

Ref: DSE/OP 31/2015

29 September 2014

Dear Principal

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)
Examination Arrangements for Category C (Other Languages) Subjects in 2016 and beyond**

The purpose of this letter is to update schools about the change in the examination arrangements for Category C subjects - June series examination with effect from 2016 HKDSE.

With the inception of the HKDSE in 2012, special agreements have been made with Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) for the Other Languages June series examination results (i.e. French and Spanish only) to be made available around three weeks earlier than its normal results release date in mid-August so that these results could be considered by JUPUS for tertiary admission purposes. However, we have recently been informed by CIE that starting from 2016, to maintain the integrity of the grading process, CIE would not be able to release the June Series results for HKDSE candidates earlier than their normal schedule. In other words, the results of the French and Spanish June Series examinations will only be released in line with the CIE normal schedule, i.e. in mid-August. We are fully aware that CIE's decision might have an impact on existing Secondary 5 students who plan to take French and Spanish in June 2016. In this regard, the HKEAA will discuss with JUPAS as to how the Category C June Series results could be considered for tertiary admission in 2016. Schools will be informed of the arrangement as soon as practicable, probably by November 2014.

In the meantime, schools are requested to advise their Secondary 4 students who are studying Category C French and Spanish that they should take the November series examinations with effect from the 2017 HKDSE. It should be noted that the other four Category C subjects, namely Hindi, Urdu, German and Japanese are only offered in the November Series examinations and schools presenting candidates for these subjects have been able to complete the teaching of the AS syllabuses before the examination. According to CIE, the AS level syllabuses are designed on the assumption that candidates require about 180 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course. Therefore, S4 students this year should be ready to sit for the November Series examinations and their Category C results will be available in late January /early February 2017.

I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the attention of your teachers and students concerned. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Public Examinations Information Centre at 3628 8860.

Yours faithfully



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Director – Public Examinations