IMPORTANT NOTICE

London Examinations

1. Regional Papers for GCE and IGCSE Examinations
2. Compulsory Speaking Unit for IGCSE Chinese, French, German and Spanish
3. GCSE Chinese Linear Qualification

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) currently administers the London Examinations, GCE, IGCSE and GCSE Chinese on behalf of the examination board, Edexcel International.

1. Regional Papers for GCE and IGCSE Examinations

As advised by Edexcel International, with effect from the May/June 2012 examination series, London IGCSEs (renamed as Edexcel International GCSEs) will be subject to the same rules that currently apply to GCE A Level and GCSE Examinations in all international centres, including those administered by the HKEAA in Hong Kong. This change effectively means that London IGCSE candidates, similar to GCSE and GCE A Level candidates, must be kept under supervision by the HKEAA until the examinations have been taken in the UK. As such, the starting examination time has been changed to 2:00pm for UK morning examinations and 6:30pm for UK afternoon examinations.

Edexcel International has recently sought to address this by offering Regional IGCSE and GCE A Level examination papers at local times. Starting from the May/June 2013 examination series, Edexcel International will make available a number of selected IGCSE and GCE A Level subjects and units that may be taken at local times. As advised by Edexcel International, these Regional papers must be taken at specified times, namely at 9:00am for morning examinations and 1:30pm for afternoon examinations but the stated starting time can be varied by up to 30 minutes either way. In order to avoid confusion, from May/June 2013 onwards, the starting time of the IGCSE and GCE A Level Examinations using Regional papers will become 9:00am and 2:00pm and that of the IGCSE and GCE A Level Examinations using UK papers will remain at 2:00pm and 6:30pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>London Examinations, IGCSE and GCE A Level</th>
<th>Starting Exam Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Papers (Morning Exam)</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Papers (Afternoon Exam)</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK Papers (Morning Exam)</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK Papers (Afternoon Exam)</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2. Compulsory Speaking Unit for IGCSE Chinese, French, German and Spanish

In 2011, Edexcel International updated IGCSE specifications for English Language A, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science (Double Award), History, Geography, Chinese, French, German and Spanish. The optional speaking unit in IGCSE Chinese, French, German and Spanish will be made compulsory in the new 2011 specifications which will be examined the first time in May/June 2014. Meanwhile, the final examinations of the current IGCSE (2009 specifications) Chinese, French, German and Spanish will take place in May/June 2013.
3. GCSE Chinese Linear Qualification

From **2014** onwards, the assessment for GCSE Chinese qualification (2012 specifications) will be linear and all unit examinations will be taken at the end of the course, i.e. in May/June series, with no modular examinations available. Retaking of individual unit will therefore not be possible.

The following table shows the changeover:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Series</th>
<th>Current GCSE Chinese (2009 spec.) Modular Exam</th>
<th>Current IGCSE Chinese, French, German and Spanish</th>
<th>New GCSE Chinese (2012 spec.) Linear Exam</th>
<th>New IGCSE (2011 spec.) Chinese, French, German and Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May/June 2013</td>
<td>Last examination (Take any 2 units or all 4 units)</td>
<td>Last examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June 2014</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>First examination (Take all 4 units)</td>
<td>First examination with additional compulsory speaking unit</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: There is no content change in the new specification of GCSE Chinese (2012 specifications). The examination involves coursework and internal assessment, and therefore is only offered to candidates of schools which have registered with Edexcel International as an HKEAA sub-centre. Schools interested in becoming an Edexcel sub-centre may contact the HKEAA at 3628 8761 and submit the registration application before 1 September in the year preceding the examination.

More information regarding the specifications and sample assessment materials are available on Edexcel International’s website at:


New IGCSE (2011 specifications) Chinese, French, German and Spanish:

Detailed information regarding the registration will be announced separately. For enquiries, please contact the International and Professional Examinations Division at tel.: 3628 8761 (press 2#1119 to speak to staff).

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