

# The Fun Learning Times

**FUN LEARNERS' SCHOOL LLP**

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## Preparing for PSLE?

The PSLE is slightly less than 7 months away (exactly 204 days from the date of this article). While preparing for the final charge towards the ultimate challenge, it pays to know more about the method of assessment in this major exam.

### T-score Demystified

There are some misconceptions about the way the T-score is calculated.

**Misconception #1:** *To get the student's T-score, we take the total score, divide by 4, before multiplying by 3.*

**Misconception #2:** *The languages (English and second language) are given more weightings than Mathematics and Science.*

In fact, the T-score is obtained by using the formula:

$$\text{Subject T-score} = 50 + \frac{10(\chi - \alpha)}{\sigma}$$

where

- $\chi$      $\equiv$     student's subject score  
 $\alpha$      $\equiv$     national average subject score  
 $\sigma$      $\equiv$     spread of marks, also called standard deviation

Aggregate T-score of the student is the sum of all the 4 subjects' T-scores. The highest possible T-score is 300.

All the students are then ranked according to their aggregate T-scores and assigned to the schools of their choice, based on the strength of their scores.

### Analysis

In a way, this method of assessment pits a student's ability against those of other Primary 6's from all corners of Singapore.

The T-score is a fair way to allocate students into secondary schools that suit their abilities. It sieves out the best regardless of the papers' difficulty for the particular year.

For e.g. if an English paper is particularly difficult, the average score may be 65% with a spread of 10%. A student whose score is 85% will obtain a T-score of 70. His aggregate T-score will be 280 if we assume he has the same score for the other 3 subjects.

The student here scores an exceptional result because he vastly outperforms the rest of the population.

What if the same English paper is easy, where the average score is high, say 80% with a spread of 15%? If we assume a student's score to be 90%, his T-score will be 56.7 for English. Again, assuming all the other subjects are similar, the aggregate T-score is only 227.

### Implications

It is not about how much you score, but how well you perform relative to your classmates around you. In other words, it is more advantageous for a strong student if the paper is rather difficult.

What does this method of assessment mean to us as educators and parents?

### Gentle reminders

In helping our children prepare for PSLE, remind them of the need to outperform their peers if they really want to do well. Every other student will be putting in his/her best effort to stay ahead of the "Amazing Race"!

### Setting goals

We have seen some students setting targets but do not have any plan to work towards them. Guide your child

### Primary & Secondary Classes

- ★ English
- ★ Chinese
- ★ Mathematics
- ★ Sciences

*Who are our students?*

PSLE Top 280, 276, 264  
 P4, P5 & P6 GEP (Top in class)  
 S3, S4 IP  
 From ACSP, RGPS, NYG, MGS, SJI, etc



## Cultivating Lifelong Learning

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## Our Teaching Philosophy

*We strongly believe every student's potential can be maximised. At Fun Learners' School, our primary mission is to provide each*



*& every student the patience & attention they deserve. With holistic teaching methods & active spontaneity, we strive to breathe life into the textbooks by drawing relevance to the world we live in, thereby seeding & inspiring the love of learning in every young mind.*

## Cont'd — Preparing for PSLE?



through the process. Make him/her write down the goals and make sure the action plans are followed up.

### Start revising now

The seconds are ticking away right now. Practise time discipline seriously as there is no more time to waste, and everything to gain. Every little effort adds up.

### Quality and quantity

Highly successful individuals are the ones who put in the greatest amount of intelligent effort in whatever they do. Rather than simply asking your child to study hard, urge him/her to keep a journal to reflect on the learning process.

### Manage expectations

Not everyone can be at the top of the pyramid at the same time. Some students simply do not have the aptitude to attain high-end results. However, we are confident that the ones with determination and discipline will eventually achieve what they aim for.

### Responsible learning

The best teachers and parents can do is to provide effective guidance and facilitate the student's learning process. Actual learning has to be done through the student's own effort though. The best students take responsibility of their own learning by revising their work and keeping a step or two ahead. They are also fully aware that when they sit for the actual PSLE paper on October the 3rd, they are on their own.

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