

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 should abide by the regulations laid down in this Handbook when taking the examination.

Candidates should pay special attention to the following highlights regarding the 2024 HKDSE:

(1) Examination Timetable

The written examinations of Category A subjects are scheduled to start from 9 April 2024. The Literature in English Paper 2 examination will resume to normal, i.e. from 13:30 to 15:30. The examination time of Chinese Language Paper 2 will be extended to 2 hours 15 minutes while the Geography Paper 1 examination will resume to normal, i.e. 2 hours 45 minutes. The Speaking examination of English Language will be held from 12 March to 21 March 2024. The Practical examinations of Physical Education and Music are scheduled for mid-February to early April 2024.

The assessment requirements of written examinations of eight subjects (i.e. Chinese History, Economics, Geography, Ethics and Religious Studies, History, Tourism and Hospitality Studies, Business, Accounting and Financial Studies, and Design and Applied Technology) have been streamlined while one subject (i.e. Information and Communication Technology) has been fully resumed. For details, please refer to the **Instructions for Individual Subjects** under **Sections A2 and E**.

(2) Contingency Arrangements

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 2024 HKDSE Examination Regulations for details. 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, etc. before the examinations. For details, please refer to Section 5.2 of the HKDSE Examination Regulations.

(3) Public Examinations Support System 2 (PESS2) (Applicable to normal centres only)

To facilitate the smooth conduct of public examinations, the Public Examinations Communication and Support System (PECSS) and Attendance and Script Tracking System (ASTS) have been used to support the conduct of written examinations since 2007. With a view to enhancing the system functions by making use of the latest technology, a new digital platform, i.e. Public Examinations Support System 2 (PESS2) is being developed to replace the existing PECSS and ASTS from the 2024 HKDSE. With the implementation of PESS2, candidates are required to use their mobile phone to perform self check-in via the 'Check-in Smart (HKDSE)' App after they arrive at the examination centre. During the attendance taking process, invigilators will verify candidates' identity via mobile devices showing the photograph of candidates provided during the registration. **Candidates should download and install the App before going to the examination centres. Please download the 'Check-in Smart (HKDSE)' App at App Store or Google Play and stay updated with the latest information.**

(4) 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 **21 March 2024** (i.e. 10 working days before the start of the first written examination on 9 April 2024). 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.

(5) 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 to do so may result in their answer scripts not being accepted by the HKEAA. Please refer to the General Instructions under **Section B**.

(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) English Language Listening Component

The English Language Listening component will be broadcast via radio/Infra-red (IR) Transmission System/Public Address (PA) System (including USB player or computer). 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 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.

Special Room is only applicable to centres broadcasting the Listening component via radio or IR System but **NOT** for centres using PA System (including USB player or computer).

(8) English Language Speaking Examination

Candidates must report to the reporting room supervisor of the assigned examination centre at the time specified on their admission form. If a candidate is **late for more than 15 minutes**, he/she will **NOT be examined on that day** and will have to apply for rescheduling **within 3 working days**.

Candidates should focus on interacting with the other candidates during the group interaction. As the individual characteristics of the examiners or other candidates including mannerisms and facial expressions may vary, such variations are not regarded as an examination irregularity or deviation from stipulated examination procedures. Complaints about performance being affected by the mannerisms and facial expressions of the examiners or other candidates will **NOT be entertained**. In addition, examination procedures are in place to allow all candidates a fair chance to participate in the group interaction. In this regard, examiners will take appropriate action if they feel that any candidate is dominating the group interaction. The marking of dominating candidates will also be handled appropriately. Therefore, complaints about other candidates dominating the group interaction/interruption by other candidates in the same group/interruption by the oral examiners in the group interaction when normal procedures are being followed will **NOT be entertained**.

(9) Candidates' Discipline in Written and Speaking Examinations

Candidates should leave the examination room in an orderly manner upon the announcement of 'Dismissal of candidates' made by the Centre Supervisor (except those who need to stay behind for the handling of examination irregularities). Candidates are **NOT** allowed to take photographs (including screen capture of the barcode label), video-record or audio-record in the examination room (including the Reporting Room and Preparation Room for Speaking examinations) 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**.

In Speaking examinations, candidates must **NOT** talk to other candidates (except during the group interaction) or use an electronic device* to communicate with others or access the internet/email/SMS/instant messaging application, etc. after entering the reporting room (i.e. in the reporting room/preparation room/examination room/corridor/toilet) until the end of the examination. Candidates disobeying the instructions will receive a **mark penalty, subject downgrading or may even be disqualified from the whole examination**.

* Electronic devices include tablets, mobile phones, multimedia players, electronic dictionaries, databank watches, smart watches, wireless earphones or other wearable technologies with communication or data storage functions, etc.

(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 English Language, 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 (applicable for centres using radio and IR System only) despite reception problems
- ◆ possible interference by the radios or antennae of other candidates

Complaints against the precautionary measures implemented at examination centres will **NOT be entertained**.

(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 2024 HKDSE is deemed to be closed on **30 November 2024** (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
四月九日 (星期二) Tuesday, 9th April	8:30 - 12:30	Visual Arts 1,2	視覺藝術 (一) 及 (二)
四月十日 (星期三) Wednesday, 10th April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 12:30	Design & Applied Technology 1 Design & Applied Technology 2	設計與應用科技 (一) 設計與應用科技 (二)
四月十一日 (星期四) Thursday, 11th April	8:30 - 10:00 10:45 - 13:00	Chinese Language 1 Chinese Language 2	中國語文 (一) 中國語文 (二)
四月十二日 (星期五) Friday, 12th April	8:30 - 10:00 11:00 - 13:00	English Language 1 English Language 2	英國語文 (一) 英國語文 (二)
四月十三日 (星期六) Saturday, 13th 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)
四月十五日 (星期一) Monday, 15th April	8:30 - 10:45 11:30 - 12:45	Mathematics Compulsory Part 1 Mathematics Compulsory Part 2	數學 必修部分 (一) 數學 必修部分 (二)
四月十六日 (星期二) Tuesday, 16th April	8:30 - 10:30	Citizenship and Social Development	公民與社會發展
四月十七日 (星期三) Wednesday, 17th April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 13:00	Health Management & Social Care 1 Health Management & Social Care 2	健康管理與社會關懷 (一) 健康管理與社會關懷 (二)
四月十八日 (星期四) Thursday, 18th April	8:30 - 11:00 11:45 - 12:45	Chemistry 1 Chemistry 2	化學 (一) 化學 (二)
四月十九日 (星期五) Friday, 19th April	8:30 - 11:15 12:00 - 13:15	Geography 1 Geography 2	地理 (一) 地理 (二)
四月二十日 (星期六) Saturday, 20th April	8:30 - 11:00	Mathematics Extended Part Modules 1,2	數學 延伸部分 單元 (一) 及 (二)
四月二十二日 (星期一) Monday, 22nd April	8:30 - 9:30 10:15 - 12:45	Economics 1 Economics 2	經濟 (一) 經濟 (二)
四月二十三日 (星期二) Tuesday, 23rd April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 13:15	Chinese Literature 1 Chinese Literature 2	中國文學 (一) 中國文學 (二)
四月二十四日 (星期三) Wednesday, 24th April	8:30 - 10:00 10:45 - 12:45	Technology & Living 1 Technology & Living 2	科技與生活 (一) 科技與生活 (二)
四月二十五日 (星期四) Thursday, 25th April	8:30 - 11:00 11:45 - 12:45	Physics 1 Physics 2	物理 (一) 物理 (二)
四月二十六日 (星期五) Friday, 26th April	8:30 - 10:45 11:30 - 12:50	Chinese History 1 Chinese History 2	中國歷史 (一) 中國歷史 (二)
四月二十七日 (星期六) Saturday, 27th April	8:30 - 11:00 11:45 - 12:45	Biology 1 Biology 2	生物 (一) 生物 (二)
四月二十八日 (星期日) Sunday, 28th April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 12:45	Information & Communication Technology 1 Information & Communication Technology 2	資訊及通訊科技 (一) 資訊及通訊科技 (二)
四月二十九日 (星期一) Monday, 29th April	8:30 - 9:45 10:30 - 12:45	Business, Accounting & Financial Studies 1 Business, Accounting & Financial Studies 2	企業、會計與財務概論 (一) 企業、會計與財務概論 (二)
四月三十日 (星期二) Tuesday, 30th April	8:30 - 11:30 13:30 - 15:30	Literature in English 1 Literature in English 2	英語文學 (一) 英語文學 (二)
	8:30 - 10:45 11:30 - 12:45	Physical Education 1 Physical Education 2	體育 (一) 體育 (二)
	8:30 - 10:00 10:45 - 12:15	Music 1A Music 1B	音樂 1A 音樂 1B
五月二日 (星期四) Thursday, 2nd May	8:30 - 10:15 11:00 - 12:30	History 1 History 2	歷史 (一) 歷史 (二)
五月三日 (星期五) Friday, 3rd May	8:30 - 10:15 11:00 - 12:45	Ethics & Religious Studies 1 Ethics & Religious Studies 2	倫理與宗教 (一) 倫理與宗教 (二)
五月四日 (星期六) Saturday, 4th May	8:30 - 10:00 10:45 - 12:00	Tourism & Hospitality Studies 1 Tourism & Hospitality Studies 2	旅遊與款待 (一) 旅遊與款待 (二)
五月六日 (星期一) Monday, 6th May		Reserve	後備
五月七日 (星期二) Tuesday, 7th May		Reserve	後備

於使用收音機或紅外線接收系統廣播之試場應考聆聽考試的考生報到時間為上午 8 時 30 分；於使用學校廣播系統 / USB 播放機 / 電腦廣播之試場應考聆聽考試的考生報到時間為上午 8 時 45 分。

Candidates taking the Listening examination in radio-broadcast centres or centres using the Infra-red Transmission System should report at 8:30 am while those taking the Listening examination in centres using the School's Public Address System/USB player/computer should report at 8:45 am.

* 約計聆聽卷別的完結時間

Approximate examination end time of the Listening paper

註： 2024 年 5 月 1 日 (勞動節)

Note: 1 May 2024 (Labour Day)

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 卷別	科目 / 試卷
2024 年 2 月中旬至 4 月上旬 mid-February – early April 2024	8:00 - 19:00	Physical Education – Practical	體育 (實習考試)
2024 年 2 月下旬至 3 月中旬 late February – mid-March 2024	9:00 - 18:00	Music – Practical	音樂 (實習考試)
2024 年 3 月 12 日至 3 月 21 日 (星期一至星期五) 12 March to 21 March 2024 (Monday to Friday)	17:00 - 20:30	English Language – Speaking	英國語文 (口試)
2024 年 3 月 23 日 (星期六) 23 March 2024 (Saturday)	9:00 - 17:30	English Language – Speaking (SEN Sessions)	英國語文 (口試) (特殊需要考生)

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 5 December 2023 \$286 per application			Application will normally NOT be accepted after 5 December 2023	
	After 5 December 2023 \$661 per subject plus subject fee				
	Note: 1) The subject fees for the 2024 HKDSE school candidates will be settled by the Government. 2) Any super-late requests for changes will NOT be accepted from 21 March 2024.				
Rescheduling of Speaking Examination dates	Before examination date: \$314			From 1 March 2024 onwards	
	After examination date: \$443			Within 3 working days after the examination date (Monday to Friday during office hours) Late applications will NOT be accepted	
Issue of replacement Admission Forms	\$286			Deadline: 4 May 2024	
Issue of replacement Results Notices	\$286			Deadline: 31 October 2024	
Applications for Rechecking and Remarking (see Section F, Part 3)	Rechecking	Language Subject	School Candidate \$246	Private Candidate \$296	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	\$207	\$246	
	Remarking	Non-Language Subject	\$822	\$985	
		Language Subject (excluding Speaking)	\$985	\$1,182	
		Chinese Language component	\$494 per component	\$592 per component	
		English Language component (excluding Speaking)	\$394 per component	\$472 per component	
		English Language Speaking component	\$787	\$947	
Category A Subjects	Rechecking	per subject	\$207	\$246	
Category B Subjects	Rechecking	per subject	\$246	\$296	
Category C Subjects	Remarking	per subject (excluding Speaking)	\$985	\$1,182	
	Remarking (with a copy of the script)	per subject (excluding Speaking)	\$1,365	\$1,562	
Applications for Appeal Review (see Section F, Part 4)	Examination Irregularities			\$1,038 per case	Within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results
	Rechecking / Remarking Process			\$1,038 per subject	Within 5 calendar days after the release of rechecking / remarking results
	Marking of Scripts			\$1,038 per subject	Within 10 calendar days after the scripts are made available for download from the online platform

- ◆ 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 2024. 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 or Speaking examination score sheets (if applicable). Candidates should submit their applications on or before 8 July 2024 if they would like to have the requested changes updated on the Results Notice.
- ◆ For rescheduling of English Language Speaking examination, candidates should apply in person (or through an authorised representative who should produce a photocopy of the candidate's identification document for inspection) together with the original copy of both the admission form and supporting documents. The supplementary fee will be waived for rescheduling due to illness or timetable clash with public examinations held by the HKEAA/internal examinations in secondary schools/speech day organised by schools approved for participation in the HKDSE (a certification letter from the school is required). Candidates applying for rescheduling due to illness must submit their application together with original documentary proof of their illness for consideration of fee waiver. SEN candidates applying for rescheduling of the Speaking examination from SEN sessions to normal sessions due to the cancellation of special examination arrangements are required to pay the supplementary fees mentioned in the above table.
- ◆ 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 2024 HKDSE	30 November 2023
2	Uploading of the 'Handbook for Candidates' on the HKEAA website	Mid-December 2023
3	Issue of Admission Forms: - For Category A practical examinations - For Category A written examinations	Late January 2024 Early February 2024
4	Examination Periods: - English Language Paper 4 (Speaking) - English Language Paper 4 (Speaking) (SEN Session) - Written examinations (Category A subjects)	12 March – 21 March 2024 23 March 2024 9 April – 4 May 2024
5	Release of Examination Results: - Category A and Category B subjects	17 July 2024 (tentative)
6	Applications for Rechecking and Remarking for Category A and Category B Subjects: - Deadline for application - Release of results	22 July 2024 14 August 2024 (tentative)
7	Appeal Review Applications on Examination Irregularities: - Deadline for application - Release of results	22 July 2024 Around 14 August 2024
8	Appeal Review Applications on Rechecking & Remarking Process: - Deadline for application - Release of results	19 August 2024 Around 23 September 2024
9	Appeal Review Applications on Marking of Scripts: - Deadline for application - Release of results	- 10 calendar days after the scripts are made available for download from the online platform - Around late October or late November, depending on the date of application
10	Issue of Certificates	October 2024
11	Closing of Examination	30 November 2024

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 / rescheduling of Speaking examination dates ◆ Re-issue of admission forms / results notices ◆ 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) <i>(Note: Sale of Publications is available at the San Po Kong Office or the HKEAA's online bookstore)</i> ◆ 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 App	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 including video recordings in the Speaking examinations. Details of applications (including the date for destruction of examination scripts and irregularity reports of the 2024 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 2024.