

2023 ENGLISH EXAM FORMAT:

Changes in Comprehension Section

Are you exam-ready and up-to-date with the latest Secondary English exam format?

By EPH Editorial Team

With Full Subject-Based Banding being progressively rolled out since last year, it is crucial for students to keep abreast of the changes to exam formats. From 2023, the new G3/O-Level, G2/N(A)-Level, and G1/N(T)-Level exam formats will be implemented. Here's what you need to know.

G3/O-Level and G2/N(A)-Level

One of the most significant changes to the exam format of G3/O-Level and G2/N(A)-Level lies in **Paper 2, Section A**. Previously, questions in this section were based on only one visual text. Now, this section consists of two texts. Text 1 typically consists of visuals accompanied by text, while Text 2 consists of commentary, e.g. from social media, made on the issue raised in Text 1.

Questions on comprehension, the use of the visuals, and language for

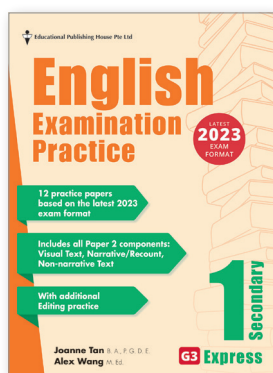
effect will be tested. The new question types tend to be comparative in nature and require students to study both texts closely to identify the similarities and differences between them. To score well in this section, it is essential to pay attention to the purpose, audience, context, and tone in each text. In addition, it is crucial to analyse Text 1 and identify links between the text and visual, as well as draw links between Text 1 and Text 2.

G1/N(T)-Level

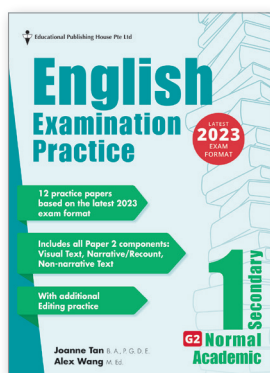
The significant changes to the exam format of G1/N(T)-Level are in **Paper 2, Section B, Parts 3 and 4**. Previously, these sections included graphs, tables, and maps. In the 2023 exam format, for Part 3 Comprehension I, students will be required to study a narrative or recount text and answer a variety of open-ended questions. In Part 4 Comprehension II, students must analyse non-narrative texts, one

of which includes visuals. Questions on comprehension and vocabulary in context will be tested.

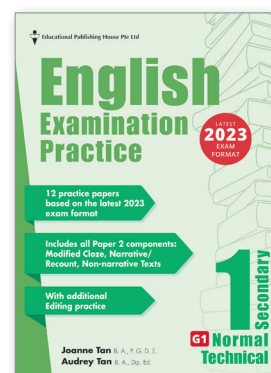
In order for students to familiarise themselves with the new syllabus, it is important to look for books offering practices based on the 2023 exam format. The **English Examination Practice (2nd Edition)** (\$10.90 each) series by Educational Publishing House offers 12 practice papers based on the latest 2023 exam format. It provides extensive practice for all Paper 2 components and text types, including visual texts, narrative/recount texts, and non-narrative texts. It also offers practices for Paper 1 Editing to build up students' foundation in grammar. By practising these questions, students will come to understand the level of proficiency expected of them and gain confidence in their preparation for weighted assessments and examinations.



(Available for Secondary 1 – 4, G3/Express)



(Available for Secondary 1 – 4, G2/N(A))



(Available for Secondary 1 – 4, G1/N(T))