

Supporting improvements in English teaching: Cambridge baseline 2013

Ministry of Education

Malaysia



Cambridge Assessment English worked with the Ministry to evaluate the learning, teaching and assessment of English in schools in Malaysia. At the same time, we tested language proficiency from pre-school to pre-university. Reading, listening, writing and use of English were tested online while speaking was tested face to face.

In October 2011, the Ministry of Education launched a review of the education system in order to develop a new National Education Blueprint – the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013–2025.

Following this, the Ministry asked us to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of English learning, teaching and assessment from pre-school to pre-university levels.

This study is now complete and is enabling the Malaysian Government to set realistic and achievable targets for the future. The project also delivered

baseline data which the Ministry is using to determine whether these targets are being met, and therefore whether its reform strategies are proving successful.

The key aim of the evaluation was to benchmark student and teacher English language proficiency against international standards. Teachers were also benchmarked with regard to teaching knowledge and teaching practice. The role of a range of other factors such as the contexts of and attitudes towards learning, school location, school type, class specialisation and gender on language proficiency was explored and current national curricula, assessments and learning materials were reviewed.

A full report on our findings has been presented to the Malaysian Government, along with recommendations on how to further improve standards of English teaching, learning and assessment across the country.

Key findings and recommendations were focused on three areas of the project – students, teachers and curricula, assessments and learning materials – with all recommendations linked to the transformational changes identified in the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013–2025.

The evidence-based 2013 baseline findings provide the Ministry with a clear picture of how the Malaysian English language education system is currently performing against internationally recognised standards along with the recommended next steps required to implement an integrated solution.

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