What you need to know about HKDSE

Contents of the Information Packages include

♦ Assessment Framework
♦ Level Descriptors
♦ Sample Papers and Suggested Answers / Marking Guidelines
♦ Exemplars of Students’ Work

Students, teachers and other stakeholders can make use of the Information Packages in various ways.

Students can make use of the Information Packages to:

Set their goals
Sample papers with suggested answers, level descriptors and exemplars are included in the Information Packages. Students are shown what they have to do in order to attain a certain level. In this way, they can set their own goals and reach these at their own pace. In the writing tasks in the English Language Paper, for example, students can find out their current performance level by comparing their own work with those in the Information Packages. They can also have a clear idea of the standard of performance at the higher levels where they would like to achieve.

Assess their own learning progress
There are easy and difficult sections in the English Language Reading paper. Students can choose which one to attempt according to their own learning progress. Similarly, students can attempt relevant parts of the sample papers at different stages of learning for other subjects such as Mathematics. They can compare their work with the suggested answers and exemplars to find out if they have a good grasp of the concepts and skills being assessed. They can have a better understanding of their learning progress as the less able ones can identify the areas they need to consolidate whereas the more able ones can stretch their abilities and aim at a higher level of performance.

Understand the requirements of the examination
Under the new standards-referenced system, students’ performances are reported against a set of descriptors. Students can know about the assessment objectives and requirements of the examination, which are explicitly stated in the Information Packages. By referring to the Liberal Studies Information Package, for example, students will know that questions are often set on contexts about daily life and across disciplines. By cross-checking the marking guidelines, level descriptors and exemplars, students will better understand what abilities are emphasized and assessed in this subject.
Teachers can make use of the Information Packages to:

Help students set clear goals and motivate them to learn
Teachers can ask students to attempt selected tasks from the sample papers, such as a writing task in the language subjects, at the beginning of the course. They can explain the assessment criteria and level descriptors to students and ask them to grade their own work against the marking guidelines, level descriptors and exemplars, and find out what their current performance level is. Teachers can show students exemplars at higher performance levels and help them identify their strengths and weaknesses, so that they have a clear idea of what is required at higher levels and strive for a better performance.

Help students assess their understanding and skills, and monitor their own learning progress
After teaching a certain topic / topics, teachers can select or modify appropriate tasks from the sample papers that require students to apply or integrate what they have learned. Alternatively, teachers can design their own tasks and assessment rubrics by referring to those in the Information Packages. They can use these tasks to assess how well students can apply their knowledge and how effectively they can communicate their ideas based on the marking guidelines and exemplars. Teachers can also assist students to learn and monitor their progress by giving feedback on their strengths and weaknesses, and help them clarify concepts.

Help students understand the assessment requirements, the approaches and skills of answering questions, and the depth and breadth of attempting different topics
In Liberal Studies, for example, teachers can help students identify the characteristics of the examination questions and find out from the marking guidelines, level descriptors and exemplars what abilities are emphasized and assessed in this subject.

Employers can make use of the Information Packages to:

Understand what candidates at different levels of performance know and can do
Employers can study samples of student performance on the reading, writing, listening and integrated skills, and speaking papers in Chinese Language and English Language packages to get an idea of the proficiency of candidates at different levels in the four language skills. This helps employers to define their employment criteria for different posts and to recruit candidates equipped with the desired skills.

The SRR Information Packages are available for sale at the following outlets:

- HKEAA online bookstore
  https://online.hkeaa.edu.hk
- HKEAA Publications Unit (G/F, 17 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon)
- HKEAA Wan Chai Office (12/F Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong)
- Major bookshops

Bulk purchase option is available for schools and other organizations.
For more details:
Website: www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/resources/publications/schorders/
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