

Phone: 3628 8950
Ref.: DSE/PO 4

30 May 2014

Dear Principal

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination
Examination Regulations for 2017 Examination**

Schools have been informed of the changes to the 2015 and 2016 HKDSE Examination Regulations vide Examination Circular No. (9) 2013/2014 dated 23 April 2014. The 2017 HKDSE Examination Regulations remain the same as those of the 2016 HKDSE except for the regulations governing the Applied Learning (ApL) subjects in Sections 2.4 - 2.6.

Regulations for 2017 HKDSE regarding Applied Learning (ApL) subjects

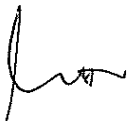
With regard to the early commencement of ApL subjects, the Education Bureau (EDB) has received requests from schools to consider offering ApL in the first term of Secondary 4. In response to the measures to strengthen administrative support for schools, the EDB decided to further advance the provision of ApL subjects such that the first year of study (Y1) can commence in the first term of Secondary 4 and the second year (Y2) in Secondary 5. The early commencement at the beginning of S4 could help ease the difficulty of school timetabling and meet the needs of the students. Despite the new arrangement, the moderation work and the grading of the ApL subject will continue to be conducted at the end of Secondary 6 for the entire cohort (i.e. S4-S6, S5-S6 and S4-S5) and the students will register for the ApL subject together with Category A or Category C (June series) subjects when they are in Secondary 6. As the provision of early commencement will be implemented from the 2014-15 school year, the new arrangement will take place from the 2017 HKDSE Examination.

The provisional list of ApL subjects to be offered in 2017 has also been updated subject to the final list being confirmed by EDB.

To prepare for the 2017 HKDSE Examination and to cater for possible changes in the Regulations & Assessment Frameworks (R&AF) resulting from the second batch recommendations of the medium-term review of the New Academic Structure to be announced by July 2015, an electronic version of the 2017 HKDSE Examination Regulations and Assessment Frameworks has been uploaded to the HKEAA website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/admin/exam_regulations/).

School principals are requested to bring the attention of their teachers and students to the above changes to the 2017 HKDSE Examination Regulations. In case of enquiries, please contact Mr KW Lok (Tel: 3628 8950).

Yours faithfully



Margaret Hui (Ms)

General Manager, School Examinations & Assessment Division