



P5 SUBJECT BRIEFING MOTHER TONGUE



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What is Mother Tongue Language

Mother Tongue Language (MTL) is offered in Singapore schools as a second language. It is a compulsory subject. There are 3 official MTLs:

- Chinese
- Malay
- Tamil



- Students of Chinese, Malay and Indian ethnicities will study their own MTLs.
- Non-Tamil speaking students of Indian ethnicity can apply to study Non-Tamil Indian Language (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi or Urdu).
- These languages are **conducted outside of school premises and hours**. You may want to find out more information from the Board for the Teaching and Testing of South Asian Languages' website.



- Students registered with a double-barreled race will be assigned a MTL based on the first component of their double-barreled race. Those who wish to study a MTL based on the second component of their race may apply to do so through their schools.
- Students who are Eurasian or of other races, and whose mother tongue is not one of the official MTLs, can request to study any of the official MTLs through their schools, subject to approval.





Mother Tongue Language Syllabus



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Mother Tongue Language Syllabus

- The Mother Tongue Language curriculum focuses on **listening, speaking, reading, writing and interaction skills.**
- Your child can progress to different levels of proficiency. For example, to learn Higher Mother Tongue language based on each's ability and interest.



Listening



Speaking



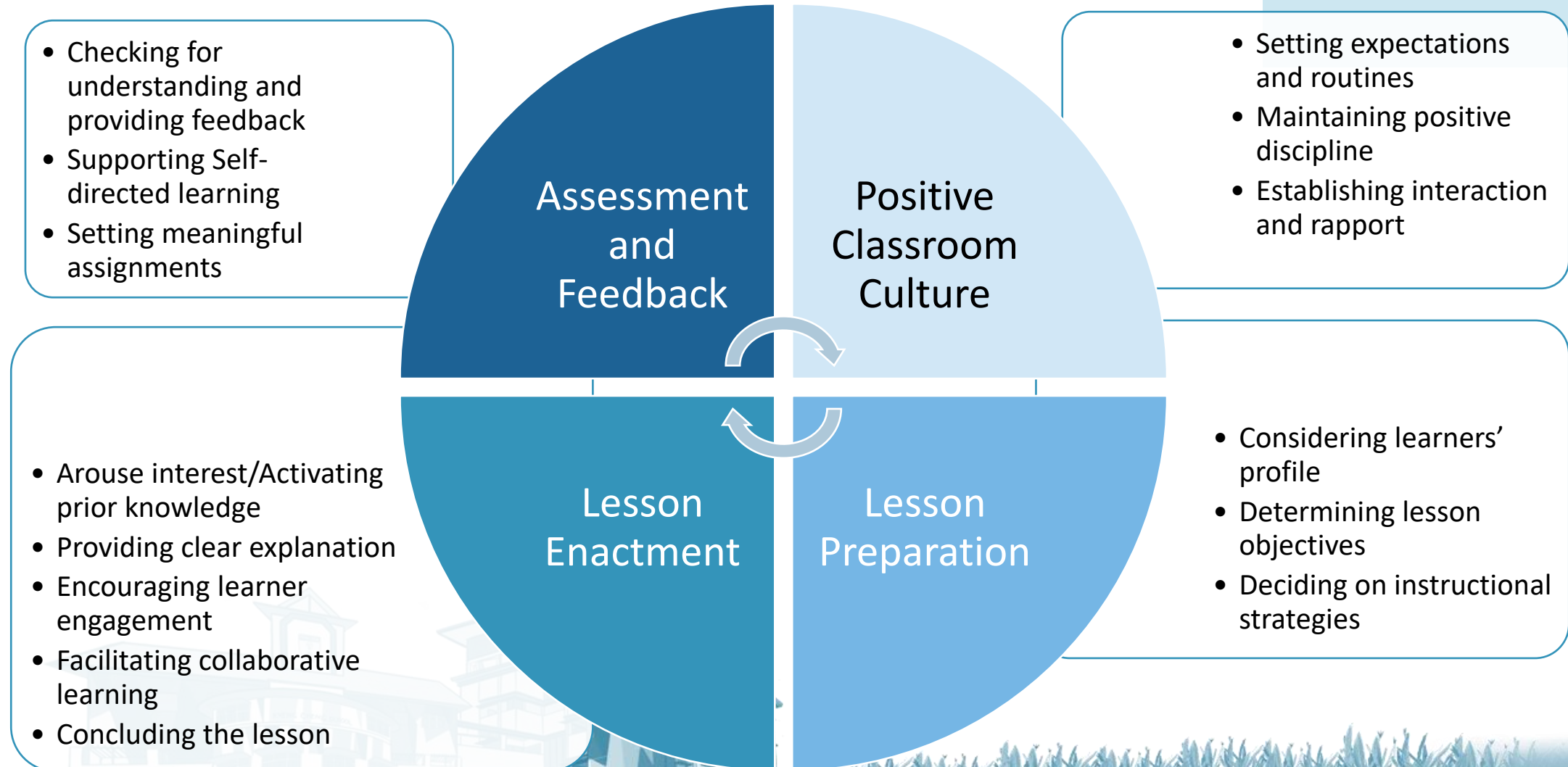
Reading



Writing



The Four Teaching Processes and Teaching Areas



Key Mother Tongue Programmes

- Structured Reading Programme
- Mother Tongue Language Fiesta



Assessment

Focus on:

- listening
- speaking (reading aloud and video conversation)
- reading (comprehension)
- writing composition based on a given topic or a set of pictures



Standard MT End-of-Year Exam Format

Paper	Component	Total Marks	Duration
One	Composition	40 marks	50 minutes
Two	Language Skills	90 marks	1 h 20 minutes
Three	Oral	50 marks	Approximately 10 minutes
	Listening Comprehension	20 marks	Approximately 30 minutes

More details will be disseminated in Semester Two. You may refer to SEAB website for more details:
<https://www.seab.gov.sg>



Foundation Mother Tongue Assessment

Focus on:

- listening
- speaking (reading aloud and video conversation)
- reading (comprehension)



Foundation MT End-of-Year Exam Format

Paper	Component	Total Marks	Duration
One	Language Skills	15 marks	40 minutes
Two	Oral	55 marks	Approximately 10 minutes
Three	Listening Comprehension	30 marks	Approximately 30 minutes

More details will be disseminated in Semester Two. You may refer to SEAB website for more details:
<https://www.seab.gov.sg>



Higher Mother Tongue Assessment

Focus on:

- reading (comprehension)
- writing composition based on a given topic or continuation of a story



Higher MT End-of-Year Exam Format

Paper	Component	Total Marks	Duration
One	Composition	40 marks	50 minutes
Two	Language Skills	60 marks	1 h 20 minutes

More details will be disseminated in Semester Two. You may refer to SEAB website for more details:
<https://www.seab.gov.sg>

Only students who have **achieved 50% in overall Higher Mother Tongue** will be considered to take the subject in Primary Six.



Approved Dictionaries for Exam (Standard MT/ Higher MT only)

Please always refer to SEAB website for the latest updates:
<https://www.seab.gov.sg>



How to help your child?

- If you are able to speak your Mother Tongue, try to speak with your child at home. As the child practices conversations, he or she repeats the new language structures in his or her mind.
- Otherwise, you may provide your child with a conducive environment for reading and watching programmes that are in Mother Tongue language.



- Monitor your child and ensure that he or she completes his or her homework and do regular revision.
- If possible, guide your child to do journal writing in Mother Tongue to practice writing skills.



A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step

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