

# How to reverse poor English SPM results

August 8, 2023 @ 12:03am



A strong command of the English language is important for effective communication and work performance. - File pic

**LETTERS:** The education system has been traditionally strong, with a focus on academic excellence and mastery of languages, whether Bahasa Malaysia or English.

However, the last Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) results have raised concerns among educators and policymakers as the English language component has shown a worrying decline.

With the new semester at the university level just around the corner, most educators are ready to welcome the SPM leavers and let them experience a new learning environment.

This decline is particularly concerning given that English language proficiency is crucial for success in higher education and professional employment.

As Malaysia moves towards a knowledge-based economy, a strong command of English is important for communication, collaboration and innovation.

The problem of low English proficiency among Malaysian students cannot be attributed to a single factor.

Experts have pointed to the lack of exposure to English outside of the classroom, which may hinder students' development of practical language skills and is not limited to the demographic factor.

A heavy emphasis on grammar and rote learning in schools may also have contributed to a lack of creativity and critical thinking in writing and other language skills.

To address this challenge, there needs to be a more comprehensive approach to English language education.

This may include introducing more interactive language learning methods such as communicative activities and project-based learning, which can help students build practical skills and better connect with the language.

Additionally, there should be more opportunities for experiential learning such as English language immersion programmes and overseas study tours. However, this may require the stakeholders to rethink their financial plans.

Ultimately, improving English language proficiency among students requires a concerted effort on the part of educators, policymakers and stakeholders to reorient the education system towards more effective language learning practices. This will not only ensure that students are well quipped for academic and career success, but also enable them to participate in the global community of learners and innovators.

**NURULADILAH MOHAMED MIA EMILY ABD RAHIM**

Lecturer, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM, Terengganu

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Straits Times