Introduction of Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination

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Secretary General
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

20 September 2009
Existing & New Academic Structures in Hong Kong

Current Structure (3+2+2+3)

3-Year Undergraduate Degree
- Secondary 7
- HKALE
- Secondary 6
- HKCEE
- Secondary 5
- Secondary 4
- Secondary 3
- Secondary 2
- Secondary 1

New Structure (3+3+4)

4-Year Undergraduate Degree
- Senior Secondary 3
- Senior Secondary 2
- Senior Secondary 1
- Secondary 3
- Secondary 2
- Secondary 1

To be examined for the first time in 2012

New public examination leading to HK Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)
Implementation Timetable of HKDSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Current Academic Structure</th>
<th>New Academic Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>HKCEE</td>
<td>New Senior Secondary (NSS) F.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Last offer for school candidates in the current academic structure)</td>
<td>(First Cohort of NSS students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>HKCEE</td>
<td>NSS F.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Last offer for private candidates)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>HKALE</td>
<td>NSS F.6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Last offer for school candidates in the current academic structure)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>HKALE</td>
<td>First cohort of NSS students to apply for university admission</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Last offer for private candidates)</td>
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First HKDSE Examination
Double Cohort Year (2012)

- HKALE candidates → study 3-year degree programme
- HKDSE candidates → study 4-year degree programme
NSS Curriculum Model

4 Core Subjects:
- Chinese Language
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Liberal Studies

2 or 3 elective subjects:
subjects chosen from
(A) 20 NSS elective subjects,
(B) Applied Learning Courses
and (C) other language courses

Other Learning Experience (moral & civic education, community services, aesthetic & physical activities, career-related experiences)
### NSS Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>24 New Senior Secondary Subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Core Subjects: Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics, Liberal Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NSS Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td><strong>Area of Studies of Applied Learning Courses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applied Science</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business, Management and Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creative Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engineering and Production</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Media and Communication</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Services</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Around 30 subjects will be provided in Category B (Tentative).
### NSS Subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td><strong>Other Language Subjects:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hindi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Urdu</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The AS Level syllabuses and examination papers of the above language subjects will be provided by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).
Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR)
Category A: 24 NSS Subjects

Levels of Performance

5
Level 5 candidates with the best performance will be awarded Level 5*** and the next top group of Level 5 candidates will be awarded Level 5*

4

3

2

1
Performance below Level 1 will be designated as “Unclassified”
HKDSE Levels

HKDSE

HKCEE

HKALE

5*

5**

5

4

3

2

1

U

U
Standards-referenced reporting (SRR)

- The purpose of the design of assessment system is to capture the full range of achievement of candidates.
- Level descriptors and exemplars are provided from Level 1 – Level 5. Level descriptors which spell out the standards required for different levels of performance.
- Levels 4 and 5 will be set with reference to the standards of Grades A-D in HKALE.
- Reporting with reference to standards that remain constant over time.
- Percentages of different levels awarded depend on the performance of candidates.
- More information to tertiary institutions for selection.
- Alignment with international best practice.
## Generic Descriptors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **Level 5** | comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and the ability to apply the concepts and skills effectively in diverse and complex unfamiliar situations with insight  
ability to analyse, synthesise and evaluate information from a wide variety of sources  
ability to communicate ideas and express views concisely and logically |
| **Level 4** | good knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and the ability to apply the concepts and skills effectively in unfamiliar situations with insight  
ability to analyse, synthesise and interpret information from a variety of sources  
ability to communicate ideas and express views logically |
| **Level 3** | adequate knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and the ability to apply the concepts and skills appropriately in different familiar situations  
ability to analyse and interpret information from a variety of sources  
ability to communicate ideas and express views appropriately |
| **Level 2** | basic knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and the ability to apply the concepts and skills in familiar situations  
ability to identify and interpret information from straightforward sources  
ability to communicate simple ideas in a balanced way |
| **Level 1** | elementary knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and the ability to apply the concepts and skills in simple familiar situations with support  
ability to identify and interpret information from simple sources with guidance  
ability to communicate simple ideas briefly |
Local Recognition of HKDSE

Minimum requirements of local universities typically:

1. Level 3: Chinese Language and English Language

2. Level 2: Liberal Studies and Mathematics

3. One or in some cases two specified elective subjects
To ensure the international recognition of the HKDSE qualification, the HKEAA has been holding discussions with international agencies and conducting benchmarking and comparability research studies on HKDSE.

- Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)
- National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) in the UK
- Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS) in the UK
- Australian Education International (AEI) in Australia
- Other universities overseas

http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/tc/ir/progress_HKDSE_promotion/
Support Materials for HKDSE

- Curriculum and Assessment Guides
  http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/EN/curriculum.php

- Regulations and Assessment Frameworks for HKDSE

- Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR) Information Packages for HKDSE subjects

- SBA Teachers’ Handbook for HKDSE subjects
Online Resources

- HKEAA website
  http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/

- EDB website
  http://www.edb.gov.hk/

- EDB 334 Web Bulletin
  http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/EN/index.php

- NSS School Information Network
  http://cd.edb.gov.hk/334map

- NSS Information Kit
Communications and Contact

- **HKDSE Newsletter**
  Provides updates and details of the latest development of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education for international Higher Education Sector.

- **Contact:**
  Ms Rebecca Tam
  International Recognition Officer
  Email: [international@hkeaa.edu.hk](mailto:international@hkeaa.edu.hk)
Thank You