

A. General Information

1. Important Notes

This Handbook contains important information relating to participation in the HKDSE. Candidates are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the regulations, procedures and instructions provided in this Handbook. All candidates are required to abide by the regulations laid down in this Handbook when taking the examination.

Candidates should pay special attention to the following highlights regarding the 2021 HKDSE:

(1) Revised Examination Timetable

Due to the latest situation of COVID-19, the written examinations of the 2021 HKDSE Category A subjects have been postponed to start from 23 April 2021 and the speaking examinations of both Chinese Language and English Language will not take place. To minimise the chance for possible infections, the examination period has been shortened such that two or more elective subjects will be examined on the same day (morning or afternoon) if there is no overlap of candidates. Therefore, candidates should pay attention to their examination schedule.

The Assessment Frameworks of 9 Category A subjects have been changed as a result of the implementation of one-off contingency measures to streamline the public examination. The 9 subjects are Economics, Geography, History, Chinese History, Ethics & Religious Studies, Tourism & Hospitality Studies, Business, Accounting & Financial Studies, Design & Applied Technology and Information & Communication Technology. The examination time of Geography Paper 1, History Paper 1, Tourism & Hospitality Studies Paper 2 and Design & Applied Technology Paper 2 has also been shortened. For details regarding the streamlined requirements of the respective subjects, please refer to the Instructions for Individual Subjects under Section E.

The Physical Education/Music practical examinations will also be streamlined and are tentatively scheduled for mid-February to mid-April 2021. The release of the 2021 HKDSE results will tentatively be deferred to 21 July 2021. For details, please refer to Sections A2 and A4.

(2) Changes in Examination Timetable, cancellation of the Examination and restricting participation in the Examination due to special circumstances

The Authority has discretion in making changes to the HKDSE examination timetable, cancellation of the Examination and restricting participation in the Examination due to special circumstances. Please refer to Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the 2021 HKDSE Examination Regulations for details.

(3) Candidates' responsibility to comply with necessary statutory requirements for sitting the HKDSE

All candidates should ensure that they comply with necessary statutory requirements for sitting the HKDSE in Hong Kong, such as applicable visa or stay conditions, quarantine requirements, etc. before the examinations. For details, please refer to Section 5.2 of the HKDSE Examination Regulations.

(4) Failure to produce Admission Form and / or Identification Document

Candidates must bring along the original of their admission form and identity card (or another valid identification document with a photograph) for inspection at each examination session. Failure in doing so may result in their answer scripts not being accepted by the HKEAA. Please refer to the General Instructions under Section B.

(5) Super-late Applications for Subject Amendment or Requests for Special Examination Arrangements (SEAs)

Any super-late requests for changes in subject entries will **NOT be accepted** on or after **9 April 2021** (i.e. 10 working days before the start of the first written examination on 23 April 2021). The HKEAA will not provide faxed copies of question papers to wrong-centre or wrong-version candidates. No special arrangements can be made on the spot for candidates who have registered for a wrong language version/paper/module. For wrong-version cases, the candidate will have to work on the version of the question papers available at the centre once he/she has read the question papers. However, the answers can be written in the language the candidate has registered for or intended to register for. The above deadline is also applicable to super-late requests for additional SEAs unless there are extenuating circumstances.

(6) English Language Paper 1 (Reading) and Paper 3 (Listening and Integrated Skills)

There are two parts in each of these two papers. All candidates must do Part A and then choose either Part B1, the easier section, or Part B2, the more difficult section. Candidates must tie their Part A question-answer book with the attempted Part B (i.e. **either B1 or B2**) question-answer book with the green tag provided. Invigilators will first collect the attempted Part A + Part B1/B2 question-answer books and then the unattempted Part B question-answer book separately. Barcode labels and candidate numbers need **NOT** be put on the cover of the unattempted Part B question-answer book of English Language Paper 1.

Note: There is a sessional break of 60 minutes between English Language Paper 1 and Paper 2. The sessional break includes the time for script collection in Paper 1 and the preparation time before the start of the Paper 2 examination.

(7) Chinese Language (Cantonese Version) and English Language Listening Components

The Chinese Language (Cantonese version) and English Language Listening components will be broadcast via radio/Infra-red (IR) Transmission System/PA system (for Chinese Language (Putonghua) only). This information will be indicated on the Admission Form.

For radio-broadcast centres, candidates must bring their own radio set equipped with earphones to take the examination. Candidates assigned to centres using IR Transmission System must bring their own earphones to the examination centre but they need not bring a radio. Candidates assigned to centres using PA system need not bring any earphones.

(8) Proper Use of Answer Books / Question-Answer Books / Supplementary Answer Sheets / MC Answer Sheets

All answers must be written in the specified areas in the answer books/question-answer books/answer sheets/MC answer sheets. Candidates should put an 'X' in the correct question number box on each page of the answer book/supplementary answer sheet so that answers to the selected question(s) can be marked accordingly. Candidates should **NOT** write answers to more than one question on the same page of the answer book/sheet. If a paper requires the use of more than one answer book/question-answer book for different sections, separate supplementary answer sheets should be used for each section and fastened with string inside the relevant answer book/question-answer book. For multiple-choice questions, candidates must fill in the appropriate box/circle for their answer properly. Unless otherwise specified on the question paper, candidates should **NOT** fill in more than one answer to each multiple-choice question. Candidates who fail to follow these instructions will run the risk of their answers **NOT being marked**. For details, please refer to Sections B4(b) and B6.

(9) Candidates' Discipline in Examinations

Candidates are not allowed to take photographs, video-record or audio-record in the examination room before/during/after the examinations, or else they will receive a **mark penalty**. If any photographs/videos/records are displayed electronically or publicly, the candidates concerned will receive a **subject downgrading**.

(10) Candidates Lodging Complaints / Reporting Irregularities

Candidates should seek help from invigilators immediately if there are any undesirable conditions at the examination centre. They should provide specific details about the undesirable conditions encountered (e.g. time and duration of the noise/disturbance) when lodging the complaints before they leave the examination centre. **No special consideration** will be given to candidates who do not report unsatisfactory conditions at the centre but subsequently claim that their performance has been affected by:

- ◆ insufficient examination time (unless there is substantiating evidence from the examination centre)
- ◆ normal background noise at examination centres (e.g. from outside vehicles, normal school activities, school bell, etc.)
- ◆ undesirable examination centre conditions (e.g. noise, room temperature, lighting, etc.) which are not reported to invigilation staff on the spot
- ◆ having no clock or not being able to view the clock in the examination centre

For the listening component of the language subjects, complaints about poor reception under the following circumstances will **NOT be entertained**:

- ◆ taking the examination in the original centre without going to the 'Special Room' despite reception problems
- ◆ possible interference by the radios or antennae of other candidates

(11) Applications for Rechecking and Remarking / Appeal Review

The application deadline for rechecking and remarking for Category A, Category B and Category C subjects is **5 calendar days** after the release of the examination results. For Categories A and B subjects, candidates should settle the required fee **within 2 calendar days after the date of submission of application**. **If the deadline for payment falls on a Saturday or Sunday, it will be automatically deferred to the next Monday**. School candidates should follow the closing date for application set by their schools. Appeal review applications in respect of the processing of examination irregularities or rechecking and remarking process are accepted within **5 calendar days** after the release of the examination results or the rechecking and remarking results. For details, please refer to Section F.

(12) Candidates Lodging Appeals / Queries / Requests after the Examination

The 2021 HKDSE is deemed to be closed on 30 November 2021 (unless otherwise decided by the HKEAA), after which the HKEAA will not consider or entertain any appeals, queries or requests in relation to the examination.

2. Examination Timetable

日期 Date	時間 Time	Subject / Paper	科目/試卷
四月二十三日 (星期五) Friday, 23rd April	8:30 - 12:30	Visual Arts 1,2	視覺藝術 (一)及(二)
四月二十四日 (星期六) Saturday, 24th April	8:30 - 11:00	Chemistry 1	化學 (一)
	11:45 - 12:45	Chemistry 2	化學 (二)
	8:30 - 10:10	Combined Science (Chemistry)	組合科學 (化學)
四月二十六日 (星期一) Monday, 26th April	8:30 - 10:30	Liberal Studies 1	通識教育 (一)
	11:15 - 12:30	Liberal Studies 2	通識教育 (二)
四月二十七日 (星期二) Tuesday, 27th April	8:30 - 10:00	English Language 1	英國語文 (一)
	11:00 - 13:00	English Language 2	英國語文 (二)
四月二十八日 (星期三) Wednesday, 28th April	9:15 - 12:10*	English Language 3 (Listening and Integrated Skills)	英國語文 (三) (聆聽及綜合能力考核)
四月二十九日 (星期四) Thursday, 29th April	8:30 - 10:00	Chinese Language 1	中國語文 (一)
	10:45 - 12:15	Chinese Language 2	中國語文 (二)
四月三十日 (星期五) Friday, 30th April	# 9:15 - 11:40*	Chinese Language 3 (Listening and Integrated Skills)	中國語文 (三) (聆聽及綜合能力考核)
五月三日 (星期一) Monday, 3rd May	8:30 - 10:45	Mathematics Compulsory Part 1	數學 必修部分 (一)
	11:30 - 12:45	Mathematics Compulsory Part 2	數學 必修部分 (二)
五月四日 (星期二) Tuesday, 4th May	8:30 - 11:30	Literature in English 1	英語文學 (一)
	13:30 - 15:30	Literature in English 2	英語文學 (二)
	8:30 - 10:30	Design and Applied Technology 1	設計與應用科技 (一)
	11:15 - 12:30	Design and Applied Technology 2	設計與應用科技 (二)
五月五日 (星期三) Wednesday, 5th May	8:30 - 10:30	Integrated Science 1	綜合科學 (一)
	11:15 - 12:45	Integrated Science 2	綜合科學 (二)
	8:30 - 11:00	Physics 1	物理 (一)
	11:45 - 12:45	Physics 2	物理 (二)
	8:30 - 10:10	Combined Science (Physics)	組合科學 (物理)
五月六日 (星期四) Thursday, 6th May	8:30 - 10:15	History 1	歷史 (一)
	11:00 - 12:30	History 2	歷史 (二)
五月七日 (星期五) Friday, 7th May	8:30 - 10:30	Information & Communication Technology 1	資訊及通訊科技 (一)
	11:15 - 12:45	Information & Communication Technology 2	資訊及通訊科技 (二)
五月八日 (星期六) Saturday, 8th May	8:30 - 11:00	Geography 1	地理 (一)
	11:45 - 13:00	Geography 2	地理 (二)
五月十日 (星期一) Monday, 10th May	8:30 - 11:00	Biology 1	生物 (一)
	11:45 - 12:45	Biology 2	生物 (二)
	8:30 - 10:10	Combined Science (Biology)	組合科學 (生物)
五月十一日 (星期二) Tuesday, 11th May	8:30 - 10:30	Chinese Literature 1	中國文學 (一)
	11:15 - 13:15	Chinese Literature 2	中國文學 (二)
	8:30 - 10:00	Technology & Living 1	科技與生活 (一)
五月十二日 (星期三) Wednesday, 12th May	10:45 - 12:45	Technology & Living 2	科技與生活 (二)
	8:30 - 9:45	Business, Accounting & Financial Studies 1	企業、會計與財務概論 (一)
五月十三日 (星期四) Thursday, 13th May	10:30 - 12:45	Business, Accounting & Financial Studies 2	企業、會計與財務概論 (二)
	8:30 - 10:45	Chinese History 1	中國歷史 (一)
五月十四日 (星期五) Friday, 14th May	11:30 - 12:50	Chinese History 2	中國歷史 (二)
	8:30 - 10:00	Tourism & Hospitality Studies 1	旅遊與款待 (一)
五月十五日 (星期六) Saturday, 15th May	10:45 - 12:00	Tourism & Hospitality Studies 2	旅遊與款待 (二)
	8:30 - 9:30	Economics 1	經濟 (一)
五月十七日 (星期一) Monday, 17th May	10:15 - 12:45	Economics 2	經濟 (二)
	8:30 - 11:00	Mathematics Extended Part Modules 1,2	數學 延伸部分 單元 (一)及(二)
五月十八日 (星期二) Tuesday, 18th May	13:30 - 15:15	Ethics & Religious Studies 1	倫理與宗教 (一)
	16:00 - 17:45	Ethics & Religious Studies 2	倫理與宗教 (二)
	8:30 - 10:00	Music 1A	音樂 (一甲)
五月二十日 (星期四) Thursday, 20th May	10:45 - 12:15	Music 1B	音樂 (一乙)
	8:30 - 10:45	Physical Education 1	體育 (一)
	11:30 - 12:45	Physical Education 2	體育 (二)
五月二十一日 (星期五) Friday, 21st May	8:30 - 10:30	Health Management & Social Care 1	健康管理與社會關懷 (一)
	11:15 - 13:00	Health Management & Social Care 2	健康管理與社會關懷 (二)
五月二十二日 (星期六) Saturday, 22nd May		Reserve	後備

廣東話組卷三的報到時間為上午 9 時 15 分；普通話組卷三的報到時間為上午 9 時 30 分。

Candidates taking the Cantonese version of Paper 3 should report at 9:15 a.m. while those taking the Putonghua version should report at 9:30 a.m.

* 約計聆聽卷別的完結時間

Approximate examination end time of the Listening papers

註： 2021 年 5 月 1 日(勞動節)，2021 年 5 月 19 日(佛誕)

Note: 1 May 2021 (Labour Day), 19 May 2021 (Buddha's Birthday)

注意：應考下列科目/卷別的考生應參閱其准考證上所列的考試日期和時間(報到時間)：

Note: Candidates should refer to their Admission Form for the examination date and time (reporting time) for the following Subjects / Papers:

日期 Date	時間 Time	Subject 科目 / Paper 試卷
2021 年 2 月中旬至 3 月下旬 mid-February – late March 2021	8:00 - 19:00	Physical Education 3 (Practical) 體育 卷三 (實習考試)
2021 年 2 月下旬至 4 月中旬 late February – mid-April 2021	9:00 - 18:00	Music 4B (Practical) 音樂 卷四乙 (實習考試)

Candidates are expected to make themselves available for the whole examination period including the reserve examination dates specified above in case any written examinations are rescheduled due to unforeseeable circumstances.

考生應預留整個考試時段包括上述列出的後備考試日期，如遇到一些未能預計的情況，筆試可能會被安排於後備考試日期進行。

3. List of Services and Related Supplementary Fees

Service	Fee			Date	
Addition/Change of subjects/papers/elective modules OR Change of language version	On or before 7 December 2020 \$268 per application			Application will normally NOT be accepted after 7 December 2020	
	After 7 December 2020 \$617 per subject plus subject fee				
	Note: 1) The subject fees for the 2021 HKDSE school candidates will be settled by the Government. 2) Any super-late requests for changes will NOT be accepted from 9 April 2021 .				
Issue of replacement Admission Forms	\$268			Deadline: 20 May 2021	
Issue of replacement Results Notices	\$268			Deadline: 31 October 2021	
Applications for Rechecking and Remarking (see Section F, Part 3)	Rechecking	Language Subject	School Candidate \$224	Private Candidate \$269	Within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results (Note: School candidates should abide by the closing date set by their own schools)
		Non Language Subject	\$187	\$224	
	Remarking	Combined Science component	\$448 per component	\$537 per component	
		Non Language Subject	\$745	\$893	
		Language Subject	\$893	\$1,072	
		Language Subject component (Written Papers only)	\$357 per component	\$428 per component	
Category A Subjects	Rechecking	per subject	\$187	\$224	
Category B Subjects	Rechecking	per subject	\$224	\$269	
	Remarking	per subject (excluding Speaking)	\$893	\$1,072	
	Remarking (with a copy of script)	per subject (excluding Speaking)	\$1,293	\$1,472	
Applications for Appeal Review (see Section F, Part 4)	Examination Irregularities		\$941 per case	Within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results	
	Rechecking / Remarking Process		\$941 per subject	Within 5 calendar days after the release of rechecking / remarking results	
	Marking of Scripts		\$941 per subject	Within 10 calendar days after the scripts are made available to the candidate	

- ◆ For changes of personal data, private candidates should submit their applications together with relevant supporting documents in person (or through an authorised representative who should produce a photocopy of the candidate's identification document for inspection) to the HKEAA Southern Centre office on or before 15 January 2021. School candidates should apply via their schools. After verification of the related documents, the school should forward the applications to the HKEAA for amendment. Any applications received after the above deadline will result in the requested changes not reflected on admission forms. Candidates should submit their applications on or before 12 July 2021 if they would like to have the requested changes updated on the Results Notice.
- ◆ For candidates with substantiated financial difficulties who are receiving financial aid, the HKEAA may consider waiving part of the supplementary fees on a case by case basis. Candidates should request a fee waiver at the time they apply for the above services. School candidates should submit their requests through their schools.
- ◆ For the replacement of documents, candidates may submit their applications in person or through an authorised representative who should produce a photocopy of the candidate's identification document for inspection. School candidates should submit their applications along with a school letter.

4. Important Dates

	Event	Date
1	Deadline for Withdrawal from the 2021 HKDSE	30 November 2020
2	Uploading of the 'Handbook for Candidates' on the HKEAA website	Mid-December 2020
3	Issue of Admission Forms: - For Category A practical examinations - For Category A written examinations	Late January/Early February 2021 Mid-March 2021
4	Examination Periods: - Written examinations (Category A subjects)	23 April – 20 May 2021
5	Release of Examination Results: - Category A and Category B subjects	21 July 2021 (tentative)
6	Applications for Rechecking and Remarking for Category A and Category B Subjects: - Deadline for application - Release of results	26 July 2021 18 August 2021 (tentative)
7	Appeal Review Applications on Examination Irregularities: - Deadline for application - Release of results	26 July 2021 Around 18 August 2021
8	Appeal Review Applications on Rechecking & Remarking Process: - Deadline for application - Release of results	23 August 2021 Around 20 September 2021
9	Appeal Review Applications on Marking of Scripts: - Deadline for application - Release of results	- 10 calendar days after the scripts are made available to the candidates - Around late October or late November, depending on the date of application
10	Issue of Certificates	October 2021
11	Closing of Examination	30 November 2021

5. Useful Contact Information

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority		
	Southorn Centre Office	San Po Kong Office
Address	School Examinations and Assessment Division 12/F, Southorn Centre 130 Hennessy Road Wan Chai, Hong Kong	Publications Unit G/F, 17 Tseuk Luk Street San Po Kong Kowloon
Telephone	3628 8860	3628 8263
Fax	3628 8928	3628 8291
Office Hours	Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and General Holidays)	
Areas of Work & Services Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Enquiries about the HKDSE ◆ Change of candidates' personal or entry data ◆ Re-issue of admission forms / results notices ◆ Sale of HKDSE Publications, such as Question Papers for Category A subjects (with marking schemes and comments on candidates' performance) ◆ Issue of Letters of Certification / Statements of Results / Certifications for Entering / Participation in an Examination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sale of HKDSE Publications, such as Question Papers for Category A subjects (with marking schemes and comments on candidates' performance) ◆ Issue of Letters of Certification / Statements of Results (for non-express service only) / Certifications for Entering / Participation in an Examination
Website	http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk	
Email	dse@hkeaa.edu.hk	
DSE Express	http://blog.hkeaa.edu.hk/	
HKDSE Apps	HKDSE App is now available for free at App Store and Google Play. For details, please visit http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/app/	

Useful Telephone Numbers 📞

		Telephone No.
HKEAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Enquiries about the HKDSE ◆ Report of examination irregularities ◆ Report of noise disturbance at centres before the examination ◆ Lodging complaints ◆ Report of illness before an examination 	3628 8860
Citybus Ltd.		2873 0818
MTR Corporation Ltd.		2881 8888
New World First Bus Services Ltd.		2136 8888
The Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (1933) Ltd.		2745 4466
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal Enquiries		2835 1473

6. Data Access Request under Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance

Pursuant to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), candidates may apply to access their examination-related personal data. Details of applications (including the date for destruction of examination scripts and irregularity reports of the 2021 HKDSE) will be given in the Application Guide on Data Access Request, which will be available on the HKEAA website (www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/our_services/personal_data/) in May 2021.