

TEST AND IMPROVE
PAPER-BASED AND ONLINE TESTING SOLUTION

Presenting Author: Tatiana Sango

Pearson

The Poster Presentation will provide a visual explanation of Test and Improve, a targeted and effective diagnostic assessment programme for Grades 8 to 12 based on the Grade 12 matric exams. The presentation will detail the process of how the paper-based version, as well as the online version, is designed to test curriculum knowledge and skills, diagnose learners' development areas and identify the sub-skills requiring intervention, leading to improved results in Maths and Physical Sciences.

POSTER 1

Test and Improve: An effective process

The poster will visually explain the four steps needed to test learners' skills and knowledge:

- Learners write paper-based tests
- Tests are processed using psychometric software
- Rich diagnostic reports are generated
- Reports help understand learners' development areas

POSTER 2

How it works: Test learners' skills and knowledge

Grade 12 exam questions are deconstructed to identify learners' skills that are problematic by testing the sub-skills the learner should have acquired from previous grades.

- A visual detailing how the Grade 8-11 sub-skills are broken up to test the Grade 12 exam question.
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POSTER 3

How it works: Rich diagnostic reports to help learners' flourish

Reports provide teachers with learner level, class level and grade level results. The reports are granular and comprehensive, and give a lot of detail about the skills that need attention, allowing teachers to design targeted interventions and planning.

Summary skills are ranked according to performance, from the skill with the lowest score to the skill with the highest score. This enables teachers to target the skills with the lowest scores for intervention.

- A visual illustrating the graphic representation of results
- A visual illustrating the types of reports received

POSTER 4

Advantages of Test and Improve:

Test and Improve has been piloted with more than two thousand learners across South Africa. Teachers have commented extensively on the value of this programme in a variety of focus groups. One teacher commented that, “this is an extremely valuable report to provide real scientific data and pinpoint exactly what the issue is and therefore provides a chance of rectifying the problem”.

There are several different purposes that Test and Improve is used for:

- Diagnose learners' skills and knowledge development areas.
 - Identify sub-skills which require the most attention and development.
 - Grade 8 testing to use as a baseline diagnostic.
 - Grade 9 testing to inform subject choices for Grade 10.
 - Grade 10 and 11 testing to ensure a firm knowledge and skills base for Grade 12.
 - Early Grade 12 testing to improve learners' Grade 12 results.
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POSTER 5

Test and improve online:

We will have a look at the online version of Test and Improve which will enable parents and learners to take the test online and independently assess their skills and knowledge.

The CD-based Baseline Assessment Tool will offer the following features and benefits:

- Quick return of learners' results and diagnostics.
 - Increased time for the teachers to prepare and deliver targeted and individualised intervention strategies based on the identified content and skills gaps.
 - Reduced administrative burden on the teachers, freeing them from the test development, marking and results analysis tasks at the beginning of the year.
 - An interactive, non-threatening and engaging way for the learners to complete the baseline assessment and as a result display their knowledge and skills.
 - The ability to include 'technology-enhanced' testing items that allow learners to engage with the test in ways other than multiple choice questions that also may demonstrate critical-thinking skills.
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