

ANNUAL REPORT
THE SPLD TEST EVALUATION COMMITTEE (STEC)
2022-2023

Aims for 2022-2023

- To review new and updated tests when relevant
- To write and publish guidance on tests that have been added to the lists
- To update the test list annually for publication in June.
- To continue working with SASC on updating guidance on aspects of selecting and using tests within diagnostic assessments.

Test Lists

The pre-16 and post-16 test lists have been updated to include new tests reviewed this year and further clarification of some points in the FAQs. The updated lists were uploaded to the SASC website shortly before the AGM, with all changes highlighted in yellow.

Test reviews

A number of tests have been reviewed but did not meet the criteria for inclusion on the list. The most common reason for not approving a test is insufficient data about standardisation, leading to concerns about the validity and reliability of the test results.

Following consultations between SASC and STEC, **Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT)** was removed from both the pre-16 and post-16 lists due to growing concerns about the age of the test and problems with the standardisation.

Oral Passage Understanding Scale (OPUS) has been approved and added to the Pre-16 and Post-16 Tests Lists.

Queries about tests and guidance

STEC continues to assist SASC with responding to queries about tests.

STEC committee members have continued to contribute to the ongoing discussions and consultations relating to SASC's "*Guidance on the identification of and effective intervention for literacy difficulties in children and adults. Implications for the assessment of dyslexia*".

When SDMT was removed from the lists in 2022, STEC collaborated with SASC to produce guidance on alternative tests of processing. Following on from this, STEC has begun a project to compare and evaluate the range of tests of processing that are available, with a view to developing a deeper understanding of what is being measured and how it relates to development or skills.

STEC committee members have been evaluating the efficacy of the Pre 16 and Post-16 lists in relation to investigating mathematics difficulties as part of a wider review of assessment of mathematics difficulties. SASC and STEC are in the process of setting up a Dyscalculia Working Group which will review and update the current dyscalculia and maths difficulties guidance, the mathematics sections of the test lists, and how mathematics fits within the Report Format.

Committee members

STEC's workload continues to increase. Members are Specialist Teacher Assessors and Psychologists. We were pleased to have a new member, Dr Caro Strover, Educational Psychologist, who joined the committee in 2022.

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Rachel Simpson, Chair of STEC

June 2023