

Ref: DSE/OP 30/2026

14 July 2025

Dear Principal,

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination 2026  
Administrative Arrangements for Music**

I would like to draw your attention to the administrative arrangements regarding the submission of performance, creating portfolios and project reports for the 2026 HKDSE Music examination:

- (1) According to the **2026 HKDSE Assessment Framework for Music**, the requirements for Paper 2 and Paper 3 remain the same as last examination year. The total duration of the ensemble performance in **Paper 2 (Performing I)** is **6 to 12 minutes**, while the compositions in **Paper 3 (Creating I)** should last **between 6 to 15 minutes**. Please note that this is the last examination year to adopt the above requirements and the revised Assessment Framework will be implemented in the 2027 HKDSE. For more details, please refer to the HKEAA website:

[https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Subject\\_Information/music/2026hkdse-e-music-rev1.pdf](https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Subject_Information/music/2026hkdse-e-music-rev1.pdf)

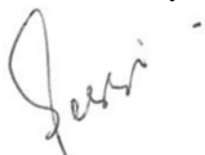
- (2) Candidates are requested to use the same language they have chosen for the Music examination in all parts of the papers (including oral presentation in Paper 2, viva voce in Paper 4B and reflective reports in Papers 3 and 4C).
- (3) The following details for the 2026 HKDSE Music Examination are provided in the **Annex** for your reference:
- (i) the submission schedule and a checklist of the items to be submitted for Papers 2 to 4C; and
  - (ii) the tentative practical examination period for Paper 4B.

Further details of the examination and submission guidelines for Papers 2 to 4C will be announced on the HKEAA website in due course. Kindly draw the attention of your teacher(s) and student(s) concerned to the above matter.

If you have any enquiries about the 2026 HKDSE Music examination, please contact our Public Examinations Information Centre at 3628 8860.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,



Bessie Leung (Ms)  
Senior Manager  
School Examinations and Assessment Division

## Administrative Arrangements for the 2026 HKDSE Music Examination

	Paper	Examination	Examination/Submission Period
Compulsory part	Paper 1 (Listening)	Written examination	Please refer to the 2026 HKDSE examination timetable
	Paper 2 (Performing I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensemble performance (6-12 minutes), Oral presentation (3-5 minutes) &amp; Sight-singing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit video recording (CD/USB) of the above three items (allow to submit an additional identical copy stored on another device)</li> <li>Music scores, sight-sing melody used</li> <li>Record form of ensemble performance, oral presentation and sight-singing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">11-14 Nov 2025 (Late submission will <b>not</b> be accepted.)</p>
	Paper 3 (Creating I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Portfolio:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scores of the compositions (two or more compositions in 6-15 minutes with at least one scored for an ensemble)</li> <li>Audio recording of the compositions in <b>one</b> CD/USB (allow to submit an additional identical copy stored on another device)</li> <li>Reflective report of about 500 words</li> <li>Declaration of authenticity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">20-23 Jan 2026 (Late submission will <b>not</b> be accepted.)</p>
Elective part (choosing one paper)	Paper 4A (Special Project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Project:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written report of about 3,000-5,000 words</li> <li>Declaration of authenticity</li> <li>Additional materials (if any)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">20-23 Jan 2026 (Late submission will <b>not</b> be accepted.)</p>
	Paper 4B (Performing II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practical Exam: Solo &amp; Viva Voce</li> </ul> <p>Candidate should bring along with him/her the music scores that will be performed for the examiner. The Authority will only provide a piano for the examination.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mid-Feb – Mid-Mar 2026</p>
		<p>Or apply for exemption:</p> <p>Candidate should submit the softcopy of the certificate at the time of entry through the HKDSE exam registration system. The certificate submitted should be verified by his/her school and the stamp of the school seal should be shown on the copy.</p>	<p>Evidence of these qualifications should be submitted to the Authority at the time of registration. Candidates may update the evidence of their qualifications no later than the stipulated deadline of the amendment period i.e. 15 Dec 2025. Late submission will <b>not</b> be accepted.</p>
	Paper 4C (Creating II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Portfolio:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>two music arrangements of specific tasks, the total duration of which should range from 8 to 18 minutes:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) to arrange an instrumental piece for a different instrumentation, and (2) to add accompaniment and extension to an existing song or melody</li> </ul> </li> <li>Scores of the original piece that make the arrangements</li> <li>Audio recording of the arrangements in <b>one</b> CD/USB (allow to submit an additional identical copy stored on another device)</li> <li>Reflective report of about 600 words</li> <li>Declaration of authenticity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">20-23 Jan 2026 (Late submission will <b>not</b> be accepted.)</p>
		<p>Or apply for exemption:</p> <p>Candidate should submit the softcopy of the certificate at the time of entry through the HKDSE exam registration system. The certificate submitted should be verified by his/her school and the stamp of the school seal should be shown on the copy.</p>	<p>Evidence of these qualifications should be submitted to the Authority at the time of registration. Candidates may update the evidence of their qualifications no later than the stipulated deadline of the amendment period i.e. 15 Dec 2025. Late submission will <b>not</b> be accepted.</p>