



PRESS RELEASE

2021 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) Special Arrangements for Candidates Undergoing Compulsory Testing and Mandatory Quarantine

To safeguard the health of candidates, examination personnel and all involved in the administration of the examinations, a series of precautionary measures and contingency arrangements will be implemented during the 2021 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE). According to the previous announcement of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA), candidates who are undergoing mandatory quarantine or still awaiting test results of COVID-19 compulsory testing will not be allowed to enter the examination centres. Only candidates with a negative result will be allowed to sit the examination.

Considering the importance of the HKDSE to candidates and mitigating the risk of infection of the COVID-19, the HKEAA, with the coordination and support of the Education Bureau (EDB) as well as various government departments, will provide special arrangements for candidates who are living in the 'restricted area' and undergoing compulsory testing, as well as those who are under mandatory quarantine at quarantine centre, to sit the HKDSE. The EDB has made [relevant announcement](#), and candidates please pay attention to the following:

1. Priority compulsory testing for candidates at 'restricted area'

The 2021 HKDSE will commence on 23 April 2021. According to the guidelines stipulated in [Contingency and Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres](#), candidates who are still awaiting test results of COVID-19 compulsory testing will only be allowed to enter the examination centres with a negative result.

Starting from 22 April 2021, for candidates who live in the 'restricted area' and are required to remain on their premises and undergo compulsory testing, the prescribed officer will give priority testing to HKDSE candidates who are going to sit the HKDSE the following day. The candidates concerned should go to the temporary specimen collection stations at the 'restricted area' as soon as possible. They should identify themselves as the 2021 HKDSE candidates, presenting their admission forms and identification documents to prove that they need to take the HKDSE the following day. The prescribed officers will give priority testing to the candidates concerned so that they can get the test results as early as possible.

It is the candidates' responsibility to follow the testing process and go to the temporary specimen collection stations the soonest for the test. Candidates are required to inform the HKEAA Public Examinations Information Centre, PEIC via email (RTD@hkeaa.edu.hk) as soon as possible that they have undergone compulsory testing. Candidates should go to the examination centres as soon as possible when they are allowed to leave the 'restricted area'

and show the SMS notification of the negative test result to the examination personnel before entering the examination centres. Candidates should contact the PEIC for assistance if their premises are far away from the examination centres. We will help arrange the candidates concerned to sit for the examination at a nearby examination centre as far as possible. If candidates are not able to arrive at the examination centres before the start of the examination, they should seek assistance from the Centre Supervisor to record their arrival time. After the examination, the candidates should fill in a report on examination irregularities to the HKEAA for follow up.

According to the relevant announcement of the EDB, if candidates need to leave the 'restricted area' for the examination centre before the 'restriction-testing declaration' is revoked, they can make a request to the prescribed officer in the 'restricted area', regardless of whether the test result has been obtained or not. The prescribed officer may allow the candidate to leave the 'restricted area' after verifying that the candidate has undergone testing as required and recording the relevant information of the candidate. Candidates who receive a negative test result on their way to the examination centres will be allowed to sit the examination as scheduled. For the safety of all candidates and invigilation personnel, the HKEAA reiterated that only candidates who have obtained negative results in the nucleic acid test will be allowed to enter the examination centres. If candidates have not yet received a negative test result upon arriving the examination centres, they should wait at the designated area of the centre schools. If the candidates concerned are allowed to enter the examination centre after the start of the examination, the Centre Supervisor will submit a report recording the starting time of the examination to the HKEAA for follow up.

2. Candidates under Mandatory Quarantine sitting HKDSE in Quarantine Centre

The 2021 HKDSE candidates who are undergoing mandatory quarantine on the day of examination will not be allowed to enter normal examination venues, while these candidates can choose to sit the examinations in quarantine centre. Candidates, who are informed by the Department of Health (DH) that they have to be put under mandatory quarantine, should present relevant supporting documents including admission forms and identification documents to DH staff and indicate their wish to sit the HKDSE in quarantine centre. They should also inform the PEIC of the HKEAA as soon as possible and apply for the special arrangement via their own schools. As advised by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), the candidates concerned who are undergone mandatory quarantine in the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre are allowed to sit for the examination in individual rooms which have been cleaned and sanitised.

If candidates do not wish to take the examinations in the quarantine centre, they may apply to the HKEAA for assessment of their results in accordance with the established mechanism and the HKEAA will review their applications and eligibility. These candidates may be assigned to another quarantine centre without examination arrangements for mandatory quarantine. The HKEAA Public Examinations Board has approved special arrangement

again this year that school candidates who cannot sit the examinations due to special circumstances may be given an assessed subject level up to level 5 in the 2021 HKDSE.

To ensure fairness of the HKDSE, all the examination papers will be delivered to the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre on the day of the examinations concerned. Video recording device will be set up in each examination room for the HKEAA to monitor the conduct of examination, while invigilation personnel will monitor the examination proceedings outside the examination rooms. All the examination procedures, including checking of candidates' admission forms and identification documents, the starting time and end time of the examinations and examination regulations, will be consistent with the proceedings of the normal examination centres as far as practicable. Radio broadcast will be adopted for the listening examinations of language subjects. In view of the constraints of the venue and facilities, certain special examination arrangements may not be provided to candidates.

Candidates' answer scripts will be sealed in plastic bags after the examination, then they will be sanitised and scanned as soon as possible for onscreen marking. Candidates taking the examinations in quarantine centre will also receive their results notices on 21 July 2021.

To safeguard the health of examination personnel, all invigilation staff who are going to work in quarantine centre will receive training on epidemic prevention from the CHP before the examinations, including donning and doffing of personal protective equipment. The HKEAA will recruit the invigilation personnel later. We encourage people with teaching or invigilation experience to apply to be invigilation personnel, and would like to call on schools to support this arrangement by actively nominating invigilators to assist candidates in need. The HKEAA will issue letters to schools and private candidates after the Easter public holidays to provide further details on the above special arrangements.

The HKEAA will continue to work closely with the EDB and CHP and monitor the development of COVID-19. If further step-up measures are required, we will update relevant guidelines and make announcement as soon as possible.

Candidates who have questions on the HKDSE or the above special arrangements may contact the PEIC (Tel: 3628 8860).

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Date: 1 April 2021