



## Response to the Education Bureau's and Public Comments on the Question in the HKDSE History Examination Paper

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) attaches much importance to the views expressed by the Education Bureau (EDB) and the public on the [History Examination Paper](#) in this year's HKDSE, and expresses deep regret over the view that the question might seriously hurt the feelings and dignity of those who suffered great pain during the Japanese invasion of China. As the examination has just been held and its marking has not yet begun, it is not the right time to make comments as this may undermine the fairness of marking and jeopardize candidates' interests.

As an independent statutory organisation, the HKEAA strives to manage and conduct public examinations in an open, fair, honest and accountable way. As in the past, we will ensure a fair and accurate assessment of candidates' performance in the examination.

The HKEAA reiterates that like other subjects, a Moderation Committee comprising university professors, well-experienced secondary school teachers and /or principals, curriculum and subject specialists, etc. is responsible for setting questions and drafting marking guidelines for the subject History. Questions and marking guidelines are set in accordance with the [Curriculum and Assessment Guide](#) and [Assessment Framework](#). The finalised versions have to be unanimously agreed by the Moderation Committee after thorough discussions.

The HKEAA places a high premium on the professional views of the education sector. After the examination each year, different forms of review on the examination are conducted for all HKDSE subjects including History, such as school surveys, external vetting of examination papers and scripts, Examination Paper Quality Audit and a post-examination review by the Subject Committee.

The Subject Committee comprises subject teachers, university professors and curriculum experts of the EDB. The review will look at whether the examination papers and the marking guidelines are in line with the curriculum and assessment objectives; standard of the questions; the balance between the assessment of basic knowledge/skills and high-order abilities; the wording in the examination papers; the clarity and appropriateness of marking guidelines, etc. The outcome of the review will be forwarded to the Moderation Committee responsible for the following year's examination to ensure the quality of the examination papers and for continuous improvement.

For details of question setting mechanism and quality assurance of the HKDSE, please refer to the *HKDSE Quality Assurance Framework Booklet*:

[www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/Leaflets/HKDSE\\_QA\\_A4booklet\\_Aug2016.pdf](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/Leaflets/HKDSE_QA_A4booklet_Aug2016.pdf)

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