Experience sharing – Trialing of sample assessment tasks and processes for the 2012 HKDSE

Ms LO Yee-ki
Why did my school join the trial programme?

- Assessment process and tasks linked to normal teaching programme
- To gain hands-on experience in designing SBA assessment tasks based on teaching of Elective Modules
Background

- S6 students (CMI, average standard)
- Normal teaching programme:
  - An inter-class debating competition (group work)
  - Writing a debate speech (individual work)
Elective Module chosen for trailing

- Debating
  - Related to normal teaching programme
  - Allowing students to make use of knowledge, skills and experience gained
Target knowledge, skills and attitudes:

- To decide what information is relevant to a debate
- To formulate arguments
- To understand methods of persuasion
- To put forward and defend their views on a topic in a persuasive way
- To develop critical thinking
Pre-assessment activities

- Theme: Plastic bag tax
  - Social issue
  - Relevant to daily life
- Students (and teacher) collected relevant news articles and editorials.
  - Materials readily available
Students each read different sets of articles.
- Providing context
- Vocabulary building
- Creating information gap for later group discussion

Students identified arguments for and against the implementation of plastic bag tax.
- Deciding what information was relevant
Students formed groups to discuss the arguments they had read about.
- Exchanging information
- Speaking within groups (building up confidence)

Each group reported the arguments to the class.
- Exchanging information
- Speaking in front of the class
Students formed two groups: Affirmative and Negative

- Researching further for the inter-class debating competition (e.g. online resources)
- Collecting supporting evidence for arguments (e.g. implementation of the plastic bag tax in Taiwan and Ireland)
- Anticipating the opposition’s arguments
- Preparing for rebuttals
Assessment task – Group interaction

- You are a member of a team that has been chosen to enter an inter-school debating contest on the motion that 'A tax should be imposed on plastic bags handed out to customers at retail outlets.' At this moment you do not know whether you will be asked to argue for or against the motion.
Your team is meeting to prepare for the debating contest. You should prepare arguments for both sides of the debate. You also need to consider how to organize and present your arguments.
You may want to talk about:

- how to define the motion
- major arguments for the motion
- major arguments against the motion
- point-by-point rebuttals
- how to make arguments convincing
The government is going to impose a tax on plastic bags handed out to customers at retail outlets. Environmentalists all welcome this new policy. An environmentalist and English teacher, Mr. Johnson, wrote to the SCMP to show his support. Here is an extract from his letter:
'This is the right move. The tax incentive will be very effective in encouraging consumers to bring their own shopping bags. It will then greatly reduce the usage of plastic bags, which make up most of the plastic waste dumped into the landfills.'
You are a Secondary Six student in Mr Johnson's class, and you oppose the plastic bag tax. What would you say to Mr Johnson to convince him that the tax is not a solution to existing environmental problems?
Task design

- Contextualized
- Familiar roles
- Allowing students to make use of and speak about the knowledge, skills and experience gained in pre-assessment activities
Post-assessment activities

- Assessment for learning
  - Teacher feedback
  - Peer feedback

- Consolidation
  - Writing a speech
Reflection

- All students could complete the assessment tasks.
- Students of different abilities were given different tasks.
- Which is more challenging, individual presentation or group discussion?
- No extra teaching time was needed except for videotaping.
Online resources

- Debate at HKedCity [http://ec.hkedcity.net/debate](http://ec.hkedcity.net/debate)
  - Video clips of debating competitions and workshops
  - Useful links to other websites and resources

- IDEA (International Debate Education Association)
  - [Debatabase](http://www.idebate.org/debatabase) (Suggested motions and arguments provided)
Thank you very much.