



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Education

UNDERSTANDING THE REINTRODUCED CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT COMPONENT

C.A.C.





FOREWORD

The Ministry of Education is committed to ensuring that every child is given the opportunity to succeed in a modern, dynamic, and ever-changing world. As part of this commitment, we are pleased to reintroduce the Continuous Assessment Component (C.A.C.) as a key feature of our national assessment framework.

The C.A.C. represents an important step forward in how we understand and measure student learning. While traditional examinations remain valuable, they do not always capture the full range of skills that our students possess. The reintroduction of the C.A.C. allows us to assess not only what students know, but how they think, solve problems, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways.

This initiative has been carefully designed and will be implemented in a phased and supportive manner. Beginning in September 2026, students in Standard 3 will participate in a year-long sensitisation and preparatory exercise for the C.A.C. When they transition to Standard 4 in September 2027, they will begin the four formal C.A.C. assessments that will contribute 30% to their final S.E.A. 2029 score.

Also beginning in September 2026, an abridged version of the C.A.C. will be introduced for students in Standard 4. Sensitisation and preparatory activities will take place during Terms 1 and 2, with the first formal assessment in Term 3. A second formal assessment will take place in Term 1 at Standard 5. Together, these two assessments will contribute 15% to the final S.E.A. 2028 score.

We recognise that the success of this initiative depends on strong partnerships. I wish to thank our teachers, school leaders, parents, and stakeholders - including the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association - for their invaluable input through ongoing consultations. The input received helps to ensure that this reform is grounded in the realities of our classrooms and responsive to the needs of our students.

The reintroduction of the C.A.C. is not simply a change in assessment; it is a shift towards more meaningful learning. It reflects our shared vision of an education system that develops confident, capable, and creative learners who are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Together, let us continue to support our children as they grow, learn, and achieve their fullest potential.

Dr. the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath
Minister of Education

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT COMPONENT



Building Better Learning for Every Child

A BROADER APPROACH TO ASSESSING LEARNING

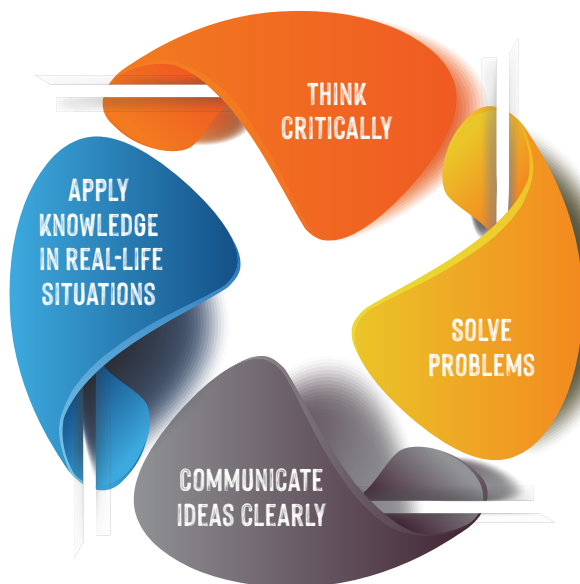
What is the C.A.C.?

The **Continuous Assessment Component (C.A.C.)** is a school-based form of assessment that allows students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and understanding through practical activities such as projects, investigations, and problem-solving tasks.

It will work alongside the written S.E.A. examination. Formal C.A.C. tasks will be completed in accordance with national guidelines.

Why is the C.A.C. being reintroduced?

Education is changing. Today's students need more than the ability to memorise facts. They must be able to:



- The C.A.C. helps to measure these important skills.

A Balanced System

The C.A.C. does not replace the written S.E.A. examination. Instead, it complements them by ensuring that:

- Students are assessed in different ways
- Learning is meaningful and engaging
- Every child has the opportunity to succeed.



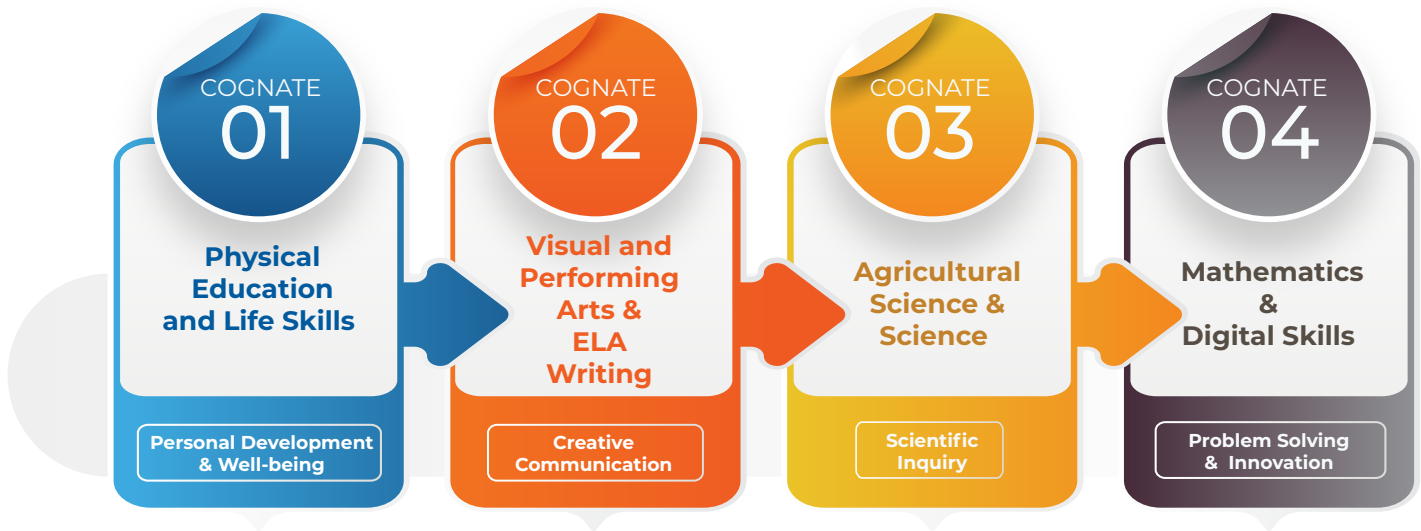
How will the C.A.C. be Introduced?

Phased Implementation –

Starting September 2026

The C.A.C. will be introduced **carefully to ensure success for students, teachers, and parents.**

Related learning areas are grouped into four cognate clusters with each group of related subjects assessed through an integrated task. Each cognate cluster aligns to an overarching theme.



STANDARD

3

- Students will be introduced to simple, age-appropriate activities
- Focus on building confidence and skills
- **NO** formal assessment for S.E.A. at this stage

STANDARD

4

Terms 1 & 2: Preparation and Practice

- Students will practise C.A.C.-style tasks
- Teachers will guide and support learning
- Students become familiar with expectations

Term 3: Assessment

- Students will complete **ONE assessment task**
- Only **Cognate Cluster 3** will be formally assessed
- The approach reduces stress and allows for a smooth transition

STANDARD

5

- **No C.A.C. task is counted towards S.E.A. 2027. The written S.E.A. examination contributes 100% of the final result**

Why Start with One Cognate Cluster?

ALLOWS STUDENTS
TO ADJUST GRADUALLY

GIVES TEACHERS TIME TO
REFINE ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

ENSURES QUALITY
AND FAIRNESS

Phased Implementation –

Continuing September 2027

For students who entered Standard 2 in September 2026, they will now move on to Standard 3 and start preparation for C.A.C.

STANDARD 3

- Students entering Standard 3 in September 2027 will follow the same preparatory process. No formal C.A.C. mark contributes to S.E.A. at this stage.
- Again, **NO** formal assessment for S.E.A. at this stage

For students who entered Standard 3 in September 2026, they will now move on to Standard 4 and experience formal C.A.C. assessments across the school year.

STANDARD 4

S.E.A. 2029 cohort:

- Formal C.A.C. assessment begins in Standard 4.
- Students complete three formal tasks – one per term – for Cognate Clusters 1, 2 and 3.
 - **Term 1:** Physical Education & Life Skills
 - **Term 2:** Visual and Performing Arts & ELA Writing
 - **Term 3:** Agricultural Science & Science

For students who entered Standard 4 in September 2026, they will now move on to Standard 5 in September 2027 and experience the final formal C.A.C. assessment in Term 1.

STANDARD 5

S.E.A. 2028 cohort

Term 1

- Final C.A.C. Assessment/Formal assessment of Cognate Cluster 4.
 - Mathematics & Digital Skills

Term 2: SEA 2028 Exam

- S.E.A. Written Exam in March 2028

Term 3: Post-S.E.A. Activities

- Students participate in School Activities in preparation for entry to Secondary Schools.

How Will C.A.C. Contribute to Your Child's S.E.A. Result?

When fully implemented, the C.A.C. contributes 30% of the final S.E.A. score, while the S.E.A. written examination contributes 70%. Each cognate assessment contributes equally to the C.A.C. component.

During the phased implementation period the C.A.C. marks will contribute to the final S.E.A. score as follows:

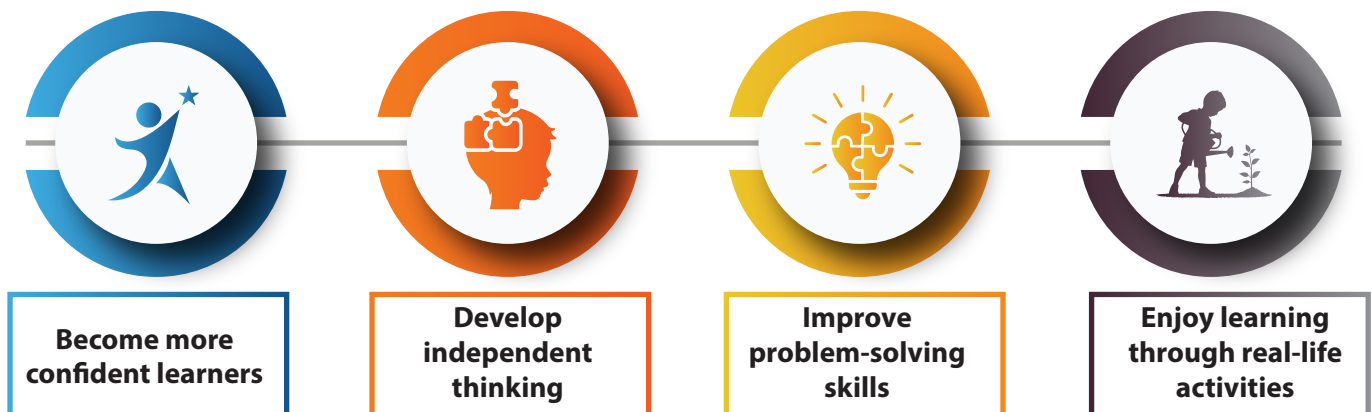
Child's Class In September 2026	Child's S.E.A. Year	Number of C.A.C. Assessed Tasks	C.A.C. Contribution	S.E.A. Final Exam Contribution
Standard 5	S.E.A. 2027	0	0%	100%
Standard 4	S.E.A. 2028	2	15%	85%
Standard 3	S.E.A. 2029	4	30%	70%

What This Means for Students and Parents

How Will Students Benefit?

When fully implemented, each of the four formal C.A.C. tasks contributes 7.5 percentage points to the final S.E.A. result.

The C.A.C. helps students:



How Are Students Assessed?

- Formal C.A.C. tasks will be completed under conditions specified in the national guidelines.
- Schools will advise parents of the assessment period and any authorised preparation.

Teachers use clear **marking guides (rubrics)** to:



There are also systems in place to monitor and maintain national standards.

How Can Parents Help?

Parents play an important role in their child’s success. You can:

- ✓ Encourage your child to do their own work
- ✓ Support regular attendance, especially during the announced assessment period
- ✓ Talk with your child about their assignments
- ✓ Communicate with teachers when needed



Important Reminder

Support your child—but let the work be their own. This helps teachers accurately assess their abilities.



Will This Affect S.E.A.?

It depends on your child’s cohort:



Working Together for Success

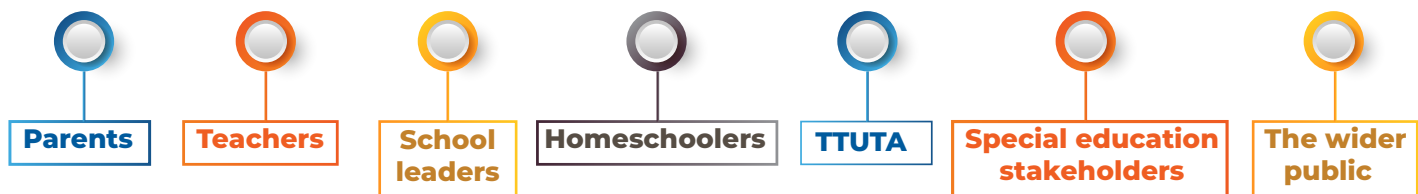
Supporting Teachers

Teachers are receiving:



Listening to Stakeholders

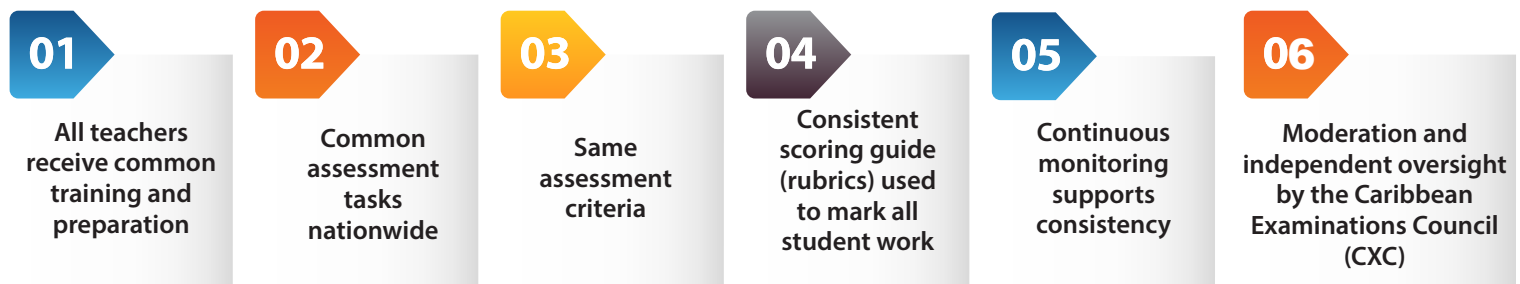
The Ministry continues to engage:



Your feedback helps shape the success of this initiative.

Ensuring Fairness

To ensure fairness across all schools:



Every student will be assessed against the same national standards, using common criteria and scoring guides, with approved accommodations where required.

Looking Ahead

The C.A.C. is part of a broader vision to:



Final Message from the Ministry

The reintroduction of the C.A.C. is about giving every child the opportunity to demonstrate his/her full potential - not just in exams, but in life.

FOR MORE INFO



Speak with your child's school



Visit moe.gov.tt or



Call 622-2181





Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Education

PARENT QUICK REFERENCE

...

1 Identify your child's S.E.A. cohort



2 Note the school's assessment period.



3 Support regular attendance.



4 Let the work be the child's own.



5 Contact the teacher early about illness, absence, accommodations, marks or review procedures.

