

Super :

Myths about the HKDSE

Is it easier to get good grades in some subjects than in others?

Ace:

You are on your fifth drumsticks already. Do you still want more?

Cheung Ting:

Shing Ngai looks very upset.

We'd better leave him alone. I think he might not have done so well in his exams.

Shing Ngai:

Don't you speak for me. Let's put it simply.

I flopped it all.

Principal Tam:

Cheer up, Shing Ngai.

You've tried your best.

Shing Ngai:

I am not upset.

But the result in Design and Applied Technology, the subject I was most confident in, was really disappointing.

Cheung Ting:

Haven't you heard that it is more difficult to get higher marks in subjects with fewer candidates?

I told you not to take that subject.

You should have taken Economics like me.

Do you know why I took Economics even though my result was kind of average?

Because there are more candidates at the bottom end to make my results better by comparison.

Ace:

Shing Ngai, it means there is nothing wrong with your abilities.

It's just that you made a wrong subject choice.

In short, it's easier to get good grades in subjects with more candidates.

Principal Tam:

Is it really that simple?

Ace, what did you get for Literature in English?

Ace:

It's okay. I got a level 5*.

Cheung Ting & Shing Ngai:

You are showing off. Top student!

Principal Tam:

Do you know that Literature in English is one of the subjects that have a small candidature?

If what you said was true then how did you manage to get such good results?

Cheung Ting:

That's true. Then, what is the relationship between the candidature of a subject and the exam results?

Ming:

They are certainly not related.

Principal Tam:

Ming, you seem to know everything.

Ming:

Of course! I have been working in the field of education...in the tuck shop for decades.

I know a thing or two.

Just like my signature sausages and fried egg noodles.

When one student orders, I give him two sausages and one egg.

When ten students order, I still give each of them two sausages and one egg coz I have my standard.

Shing Ngai:

Is this what you mean by your standard?

Principal Tam:

Ming actually has a point there.

Let's use playing video games as an example to explain how it works.

Super:

Shing Ngai Generic Level Descriptors – Level 1

the curriculum content

elementary knowledge and understanding

Principal Tam:

When you play, you need to overcome all obstacles to complete the first level and then you have to meet certain requirements before being promoted to the next level.

Super:

with support

concepts

skills

to apply in simple and familiar situations

Principal Tam:

Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR) is adopted in the HKDSE in which prescribed achievement standards are in place for each level.

Super:

to identify and interpret information from simple sources with guidance

to communicate simple ideas briefly

Principal Tam:

So, candidates' exam results reflect their own knowledge and skills.

Each level has a set of generic descriptors that describe the required performance standards of a candidate for the corresponding level.

Super:

Shing Ngai Generic Level Descriptors – Level 2

the curriculum content

basic knowledge and understanding

Principal Tam:

Whether you can make it to the final stage very much depends on your abilities.

Super:

Ace Chinese Language

Shing Ngai Chinese Language

Level 1/ Level 2/ Level 3/ Level 4/ Level 5

Principal Tam:

Ace, even if you are excellent in playing video games you won't affect the results of Shing Ngai because the two of you are playing independently.

There is no such thing as a pre-set percentage award for each level in the HKDSE.

Factors, such as performance of other candidates or the number of candidates taking a subject, will not affect the level that you will attain.

In short, if more candidates perform well in the subject then more candidates will obtain good results.

Shing Ngai:

There are different subjects in the HKDSE.

Are standards consistent across all subjects?

Principal Tam:

Of course. Level descriptors were drawn up for each subject with reference to the generic descriptors and the subject nature.

Although the nature and curriculum of individual subjects are different, all subjects adopt consistent standards in grading.

It would not be easier to get high levels in some subjects than in others.

Ace:

Then who decides whether I can obtain a level 3 or a level 4?

Is it controlled by a computer? Like playing video games?

Principal Tam:

The HKEAA has set up a grading system according to the SRR system.

A panel of expert judges is set up for each subject.

With reference to large amounts of data, including difficulty levels of exam papers, sample scripts, actual performance of candidates, exam statistics and level descriptors, the panel will recommend the cut scores for each level which determine the level that will be awarded to each candidate.

You may rest assured that the cut scores will also have to be endorsed by the Public Examinations Board.

Shing Ngai, chin up even if you didn't do too well this time round.

Shing Ngai:

Don't worry, Principal Tam.

I will make sure that you will all be proud of me next time!

Cheung Ting:

Hey, your results are not that bad.

You are just pulling a sad face.

Ace:

Your Maths result is even better than mine.

Shing Ngai:

Hey, give it back to me. Don't mess it up.

Super:

For details about the Standards-referenced Reporting and grading system, please visit the HKEAA website:

www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/the_reporting_system/SRR/

Super:

Cast

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