Press Statement

Disclosure of HKALE Use of English
Section B (Writing) scripts to students

An English teacher of YPICA Lee Lim Ming College serving as a marker has been found to
disclose over 30 marked scripts of the 2010 AS-Level Use of English Writing Paper to students for
discussion and for use as reference materials in class. Although it has been confirmed after
investigation that candidates’ marks have not been affected, we would like to express deep regret
about this case.

Since the marker concerned has allegedly breached the HKEAA Ordinance, we have sought legal
advice regarding this case and reported it to the police. This marker has also violated the code of
professional conduct for teachers and we have reported this case to the school concerned and the
Education Bureau for their follow-up action. The HKEAA would like to reiterate that we do not
tolerate any violation of the secrecy regulation of the public examinations and we have repeatedly
reminded all examination personnel to follow the regulation strictly.

Double marking is adopted for the Use of English Writing Paper, which means that the answer
scripts are marked by at least two markers. All answer scripts are scanned right after the
examination to ensure that there are backup copies of all answer scripts. The HKEAA has
cross-checked the marked scripts concerned with the scanned copies, and it has been confirmed
that the scripts have not been amended, smeared or damaged. No irregularities have been found
in the marking so candidates’ results are not affected.

Most of our markers are in-service teachers who have been carrying out their duties professionally
and adhere strictly to the confidentiality agreement with the HKEAA. We are very distressed about
the unprofessional conduct of this teacher marker who has breached the confidentiality agreement.

According to the HKEAA Ordinance, every person who has been appointed by the HKEAA shall
preserve secrecy with regard to all matters coming to his knowledge in the exercise or
performance of any duty or function. The HKEAA has repeatedly reminded examination personnel
of the importance of maintaining confidentiality. During the markers’ meeting, markers were also
reminded not to disclose the answer scripts to anyone. Any person who breaches the Ordinance
commits an offence and is liable to a fine and to imprisonment for six months.

The HKEAA takes public examination secrecy seriously. We will strive to ensure that all
examinations are conducted in a fair manner.

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Date: 29 Jun 2010