



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

# **PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES**

Division of Educational Research and Evaluation

2005

## INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework within which students can prepare for the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination (PSLCE).

The **Skills and Content Areas** outlined and the objects detailed in this document must NOT be interpreted to be the TOTAL SET OF SKILLS AND BODY OF KNOWLEDGE TO BE MASTERED BY STUDENTS AT THIS LEVEL. It is intended to neither limit the scope of work nor to set boundaries for possible achievements of students who are working towards the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination.

The **Table of Test Specifications** are to be taken as the BLUE PRINT for the structuring of the tests.

Other content are included for the general information of all.

*Best wishes as you prepare for the examination.*

## **DATES OF EXAMINATION**

The Primary School Leaving Examination is held annually on Tuesday and Wednesday of the third week in June.

## **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

A **Performance Report** indicating the marks earned in each subject, is prepared for each candidate.

The **Primary School Leaving Certificate** is awarded to candidates who earn full passes in the Examination, that is, having scored at least a pass mark in each of the four subjects.

Subjects are graded individually, on the basis of the percentage of the total score earned in keeping with the following criteria:

<b>Distinction</b>	-	<b>100% – 75%</b>
<b>Credit</b>	-	<b>74% – 55%</b>
<b>Pass</b>	-	<b>54% – 40%</b>
<b>Fail</b>	-	<b>39% - 0%</b>

## **SUBMISSION OF QUERIES**

Candidates wanting to query any aspect of their examination results have up to two (2) months after the release date of the results in which to do so.

## **REPEATING THE EXAMINATION.**

Candidates have the option to repeat the examination in part or whole under the ensuing conditions. Having been successful at:

1. **two (2) or more subjects.** The candidates have up to two (2) years, from the initial writing of the examination, in which to rewrite and pass the subjects fail in order to earn a full Primary School Leaving Certificate.
2. **less than two (2) subjects.** The candidates will be required to rewrite the entire examination.
3. **the entire examination or individual subjects** but desires to improve the grade/s earned in a subject/s. Such candidates will be required to rewrite the entire examination.

## **PROPOSED DATE FOR RELEASE OF RESULTS**

The date set for release of results of the examination is early September.

## **A WORD OF CAUTION**

In order to avoid the incidences of candidates who are present at the examination being recorded as absent, the Attendance Register has been introduced at the Examination Centre. Candidates are to ensure that they sign the attendance register on the day of the examination. Failure to do so may result in them being recorded as absent although they were present.

## ENGLISH COMPREHENSION & COMPOSITION

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

**Students should be able to:**

- I. Read and show understanding of given material by:
  - answering literal questions
  - identifying main idea
    - stated
    - implied
  - summarizing information
  - differentiating between:
    - fact and opinion
    - cause and effect
    - relevant and irrelevant information
  - predicting outcomes
  - interpreting statistical and other data
  - listing information in sequential order
  - identifying character traits
  - making comparisons
  - drawing conclusions
  - giving meaning of words in context
  - following instructions e.g. on labels for recipes, road signs
  
- II. Respond to diagrammatic representations, forms and advertisements such as:
  - vacancies for employment
  - articles for sale
  - job applications
  - membership (clubs, groups)
  - bank slips (withdrawals and deposits)

- utility applications (telephone, WASA, electricity)

IV. Apply research skills and categorize information through the appropriate use of a/an

- table of contents
- index
- dictionary
- encyclopaedia
- library
- portfolio
- glossary

V. Write different types of letters

- friendly
- business
- protest
- complaints
- acknowledgement
- appreciation
- invitation

VI. Write different forms of Creative writing:

- short stories
- essays
- calypsos
- poems
- slogans

**ENGLISH COMPOSITION AND COMPREHENSION**  
**TABLE OF TEST SPECIFICATIONS**

**SECTION I**

<b>CONTENT/SKILL AREA</b>	<b>COGNITIVE OUTCOMES AND NO. OF ITEMS</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Comprehension</b>	<b>Application</b>	
READING COMPREHENSION				10
GRAPHIC COMPREHENSION				5
RESEARCH SKILLS				5
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				

**SECTION II**

This section will consist of exercises in Essay Writing and Letter Writing and is worth forty percent (40%) of the total marks.

Students will be expected to use any or a combination of the following writing styles:

- narrative
- descriptive
- imaginative
- expositive

six (6) questions will be presented from which students will choose two (2).

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Students should be able to:**

A. Punctuate using:

- capital letters
- full stops
- questions marks
- commas
- exclamation marks
- apostrophe
- direct and indirect Speech

B. Construct sentences

1. Using correct grammatical structures
2. Showing differentiation between the sentence and non-sentences
3. Avoiding other commonly made errors

C. Analyze sentences

1. subject/verb/object/extension
2. clauses

E. Identify and use the eight Parts of Speech.

F. Identify and use

1. antonyms
2. synonyms
3. homonyms
4. multi-meaning words
5. words in context

G. Compare Adjectives, both regular and irregular comparisons.



H. Use NUMBER (singular/plural)

I. Use TENSE

- Present, Continuous, Perfect, Perfect Continuous
- Past, Past Continuous
- Future

J. Apply spelling rules such as:

- Using affixes (prefixes & suffixes)
- Forming plurals and past tense

## TABLE OF TEST SPECIFICATIONS

### ENGLISH

CONTENT/SKILL AREA	COGNITIVE OUTCOMES AND NO. OF ITEMS			TOTAL
	Knowledge	Comprehension	Application	
<b>SPELLING</b> (use of rules) Affixes Syllabication Plurals				
Sub Total				10
<b>VOCABULARY</b> Homonyms Synonyms - Meaning in context Antonyms Multi-meaning words				
Sub Total				10
<b>PUNCTUATION</b> Capital Letters Full Stops Question Marks Exclamation Marks Apostrophe Direct and Indirect Speech				
Sub Total				8
<b>SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION</b> Identify sentence & non-sentences Correction of errors Use of grammatical structures Joining of sentences				
Sub Total				12
<b>PARTS OF SPEECH</b> Identification and use Adjectives - Comparison of adj. Nouns - Concord Verbal Forms- Tense				
Sub Total				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>50</b>

# GENERAL PAPER

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

### A. SOCIAL STUDIES

**Students should be able to discuss, explain, identify, list and respond to:**

- I.** Key Historical, Political, Social and Economic issues related to the development of Trinidad and Tobago.

EXAMPLES:

- Arrival of Columbus,
- Enslavement/Indenture ship,
- Colonialism,
- Self-government,
- Independence
- Republicanism
- Trade and Industry
- Cultural Heritage and Traditions.
- The population and their origins
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Rites and Rituals
- Dates and Events
- Government
- National Development
- National Symbols
- Public Institutions
- Public Utilities
- Finance

- II.** Physical features and map reading skills and other related information on:
- Trinidad and Tobago
  - The Caribbean Region
- III.** The family, its interrelationships and challenges – social, cultural and economic.

#### EXAMPLES

- Types of families
- Domestic violence (child's and spouse abuse)
- Factors affecting the family relationships – poverty, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, illiteracy, gender, responsibility
- Forms of conflict resolution and social behaviour
- Respect for authority, adults, the elderly and other citizens, family values
- Moral and Ethical Issues
- Positive work ethic and honesty

#### **B. GENERAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

- Identify and list the characteristics of:
  - (i) living things
  - (ii) the various classes of animals (reptiles, fishes, etc)
  - (iii) insects
- Diseases – their causes and how they are transmitted
- Crops commonly cultivated for food in Trinidad and Tobago
- Soil types
- Animals commonly reared for food and Trinidad and Tobago
- Parts of the:
  - (i) plant
  - (ii) flower
- Scientific instruments and their uses

- Scientific data from graphs and diagrams
- Insect pests
- Safety precaution when using/handling
  - (i) fertilizers
  - (ii) pesticides

## **C. CURRENT AFFAIRS**

- I. Current events of importance or significance.

### EXAMPLES:

- politics
- culture
- education
- sports reported nationally, regionally and internationally.

## GENERAL PAPER

### TABLE OF TEST SPECIFICATIONS

#### SECTION I

CONTENT/SKILL AREA	COGNITIVE OUTCOMES AND NO. OF ITEMS			TOTAL
	Knowledge	Comprehension	Application	
SOCIAL STUDIES	5	5	3	13
GENERAL SCIENCE/ AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE	5	4	3	12
CURRENT AFFAIRS	15	---	---	15
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>

**SECTION I** consists of forty (40) Multiple Choice questions and will worth one (1) mark each.

**SECTION II** will comprise of four (4) open-ended questions and will be worth ten (10) marks each.

Two (2) items will be based on the objectives of the Social Studies skills and two (2) on the General Science / Agricultural Science content of work.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**  
**MATHEMATICS**

Students should be able to successfully undertake the task related to each of the following areas.

**I NUMBER**

A. Numeration and Notation

2. Write numerals for given words names
3. Write word names for given numerals
4. Identify place value of digits up to hundredths
5. Write in expanded notation
6. Approximate numbers to nearest ten, hundred, thousand.

B. Computation

2. Compute whole numbers using the four operations
3. Solve problems involving whole numbers.

C. Fraction (Common)

2. Develop concept of a common fraction i.e.
  - Unit fraction
  - Proper fraction
  - Whole
  - Improper fraction
  - Mixed number
3. Order fractions
4. State equivalence fractions
5. Compute fractions using the four operations
6. Solve problems involving fractions.

D. Fractions (Decimals)

2. Develop concept of a common fraction i.e.
  - tenth
  - hundredth
3. Identify place value
4. Writing in expanded notation
5. Compute decimals using the four operations
6. Convert decimal fractions to common fractions and vice versa.

E. Percentage

2. Develop concept of a percentage as out of 100
3. Compute using percentages e.g. Finding a percentage of; expressing as a percentage of
4. Write common fractions and decimal fractions as percentages and vice versa.

F. Number Theory

2. Develop concept of the Number System
  - odd
  - even
  - multiple
  - factors
  - prime
  - composite
  - squares
  - square root

G. Rate, Ratio and Proportion



## II MONEY

### 1. Rate of Pay

- (i) hourly
- (ii) daily
- (iii) weekly
- (iv) fortnightly
- (v) monthly
- (vi) annual salaries
- (vii) overtime (time and a half, double time, triple time)

### 2. Commissions

### 3. Bonuses

### 4. Fees and tips

### 5. Pensions

### 6. Interest and dividends

### 7. Profits

### 8. Solve problems related to

- (i) Profit and loss
- (ii) Simple interest
- (iii) Hire purchase
- (iv) Discount
- (v) Billings – e.g. electricity, telephone
- (vi) Rates and taxes
- (vii) V.A.T.
- (viii) Buying at a sale and otherwise
- (ix) Mortgage payments.
- (x) Calculation of price; i.e. determining the best buy – comparison of prices.

### **III MEASUREMENTS**

#### **B. Linear**

1. Develop concept of length
2. Measure lengths using standard units
3. Estimate lengths
4. Identify relationships among the millimetre, centimetre, meter, kilometre
5. Develop formulae for calculating perimeter
6. Apply formulae
7. Solve problems involving perimeter.

#### **C. Area**

1. Develop concept of area
2. Develop formulae for calculating area
3. Apply formulae
4. Solve problem involving area, e.g.
  - (a) carpeting
  - (b) brick laying
  - (c) tiling
  - (d) gardens e.g. size of garden, plots, garden paths.
5. Calculate total surface area
6. Calculate area of compound shapes

#### **D. Volume**

1. Develop concept of volume and capacity
2. Develop formulae for calculating volume and capacity
3. Apply formulae
4. Solve problems involving volume of cube, cuboids, cylinder.

## **Mass and Weight**

1. Develop concept mass and weight
2. Perform four operations on various measures of mass/weight
3. Convert from one unit of mass/weight to another
4. Compare weight/mass and volume.

## **E. Time**

1. Develop concept of time
  - (a) learn units used for measuring time – seconds, minutes, hour
  - (b) convert from one unit of time to another (unit of time)
  - (c) measure time using varied instruments e.g.
    - (i) clock (analog)
    - (ii) clock (digital)
    - (iii) 24-hour clocktell time
    - half hour
    - quarter hour
    - minutes
  - (e) compute time using the four operations
  - (f) solve problems
    - (i) in which time is related to other measures e.g.
      - revolutions per minute
      - speed
      - time
      - distance
    - (ii) work and time

## VI. GEOMETRY

1. Identify and/or state properties of basic solids
  - cuboid
  - cube
  - cylinder
  - cone
  - sphere
  - pyramid
  
2. Identify and construct nets of basic solids
  
3. Identify and state properties of
  - (a) Basic shapes with
    - three sides (triangles – scalene, right, isosceles, equilateral)
    - four sides (rectangle, square, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezium, kites)
    - five and more side (pentagon, hexagon)
    - curved surfaces (circle)
  - (b) combine shapes.
  
4. Identify and draw lines that are
  - horizontal
  - vertical
  - diagonal
  - curved
  - parallel
  - perpendicular

5. Identify and draw angles that are

- acute
- right
- obtuse
- straight
- reflex

## **VII. STATISTICS**

1. Tally data
2. Construct tables (tabulate data)
3. Draw graphs
  - (i) Pictograph
  - (ii) Bar graph
  - (iii) Pie chart
  - (iv) Line graph
4. Interpret data presented in graphs
5. Calculate
  - mean
  - median
  - mode

## TABLE OF TEST SPECIFICATIONS

### MATHEMATICS

#### SECTION I

CONTENT/SKILL AREA	COGNITIVE OUTCOMES AND NO. OF ITEMS			TOTAL
	Knowledge	Computation	Problem Solving	
<b>PUNCTUATION</b>				
Notation & Numeration	3			
Computation		2		
Common Fractions		1		
Decimal Fractions		2		
Percentages		1	1	
Number Theory	1	1	2	
<b>Sub Total</b>				14
<b>MONEY</b>				
Conversion			1	
Calculating Earnings				
Buying and Selling		1	1	
<b>Sub Total</b>				3
<b>MEASUREMENT</b>				
Linear			1	
Area			2	
Volume	1		1	
Mass and Weight		1		
Time	1		2	
<b>Sub Total</b>				9
<b>GEOMETRY</b>	2		3	
<b>Sub Total</b>				5
<b>STATISTICS</b>				
Interpret & Calculate Graphs	1		1	
Mean, Median, Mode	1		1	
<b>Sub Total</b>				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>35</b>