

Ref : CE/94-2

30 November 2006

Dear Principal

**Proposed arrangements for Language examinations (French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish and Urdu) in HKDSE**

I write to seek your views on the proposed arrangements for Language examinations (French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish and Urdu) in the future HKDSE.

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) is fully aware of the importance of providing access to the learning and assessment of foreign languages in Hong Kong. In the report titled *The New Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education* published by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) in May 2005, EMB indicated clearly that the tradition of providing access to study other languages, such as French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish and Urdu will be upheld (p.28).

In pursuance of the above objective, the HKEAA intends to make arrangements for the language examinations under the following principles:

- (a) The examinations should be internationally recognized.
- (b) The standard should be pitched at the AS level.
- (c) A unified approach is to be used across the different language subjects, i.e. each examination, ideally, should have a similar structure.
- (d) Agreement has to be reached with the examination boards concerned for the results to be recorded on the HKDSE certificate.
- (e) The examinations should be self-financing by recovering cost from candidates.

HKEAA has made initial contacts with Cambridge Assessment which offers standards-referenced examinations pitched at AS-level and matching the above principles. Cambridge Assessment has agreed that the following examinations can be administered in Hong Kong for the HKDSE, starting from 2012:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Code</b>
French	AS	8682
German	AS	8683
Hindi	AS	8687
Japanese	AS	8281
Spanish	AS	8685
Urdu	AS	8686

**Syllabuses**

The syllabuses for the above language examinations are available at the Cambridge Assessment website [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk).

**Examination date:**

Candidates will sit for the examination in November in the beginning of SS3 school year so that the results would be available for inclusion in the HKDSE results notice in next June for university admission purposes.

**Reporting of results**

The grades (A – E) will be awarded by Cambridge Assessment. The results will be recorded in the HKDSE Certificate.

**Seminar on Language examinations (French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish and Urdu) in HKDSE**

To enable schools to have a better understanding about the arrangements involved, a consultation seminar will be held on 14 December 2006 for school representatives. Details of the seminar are as follows:

Date: 14 December 2006 (Thursday)

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Place: Auditorium, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15, Hennessy Road, Wanchai.

**Actions required**

1. You may nominate one representative from your school to attend the seminar. Please fill in the attached form and fax it to HKEAA *on or before 9 December 2006*.
2. If your school intends to offer candidates for the above language examinations in the future HKDSE examination, please fill in the attached questionnaire and return it to HKEAA *on or before 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2006*.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Tansy Chun of Assessment Development Division at 36288070.

Yours sincerely

Ms Margaret Hui  
General Manager, School Examinations and Assessment Division