



# 4 Key facts on teaching aids, teaching guides and MEST lesson plans in Sierra Leone



This summary presents four key facts on common teaching aids, teaching guides, and the use of junior secondary school (JSS) lesson plans. These facts are based on findings from Sierra Leone's first annual secondary grade learning assessment survey conducted in all four regions in May and June 2017. In total 400 schools were surveyed (100 per province) with an equal number of junior (JS) and senior secondary (SS) schools. The data comes from teacher and principal background questionnaires administered to 1,173 English and math teachers and 392 principals. To provide estimates that are representative at the regional level, observed values were analysed using survey weights.

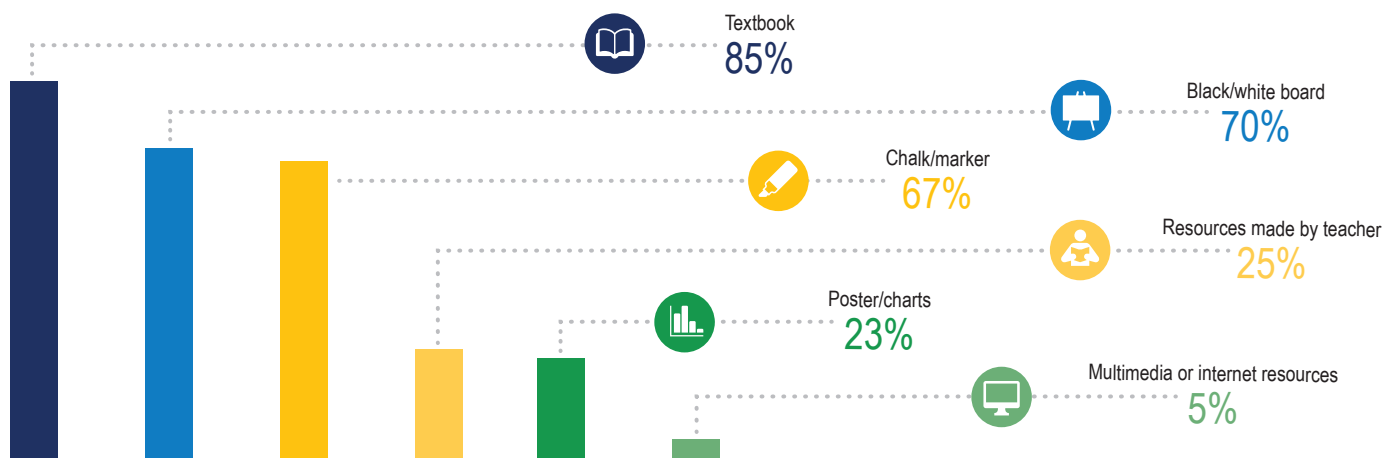
## Teaching aids

### Fact 1

A vast majority of teachers use at least one teaching aid. These are mainly traditional aids like textbooks and blackboard/chalk.



Common teaching aids and regional disparities in usage

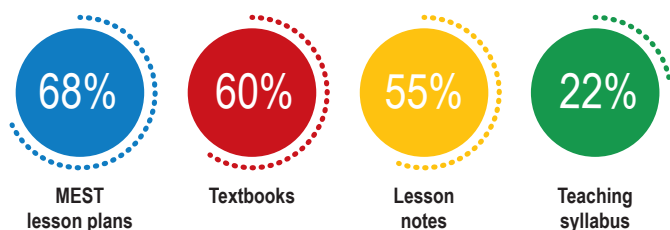


## Teaching guides

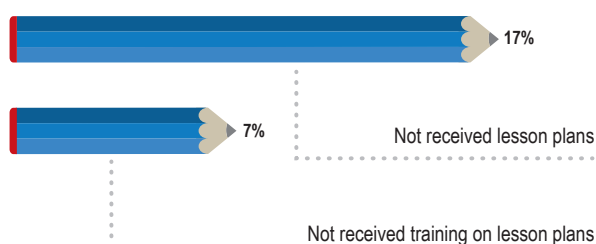
### Fact 2

Teachers make widespread use of teaching guides to plan and prepare for lessons. A large proportion of JSS English and math teachers are already using the recently distributed MEST lesson plans for this purpose.

Usage of various teaching guides among JSS English or maths teachers



Teachers not using MEST lesson plans had usually not received them as yet, or had not been trained on how to use them.

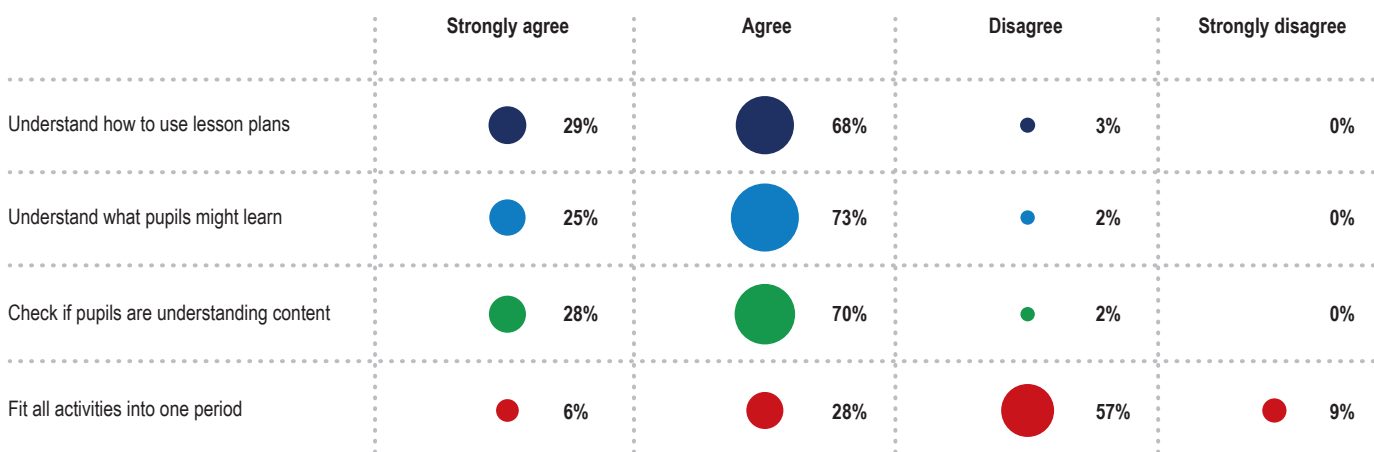


## MEST lesson plans<sup>1</sup>

### Fact 3

Teachers can generally understand the use and purpose of lesson plans to facilitate learning, but they struggle to incorporate all the prescribed activities in the lesson plans within the duration of one period.

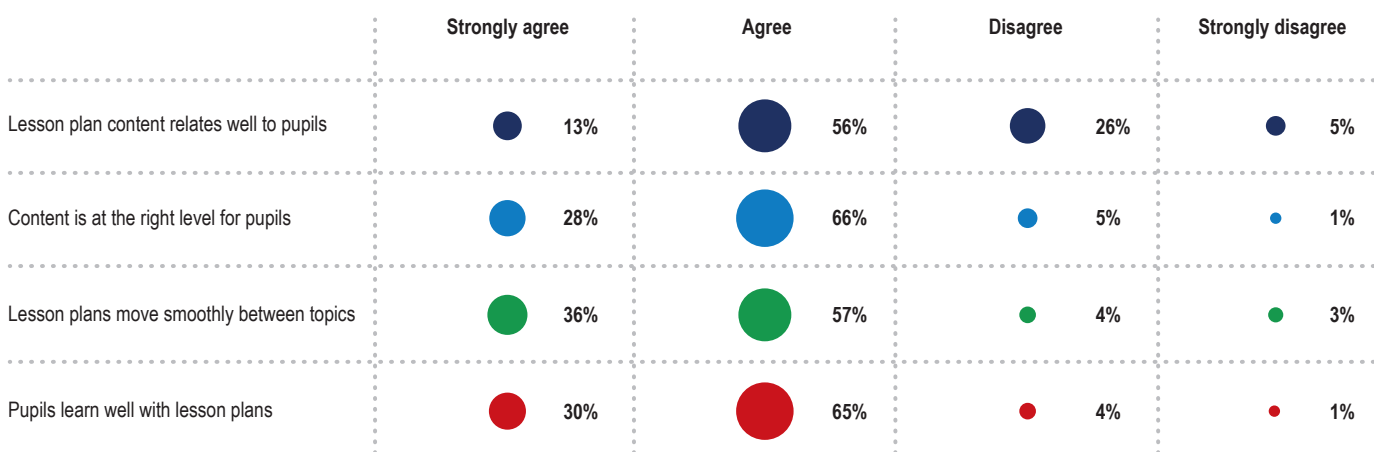
JSS teachers who are able to...



### Fact 4

Teachers feedback on MEST lesson plans is generally positive. They consider the lesson plans to be well-structured and as helping pupils learn better. However, teachers are concerned that some lesson plan content (especially examples use to explain concepts) does not relate well to the context and lived realities of pupils.

JSS teachers who think...



In April 2017, MEST distributed lesson plans in Language Arts and math amongst 40,000 primary and JSS teachers, to support delivery of high quality classroom instruction. The timing of this survey provides an interesting opportunity to capture baseline usage trends and initial feedback on the usefulness of these materials.

### Contact details

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Any views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of UK Department for International Development (DFID) or the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST).