

September 2023

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination 2024
Category C (Other Languages) Subjects**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Notes: Candidates sitting the Category C (Other Languages) subjects of the 2024 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) are strongly advised to read carefully the ‘Instructions to Candidates’ as it contains important information relating to their participation in the examination. Candidates should familiarise themselves with the regulations, procedures and instructions laid down in the ‘Instructions to Candidates’ before taking the examination. The latest information about the precautionary measures to be implemented in examination centres will be published on the HKEAA website (https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/info_corner/2024HKDSE_Contingency_Precautionary_Measures/index.html) in late September 2023. For details regarding the examination syllabus, please refer to the HKEAA website (www.hkeaa.edu.hk → HKDSE → Assessment Information → Subject Information).

A. ADMISSION FORM

Your HKDSE Candidate Number is shown on your admission form and this number is to be used throughout the 2024 HKDSE. Check that the information printed on your admission form e.g. **name, identification document number, gender and subject(s)/papers** are correct. School candidates should report any discrepancy through their schools to the School Examinations and Assessment Division (SEAD), Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) by post (Address: 12/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong), fax (3628 8928) or email (dse@hkeaa.edu.hk) for amendment **on or before 27 September 2023**. Private candidates should inform the HKEAA by post, fax, email or in person (or through an authorised representative) at the HKEAA Southorn Centre office with the original of the admission form and supporting documentary evidence such as HKID card/valid identification document, birth certificate or statutory declaration for verification by the aforesaid deadlines. Otherwise, the Centre Supervisor may refuse to admit you or your answer scripts may not be accepted by the HKEAA. Moreover, candidates whose identity could not be verified on the spot will be required to complete a report form after the examination. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in their answer scripts not being marked.

B. BAD WEATHER OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. The announcement of closure of schools due to a tropical cyclone or the issue of the Red Rainstorm Warning does not necessarily imply the postponement of an examination scheduled to be held on that day. No public announcement will be made in the case of Red Rainstorm Warning, unless the general weather situation is deteriorating. In case of any territory-wide issues (e.g. adverse traffic condition, power failure, etc.), the HKEAA will adopt contingency measures including delaying the start time of the examination, postponing the examination, etc.

2. All examinations will normally be postponed when a Typhoon Signal No. 8 or above is hoisted, or when a Black Rainstorm Warning is issued. If weather conditions are doubtful, you should listen to the radio, watch the television or check out the DSE App/HKEAA website at www.hkeaa.edu.hk about the examination schedule right up to the time you plan to leave for the examination centre.
3. Unless a specific announcement has been made by the HKEAA that the examination has been postponed/cancelled due to bad weather conditions or special circumstances, the examination will be conducted as originally scheduled. However, you should consider your personal safety first and if you have genuine difficulties in reaching the examination centre, you should contact the HKEAA on 3628 8989 before the examination begins. Special consideration will be given to individual cases depending on the circumstances.
4. In the event that an examination cannot be conducted/rescheduled due to prolonged severe weather, an assessed mark will be given to the paper concerned provided that the candidate has sat at least 50% of the total assessment of the subject, i.e. both of the other two papers of the subject in the same examination series.

C. ILLNESS DURING AN EXAMINATION

Except for speaking examinations in which rescheduling is accepted and can only be arranged within the scheduled speaking examination dates of the language subjects concerned, **no supplementary examination** will be arranged for all written papers. Help may be given in the case of serious illness. The main categories are as follows:

1. Hospitalised Candidates

If a candidate is hospitalised, he/she may apply to take the examination in the hospital, provided that

- the doctor certifies that the candidate is fit to take the examination;
- the candidate or his/her representatives can submit the application together with the letter of authorisation and other necessary documents at least one working day (Monday to Friday) during office hours (excluding Public Holidays) before the examination. For example, applications for examinations falling on Monday must be submitted no later than the last working day of the preceding week.

2. Seriously Ill Candidates

- (i) If a candidate is seriously ill and unable to sit the examination, Cambridge Assessment International Education (Cambridge International) may offer special consideration in giving an assessed mark on the paper that the candidate was absent from provided that the candidate has completed a minimum of 50% of the assessment measured in terms of the weighting given to each paper in the syllabus.

Application procedures:

- The candidate concerned must make sure that a **telephone call** is made to the HKEAA on 3628 8860 **before the examination** takes place. S/he should immediately consult a registered medical practitioner and be able to

produce the original of the medical certificate stating clearly the illness and for how long s/he is unfit to sit an examination.

- The candidate must submit a written request **within 3 calendar days from the date of examination** to the Secretary General of the HKEAA. The application must be accompanied by supporting evidence such as the original of the medical certificate. The case will then be submitted to Cambridge International for consideration.
- (ii) If you have contracted a **highly contagious disease** (e.g. Measles, Chickenpox or any symptoms of COVID-19), you must **NOT** go to the examination centre. If you are eligible for an assessment of your subject result, you should apply to Cambridge International via the HKEAA in accordance with the procedures mentioned above.
- (iii) If you fall ill in an examination centre and cannot continue with the examination, you should not assume that the Centre Supervisor will handle the matter for you. If you would like Cambridge International to give special consideration to your results, you must **apply in writing** to the Secretary General of the HKEAA **within 3 calendar days** after the date of examination.

3. Other Unforeseeable Circumstances

- Assessment may also be given in rare cases where candidates can prove that they were physically unable to be present at the examination centre due to unforeseeable circumstances (e.g. being trapped in a lift, personally involved in a traffic accident or representing Hong Kong in international events) or where they are overtaken by a family tragedy such as the death of an immediate family member.
- Requests for special consideration from candidates showing symptoms of examination tension or minor illnesses will **NOT** be entertained. Such candidates need not telephone the HKEAA on the examination day.

D. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Any super-late requests for changes will **NOT** be accepted from the date specified by Cambridge International.
2. For written papers, morning and afternoon sessions will commence at **8:30 am** and **1:00 pm** respectively unless otherwise specified. You must present yourself for the examination sessions on the dates, times and examination centres specified on your admission form.
3. Before the examination, make sure that you know the location of the examination centre. You should find out the best means of getting there and the time required for travelling. You may use the following hotlines to obtain information about the routes to the examination centre (Citybus: 2873 0818, Kowloon Motor Bus: 2745 4466, MTR: 2881 8888). You may also call the HKEAA on 3628 8860 to enquire about the location of the examination centre. Candidates are requested not to call the school office of the examination centre.
4. Candidates taking the HKDSE in a wrong centre more than once without an acceptable explanation will receive **a mark penalty** in the second and subsequent

subjects taken within the same examination year. Please note that as the examination papers for the subject you have registered are only available at the designated examination centre, you have to go back to the correct centre to take the examination and you will not be compensated for the time lost during the move.

5. You **MUST** arrive at the examination hall/room and take the seat according to the seat number stated on your admission form before the starting time of the examination. Candidates who arrive after the starting time of an examination session should immediately report to the Centre Supervisor/an invigilator in the examination centre. They may be admitted to sit the examination but will be required to file a report stating the reasons for being late after the examination. Late candidates will **NOT** be given extra time to compensate for any time lost. **Cambridge International reserves the right not to accept the answer scripts of these candidates.**
6. For the examination timetable, please refer to **Annex 1** on page 13.
7. **For written papers, you are not allowed to leave during the first 60 minutes and during the last 15 minutes of the session. No candidates, including early leavers, are allowed to take away any question papers from the examination centre.**
8. The announcements of the Centre Supervisors will be made in English in the examination.
9. You are advised not to bring valuables to the examination centres. You should not leave study materials and personal property outside the examination hall/room because of the risk of having such items stolen. The examination centre and the HKEAA will not be responsible for the loss of such items. You must put your personal belongings (books, notes, mobile phones, etc.) in a small bag that can be properly closed with a zip/buckles etc. The bag must be properly closed and be placed under your chair or in an area assigned by the Centre Supervisor/invigilators during the examination.
10. The examination proceedings at these centres will be video-recorded for record purposes. Only authorised persons of the HKEAA can view, store or handle the recordings. The recordings will be destroyed upon the closing of the examination (i.e. 30 November 2024).
11. You are **not allowed** to:
 - smoke or litter anywhere in the examination centre
 - eat (including chewing gum) in the examination hall/room, but may drink water under the supervision of the CS/invigilators
 - take photographs, video-record or audio-record in the examination hall/room (including the Reporting Room for speaking examinations) before/during/after the examination, or else you will receive **a mark penalty**. If you display any photographs/videos/records electronically or publicly, you will receive **a subject downgrading**.
12. Candidates who misbehave or act maliciously in such a way that they upset the conduct of the examination will risk **disqualification from the subject examination**. Other types of misbehaviour (e.g. being excessively rude to centre staff or examiners, repeatedly disobeying centre staff's reasonable instructions, using foul language or

writing obscene words or putting other inappropriate words/drawings on answer scripts) may lead to **subject downgrading**.

13. You must maintain absolute silence once you have entered an examination hall/room. You must not disturb, speak or give signals to other candidates during an examination. Otherwise, you will receive a **mark penalty**.
14. Please read carefully the examination regulations and the penalties for violating such regulations laid down in this 'Instructions to Candidates'. You have the sole responsibility to ensure that the requirements and regulations of the examination are complied with. Candidates in breach of any requirements and regulations are subject to **penalty**. For serious breach of examination regulations (e.g. cheating), candidates may risk **disqualification from the whole examination**. Should candidates fail to follow any examination instructions, the candidate concerned will be asked to complete and sign on a report form for follow up by the HKEAA.
15. The HKEAA will not accept any claims from candidates of being misinformed by others as an excuse for exemption from penalty for violation of any examination regulations.

E. UNAUTHORISED MATERIALS

1. If you have a mobile phone with you, it must be turned off (including the alarm function) and put under your chair in a position clearly visible to the invigilators. **You are solely responsible for ensuring that no sound (including alarm) is emitted from your mobile phone** even though your phone is power off. If the alarm of your mobile phone/article that can emit sound rings during the examination, you will be subject to a **mark penalty or subject downgrading**.
2. After entering an examination hall/room, you should not refer to any materials related to the subject of that examination session. If you are found disobeying this rule, you will be subject to a **penalty in the subject/paper(s) concerned**.
3. If unauthorised articles such as books, dictionaries, revision notes in written/electronic form, question papers from the previous examination session(s) and any electronic devices* are found on your desk or in the drawer of your desk, on your body or in your clothing after the Centre Supervisor has announced the distribution of question papers, you will receive a **mark penalty or even be disqualified from the whole examination**. In case of doubt, the Centre Supervisor or invigilators may collect the device from you for further inspection after the examination. You will be asked to complete and sign on a report form for follow up.
4. If you are found to have any electronic device* switched on during an examination, you will be subject to a **mark penalty or subject downgrading**.
5. If your **mobile phone or the alarm emits sound** during an examination, the invigilation staff will ask you to **show the mobile phone call/SMS/instant message log, etc.** after the examination and note down the relevant information for further

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

investigation by the HKEAA. If you refuse to cooperate, the invigilation staff will record this in the report to the HKEAA.

6. **Correction pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens must not be used in the examination.**
7. The use of dictionaries (including electronic dictionaries) is not permitted in the examination.
8. You are not allowed to use calculators in any language subject examinations.

F. DURING THE EXAMINATION

1. You must present the **original of your admission form and identity card (or another valid identification document with a photograph)** at each examination session. Place them on the top right-hand corner of your desk and leave them there throughout the examination to make it easy for your identity to be verified by the invigilators. Your admission form is an important document which should not be lost. Report to an invigilator immediately if you do not have it.
2. The HKEAA enlists the examination centre's assistance in providing a suitable examination environment for candidates. However, candidates will not be completely shielded from normal background noise (e.g. from outside vehicles, normal school activities, school bell etc.) during an examination. Claims of performance being affected by normal background noise will **NOT** be entertained.
3. If you find undesirable conditions at your seat (e.g. insufficient lighting, noise disturbance, dripping water etc.), you should **seek help from an invigilator at once**. If the need is genuine and a spare seat is available at the centre, the invigilator may arrange another seat for you. If you do not seek help from an invigilator at the time the undesirable conditions arise but ask for special consideration after the examination, the request will **NOT** be entertained.

***Note:** Information on the provision of air-conditioning at an examination centre is indicated on the admission form. Candidates are advised to bring a jacket with them to an air-conditioned examination centre. Subject to the actual weather condition and health advice, individual examination centres may decide whether or not to turn on the air-conditioners. Claims of performance being affected by unsuitable room temperature in an examination room will **NOT** be entertained.*

4. Centre Supervisors are asked to write the actual start time and end time of an examination session on a blackboard and remind candidates of the time left at 15 and 5 minutes before the end of each examination session. **You must bring your own watch** to time the examination as not all examination centres will have a clock. You are strongly advised to wear an ordinary watch that shows time only. The Centre Supervisor or invigilators will not allow you to use any watch suspected to have been installed with mobile applications or supported by wireless technologies. Smart watch with health checking functions only are also **not** allowed. Candidates found to have a smart watch during the examination are subject to a **mark penalty**.

The examination time for each paper is printed on the cover of the Question-Answer Book for candidates' reference. Complaints about having no clock or not being able to view the clock in the examination hall/room will **not be entertained**. You are strongly advised to wear an ordinary watch as the Centre Supervisor or invigilators will not allow you to use any watch suspected to have been installed with mobile applications or supported by wireless technologies.

5. When you receive your Question-Answer Book, check the front cover to ensure that you have been given the correct Question-Answer Book for that examination session. However, you must not turn over the pages of the Question-Answer Book and must not start working/writing until you are instructed to do so. Otherwise, you will receive a **mark penalty**.
6. **BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION**, affix a candidate label on the cover of the Question-Answer Book as instructed by the Centre Supervisor/invigilators. During the examination, if you anticipate the need for extra paper for your answers, you should raise your hand to alert an invigilator for a Supplementary Answer Sheet before your Question-Answer Book runs out, as invigilators may not be able to attend to your request immediately. Make sure that you affix a candidate label on the Supplementary Answer Sheet you have used during the examination. No extra time will be given to you to stick the candidate label, write the question numbers or sign after the examination. **Question-Answer Books/Supplementary Answer Sheets not correctly identified may not be marked.**
7. You must answer all questions in the target language in Paper 2 (Reading and Writing) and Paper 3 (Essay). For Paper 2, all are compulsory questions. You should write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question-Answer Book. For Paper 3, you should write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question-Answer Book.
8. Remember to **write the correct question number on each page** of the Supplementary Answer Sheet, where appropriate, on which you have written any answers. Otherwise, the marking of your answers with wrong question number(s)/without any question number(s) may be affected. Candidates will **NOT** be allowed to write the question number(s) after the 'Stop working' announcement. Candidates who report to the HKEAA after the examination about not following the instruction of writing the correct question numbers will **NOT** be followed up individually. The scripts of all candidates will be handled according to the stipulated procedures of Cambridge International.
9. All Question-Answer Books (used or unused) given to you and the remaining candidate labels **MUST** be returned to the HKEAA at the end of the examination.
10. Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper. Rough work must be done in the Question-Answer Book and be neatly crossed through without being made illegible. Use a ruler to draw a line across the page after each answer.
11. Do not remove any pages from any Question-Answer Book or tear the Supplementary Answer Sheet into smaller parts. Otherwise, you risk a **mark penalty or even disqualification** from the examination.

12. If you need to go to the toilet, you must raise your hand to summon an invigilator. The invigilator will record your candidate number and the time you leave the examination hall/room for the toilet.
13. Leaving early will only be allowed during the **permitted time period** in an examination (see D5 above). If you want to leave early, you must first tie up your papers, **make sure that you have affixed a candidate label on your Question-Answer Book, signed and written the question numbers in the designated spaces on your Supplementary Answer Sheet.** You must **obtain the consent of an invigilator.** The question papers must not be taken away from the centre.
14. ALL Question-Answer Books and the remaining candidate labels must be handed in. **NO MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED TO YOU CAN BE TAKEN AWAY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** Any infringement of the regulations may lead to **disqualification of the candidate.** The decision on disqualification rests with **Cambridge International.**

G. END OF THE EXAMINATION

1. At the time the ‘Stop working’ announcement is made, make sure that you stop working immediately. You are not allowed to hold any stationery or work on your Answer Booklet/Question-Answer Book including affixing candidate label, using an eraser, filling in question numbers or signing on your supplementary answer sheet/Question-Answer Book after the ‘Stop working’ announcement. If you try to do so, the Centre Supervisor or invigilators may assume that you are trying to change/add an answer, and this will lead to a **mark penalty and the possibility of your answers NOT being marked.** At the end of the examination, invigilators will collect candidates’ answer scripts. You should only leave the examination hall/room when instructed by the Centre Supervisor.
2. **You must not discuss or disclose by any means the contents of the paper with any person who has not taken the examination for 24 hours after taking the examination. If you do so, you will automatically be disqualified from the subject being taken.**

H. SPEAKING EXAMINATION

1. You should arrive at the examination centre 15 minutes before the reporting time stated on your admission form. You should report to the reporting room supervisor on arrival by showing the original of your admission form and your valid identification document with a photograph for checking. You should wait for the instructions from the reporting room supervisor, who will direct you to the examination room.
2. If you have a mobile phone with you, you must turn it off (including the alarm function) and put it inside your bag before entering the reporting room. Otherwise, you will receive a **mark penalty.**

3. You are not allowed to eat (or chew gum) in the examination centre, but you may drink water.
4. You may read books/newspapers (but not in electronic version) in the reporting room but must stay in your seat.
5. You must not talk to other candidates 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/examination room/corridor/toilet) until the end of the examination. If you disobey the instruction, you will receive a **mark penalty, subject downgrading or may even be disqualified from the whole examination.**
6. A script of the presentation is not allowed. Candidates may prepare and bring into the examination room a 'cue card' (such as a postcard) in the target language to remind them of the main points they wish to make. Candidates may also bring in a limited quantity of illustrative materials, such as maps, diagrams, statistics, pictures or short articles.
7. You are not allowed to take photographs, video-record or audio-record in the reporting room/examination room before/during/after the speaking examination, or else you will risk a **mark penalty**. If the photographs/videos/records are displayed electronically or publicly, you will receive a **subject downgrading**.
8. The speaking examination begins with a presentation by you in not more than 3.5 minutes. The presentation will then lead into a 7-8 minute conversation about the chosen topic. The last section begins with fairly straightforward questions about your background and interests, and moves quickly on to a more mature conversation discussing more abstract and/or current issues within the general topic areas. This section lasts for around 8-9 minutes.
9. Throughout the examination, a timer will be clearly displayed so that you will be fully aware of how much time you have left. If you find the timer not working or you cannot view the timer clearly, you should report to the oral examiner immediately.
10. With the implementation of audio-recording in Cambridge International speaking examination, you are advised to speak loudly to the digital recorder to ensure that your voice can be recorded. The recording will be used for moderation purpose.

I. REPORTING EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

1. Candidates may lodge a complaint with the Centre Supervisor at the examination centre and request him/her to submit a report to the HKEAA. Alternatively, you may make use of the **specified electronic form on the HKEAA website (www.hkeaa.edu.hk → HKDSE → Examination Administration → Report on Examination Irregularities)** or **write** directly to the Manager (PEIC), School Examinations and Assessment Division HKEAA by post, fax or email **within 7 calendar days** after the date of the examination, except for complaints about the examination centre environment which must be made on the spot (see below).

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

Complaints lodged beyond the deadline will NOT be accepted.

2. Complaints about the **examination centre environment** (e.g. insufficient lighting, loud noise disturbance etc.) must be made with the Centre Supervisor/invigilator at the examination centre. Candidates should provide specific information about the undesirable condition(s) encountered (e.g. time and duration of the noise/disturbance) before they leave the examination centre. Subsequent complaints of performance being affected by undesirable centre conditions after the examination will **NOT** be entertained.
3. **No special consideration** will be given to candidates' claims of performance being affected by insufficient examination time given (unless there is substantiating evidence from the examination centre).
4. Anonymous complaints will **NOT** be entertained.
5. All the complaints are dealt with by a Standing Committee of the HKEAA which is chaired by the Director – Public Examinations and comprising staff who are experienced in examination procedures and operations. The Standing Committee meets on a regular basis during the examination period and investigates cases with substantiated evidence. Depending on the nature and circumstances of individual cases, the Committee will also contact the Centre Supervisors, invigilators, Oral Examiners, Reporting Room Supervisors and/or other candidates present in the same centre in the process of investigation.
 - For straightforward cases, the Committee will make recommendations in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Public Examinations Board (PEB) to Cambridge International for their consideration and will inform the candidates concerned of the decision of Cambridge International before the release of examination results.
 - For more complicated cases involving imposition of sanctions or special consideration, the Committee will compile reports with recommendations in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the PEB and submit to Cambridge International for consideration. Normally, the decision of Cambridge International will be conveyed to the candidates concerned on the date of the release of examination results.
6. Candidates who are not satisfied with Cambridge International's decision on their cases and have valid reasons or new/additional evidence to substantiate their claims may apply for appeal review **within 5 calendar days** upon the issue of the notification. The Committee will forward the cases to Cambridge International for further consideration/decision.

J. EXAMINATION RESULTS

1. The results for Category C (Other Languages) subjects are tentatively scheduled to be released in **late January 2024**.
2. Results will be reported in five grades a(a), b(b), c(c), d(d), e(e) indicating the standard achieved, with grade a(a) being the highest and grade e(e) being the lowest. 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. If a candidate is absent from Paper 1 or 2 or 3 of any of the Category C subjects for which they have entered, except that the paper has been granted special consideration/assessment by the Cambridge International, the candidate's result in that subject will be recorded as ABSENT.

3. Your results of Category C subjects will be combined with your results of Category A and Category B subjects entered for the 2024 HKDSE and be recorded on your certificate for the 2024 HKDSE. The certificates will be issued to candidates in October 2024.

K. APPLICATIONS FOR RECHECKING/REMARKING

1. Rechecking and remarking for Category C (Other Languages) subjects will be handled by Cambridge International in accordance with their standard procedures.
2. Candidates will **NOT** be given records in the speaking examinations through applications for rechecking/remarking.
3. Candidates should submit an application to the HKEAA **within 5 calendar days** after the release of examination results. The HKEAA will send the applications to Cambridge International for their processing. Candidates may apply for rechecking and/or remarking for all written papers (with a copy of the scripts, optional) but only rechecking for the speaking papers (i.e. remarking is not applicable to speaking papers of all Category C subjects).
4. Candidates may apply for rechecking and/or remarking for up to a total of four subjects. These subjects may come from Categories A, B or C.
5. Each candidate can only submit an application once. Once the application is submitted, the HKEAA will not accept any requests for changes unless there are extenuating circumstances.
6. Candidates should pay the required fee at the time of application. If the rechecking/remarking leads to a change in the subject result(s), the fee will be refunded to the candidate. For the rechecking and remarking fees, please refer to Section A of the *2024 HKDSE Handbook for Candidates*.
7. Tentatively the results of rechecking/remarking will be released in February 2024. All candidates will be informed in writing of their rechecking/remarking results (i.e. whether or not the process has led to any result change).

L. APPEAL REVIEW OF THE PROCESS OF RECHECKING/REMARKING

1. Appeal review of the process of rechecking and remarking for Category C (Other Languages) subjects will be handled by Cambridge International in accordance with their standard procedures.
2. Candidates should make an application with the HKEAA **within 5 calendar days** after the release of rechecking/remarking results. They should submit their

application in writing to the HKEAA Southern Centre office (Address: 12/F Southern Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong) at the time of application. The HKEAA will send the applications to Cambridge International which will process the applications. For the appeal review fee, please refer to Section A of the **2024 HKDSE Handbook for Candidates**.

3. Candidates should note that the appeal review process is **NOT** recourse to another remarking of the scripts but to review whether the stipulated remarking procedures have been properly followed.
4. The candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application tentatively in March 2024. If the outcome has led to a grade change, the appeal review fee shall be refunded to the candidate. **The decision of Cambridge International shall be final.**

M. A SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

Candidates may refer to **Annex 2** for a summary of the important dates regarding Category C (Other Languages) subjects of the 2024 HKDSE.

N. USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

For enquiries about the examination, please contact the Public Examinations Information Centre on **3628 8860** or email to **dse@hkeaa.edu.hk** or fax to **3628 8928**.

School Examinations and Assessment Division
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

September 2023

Annex 1 – Examination Dates

Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination 2024 Category C (Other Languages) Subjects Examination Timetable

The examinations for the 2024 HKDSE Category C (Other Languages) subjects will be conducted in October 2023. As announced by Cambridge Assessment International Education (Cambridge International), the examination timetable is as follows:

Date of Examination	Subject/Paper	Examination Time
3 October 2023 (Tuesday)	Japanese 3	8:30 am to 10:00 am
4 October 2023 (Wednesday)	French 3	8:30 am to 10:00 am
5 October 2023 (Thursday)	Japanese 2	8:30 am to 10:15 am
6 October 2023 (Friday)	French 2	8:30 am to 10:15 am
	Hindi 3 Urdu 3	1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
11 October 2023 (Wednesday)	German 3 Spanish 3	8:30 am to 10:00 am
13 October 2023 (Friday)	Hindi 2	1:00 pm to 2:45 pm
24 October 2023 (Tuesday)	German 2 Spanish 2	8:30 am to 10:15 am
27 October 2023 (Friday)	Urdu 2	1:00 pm to 2:45 pm

The speaking examinations of the above subjects (except Hindi and Urdu Languages) will be held between 1 and 23 October 2023. (*Note: There is no speaking component for Hindi and Urdu examinations with effect from the 2020 HKDSE.*)

The examination results will be released in late January 2024.

Annex 2 – Important Dates

	Event	Date
1	Issue of ‘Instructions to Candidates’ for Category C subjects	September 2023
2	Issue of Admission Forms	11 September 2023
3	Written Examinations	3 - 27 October 2023
4	Speaking Examinations	1 – 23 October 2023
5	Release of Examination Results	Late January 2024 (tentative)
6	Applications for Rechecking/Remarking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deadline for application ● Release of results 	<p>Within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results</p> <p>February 2024 (tentative)</p>
7	Appeal Review on Examination Irregularities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deadline for application ● Release of results 	<p>Within 5 calendar days upon the issue of the notification</p> <p>February 2024 (tentative)</p>
8.	Appeal Review on Rechecking/Remarking Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deadline for application ● Release of results 	<p>Within 5 calendar days upon the issue of the notification</p> <p>March 2024 (tentative)</p>