PRESS STATEMENT

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) is aware of the recent comments made by a former employee (Mr Hans Yeung Wing-yu, former subject manager for History subject) to various media in relation to his resignation and the 2020 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) History subject examination question. The HKEAA has already responded to the relevant media enquiries. Since those comments and media reports concern the HKEAA’s credibility and independence, the HKEAA considers it necessary to reiterate its position in order to address any public concerns:

1. The HKEAA has always handled the appointment, remuneration, and promotion of employees in a fair manner in accordance with the stipulated procedures and the applicable laws. Mr Yeung’s departure from the HKEAA was solely his personal decision to resign. The HKEAA Council and management have never pressurised Mr Yeung into resigning or instructed any person to request Mr Yeung to resign, nor have the HKEAA Council and management had any discussion or arrangement regarding his tenure.

2. The HKEAA reiterated that the HKEAA has always been solely responsible for the vetting and approval of all members of the HKDSE Moderation Committees for all the HKDSE examination years (including the 2020 HKDSE History Moderation Committee).

3. In relation to the invalidation of Question 2(c) in 2020 HKDSE History Paper 1, the HKEAA’s earlier press release and the subsequent judicial review judgment have already documented the HKEAA’s decision-making process in detail. The judicial review judgement (the full reasoning of which is not repeated here) also confirmed that the HKEAA’s decision was procedurally proper and was based on independent, professional and academic considerations.

The HKEAA recognises that it plays a pivotal role in Hong Kong’s education system. We will continue to uphold independence and professionalism and to enhance the various aspects and processes of the HKDSE, with a view to providing a fair, impartial and credible examinations and assessment system which meets the needs of education and the society and protects the interests of candidates.

The HKEAA reiterates that examinations and assessment operations involve confidential information. Under the HKEAA Ordinance, all persons who are or have been appointed by the HKEAA (including but not limited to all personnel involved in question setting and assessment) must preserve secrecy of all matters which come to their knowledge in the exercise or performance of their duties. The HKEAA will seriously follow up on any suspected leakage of confidential information or the making of any untruthful comments or reports by any person.

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Date: 30 December 2020