

**Super:**

HKDSE

A New Chapter for Hong Kong Public Examinations

2012 HKDSE candidate

**2012 HDKSE candidate:**

I wasn't sure how well the HKDSE

is received and recognized overseas in the beginning.

But then, when I referred to the HKEAA information  
and found that the HKDSE is well recognized overseas

I am more confident in it now.

**Super:**

Mr Chan

Parent of 2012 HKDSE candidate

**Mr Chan:**

We are happy to know that the new curriculum allows students  
free choice of subjects to suit their interests and abilities.

**Super:**

2012 HKDSE candidate

**2012 HKDSE candidate:**

My plan is to further my studies or find a job

So that I can train myself up.

**Super:**

Mr So

Liberal Studies teacher

**Mr So:**

The new curriculum definitely offers more choices and pathways for students  
and it caters to students with different abilities.

**Super:**

HKDSE

A New Chapter for Hong Kong Public Examinations

**VO:**

The New Senior Secondary (NSS) Curriculum has been implemented since 2009.

Under the new academic structure, every student has the opportunity to take part in a three-year junior secondary and a three-year senior secondary course.

To tie in with the curriculum and to measure the attainment of students, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) introduced the brand new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination to replace the Hong Kong Advanced Level and Hong Kong Certificate of Education examinations. In 2012, over 70,000 candidates took the first HKDSE Examination.

**Dr Tong Chong-sze:**

The overall results of the HKDSE Examination are ...

**Super:**

Dr Thomas Cheung  
Director-Development and Educational Assessment  
HKEAA

**Dr Thomas Cheung:**

We have worked very hard in promoting the recognition of the HKDSE. Up to now, over 130 overseas institutions have accepted the HKDSE qualification for admission purposes.

**Dr Tong Chong-sze:**

The HKEAA has been working very hard in promoting the HDKSE. I am very happy to report that many institutions from Hong Kong, and from around the world have accepted our qualification for entry. I think this is a very positive sign and very encouraging. I am also happy to report that as far as employers are concerned, for example, the Hong Kong Civil Service Bureau has also accepted our qualification for entry. Not only saying that this is a confidence in the HKEAA, but in fact it represents their trust in the entire education system in Hong Kong.

**Super:**

Dr Tong Chong-sze  
Secretary General  
HKEAA

Sarah Jephcott  
Regional Manager

Coventry University, UK

**Sarah Jephcott:**

I think that all UK institutions this year are accepting the DSE.  
I think it has been very well accepted.

**Super:**

4 Core Subjects

Chinese Language

English Language

Mathematics

Liberal Studies

+

2-3 Elective Subjects

Category A 20 Elective Subjects

Category B Applied Learning Subjects

Category C Other Language Subjects

**VO:**

Under the NSS curriculum,  
more varieties of subjects are offered to students,  
apart from the four core subjects,  
students can also take two to three elective subjects  
based on their preferences.

**Super:**

Category A 24 New Senior Secondary Subjects

Standards-referenced Reporting

Standards-referenced Reporting

Highest Level

5 – 5\*\* Best performance

– 5\* Next top performance

4

3

2

1

Unclassified

**VO:**

Unlike previous public examinations,  
Standards-referenced Reporting

is adopted for all 24 Category A NSS subjects.

Putting it simply,

candidates whose performance reached a certain standard will be awarded the corresponding level, regardless of the results of other candidates.

A detailed set of written descriptors for level 1 to level 5 is in place to specify students' ability and performance.

**Super:**

Mrs Christina Lee

Director – Public Examinations

HKEAA

**Mrs Christina Lee:**

Teachers and students can refer to the descriptors and learn how they can get better results, so that they can improve their teaching and learning.

**VO:**

In addition to written examinations,

School-based assessment is also introduced to the HKDSE Examination to allow a more comprehensive appraisal of candidates' competence.

**Mrs Christina Lee:**

School-based assessments are actually conducted by teachers within their own schools.

The HKEAA plays the very important role of monitoring the work and also the standards.

We collect samples of work.

We moderate the results of the assessment based on other sources of information to ensure that students get a fair mark.

**VO:**

The assessment of Applied Learning subjects is conducted by individual course providers.

The HKEAA is responsible for the moderation of the assessment results.

The marking and grading of Other Language subjects are undertaken by Cambridge International Examinations.

To help candidates to better understand the examination procedures, the HKEAA has set up a Public Examinations Information Centre to answer enquiries on public examinations.

The information Centre provides support and assistance to candidates

throughout the whole public examination cycle so that they can complete their examinations smoothly. To achieve the objectives of the new curriculum, the design of examination questions in the HKDSE Examination is more diversified. More open-ended questions are included to assess students' thinking skills and application of knowledge.

**Mrs Christina Lee:**

The question paper is actually set by what we call moderation committees, which consist of members from the tertiary institution, from frontline secondary school teachers, in addition to our own subject managers.

They spend months to about a year to complete a paper.

**VO:**

After the examination, all answer scripts are scanned within 72 hours and the images are saved and retained in a secure database.

The images of the answer scripts are then distributed to markers for marking via a secure intranet system.

More than 90% of the HKDSE scripts are marked onscreen.

The system facilitates the monitoring of markers' progress and marking quality.

**Mrs Christina Lee:**

Double marking is adopted in many of the HKDSE papers particularly open-ended questions.

The OSM system will automatically distribute the papers to two different markers so that students will get two independent assessments.

If the marks awarded by the first marker differs quite a lot from the second marker, then the script will be sent to a third marker or even a fourth marker for marking so that students will get the fairest mark that they deserve.

**VO:**

After the completion of marking, each subject will be graded by an expert judge panel according to Standards-referenced procedures.

The results will then be reviewed and approved by the Public Examinations Board.

The Public Examinations Board is made up of representatives from the Education Bureau,

the HKEAA, tertiary institutions and secondary schools.  
All HKDSE Examination results need to be endorsed by the Board  
to ensure all candidates receive the fairest and the most reliable results.

**Dr Tong Chong-sze:**

The first HKDSE has been completed smoothly.  
What is most special for me  
is this feeling of working together.  
I feel that our staff are very professional.  
They don't treat this as just a job  
because they know how important it is for the candidates.  
So, they work very (very) hard and put in all their heart and effort.  
And it's beyond HKEAA, I found that our stakeholders,  
the schools in particular and the parents,  
the candidates themselves and also other stakeholders  
like the Hong Kong Education Bureau.  
We all work together seamlessly  
for the good of candidates and for Hong Kong.  
I am confident that students with the HKDSE qualification  
will lead to better opportunities ahead  
and equip them for the 21st century's challenges.

**Super:**

香港考試及評核局

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority