

Phone: 3628 8860  
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4 May 2017

To: Principals of all participating schools

Dear Principal

### **Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) Changes to Category C Other Language Subjects Examinations**

I am writing to inform you about the following changes related to Category C Other Language subjects, which have been approved by the Authority.

#### **Abolition of Category C June Series Examinations from the 2018 HKDSE**

In March 2017, a school survey was conducted to seek schools' views on the proposal to abolish the Category C June series examinations from the 2018 HKDSE. The survey results showed that all Secondary 5 (S5) students who are currently studying Category C French or Spanish will take the November 2017 series examinations while only one S5 student from a school that does not offer any classes in Category C subjects indicated that he/she may enter for the June 2018 series. In view of the extremely low school candidature and the fact that the timing of the results release of the June series no longer serves any useful purpose for local tertiary admissions, the Authority has decided that the Category C June series examinations will cease to be offered from the 2018 HKDSE. Candidates who wish to take the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) June series examinations may register for the examinations through the International and Professional Examinations Division of the HKEAA.

#### **Adoption of International Examination Paper Structure for Hindi and Urdu Languages from the 2020 HKDSE**

The HKEAA has been offering six Category C Other Language subjects using the AS level examination papers from CIE since the first administration of the HKDSE in 2012. Although CIE offers speaking papers internationally for French, German, Japanese and Spanish but not Hindi and Urdu, it was decided in 2009 that all the six other language subjects under the HKDSE should have a speaking component. Hong Kong is therefore the only place in the world that has a speaking component for Hindi and Urdu in the CIE AS level examination through special arrangements with CIE. In order to align Category C Hindi and Urdu examinations with international practice, the Authority has approved the adoption of the international version of the CIE AS level examination (i.e. without a speaking component) for these two subjects with effect from the 2020 HKDSE. As a result of the change, the following examination paper structure will be implemented for Hindi and Urdu from the 2019 November series:

Component 2: Reading & Writing (70%)  
Component 3: Essay (30%)

## **Action Required**

If your school is currently offering classes in Category C subjects or has students intending to take the Category C subjects examinations, I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the attention of the teachers and students concerned.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Public Examinations Information Centre at 3628 8860.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Margaret Hui', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Hui (Ms)  
General Manager, School Examinations and Assessment Division