

General Advices

1. Will candidates' marks be affected by poor hand writing?

No. It is, however, advised that candidates whose hand writing is not good should try to write as tidily as they can. They can leave more space between words when writing so that it would be easier for markers to read their answers.

2. Will marks be affected if candidates make spelling mistakes in Papers 1, 2 and 3?

In Paper 1 and Paper 3A, this would depend on task requirements. High accuracy is usually required for the cloze/ gap-fill tasks. Candidates may lose marks if the word forms or spelling is incorrect. In Paper 2 Writing and Paper 3B Integrated Skills, markers are not required to count spelling mistakes. If the spelling mistakes impede communications, marks in the Language domain and task completion may be affected.

3. Any advice for candidates to prepare for the HKDSE English Language examinations?

Candidates can refer to the recommendations given by Chief Examiners in the Question Papers (with marking schemes, comments on candidates' performance) booklet. They should read and listen to different text types and practise speaking and writing English regularly. Candidates can also attempt past papers in order to familiarise themselves with the paper format.

Reading

4. Can candidates make their choice to attempt either Part B1 or Part B2 at the exam centre?

Yes. Candidates are given a full set of paper including Part A, Part B1 and Part B2.

5. If candidates attempt Part B1, can they still attain level 5 or above in English Language?

No, the highest attainable level for candidates who attempt Part A and Part B1 is level 4.

Writing

6. What are the weightings for different parts in the Writing Paper?

In Paper 2 Writing, the weighting for Part A and Part B is 10% and 15% respectively.

7. In the Writing Paper, if candidates write more or less than the word guide given or use wrong vocabulary, will there be mark deduction?

The word guide is designed in order to provide information to candidates regarding the requirements of the task, how best to organise their writing as well as giving them guidance as to how much time they should spend on each task.

Candidates who write significantly less than the suggested number of words will inevitably fall short of fulfilling the task requirements and are unlikely to display a range of language at their disposal. Candidates who write significantly more than the suggested number of words may not have time to complete both tasks satisfactorily or spend time in planning their writing or in proofreading what they have written.

Accuracy in the use of vocabulary is one area that is assessed. Marks in the Language domain may be affected if the mistakes affect meaning.

8. Will the same text type be used in Paper 2 Writing and Paper 3 Listening and Integrated Skills?

A range of text types will be assessed in different papers. Some text types such as emails, letters, reports may be assessed in Papers 1, 2 and 3B.

Listening and Integrated Skills

9. In Part A, is it a must for candidates to write their answers with the exact wording as the marking scheme?

This would depend on the task requirements.

10. In Paper 3, how should candidates paraphrase the information from the data file? How to distinguish ‘copy’ and ‘paraphrase’ as the key points from the data file are required to be included in the answer?

If candidates copy text verbatim from the Data File, their answers may affect the coherence of the text they produce and very often the appropriacy of what they are writing as the content is sometimes in a very informal register or is from a spoken text. They should manipulate the Data File and incorporate Data File content into their own writing according to task requirements.

Speaking

11. Will there be a mark deduction if some or one of the candidates acts maliciously in such a way that upset the conduct of the Speaking examination?

Relevant guidelines are provided to the oral examiners and they may intervene if candidate acts maliciously during the group interaction. The marking of such candidates will also be handled appropriately.

12. Will the starter get higher marks during the group interaction?

No. Candidates’ performance in the entire group interaction is assessed.

School-based Assessment (SBA)

13. Will the raw SBA scores of the candidates be moderated by using Speaking examination scores?

No. For details of SBA moderation, please refer to the Moderation of School-based Assessment Scores in the HKDSE [booklet](#).