

Phone: 3628 8070

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To: Principals of HKDSE Participating Schools

Dear Principal,

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

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 2015 HKDSE

Subsequent to the review of the New Senior Secondary (NSS) curriculum and assessment conducted in 2012-13 and in 2014, changes have been made to the public examination of a number of subjects for implementation in the 2015 HKDSE. **Annex 1** shows a summary of those changes. For details, you may refer to the circulars entitled '*Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination - 2014-2016 Assessment Frameworks*' issued on 30 April 2013, and '*First Batch of Recommendations for the New Academic Structure Medium-term Review*' issued on 15 April 2014, which are available in the "Circular" section of the HKDSE webpage (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/>).

2. Revised level descriptors

Before the launch of the HKDSE, level descriptors depicting the typical performance standard of candidates at levels 1 to 5 have been developed for the grading of the 24 Category A subjects. With the changes in the assessment of a number of subjects as a result of the review of NSS curriculum and assessment, and in light of feedback from the live examinations, an overall review of the level descriptors of all 24 subjects have been conducted. The level descriptors of the following subjects have been updated and enclosed as **Annexes 2 – 5**. They are also available on our website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/tc/hkdse/assessment/subject_information/).

Subject	Highlight of changes	Annex	Available on the HKEAA website by
Chinese Language	New set of draft level descriptors developed for Paper 3 (Listening and Integrated Skills) which will be first examined in the 2016 HKDSE	2	16 May 2014
Liberal Studies	Updated as a result of feedback from live examination	3	5 November 2014
Chinese History	Editorial changes	4	5 November 2014
Physical Education	Updated as a result of not implementing SBA.	5	5 November 2014

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

Yours sincerely,



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