

# Rechecking and Remarking

(applicable to Category A and  
Category B subjects only)



香港考試及評核局  
Hong Kong  
Examinations and  
Assessment Authority

# Introduction

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) aims to ensure that the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) is conducted in a fair and effective manner and that the examination results are valid and reliable.

Each year, the Authority handles hundreds of thousands of scripts. Thousands of markers/marketing assistants are recruited to mark the examination scripts.

The Authority has adopted a range of robust mechanisms to ensure uniform standards of marking and accuracy of examination results. Nevertheless, the professional judgment of individual markers and occasional human errors may lead to queries about the levels of award. Therefore, the Authority institutes the Rechecking and Remarking mechanism to facilitate candidates who believe that they should have obtained better results.



# Types of Service

## 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<sup>#</sup> or component<sup>@</sup>/part basis for the following subjects: Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics<sup>##</sup> and Combined Science.

### Note:

- # 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.
  - ## 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.
  - @ 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 after being checked for technical errors.  
For single-marked papers, each script will be independently remarked by a marker. For questions/sections/parts involving objective marking (e.g. those with matching and True/False questions) or where the maximum mark is small, the script 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 too much from the original mark, the script will be independently remarked by a second marker.  
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.
  - 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 marker(s) for the subject/component(s) concerned.
  - 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.
  - 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). An 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.
- **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/>

# Application Period

- Applications must be submitted to the HKEAA within 5 calendar days after the release of examination results.

# Fee

- 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.]
- 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.
- Under all circumstances, the total amount refunded will not exceed the amount paid for the subject concerned.
- For refund details, please refer to Section F of the *Handbook for Candidates*.

# Results of Rechecking/Remarking

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 (PEB).

## 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 PEB) 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](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Release_of_Results/Methodology_RR_eng.pdf)

## 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.

# Release of Results of Rechecking/Remarking

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). 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 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. The HKEAA will put on trial of using SMS to send out the examination results and rechecking/remarking results to the concerned candidates who have provided their SMS phone numbers in 2021.

# 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.

## Remarks:

1. Regarding the application for Rechecking/Remarking and Appeal Review, please refer to the Handbook for Candidates or the HKEAA website.
2. Candidates applying for rechecking and remarking will not be given a copy of the marked/remarked scripts.

## Enquiries

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