Phone: 3628 8985
Ref.: CE/99

28 September 2010

To: Principals of schools participating in the 2011 HKALE

Dear Principal

Implementation of Oral Recording System (ORS) in Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination 2011

Further to our letter dated 17 February 2010 regarding the implementation of Oral Recording System (ORS) in 2011 HKALE, I would like to recapitulate the key information about the system and to draw your attention to the changes of seating arrangements in the Use of English oral examination.

Background

To address the complaints related to oral examinations in public examinations which involve group discussion, the Authority has developed an Oral Recording System to record candidates’ performance in the examination room. The ORS was first implemented in the speaking assessments of the 2008 Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT). After several trials of the System with secondary school students and experienced Oral Examiners in 2008/09, some improvements were made to the recording system and the ORS was extended to the Test of Proficiency in Putonghua (TPP) in 2009. The majority of the Oral Examiners found the System user-friendly and easy to operate.

With a view to serving the best interest of candidates, the Public Examinations Board of the Authority decided to implement oral recording in the Chinese Language & Culture and Use of English oral examinations starting from the 2011 HKALE.

About the System

The Oral Recording System is operated on local computers with a user interface to be operated by the Oral Examiners. Through the use of computer equipment and tailor-made software, the proceedings of oral examinations will be video-recorded. It facilitates the handling of examination irregularities and makes remarking of candidates’ performance possible. As part of our security measures, all the recorded video images will be encrypted before being saved on our computer storage device.

Equipment Required

The recording equipment includes a notebook computer, a web camera, a microphone and a removable storage device. Please refer to Annex 1 for the list of equipment.
Ref.: CE/99
28 September 2010

Page 2

Changes to Seating Arrangements in Use of English Oral Examination

To facilitate the capturing of the whole examination proceedings, candidates will sit in a semi-circle facing the Oral Examiners. The layout of the examination room in the Chinese Language & Culture oral examination will be similar to the present arrangement. However, the seating arrangement in the Use of English oral examination will have to be changed from candidates sitting facing each other around four desks to sitting in a semi-circle. There is no change to the examination procedure arising from the use of the ORS for the two oral examinations. For details of the seating arrangements in the examination room for both oral examinations, please refer to Annex 2.

Action Required

To prepare your Secondary 7 students for the oral examinations, I should be grateful if you would remind your Chinese Language and English Language subject teachers of the new examination arrangements for the 2011 HKAL Oral Examinations and disseminate the above information to your students for their reference.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Ms. Christine Kuai on 3628 8985 or Miss Alice Ko on 3628 8986.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Hui (Ms)
General Manager
School Examinations and Assessment Division
Oral Recording System (ORS)
List of Equipment

The Oral Recording System (ORS) consists of the following equipment:
(a) Notebook Computer with Power Supply Unit
(b) Web Camera
(c) Microphone
(d) Removable Storage Device
(e) Mouse
(The photo may slightly vary to the actual equipment, for reference only.)
中國語文及文化科口試
考室布置圖

Annex 2