Overview of the New Academic Structure and New Senior Secondary Curriculum

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Principal Assistant Secretary for Education
HKSAR Government
August 2010
Key Messages

• What are the goals and features of the New Academic Structure and the new senior secondary (NSS) curricula?
• How is it different from the old one (AL/sixth form)?
• What are the students’ subject choices & learning experiences?
• What are the pathways of students?
• How is HKDSE recognised locally and internationally?
• How to get more information?
1. To be biliterate and trilingual with adequate proficiency
2. To acquire a broad knowledge base, and be able to understand contemporary issues that may impact on one’s daily life at personal, community, national and global levels
3. To be an informed and responsible citizen with a sense of global and national identity
4. To respect pluralism of cultures and views, and be a critical, reflective and independent thinker
5. To acquire IT & other skills for being a lifelong learner
6. To understand one’s career/academic aspirations and develop positive attitudes towards work and learning
7. To lead a healthy lifestyle with active participation in aesthetic and physical activities
The New Academic Structure
Comparison of the Old Academic Structure and New Academic Structure

Old Academic Structure

HKALE

HKCEE

New Academic Structure

Other pathways

Other pathways

3-year Degree program

4-year Degree program

Sub-Degree Programs

Secondary 1
Secondary 2
Secondary 3
Secondary 4
Secondary 5
Secondary 6

1st cohort of graduates (2016)

2012
1st HKDSEE

New Senior Secondary

Sept 2009
The New Senior Secondary Curriculum
NSS Curriculum

Promote all round development and provide diversified learning opportunities

4 Core Subjects

Chinese Language
English Language
Mathematics
Liberal Studies

2 or 3 Elective Subjects

2 or 3 subjects chosen from NSS elective subjects, or from Applied Learning and/or other language courses

Other Learning Experiences

Moral and Civic Education, Community Service, Aesthetic Development, Physical Development and Career-related Experiences

45-55%
20-30%
15-35%

*Schools will offer different NSS elective subjects depending on individual schools’ context and students’ needs. Some schools may also offer ApL courses and/or other language courses.
# NSS Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Learning Areas</th>
<th>Subjects (Core/Elective)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Language Education</td>
<td>Chinese Language <em>(core subject)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Education</td>
<td>English Language <em>(core subject)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literature in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics Education</td>
<td>Mathematics <em>(core subject)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>including the Compulsory Part and 2 Extended Modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Studies</td>
<td>Liberal Studies <em>(core subject)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### NSS Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Learning Areas</th>
<th>Subjects (Electives)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Personal, Social and Humanities Education | Chinese History  
Economics  
Ethics and Religious Studies  
Geography  
History  
Tourism and Hospitality Studies         |
| Science Education                       | Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Science (Integrated, Combined)         |
| Technology Education                    | Business, Accounting and Financial Studies  
Design and Applied Technology  
Health Management and Social Care  
Technology and Living  
Information and Communication Technology |
| Arts Education                          | Music  
Visual Arts                                                                           |
| Physical Education                      | Physical Education                                                                   |
• Liberal Studies uses knowledge and perspectives from other subjects to study contemporary issues so that students have the opportunity to:
  – connect knowledge and concepts across different disciplines
  – expand their perspectives beyond single disciplines
  – study contemporary events not covered in single disciplines
NSS Science Curriculum
— New Initiative in NSS curriculum (2)

Biology

Chemistry
For students with a great interest in science who wish to pursue future studies or work in this field

Physics

Science
• Combined Science

• Integrated Science
For students with diverse interests who wish to take elective subjects from different KLAs
Applied Learning (ApL) Courses
— *New Initiative in NSS curriculum* (3)

- **Six Learning Areas**
  - **Creative Studies**
    - e.g. Image Design, Introduction to Theatre Arts
  - **Media and Communication**
    - e.g. Film and Video Studies, Radio Host and Programme Production
  - **Business, Management and Law**
    - e.g. Marketing in Global Trade, Understanding HK Law
  - **Services**
    - e.g. Hotel Operations, Child Development and Care
  - **Applied Science**
    - e.g. Health Care Practice, Sports Coaching and Management
  - **Engineering and Production**
    - e.g. Automotive Technology, Aviation Studies
Other Learning Experiences (OLE)
— New Initiative in NSS curriculum (4)

• Under the NSS Curriculum, OLE is one of the three components that complement the core and elective subjects

• 15% or more of the curriculum time

• Aiming to develop students’ whole-person development, foster a broader scope of views and life-long learning abilities for students

• Including learning experiences of
  – Moral and Civic Education,
  – Community Service,
  – Physical Development,
  – Aesthetic Development and
  – Career-related Experiences.
Student Learning Profile (SLP)

Students telling their own “stories of learning”

• Each senior secondary student is encouraged to build up his/her own profile to reflect his/her learning experiences and achievements

• SLP broad framework:
  • Academic performance in school
  • Other Learning Experiences
  • Awards/Achievements gained outside school
  • Student’s Self-account
## Comparison of Old and New Senior Secondary Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Old Senior Secondary Curriculum</th>
<th>New Senior Secondary Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Subjects</strong></td>
<td>Chi, Eng, Math in S4-S5&lt;br&gt;Chi, Eng in S6-S7</td>
<td>Chi, Eng, Math, LS in S4-S6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of Subjects</strong></td>
<td>7 – 9 subjects in S4-S5&lt;br&gt;4 – 5 subjects in S6-S7</td>
<td>6 – 7 subjects in S4-S6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Streaming</strong></td>
<td>Streaming into arts and science</td>
<td>Not limited by the arts/science streaming;&lt;br&gt;Choose 2 to 3 elective subjects from different KLAs, Applied Learning and/or other languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OLE</strong></td>
<td>no formal structure</td>
<td>Structured and occupy not less than 15% of curriculum time for ALL students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes in Curriculum Experiences

- Core subjects for biliterate & trilingual language policy, broad base knowledge, learning skills for 21st century
- Diversified subject choices to meet needs & interest of students
- Blurred academic/practical demarcation
- Multiple exits to various types of post secondary education
The New Public Exam:

*Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination*
Main Changes in Public Exam

• one public exam
• emphasize high order thinking and application of knowledge
• school-based assessment (SBA)
• standards-referenced reporting (SRR)

Details will be introduced by HKEAA
# Student Cohorts in HKCEE, HKALE and HKDSE from 2009 Onwards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>HKCE Exam</th>
<th>HKALE</th>
<th>HKDSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>Last S5 cohort in schools taking HKCEE (80,000+)</td>
<td>3(^{rd}) last S7 cohort in schools taking HKALE</td>
<td>1(^{st}) cohort at S4 (79,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>Repeaters taking HKCEE as private candidate</td>
<td>2(^{nd}) last S7 cohort</td>
<td>1(^{st}) cohort at S5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last S7 cohort</td>
<td>1(^{st}) cohort at S6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>Repeaters taking HKALE as private candidate</td>
<td></td>
<td>2(^{nd}) cohort at S6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Senior Secondary Subject Information
    —Data from Survey
Survey of NSS Subjects

• Data from 453 schools (all secondary schools offering NSS Curriculum in HK)
  ■ Oct – Nov 2009

• Schools no longer adopt the traditional practice of streaming students into arts, science and commercial classes

• 51.4% of students take 3 elective subjects, 45.2% of students take 2 elective subjects

• There are more than 1400 subject combinations
  ■ no more than 8% of the student population has taken any particular subject combination.
Survey Results

- 71% of students with electives from more than 1 KLA
- 56% of students with 1 elective in science or more
- Less than 9% of students with 3 science subjects
Survey Results

- Most popular 5 electives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>No. of S4 Students enrolled</th>
<th>No. of Schools offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>26963 (34.4%)</td>
<td>433 (95.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>BAFS*</td>
<td>23376 (29.8%)</td>
<td>408 (90.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>21699 (27.7%)</td>
<td>426 (94.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>20959 (26.7%)</td>
<td>420 (92.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>20087 (25.6%)</td>
<td>428 (94.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*BAFS: Business, Accounting and Financial Studies
Survey Results

- Some other popular electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>No. of S4 Students enrolled</th>
<th>No. of Schools offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>17694 (22.5%)</td>
<td>416 (91.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chi. History</td>
<td>12857 (16.4%)</td>
<td>418 (92.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT*</td>
<td>12738 (16.2%)</td>
<td>437 (96.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>9828 (12.5%)</td>
<td>330 (72.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>6735 (8.6%)</td>
<td>345 (76.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ICT: Information and Communication Technology
Survey Results

- Number of NSS Elective Subjects Taken by Students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Elective Subjects Taken</th>
<th>No. of S4 Students Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 2*</td>
<td>0.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>45.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>51.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 4**</td>
<td>0.52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Schools should allow students to take not less than 2 elective subjects.
** Taster programmes are offered in these schools
Students’ Multiple Pathways
Multiple Pathways

- **4-year degree programmes**
  - [“3322” in Chi, Eng, Maths, LS]

- **Post-secondary programmes**
  - (including Associate Degree, Higher Diploma)
  - [5 Level 2 as minimum entrance requirements]

- **Vocational education and training**
  - (e.g. Diploma and Certificate programmes offered by the Vocational Training Council (VTC))
  - [5 Level 2]

- **Study outside Hong Kong**
  - [recognised by Australia, UCAS in UK]

- **Employment**
  - [recognised by Civil Service Bureau in HK]
University Places in 2012, 2013

• 2012 – double cohort year
  – 14,620 university places for HKALE graduates entering 3-year programmes, graduate in 2015
  – 14,620 university places for HKDSE graduates entering 4-year programmes, graduate in 2016

• 2013 onwards
  – 14,620 places
  – HKDSE students via JUPAS route (20% non-local)
### General Entrance Requirement of Local Universities: HKALE vs. HKDSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HKALE</th>
<th>HKDSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chi &amp; Eng (at AS Level), pass required</td>
<td>Chi, Eng, <strong>Math &amp; LS</strong>; “3-3-2-2” required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 – 3 electives at A Level, no Applied Learning</td>
<td>1 – 2 electives from NSS elective subjects, Applied Learning or Other Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OLE and <strong>Student Learning Profile</strong> as reference / for interview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to get more information?

• NAS “334” Web Bulletin

• HKEAA webpage:

• Enquiries:
    • Email: 334@edb.gov.hk
Thank You!