

HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2023
Examination Circular No. (5) 2021/2022
Streamlining Arrangements for Public Examinations and School-based Assessment

1. This circular is to inform schools of the streamlining arrangements of the public examinations and School-based Assessment (SBA) for the 2023 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE), in addition to those promulgated in Examination Circular No. (4) 2021/2022 dated 27 October 2021.
2. In view of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on normal school operation in 2020/21 and 2021/22, the HKEAA announced via the above Examination Circular the cancellation of the Independent Enquiry Study (IES) of Liberal Studies and the Speaking Examination of Chinese Language for the 2023 HKDSE. With a view to freeing up more learning time and providing more flexibility for this specific cohort of students, the Public Examinations Board (PEB) at its recent meeting deliberated and approved further streamlining arrangements for the 2023 HKDSE with reference to the practice adopted for the 2022 HKDSE. Details are as follows:
 - (a) Cancellation of SBA for all relevant subjects except Chinese Language, English Language, Design and Applied Technology, and Visual Arts with the SBA requirements of these four subjects to be streamlined;
 - (b) Streamlining of the public examinations of nine elective subjects, e.g. reducing the number of questions to be answered, turning some compulsory questions optional;
 - (c) Streamlining of the Practical Examination and the Portfolio assessment of Music and the Practical Examination of Physical Education.
3. For Category B subjects, streamlining arrangements for individual Applied Learning (ApL) courses will be made by CDI-HKEAA-Course Providers.
4. The Assessment Frameworks of the subjects concerned have been changed as a result of the streamlining of the public examinations and SBA stated in paragraph 2. The weighting of the remaining papers will be adjusted according to the assessment structure of the subjects concerned. Highlights of the changes in the Assessment Frameworks of the Category A subjects and the streamlining arrangements for Category B subjects for the 2023 HKDSE are given in the *Annex*. The revised Assessment Frameworks for the 2023 HKDSE are available on the HKEAA website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/assessment_framework/).

Action Required

5. Principals are requested to draw the attention of their teachers and students concerned to the revised 2023 HKDSE Assessment Frameworks for the Category A subjects resulting from the streamlining arrangements.
6. For enquiries, please contact Ms Kennis Mak (Tel: 3628 8070).

MARGARET HUI (MS)
Head of School Examinations and Assessment

To: Principals of Participating Schools

The table below summarises all the streamlining arrangements for Categories A and B subjects in the 2023 HKDSE (including those announced in late October 2021).

Highlights of the changes in the Assessment Frameworks of Category A subjects:

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Streamlining Arrangements for 2023 HKDSE Examination
Chinese Language	卷一 24% 32%	沒有改動
	卷二 24% 32%	沒有改動
	卷三 18% 26%	沒有改動
	卷四 14%	取消 佔分比重分配至卷一至三
	校本評核 20% 10%	取消選修部分，保留必修部分：閱讀活動，呈交 1 個分數，佔 10%。 其餘佔分比重(10%)分配至卷一至三
English Language	Paper 1 20%	No change
	Paper 2 25%	No change
	Paper3 30%	No change
	Paper 4 10%	No change
	SBA 15%	1 task (oral assessment - accept either Part A or Part B; accept either individual presentation or group interaction).
Mathematics (Compulsory Part)	Paper 1 65%	No change
	Paper 2 35%	No change
Mathematics (Extended Part)	Paper 100%	No change
Liberal Studies	Paper 1 50% 62%	No change
	Paper 2 30% 38%	No change
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Paper 1 and 2.

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Streamlining Arrangements for 2023 HKDSE Examination
Chinese Literature	卷一 25% 34%	沒有改動
	卷二 60% 66%	沒有改動
	校本評核 15%	取消 佔分比重分配至卷一和卷二
Literature in English	Paper 1 50% 62%	No change
	Paper 2 30% 38%	No change
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.
Chinese History	卷一 70%	第一部分必答題分拆為兩題，考生只需選答一題 第二部分原分甲部及乙部，各設三題，考生須各選一題，共答兩題； 現建議考生可從六題中自由選答兩題，不受從甲部及乙部各選答一題的限制。 考試時間維持不變。
	卷二 30%	沒有改動（三題中自由選答兩題）
Economics	Paper 1 30%	No change (Multiple Choice Questions)
	Paper 2 Section A 26% 30%	No change (Short questions on Compulsory Part)
	Paper 2 Section B 35% 40%	No change (Structured/essay-type/data response questions on Compulsory Part)
	Paper 2 Section C 9%	Cancelled (Structured questions on Elective Part) Percentage weighting re-allocated to Sections A and B in Paper 2. Examination time of the paper remains unchanged.
Ethics and Religious Studies	Paper 1 50%	Part A: Turn the compulsory questions into optional questions. Candidates are required to answer 3 out of 4 questions. Part B: No change Examination time of the paper remains unchanged.
	Paper 2 50%	No change

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Streamlining Arrangements for 2023 HKDSE Examination
Geography	Paper 1 75%	<p><u>Trim Paper 1:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instead of answering one compulsory fieldwork-based question (FBQ) in Section B and 2 (out of 4) data-based questions (DBQs) in Section C, candidates will be allowed to choose any 2 questions (out of 5) by combining both Section B & Section C. The total number of FBQ & DBQs to be answered is reduced from 3 to 2 (out of 5), and the examination time is reduced by 15 minutes (from 2¾ hours to 2½ hours); AND 2. Trim the coverage of the fieldwork-based question from 3 designated modules to 1 module only (Disappearing Green Canopy) for 2023 HKDSE. <p><u>No change in the parts of MC questions (Section A) and short essay questions (Section D).</u></p>
	Paper 2 25%	No change
History	Paper 1 60%	<p>Turn all 4 data-based questions (DBQs) in Paper 1 optional, and candidates can choose to answer 3 out of 4 DBQs.</p> <p>Examination time is reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour 45 min.</p>
	Paper 2 40%	No change
Tourism and Hospitality Studies	Paper 1 45%	No change
	Paper 2 55%	<p>Trim Paper 2: Essay Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of answering 3 out of 5 questions, candidates can choose to answer 2 out of 5 questions. • Examination time is reduced from 1 hour 45 mins to 1 hour 15 mins.
Biology	Paper 1 60% 75%	No change
	Paper 2 20% 25%	No change
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.
Chemistry	Paper 1 60% 75%	No change
	Paper 2 20% 25%	No change
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.
Physics	Paper 1 60% 75%	No change
	Paper 2 20% 25%	No change
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Streamlining Arrangements for 2023 HKDSE Examination
Combined Science: Biology Part	Paper 40% 50%	No change
	SBA 10%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Paper.
Chemistry Part	Paper 40% 50%	No change
	SBA 10%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Paper.
Physics Part	Paper 40% 50%	No change
	SBA 10%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Paper.
Integrated Science	Paper 1 45% 56%	No change
	Paper 2 Section A 15% 19%	No change
	Paper 2 Section B 20% 25%	No change
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies	Paper 1 40%	No change
	Paper 2 60%	To maintain the assessment standard without affecting the paper structure, it is suggested turning questions of Section B in Paper 2 optional without changing the weighting of each section in the paper: Paper 2A (Accounting module) Section B (36 marks) for application problems – turning 3 compulsory application problems optional, i.e. choose to answer 2 out of 3 questions and each question still carries 12 marks. Paper 2B (Business Management module) Section B (36 marks) for case studies – turning 2 compulsory case studies optional, i.e. choose to answer 1 out of 2 questions and each question still carries 18 marks. Remarks No change in the time allowed for Papers 2A and 2B.

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Streamlining Arrangements for 2023 HKDSE Examination
Design and Applied Technology	Paper 1 30% 40%	No change
	Paper 2 30% 40%	Candidates are to choose 2 elective modules among 5 electives in the existing arrangement. Candidates are required to answer only one elective . Candidates still have to answer two questions among three in one of the chosen modules. Examination time is reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour 15 min.
	SBA 40% 20%	To retain the SBA with a reduction of subject weighting from 40% to 20%. Candidates are only required to submit the first half part (Sections 1 to 4 – Design ideas development) of the SBA (20%). The remaining percentage weighting (20%) re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.
Health Management & Social Care	Paper 1 46% 57%	No change
	Paper 2 34% 43%	No change
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.
Information & Communication Technology	Paper 1 55% 70%	No change
	Paper 2 25% 30%	Candidates can choose to answer 3 out of the 4 questions in the examination papers for the Elective Part, i.e. 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D. Examination time of the paper remains unchanged.
	SBA 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.
Technology & Living	Paper 1 30% 43%	No change
	Paper 2 40% 57%	No change
	SBA 30%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1 and 2.

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Streamlining Arrangements for 2023 HKDSE Examination
Music	Paper 1 40% 50%	No change
	Paper 2 20%	Cancelled Percentage weighting re-allocated to Papers 1, 3, 4A/ 4B/ 4C.
	Paper 3 20% 25%	For Paper 3 (Creating I), trim the total duration of the composition works from 6-15 minutes to 4-12 minutes.
	Paper 4A, Paper 4B, Paper 4C (choose 1 Paper) 20% 25%	No change
Visual Arts	Paper 1 / 2 50%	No change
	SBA 50%	1 research workbook + 2 pieces of artworks/critical studies
Physical Education	Paper 1 42%	No change
	Paper 2 18%	No change
	Paper 3 40%	<p>Trim Paper 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Activity (20%) - Merge Physical Activity 1 (PA1) with Physical Activity 2 (PA2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candidates to choose 1 activity from either PA1 or PA2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For the activity to be chosen from PA1 - Assess only on basic skills (Cancel game assessment) ▪ For the activity to be chosen from PA2 - Assess only on 1 event instead of 2 events • Physical fitness (20%) – Assess only on sit-ups, sit-and-reach and pull-ups/flexed arm hang (Cancel 1609m run) <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PA1 includes 6 options: Badminton/Basketball/Football/Volleyball/Table Tennis/Handball. 2. PA2 includes 3 options: Athletics/Swimming/Gymnastics. 3. In the original assessment plan, candidates will be assessed on their performance in both basic skills demonstration and games in PA1, and also their performance in two events in PA2. <p><i>If any of the PA examinations have to be cancelled due to the pandemic or venues reasons, the results of these examinations will be projected by proportional adjustment using the results obtained in the physical fitness part of the practical examination. If all the PA examinations have to be cancelled due to the pandemic or venue reasons, the 20% for Physical Activity will be allocated to the written examination where the weighting will be adjusted from 60% to 80%.</i></p>

Streamlining Arrangement of Category B subjects:

Subject	Details of Streamlining Arrangements for 2023 HKDSE Examination
Applied Learning	<p>In considering and implementing the streamlining measures, the following principles should be adhered to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Course Providers (CP) should, as far as possible, conduct all the assessment tasks (AT) according to the Assessment Scheme (AS) approved by the Public Examinations Board (PEB) of the HKEAA.2. If completion of certain AT(s) is/are affected, postponement of completing the AT(s) due to class suspension is acceptable.3. If changes are unavoidable, CP must contact HKEAA to discuss possible alternatives. The AT(s) affected should first be identified, with rationale for considering an alternate arrangement including –<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same assessment mode (written vs practical) be maintained as far as possible• Same learning outcomes be covered under the refined AT• Same weighting be maintained4. Changes, if any, should be considered on a case-by-case basis.5. Upon discussion with the HKEAA, the CP concerned should submit a written request to HKEAA for approval. The approved AT(s) can then be conducted accordingly.6. Where an alternate arrangement is impossible, the CP concerned should submit a written request to the HKEAA for approval of exemption of the AT(s).