

Super:

Dr So Kwok-sang, Secretary General, HKEAA

Dr So Kwok-sang: (English translation)

The coronavirus pandemic had brought huge challenges to the HKDSE this year.

The written examinations were originally scheduled for 27 March.

But as the pandemic deteriorated, we had to postpone the examinations to 24 April.

At the same time, the speaking examinations of Chinese Language and English Language, as well as some of the practical examinations of Physical Education, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Super:

2020 An Unusual HKDSE

Mr Samuel Yung Wing-ki, the HKEAA Chairman, visited an examination centre

VO:

To conduct public examinations amid the pandemic, our prime consideration was to safeguard the health of candidates and examination personnel.

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) worked closely with schools in adopting multiple precautionary measures.

They included more frequent cleansing of examination centres, and spacing out candidate's seats as far as possible.

Moreover, all candidates and examination personnel were required to wear surgical masks throughout the examinations, check body temperature before entering the examination centres, and submit health declaration forms, etc.

Schools allocated much resources and manpower to ensure the safety of examination venues.

This secondary school in Kowloon Tong not only provided additional classrooms for the examinations, but also converted its gymnasium into an examination centre this year.

Super:

Mr Chan Tong

Design and Technology Panel Head, La Salle College

Mr Chan Tong: (English translation)

When I knew that the gymnasium would be used as an examination centre, I immediately considered how to protect the floor since the maintenance fees were expensive.

We chose this (flooring) material because we needed to clean and disinfect the venue every day after examination.

This material is more durable and less prone to damage.

During examinations, some candidates might feel sick and they might affect other candidates, either psychologically or physically.

Therefore, we decided to make these simple screens to provide candidates with the best possible examination environment.

It was actually a challenge for us.

Super:

Ms Becky Lam Shun-wah

School Examination Officer, La Salle College

Ms Becky Lam Shun-wah: (English translation)

We tried to purchase medical face shields in the market.

However, they were either out of stock, pricey or with limited supply.

Our colleagues who were in charge of STEM came up with an idea.

This frame was printed with 3D printer and this is just a transparency film.

Colleagues then accurately punched these holes which perfectly fit the frame.

Colleagues felt very relieved for that they were each provided a face shield when serving as invigilators.

We also prepared extra face shields for external invigilators.

VO:

During the examinations, all candidates and examination personnel had to follow strict disease prevention measures, including declaration of health.

Those who had fever, respiratory tract infection symptoms or were undergoing mandatory quarantine were not allowed to enter the examination centre.

Centre Supervisor:

The finishing time is 10:30. You may now start.

Mr Wu Kwok-keung: (English translation)

Every day after candidates had left we cleaned the tables, chairs, and the dirt on the floor.

Super:

Mr Wu Kwok-keung

Janitor, La Salle College

Mr Wu Kwok-keung: (English translation)

The arrangement for washrooms was slightly different from the past.

We placed adhesive tapes on the floor of the corridor, one meter apart from each other to help candidates keep a distance from each other when queuing.

Tissue paper was used instead of hand dryer.

Cleansing was carried out after examination and during breaks.

Ms Becky Lam Shun-wah: (English translation)

The manpower allocated for the HKDSE this year was four to five times more than that in the past.

However, it was totally worth it as we did all of these for our students.

There is no other reason.

Since our students needed to sit the examinations, we would spare no effort to make it work.

VO:

Due to the pandemic the practical examinations of Physical Education, which were normally held in February and March, were postponed to June.

Some assessment components were also cancelled.

Many venues that could be used for the practical examinations were closed, the HKEAA had spent quite some time looking for examination venues.

Candidates could choose not to wear a mask during examinations.

In order to avoid infection, the HKEAA adopted some additional precautionary measures.

These plastic barriers were specially designed for the sit-up and sit-and-reach assessments.

After the assessment of every candidate, the utensils used would also be cleaned.

Dr So Kwok-sang: (English translation)

We are very grateful that during this year's examinations amid the pandemic, no candidate or any examination personnel was infected by COVID-19.

Around 300 candidates were absent from the examination due to sickness or other special circumstances.

We arranged assessed subject results for them.

One special arrangement for this year was that in the past, the highest grade for assessed subject result was level 4, this year we raised the ceiling to level 5.

VO:

While the written examinations were deferred for around a month, the result release date was only put off for two weeks.

Catching up with the progress of marking and grading was one of the challenges.

With the active collaboration of over four thousand markers, the marking and grading and post examination works were completed on time and the results could be released on 22 July as scheduled.

Super:

21-7-2020

Dr So Kwok-sang: (English translation)

Welcome to the press conference on 2020 HKDSE results.

Reporter:

Regarding this year's results, does it mean that students could generally be easier to enter the University?

VO:

In early July, the local epidemic worsened further.

As the government stepped up its anti-epidemic measures, contingency arrangements were required for the press conference and the release of results notices.

Super:

Ms Margaret Hui

Head of School Examinations and Assessment, HKEAA

Ms Margaret Hui: (English translation)

Candidates will receive their results notices tomorrow.

Owing to the pandemic, after downloading the HKDSE results from the online system, schools can send the results to their own candidates electronically.

VO:

In the past, school candidates had to go back to schools to collect their results notices.

This year, schools forwarded the softcopies to students and arranged individual guidance for students in need.

Super:

22-7-2020

Dr Esther Ho Yuk-fan

Principal of Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School

Dr Esther Ho: (English translation)

We have to provide comprehensive technical support so that students could view and download their results notices simply by clicking the link.

This morning, a student even told me It was so efficient! I hadn't expected to receive the results so quickly.

If students chose to come back to school, we also allowed them to do so as we care about our students.

At this critical stage when students were about to complete their secondary school studies, which would affect their future directions in life, we would try our best to assist them.

Today, they finally received their HKDSE results, as their teacher, I felt quite relieved at this moment.

Super:

Mr Ho Tsz-yau

2020 HKDSE candidate

Mr Ho Tsz-yau: (English translation)

It seems like the sense of nervousness was gone.

But it is a good thing as I need not rush back to school with unsettled feelings in the morning.

This year sitting the HKDSE under the coronavirus pandemic, made me feel quite nervous.

As there were a lot of uncertainties and I was not prepared for them.

Now, the examinations are finally over I feel quite relieved.

Dr So Kwok-sang: (English translation)

For all HKDSE candidates, you had experienced an unusual HKDSE this year.

Though facing plenty of uncertainties, you all still persevered and managed to overcome all kinds of difficulties.

I feel so proud of all of you!

Again, I would like to express my gratitude for the education sector's full support which helped the HKEAA tackle the challenges posed by the pandemic and release results for over 50,000 candidates.

Super:

2020 HKDSE Category A Written Examinations:

over 350 hall centres

over 3,400 classroom centres

nearly 24,000 invigilator sessions

Among the 50,809 candidates sitting the 2020 HKDSE:

3,309 took Category B Applied Learning subjects

447 sat Category C Other Language examinations

About 4,400 markers, 340 marking assistants were appointed to mark approximately 705,000 Category A subject scripts.

Among All Candidates:

31,587(70.3%) obtained level 2 or above in five subjects, including Chinese Language and English Language

19,012(37.4%) obtained levels “3322” in the Core subjects

After the release of results, 15,321 candidates applied for Rechecking and Remarking, representing about 30% of all candidates.

The release of Rechecking and Remarking results was deferred to 1pm on 19 August 2020 due to a typhoon in the morning.

Acknowledgement:

La Salle College

Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School

Clementi Secondary School

The Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School

Munsang College

St. Joseph's College

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