

Explanatory Notes on Rechecking and Remarking in the 2021 HKDSE

The Rechecking and Remarking Process

Note:

1. The policy and procedures mentioned in this document are only applicable to Category A (Senior Secondary) and Category B (Applied Learning) subjects.
2. **Remarking is not applicable to the following subjects/papers:**
 - Category B subjects; and
 - School-based Assessment components, multiple-choice papers/sections or practical papers of Category A subjects.
3. Candidates applying for rechecking and remarking will not be given a copy of the marked/remarked scripts.

Rechecking

- (1) For 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.
- (2) Candidates cannot apply for remarking of the same subjects for which they have applied for rechecking, regardless of the results of rechecking.
- (3) If there is a technical error involving a change in result(s), the revised result(s) with the error corrected will be released to the candidate and the fee paid by the candidate for rechecking the subject(s) will be refunded.

Remarking

- (4) For remarking, applications are processed on a subject or component/part basis for the following Category A subjects:
Chinese Language/English Language/Mathematics/Combined Science

Please note that:

- i. Remarking of Chinese Language/English Language on a subject basis includes the written papers only as speaking examinations for the 2021 HKDSE have been cancelled.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. For applications for remarking of a subject component, the other components of that subject will also be rechecked for technical errors but not remarked.
- (5) All scripts will be independently remarked after being checked for technical errors. Details of the remarking process are as follows:
 - i. For single-marked papers with 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 scripts will be remarked by a second marker if the marker's mark is different from the original mark. For other questions/sections/parts, if the marker's mark differs by 2 or more marks from the original mark, the script will be independently remarked by a second marker.
 - ii. For double-marked written papers, each script will be remarked by a second marker only if the mark given by the first marker differs by a specified margin from the original mark.
 - (6) Efforts are made to ensure that the scripts are remarked by persons other than the original marker.
 - (7) After remarking, the final mark is calculated by averaging out all valid marks given by the original marker(s) and the marker(s) for the subject/component(s) concerned.
 - (8) For remarking on a subject basis, all non-speaking components will be remarked and the final mark awarded to each non-speaking component after remarking will be used to calculate the final subject/component result.
 - (9) 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.

Rechecking and Remarking Results

Results of Rechecking/Remarking

- (10) 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.

Applications with Upgrade of Examination Results

- (11) 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.
- (12) 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. Information regarding the methodology for determining the specified margin for upgrading after remarking is available on the HKEAA website (www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Release_of_Results/Methodology_RR_eng.pdf).
- (13) For subject(s) with component/subject result(s) adjusted upwards, arrangements will be made for the revised result(s) to be incorporated in the certificate to be issued to candidates in October this year. In the meantime, should candidates wish to have an update copy of the results notice, they should return the original results notice to the HKEAA for further processing.
- (14) All candidates will be informed in writing of their rechecking/remarking results (i.e. whether or not the process has led to any change). School candidates (including evening school candidates) should collect their results from their schools and private candidates and evening school candidates may check their results via 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. The HKEAA will put on trial of using SMS to send out the rechecking/remarking results to the concerned candidates who have provided their SMS phone numbers this year.

Refund of Fees

- (15) Where the rechecking/remarking results in an upgrade in the subject or one or more component result, a corresponding portion of the fee paid will be refunded in accordance with the guidelines as follows:
- i. 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;
 - ii. 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;
 - iii. 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;
 - iv. if the 'remarking' leads to an upgrade of the subject result, the total remarking fee paid for the subject concerned will be refunded; and
 - v. under all circumstances, the total amount refunded will not exceed the amount paid for the subject concerned.
- (16) A cheque, being the refund of the rechecking/remarking fee paid for the subject(s) with component/subject result(s) adjusted upwards, will be mailed to the candidate by mid-September 2021. The cheque should be banked or cashed at any branches of the Hang Seng Bank Ltd. within six months from the date of issuance.

Applications with Unchanged Examination Result

- (17) Where the final mark after averaging out all the valid marks of the original marker(s) and the remarker(s) is still within the range of marks of the original level, or does not reach the specified margin above the cut score of the higher level concerned, the subject/component result(s) will remain unchanged after remarking.

Downgrade of Examination Result

- (18) 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.

Appeal Review

Application for Appeal Review

- (19) 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 on or before 23 August 2021. The application procedures are given in the Handbook for Candidates and on the HKEAA website. Requests for appeal review will be dealt with by the independent Appeal Review Committee. Applications submitted later than this date will not be considered unless there are valid justifications for the delay. The decision of the Appeal Review Committee shall be final.

Further Information

- (20) All enquiries should be made to our Public Examinations Information Centre at 3628 8860.