

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 2026 HKDSE:

(1) Examination Timetable and Assessment Requirements

The written examinations of Category A subjects are scheduled to start from 8 April 2026. The Physical Education Paper 1 examination will be shortened by 15 minutes, i.e. from 8:30 am to 10:30 am while the Paper 2 examination will be extended to 1 hour 30 minutes. The Speaking examination of English Language will be held from 10 March to 19 March 2026. The Practical examinations of Physical Education and Music are scheduled for late February to late March 2026.

The assessment requirements of written examinations of all Category A subjects have 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 2026 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 hall centres only)

The PESS2 will be implemented **at all normal hall centres** in the 2026 HKDSE. Candidates sitting examinations in normal hall centres (except the Special Room(s) for the Listening component of English Language) 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. **Candidates should download, install and log in to the App before going to the examination centres. Please download the 'Check-in Smart (HKDSE)' App at App Store, Google Play or Huawei AppGallery 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 **23 March 2026** (i.e. 10 working days before the start of the first written examination on 8 April 2026). 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. As for Category C subjects, any super-late requests for late entry/subject amendment will **NOT be accepted** on or after **1 March 2026**.

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

Although candidates will do self check-in via the 'Check-in Smart (HKDSE)' App, they are still required to 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 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.

The 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 **more than 15 minutes late**, 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 the Examinations

Candidates should bring their personal belongings and 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 and the practical examination centre) 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**.

Candidates must turn off their mobile phones or other electronic devices* in the examination room/after entering the practical examination centre. *[Remark: Candidates sitting the examination in normal hall centres (except the Special Room(s) for the Listening component of English Language) should turn off their mobile phone according to the instructions of the Centre Supervisors once they have performed self check-in.]* Candidates disobeying the instructions will receive **a mark penalty, subject downgrading or may even be disqualified from the whole examination**.

* Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, tablets, mobile phones, multimedia players, electronic dictionaries, databank watches, smart watches, wireless earphones or other wearable technologies with communication or data storage functions, etc.

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.**

(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 to the invigilation staff on the spot 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.)
- ◆ 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 having encountered reception problems
- ◆ possible interference from 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 and Category B subjects is **5 calendar days** after the release of the examination results. 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 2026 HKDSE is deemed to be closed on **30 November 2026** (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.

* Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, tablets, mobile phones, multimedia players, electronic dictionaries, databank watches, smart watches, wireless earphones or other wearable technologies with communication or data storage functions, etc.

2. Examination Timetable

日期 Date	時間 Time	Subject / Paper	科目／卷別
四月八日 (星期三) Wednesday, 8th April	8:30 - 12:30	Visual Arts 1,2	視覺藝術 (一) 及 (二)
四月九日 (星期四) Thursday, 9th 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)
四月十日 (星期五) Friday, 10th 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)
四月十一日 (星期六) Saturday, 11th 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)
四月十三日 (星期一) Monday, 13th 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)
四月十四日 (星期二) Tuesday, 14th April	8:30 - 10:30	Citizenship and Social Development	公民與社會發展
四月十五日 (星期三) Wednesday, 15th April	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)
四月十六日 (星期四) Thursday, 16th April	8:30 - 11:00 11:45 - 12:45	Chemistry 1 Chemistry 2	化學 (一) 化學 (二)
四月十七日 (星期五) Friday, 17th April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 13:15 8:30 - 11:30 13:30 - 15:30	Design & Applied Technology 1 Design & Applied Technology 2 Literature in English 1 Literature in English 2	設計與應用科技 (一) 設計與應用科技 (二) 英語文學 (一) 英語文學 (二)
四月十八日 (星期六) Saturday, 18th 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)
四月二十日 (星期一) Monday, 20th April	8:30 - 11:00 11:45 - 12:45	Biology 1 Biology 2	生物 (一) 生物 (二)
四月二十一日 (星期二) Tuesday, 21st April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 13:15 8:30 - 10:00 10:45 - 12:45	Chinese Literature 1 Chinese Literature 2 Technology & Living 1 Technology & Living 2	中國文學 (一) 中國文學 (二) 科技與生活 (一) 科技與生活 (二)
四月二十二日 (星期三) Wednesday, 22nd April	8:30 - 11:00 11:45 - 12:45	Physics 1 Physics 2	物理 (一) 物理 (二)
四月二十三日 (星期四) Thursday, 23rd April	8:30 - 11:15 12:00 - 13:15	Geography 1 Geography 2	地理 (一) 地理 (二)
四月二十四日 (星期五) Friday, 24th 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)
四月二十五日 (星期六) Saturday, 25th April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 12:45	History 1 History 2	歷史 (一) 歷史 (二)
四月二十七日 (星期一) Monday, 27th April	8:30 - 9:30 10:15 - 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)
四月二十八日 (星期二) Tuesday, 28th April	8:30 - 10:30 11:15 - 12:45	Physical Education 1 Physical Education 2	體育 (一) 體育 (二)
四月二十九日 (星期三) Wednesday, 29th 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)
四月三十日 (星期四) Thursday, 30th April	8:30 - 11:00	Mathematics Extended Part Modules 1,2	數學 延伸部分 單元 (一) 及 (二)
五月二日 (星期六) Saturday, 2nd May	8:30 - 10:00 10:45 - 12:30	Tourism & Hospitality Studies 1 Tourism & Hospitality Studies 2	旅遊與款待 (一) 旅遊與款待 (二)
五月四日 (星期一) Monday, 4th May	8:30 - 9:30 10:15 - 12:45	Economics 1 Economics 2	經濟 (一) 經濟 (二)
五月五日 (星期二) Tuesday, 5th May	8:30 - 10:00 10:45 - 12:15	Music 1A Music 1B	音樂 1A 音樂 1B
五月六日 (星期三) Wednesday, 6th 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應於上午 8 時 30 分到達試場；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則可於上午 8 時 45 分到達試場。

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

* 約計聆聽卷別的完結時間

Approximate examination end time of the Listening paper

註： 2026 年 5 月 1 日 (勞動節)

Note: 1 May 2026 (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
2026 年 2 月下旬至 3 月下旬 late February – late March 2026	8:00 - 19:00	Physical Education – Practical 體育 (實習考試)
2026 年 3 月上旬至 3 月中旬 early March – mid-March 2026	9:00 - 18:00	Music – Practical 音樂 (實習考試)
2026 年 3 月 10 日至 3 月 19 日 (星期一至星期五) 10 March to 19 March 2026 (Monday to Friday)	17:00 - 20:30	English Language – Speaking 英國語文 (口試)
2026 年 3 月 21 日 (星期六) 21 March 2026 (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 2025 \$309 per application				Application will normally NOT be accepted after 5 December 2025	
	After 5 December 2025 \$714 per subject plus subject fee					
	Note: Any super-late requests for changes will NOT be accepted from 23 March 2026 (i.e. 10 working days before the start of written examinations on 8 April 2026). As for Category C subjects, any super-late requests for late entry/subject amendment will NOT be accepted on or after 1 March 2026 .					
Rescheduling of Speaking Examination dates	Before examination date: \$340				From 1 March 2026 onwards	
	After examination date: \$479				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	\$309				Deadline: 5 May 2026	
Issue of replacement Results Notices	\$309				Deadline: 31 October 2026	
Applications for Rechecking and Remarking (see Section F, Part 3)			School Candidate	Private Candidate	Within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results (Note: School candidates should abide by the closing date set by their own schools)	
	Rechecking	Language Subject	\$266	\$320		
		Non-Language Subject	\$224	\$266		
Category A Subjects	Remarking	Non-Language Subject	\$889	\$1,065		
		Language Subject (excluding Speaking)	\$1,065	\$1,278		
		Chinese Language component	\$640 per component	\$766 per component		
		English Language component (excluding Speaking)	\$426 per component	\$511 per component		
		English Language Speaking component	\$851	\$1,024		
Category B Subjects	Rechecking	per subject	\$224	\$266		
Applications for Appeal Review (see Section F, Part 4)	Examination Irregularities			\$1,123 per case		Within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results
	Rechecking/Remarking Process			\$1,123 per subject	Within 5 calendar days after the release of rechecking/remarking results	
	Marking of Scripts			\$1,123 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 Southorn Centre office on or before 15 January 2026. 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 6 July 2026 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 2026 HKDSE	1 December 2025
2	Uploading of the ‘Handbook for Candidates’ on the HKEAA website	Mid-December 2025
3	Issue of Admission Forms: - For Category A practical examinations - For Category A written examinations	Late January 2026 Mid-February 2026
4	Examination Periods: - English Language Paper 4 (Speaking) - English Language Paper 4 (Speaking) (SEN Session) - Written examinations (Category A subjects)	10 March – 19 March 2026 21 March 2026 8 April – 5 May 2026
5	Release of Examination Results	15 July 2026 (tentative)
6	Applications for Rechecking and Remarking for Category A and Category B Subjects: - Deadline for application - Release of results	20 July 2026 12 August 2026 (tentative)
7	Appeal Review Applications on Examination Irregularities: - Deadline for application - Release of results	20 July 2026 Around 12 August 2026
8	Appeal Review Applications on Rechecking & Remarking Process: - Deadline for application - Release of results	17 August 2026 Around 21 September 2026
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 2026
11	Closing of Examination	30 November 2026

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	https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk	
Email	dse@hkeaa.edu.hk	
DSE Express	https://blog.hkeaa.edu.hk/	
HKDSE App	HKDSE App is available for free at App Store, Google Play and Huawei AppGallery (available in February 2026). For details, please visit https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/app/	

		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. (Website: www.citybus.com.hk)		2136 8888
MTR Corporation Ltd. (Website: www.mtr.com.hk)		2881 8888
The Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (1933) Ltd. (Website: www.kmb.hk)		2745 4466
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal Enquiries (Website: www.hko.gov.hk)		1878 200

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 2026 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 early July 2026.