them build up their knowledge, understanding and skills. A learner's progress should be assessed in ways and at times appropriate to their learning needs. Judgements made about this learning should be based on evidence from a broad range of sources, both in and out of school and by reference to a learner's progress over time and across a range of activities.

By planning for ongoing assessment opportunities and periodic testing, particularly where learners use their skills in an integrated way, educators will allow learners to demonstrate, over time, *how much* and *how well* they have learned.

A balance of ongoing and periodic assessment opportunities will require learners to demonstrate a body of learning built up over time and to apply their knowledge and skills in different contexts. Mixing a range of learner controlled formative assessment opportunities will allow the learners themselves gauge how they are progressing against individual or grouped SLOs.

Educators should look to gather a range of quality pieces of evidence to show progression in learning from both ongoing formative assessment opportunities and periodic, summative assessments. The amount and range of evidence should be sufficient to build up a profile of the learner's achievements but proportionate and manageable. Learners should be involved in the selection of evidence. The evidence should show that learners have understood a significant body of knowledge, have responded consistently well to challenging learning experiences and have been able to apply what they have learned in new and unfamiliar contexts.

Learning, teaching and assessment should be designed in ways that reflect how different learners progress in order to motivate and encourage them in their learning. To support this, all learners should be involved in planning and reflecting on their own learning, through formative assessment, self and peer evaluation and personal learning planning. The learners are thus given the chance to play an active role in self-assessment which encourages them to seek out personal goals for learning English. These types of assessments can be planned at particular points, such as the end of a thematic unit, whereby the learners can judge and review their own performance by means of a grid stating the intended learning outcomes vis-à-vis the level in which they have been attained.

Educators must ensure that their view of what a learner has achieved is supported by sound evidence. Their evaluation of this evidence must be consistent with the evaluations of colleagues in their own, or another, department or centre. Centres should plan together and use their professional judgement in coming to a shared understanding of what it means to achieve a level in the different skills. Emerging national guidance will support this process. Moderation is particularly important at times of transition from one level to the next and in transitions between Middle and Secondary Years.

The delivery of the learning associated with the CCTs and the associated assessment is the responsibility of all educators.

Improving the quality of teaching and learning also implies fostering a culture which ensures the transparency of quality assessment outcomes and having in place approaches, structures and roles played by internal and external school evaluation systems.

*Quality assurance in education can be understood as policies, procedures, and practices that are designed to achieve, maintain or enhance quality in specific areas, and that rely on an evaluation process ... [that is] a general process of systematic and critical analysis of a defined subject that includes the collection of relevant data and leads to judgements and/or recommendations for improvement. The evaluation can focus on various subjects: schools, school heads, teachers and other educational staff, programmes, local authorities, or the performance of the whole education system.*

*Assuring Quality in Education: Policies and Approaches to School Evaluation in Europe,*  
European Commission (2015a:13)

Schools will need to begin to develop new quality assurance procedures, while enhancing existing ones, to support the introduction of the LOF and to secure its successful implementation in classrooms. This will need to be part of a whole-school implementation and quality strategy that could include opportunities for:

- Senior Management Teams taking an active interest in teacher CPD, monitoring teacher confidence levels and learner progress, e.g. sampling learners' work and leading whole-school self-evaluations.
- Heads of Schools creating shared preparation and planning time to help facilitate collaborative working.
- standards and expectations sharing through displaying learners' work aligned to levels to show progression, for example in work displayed on a 'learning wall'.
- staff engaging children and young people in discussions about progress and target-setting as part of planning to meet their learning needs.
- development of whole-school approaches to learning and assessment of CCTs.
- clear reporting strategies for feedback on progress within the school and outside the school, e.g. parents and guardians.



In English Departments (in addition to the activities listed above), educators will need to be engaged in:

- regular departmental meetings to plan learning, teaching and assessment in a coherent way, with colleagues sharing effective strategies which they see as improving learning and achievement of learners.
- collaborative planning with other teachers, peer review and discussion of standards and expectations when teaching learners at the same level.
- cross-marking end of topic tests, periodic assessments and other internal assessments by marking learner work from other classes or groups, educators can engage in professional dialogue about the nature of the assessment, its fitness for purpose and the learner results.
- design of assessment materials, marking schemes and reporting strategies in collaboration with other teachers within the department or with appropriate staff in neighbouring schools.
- adopting strategies to avoid pre-judging outcomes, for example marking learners' work without knowing who the learner is.
- professional dialogue around learners' work that has been pre-marked to help reach an agreed view on quality and standards.
- Communities of Practice to share and/or strengthen their professional practice, focusing on sufficiency in assessment, consistency in interpreting SLOs, reporting progress to learners, parents and guardians and other teachers.

The Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education (DQSE) will ensure that:

- Education Officers carry out quality assurance visits to validate accuracy of each school's self-evaluation evidence and sample quality and consistency of the learning, teaching and assessment.
- staff members collate and analyse a range of local and national data to be used as the basis of discussion with Heads of Schools, Deputies and Faculty Heads/Principals to inform planning for improvement of learners' achievements.
- where good practice is identified, Education Officers, School Management Teams and other key personnel organise good practice events for staff across schools within the authority to disseminate good practice.

It is here being acknowledged that any feedback coming from schools, including that yielded from assessment, should reflect the wider objectives of education. Moreover, Quality Assurance conclusions will not automatically impact on the performance of schools. Schools need more than information on their performance – they also need guidance on how to improve and support, while attempting such improvement. The ultimate aim of quality assurance procedures should be to provide schools with an appropriate, coherent and comprehensive evaluation strategy which has a positive impact on the school leadership team and on the quality of teaching and learning.

## B. INCLUSIVE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

To help allow vibrant and diverse classrooms to thrive and demonstrate their learning potential educators need to ensure that assessment in the classroom is fair and inclusive, allowing every learner to show what they have achieved and how well they are progressing. Educators can ensure that assessment meets all learners' needs by providing each learner with appropriate support, employing a range of assessment methods and options and, in doing so, affording all learners the best chance of success. This will mean using performance and assessment information from a variety of sources to monitor progress and to inform what needs to happen next in the learning journey.

Educators need to be aware of, and work to, the relevant legislative frameworks that support learners experiencing barriers to learning. Barriers may exist as a result of family circumstances, disability or health needs and social or emotional factors. Where these circumstances occur, learners are entitled to have their additional support needs recognised and supported at the earliest possible stage – by the school, educational authorities and / or the state. Assessment strategies will be effective when educators use a range of assessment approaches flexibly to identify strengths, learning and support needs for vulnerable, disengaged and hard-to-reach learners in their classrooms.

### Supporting vulnerable learners

Supporting vulnerable learners may mean using planning tools such as personal learning plans or multi-agency coordinated support plans. Educators need to place the learner at the centre to ensure each learner with additional or diverse learning needs can achieve positive and sustained educational outcomes.

Educators in the classroom create and are responsible for the learning environment where learners will learn English. This means actively considering the diverse set of learning needs that will confront them. For example, creating an environment that the dyslexic learner will be able to learn effectively in will mean understanding the relationship between the depths of the orthography of the English language (i.e. its complexity and the propensity for breaking its own language rules) and how this may result in challenges in some aspects of a dyslexic learner's attainment. Educators need to consider whether the repertoire of learning and teaching approaches they use will deliver the aims and purposes of the LOF so that they are accessible to all learners.

While schools need to consider which approaches will be most effective in helping to remove barriers to learning resulting from social and emotional circumstances including, for example, challenging behaviour, educators need to consider how these whole-school policies translate into action in the classroom.

Assessment planning and the resulting approaches taken (and instruments and methods used) need to ensure that all learners have an equal opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned and what they can do. Educators also need to consider what 'reasonable adjustments' to assessment approaches for disabled learners may look like in assessing ability. This may involve using appropriate assistive technologies. Given that good assessment practice is a key feature of teaching and learning, approaches used to help assess an individual learner's progress need to be as far as possible consistent with those used in the learning itself.

The principle of the continuum of achievement should be such that it allows a learner to follow the best pathway that will allow him or her to reach the maximum of his or her potential - irrespective of whether the student is a high flyer, has average abilities, basic abilities and/or has a disability. In this regard the NCF sought to establish a framework that ensures that, as far as possible, no student becomes a casualty of an education system that is unable to identify those learners who require encouragement and guidance. Equally importantly, the NCF allows for the introduction of different pathways that will truly allow a learner to develop his or her abilities in the manner best suited for him or her.

*Adapted from A National Curriculum Framework for All, Ministry for Education and Employment (2012:5)*

## C. RELIABLE AND VALID WAYS OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment will involve planning high quality interactions with learners and will be based on thoughtful and probing questions drawn from the SLOs and designed to ascertain the extent to which the outcomes have been achieved. Learners will be clear about the kind and quality of work required to achieve success in the SLOs. The methods of assessment used need to reflect the nature of what is being assessed.

In the periods between formal assessment interventions individual learners should be encouraged to ask for and should be given timely feedback about the quality of their work that they can understand, reflect on and ask questions about. Educators should strive to encourage the learner's active engagement in discussion about their work and progress, and suggest the steps they can take to improve their performance.

Educators should seek to empower learners to develop the skills to evaluate their own and each other's work against the SLOs, encouraging them to develop an appreciation of their own learning needs, how well they are progressing towards achieving the standard exemplified by the SLOs and the types of action they need to take to improve their progress.

The SLOs have been written in a way that is designed to ensure that the learning expectation is clear. They also act like an anchor for any and all related assessment activity by defining the learning that is in scope for assessment activity and by omission being clear about what is not in scope. This makes the assessment process and assessment expectations more transparent for the learner. At times SLOs involve an additional layer of detail delivered through the use of exemplification to illustrate the nature of the challenge within the SLO or through a clear statement of what must be included as a minimum in addressing the learning associated with the SLO.

Where there is exemplification, the example given is designed to be indicative of the degree of difficulty or challenge expected to be reached in the SLO. The example adds a further layer of detail and clarity so the educator knows the standard the learner should be looking to achieve.

The following examples are taken from the English SLOs:

- I can understand and use language which expresses hypothetical situations and possibilities e.g. modals and conditionals.
- I can make use of affixes e.g. -ful, -ness to change grammatical class e.g. help- helpful; kind-kindness.

In both of the above examples each SLO has additional detail about the type and level of vocabulary required. The immediate question one will ask will be about sufficiency. How much is enough? How many times do learners have to do this?

What the assessment should really be trying to establish is whether the learners have reached the standard of the SLO. Can they do what the SLO says they can do? Can they demonstrate the ability to do what the SLO claims for them and can they do it routinely, confidently and comfortably? Here the educator's professional judgement and the professional agreement on what constitutes achievement is important.

The assessment standard is not necessarily what is stated in the SLO. The standard is the shared and consistently applied interpretation of what acceptable learner performance in response to the SLO looks like. In order to reach this judgement, educators will need to work within the subject teaching community to agree what achievement looks like at each of the levels (e.g. Level 8), at the level of the Subject Foci within a level and at the level of an SLO where this is not immediately apparent and there is scope for ambiguity or interpretation.

Assessment within the LOFs will need to be subject to robust quality assurance procedures that are designed to instil confidence in teachers' assessment judgements and assure parents, guardians and other stakeholders that all learners will receive appropriate recognition for their achievements in line with the agreed national standards and that learners are making the appropriate progress in line with expectations.

Where assessment is for high stakes qualifications and external certification, particular safeguards are required to guarantee fairness to all young people and to provide assurance to parents and guardians, MCAST, the University of Malta and employers that the system is robust. To that end MATSEC will produce clear assessment plans for Level 9 and 10 assessment, detailing the balance between high-stakes external assessment and internal assessment procedures and quality assurance.

As learners approach points of transition (for example, across Levels) it is important to have rigorous and robust assessment and related quality assurance procedures in place in order to ensure that there is a reliable system for sharing information about progress and achievements. Again, MATSEC and/or DQSE will be responsible for producing the guidance documentation detailing the policy and procedures for any transition assessment arrangements involving high-stakes or external assessment.

#### **Working the room: Measuring the impact of the teaching**

This whole class assessment technique can be used with Level 8 and 9 learners. Challenge stations are set up around the room, a sufficient number to split the class into groups of 3-5 with a different challenge presented to each group. The challenges should be related to what has recently been taught in class and should be based on two or three distinct learning outcomes. The groups should be balanced out evenly in terms of ability with the addition of the elements of time and reward to keep motivation up and maintain the competitive spirit. The assessment of the activity will provide a good idea of how the whole class understands what has been taught.

For example, some challenges could be focused on grammar (e.g. learners could be asked to identify the correct auxiliary verbs for a perfect tense, forming past participles and/or spot deliberate mistakes). Other challenges could be more vocabulary-based (e.g. challenges involving filling in diagrams to test knowledge of recent topics or matching an image to a passage of writing). The results will give a good indication of areas where learners are less confident, allowing the teacher to reflect on how these areas were taught and how they could be revisited.

Adapted from *Designing Effective Activity Centers for Diverse Learners: A Guide for Teachers At All Grade Levels and for all Subject Areas* (Hilberg, Chang and Epaloose, 2003)

## D. ASSESSING CROSS CURRICULAR THEMES

The embedded CCTs within the SLOs are for guidance purposes only. As already indicated, the teacher may have better ideas of where, when and how to embed particular aspects of the CCTs.

The CCT icon in embedded SLOs is followed by a sub-heading from the CCT. This indicates the particular area of content that seems most appropriate for embedding within the delivery of the SLO.

The guidance about CCTs also describes how CCTs can be addressed through the choice of pedagogy or delivery style, classroom activity or approach to learning. Some may also be addressed through the introduction of whole-school or year group, curriculum enrichment activities or the adoption of particular sets of behaviours within the school community. The flexibility and freedom to decide upon and select which methods, opportunities and aspects of the CCTs are addressed when, where and how is entirely a subjective one. The aim is to ensure that the learners, through the course of their learning journey through the LOF, come into contact with the key learning associated with all the CCTs in significant and meaningful ways. The role of the CCTs is to yield resilient, adaptable, empowered young people with the robust, transferable skills the country needs to remain caring, inclusive, competitive and productive. This needs to be kept in mind when looking at the overall implementation and embedding of CCTs in the curricula.

This open and flexible approach to where, when and how CCTs are addressed is a challenge when it comes to trying to prescribe assessment approaches. While the lack of uniformity and consistency of when, where and how to embed CCTs in the LOF and in each subject area is attractive from a flexible delivery viewpoint, it represents a challenge in assessment from a standardisation standpoint.

The guidance around assessment of CCTs is simply to ensure that:

- the impact of the embedding strategy adopted at the classroom, departmental and school level is known and understood in terms of what has been learned.
- there is communication between schools, tutors and class teachers about the progress learners have made in coverage and acquisition of the CCT content.
- learners engage with each of the six CCTs with sufficient frequency, meaning and depth to allow them to achieve the key competencies they cover and to benefit from the new learning and skills each CCT introduces.

In each subject, educators may find it most beneficial to work with peers to determine the best-fit CCT opportunities, creating a support community to share development of resources and to help agree a consistent approach to teaching and assessment expectations when it comes to embedding the CCTs. Within this support community one can attempt to:

- agree which teaching approaches lend themselves to particular CCTs.
- share ideas and resource development.
- develop project-based approaches to SLO delivery that are enhanced by CCT inclusion.
- standardise assessment expectations around CCTs.

## E. REPORTING PROGRESS

### Learner and Parent/Guardian Reporting

Reporting on learning and progress should offer learners, parents, guardians and teachers insight into what learning expectations have been set, how the learner is progressing in relation to these learning expectations and how the learner can do what needs to be done to ensure continued progress and improvement as they go forward with their learning. Reporting should always be constructive, insightful and able to be used to stimulate meaningful discussion between the teacher, learner and their parent or guardian. It should, at the same time, be reflective, looking back at achievement, and forward-looking, focusing on improvement.

The LOF offers local flexibility for schools to decide how best to report information on learner progress, achievements and next steps within a clear set of national expectations. How frequent and what form such reporting takes are also decisions to be taken at the school and college level.

#### National expectations for reporting

Reporting will provide the learner, their parents or guardians with information on progress and achievement in each subject that includes:

- constructive, insightful and clear feedback throughout the learning experience.
- feedback on the learner's particular strengths, areas for development and completed achievements.
- feedback on the different curriculum areas.
- the particular support the learner is receiving to help them progress.
- attitude of the learner to learning.
- how home can play an active part in supporting the learning process.
- an opportunity to capture the learner's voice.
- an opportunity for parents/guardians to respond directly to the reporting feedback.

It is important that the reporting structure used is manageable for teachers.

Reporting is based upon the assessment of progress and there is a balance to be struck between how often assessment of progress is made and how often this progress is recorded and communicated to the learner and the parent/guardian. The reporting needs of the two groups are different:

- Learners should be receiving feedback on progress on an ongoing basis as a routine part of the learning and assessment process. The use of formative assessment (often called Assessment for Learning) should be a routine part of any assessment strategy. This makes this type of reporting frequent and continual.
- Parents and guardians need to be kept informed of their child's progress at key points in the learning journey where there needs to be feedback given around achievement and a discussion instigated between home and school about how further progress and improvement can be made. This makes this reporting much less frequent but recurring. At the very least, achievement of a level should be reported every time a level is achieved.

### Reporting process

It is important to set up a process by which learners can take some ownership of what is reported. Educators should consider working with learners to determine which evidence should be drawn upon to summarise learning and progress for the purposes of reporting. This will invite reflection and dialogue about their learning and will be a useful opportunity to help the learner engage more deeply and meaningfully in discussion about their own learning. This type of dialogue will not restrict or impinge upon educators' professional judgements but will offer them some insight into the learner point of view and may help deepen their understanding of the impact of their own learning strategies.

The LOF offers the ability to report progress within the subject at different levels of detail. Each subject is broken down into levels, containing Subject Foci and each Subject Focus is further broken down into SLOs. With the SLOs making the outcomes of learning explicit, it will be important to establish what the learner, parent/guardian needs to know about progress against the SLOs and what can feasibly be shared, how often and when. Educators will first need to separate out internal reporting needs to chart a learner's progress, so that this can be shared with other teachers as they progress in other subjects, to benchmark progress more widely. Different audiences will need different details about learner progress.

The school and the relevant department need to set the policy on how they intend to report.

### Internal Reporting

In order to maximise the opportunities that the LOF brings in terms of flexibility and freedom to help learners progress towards the learning expectations, the teacher will need to have a detailed appreciation of what the learner has already achieved and just how they relate to the learning expectations that the teacher is responsible for teaching. The teacher who comes next will also expect an appraisal of learner performance. It will be important to establish, through discussion with colleagues, how best to manage this internal communication and reporting in order to ensure a balance between what is helpful and insightful in assisting with the transition process and what is unwieldy, onerous and unmanageable.

It is important to remember that the detail that can be created around individual performance does not necessitate or promote an individualised teaching programme for each learner. Instead it is there to be used to facilitate a more responsive approach to curriculum design and more appropriate selection of teaching strategies and resource selection within the class.

As learners progress through the LOF, moving from level to level, year to year and class to class they will progress at different rates. This represents a challenge if learning is to remain fluid and continuous and progression is to be uninterrupted. That said, the Subject Foci and SLOs allow teachers to profile progress and achievement and to communicate that progress in a regular manner, indicating where the learner sits in relation to the overall expectations of a level, even indicating where there is some achievement beyond the level. The school is given the flexibility to decide how best it wants to communicate learner progress within the school and between those responsible for their learning and progression. Within the subject teaching team it will be important to identify an approach that is functional and clear within the subject and will ultimately maximise the Learning Outcome Framework's ability to chart progress in detail and in a personalised, learner-centric way.

A simple Achieved/Not Yet Achieved is clear feedback, yet it does not convey how close or far from being able to demonstrate achievement of the SLO the learner is. Educators may find it useful to come up with a convention that does more than just use a binary method of reporting achievement. Communicating more information about how a learner is relating to a particular level helps instigate discussion of where there may be particular learning challenges or where a learner has only started the learning associated with particular Learning Outcomes.



Evidence informing reporting should be drawn from a range of sources, including formal and informal assessment interventions, and educators should apply their professional judgement to a sufficient and robust body of evidence that allows them to report with confidence about progress made against a significant body of learning. Formal summative assessment interventions need to be subject to collaborative design and development and feature a measure of quality assurance and moderation to ensure what is reported is benchmarked against a wider understanding of the national standard.

#### How it is done elsewhere

The Scottish *Curriculum for Excellence* frames progression in relation to the learning expectations as developing, consolidating or having secured the learning objectives. These are not rigid categories but signposts indicating where the learner sits in relation to the expectations.

Typically, a learner who has started to engage in the work of a new level or area and starting to make progress in an increasing number of outcomes is at the Developing stage.

Once the learner has achieved a measure of breadth across the Subject Foci; can apply the learning in familiar situations; is beginning to show increased confidence by engaging in more challenging learning; and is starting to transfer their learning to less familiar contexts, they are engaged in a process of Consolidation.

Once significant achievement across the Subject Foci and outcomes has been recorded and there has been consistent success in meeting the level of challenge within the outcomes; learners are engaged in more challenging work; and are confidently transferring their learning and applying it in new and unfamiliar situations, their position in relation to expectations is viewed as Secure.

Adapted from *Building the Curriculum 5, A Framework for Assessment: Reporting*,  
The Scottish Government (2010)

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# Appendix



## Digital Literacy

Digital literacy has become essential for learning and life. Besides cutting across various disciplines it must now be considered as being a discipline of its own such as music, art, science and literature. Digital literacy education seeks to equip learners with the competencies (knowledge, skills and attitudes) in the use of digital technology needed to access learning opportunities, to pursue their chosen careers and leisure interests and to contribute to society as active citizens. It also aims to provide them with knowledge of the principles underpinning these technologies and a critical understanding of the implications of digital technology for individuals and societies.

Digitally literate learners learn to become independent, confident and discerning users of technology. Subsequently they acquire and develop critical and analytical attitudes to appropriately choose the right digital tools according to specific needs.

Digital literacy includes five categories of digital competencies, namely: Information Management, Communication and Collaboration, Digital Media, Using Digital Tools for Learning, Management of the Internet.

The competence in information management enables learners with the means to access, evaluate and analyse and hence make an informed choice from a range of available data and information sources. Competencies relating to Communication and Collaboration empower learners to learn to communicate, collaborate and network with others. Competencies in Digital Media enable learners to analyse messages mediated by digital media and to express themselves creatively across a range of digital media.

Digital literacy also involves competence in using digital tools in various media and in different modes of learning (autonomous, collaborative, exploratory, designing). Digitally literate learners will learn to be responsible and competent in managing the internet, keeping themselves safe and secure online, making informed choices over privacy, taking responsibility for their actions, respecting intellectual property, abiding by the terms and conditions of systems they use and respecting the rights and feelings of others. In teaching digital literacy, teachers should look for authentic, meaningful and socially inclusive learning opportunities which allow learners to apply and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. Digitally literate learners should be able to undertake challenging creative projects, both individually and collaboratively comprising aspects from different competence categories.

## Theme Learning Outcomes:

### Information Management

- I am able to identify and articulate my information needs.
- I can find, select, use and combine information from a range of sources.
- I can safely and critically navigate between online sources and select information effectively
- I can navigate between online sources and select information effectively.
- I can create personal information strategies.

### Communication

- I can communicate through a variety of digital devices and applications.
- I can adapt my communication modes and strategies according to the people I am communicating with.
- I can use different digital tools to share knowledge, content and resources.
- I can help others to share knowledge, content and resources.
- I know how to quote other people's work and to integrate new information into an existing body of knowledge.
- I can engage with on-line learning communities effectively.
- I can use digital technologies to participate in online citizenship.

### Collaboration

- I can use technologies and media to work in teams and collaborate in learning.
- I can collaborate with others and co-construct and co-create resources, knowledge and learning.
- I can function well in digitally mediated Communities of Practice

### Use of Digital Media

- I can review, revise and evaluate information presented in a range of digital media.
- I understand both how and why messages in digital media are constructed and for what purposes.
- I can examine how individuals interpret messages in digital media differently.
- I understand how values and points of view are included or excluded and how digital media can influence beliefs and behaviours.
- I understand the ethical / legal issues surrounding the access and use of digital media, including copyright, ownership, licensing and use of proprietary content or software.
- I can work creatively across a range of digital media and multiple systems to present information effectively to a given audience.
- I can edit and improve content that I had already created or that others have created, respecting and acknowledging the rights of the original author.
- I can express myself through digital media and technologies.

### Managing Learning

- I can use various tools to manage my own learning.
- I can use various tools and approaches to collaborate with others in learning.
- I can use various tools to explore ideas, theories, relationships and procedures.
- I can use various tools to learn by designing digital objects.
- I can use various tools and approaches to reflect on learning.
- I can use various tools and approaches to evaluate what I have learnt.
- I can build and assess e-portfolios.
- I can work on multiple eLearning management systems and platforms.

**Managing Internet Use**

- I understand how the internet and the world wide web work and can use them for communication and collaboration.
- I am aware of and abide by the principles of netiquette.
- I know what constitutes plagiarism.
- I can protect my devices from online risks and threats.
- I can protect myself and others from possible online dangers (e.g. cyber bullying) by following appropriate privacy and confidentiality procedures.
- I am able to consider the social, cultural, religious and ethical implications of digital technology and can confidently communicate, share information, access and distribute content without infringing upon other peoples' intellectual property.
- I am aware of cultural diversity online.
- I can develop active strategies to discover inappropriate behaviour.
- I can create, adapt and manage one or multiple digital identities.
- I can protect my e-reputation.
- I can manage the data that I produce through several online accounts and applications to avoid health risks related with the use of technology in terms of threats to physical and psychological well-being.
- I recognise Cloud Computing as a converging technology on which I can work and save my material.



## Education for Diversity

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) acknowledges Malta's cultural diversity and values the history and traditions of its people. It acknowledges and respects individual differences of gender, colour, ethnic and social origin, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, birth, ableism, age or sexual orientation and geographical location. A curriculum that acknowledges the fact that diversity is a feature of Maltese society, as it is of nations across Europe and the world, that can contribute to national prosperity and social cohesion.

As a member state within the United Nations, Malta is a signatory to international human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). As a member of the European Union, Malta is legally bound by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

These instruments set out international standards and commit Malta's government and people to democracy and to acknowledging that citizens and other residents have, and should enjoy, human rights without discrimination.

Consequently the NCF aims to help children acknowledge social justice and solidarity as key values in the development of the Maltese society and encourage young people to uphold fundamental democratic values and promote social justice.

Education for Diversity promotes an inclusive educational culture and challenges various educational processes such as decision making within schools, languages of instruction, methodologies used, learner interaction and learning resources. Education for Diversity ensures the inclusion of multiple perspectives and voices within the learning environment, provides spaces for learning about the languages, histories, traditions and cultures of non-dominant groups in a society, encourages team work and cooperative learning in multicultural, multi-ethnic and other diverse contexts, combines traditional and local knowledge and know-how with advanced science and technology and values the practice of multilingualism. In doing so, it encourages an understanding of global issues and the need for living together with different cultures and values.

### Theme Learning Outcomes:

#### Self Awareness

- I am a person committed to democracy and understand that this means ensuring people of different views and cultures have their say and work together for a better society.
- I have a principled and ethical approach to life.
- I am committed to social justice and a democratic and inclusive society.
- I reserve judgement so that it may be made on a fair and rational basis.
- I strive to strike a balance between my rights and duties and those of others.

**Social Change**

- I uphold fundamental democratic values and work to promote social justice.
- I respect the different religious and humanist convictions, morals and beliefs that inform people's conceptions of right and wrong.
- I recognise unfairness, injustice and preferential treatment in daily life situations including racist, sexist and homophobic language and behaviour.
- I challenge expressions of prejudice and intolerance towards minorities such as racist, sexist and homophobic names, anecdotes and comments.
- I claim my rights and act on my duties knowing that my fellow learners and teachers have equal entitlement to their rights.
- I appreciate that the notion of 'identity' is complex and changing and limited as a concept in capturing who I am and that the idea of 'identities' is a more powerful way of understanding who I am and who others are.
- I attend and respond to my teachers and fellow learners and accept that they may have different points of view.

**Communicating for Diversity**

- I communicate with, work with and respect all of my fellow learners, teachers and adult helpers.
- I communicate with people who are different to understand how we are the same and to understand myself better.
- I strive to communicate effectively with others in a constructive, supportive and self-determined way.
- I can use effective language to challenge injustices and inequalities.
- I approach differences of opinion and conflicts of interest through dialogue, non-violent communication and consensus; where this fails, I am willing and able to use mediation.





## Education for Entrepreneurship, Creativity and Innovation

While entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation can potentially be seen as being discrete attributes, it is perhaps more strategic to consider them as mutually reinforcing features of a more cohesive and singular aim: to ensure that the future citizens of Malta have the wherewithal to contribute to the sustainable prosperity of the nation in an increasingly competitive global economic and social contexts. The goals include the four main competence areas of personal and interpersonal skills, practical and cognitive skills. This more strategic vision reinforces the need for an approach to Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity that permeates all aspects of the curriculum, while being clearly signposted to ensure that learners' entitlements are being met and that learning and teaching in relation to these themes can be quality assured.

The overall goals of entrepreneurship education are to give learners the attitudes, knowledge and capacity to act in an entrepreneurial way and to acquire the skills that will promote their lifelong employability in a rapidly changing commercial, economic and social environment. This includes becoming entrepreneurial citizens in other spheres beyond industry or employability. These goals require the development of the 'soft' generic personal and interpersonal skills fundamental to becoming entrepreneurial, as well as the fostering of the more discrete entrepreneurial knowledge and understanding required to pursue entrepreneurial endeavours and to possess an entrepreneurial mindset which is both creative and innovative.

Creativity is generally recognised as both an innate yet often under-developed quality in young people, as well as a practical skill that helps to unlock an entrepreneurial disposition. It is a skill that can be taught and that everyone can aspire to. It involves opening up young peoples' thinking processes in ways that help them to look at familiar things with a fresh eye, to identify and frame a problem and to generate solutions whilst using their imagination, knowledge and skills to explore new possibilities rather than established approaches.

The ability to be innovative and the confidence to look for innovative responses to opportunities or problems encountered is best nurtured in a safe, supportive environment where this type of approach is encouraged, recognised and rewarded. Such a pedagogy requires allowing learners time to reflect on a situation and tap their resources and imagination to develop plans and solutions. It also requires time for implementation of new processes and the application of new ideas. Teaching and learning for innovation might even include space to 'learn from failure'.

### Theme Learning Outcomes:

#### Personal

- I can work effectively on my own.
- I am resilient and can persevere.
- I understand the importance of nurturing a positive self-image, self-esteem and self confidence.
- I recognise the importance of integrity and ethical values.

#### Interpersonal

- I know how to communicate my proposed strategies to others effectively.
- I am able to contribute to a team.
- I am able to take the lead.

**Cognitive**

- I am able to solve problems imaginatively and laterally.
- I am able to think critically.
- I am able to consider different perspectives.
- I can recognise that entrepreneurship and innovation should be underpinned by ethics and values relating to social justice and sustainability.

**Practical**

- I can turn creative ideas into action.
- I have a basic set of research skills.
- I am able to audit my own skills and interests in order to consider future academic and vocational career choices.
- I appreciate the importance that creativity and entrepreneurship have played in the development and progress of human society.



# Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) helps learners to develop the necessary competences (knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviour) that enable them to become sustainable citizens. ESD empowers individuals to actively participate in decision making processes which are compatible with living within the environmental limits of our planet in a just, diverse, equitable and peaceful society.

ESD seeks to ensure that learners:

- Develop a sense of identity and belonging to their local, national, regional and global community.
- Are empowered to adopt their roles and responsibilities within a globally interdependent world.
- Understand and are empowered to address the real causes and consequences of unsustainable behaviour within the context of an interdependent and globalised world.
- Develop a future-oriented perspective that highlights the significance of their decisions, choices and actions on the quality of life of present and future generations.
- Are exposed to diverse learning environments using a broad array of educational experiences.
- Develop a holistic concept of the environment involving natural, social, economic, physical and cultural perspectives.
- Value and respect social, cultural and ecological diversity.
- Are committed to action to bring about change.

ESD should be achieved through a whole-school approach that involves the reorientation not only of the curriculum, but also of the school culture, the school campus management, the school community and the wider local community in line with sustainable development.

Learners should experience ESD through transformative pedagogies that facilitate ESD teaching and learning experiences that promote the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviours necessary to become active global citizens.

ESD should be a lifelong learning process involving a blend of learner-centred processes, such as participatory/ collaborative learning; problem-based learning; inter-disciplinary learning; multi-stakeholder social learning; critical and systemic thinking-based learning; action learning; learning outside the classroom; experiential learning; reflective evaluation and using relevant real-world contexts.

## Theme Learning Outcomes:

### Learning to Know

- I can explain how the natural, social, cultural and economic systems work and are interrelated.
- I can describe my role as a citizen within the local, national, regional and global context.
- I can recognise the relationship between understanding others and the wellbeing of all in the present and the future.
- I can identify the root causes of inequality and injustice and actions that lead to a better quality of life, equity, solidarity and environmental sustainability.
- I can justify the importance of identifying problems, reflecting critically, thinking creatively and having a wider vision in order to plan for the future and become an effective agent of change.
- I can recognise the importance of lifelong learning and use such learning experiences to approach new challenges and be in a better position to take informed decisions and evaluate their consequences.

### Learning to Do

- I can communicate my ideas and present my opinions in thoughtful and informed discussions and decision making processes.
- I can critically assess processes of change in society and envision a more equitable and sustainable world.
- I can identify priorities and evaluate potential consequences of different decisions and actions.
- I am able to collaborate with people having different perspectives on dilemmas, issues, tensions and conflicts from different disciplines/places/cultures/generations.
- I can use the natural, social and built environment that surrounds me, as a context and source of learning.
- I can involve myself and others in real-world issues to bring about a positive difference.

### Learning to Be

- I am a critically reflective person and am able to evaluate decisions, choices and actions.
- I am responsible for my actions and capable of anticipating, adapting to and facing change.
- I can reflect upon the consequences of my actions on present and future generations.
- I am sensitive to divergent disciplines and perspectives, cultures and minority groups, including indigenous knowledge and worldviews without prejudices and preconceptions.
- I am motivated to make a positive contribution to other people and their social and natural environment, locally and globally.
- I am able to creatively and innovatively take considered action and challenge assumptions underlying unsustainable practice.

### Learning to Live Together

- I can live in harmony with myself, others and the natural world at a range of levels from the local to the global.
- I respect and value diversity and challenge social injustice.
- I have a future-oriented perspective for how I live my life as a citizen of the world.
- I actively engage myself with different groups across generations, cultures, places and disciplines.
- I can actively participate in processes and encourage negotiations for alternative sustainable futures.
- I will help others clarify diverse worldviews through dialogue and recognize that alternative frameworks exist.
- I will challenge unsustainable practices across educational systems, including at the institutional level.



# Learning to Learn & Cooperative Learning

The aims of Learning to Learn are for learners to:

- Focus on learning processes as well as final performances.
- Hold a rich conception of learning and based on a personal conviction to manage own learning.
- Acquire a wide range of strategies for learning.
- Develop strategies to plan, monitor and review their own learning.
- Become competent in self-assessment.

## Theme Learning Outcomes:

### Social Learning

- I can appreciate diverse viewpoints and personalities.
- I am confident in discussing my views with others.
- I can follow the ideas of others and comment on their views.
- I can follow group discussions and collaboration and summarise what is being said or done.
- I collaborate with other learners as part of my learning.
- I learn by designing products with others.
- I seek out and am open for guidance and support from peers and adults.
- I am able to talk with others about learning.
- I listen to others talk about learning.
- I can discuss various subjects and learning strategies with peers.
- I can debate and support my argument without being judgemental while still empathising with others.
- I can learn about my needs to make the right choices.

### Personal Learning

- I can identify the support and resources I need to learn.
- I am aware of my preferred way to learn and can use this to plan my own learning.
- I manage goals and time efficiently in learning.
- I feel competent in managing my own learning.
- I am open to feedback from others and am able to consider it for my personal improvement.
- I reorganise myself by explicitly changing my assumptions over time.
- I am able to follow my own interests as this helps me to reflect on 'who I am'.
- I am pleased when I succeed at difficult tasks.
- I believe that effort can lead to success.
- I reflect on my mistakes and learn from them.

### Cognitive Learning

- I am able to remember by recalling, recognising and locating information.
- I am able to link new information to my existing knowledge.
- I am able to analyse information that I come across.
- I evaluate knowledge in terms of my learning objectives and my preferred way of learning.
- I am able to solve problems on my own and in collaboration with others.
- I am able to assess myself as this helps me to understand what I know and who I am.
- I assess myself to analyse and further develop my ideas.

- I assess my peers to compare what I know to what others know, gaining knowledge of what mental models others hold of a particular concept and how these mental models can evolve for understanding to happen.
- I am able to focus on the main subject and summarise important points.
- I am able to apply my knowledge and understanding in differing contexts.
- I can manage my own learning to improve important skills including literacy and numeracy skills.
- I understand that learning involves different processes.

### **Creative Learning**

- I take initiative in designing new products.
- I am able to think about new ways of making good use of objects.
- I am able to use my imagination and creativity.
- I prefer to move on to challenging tasks rather than stay on easy ones.
- I am able to face new, challenging experiences and learn from them.
- I learn by exploring events, life experiences and the physical environment.
- I am able to engage in unplanned spontaneous play.
- I am able to engage in planned, purposeful play.
- I understand that I can improve and learn and that if I am stuck I can think upon my difficulties, solve my problems and move forward.



## Literacy

One of the most important aspects of literacy in Malta is the implication that a literate person is fluent in both Maltese and English. An essential factor to ensure that Malta remains a bilingual country is making sure that its learners develop equal competences in reading, writing, speaking, listening and comprehending in both official languages from the early years, preferably from kindergarten. Another is ensuring that learners develop the skill to switch easily from Maltese to English (or vice versa) depending on the situational need. Achieving bilingual literacy in our education means that all our young people feel comfortable and confident using both languages.

Literacy development will require a whole-school approach that is clearly reflected in school policies where there is a conscious effort in which a community for literacy is promoted throughout the curriculum. Literacy for learning is an intrinsic part of school life and every subject domain can serve as a context whereby literacy skills development could be enhanced. Furthermore, schools should strive for a literacy rich environment using technology as a platform.

The relevance of reading aloud and presenting ideas to an audience and the opportunities for contextualised language and play acting (drama) should be clearly identified as components of spoken literacy across the curriculum. Stressing the importance of oracy is key to encouraging active learning cultures and communities.

With regard to reading, the fun and interactive aspect of reading is very important; the purpose of reading should initially be for fun/interest and communication. The value of entertainment in reading, which is closely linked to attitude and disposition to language, is crucial especially in the Early and Junior Years. Critical and creative thinking, where the learner increasingly takes control of texts in different domains and gains awareness, will follow.

### Theme Learning Outcomes:

#### Listening and speaking

- I can converse in a range of situations, both formal and informal, matching register and language to the situation and audience.
- I can listen to and understand spoken text well and respond or apply the information appropriately with comments and/or questions.
- I can use language to present my thinking logically and clearly and can talk to engage an audience while analysing and evaluation through an open-ended approach.
- I can use spoken language to share my ideas in a collaborative way, appreciating the social elements of conversation such as waiting for my turn and listening to what others have to say.

#### Expressive language

- I can use expressive language to develop my own thinking, using words to explore, clarify and confirm ideas.
- I can use expressive language to develop my thinking and the thinking of others by contributing to the explorative talk of my peers and the dialogic talk of my teachers.
- I can use expressive language to organise and rehearse ideas, arguments and language structures in order to synthesise and evaluate before writing and while editing.

### Reading and understanding

- I can decode print effectively and successfully establish multisensory linking and phonemic awareness between grapheme and phoneme.
- I can read text in a fluent manner and understand what is written, gain knowledge and enjoy the process.
- I can select real, virtual and multimedia texts to entertain and inform me, constructing meaning from text, using words and visual or audio information to confirm, complement or change what I already know while discarding the superfluous.
- I can approach texts purposefully: I am aware of what I hope to gain from them and am able to use retrieval devices, cross references and links to follow themes or ideas through various means including texts accessed via technology.
- I can select appropriate texts for my purposes, taking account of implied readership and provenance as well as subject matter and format.
- I can identify and follow the different reading conventions of my academic subjects, regarding the place and purpose of reading texts in learning and in questioning or accepting the authority of these texts.

### Writing

- I can draw on what I have read, what I have done and what I have felt at home, at school and at play to inform my writing.
- I can convey my thoughts powerfully and eloquently through speech and text.
- I can select the appropriate language, register, genre and medium for the texts I write.
- I can use writing in both manuscript (handwritten form) as well as digital form in order to inform, to persuade and to entertain other people.
- I can use writing to consider ideas and to reflect on and consolidate my own thinking and learning. I can follow the writing conventions of the genres and subjects I am studying.

### Accuracy

- I can write accurately using language conventions and rules such as those established by Standard English / Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti / I-Akkademja tal-Malti.
- I can use my knowledge of morphology as well as my phonological awareness and visual memory to attempt to spell unfamiliar words and recognise correct spelling.
- I can use a range of punctuation marks to make my meaning clear to a reader.

### Planning and reflection

- I can plan my written work and think what I want to communicate before I start to write.
- I can understand the need for drafting; I can edit and proofread my work and allow sufficient time in which to complete a piece of work.
- I can reflect about my writing and think about how I learn best.











## Learning Outcomes Framework

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