



Press Statement

Disclosure of HKALE Use of English Section B (Writing) scripts to students

An English teacher of YPICA Lee Lim Ming College serving as a marker has been found to disclose over 30 marked scripts of the 2010 AS-Level Use of English Writing Paper to students for discussion and for use as reference materials in class. Although it has been confirmed after investigation that candidates' marks have not been affected, we would like to express deep regret about this case.

Since the marker concerned has allegedly breached the HKEAA Ordinance, we have sought legal advice regarding this case and reported it to the police. This marker has also violated the code of professional conduct for teachers and we have reported this case to the school concerned and the Education Bureau for their follow-up action. The HKEAA would like to reiterate that we do not tolerate any violation of the secrecy regulation of the public examinations and we have repeatedly reminded all examination personnel to follow the regulation strictly.

Double marking is adopted for the Use of English Writing Paper, which means that the answer scripts are marked by at least two markers. All answer scripts are scanned right after the examination to ensure that there are backup copies of all answer scripts. The HKEAA has cross-checked the marked scripts concerned with the scanned copies, and it has been confirmed that the scripts have not been amended, smeared or damaged. No irregularities have been found in the marking so candidates' results are not affected.

Most of our markers are in-service teachers who have been carrying out their duties professionally and adhere strictly to the confidentiality agreement with the HKEAA. We are very distressed about the unprofessional conduct of this teacher marker who has breached the confidentiality agreement.

According to the HKEAA Ordinance, every person who has been appointed by the HKEAA shall preserve secrecy with regard to all matters coming to his knowledge in the exercise or performance of any duty or function. The HKEAA has repeatedly reminded examination personnel of the importance of maintaining confidentiality. During the markers' meeting, markers were also reminded not to disclose the answer scripts to anyone. Any person who breaches the Ordinance commits an offence and is liable to a fine and to imprisonment for six months.

The HKEAA takes public examination secrecy seriously. We will strive to ensure that all examinations are conducted in a fair manner.

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