

## NOTES

1. There are three categories of subjects for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, namely Category A (New Senior Secondary subjects) (2012-2016) / (Senior Secondary subjects) (2017 onwards), Category B (Applied Learning subjects) and Category C (other language subjects). Standards-referenced reporting is adopted for Category A subjects. Candidates' performance is reported with reference to a set of level descriptors for the subject. There are five levels of performance (**5, 4, 3, 2, 1**), with **5** being the highest and **1** being the lowest. Level **5** candidates with the best performance will have their results annotated with the symbols **\*\*** and the next top group with the symbol **\***. Achievements below level **1** are designated as unclassified and are not recorded on this certificate. The words in brackets beside the subject levels are inserted to prevent alteration.
2. For the subjects of Chinese Language, English Language, and Combined Science, the component results, ranging from level **5\*\*** to level **1** are also reported. Achievements below level **1** are designated as **UNCL**; absence is indicated by **ABS**; **EXM** means exemption from any component of the subject while the figure in square brackets beside **EXM** denotes the weighting of the exempted component, indicating that the subject level has an assessed element. The words in brackets beside the component levels are inserted to prevent alteration. For these subjects, the subject level is not simply the average of the component levels but is based on the candidate's subject mark, which is the total mark derived from the actual marks scored for each component, taking into account the weighting of each component and the range of marks available for each component.
3. The subject of Mathematics comprises two parts: the Compulsory Part and the Extended Part. Candidates may choose to take the Compulsory Part only or the Compulsory Part plus one of the modules of the Extended Part. Candidates' results in the Compulsory Part and the Extended Part are reported separately.
4. For Category A subjects with a school-based assessment component, the subject results of candidates are marked with a symbol **♦** if they are not required to undertake the school-based assessment. However, the same standards have been applied in grading their performance even though their subject marks are based entirely on their public examination results.
5. For Category A subjects, if the candidate was unable to attend the examination for any subject due to exceptional circumstances, the subject result is marked with a symbol **#**. Having considered the candidate's internal results in the subject concerned and the corresponding performance of the candidate's schoolmates in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, the Authority estimates that had the candidate been able to attend the examination, the candidate would probably have attained the subject level as listed.
6. From 2012-2017, achievements in Category B subjects are reported on this certificate notice as **Attained** and **Attained with Distinction**. Results designated as **Unattained** are not recorded on this certificate.  
From 2018 onwards, achievements in Category B subjects are reported on this certificate as **Attained with Distinction (II)**, **Attained with Distinction (I)** and **Attained**, with **Attained with Distinction (II)** being the highest, except for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students), the results of which are reported as **Attained with Distinction** and **Attained**. Results designated as **Unattained** are not recorded on the certificate.  
 From 2016 onwards, Individual Category B subjects are recognised under the Qualifications Framework (QF). Relevant certificates will be issued to eligible candidates by course providers. For details regarding the QF Level, Qualifications Register Registration Number and Validity Period of the subjects, please visit the Qualifications Register website: [www.hkqr.gov.hk](http://www.hkqr.gov.hk).
7. Category C subjects are examined on Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level question papers from Cambridge Assessment International Education (formerly known as Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)). Achievements in these subjects are indicated on this certificate by the following: **a(a)**, **b(b)**, **c(c)**, **d(d)**, **e(e)**, with grade **a** being the highest and grade **e** being the lowest. A separate speaking endorsement grade, '**With Distinction / Merit / Pass in Speaking**', is also reported. Achievements below grade **e** or below '**Pass in Speaking**' are not recorded on this certificate.