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Dear Principal

Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) 2016 Post-examination Review of Examination Irregularities

Each year, the HKEAA (the Authority) reviews and updates the public examination procedures and regulations in light of the circumstances where candidates failed to comply with the stipulated rules and procedures in the previous examination. Minor changes or fine-tuning of the examination procedures, regulations and instructions are made annually if necessary. To ensure the smooth conduct of the examinations, the major changes are expressly stated in the Handbook for Candidates and highlighted in the Video for Candidates.

All complaints and irregularities related to public examinations are dealt with by the Standing Committee of the Authority in accordance with a set of guidelines approved by the Public Examinations Board (PEB). The Authority has been disclosing the magnitude of mark penalties and mark adjustments on cases of individual candidates and such information is conveyed to the candidates concerned before the release of examination results. To foster public understanding of the ways in which examination irregularities are handled, the Authority has produced a simplified version of the Guidelines, namely “**The Equitable Treatment of Examination Irregularities**” and a leaflet entitled “**Irregularities in Public Examinations**” with a view to informing major stakeholders, i.e. schools, candidates and parents, about the rationale for processing examination irregularities and the circumstances under which the guidelines are applied. A set of the updated irregularity guidelines for the 2017 examinations will be available from the HKEAA website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Irregularities_Leaflet_E.pdf) in early December 2016.

Penalty cases for 2016 HKDSE

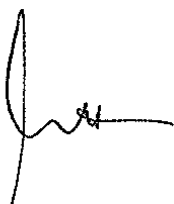
In the 2016 HKDSE, the PEB made decisions on 789 penalty cases (725 candidates) for breaching examination regulations. A breakdown of these cases is listed below:

- (a) Subject disqualification was imposed on 3 candidates who cheated by peeping at or copying answers from other candidates' scripts, and using mobile phone to access examination related materials.
- (b) Zero marks plus downgrade by one level was imposed on 3 candidates for serious plagiarism in school-based assessment (SBA) / externally marked portfolio of the subjects concerned.
- (c) Downgrade by one level was imposed on 1 candidate who was found to have a substantial amount of unauthorised material relevant to the subject sat on the desk during the examination which could offer unfair advantage.
- (d) Mark penalties were imposed on 718 candidates (782 cases) for breaking the examination regulations. The levels of penalty are 1%, 2% and 5% of the maximum paper mark depending on the seriousness of the offences.

Attached for your information is a list showing the number of penalty cases in the 2016 HKDSE.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr KW Lok on 3628 8950.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Hui (Ms)

General Manager, School Examinations and Assessment Division

Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination 2016

Penalties for not following examination regulations

Severe penalties which involve zero marks, subject downgrading or disqualification

- 3 - Cheating
- 3 - Plagiarism in School-based Assessment / externally marked projects / portfolios
- 1 - Brought into the examination centre unauthorised materials capable of giving unfair assistance

Mild penalties which involve mark deductions

- 3 - Brought into the examination centre a prohibited calculator
- 1 - Stuck the artwork and wrote the artwork statement at the back of the cartridge paper provided by the HKEAA in Visual Arts examination
- 9 - Mobile phones in non-operating mode under the chair / in the bag / on the desk / body sounded / vibrated during written examinations
- 19 - Mobile phones in operating mode under the chair / in the bag sounded / vibrated during written examinations
- 1 - Mobile phone in operating mode on the body vibrated during written examinations with reasonable explanation given by the candidate
- 14 - Mobile phones rang / vibrated / being used in the Reporting Room / Preparation Room / Examination Room of speaking examinations
- 73 - Brought into the examination centre unauthorised materials from which advantage might be gained (e.g. question paper of a previous examination session)
- 60 - Disobeyed centre supervisors' time instructions (i.e. started working / reading the question paper before being instructed to do so, continued to work after the "Stop working" announcement or continued to look at the question paper / not turning over the question paper / continued to write on the notecard / question paper after the end of the preparation time in speaking examinations) and other instructions
- 5 - Revealed candidate's own identity on the answer scripts by writing their names / sticking the barcode label with their name printed thereon
- 546 - Took the listening paper without bringing any radios (at radio-broadcast centres), batteries or earphones, arrived at the examination centre more than 30 minutes after the reporting time, brought in a prohibited electronic device other than a radio or used own radio in the special room
- 2 - Failed to mark the multiple-choice (MC) answers on the appropriate places in the QA Book or MC answer sheet as instructed
- 6 - Removed any remaining barcode labels from the examination centre or found to have stuck the labels of previous examination sessions on their personal belongings
- 43 - Failed to stick any barcode label(s) on any answer books / question-answer books / MC answer sheets used in an examination
- 1 - Talked in the preparation room before entering the Examination Room in speaking examinations

Note: The figures represent the total number of penalties for the corresponding offences in the 2016 HKDSE.