

**HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2024**  
**Examination Circular No. (6) 2022/2023**  
**Interim Resumption Arrangement for**  
**Category A Elective Subjects and Category B Applied Learning Subjects**

1. This circular is to inform schools of the interim resumption arrangement for the Category A elective subjects and Category B Applied Learning subjects of the 2024 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE).
2. Despite the fact that society at large is gradually returning to normality, the COVID-19 pandemic has to some extent impacted the progress of learning for the cohort of students sitting the 2024 HKDSE. With a view to releasing the pressure placed by the pandemic on this specific cohort of students and paving the way to the full resumption of the assessment requirements of the HKDSE for subsequent cohorts, the Public Examinations Board (PEB) of the HKEAA, at its meeting in late March 2023, deliberated and approved the interim resumption arrangement for the Category A elective subjects and Category B Applied Learning subjects for the 2024 HKDSE:

Category A elective subjects

- (a) Partial resumption of School-based Assessment (SBA) for nine subjects (including Chinese Literature, Literature in English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Health Management and Social Care, Information and Communication Technology, Technology and Living, and Visual Arts) and full resumption for one subject (Design and Applied Technology).
- (b) Streamlining of the assessment requirements of the written examinations of eight subjects (i.e. Chinese History, Economics, Geography, Ethics and Religious Studies, History, Tourism and Hospitality Studies, Business, Accounting and Financial Studies, and Design and Applied Technology) and full resumption for one subject (Information and Communication Technology).
- (c) Streamlining of Music Paper 3 (Portfolio Assessment) while resuming fully Music Paper 2 (Practical Examination), and partial resumption of Physical Education Paper 3 (Practical Examination).

Category B Applied Learning subjects

Course Providers (CP) should conduct all the assessment tasks according to the Assessment Scheme (AS) approved by the PEB. In case of need for changes, the CP concerned must submit a written request to the HKEAA for approval.

3. The Assessment Frameworks of the Category A elective subjects concerned have been revised as a result of the interim resumption arrangement of the public examinations and/or SBA as stated in paragraph 2(a) to (c). Highlights of the changes in the Assessment Frameworks of the Category A elective subjects and the arrangement for Category B Applied Learning subjects for the 2024 HKDSE are given in the *Annex*. The revised Assessment Frameworks and the SBA Teachers' Handbooks for the 2024 HKDSE are available on the HKEAA website:

[http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/assessment\\_framework/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/assessment_framework/)  
[https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/sub\\_info\\_sba/](https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/sub_info_sba/)

**Action Required**

4. Principals are requested to draw the attention of their teachers and students concerned to the revised 2024 HKDSE Assessment Frameworks for the Category A elective subjects resulting from the above interim resumption arrangement.
5. For enquiries, please contact Ms Chiang Wing Chi (Tel: 3628 8070).

KENNETH CHU  
Head of School Examinations and Assessment

To: Principals of Participating Schools

The table below summarises all the arrangements for Categories A and B subjects in the 2024 HKDSE.

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

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Interim Resumption Arrangements for 2024 HKDSE Examination
Chinese Literature	卷一 25%	沒有改動
	卷二 60%	沒有改動
	校本評核 15%	恢復校本評核 由三個創作練習分數改為兩個創作練習分數，創作練習必須包括散文、詩歌、小說、戲劇四類文體其中兩類。
Literature in English	Paper 1 50%	No change
	Paper 2 30%	No change
	SBA 20%	Resume SBA Reduction in scope of SBA reflected in a reduced word length from around 2000 to 2500 words to around 1200 to 1500 words.
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 第二部分回復甲部及乙部，各設三題，考生須各選一題，共答兩題；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 <del>26%</del> 29%	Marks re-allocated from Section C (Section A total: 44 → 50) (Short questions on Compulsory Part)
	Paper 2 Section B <del>35%</del> 41%	Marks re-allocated from Section C (Section B total: 60 → 70) (Structured/essay-type/data response questions on Compulsory Part)
	Paper 2 Section C 9%	Cancelled (Structured questions on Elective Part) Percentage weighting and marks 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

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<b>Geography</b>	Paper 1 75%	<u>Paper 1:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 <u>any 3 questions (out of 5) by combining both Section B &amp; Section C, AND</u></li> <li>2. Trim the coverage of the <b>fieldwork-based question</b> from 3 designated modules to <b>1 module only (Climate Change)</b> for 2024 HKDSE.</li> <li>3. The examination time will resume to normal, i.e. 2¾ hours.</li> </ol> <u>No change in the parts of MC questions (Section A) and short essay questions (Section D).</u>
	Paper 2 25%	No change
<b>History</b>	Paper 1 60%	Turn all 4 data-based questions (DBQs) in Paper 1 optional, and candidates can choose to <b>answer 3 out of 4 DBQs.</b>  <b>Examination time is reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour 45 min.</b>
	Paper 2 40%	No change
<b>Tourism and Hospitality Studies</b>	Paper 1 45%	No change
	Paper 2 55%	Trim Paper 2: Essay Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of answering 3 out of 5 questions, candidates can choose to <b>answer 2 out of 5 questions.</b></li> <li>• <b>Examination time is reduced from 1 hour 45 mins to 1 hour 15 mins.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Biology</b>	Paper 1 60%	No change
	Paper 2 20%	No change
	SBA 20%	Resume SBA  <b>Reduce the minimum number of assessments required:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Area A (8%): from 2 to 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Area B1 (6%): from 2 to 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Area B2 (6%): from 2 to 1</b></li> </ul>

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Chemistry	Paper 1 60%	No change
	Paper 2 20%	No change
	SBA 20%	Resume SBA Reduce the minimum number of assessments required from 4 to 2, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One assessment for Volumetric Analysis (VA) and</li> <li>• One assessment for Qualitative Analysis (QA) / Other Experiments (EXPT)</li> </ul>
Physics	Paper 1 60%	No change
	Paper 2 20%	No change
	SBA 20%	Resume SBA Reduce the minimum number of assessments required from 3 to 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 EXPT</li> <li>• 1 IS/EXPT*</li> </ul> [investigative study (IS) or an experiment with a detailed report (EXPT*)] The total of 1 EXPT (6%) + 1 IS/EXPT* (8%) will be scaled up to 20%.
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: <b>Paper 2A (Accounting module)</b> 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. <b>Paper 2B (Business Management module)</b> 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. <b>Remarks</b> No change in the time allowed for Papers 2A and 2B.

Subject	Assessment Framework	Details of Interim Resumption Arrangements for 2024 HKDSE Examination
<b>Design and Applied Technology</b>	Paper 1 30%	No change
	Paper 2 30%	Candidates are to choose 2 elective modules among 5 electives in the existing arrangement. Candidates are required to <b>answer only one elective</b> . Candidates still have to answer two questions among three in one of the chosen modules.  <b>Examination time is reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour 15 min.</b>
	SBA 40%	Resume complete version of SBA Candidates are required to submit both Part 1 and Part 2 of the SBA.
<b>Health Management &amp; Social Care</b>	Paper 1 46%	No change
	Paper 2 34%	No change
	SBA 20%	Resume SBA <b>Candidates are required to submit <u>only Task 3 (the reflective journal)</u> of the SBA. Task 1 (the proposal) and Task 2 (the field note) will not be counted. The weighting of Task 3 will be increased from 16% to 20%.</b>
<b>Information &amp; Communication Technology</b>	Paper 1 55%	No change
	Paper 2 25%	No Change Paper 2 resumes to the original requirement, i.e. candidates are required to choose one option in the Elective Part, i.e. 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D. All questions are compulsory.
	SBA 20%	Resume SBA <b>Instead of completing two Guided Tasks, candidates are required to complete <u>Guided Task 1 (Design &amp; Implementation) only</u>, with its weighting adjusted from 12.5% to 20%.</b>
<b>Technology &amp; Living</b>	Paper 1 30%	No change
	Paper 2 40%	No change
	SBA 30%	Resume SBA <b>Candidates are required to complete the <u>Project/Design folio only</u>, with its weighting adjusted from 20% to 30%. No need to submit the prescribed task.</b>

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<b>Music</b>	Paper 1 40%	No change
	Paper 2 20%	No change All the requirements in this performance paper resume to normal.
	Paper 3 20%	For Paper 3 (Creating I), trim the <b>total duration of the composition works from 6-15 minutes to 4-12 minutes.</b>
	Paper 4A, Paper 4B, Paper 4C (choose 1 Paper) 20%	No change
<b>Visual Arts</b>	Paper 1 / 2 50%	No change
	SBA 50%	<b>Reduce the number of artworks/critical studies required from 4 pieces to 3 pieces, i.e. 1 research workbook + 3 pieces of artworks/critical studies</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	Paper 1 42%	No change
	Paper 2 18%	No change
	Paper 3 40%	<p>Trim Paper 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physical Activity 1 (13⅓%)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assess only the Basic Skills (Cancel Game assessment)</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Physical Activity 2 (13⅓%)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Assess only 1 event instead of 2 events</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Physical Fitness (13⅓%)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>No trimming (i.e. assess on all 4 items -- sit-ups, sit-and-reach, pull-ups/flexed arm hang, and 1609m run)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Physical Activity 1 includes 6 options: Badminton/Basketball/Football/Volleyball/Table Tennis/Handball</i></li> <li>2. <i>Physical Activity 2 includes 3 options: Athletics/Swimming/Gymnastics</i></li> <li>3. <i>In the original assessment plan, candidates will be assessed on their performance in both basic skills demonstration and games in Physical Activity 1, and also their performance in two events in Physical Activity 2.</i></li> </ol>

## Interim Resumption Arrangements of Category B subjects:

Subject	Details of Interim Resumption Arrangements for 2024 HKDSE Examination
<b>Applied Learning</b>	<p>In considering and implementing the streamlining measures, the following principles should be adhered to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>2. <b>In case of need for changes</b>, CP must contact HKEAA to discuss possible alternatives, <b>with due consideration of the following</b> –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Same assessment mode <b>must</b> be maintained</li><li>• Same learning outcomes <b>must</b> be covered</li><li>• Same weighting <b>must</b> be maintained</li></ul></li><li>3. Upon discussion with the HKEAA, the CP concerned <b>must</b> submit a written request to HKEAA for approval.</li></ol>