



DEPARTMENT FOR CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT

LETTER CIRCULAR

Information: X **Date:** 22nd January 2007
Action Required: X **Ref:** DCM 17/2007
To: All Heads of State Primary Schools and Sections
From: Raymond J. Camilleri **Tel:** 2598 2478 / 2598 2480
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Subject: Assessing Achievement in Primary Science

Further to Letter Circular DCM144/2006, below kindly find additional information on the topic in question.

Between Friday 2nd February and Friday 9th February 2007 – Performance Task Assessment will take place in all Year 4 classes. For the smooth running of this assessment you are required to note the following:

- Each class is to be divided into groups of mixed abilities. Each group should not have more than four members but not less than three. The minimum number of groups should be used. Each child should have his/her name clearly written on the pupil's desk or printed on a name tag worn by the children.
- The Scientific knowledge and skills to be assessed are those listed in the Primary Science Syllabus under the section Acquiring Scientific Knowledge. The children will not necessarily be tested on all the skills during a particular session. These skills will be used by the children within the content covered by the units of work for any particular year. A group handout may also be used during the assessment.
- The teacher administering the assessment will have written instructions about how the assessment is to be carried out as well as guidelines regarding the marking scheme. All necessary resources will be provided by the Science Centre – Department for Curriculum Management.
- All children who sit for the half yearly/annual exams have to sit for this assessment. Children who are exempted from mid-term/ annual exams will not sit for this assessment. The facilitator, where necessary, will support the child. It is important to note that all instructions will be read and explained only by the teacher administering the test.

- The pupils will be given a mark from 4 (very good); 3 (good); 2 (fair); 1 (poor) for each scientific skill to be assessed. Each pupil will be given an overall percentage mark reflecting the performance during the assessment. An individual report sheet will be filled in by the teacher administering the test and is to be forwarded to the children's legal guardians along with the half-yearly/ annual exams results.

A Group Assessment Sample Paper is attached.

Raymond J. Camilleri
Director, Curriculum Management

Department for Curriculum Management
Educational Assessment Unit

Science Group Assessment Form – SAMPLE PAPER

School _____	Class _____	Date _____
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Names of children in group →																	Comments
Skills to be assessed ↓	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Compare and classify objects.																	
Make testable predictions.																	
Select and use appropriate resources during an investigation.																	
Recording and analyzing data.																	
Draw conclusions from investigation.																	
Organize themselves within a group and cooperate.																	
Mark/Comments →																	Test Paper Number: