A new secondary academic structure has been launched in Hong Kong. Under the new academic structure, students will receive six years of secondary school education, including three years of junior secondary and three years of senior secondary education. Upon completion of senior secondary education, students will take the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. With the aim of assessing the learning outcomes of students comprehensively, the curriculum and the assessment framework of the new examination were developed through the collaboration among the Curriculum Development Council, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) representatives from all higher education institutions as well as frontline secondary school teachers and finalised after extensive consultation. The first HKDSE will be held in 2012.
Super:
Core Subjects
Chinese Language
English Language
Mathematics
Liberal Studies.

Elective Subjects
Select 2-3 subjects from:
20 New Senior Secondary subjects
Applied learning subjects
6 Other language subjects

VO:
According to the New Senior Secondary (NSS) Curriculum students are required to take four core subjects:
Chinese Language
English Language
Mathematics and Liberal Studies.
They can also take two to three elective subjects which can be selected from the twenty NSS elective subjects, Applied Learning subjects or the six other language subjects

Super:
Category A: New Senior Secondary Subjects

Core Subjects
Chinese Language
English Language
Mathematics
Liberal Studies

VO:
Category A includes the four core subjects

Super:
Elective Subjects
Biology, Chemistry, Economics
Literature in English, History, Chinese History, Chinese Literature
Information and Communication Technology, Design and Applied Technology
Technology and Living, Tourism and Hospitality Studies, Visual Arts
Music, Physical Education, Physics, Science
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies
Ethnics and Religious Studies, Geography, Health Management and Social Care

**VO:**
and twenty NSS elective subjects
making up a total of twenty four subjects.

**Super:**
Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR)

**VO:**
Standards-referenced reporting will be
adopted for Category A subjects.

**Super:**
Level
5 --5** for students with the best performance
      5* for level 5 students with better performance
4
3
2
1
Unclassified

**VO:**
Candidates’ performance will be reported
from level 1 to level 5
with level 5 being the highest level.
Students with better performance in level 5
will be awarded 5*
and students with the best performance
will be awarded 5**.
Students who are not able to attain level 1
will be graded as “Unclassified”
To better understand
the standard of each level
and the typical performance of
students at each level,
we may refer to the written descriptors
as well as exemplars of student work.

Super:
Level Descriptors and Samples of Student Performance

Sample of student performance and Level Descriptors for level 5 Speaking
Pronunciation of words is clear and accurate
A wide range of expressions and strategies is used to initiate……

VO:
This is an example of the performance of
a student obtaining level 5 in the
Speaking test of English Language.

Student A:
to have outing with their family.
When they’re taken,
once they’re taken
pictures by a paparazzi,
and the people would recognise their faces.
Such as “Oh! You are Andy Lau’s father!” or
“You are his mother!” and everywhere you go
Maybe you will be followed and you will be having calls asking about
“Where are your son?”

Super:
Sample of student performance and Level Descriptors for level 2 Speaking
Pronunciation of familiar words can usually be understood within the overall context.

VO:
Here is an example of a level 2 performance.

Student B:
My father is the worker doing the
he is the cook and
I think they work is long time,
because it is the
he doing in the restaurant.

VO:
We have also developed
a set of generic descriptors
which provide an overall description of
the performance standards of candidates
at different levels across subjects.
Through these descriptors and exemplars,
teachers and students will know more about
the skills and standards required
at different levels,
thus improving both teaching and learning

**Super:**
Category B: Applied Learning Subjects

Applied Learning Subjects
Applied Science
Business, Management and Law
Creative Studies
Engineering and Production
Media and Communication
Services

**VO:**
Category B NSS subjects are
Applied learning subjects.
In this category,
subjects are classified into six areas:
Applied Science
Business, Management and Law
Creative Studies
Engineering and Production
Media and Communication
Services
The assessment of subjects in this category
will be administered by
individual course providers
and the results will be moderated by the HKEAA.

**Super:**
Attained with Distinction
Attained
The results will be reported in two levels “Attained with Distinction” and “Attained”.

Category C: Other Language Subject

Other Language Subject
French
German
Hindi
Japanese
Spanish
Urdu

The AS Level syllabuses and examination papers of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) will be used.

Category C consists of six other language subjects including French
German
Hindi
Japanese
Spanish and Urdu.

Question paper development, marking and grading will be conducted by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

Results will be reported in five grades (a-e) with grade e being the lowest and grade a being the highest.
Results below grade e will be designated as “Ungraded”.

**Super:**
Examination Regulations

**VO:**
According to examination regulations, candidates may take up to a maximum of eight subjects. If a candidate takes eight subjects, at least one must be from the three categories

**Super:**
A: Ethics and Religious Studies/
    Music/ Physical Education/
    Visual Arts
B: Applied learning subjects
C: Other language subjects

**VO:**
Examination Format and Standards

The assessment for Category A NSS subjects includes both public examinations and school-based Assessment (SBA). Public examinations are mainly written examinations which include

**Super:**
Written Examination

**VO:**
multiple-choice questions, data-response questions and essay-type questions. Listening and Speaking tests are also conducted for language subjects.
Listening and Speaking Tests

**VO:**
Knowledge and skills which cannot be assessed by traditional written examinations will be assessed through SBA. SBA is carried out by schools as a part of the teaching and learning process. Class work and performance of students will be assessed by their subjects teachers, for example through Independent Enquiry Study in Liberal Studies or experiments in science subjects. SBA normally takes up about 20% of public examinations results and is carried out during Form 5 and Form 6.

**Super:**
School-based Assessment about 20% of public examinations results

**VO:**
In 2012, SBA will be conducted in twelve of the Category A NSS subjects. It will be gradually implemented in other subjects between 2014 and 2016. Students attaining level 1 in at least one subject will be awarded an HKDSE certificate from the HKEAA.

**Super:**
Local and International Recognition

**VO:**
To ensure continuity of the examination system the standards of levels 4 and 5 of the HKDSE examination were set.
with reference to Grades A to D of the HKALE.
Local universities have announced
their recognition of the HKDSE qualification
and have specified the four core subjects
as mandatory requirements for entry
They have also confirmed
the minimum requirements for
admission to undergraduate programmes,
which are level 3 in Chinese Language and English Language

**Super:**
Chinese Language: level 3
English Language: level 3

**VO:**
and level 2 in Mathematics and Liberal Studies

**Super:**
Mathematics: level 2
Liberal Studies: level 2

**VO:**
Similar to current practice,
different faculties of departments of
these tertiary institutions may set
specific entry requirements for
one to two elective subjects and
also other requirements.

**Super:**
Minimum admission requirements of Sub-degree Programmes
Chinese Language
English Language
3 others subjects
level 2 or equivalent

**VO:**
To meet the minimum entry requirements of
sub-degree programmes
students are advised to attain
at least level 2 or
equivalent in five HKDSE subjects
including Chinese Language and English Language. In fact, different overseas education institutions and accrediting organisations have given very positive comments on the design and concept of the NSS curriculum and the HKDSE examination. In early 2010, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in the United Kingdom included the HKDSE in the UCAS Tariff system

**Super:**
HKDSE       GCE A Level  
Level 5      Comparable to Grade A  
Level 3      Comparable to Grade E

**VO:**
Level 3 in HKDSE is recognised as being comparable to Grade E in the GCE Advance Level Examination, whereas level 5 is comparable to Grade A in GCE A Level.
In 2007, the Australian government recognised the HKDSE as comparable to the Australian Senior Secondary School Certificate. The HKEAA will continue to promote the HKDSE to tertiary institutions in the world, so that this new qualification will gain wider acceptance and credibility.

**Super:**
Reference Materials

**VO:**
For further information, please visit these websites.
Reference Website
www.hkeaa.edu.hk
www.edb.gov.hk/nas

香港考試及評核局
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority