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To: Principals of HKDSE Participating Schools

Dear Principal,

Updates on Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination

I am writing to provide you with the following updates for information and circulation to your teachers and students concerned:

1. Changes to Examination Requirements of the 2014 HKDSE Examination

Subsequent to the review of the New Senior Secondary (NSS) curriculum and assessment conducted in 2012-13, changes have been made to the public examination of a number of subjects for implementation in the 2014 HKDSE Examination. **Annex 1** shows a summary of these changes. For details, you may refer to the circular entitled '*Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination - 2014-2016 Assessment Frameworks*' issued on 30 April 2013, which is available in the "Circular" section of the HKDSE webpage (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/>).

2. Changes in Question Paper Format for the 2014 HKDSE Examination

The question paper format of the following subjects/papers will be changed in the 2014 Examination:

Subject/Paper	2013 format	2014 format
中國文學試卷一	答題簿（文章寫作）及試題 答題簿（片段寫作）	片段寫作已取消， 考生只須將文章寫作的 答案寫在答題簿內
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies Paper 1	A Question Paper for Section 1A and a Question-Answer Book for Section 1B	A single Question Paper for Paper 1, with answers to Section A to be written on a multiple-choice answer sheet and answers to Section B in an Answer Book
Design and Applied Technology Papers 2A – 2D	Two Answer Books provided for candidates attempting two elective modules from 2A to 2D	A single Answer Book to be used for both modules
Literature in English Paper 1 (Set 1 and Set 2)	Two different Answer Books for Section A and Sections B & C.	A single Answer Book to be used for all sections

Physical Education Paper 3	Advance Notice covering (1) the assessment routines of physical activities and physical fitness, (2) provisional scoring tables, and (3) examination time and venues, sent to candidates by post	Document (2) uploaded to the subject page of PE on the HKEAA website in July 2013; Documents (1) and (3) to be uploaded to the website by November 2013 and January 2014 respectively.
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3. Provision of Sample Papers/Questions


In connection with the changes to the examination requirements, sample papers/questions of the following subjects will be prepared and uploaded to the HKDSE section of the HKEAA website (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/>) for reference of teachers and students according to the timeframe as indicated below. Please click “Subject Information” of the HKDSE section to obtain the sample papers/questions. The sample papers/questions will also be shared with subject teachers at the Teachers’ Seminars of respective subjects in October and November 2013.

Subject	Paper/Part	Year of Examination	Available on HKEAA website by
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies	Papers 1, 2A and 2B	2014	Early November 2013
Chinese Language*	Paper 3	2016	Late October 2013
Literature in English*	Papers 1 and 2	2016	Early November 2013
Chinese History*	Paper 1 Part 1	2016	Late November 2013

* *Applicable to 2016 HKDSE Examination and beyond.*

School principals are requested to bring the attention of relevant staff members and students to the above updates regarding the HKDSE Examination. In case of enquiries, please contact Ms Maria Fung at 3628 8070.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Hui (Ms)
General Manager
School Examinations & Assessment Division

Changes to Examination Requirements for 2014 HKDSE Examination

The following summarises the changes made to the public examination of a number of subjects in the 2014 HKDSE Examination. Principals and subject teachers may also refer to the circular entitled 'Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination - 2014-2016 Assessment Frameworks' issued on 30 April 2013, which is available in the "Circular" section of the HKDSE webpage (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/>).

Subject/ Paper	Change of exam requirements
中國語文試卷四	取消個人朗讀，保留口語溝通。口語溝通考試時間不變，但設每名考生一分鐘首輪發言時間。 (參考資料見 2013 年 10 月 2 日發出的「2014 年香港中學文憑考試中國語文科試卷四說話能力考試最新資訊」學校通告，網址： http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Subject_Information/chi_lang/ChiOralExamFAQ-2014.pdf)
中國文學試卷一	取消片段寫作部分，保留文章寫作部分，考試時間由 3 小時減為 2 小時
中國文學試卷二	由設 5 題選答 3 題改為設 4 題選答 2 題，考試時間由 3 小時減為 2 小時
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies Paper 1	Reducing examination time from 1 hour 30 minutes to 1 hour 15 minutes; offering a choice of one out of two questions in Section B and decreasing the total mark of the section from 40 to 30 marks
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies Papers 2A and 2B	Reducing examination time from 2 hours 30 minutes to 2 hours 15 minutes; decreasing the total mark from 100 to 80 marks
Economics Paper 1	Increasing the number of multiple-choice questions from 40 to 45
Economics Paper 2	Increasing examination time from 2 hours to 2 hours 15 minutes
Geography Paper 2	Increasing examination time from 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes
Health Management and Social Care Paper 2	Increasing examination time from 1 hour 30 minutes to 1 hour 45 minutes
History Paper 2	Increasing examination time from 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes
Physics Paper 1	Reducing the number of multiple-choice questions from 36 to 33
Combined Science Physics Part	Reducing the number of multiple-choice questions from 24 to 22