



PRESS RELEASE

Adjustment to 2022 HKDSE Examination Timetable and Step-up Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres

In response to the latest development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) announced today (28 February) that the 2022 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) timetable will be adjusted. The decision was made after consulting with the Education Bureau (EDB), health experts and the education community and considering various factors including the interests of candidates, examination arrangements, and admission procedures of tertiary institutions. The precautionary measures at examination centres will also be stepped up to safeguard the health of candidates and examination personnel.

Revised Examination Timetable & Fallback Plans

The written examinations of 24 HKDSE Category A subjects will tentatively commence on 22 April 2022 as scheduled. Considering the unpredictable development of the pandemic and to minimise the risk of disruption of the examinations, the HKEAA has compressed the examination period based on the following principles:

- The four core subject examinations will take place first;
- The major elective subjects will be examined earlier with science and humanity subjects being scheduled on alternate days where practicable and the smaller entry subjects will be examined later;
- Some examinations will be scheduled on Sunday afternoons and public holidays, including the day following Labour Day on 2 May, Monday and the day following the Buddha's Birthday on 9 May, Monday; and
- Examinations of certain subjects will be held on the same day scheduled in the morning or afternoon session, while only a minority of candidates will sit for two subject examinations on the same day.

According to the [revised examination timetable](#), the written examinations will be held from 22 April to 14 May. The first subject will be English Language Papers 1 and 2, while the last subject will be History. The date of release of results remains tentatively on 20 July.

The HKEAA has also developed fallback contingency plans. If the pandemic situation remains fluctuating by early April, the HKDSE will be postponed to mid-May. If the pandemic situation persists by late April, the written examinations will be further postponed to early June. If the pandemic situation remains severe by mid-May, the 2022 HKDSE will be cancelled. The HKEAA will predict candidates' HKDSE results based on their school internal assessment marks. The principles of the examination timetable adjustment and the fallback plans have been approved by the Public Examinations Board of the HKEAA.

Fallback Plan	Announcement of Adopting Fallback Plan	Examination Period & Tentative Date of Results Release
1. The HKDSE to start in mid-May	Early April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Written exams: 13 May to 4 June ● Practical exams: Mid to late June ● Tentative results release date: 10 August
2. The HKDSE to start in early June	Late April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Written exams: 2 to 25 June ● Practical exams: Early to mid-July ● Tentative results release date: 15 August
3. The HKDSE to be cancelled	Mid-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cancellation of the HKDSE ● Tentative results release date: within August

Step-up Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres

In view of the worsening situation of the pandemic, the HKEAA will be implementing a series of step-up precautionary measures at examination centres. Candidates must check their body temperature, perform the COVID-19 rapid antigen test, and complete the '[Candidate's Declaration Form on Health](#)' before going to the examination centre on each examination day. School candidates will receive the rapid antigen test kits from their respective schools while for private candidates, the HKEAA will inform them about the collection details. Candidates should not go to the examination centre if they are subject to any of the following conditions¹:

- have a fever (tympanic temperature at or higher than 38°C), or COVID-19 infection symptoms (such as cough or shortness of breath);
- are undergoing mandatory quarantine (including the 'StayHomeSafe' Scheme and home isolation);
- have not completed the last COVID-19 compulsory testing, or are awaiting test result of the last COVID-19 compulsory testing;
- have a positive test result of the COVID-19 rapid antigen test done on the day of examination.

School candidates who are absent from the examinations due to the above reasons, may apply to the HKEAA through their schools for assessed subject results. The HKEAA will process the applications in accordance with the stipulated procedure. The highest level awarded for an assessed subject result will be revised from level 4 to level 5 in the 2022 HKDSE, following the special arrangements adopted in the 2020 and 2021 HKDSE.

¹ The health declaration requirements are subject to revision according to the Government's latest COVID-19 testing and quarantine arrangements, or the latest pandemic development.

To prevent candidates from taking off their masks inside the examination hall/room and mitigate the risk of infections, in the 2022 HKDSE the procedure for checking candidates' identity will take place in an open area and before the examination, in addition to the current precautionary arrangements of body temperature screening and hand sanitation. Centre schools shall admit candidates earlier from 7:45am, or 1:00pm/1:45pm for examinations in the afternoon session, depending on the start time of the examinations. Candidates are reminded to arrive early at the examination centre.

The [2022 HKDSE Contingency and Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres](#) was uploaded to the HKEAA website for reference of candidates, schools and examination personnel.

We sincerely thank all centre schools and examination personnel for their assistance in implementing a series of precautionary measures at the examination centres. We hope for the understanding and cooperation of candidates in following the examination and contingency arrangements to ensure that the 2022 HKDSE can be conducted in a safe and orderly manner.

The HKEAA will continue to monitor closely the development of the pandemic and work with the EDB, health experts, and the school sector. We will make an announcement as soon as possible if postponement of the HKDSE or further contingency arrangements are required.

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Date: 28 February 2022