

## PRESS RELEASE

### Announcement of 2012 HKDSE & HKAL examination Timetables and Dates of Release of Results

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) today announced that the first Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination will be held in late March to late May 2012 and the date of release of results will be scheduled on 20 July 2012.

In 2012, three categories (A – C) of HKDSE subjects will be offered and candidates may take up to a maximum of eight subjects from these three categories. Registration for Category C “Other Language” subjects will commence in late June 2011 while the registration for the 24 Category A new senior secondary (NSS) subjects and Category B Applied learning subjects will begin in September. The total candidature is estimated to exceed 77,000.

The Public Examinations Board (PEB) of the HKEAA has already approved the 2012 HKDSE and Hong Kong Advanced Level (HKAL) examination timetables and dates of release of results. All participating schools in Hong Kong will receive the details shortly. The HKDSE Examination is scheduled after consultations with schools and based on the survey conducted last October on the provisional subject entries of Secondary 5 students. Due consideration has been given to the administration of the two public examinations in the double cohort year in order to meet the specific demands of various parties: (i) schools and students, who need as much teaching and learning time as possible; (ii) examination personnel, who must ensure the smooth implementation of the examinations, including examination administration, marking and grading, and results processing and (iii) universities, which need the examination results in time for their admission process.

The results of the 2012 HKAL and HKDSE examinations will be released on 29 June and 20 July respectively. These dates have been fixed paying full regard to the quality assurance requirements of the two public examinations and the needs of different stakeholders. The HKEAA has been working very closely with the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) office, Heads of Universities Committee (HUCOM), and secondary school principals and teachers on this matter since 2009.

Schools have been the HKEAA's much valued partners in the administration of public examinations through the provision of school premises and invigilation staff. This task will be particularly challenging in the double cohort year, with more than 110,000 HKDSE and HKALE candidates taking the written and oral examinations from late March to late May. Cooperation and communication with all participating schools are therefore essential.

In addition, to familiarise teachers and students with the format and requirements of the HKDSE examination, the HKEAA will produce practice papers and marking schemes for the 24 Category A NSS subjects and deliver them to participating schools between 4 and 16 January 2012.

These practice papers and marking schemes will be published and available for sale at the HKEAA online bookstore and HKEAA offices in February 2012.

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