

Phone: 3628 8950
Ref.: DSE/OP 1/2013

16 November 2012

To: Principals of HKDSE Participating Schools

Dear Principal

Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination 2013 Online Delivery of Practice Papers for Liberal Studies

To familiarise teachers and candidates with the assessment format and requirements of the HKDSE Examination, the HKEAA produced practice papers for the 24 New Senior Secondary (NSS) subjects and delivered them to schools in January 2012. In view of the positive feedback from schools on the 2012 HKDSE practice papers, the HKEAA has decided to provide the practice papers for Liberal Studies for the 2013 HKDSE cohort. After consultation with the Advisory Committee on Public Examinations Administration (comprising school principals and school teachers), it has been agreed that the Liberal Studies Practice Papers will be provided in electronic form on **Thursday, 13 December 2012** and be uploaded to the HKDSE Examination Online Services at <https://www.hkdse.hkeaa.edu.hk>. Schools may decide whether to use the practice papers for internal examination or for students' practice.

To facilitate communication with schools on the 2013 Liberal Studies Practice Papers, a webpage has been set up for this purpose. Principals and School Examinations Officers may access the related information from the "Practice Papers" main page of the HKDSE Examination Online Services.

Logistics Arrangements

Principals and School Examination Officers may login their designated user account to access and download the Liberal Studies Practice Papers **from 7:00 am on 13 December 2012**.

Sample Answer Books/Answer Sheets

Please note that the HKEAA will only provide the online version of Question Papers and Question-Answer Books for the Liberal Studies Practice Papers but not answer books/answer sheets. To help schools prepare the answer books/answer sheets needed by their students, a summary of the requirements for Liberal Studies at paper level is listed below for your reference.

Liberal Studies	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Paper 1 consists of three questions. Candidates should attempt all the questions. ◆ Candidates will be provided with a Question Paper and a Question-Answer Book. Write the answer to each question in the spaces provided for that question in the Question-Answer Book. Do not write answers in the spaces which are provided for other questions.
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Paper 2 consists of three questions. Candidates should attempt one question only. ◆ All answers should be written in the Answer Book.

Schools and candidates may visit the HKEAA website at <http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk> to view the samples of the cover and inner pages of the 2013 HKDSE answer books for reference from 29 November 2012.

Marking Guidelines

Principals and School Examination Officers have to login their designated user account to access and download the marking guidelines **from 8:30 am on Monday, 17 December 2012**. Schools are requested to note that the marking guidelines are **restricted for teachers' reference only**. It should also be noted that the marking guidelines to be uploaded are the preliminary versions before the normal standardisation process and some revisions may be necessary after actual samples of performance have been collected and scrutinised by the HKEAA. Teachers are strongly advised to conduct their own internal standardisation procedures before applying the marking guidelines. The public can get access to the marking guidelines on the HKEAA website from 21 December 2012.

Support to teachers

In order to provide teachers with more information about the Liberal Studies Practice Papers, seminars will be organised in January 2013 to familiarise teachers with the design of the questions, the marking criteria and samples of performance. This will provide useful feedback to teachers and students in preparation for the 2013 live examination. Further details regarding these seminars will be sent to schools in due course.

Enquiries

- (1) For enquiries about the logistics arrangements, please contact us on 3628 8950.
- (2) For technical enquiries on the HKDSE Examination Online Services, please contact our Technical Support on 3628 8333. The hotline service will also be available from 7:00 am on 13 December 2012.
- (3) For general enquiries, please contact: the Public Examinations Information Centre on 3628 8860. The hotline service will also be available from 7:00 am on 13 December 2012.

Yours sincerely



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