

## F. Examination Results

### 1. Marking and Grading

- ◆ There are three categories of HKDSE subjects: Categories A, B and C. The HKEAA is responsible for the marking and grading of Category A subjects. The assessment of Category B Applied Learning (ApL) subjects are undertaken by the organisations providing the relevant courses and the results are moderated by the HKEAA. Category C (Other Languages) subjects adopt the Advanced Subsidiary level question papers set by Cambridge Assessment International Education (Cambridge International) which will also conduct the marking and grading of these subjects.
- ◆ The HKEAA has a set of comprehensive procedures for the marking and grading processes in public examinations to ensure fairness and consistency in these processes. Candidates may refer to the HKEAA website ([www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/markings/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/markings/)) for more information on the methods and procedures adopted for marking and mark processing of HKDSE Category A subjects.
- ◆ Standards-referenced reporting (SRR) is adopted to report candidates' assessment results. For details regarding the grading procedures and SRR, candidates may refer to the booklet '*Grading Procedures and Standards-referenced Reporting in the HKDSE Examination*' which is available on the HKEAA website ([www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/Leaflets/HKDSE\\_SRR\\_A4booklet\\_Mar2018.pdf](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/Leaflets/HKDSE_SRR_A4booklet_Mar2018.pdf)). Other information on the reporting of the three categories of subjects is available at ([www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/the\\_reporting\\_system/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/the_reporting_system/)).

### 2. Release of Results

- ◆ The results for Category A and Category B subjects of the 2021 HKDSE are tentatively scheduled to be released on **Wednesday, 21 July 2021**. A press release concerning the exact date of release of results will be issued on 14 July 2021. Each candidate will receive a Results Notice.
- ◆ For Category A subjects, results will be reported in five levels (1-5), with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 5 the highest. Achievements below Level 1 will be designated as 'unclassified' (UNCL). To give recognition to outstanding candidates, top candidates within Level 5 will be awarded Level 5\* and Level 5\*\* as appropriate.
  - For the following subjects, the component results are also printed on the certificate if the candidate has sat the examination and obtained a subject result of Level 1 or above.

Chinese Language  
English Language  
Combined Science

For these subjects, the subject level is not simply the average of the component levels but is based on the candidate's subject mark, which is the total mark derived from the actual marks scored for each component, taking into account the weighting of each component and the range of marks available for each component.

- ◆ For Category B (ApL) subjects, assessment will be undertaken by course providers. After moderation by the HKEAA, the final results will be recorded on the HKDSE certificate. Students' performance in ApL subjects will be reported in three levels i.e. 'Attained', 'Attained with Distinction (I)' and 'Attained with Distinction (II)'. For ApL Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students), two levels of results will be reported, i.e. 'Attained' and 'Attained with Distinction'.
- ◆ For Category C subjects, marking and grading will be conducted by Cambridge International. The results for Category C (Other Languages - November 2020 series) subjects are tentatively scheduled to be released **in mid-January 2021**. Results will be reported in five grades (a-e), with grade e being the lowest and grade a being the highest. Achievements below grade e will be designated as 'Ungraded'. For subjects with a speaking component, a separate speaking endorsement grade (With Distinction/Merit/Pass in Speaking) will be reported for candidates who satisfy the conditions as stated in the syllabus. Achievement below 'Pass in Speaking' is not recorded.
- ◆ Certificates will not be issued to candidates who were absent from all subjects in the 2021 HKDSE or who obtained unclassified/unattained/ungraded results in all subjects.

### 3. Applications for Rechecking and Remarking

#### Application period

- ◆ Applications for rechecking and remarking of Category A and Category B subjects should be made within **5 calendar days** after the release of examination results.

#### Types of Services

##### ◆ Rechecking

- Applications are processed on a subject basis only.
- The subjects concerned are rechecked for technical errors such as incorrect mark entries and data inconsistencies.
- Candidates cannot apply for remarking of the same subjects for which they have applied for rechecking, regardless of the results of rechecking.

##### ◆ Remarking

- Applications are processed on a subject basis only, except for Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Combined Science. For **Chinese Language, English Language and Combined Science**, applications may be made **on a subject or component basis**. For **Mathematics**, candidates may apply for remarking of both the Compulsory part and Extended part (if applicable) or remarking of either of the two parts. Candidates should note that remarking of Chinese Language and English Language on a subject basis includes the written papers only as speaking examinations are cancelled. For applications for remarking of a subject component, the other components of that subject will also be rechecked for technical errors but not remarked.
- All scripts will be independently remarked during the process.
  - The subjects concerned will first be checked for technical errors.
  - For single-marked papers, each script will be independently remarked by a remarker. For questions/sections/parts involving objective marking (e.g. those with matching and True/False questions) or where the maximum mark is less than or equal to 5 marks, the script will be remarked by a second remarker if the remarker's mark is different from the original mark. For other questions/sections/parts, if the remarker's mark differs by 2 or more marks from the original mark, the script will be independently remarked by a second remarker.
  - For double-marked written papers, each script will be remarked by a second remarker only if the mark given by the first remarker differs by a specified margin from the original mark.
- Efforts are made to ensure that the scripts are remarked by persons other than the original marker.
- After remarking, the final mark is calculated by averaging out all valid marks given by the original marker(s) and the remarker(s) for the subject/component(s) concerned.
- For remarking on a subject basis, all written components will be remarked and the final mark awarded to each written component after remarking will be used to calculate the final subject/component result.

- Remarking is applicable to projects and portfolios submitted by candidates where marking was done by the HKEAA, i.e. Music Papers 3, 4A and 4C, and portfolios submitted by private candidates for Visual Arts.
- Remarking is not applicable to Category B subjects, School-based Assessment components, multiple-choice papers/sections or practical papers of Category A subjects.

### Application Procedures

- ◆ Candidates may apply for rechecking and/or remarking for up to a total of four subjects (including Categories A, B and C subjects). Application for one or more components of a subject is counted as one subject.  
**Note:** (a) Requests for rechecking and/or remarking for more than four subjects will only be considered if there are extenuating circumstances and are supported by documentary evidence.  
(b) Candidates should prioritise the first four subjects and give full justifications for any additional subject(s). Such requests must be submitted within the application period for rechecking and remarking.
- ◆ Each candidate can only submit one application. Once the application is submitted, the HKEAA will not accept any requests for changes unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- ◆ **School candidates**  
Applications should be submitted through schools.
- ◆ **Private candidates**  
Applications should be submitted to the Authority direct via the HKDSE Examination Online Services: <https://www.hkdse.hkeaa.edu.hk/>.

### Fees

- ◆ Candidates should pay the required fee at the time of application. **The deadline for payment is 2 calendar days after the date of submission of the application. If the deadline for payment falls on a Saturday or Sunday, it will be automatically deferred to the next Monday.**
- ◆ If the rechecking leads to a change in the component or the subject result(s), the rechecking fee paid for the subject concerned will be refunded.
- ◆ If the remarking is on a subject basis and leads to an upgrade of a component result alone but not the subject result, the remarking fee for the component concerned will be refunded.
- ◆ If a candidate applies for remarking of one or more components of a subject and the remarking leads to an upgrade of one or more component result(s) but not the subject result, the remarking fee paid for each component with an upgrade will be refunded.
- ◆ If the remarking leads to an upgrade of the subject result, the total remarking fee paid for the subject concerned will be refunded.
- ◆ Under all circumstances, the total amount refunded will not exceed the amount paid for the subject concerned.
- ◆ Candidates with substantiated financial difficulties who are recipients of financial aid may apply to the HKEAA for waiving part of the rechecking/remarking fees. Candidates must complete an application form (available for download from the HKEAA website from **21 July 2021**) and submit the original and photocopy of the supporting document(s) at the HKEAA Southorn Centre office within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results. Postal applications or applications without sufficient supporting document(s) will not be accepted. The full amount of the rechecking/remarking fees must be settled before the payment deadline, regardless of the outcome of the fee waiver application. Successful applicants will be refunded part of the rechecking/remarking fees paid in mid-September 2021.

## Results


- ◆ After the scripts have been rechecked/remarked, a special committee of the HKEAA (chaired by the Secretary General) will meet to scrutinise all the applications and decide which cases meet the upgrading criteria laid down by the Public Examinations Board.
- ◆ **Downgrading**
  - There is normally no downgrading as a result of the processing of applications for rechecking/remarking even if the rechecked/remarked mark is lower than the original mark.
- ◆ **Upgrading**
  - Following rechecking, the subject/component result will be upgraded if technical errors are found and the final mark after correction of technical errors attains the cut score of the higher level concerned.
  - Since there is an element of professional judgment in marking, especially for questions of an open-ended nature, it is possible that the same script will be given a different score in a different assessment context during remarking. Therefore, following remarking, the subject/component result will be upgraded only if the final mark after averaging out all the valid marks of the original marker(s) and the remarker(s) reaches a specified margin (as determined by the Public Examinations Board) above the cut score of the higher level concerned. This is to ensure the overall reliability of the grade awards for all candidates as there is normally no downgrading after remarking.

## Release of Results of Rechecking/Remarking

- ◆ The results of rechecking/remarking for Category A and Category B subjects will be released on Wednesday, 18 August 2021 (tentative).
- ◆ The candidates concerned will be informed of their rechecking/remarking results (i.e. whether or not the process has led to any result change). School candidates (including evening school candidates) would be informed of their results via their schools while private candidates and evening school candidates may check their results via their user accounts on the HKDSE Examination Online Services. The Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) Office/tertiary institutions concerned and the Education Bureau (EDB) will also be informed of the revised results of the candidates concerned at the same time.
- ◆ HKDSE candidates whose results have been revised after the rechecking/remarking may approach the JUPAS Office within the prescribed period and request reconsideration of their applications for admission to universities. The HKEAA has an understanding with tertiary institutions that they will try to ensure that candidates whose results are upgraded after rechecking/remarking would not be disadvantaged because of the delay.

## Application for Appeal Review

- ◆ During the process of the rechecking/remarking, the script has been independently and thoroughly checked/remarked to ensure no miscarriage of judgment. Candidates who have valid reason(s) to query that the established rechecking/remarking procedures have not been followed may apply for appeal review within the stipulated deadline. Requests for appeal review will be dealt with by the independent Appeal Review Committee (see **Part 4 of this section**).

 Note	<b>Candidates will NOT be given a copy of their marked scripts through applications for rechecking/remarking.</b>
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## 4. Appeal Review

### Appeal Review Committee

#### ◆ Candidates who:

- are dissatisfied with the decision of the Public Examinations Board (PEB) on their complaints and examination irregularities, or
- have valid reason(s) to query that the established procedures of rechecking/remarking have not been followed regarding their application for rechecking/remarking, or
- have reasonable cause to dispute the marking of their scripts and/or oral recordings provided through Data Access Request (DAR) made pursuant to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance may submit an appeal review application to the Appeal Review Committee (ARC).

<b>Note</b>	<p>The Appeal Review Committee is an independent committee appointed by the HKEAA Council. Its composition is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 members from the legal profession (one of them shall be the Chairperson);</li><li>• 1 senior administrator from a tertiary institution;</li><li>• 2 Council members; and</li><li>• 1 Council member representing the interests of parents.</li></ul> <p>Director – Public Examinations of the HKEAA (non-member) serves as the secretary.</p>
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#### ◆ Types of appeal review

##### 1. Processing of examination irregularities

A candidate may request a review of the PEB decision on examination irregularities in respect of the candidate's examination on any of the following grounds:

- The decision was not made in accordance with the examination regulations and instructions given in the Handbook for Candidates.
- There are extenuating circumstances which the candidate has not been able to present to the HKEAA prior to the decision being made.
- Due process has not been observed in the handling of the case or the decision on the case has been reached on the basis of material errors or irregularities.

##### 2. Review of the process of rechecking and remarking

A candidate may request a review of the process of rechecking and remarking on any of the following grounds:

- There is reason to query that the established procedures of rechecking/remarking of scripts have not been followed.
- There are extenuating circumstances which the candidate can adduce to demonstrate that the examination results have been affected by material errors or irregularities in the marking and/or remarking.

##### 3. Review of the marking of scripts after access to scripts after DAR

A candidate may request a review of the marking of scripts provided through DAR subject to the provisos that the candidate can provide **specific justification(s)** to demonstrate that the marking of the scripts has been incorrect (e.g. valid answers unmarked or wrongly marked) and that the candidate has not applied for appeal review of the process of rechecking/remarking for the same subject before. In compliance with the first-mentioned proviso, a candidate is required to state specifically which question(s) or part(s) of the scripts have been incorrectly marked as well as in what ways such question(s) or part(s) were incorrectly marked, failing which his/her application will **NOT** be accepted. General assertions such as marking being unfair, big discrepancies between marks given by different markers/remarkers, results below expectation or different from performance in school or other public examination(s) etc. will not be accepted as specific justifications. Candidates who are in doubt about their examination results should apply for rechecking or remarking.

## Application details

- ◆ All applications should be submitted in writing to the ARC in person or by post within the stipulated period:

Type of Appeal Review	Application closing date	Release of the ARC decision
Examination irregularities	26 July 2021	Around 18 August 2021
Process of rechecking and remarking	23 August 2021	Around 20 September 2021
Marking of scripts after DAR	10 calendar days after the scripts are made available to the candidates	Around late October or late November, depending on the date of application

**Any late applications (including applications post-marked after the closing date) will NOT be considered unless there are justifications for the delay.**

- ◆ The candidate shall provide the following information in the application:
  - Name, candidate number, correspondence address and subject/paper concerned and the results obtained;
  - Reason(s)/Justification(s) for review – the candidate shall produce **valid reasons or new evidence to substantiate the request**. Reasons or justifications such as marking being unfair, big discrepancies between marks given by different markers/remarkers, results below expectation or different from performance in school or other public examination(s) will **NOT** be accepted.
- ◆ Candidates shall pay the required fee at the time of application. If the outcome of the application does not concur with the original decision (for examination irregularities) or leads to the upgrade of a subject or component result (for rechecking and remarking process/marketing of scripts), the appeal review fee will be refunded to the candidate. The relevant fees paid for rechecking or remarking of the subject/component concerned will also be refunded, as appropriate.

## Processing of Appeal Review Applications

- ◆ For appeal review of the processing of examination irregularities or the process of rechecking and remarking, the ARC shall use its best endeavour to convene a meeting to consider the applications after the closing date of application.
- ◆ For appeal review of the processing of examination irregularities, the ARC will examine each and every appeal review case to ensure that the cases were handled fairly, consistently and in accordance with the PEB guidelines.
- ◆ For appeal review of rechecking and remarking, the ARC will examine the records of rechecking/remarking process of each and every application with reference to the policy approved by the PEB and the decisions of the special committee as well as the comments from the subject manager(s)/chief or assistant examiner(s) concerned. (**Note:** Applications for appeal review **will NOT automatically lead to remarking** of the answer scripts concerned, e.g. if a candidate has applied for remarking and no miscarriage of judgment has been found.)
- ◆ For appeal review of the marking of scripts after access to scripts, depending on the submission dates, the applications will be considered by the ARC at its scheduled meetings. Once an application is accepted, the marking of the whole script of the candidate in the subject/component(s)/paper(s) concerned will be reviewed. If the script has not been remarked before, the marking of the candidate's scripts will be reviewed by the subject manager/chief or assistant examiner(s) concerned with reference to the specific queries made by the appellant at this stage. The ARC will consider if there are any marking inaccuracies in light of the subject manager's/chief or assistant examiner's recommendations after the review of the marked scripts. Mark variations within the tolerance limit due to legitimate differences in the exercise of professional judgment on the part of the examiners/markers are not regarded as marking inaccuracies.

## Outcome of Appeal Review Applications

- ◆ Review of a decision on examination irregularities – where there is any mark adjustment or change in mark penalty that results in upgrading in the subject(s)/component(s) concerned, the candidates concerned will be notified of the outcome of their applications according to the prescribed schedule.
- ◆ Review of the process of rechecking and remarking – where the Committee decides that the scripts concerned shall be rechecked and/or remarked again, the HKEAA will follow the prescribed procedures for rechecking/remarking and complete the process within 3 working days of the relevant decisions by the ARC.
- ◆ Review of the marking of scripts after DAR – where the ARC decides that there are marking errors (e.g. unmarked or wrongly marked answers) leading to incorrect personal data, the HKEAA shall amend the data and recalculate the final marks of the candidate in the subject/component(s)/paper(s) concerned within 3 working days of the relevant decisions by the ARC.

The candidate will be notified of the outcome of the application according to the prescribed schedule. Where there is any upgrade in the subject(s)/component(s) concerned, the JUPAS Office/tertiary institutions concerned and the EDB will be notified of the revised result, as appropriate, at the same time.

☞ Note	<b>The decision of the Appeal Review Committee shall be final.</b>
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