



## PRESS RELEASE

### Invalidation of 2020 HKDSE History Examination Question

The Council of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) discussed Question 2(c) of History Paper 1 on 18 and 21 May 2020 in detail.

After considering the professional views on examination and assessment, the curriculum, and the interests of candidates, the Council came to the view that the design of this question deviated from the learning and assessment objectives as set out in the *Curriculum and Assessment Guide* (Secondary 4 to 6) of the History subject. The reference materials provided in the question are merely excerpts from the original sources, and the language used in the question is imbalanced. These could lead candidates into making a superficial or one-sided interpretation and answer within the limited examination time given.

While the question is designed as an open-ended question, setting it against the historical backdrop of China in the first half of the twentieth century is not appropriate in the context of a secondary school public examination. The question does not meet the principle of the HKDSE of ensuring a fair assessment and the need to observe the question-setting principles in relation to sensitive subject matters.

After due deliberation, the HKEAA Council has decided to invalidate Question 2(c) of History Paper 1. In light of the paramount interests of candidates, the HKEAA will adopt the following mark adjustment mechanism, in which two methods will be used to impute two scores associated with the invalidated question:

1. One score is imputed based on candidates' performance in Questions 2(a) and (b) of Paper 1, on the basis that these two other questions also assess the candidates' knowledge of the same historical topic as in Question 2(c).
2. A second score is imputed based on candidates' performance in Questions 1(c), 3(c) and 4(c) of Paper 1, on the basis that these three other questions also assess the same abilities as in Question 2(c).

In the best interests of the candidates, they will receive the higher of the two imputed scores as the final adjusted score for Question 2(c). This mechanism caters for both the targeted knowledge and the targeted abilities to be assessed in the examination, and the mark adjustment will be based on the candidates' performance in these two aspects, whichever is stronger.

The HKEAA Council has also decided that the examination question concerned will be deleted from the question database and will not be used as a reference for future question setting. The HKEAA will strengthen its attention to the alignment between assessment, curriculum and teaching in its question setting process.

Notes to Editors: Should there be any discrepancy between the Chinese and English versions of the press release, the Chinese version shall prevail.

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Date: 22 May 2020