



Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
General Examination Circular No. (6) 2010/2011
2012 Examination Timetables and Dates of Release of Results

1. This circular is to inform schools of the following arrangements for the double-cohort year in 2012 and to appeal to your co-operation to ensure the smooth implementation of the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination in 2012:
 - (a) The 2012 examination timetables for the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (AL) and the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (DSE) (*Annex 1*);
 - (b) Examination accommodation for 2012;
 - (c) Dates of release of AL and DSE results;
 - (d) The provision of practice papers for the New Senior Secondary Subjects (*Annex 2*).

2. School principals are requested to note that a particular set of arrangements is needed to cater to the unique situation of the double-cohort year in 2012 and that such arrangements will not be required in future years. Due consideration has been given to the following factors when compiling the 2012 DSE examination timetable:
 - (a) Schools' feedback to the consultation questionnaire in October 2010 showing that the majority of schools support scheduling the DSE core subject written examinations in late March, with a view to maximising the interests of students and allowing sufficient time for teaching in schools;
 - (b) Simulations of HKDSE candidates' subject combinations based on the provisional subject entries of Secondary 5 students in DSE participating schools (obtained via a school survey in October 2010), with a view to minimising the number of candidates having to sit for examinations on consecutive days within a week;
 - (c) The availability of examination venues and invigilation staff required from schools when AL and DSE subjects are examined on the same day;
 - (d) The needs and expectations of major stakeholders regarding the date of release of examination results.

Schools' participation and contribution to the process is greatly appreciated.

3. To meet the specific demands in 2012, the cooperation and collaborative support from all participating schools are essential. Schools are requested to take into account the following highlights of the 2012 examination timetables when planning their calendars and activities for 2011/2012:
 - (a) Due to the significant overlap of the examination periods of AL and DSE, there will be a pressing need for examination venues for both written and speaking examinations. The written examinations of the two AS language subjects will be examined starting from 23 March, followed by the two DSE language subjects in late March. The DSE Liberal Studies and Mathematics (Compulsory Part) examinations will be held in early and mid April respectively. The examination dates of the DSE core subjects are staggered to ease the examination pressure on students.
 - (b) The two AS language oral examinations will be held consecutively in March before the A/AS written examinations. The DSE language speaking tests will be held immediately after the written examinations in May. In order to shorten the duration of the oral examinations, it is necessary to hold some sessions on Saturdays, i.e. the speaking tests will be conducted from Monday to Saturday. The Saturdays involved for AS and DSE oral examinations are 3, 10 & 17 March 2012 and 5, 12, 19 & 26 May 2012 respectively.

- (c) Some major AL subjects and small-entry DSE subjects will be examined during the Easter school break and more teachers will be required to perform invigilation duties on school holidays.
- (d) It is possible that some schools will have to be closed for a maximum of five days to make available their classrooms for the conduct of the DSE core subjects with the largest entries. To minimise disruption to schools, we will try to even out the period of closure for individual schools.
- (e) The examination timetable for Category C subjects to be held in November 2011 and June 2012 will be announced as soon as the dates are fixed by the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). Registration for the November examinations will begin in June/July 2011. Schools will be sent more details in due course.

Examination Accommodation

4. Schools have been our much valued partners in examination administration over the years, through their provision of invigilation staff and school premises for the conduct of examinations, which is a requirement of schools' participation in the public examinations. We earnestly request your continued support by **reserving your school halls/classrooms for the conduct of the following AL/DSE examinations with the largest entries:**

HKALE	Chinese Language and Culture	Friday	23 March 2012 (AM & PM)
		Saturday	24 March 2012 (AM)
	Use of English	Monday	26 March 2012 (AM & PM)
		Tuesday	27 March 2012 (AM)
HKDSE	Chinese Language	Wednesday	28 March 2012 (AM)
		Thursday	29 March 2012 (AM)
	English Language	Friday	30 March 2012 (AM)
		Saturday	31 March 2012 (AM)
	Liberal Studies	Monday	2 April 2012 (AM)
	Mathematics (Compulsory Part)	Monday	16 April 2012 (AM)

- 5. As stated in paragraph 3(b), schools are requested to take note of the accommodation requirements of the 2012 AL/DSE oral examinations and provide their classrooms as examination venues for the oral examinations in March and May 2012.
- 6. The accommodation requirements for the 2012 AL/DSE will be sent to schools in September 2011.

Dates of Release of Results

7. The dates of release of the 2012 HKALE/HKDSE results are tentatively fixed as follows:

HKALE	29 June 2012 (Friday)
HKDSE	20 July 2012 (Friday)

Practice papers for HKDSE subjects

- 8. To familiarise teachers and students with the format and requirements of the HKDSE examination, the Authority will produce practice papers for the 24 HKDSE Category A subjects and deliver them to schools in early 2012. Details are given in the attached letter (*Annex 2*).
- 9. Principals of participating schools are requested to draw the attention of their teachers and students concerned to the contents of this circular.

MARGARET HUI (MS)
General Manager, School Examinations and Assessment Division

To: Principals of Participating Schools

Composite Examination Timetable for 2012

Date & Time	HKALE		HKDSE
	A-level	AS-level	
Mar. 23 Fri AM PM		Chinese Lang & Culture 1A,1B Chinese Lang & Culture 2	
Mar. 24 Sat AM PM		Chinese Lang & Culture 3 (LT)	
Mar. 26 Mon AM PM		Use of English B & C Use of English E	
Mar. 27 Tue AM PM		Use of English A (LT)	
Mar. 28 Wed AM PM	Visual Arts 2 Visual Arts 3	Visual Arts 2 Visual Arts 3	Chinese Language 1,2
Mar. 29 Thur AM PM	Govt & Public Affairs 1 Govt & Public Affairs 2	Govt & Public Affairs	Chinese Language 3 (Listening Test),5
Mar. 30 Fri AM PM	Psychology 1 Psychology 2	Psychology	English Language 1,2
Mar. 31 Sat AM PM	Visual Arts 1	Visual Arts 1	English Language 3 (Listening Test)
Apr. 2 Mon AM PM	Pure Math 1 Pure Math 2		Liberal Studies 1,2
Apr. 3 Tue AM PM	Economics 1 Economics 2	Economics	Music 1
Apr. 5 Thur AM PM	Computer Studies 1 Computer Studies 2	Computer Applications 1	Literature in English 2 Literature in English 1
Apr. 10 Tue AM PM	Visual Arts 4 Visual Arts 5	Visual Arts 4 Visual Arts 5	Technology & Living 1,2
Apr. 11 Wed AM PM	Biology 1 Biology 2		Design & Applied Technology 1,2
Apr. 12 Thur AM PM	History 1 History 2	History Syllabus A History Syllabus B	Ethics & Religious Studies 1,2
Apr. 13 Fri AM PM	Principles of Accounts 1 Principles of Accounts 2		Visual Arts 1,2
Apr. 14 Sat AM PM		Electronics 1	Tourism & Hospitality Studies 1,2
Apr. 16 Mon AM PM		Liberal Studies- China Today Liberal Studies- Modern World	Mathematics (Compulsory Part) 1,2
Apr. 17 Tue AM PM	Chinese History 1 Chinese History 2	Chinese History	Health Management & Social Care 1,2
Apr. 18 Wed AM PM	Business Studies 1 Business Studies 2		Economics 1,2
Apr. 19 Thur AM PM	Physics 1 Physics 2	Physics 1 Physics 2	Information & Communication Technology 1,2
Apr. 20 Fri AM PM	Chinese Literature 1 Chinese Literature 2		Chemistry 1,2 / Combined Science (Chemistry)
Apr. 21 Sat AM PM			Chinese History 1,2
Apr. 23 Mon AM PM	Geography 1 Geography 2		Integrated Science 1,2 / Physics 1,2 / Combined Science (Physics)
Apr. 24 Tue AM PM	Chemistry 1 Chemistry 2	Chemistry 1 Chemistry 2	History 1,2
Apr. 25 Wed AM PM	Literature in English 1 Literature in English 2	Literature in English	Biology 1,2 / Combined Science (Biology)
Apr. 26 Thur AM PM	Applied Mathematics 1 Applied Mathematics 2	Mathematics & Statistics Applied Mathematics	Chinese Literature 1 Chinese Literature 2
Apr. 27 Fri AM PM		Liberal Studies- Human Relationships Liberal Studies- Environmental Studies	Mathematics (Extended Part) Modules 1,2

Composite Examination Timetable for 2012

Date & Time	HKALE		HKDSE
	A-level	AS-level	
Apr. 30 Mon AM PM		Liberal Studies- Hong Kong Studies Liberal Studies- Science, Technology & Society	Geography 1,2
May 2 Wed AM PM		Ethics & Religious Studies	Business, Accounting & Financial Studies 1,2
May 3 Thur AM PM	Reserve Reserve	Reserve Reserve	Physical Education 1,2
May 4 Fri AM PM	Reserve Reserve	Reserve Reserve	Reserve Reserve
May 5 Sat AM PM			Reserve Reserve

Note: 4 April 2012 (Ching Ming Festival); 6-9 April 2012 (Easter Holidays); 28 April 2012 (Buddha's Birthday); 1 May 2012 (Labour Day)
[Remarks: School holidays tentatively from 5 -14 April 2012]

Practical/Oral Examination

Period

A/AS-level Physics – Practical (Private cand. only)	:	mid May 2012
A-level Biology – Practical (Private cand. only)	:	mid May 2012
Chemistry – Practical (Private cand. only)	:	mid May 2012
AS-level Chinese Language & Culture – Oral	:	early March – mid March 2012 (Mondays to Saturdays)
Use of English – Oral	:	mid March – late March 2012 (Mondays to Saturdays)
HKDSE Physical Education – Practical	:	mid February – late March 2012
Music – Practical	:	late February – mid April 2012
Chinese Language – Speaking Test	:	early May – mid May 2012 (Mondays to Saturdays)
English Language – Speaking Test	:	mid May – late May 2012 (Mondays to Saturdays)

Phone: 3628 8966

Ref.: DSE/OP1

25 March 2011

To: Principals of HKDSE Participating Schools

Dear Principal,

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination 2012
Practice Papers for New Senior Secondary (NSS) subjects**

The first HKDSE Examination will be held in late March to late May 2012. To familiarise teachers and students with the new examination and help them better understand the assessment format and requirements, the Authority will produce practice papers and marking schemes for each of the 24 NSS subjects and deliver them to schools in early 2012. The purpose of this letter is to inform schools of the timetable and the logistical arrangements for delivery of the practice papers.

After due consultations with the representatives of school councils and school teachers and to meet the needs of learning and teaching, it has been agreed that the practice papers for the four core NSS subjects (i.e. Chinese Language, English Language, Liberal Studies and Mathematics) will be delivered to all schools according to a set timetable between 4 January and 11 January 2012. The practice papers for the other 20 elective subjects will be sent to schools on specified dates between 4 January and 16 January 2012. Only papers for the elective subjects offered by individual schools will be provided. The timetable for the delivery of the four core subjects and the 20 elective subjects is given in the *Attachment*.

Format of the practice papers

The practice papers will be printed in the format of the live examination and will be packed in standard packets. The Listening Test CDs for Chinese Language Papers 3 & 5 and English Language Paper 3 will be packed together with the question papers. A few sets of samples for the Speaking papers of the two language subjects will also be provided. In view of the bulk of the printed materials to be delivered, we will only provide the question papers and question-answer books (if applicable) but not answer books / sheets.

Delivery arrangements

The question papers will be packed in sealed carton boxes and will be delivered to schools by courier between 7:00 am and 8:30 am on the specified days. School principals are requested to deploy a responsible staff member to be in school during the specified time on each day to receive the question papers. In case a Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above is hoisted or when a Black rainstorm warning is issued during any of the scheduled dates, delivery of the papers will be deferred to 17 or 18 January 2012 which are the reserve dates.

Marking schemes

To facilitate the marking by teachers, the marking schemes of respective subjects / papers will be distributed to schools within the next working day after delivery. Detailed arrangements will be announced in due course.

Candidates with special needs

Special question papers (i.e. enlarged and Braille question papers) will be provided to your students who have applied for special examination arrangements in the 2012 HKDSE (i.e. applications submitted in January 2011). The type and quantity of special question papers will be based on the application results of your current S5 students which will be released by April 2011. In case any of these students does **not** require special question papers or there are new applications from your students with special needs, you will be asked to indicate the actual requirements for special question papers at a later stage. We will do our best to cater to the needs of new applicants.

Compilation of schools' requirements

In late October 2010, we conducted a survey on the provisional subject entries of individual S5 students who will be taking the 2012 HKDSE. To assist us in estimating the printing quantity of the practice papers, we will use the survey results as the basis for calculating the quantity and language version of the question papers required by individual schools for their S5 students and teachers. Schools will be asked to complete a reply form around May/June 2011 to confirm their requirements for the practice papers of each subject they offer.

If you have any queries about the above arrangements, please contact Ms Christine Lee (tel no. 3628 8904) or Ms Carmen Wu (tel no. 3628 8966).

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Hui (Ms)
General Manager
School Examinations and Assessment Division

Delivery schedule of the HKDSE Practice Papers

4 January 2012 (Wed)	Chinese Language (Paper 1, 2) Health Management & Social Care Literature in English
5 January 2012 (Thu)	Chinese Language (Paper 3, 4, 5) Ethics & Religious Studies Design & Applied Technology
6 January 2012 (Fri)	Liberal Studies Integrated Science Chinese Literature
9 January 2012 (Mon)	English Language (Paper 1, 2) Technology & Living Physical Education
10 January 2012 (Tue)	English Language (Paper 3, 4) Music Visual Arts
11 January 2012 (Wed)	Mathematics (Compulsory Part) Mathematics (Extended Part)
12 January 2012 (Thu)	Physics Combined Science (Physics) Geography Business, Accounting & Financial Studies
13 January 2012 (Fri)	Chemistry Combined Science (Chemistry) Economics Chinese History
16 January 2012 (Mon)	Biology Combined Science (Biology) Information & Communication Technology History Tourism & Hospitality Studies

Reserve dates: 17 & 18 January 2012 (Tue - Wed)

香港中學文憑考試練習卷派送時間表

2012年1月4日 (星期三)	中國語文 (一) 及 (二) 健康管理與社會關懷 英語文學
2012年1月5日 (星期四)	中國語文 (三) (四) 及 (五) 倫理與宗教 設計與應用科技
2012年1月6日 (星期五)	通識教育 綜合科學 中國文學
2012年1月9日 (星期一)	英國語文 (一) 及 (二) 科技與生活 體育
2012年1月10日 (星期二)	英國語文 (三) 及 (四) 音樂 視覺藝術
2012年1月11日 (星期三)	數學 (必修部分) 數學 (延伸部分)
2012年1月12日 (星期四)	物理 組合科學 (物理) 地理 企業、會計與財務概論
2012年1月13日 (星期五)	化學 組合科學 (化學) 經濟 中國歷史
2012年1月16日 (星期一)	生物 組合科學 (生物) 資訊及通訊科技 歷史 旅遊與款待

後備日期: 2012年1月17 及 18日 (星期二及星期三)