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To: Principals of HKDSE Participating Schools

Dear Principal,

HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2014 - 2016 Assessment Frameworks

As a result of the review of the New Senior Secondary (NSS) curriculum and assessment, recommendations on changes for improving and fine-tuning the delivery of the New Academic Structure (NAS) have been recently endorsed by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) and the HKEAA Public Examinations Board (PEB) for implementation in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination.

Schools may refer to the following documents published by the Education Bureau (EDB) regarding changes to the curriculum and assessment as well as other information related to the NAS review, including matters to be further deliberated at the medium- and long-term stages:

- Progress report on the New Academic Structure Review: *The New Senior Secondary Learning Journey--Moving Forward to Excel*
(<http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/doc/eng/FullReport.pdf>)
- Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 48/2013
- Education Bureau Press release dated 18 April 2013
(<http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201304/18/P201304180237.htm>)

A series of briefing sessions on the recommendations for fine-tuning the NSS curriculum and assessment of all subjects will be held from 29 April to end-May 2013. Details are provided in the Education Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 48/2013. Please encourage relevant teachers in your school to attend the briefing sessions.

Details regarding the changes to the Assessment Frameworks, covering both public examination and School-based Assessment (SBA) in the 2014 to 2016 HKDSE Examination, are provided below.

Public Examination

Annex 1 summarises the changes made to the public examination of 14 subjects. These changes will be implemented for teaching at S4 in the 2013/14 school year, leading to the 2016 HKDSE Examination. In ten of these subjects, changes that do not have major implications on learning and teaching will be implemented earlier in the 2014 and/or 2015 HKDSE Examination.

School-based Assessment

To align with the principles and changes in the curriculum, the following changes will be made to the SBA requirements and implementation schedule:

- Of the 12 subjects with SBA already implemented in the 2012 and 2013 HKDSE Examination, further streamlining proposals will be adopted in four subjects, namely Chinese Language, English Language, Liberal Studies and Information and Communication Technology.
- SBA will not be implemented in three subjects with deferred SBA, namely Mathematics, Business, Accounting and Financial Studies, and Physical Education.
- SBA implementation in the other nine deferred subjects will be further deferred to the 2019 HKDSE Examination. Further streamlining proposals will also be adopted in seven of these subjects.

Annex 2 summarises the revised implementation schedule of SBA as well as changes made to the SBA requirements of the relevant subjects.

Annex 3 shows the complete set of Assessment Frameworks of the 24 Category A subjects in the 2016 HKDSE Examination. **Annexes 4** and **5** show the revised Assessment Frameworks of 13 subjects in the 2014 examination and 14 subjects in the 2015 examination respectively. Changes are shaded for schools' easy reference. The Assessment Frameworks of all Category A subjects for the 2014 to 2016 HKDSE Examination will be uploaded to the HKEAA website by the end of May 2013.

School principals are requested to bring the attention of all staff and students concerned to the above changes in the Assessment Frameworks of the HKDSE Examination. In case of enquiries, please contact Ms Maria Fung (Tel: 3628 8070).

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Hui (Ms)

General Manager, School Examinations and Assessment Division

Changes to Public Examination for Category A Subjects

Subject	Changes	Year of Examination
Chinese Language 中國語文	試卷四 取消甲部「朗讀」，保留乙部「口語溝通」。口語溝通考試時間不變，但設每名考生一分鐘首輪發言時間。精簡後，試卷四的佔分比重維持不變，仍佔全科14%。	2014
	試卷三（聆聽能力）和試卷五（綜合能力考核）的整合 取消試卷三，保留試卷五，試卷五增加考核聆聽能力元素。	2016
Chinese Literature 中國文學	試卷一（文學創作） 取消乙部「片段寫作」，只保留甲部「文章寫作」，考試時間由3小時減為2小時。試卷一的佔分比重不變，仍佔全科34%。 試卷二（文學賞析） 由設5題選答3題改為設4題選答2題，考試時間由3小時減為2小時。試卷二的佔分比重不變，仍佔全科66%	2014
Literature in English	Merging Sets 1 & 2 of the set texts, with changes made to the design of the examination papers. Paper 1 (ex-Paper 2): Essay Writing <i>Part I</i> 1. Offering optional questions for Sections A, B and C to allow candidates to choose between two novels, two plays and two films. 2. Adopting a single short story list from a single volume and reducing the number of short stories from 10 to 8 for Section D. <i>Part II</i> 3. Setting generalised questions to avoid restricting candidates to specific texts. Paper 2 (ex-Paper 1): Appreciation 4. Reducing the duration of Paper 2 from 2.5 hours to 2 hours. <i>Section A</i> 5. Providing a choice of four questions, one for each of the novels and one for each of the plays. 6. Setting questions that involve only a single extract with no comparison of texts. <i>Section B</i> Adopting a single list of poems and reducing the number from 18 to 15.	2016
Physics	Paper 1	2014

Subject	Changes	Year of Examination
	Reducing the number of multiple-choice questions from 36 to 33.	
Combined Science	Physics Part Reducing the number of multiple-choice questions from 24 to 22.	2014
Chinese History 中國歷史	卷一（第一部分必答題）分數由50分減至25分（佔全卷1/3）。 卷一（第二部分選答題）學生在甲部及乙部各選答一題，每題佔25分（各佔全卷1/3）。 卷二每個單元設三題，考生在同一單元選答兩題完卷。每題25分。	2016
Economics	Paper 2 Increasing examination time by 15 minutes (from 2 hours to 2 hours 15 min).	2014
Geography	Paper 2 Increasing examination time by 15 minutes (from 1 hour to 1 hour 15 min).	2014
History	Paper 2 Increasing examination time by 15 minutes (from 1 hour 15 min to 1 hour 30 min).	2014
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies	Paper 1 1. Reducing the length of Paper 1 and the duration from 1.5 hours to 1 hour 15 minutes and decreasing the total mark of Section B from 40 to 30 marks 2. Offering optional questions in Section B, which will be divided into two parts: Part 1 (20 marks) will consist of 3-4 compulsory questions and Part 2 (10 marks) will provide a choice of one out of two questions. Papers 2A and 2B Reducing the length of Papers 2A and 2B and the duration from 2.5 hours to 2 hours 15 minutes and decreasing the total mark from 100 to 80 marks. Section A will carry 24 marks and Section B 36 marks. Section C will remain unchanged.	2014
	Papers 1 and 2A Specifying the cutoff date for accounting standards to be applied by the issue or revision date of the standards.	2016
Health Management and Social Care	Paper 2 Increasing examination time by 15 minutes (from 1 hour 30 min to 1 hour 45 min).	2014
Information and Communication Technology	Revising the list of SQL commands and spreadsheet functions provided on examination papers for candidates' reference.	2016
Music	Paper 2 (Performing I): Paper 2 will consist of	2015

Subject	Changes	Year of Examination
	<p>ensemble performance, viva voce and sight-singing. The requirements are two or more ensemble pieces from 10 to 15 minutes (15%) with a viva voce from 3 to 5 minutes (3%) and sight-singing (2%).</p> <p>Paper 3 (Creating I): Candidates are required to compose two or more compositions from 6 to 15 minutes (16%) with at least one ensemble piece and submit a reflective report of about 500 words (4%). Music arrangement will no longer be required.</p> <p>Paper 4A (Special Project): The number of words required will be changed from “not less than 5000 words” to “3000 to 5000 words”.</p> <p>Paper 4B (Performing II): The duration of viva voce will be reduced from “5 to 7 minutes” to “3 to 5 minutes”.</p> <p>Paper 4C (Creating II): Candidates are required to arrange two pieces from 8 to 18 minutes (16%) and submit a reflective report (4%). The number of words of the reflective report will be reduced from 700 words to 600 words.</p>	
Physical Education	Decreasing the weighting of the theory part (Papers 1 and 2) from 70% to 60% and increasing the weighting of the practical part (Paper 3) from 30% to 40%. Papers 1 and 2 will carry 42% and 18% respectively.	2016

Changes to School-based Assessment (SBA) for Category A Subjects

Table 2.1 Revised SBA Implementation Schedule

Subjects	Changes
12 subjects with SBA already implemented from the 2012 HKDSE Examination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SBA will continue to be implemented in the 12 subjects in the HKDSE Examination. 2. SBA in Chinese Language, English Language and Liberal Studies will be further streamlined with effect from the 2014 HKDSE and that in Information and Communication Technology with effect from the 2015 HKDSE Examination. (For details, please refer to Table 2.2.) 3. Clarifications will also be provided to the assessment requirements in Chinese Language (Reading Record) and Liberal Studies (Independent Enquiry Study). <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) For the other 8 subjects with SBA implemented, streamlining arrangements in 7 subjects confirmed in February 2012 will continue to be implemented. (For details, please refer to the school circular dated 28 February 2012: http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/DSECirculars/HKDSE-FinalArrangeStreamlining.pdf) (b) A new online mark submission system will be in place and all SBA marks will be submitted once in S6 with effect from the 2014 HKDSE Examination. (For details, please refer to the school circular dated 15 March 2013 on SBA Submission Arrangements for 2014 HKDSE Examination: http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Circulars/HKDSE/Circular-2013NetworkModeration_2014SBASubmission-130315.pdf) (c) The SBA implementation in the 12 subjects will be subject to regular review and continuous improvement in light of feedback from schools and live examinations.
Mathematics, Business Accounting and Financial Studies, Physical Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SBA will not be implemented in the 3 subjects in the 2016 HKDSE Examination and thereafter. Further review will be conducted in the long term. 2. The SBA in Physical Education will be replaced by the Practical Examination.

Subjects	Changes
Other 9 deferred subjects	<p>1. SBA in the following 9 deferred subjects will not be implemented in the 2016 HKDSE Examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chinese Literature - Literature in English - Economics - Ethics and Religious Studies - Geography - Tourism and Hospitality Studies - Health Management and Social Care - Technology and Living - Music* <p>Implementation will be further postponed to the 2019 examination (i.e. S4 students in 2016/17). This will allow sufficient time for schools to get familiar with the revised curriculum and assessment arrangements as well as the conduct of the SBA in the deferred subjects. (*SBA will be implemented in Music earlier if supported by schools.)</p> <p>2. To help schools prepare for full implementation, schools can trial run the SBA of the 9 deferred subjects in the 2018 HKDSE Examination on an optional basis and submit the SBA marks for feedback. The SBA marks submitted will not be counted towards the subject result.</p> <p>3. Further streamlining proposals to the SBA requirements are made to the following 7 subjects: (For details, please refer to Table 2.2.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chinese Literature - Economics - Geography - Tourism and Hospitality Studies - Health Management and Social Care - Technology and Living - Music <p>4. Further deliberations on the SBA requirements of the deferred subjects will be conducted by respective CDC-HKEAA Committees and HKDSE Subject Committees in the medium term. The SBA design may be subject to further updates in light of feedback and experience solicited from schools during the transition years. The SBA arrangements for the 2018 and 2019 HKDSE Examination will be finalised by early 2015 to allow sufficient time for schools to prepare for the optional trial and full implementation.</p>

Table 2.2 Changes to SBA Requirements

Subject	Changes	Year of Examination
1. Subjects with SBA implemented in the 2012 HKDSE Examination		
Chinese Language 中國語文	必修部分取消「日常課業及其他語文活動」，保留「閱讀活動」。「閱讀活動」佔全科6%，選修部分兩個選修單元各佔全科7%。校本評核仍佔全科比重20%。	2014
English Language	The number of SBA tasks to be conducted in the course of three years will be reduced from three to two . One mark for Part A and one mark for Part B of the SBA component should be reported. Of the two marks reported, one mark should be based on a group interaction and one on an individual presentation. The weighting of the SBA component, i.e. 15% of the subject total, will remain unchanged.	2014
Liberal Studies	Schools are not required to submit the ‘ Process ’ assessment records of the Project Proposal and Product Stages to the HKEAA. These assessment records should be properly kept by schools and upon request, be submitted to the HKEAA for inspection.	2014
Design and Applied Technology	Year-specific project titles will be provided for schools’ reference.	2015
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	The categories by which students’ projects are to be evaluated would be reduced from seven to four as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design & Implementation ● Testing & Evaluation ● Conclusion & Discussion ● Project Management 	2015
Visual Arts	Increase the maximum number of sample pages of the Research Workbook to be submitted for moderation from 12 to 24.	2016

Subject	Changes	Year of Examination
2. Deferred subjects:		
Chinese Literature 中國文學	必修部分取消「課外閱讀」，保留「創作練習」。「創作練習」佔全科9%，選修部分兩個選修單元各佔8%。校本評核佔全科比重由30%減為25%。	2019 (Optional school trial in 2018)
Economics	The number of SBA tasks to be completed will be reduced from three to two with the weighting remaining unchanged (15%).	2019 (Optional school trial in 2018)
Geography	The following streamlining of the SBA requirements will be adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are required to participate in a standardised field study under the same theme, topic and title organised by their school. ● Instead of completing a fieldwork report of 1,200 – 2,000 words, students are required to complete a short assignment of about 1,000 words consisting of two main parts instead of five, either in the form of a simple report or a structured essay. ● Two marks are to be submitted instead of five. 	2019 (Optional school trial in 2018)
Tourism and Hospitality Studies (THS)	The SBA requirements will be streamlined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deleting the ‘Task’. ● Increasing the course assignments from 2 to 3 (2 based on the Compulsory Part and 1 based on the Elective Part). ● Reducing SBA weighting from 30% to 15%. 	2019 (Optional school trial in 2018)
Health Management and Social Care (HMSC)	The audio-visual task of the ‘Project for Electives’ will be deleted. The weighting and design of SBA will be further reviewed by the HMSC working group.	2019 (Optional school trial in 2018)
Technology and Living	The SBA requirements will be streamlined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Practical Work of the Prescribed Tasks will be deleted. ● The weighting of the Prescribed Tasks will be 10% while the weighting of the Project will be 20%. 	2019 (Optional school trial in 2018)

Subject	Changes	Year of Examination
Music	The SBA will consist of what is being assessed currently in Paper 2 (Performing I) (i.e. ensemble performance, viva voce and sight-singing). The requirements are two or more ensemble pieces from 10 to 15 minutes (15%) with a viva voce from 3 to 5 minutes (3%) and sight-singing (2%).	2019 (Optional school trial in 2018)

Notes:

1. The updated SBA Teachers' Handbook for Chinese Language, English Language and Liberal Studies in the 2014 HKDSE Examination will be uploaded to the HKEAA website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/sba_hkdse/) by the end of May 2013.
2. The SBA Teachers' Handbook for 2015 HKDSE Examination will be uploaded to the HKEAA website by August 2013.
3. Latest SBA requirements for the 9 deferred subjects are provided in the document *SBA Requirements and Implementation Schedule* of respective subjects, which will be uploaded to the HKEAA website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/sba_hkdse/) by the end of May 2013.