

Phone: 3628 8917
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19 May 2015

To: Principals of Participating Schools

Dear Principal

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)
Review of Special Examination Arrangements for Candidates with Autistic Spectrum Disorder /
Hearing Impairment**

As you are aware, special examination arrangements (SEAs) are made for candidates with special educational needs (SEN) to enable them to be equitably assessed in the public examination under suitable conditions without creating an unfair advantage over other candidates. In a bid to enhance our services for SEN candidates, the HKEAA has set up a number of working groups to review the SEAs for different SEN types. Some of the recommendations on SEAs have been endorsed by the Committee on Special Needs Candidates and approved by the Public Examinations Board (PEB) for implementation in the 2016 HKDSE. Details are given below:

Candidates with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Currently, visually impaired candidates may be provided with plain text labels / descriptions for questions that involve cartoons or complicated pictures, where appropriate. The plain text labels / descriptions describe the layout of the cartoons or pictures in the text format without giving any interpretation or revealing the underlying meaning of these cartoons or pictures, which would otherwise compromise the assessment objectives of the subjects concerned. It has been agreed that this SEA be made available to ASD candidates for questions that involve high level comprehension / interpretation of cartoons or complicated pictures starting from the 2016 HKDSE. To enable schools to practise the SEA for ASD students in school, samples of the plain text labels / descriptions for Liberal Studies, Chinese History and History in the 2015 HKDSE will be available for downloading under 'Services to Special Needs Candidates' from the HKEAA website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/tc/Candidates/special_needs_candidates/hkdse.html) from 22 May 2015. Please note that the provision of plain text labels / descriptions to questions that involve high-level comprehension / interpretation of cartoons or complicated pictures is based on professional judgment with reference to the assessment objectives of the subjects concerned.

Candidates with ASD have to indicate in the SEA application whether they need the plain text labels / descriptions and the subject(s) concerned (normally in Liberal Studies, Chinese History, and History). They should also be provided with the plain text labels / descriptions in the previous school internal examinations.

Candidates with Hearing Impairment (HI)

In the 2015 HKDSE, candidates with moderate hearing impairment were given the option of prolonged and/or more frequent pauses in the listening papers of Chinese Language and English Language. This SEA will be made available to candidates with mild or moderate hearing impairment in the 2016 HKDSE. Schools and/or candidates have to indicate in the SEA application whether the prolonged and/or more frequent pauses are needed for the papers concerned.

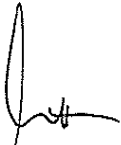
Follow-up Action

School principals are requested to bring the contents of this letter to the attention of your teachers, SEA Application Officer(s), ASD/HI students studying S4 and S5 in 2014/15 and their parents, if applicable.

Applications for SEAs in the 2016 and 2017 HKDSE will be accepted in September 2015. For ASD/HI candidates who have already submitted SEA applications in 2014/15 and would like to opt for the above SEA in the 2016 HKDSE, schools are requested to submit an application again for the candidates concerned in September 2015. Details of the application procedures will be provided in the examination circular to be issued by late August 2015.

If you have any enquiries, please feel free to call our SEN hotline on 3628 8917.

Yours faithfully



Margaret Hui (Ms)
General Manager - School Examinations and Assessment