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CEM ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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The past year may have been challenging but we are rising up together to bring new hope and aspirations in the coming year.

Cheers to new beginnings!

New CEM Connections Episodes

Following the launch of its pilot episode in June 2020, CEM released two new episodes of CEM Connections covering the topics on online assessments and data privacy during online learning. For more educational videos, you may visit the CEM Youtube Channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCZf4hOWP3YoQjVZTsK197ZQ.

Episode 2 - Features of a Good Online Assessment Platform

Episode 2, published on December 21, 2020, features Mr. Michael Van Supranes of the UP School of Statistics and Interactive Learning Center Diliman who discussed the features that test users should look for in an online assessment platform. Some of the most important aspects that he suggested are security for identity authentication and data safety, flexibility of the exam platform for easy user access, the use of Safe Exam Browser, e-proctoring and anti-plagiarism tools to eliminate cheating. He also discussed how test developers can maintain the integrity of the test through question control, equating measures and balance of technology and human expertise.



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Episode 3 - Learners' Data Privacy

In Episode 3, which was published on January 30, 2021, *Atty. Louie Alfred Pantoni* of Castillo Laman Tan Pantaleon & San Jose Law Firm shed some light on learners' rights to Data Privacy during online learning. He maintained that all individuals, including minors, have the right to Data Privacy and that parents play a big role in ensuring that their children's data are used appropriately. He also cited some violations and their respective consequences to violators and added that there are government agencies, particularly the National Privacy Commission, that can address these cases. He also urges parents to be vigilant about their children's online activities to keep them away from possible online danger.



Webinar on Key Informant Interviews as a Tool for Qualitative Research

CEM conducted an in-house webinar on *Key Informant Interviews as a Tool for Qualitative Research* on February 8, 2021 which was facilitated by *Dr. Victoria N. Apuan* of Miriam College and attended by select CEM employees from various sections. Dr. Apuan started her presentation with a brief review of the concepts related to quantitative and qualitative research and walked the audience through the preparations for the key informant interview and its related contexts and nuanced approaches. She discussed the different types of questions used for interviews and shared some techniques on encouraging respondents to continue talking and making fruitful conversations. She also shared some of her experiences related to the studies she had conducted.

Dr. Apuan ended the talk with this inspiring reminder: "Qualitative research is a LOT OF WORK but it is a worthwhile process."

This online training is part of CEM's Professional Development Program for its staff.



Dr. Victoria N. Apuan answering questions during the Open Forum.

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NEWSLETTER

Editorial Staff

Content Creator:
Aileen A. Cartagena

Design and Layout:
Frances F.M.B. Cardona
Ralph Ronald J. Baniqued

Proofreader:
Janet T. Evasco

DIGITAL VALENTINE'S DAY:

4 Ideas to Celebrate Valentine's Day
During Pandemic With Your Students

1. Get Crafty

Crafting and exchanging cards is one of the most basic Valentine's Day traditions. You can launch a card making session during a video call or have your students use [Canva](#), [Adobe Spark](#), or [Animoto](#) to create ecards.

2. Take a Trip Around the World

One fun and educational activity is to learn how to say "I love you," in different languages. You can also use this Valentine's Day as an opportunity to present other cultural celebrations like Semana de la Dulzura (*The Week of Sweetness*) in Argentina or National Chocolate Day in Ghana.

3. Rearrange your surroundings

Over the past year, it's likely that everyone's living space has acted as an office, school, bedroom, and more. To give everyone a break, you can host a fun Valentine decorating competition where students can use whatever they have on hand and then send a photo or show the decorations during a video call.

4. Be kind to your heart

February is Philippine Heart Month by virtue of Proclamation No. 1096 signed on January 9, 1973 that seeks to promote awareness of heart disease as a serious and growing health concern among Filipinos. In keeping with this, a cardio workout or dance party to get everyone moving on Valentine's Day would be a great activity.

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**NMAT Online
January 2021
Administration**

CEM administered the National Medical Admission Test online on **January 18 to 31, 2021** using a secured online platform. A total of **3,461** candidates completed the test on their preferred dates.

Online results are available for release on February 23-24, 2021 through www.cem-inc.org.ph/nmat.



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Promo is valid for schools with signed TSAF from **December 15, 2020** to **February 28, 2021**.