



香港中學文憑考試

Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination

2026

生物

Biology

校本評核教師手冊

School-based Assessment Teachers' Handbook

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Preface

This Handbook serves as a guide to subject teachers for administering school-based assessment (SBA) for Biology at their schools for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. Teachers are expected to comply with the regulations and procedures stipulated in this Handbook when conducting the related activities.

Notes on Changes to the Handbook

Comparing with the Teachers' Handbook for the 2025 HKDSE Examination, the following paragraphs have been revised and changes are highlighted in this Handbook for teachers' easy reference:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Paragraph 3.3 | Authentication of Students' Work |
| Chapter 6 | Malpractice |
| Appendix E | Student Declaration Form |

Chapter 1 Introduction

As stipulated in the Biology Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6), there is a school-based assessment (SBA) component constituting part of the public assessment of these subjects.

It is believed that the incorporation of an SBA component into the public assessment of Biology will make the assessment more comprehensive, as there are skills in the curriculum that cannot be assessed with conventional written examinations. SBA of the subject covers the assessment of students' performances in practical work in their S5 and S6 years of the course. As teachers are the people most familiar with their students' achievements in the subject, the incorporation of their assessment on their students' achievement into the public assessment should enhance the validity of the public assessment.

SBA is an integral part of the teaching and learning process, and involves assessment of students' performances at different times during the course. It must be emphasised that a series of mini examinations is not intended. With SBA, teachers can provide appropriate feedback to students so as to help consolidate the learning of biology concepts and scientific investigative skills, and foster the development of generic skills such as creativity, critical thinking, communication and problem-solving.

This document sets out to explain SBA, state the regulations governing the operation of SBA and give additional notes for the guidance of teachers.

Chapter 2 Assessment Requirements

2.1 SBA Requirements

The SBA of Biology covers the assessment of students' performances in practical related tasks throughout the S5 and S6 school years. Practical related tasks here refer to laboratory work and fieldwork in Biology. The work should be integrated closely with the curriculum content and form a part of the normal learning and teaching process. Students will be assessed in two ability areas, A and B. Ability Area A concerns the practical abilities of candidates, whereas ability Area B focuses on the planning and reporting of scientific investigation. Details of the practical related tasks and the two ability areas are as follows:

(1) Types of practical related tasks that can be included in the SBA:

- (a) investigative practical work*
- (b) microscopic examination
- (c) dissection of animals/animal organs
- (d) ecology fieldwork*
- (e) biological drawing

* For investigative practical work and ecology fieldwork, students can work in groups. Teachers will assess the practical skills and abilities of individual students within each group.

(2) Assessment areas:

Area A – Practical skills:

- (a) organising and performing of practical work, including the use of suitable apparatus and equipment, and demonstrating the appropriate skills for carrying out the work;
- (b) making accurate observations and measurements.

Area B – Report writing:

- (a) Experimental Design (B1):
 - (i) identifying the problem to be investigated and formulating a hypothesis, and where applicable, putting it in a testable form;
 - (ii) devising a plan of investigation in accordance with the problem to be investigated;
- (b) Results and discussions (B2):
 - (i) recording and presenting results in appropriate forms;(ii) interpreting and discussing results, and drawing appropriate conclusions.

2.1.1 Assessment Requirements for Biology

For each candidate attempting the HKDSE Biology examination for the first time, the percentage weighting and the minimum number of assessments required in S5 and S6 for the different areas of SBA are summarised in the table below:

| | Minimum number of assessments required for BIOLOGY | | |
|----|---|--------------|---------|
| | Area A (8%) | Area B (12%) | |
| | | B1 (6%) | B2 (6%) |
| S5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| S6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The percentages in brackets represent the weighting in the subject mark.

Notes:

- (1) Teachers are encouraged to carry out more than the minimum number of assessments for each student.
- (2) The final SBA marks of a candidates includes:
 - (i) the best TWO marks obtained in Area A regardless of the types;
 - (ii) the best TWO marks obtained from different topics in Area B1;
 - (iii) the best TWO marks obtained from different topics in Area B2.
- (3) The topics for area B are listed below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Molecules of life | 10. Gas exchange and transport in humans |
| 2. Cell | 11. Reproduction, growth and development |
| 3. Movement of substances across membrane | 12. Coordination and response |
| 4. Enzyme | 13. Ecology |
| 5. Photosynthesis | 14. Health and diseases |
| 6. Respiration | 15. Applied ecology |
| 7. Genetics | 16. Microorganisms and humans |
| 8. Gas exchange and transport in plants | 17. Biotechnology |
| 9. Nutrition in humans | 18. Others |

2.1.2 Requirements for Repeaters and Transfer Students

School repeaters are candidates who have sat the HKDSE Examination in previous year(s) and are currently enrolled as S6 students in a school to retake the examination as school candidates.

Generally speaking, SBA is compulsory for school repeaters. If a repeater studies in a school that offers Biology, the student has to be re-assessed in S6 and meet the stipulated SBA requirements. Their SBA results obtained in previous examinations will not be counted. If a repeater studies in a school that does not offer Biology, special permission may be granted for the student to be exempted from the SBA for these subject and his/her subject result will be based on the public examination result only. The school has to submit an application for exemption to the HKEAA when the repeater applies to enter for the examination and certify that the subject concerned is not offered by the school.

Transfer students are S6 students sitting the examination for the first time, but who have transferred from one school to another after S5. Their SBA results obtained in S5 in the former school will not be counted. Transfer students should provide to their new school information about the school in which they attended the Biology course in S5 and the assessments completed for their teachers' reference.

School repeaters and transfer students have to meet the respective minimum requirements for SBA in S6 (see below) and the SBA marks will be proportionally adjusted to 20% for Biology and incorporated into their subject mark.

| Minimum number of assessments required for BIOLOGY | | |
|---|--------------|---------|
| Area A (8%) | Area B (12%) | |
| | B1 (6%) | B2 (6%) |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |

The percentages in brackets represent the weighting in the subject mark.

Students who repeat S5 or who have transferred to an S5 class in another school are not considered to be school repeaters or transfer students. They must meet the full SBA requirements as normal S5 students.

2.1.3 Private Candidates

Private candidates are not required to complete the SBA component. Their subject mark will be based entirely on their public examination results.

Private candidates who have SBA marks obtained from previous examinations will not be allowed to carry forward these marks to subsequent examinations.

2.2 Guidance in Assessment Process

- (a) SBA is an integral part of learning and teaching. Through SBA, teachers can guide their students to learn and to understand the biological concepts outlined in the curriculum. Teachers can continually assess students' achievements and award marks on selected assessment tasks to fulfill the requirements of SBA over the S5 and S6 years of study. To ensure that teachers arrange a reasonable of practical activities for students, a minimum number of 8 practical related tasks for Biology are stipulated throughout the two years of S5 and S6.
- (b) The teacher can decide on how many students are to be assessed when performing each practical related task. This depends on factors such as the nature of the work, class size, etc. Though it is desirable that all students in a school be assessed on the same task, this may be impracticable in schools with very large class sizes. If students in a school are assessed on different tasks, care should be taken that the tasks chosen for assessment should be of a similar nature and complexity, and call for similar skills.
- (c) For investigative practical work and ecology fieldwork, students are allowed to work in groups. However, the performance of each student in the tasks has to be assessed individually. For ability Area B, each student has to submit his/her own investigation report.
- (d) SBA marks can be awarded by using a scheme of marking (e.g. checklist). Suitable schemes can be devised to mark different parts of a student's work. The essence of awarding marks is that teachers should be able to give a reasonable spread of marks which reflects the rank order of the students as well as the relative differences between students' achievements.
- (e) For the assessment of Area B, teachers should record the marks on the student's work as part of the normal feedback to the student.
- (f) For tasks that involve working outside the classroom such as fieldwork, the assessment part of the tasks should be conducted in class/on the field site to ensure authentication.

2.3 Setting Assessment Tasks

Teachers are free to devise their SBA tasks so that students will be exposed to a variety of experiences covering different topics of the curriculum rather than focusing on one or two of the topics. They should bear in mind the workload of students and avoid asking students to do a lot of work outside class time. The tasks devised should:

- help students to develop science process skills and other generic skills outlined in the curriculum;
- enable them to achieve a balanced integration between theory and practice;
- be appropriate to the topic taught, and suit the strength and ability of the students;
- enable differentiation of the students in their demonstration of the ability to be assessed.

Teachers should refer to *Sections 2.1.1* of this Handbook for the setting of practical related tasks. They can design their own tasks and/or modify the sample SBA tasks provided by HKEAA to suit the standards of their students.

In order not to overload the students, most parts of the tasks, apart from fieldwork and the search for information, should be completed within school hours. The School-based Assessment framework is summarised in the following table:

| Task type/mode | Practical related task | |
|---|---|--|
| Assessment area | Ability area A (Practical skills and abilities) | Ability area B (Reporting of investigative work) |
| Task description | Performing practical work, including: > investigative practical work * > microscopic examination > dissection of animals/animal organs > ecology fieldwork* > biological drawing | Investigation reports including: > objective of investigation > design of investigation and its underlying principles > procedure > presentation of findings > interpretation and discussion of results > conclusion |
| Estimated in-class time (per task) | 80 min. | 60 min. |
| Estimated out-of-school time (per task) | 0 min. | 60 min. |
| Means of assessment | Assess practical skills [#] during practical sessions | Mark investigation reports |
| Suggested means of authentication | Practical work being done within class time under teacher's supervision | Hand in preliminary design proposal/ raw data sheet during class time |

Note:

- * Students can carry out the practical work in groups. Teachers will assess the practical skills of individual students within each group.
- # The assessment focuses on the practical skills such as assembling an experimental set-up, making careful measurements and observations, using a microscope, making biological drawings.

2.4 Assessment Criteria

The paragraphs below outline the assessment criteria for the practical related and non-practical related tasks.

(1) Assessment of area A

Assessments of Area A should be based on a variety of practical skills. Practical skills of individual students working individually or in groups (e.g. in investigative practical work and ecology fieldwork) can be assessed according to the criteria for Area A.

In an investigation, teachers may choose to assess Area A alone, or to assess Area A together with Area B. In the former case, Area A can be assessed when full instruction on the procedure is given.

Assessments in this area should be made by direct observation of students' performances during their laboratory work/fieldwork. The criteria involved for the different types of practical skills and abilities are as follows:

a. Criteria for assessing the ability to organise and perform practical work/ecology fieldwork:

- (i) The procedure for practical work is carried out safely.
- (ii) Work is done in an organised and efficient way.
- (iii) The apparatus is handled competently.
- (iv) Instruments are used in appropriate ways to make accurate readings and measurements
- (v) The work area is kept neat and tidy.

b. Criteria for assessing the ability to set up and use a microscope:

- (i) Uniform and appropriate illumination is achieved by means of suitable setting of the light source, mirror, condenser, filter and diaphragm as appropriate.
- (ii) Proper handling of observed specimens (wet or dry) is demonstrated.
- (iii) Correct choice and good use of eyepiece and objective is made for viewing specimens under low-power and high-power.
- (iv) Correct focusing procedure is used.
- (v) Correct viewing practices and posture are demonstrated.

c. Criteria for assessing the skills in dissecting animals/animal organs:

- (i) Good manipulative skills are demonstrated.
- (ii) Effective use of dissecting instruments is observed during the course of the dissection.
- (iii) Relevant structures are clearly displayed.
- (iv) Structures are intact, clearly visible and free from surrounding overlying tissue.
- (v) Dissection is generally neat and tidy. No debris is scattered in the dish or on the board.

d. Criteria for assessing biological drawings:

- (i) The drawing is accurate – there is a resemblance to the specimen; distinctive biological features are clear; the proportion of the various parts is accurate.
- (ii) The lines are smooth and clear, and overall the drawing is neat.
- (iii) Labels, title and magnification are given.

(2) Assessment of area B

The assessment of this area is mainly based on the report of a scientific investigation carried out by students. The reports for assessment should include: (B1) the design of the investigation and its underlying principles; and (B2) presentation of findings, interpretation and discussion of results and conclusion. Teachers may use the experiment for the assessment of B1 only, B2 only or both B1 and B2 depending on the suitability of the experiment.

The design and planning of the investigation has to be completed within class time under the supervision of the teacher. The teacher may choose to discuss with students the salient points in the design based on the questions provided on the task sheet before students write their design. Teachers can distribute the relevant task sheets to students in advance and this will not be considered as help given.

For the assessment of investigation reports, teachers are allowed to provide the following in the task sheet given to students:

- generic guidelines / guiding questions on the design of the investigation
- generic guidelines / guiding questions on writing the report
- technical information which is essential for the investigation work to be completed within class time

For methods used in the investigation that are novel to the students, the working principles or the outlines of the method should be provided in the task sheet. However, details about the procedure of the investigation should not be given to students.

The criteria for assessing abilities in Area B are as follows:

a. Criteria for assessing the design and method of investigation:

- (i) The problem under investigation is clearly identified. The aim of the investigation is clearly stated.
- (ii) If applicable, a hypothesis is put forward in a testable form and predictions are made.
- (iii) Knowledge of biological principles is applied to the design of the investigation. Where applicable, assumptions used are clearly stated.
- (iv) Suitable methods, techniques, including apparatus and materials to be used, are stated for the investigation.
- (v) The method of changing the independent variable is stated and the ways for controlling other variables are stated.
- (vi) The way(s) to obtain data for the dependent variable is/are stated with due attention being paid to accuracy.
- (vii) Control set-ups and various precautions are mentioned and explained.

b. Criteria for assessing the presentation of results, interpretation and conclusion:

- (i) The record of results indicates a high quality of accuracy and attention to detail. Appropriate units are stated.
- (ii) Results are presented in appropriate forms such as tables, graphs, histograms or annotated illustrations with appropriate titles.
- (iii) Calculations where necessary are clearly shown.
- (iv) Trends and patterns in data are recognised.
- (v) Appropriate interpretations are made on the results in relation to the problem under investigation or hypothesis to be tested.
- (vi) Awareness is shown of the limitations of the methods used, sources of errors and their influence on the accuracy of the results obtained.
- (vii) Any unusual or anomalous observations are considered and their significance is assessed.
- (viii) Suggestions for improvement in technique and for further investigations are given where appropriate.
- (ix) Appropriate conclusions are drawn, supported by reasoned arguments. Consideration is given to the biological significance of the conclusions obtained.

2.4.1 Mark Scale

A 10-point scale will be used for the assessment of SBA tasks. This scale is applicable to different ability areas and tasks in SBA. Zero marks will be given if the work submitted by a student fails to meet the minimum requirements of the assessment standard. The quality of work of a student is to be judged by matching his/her performance against the mark scale as follows:

| Marks | Quality of work |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 9-10 | Excellent |
| 6-8 | Good |
| 3-5 | Fair |
| 1-2 | Poor |

Chapter 3 Guidance in the Conduct of SBA

3.1 Provision of Information to Students

Students should be informed clearly at the beginning of the course of the various requirements and regulations regarding the SBA component, including:

- task requirements and assessment criteria;
- schedule of assessment and critical deadlines;
- the school's regulations and administrative procedures for conducting SBA;
- the importance of academic honesty and proper conduct in SBA;
- guidance on how to quote and acknowledge sources properly in their SBA work; and
- record keeping requirements.

Students should be asked to sign a declaration form regarding proper conduct in SBA at the beginning of each school year in which SBA is undertaken. (*Please refer to Paragraph 3.3 for details.*)

After the completion of the marking, teachers are expected to provide feedback to students, including their marks or grades on individual assessment tasks. Other appropriate feedback may include students' strengths and weaknesses as revealed in the assessments, and advice on how improvements can be made. Before submitting the SBA marks online, students should be informed of the marks awarded and that these marks are also subject to moderation by the HKEAA. Hence, their marks may change after the moderation process. Details of the moderation mechanism are provided in Paragraph 5.2.

3.2 Guidance from Teachers

Teachers are expected to provide appropriate guidance to assist students in preparing for the completion of their work. Students should be informed of the assessment conditions and other related information, including how their work is to be assessed.

For each of the tasks conducted, teachers can provide background information on the task such as its objectives, the underlying principles and the skills to be assessed. Such information can be channeled to students through the conduct of a pre-laboratory/pre-activity talk or by distribution of an appropriately designed handout in class. However, teachers should avoid providing a detailed outline to guide students in the completion of their work or specific advice/suggestions to individual students on how to improve their work to meet the assessment criteria. Teachers should also help students recognise the importance of effective time management for completing their work.

Students should be advised of the importance of keeping a well-written log of the data they have collected, the draft of their design for an experiment and the information searched for. This can help them keep track of their work at different stages. They should also be advised to acknowledge

information in their work quoted from other sources.

It is understandable that teachers' guidance is most valuable to students in the learning and teaching process. However, it must be emphasised that undue assistance should not be provided to students while undertaking assessments that will count towards their public assessment results. As a general rule of thumb, the guiding principle should be that the ability of an individual student is fairly assessed and that the work submitted for assessment is the student's original work. The teacher should take into consideration any additional assistance given to a student who experiences genuine difficulty in completing the tasks such that the marks awarded represent the student's own achievement. Works once submitted for final assessment cannot be revised and submitted for retrospective assessment. Interaction between teachers and students is encouraged to facilitate learning and teaching. For some tasks, interaction among students is also allowed during assessment, but this should be carefully monitored by the teacher so as to prevent plagiarism and disturbance.

3.3 Authentication of Students' Work

To ensure fairness of the assessment, teachers should devise ways to ensure authentication of students' work, such as

- asking students to write and submit before the end of a lesson the outline of an investigation and/or the outline of the plan for an experiment,
- having the laboratory report written and submitted in class,
- checking the authenticity of experimental data by comparing them with those written in the student's log book,
- conducting quizzes for tasks which involve work outside class time,
- making changes to the tasks across years, and
- developing new tasks to replace old ones.

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are developing rapidly and are increasingly becoming embedded in many aspects of our lives, teachers can also discuss the use of AI tools in learning and completing assignments in the context of SBA. Using AI tools in the learning process can undoubtedly offer new and exciting opportunities if used in a proper manner. However, using an AI tool to gain an undue advantage is considered to be malpractice and can have serious consequences. Students should also note that while AI tools are powerful and are likely to become even more powerful in the future, they cannot replace the actual learning experience. Overreliance and misuse of AI tools will diminish students' authentic learning opportunities. It should also be noted that AI tools are not without their shortcomings. Just as with other reference sources, it is important to realise that the use of AI tools in SBA must be properly acknowledged.

In order to strengthen the message to students about academic honesty and proper conduct in SBA, schools should ask their students to complete and sign a declaration form (*see Appendix E*) at the beginning of each school year in which SBA is undertaken to declare that all SBA tasks/assignments completed are their own and to agree to adhere to a code of honour in completing the SBA for all

subjects. The declaration form is available on the HKEAA website (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/>).

Students should be asked to keep a proper and complete record of their work.

When submitting the SBA marks online, teachers are required to confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, the work presented for assessment is the student's own work. School principals are required to confirm that the SBA is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the HKEAA. Once the assessment is completed and marks submitted to the HKEAA, no further changes should be made to the students' work and assessment records.

3.4 Within-school Standardisation

The moderation of SBA marks submitted by schools to the HKEAA is conducted on a school basis, i.e. taking each individual school as a moderation unit. If there is more than one subject teacher teaching the subject to the same cohort of students in the school, it is necessary for the teachers involved to agree on the criteria for awarding marks so that the same standard of assessment is applied to all students. Below are some recommended practices for schools' consideration:

- to conduct meetings among teachers to align the marking criteria;
- to set common SBA tasks across classes;
- to conduct trial marking of samples of students' work;
- to adjust marks of some teachers, if necessary, to ensure consistency of assessment standards for the whole school; and
- to use reference materials (such as those provided by the HKEAA) and archive materials (such as samples of students' work from previous years) to help standardise marking within the school.

3.5 Handling Queries against Assessment Decisions

In general, schools already have procedures to handle any queries from their students regarding internal assessment results and can continue with their existing practice for handling SBA results. Some schools may consider setting up a panel to handle those queries that cannot be resolved by the subject teacher (to whom students should first address any queries). The panel may consist of the principal or his/her designate, and the panel head. The panel will adopt appropriate procedures to investigate the case, such as

- listening to the points raised by the student;
- listening to the views and justifications provided by the subject teacher;
- assigning the panel head or another teacher to serve as a third-party to re-assess the student's work; and
- asking the student to complete a task of a similar nature for verification.

Based on the investigation of the panel, the school will make a judgment as to whether the student's

query is valid or not. The student will be informed of the result within a reasonable period of time in accordance with the school's procedures.

Schools are expected to resolve students' queries before submitting SBA marks to the HKEAA. After the release of public assessment results, candidates may submit an application to the HKEAA for rechecking of results, including the SBA component. However, they cannot appeal for a re-assessment of their performance in SBA.

3.6 Record Keeping

Schools are required to keep a proper record of the following until the end of the examination cycle, which normally means the completion of the appeal process after the release of public assessment results:

- SBA assessment tasks and activities administered;
- students' SBA marks and relevant assessment records; and
- documentation of any special or irregularity cases and the actions taken.

The keeping of a proper record of assessment will enable another teacher to take over from a predecessor who leaves the school during the course. To ensure a smooth handover of SBA duties to the succeeding teacher, schools are expected to arrange for the leaving teacher to hand over the relevant mark records and documents to the panel head (or other responsible person in the school).

Generally speaking, it is the students' responsibility to keep a good record of their work. Schools can have their own policy regarding the timeframe for returning assessed work to students. Whenever assessed work is returned to students, they should be informed that they are responsible for keeping safe custody of their work until the end of the assessment process, as it may be required for inspection at the request of the school or the HKEAA. If necessary, the HKEAA may conduct sample inspections of students' work and assessment records. Schools will be informed in advance about the details of the sample inspection.

Schools are encouraged to keep samples of students' work at different levels of performance as archive material, which may be useful for future reference as well as maintaining assessment standards across years.

3.7 Language Requirements

Students are expected to complete their assessment tasks / activities in the same language as the medium of instruction according to schools' medium of instruction policy.

Chapter 4 Administrative Arrangements

4.1 Participating in SBA

SBA is compulsory for all school candidates. Schools which cannot comply with the requirements specified in this Handbook will not be eligible to present candidates to enter for the subject in the examination. Schools may refer to the HKDSE Examination Regulations regarding the procedures for applying to participate in the examination.

Permission for schools to continue with the SBA in a particular subject will be automatically renewed unless the SBA Supervisor's recommendation is to the contrary. In cases where the HKEAA considers that a particular school does not meet the stipulated requirements for the implementation of SBA, the HKEAA may consider taking the following action(s) as appropriate to remedy the situation:

- providing further guidance to the school or teachers concerned;
- issuing a warning letter to the school concerned and granting a grace period for the school to meet the requirements;
- barring the school from entering candidates for the subject in subsequent examinations until the school is able to demonstrate compliance with the stipulated requirements of the SBA component.

4.2 Late Submission and Absence from Assessment

Students should submit their completed work on schedule. Those submitting the work late may be subject to a penalty in accordance with their school's regulations.

Students failing to complete the assessment for legitimate reasons should give those reasons and provide relevant supporting documents (e.g. medical certificates) to the HKEAA via their schools for special consideration, which will be given for medical and other legitimate reasons.

Students failing to submit work for assessment without legitimate reasons will get a zero mark in the assessment(s) concerned. Schools may consider issuing a warning letter to the student concerned to remind him/her of the consequences of absence from assessment or failure to complete the work.

4.3 Students with Special Educational Needs

Students with special educational needs will not be deprived of their right to the HKDSE school-based assessment. When conducting SBA tasks, schools have the autonomy to provide special arrangements to these students depending on the nature and severity of their disabilities. The provision of such arrangements allows these students to be equitably assessed under suitable conditions without having an unfair advantage. Examples of such arrangements may include:

- extension of preparation time;
- extension of assessment time;
- provision of ancillary aids; and
- provision of special assistance during the conduct of the assessment etc.

In cases where a school cannot provide special arrangements for a particular student, the matter should be brought to the attention of the HKEAA in writing by the principal of the school for HKEAA's special consideration at the beginning of the school year. Such cases, once approved, may include exemption from part or whole of the SBA tasks.

4.4 Submission of SBA marks

The HKEAA will coordinate the deadlines of mark submission for different subjects. At the beginning of the course, the HKEAA will inform schools of these deadlines so that subject teachers can plan their SBA schedule for the year. Teachers should also inform students of these deadlines and set specific dates for students to complete their SBA work in accordance with their schools' schedule.

It must be emphasised that the submission deadlines do not mean deadlines for students to complete their work, as ample time should be left for finalising the assessment results and records as well as following up on any irregularities so that marks can be submitted to the HKEAA on time. Schools are advised to coordinate the timing for students to complete SBA tasks across subjects, taking into account the workload of students and teachers, so that students' work for assessment is not concentrated into one or two critical months but spread out over two years.

All schools have to submit the SBA marks using the online School-based Assessment System. A user manual for the system and training sessions will be provided to help teachers to become familiar with the system before they need to submit SBA marks. Before the school principal endorses the marks for submission to the HKEAA, teachers have to check carefully the marks entered in the system to ensure the marks awarded to each student are correct.

In order to streamline the administrative procedures, schools are only required to **submit all S5 and S6 SBA marks to the HKEAA in one go in S6**. Regarding the adoption of this 'One-off Submission', the following points should be noted:

- (a) There is no change to the SBA requirements and how SBA is conducted in school. SBA should continue to be conducted in S5 and S6 according to the stipulated SBA requirements and schools' internal schedule.
- (b) The S5 SBA marks should be properly kept by the school for submission in S6. To facilitate schools to store the S5 SBA marks, the HKEAA will provide SBA mark sheet templates (in the format of MS Excel files) for teachers to input the SBA marks for internal record-keeping.
- (c) A list of frequently-asked questions concerning this measure can be found at www.hkdse.hkeaa.edu.hk > SBA-FAQs for one-off submission of S5 and S6 SBA Marks.

4.5 Declaration Requirements

To prevent potential / perceived conflicts of interest, teachers conducting SBA have to declare whether the students they are assessing are their relatives (relatives include children, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, cousins and others living in the same home). The declaration records will be submitted to the HKEAA through the School-based Assessment System.

Apart from the provision of the declaration records to the HKEAA, school leaders are also expected to establish an internal system for directing teachers to make formal declaration of conflict of interest at the beginning of the school year in regard to their personal relationship with the students they teach, and to take appropriate actions to mitigate the declared interest, e.g. redeployment of teachers to avoid their conducting the assessments for the student(s) concerned, where applicable.

4.6 Security Requirements

As SBA marks will count towards students' public assessment results, for fairness and security purposes, schools have to adopt appropriate measures, including those adopted in internal examinations, in the conduct of those assessments, where preservation of secrecy is deemed necessary before the assessment.

Chapter 5 Moderation of SBA Marks

5.1 Rationale for Moderation of SBA Marks

The main reason for having moderation is to ensure the fairness of SBA. Teachers know their students well and thus are best placed to judge their performance. In consultation with their colleagues, they can reliably judge the performance of all students within the school in a given subject. However, they are not necessarily aware of the standards of performance across all schools. Despite training in carrying out SBA, and even given that teachers will assess students on the same tasks and using the same assessment criteria, teachers in one school may be harsher or more lenient in their judgments than teachers in other schools. They may also vary in the awarded mark ranges.

To address these potential problems, the HKEAA (like most other examination authorities) makes use of various methods for “moderating” assessments submitted by different schools, with an aim to ensuring the comparability of SBA scores across schools.

5.2 Moderation Mechanism

In Biology, a statistical moderation method will be adopted to moderate the SBA scores submitted by schools. This is done by adjusting the average and the spread of SBA scores of students in a given school with reference to the public examination scores of the same group of students, supplemented with review of samples of students’ work. The statistical moderation results will be compared to the results from the sample review. If the two are broadly comparable with each other, the statistical moderation results will be adopted. If the difference between the two is significant, HKEAA will follow up with these outlier cases. If necessary, adjustments will be made to the statistical moderation results so that the final moderated scores of these schools can properly reflect the performance of their students in the SBA. During the moderation process, students’ SBA marks may be adjusted but the rank order determined by the school will remain unchanged.

Details of the moderation mechanism are provided in the booklet “*Moderation of School-based Assessment Scores in the HKDSE*”, which is available on the HKEAA website (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/>).

The moderation is conducted on a school basis, i.e. taking each individual school as a moderation unit. If there is more than one subject teacher teaching the subject to the same cohort of students in the school, it is necessary for the teachers involved to agree in advance on the criteria for awarding marks, so that the same standard of assessment is applied to all students. Teachers may refer to *Paragraph 3.4* for some recommended practices on within-school standardisation.

After the examination each year, SBA moderation reports will be sent to schools for their reference. The report will specify the extent of adjustment made to the marks submitted by schools.

Chapter 6 Malpractice

Malpractice refers to any activities that allow a student to gain an undue advantage over others, examples of which include, but are not limited to:

- presenting work completed by others, including those generated using Artificial Intelligence tools, in part or in whole, as one's own work;
- including material copied directly, in part or in whole, from books, newspapers, magazines, CDs, the Internet or other sources without proper acknowledgement.

These behaviours are generally referred to as plagiarism.

6.1 How to Handle Malpractice

Students are forbidden to indulge in any malpractice when completing their assessment activities. Teachers are expected to provide sufficient supervision to ensure that the work which is assessed is that of the student concerned (see *Paragraph 3.3 Authentication of Students' Work* for details). Teachers know their students well and hence should be able to detect plagiarism and other malpractices through a close monitoring of students' work.

Schools should establish procedures for handling suspected malpractice cases. These procedures may include investigating suspected cases and determining appropriate action for proven incidents of malpractice. During the investigation, students may be required to:

- provide evidence of the development of their work;
- discuss the content of the work with teachers and answer questions to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the work submitted;
- complete, under supervision, a supplementary assessment task related to the original task; and
- attend an interview or complete a test to demonstrate the work submitted is their own.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in SBA is to be handled as described below, depending on the severity of the offence:

| Category | Method of handling |
|---|--|
| Serious plagiarism cases (P cases): Serious cases in which nearly the whole or the whole SBA task/assignment is plagiarised, with very little or no contribution from the student. | To be forwarded to the HKEAA for follow up |
| Other plagiarism cases: Less serious cases, including <ul style="list-style-type: none">- minor infringement identified in students' SBA work, or- part of the student's SBA work copied from source(s) without proper acknowledgement, but the student has made some contribution to the work. | To be handled by schools |

Procedures in Handling P cases

Schools should submit a report on the P cases identified to the HKEAA for follow-up, after the completion of mark submission in S6. The report should record details of the case and be submitted with relevant documents. *Appendix F* shows a template of the report for schools' use in reporting such cases, which is available on the HKEAA website (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/>). When submitting the SBA marks to the HKEAA, schools should input "P" in the relevant mark box for the student concerned.

These P cases will be deliberated by the HKEAA's Standing Committee and, for proven cases, a recommendation will be made to the Public Examinations Board (PEB) for their consideration. The PEB will review all the information and evidence and decide on the penalty to be imposed in accordance with the Board's guidelines on handling examination irregularities. The levels of penalty to be imposed for proven P cases are as follows:

- (a) **Zero marks** will be given to the task in which serious plagiarism is proven. In addition, a penalty of **downgrade by one level** will be imposed in the subject concerned.
- (b) For extreme cases, e.g. repeated offence of plagiarism, candidates may be subject to **disqualification from the subject(s) concerned or the whole examination**.

Procedures in Handling Other Plagiarism Cases

Other less serious cases are to be dealt with by the school. These cases need not be reported to the HKEAA for follow-up. However, schools should keep a proper record of such cases.

For proven cases, schools should impose appropriate penalty in accordance with the school regulations and the HKEAA guidelines, taking into consideration the seriousness of the offence. This may include:

- Issuing a warning letter to the students (e.g. for minor offence due to negligence or committed at the initial stage of the assessment);
- Deducting marks for the task concerned; and
- Awarding zero marks for the task concerned.

It is important to note that in marking students' work, any proven plagiarised material should be disregarded and any marks awarded should be based on the students' own work only.

After the release of examination results, candidates may only submit applications to the HKEAA for rechecking of their SBA marks but cannot apply for a re-assessment of their performance in SBA. Hence it is important that students should be informed of the penalty imposed. Schools should handle any queries from students against assessment decisions in accordance with their established internal procedures. Any queries from students should be resolved before submitting the SBA marks to the HKEAA.

Plagiarism Cases Identified by the HKEAA

After the completion of mark submission in S6, the HKEAA will conduct moderation of SBA marks and review of samples of student work collected from schools. Any suspected plagiarism cases identified during this process will be handled in a consistent manner as those identified by schools.

Schools will be required to follow up on any suspected cases identified. Both P cases and other less serious cases will be handled following similar procedures as stipulated above.

6.2 Prevention of Malpractice

At the beginning of the course, schools are expected to advise students on what malpractice is and what its consequences are. To avoid plagiarism, guidance needs to be provided to students on how to acknowledge sources properly in their work.

In completing the SBA, students can make reference to any sources (books, newspapers, magazines, the Internet etc) and/or discuss with their peers/parents but they must not plagiarise when completing their work. They should acknowledge sources properly in their work. Some examples on how to acknowledge sources properly are provided in the booklet "*HKDSE Information on School-based Assessment*", which is available on the HKEAA website (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/>).

Roles and Responsibilities of the HKEAA, EDB, Schools and Students

The following summarises the roles and responsibilities of different parties involved in the administration of the SBA, including the HKEAA, the Education Bureau (EDB), schools (principals and teachers) and students.

HKEAA will:

1. develop the assessment framework, assessment/administrative guidelines and marking criteria for SBA;
2. conduct research in SBA (e.g. with regard to international policies and practices, moderation methods, psychometric issues involved and implementation issues);
3. lead and organise teacher professional development courses on assessment in collaboration with the EDB;
4. monitor the conduct of SBA in schools to ensure compliance with SBA requirements;
5. appoint SBA Supervisors and District Coordinators to oversee and support the implementation of SBA in individual subjects;
6. process assessment records submitted by schools;
7. moderate SBA marks submitted by schools; and
8. provide feedback to schools.

EDB will:

1. develop the curriculum framework;
2. sponsor and organise teacher professional development courses on assessment in collaboration with the HKEAA;
3. provide learning and teaching resources to facilitate the implementation of SBA in schools;
4. support the WebSAMS system to facilitate retention of SBA teacher/class data and assessment records; and
5. evaluate quality assurance processes of school assessments including SBA (e.g. through inspection of teaching facilities, observation of lessons and the external school review process).

Principals (or their designates) will:

1. establish appropriate regulations and procedures for the proper administration of SBA within the school;
2. send representatives to attend SBA conferences and coordinator-teacher meetings;

3. nominate a School Coordinator for each subject to oversee the conduct of the SBA in that subject;
4. provide information on the administration of SBA as required by the HKEAA;
5. endorse the SBA marks for submission to the HKEAA;
6. facilitate visits by HKEAA subject managers and examination personnel (e.g. supervisors, district coordinators and moderators) who may need to review students' work and assessment records;
7. maintain a quality assurance system for SBA; and
8. provide feedback to the HKEAA.

Teachers will:

1. explain to students the aims, requirements and assessment criteria of SBA as well as the relevant school regulations and procedures;
2. administer SBA as an integral part of learning and teaching;
3. administer SBA according to the regulations and procedures set by the HKEAA and the school;
4. provide information on the administration of SBA as required by the HKEAA;
5. assess students' work/performance using the assessment criteria set by the HKEAA;
6. authenticate students' SBA work and performance records;
7. inform students of the SBA marks awarded before submitting the marks to the HKEAA;
8. submit SBA marks assessment records and samples of students' work to the HKEAA on schedule;
9. retain students' assessment records and make them available for inspection if required; and
10. provide feedback to the HKEAA.

Students should:

1. understand that:
 - SBA tasks are part of learning and teaching of the respective subject;
 - the process of SBA, including feedback from teachers, helps them develop skills and knowledge that may not be reflected in public examinations;
 - learning through SBA complements learning in other parts of the curriculum;
2. become familiar with the task requirements, the assessment criteria, critical dates, school regulations and procedures for SBA;
3. complete the assessment tasks honestly and responsibly in accordance with the stipulated requirements;
4. complete the assessment tasks on time; and
5. keep a proper record of their SBA-related work till the end of the examination cycle and present it for inspection at the request of the school or the HKEAA.

Roles and Responsibilities of Supervisors, District Coordinators and School Coordinators

When SBA is implemented in a certain subject, the HKEAA will appoint an SBA Supervisor and District Coordinators to oversee and support the implementation of SBA. School principals will be requested to nominate a teacher to be the School Coordinator for a particular subject, who will serve as a link between the subject teachers within the school and the HKEAA and the District Coordinators. Their roles and responsibilities are summarised below:

SBA Supervisor

The duties of the SBA Supervisor are to:

1. be responsible to the HKEAA for the proper monitoring of SBA;
2. make any necessary arrangements with District Coordinators to familiarise them and subject teachers with the SBA, and to align assessment standards;
3. bring any irregularities to the notice of the HKEAA together with recommendations for action(s) to be taken, including SBA mark adjustment;
4. keep the HKEAA informed of the progress of SBA and recommend amendments when deemed desirable;
5. oversee the appointed District Coordinators;
6. make recommendations to the HKEAA regarding SBA moderation;
7. advise on the cut score of each reporting level during the grading meeting (if applicable); and
8. write a report on the conduct of SBA and submit it to the HKEAA at the end of the school year.

SBA District Coordinators

SBA District Coordinators provide a link between the Supervisor and School Coordinators/teachers.

The duties of a District Coordinator are to:

1. liaise with School Coordinators and oversee the implementation of SBA in an assigned group of schools;
2. conduct meetings with School Coordinators/teachers involved in his/her group as necessary, pass on information about SBA to teachers and discuss difficulties and receive comments/feedback from teachers;
3. report to the Supervisor any difficulties or irregularities in the implementation of SBA in the schools in his/her group and recommend any necessary action;
4. provide guidance and support to teachers in the implementation of SBA in schools and ensure adherence to the guidelines;
5. help teachers in the schools in his/her group to establish as far as possible a uniform standard in assessment;

6. assist the Supervisor in matters concerning the operation of SBA;
7. inspect samples of students' work and relevant assessment records provided by teachers in his/her group and provide feedback to teachers on the standards of marking and students' work in his/her group; and
8. complete a report concerning each of the schools in his/her group at the end of the school year.

SBA School Coordinators

The School Coordinator for Biology, who is nominated by the school principal, provides a link between the subject teachers within a school and the District Coordinator and the HKEAA. The duties of a School Coordinator include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. liaise with the HKEAA and the District Coordinator regarding SBA matters;
2. plan the assessment schedule (i.e. number, timing and sequence of assessment tasks) in consultation with all subject teachers teaching the same cohort of students;
3. coordinate the reporting of marks to the HKEAA; and
4. report to the District Coordinator any difficulties or irregularities in the implementation of SBA in his/her school.

Calendar of Events

The following table shows a tentative schedule of SBA events for the 2026 HKDSE Biology Examination:

| School Year | Month | Event |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| S4 | September 2023 | 2026 SBA handbook uploaded to the HKEAA website (http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/) |
| | September – November 2023 | SBA conference and group meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Supervisors and District Coordinators • Latest information about the SBA • Group meeting and discussion |
| | November 2023 | Professional development course on SBA for new teachers |
| | March – July 2024 | School visits by District Coordinators |
| S5 | September 2024 | Schools to provide the following information to the HKEAA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name(s) of and relevant information about S5 teachers |
| | September – November 2024 | SBA conference and group meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on SBA • Experience sharing on SBA |
| | September 2024 – May 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School visits by District Coordinators • S5 teachers to conduct SBA activities according to school's assessment plan |
| | May – June 2025 | S5 teachers to email List of S5 Experiments and Lab/Task Sheets to District Coordinators |
| S6 | September 2025 | Schools to provide the following information to the HKEAA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name(s) of and relevant information about S6 teachers |
| | September – November 2025 | SBA conference and group meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback to schools on S5 assessment results • Updates on SBA |
| | September – December 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School visits by district coordinators • S6 teachers to conduct SBA activities according to schools' assessment plans |
| | January – February 2026 | • Schools to submit S5 and S6 SBA marks, List of S5 and S6 Experiments and Lab/Task Sheets to the HKEAA via online submission system |
| | March – May 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBA marks to be analysed and moderated by the HKEAA • Schools to submit samples of work of S6 students for inspection |
| | July 2026 | Release of 2026 HKDSE Examination Results |
| | October 2026 | Schools to receive feedback on the outcome of moderation |

Channels of Communication

- (1) Teachers may contact the HKEAA via one of the following means:

| | Examination Arrangements and Application for Special Consideration | Subject-specific Information and Operation of SBA in Schools |
|----------|--|--|
| Tel No.: | 3628 8860 | 3628 8070 |
| Fax No.: | 3628 8928 | 3628 8091 |
| Address: | Manager - DSE (SBA) School Examinations and Assessment Division Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority 12/F, Southorn Centre 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai Hong Kong | SBA Team, Assessment Development Division Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority 13/F, Southorn Centre 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai Hong Kong |

- (2) Teachers may view the latest SBA information or download useful documents from the HKEAA website:
- URL: <http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk>
 - For general information, please click “HKDSE” on the homepage and then choose “SBA”.
- (3) School Coordinators/teachers may contact the District Coordinator assigned for their schools for guidance and advice on matters concerning SBA.

Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination
Student Declaration Form for School-based Assessment (SBA)
Completed in the School Year 20__ - __

Notes:

1. This form should be signed by senior secondary students at the beginning of each school year in which SBA is undertaken. Only one form needs to be completed by each student.
2. The completed form should be retained by the school until the end of the public examination cycle.

School Name: _____

Student's Name: _____

Class: _____ Class No: _____

Important Reminder to Students:

1. It is of utmost importance that academic honesty is maintained in SBA. Students are forbidden to indulge in any malpractice when completing their assessments.
2. Student can make reference to sources but must not plagiarise when completing their work. They should write in their own words and should not simply copy others' words or ideas, including those generated using Artificial Intelligence tools, and present them as their own. If necessary, they can quote or make reference to something written by another author in their work, as long as they ensure that these quotes or references are identified and the sources properly acknowledged.
3. Students are advised not to quote excessively in their work, as this would mean that they themselves could only make a minimal contribution to that piece of work and consequently they would be likely to get low marks from their teacher.
4. Students can make reference to the booklet "*HKDSE Information on School-based Assessment*", (<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/>). Some examples on how to quote and acknowledge sources properly are provided in the booklet.
5. Students will be subject to severe penalties for proven plagiarism. The HKDSE Examination Regulations stipulate that a candidate may be liable to disqualification from the subject concerned or the whole of the Examination, or suffer a mark or grade penalty for breaching the Regulations.

I certify that I have read the above Reminder and declare that:

- All SBA tasks/assignments work to be completed for all subjects in this school year will be my own work.
- My SBA work will not include any materials which have been copied from other sources without acknowledgement.
- I am responsible for ensuring that the work produced is my own and will bear the consequences for committing plagiarism or other malpractice in SBA.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination
Plagiarism Report in School-based Assessment (SBA)**

Notes:

1. Details of serious plagiarism cases (P cases) are to be recorded in this report, which should be submitted to the HKEAA for follow-up after the completion of the mark submission in S6, together with relevant documents.
2. When submitting the SBA marks to the HKEAA, schools should put "P" in the relevant mark box for the student concerned.

School Name: _____
 Student's Name: _____ Candidate No.: _____
 Class: _____ Class No.: _____
 Subject: _____

Case Summary

| | Details / Remarks |
|---|--|
| Task/assignment involved | |
| Date of completion of the task/assignment | |
| Irregularities identified | <p><i>(Please tick as appropriate)</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Nearly the whole task/assignment is plagiarized <input type="checkbox"/> The whole task/assignment is plagiarized <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify): _____ _____ |
| Documentation | <p>The following documents are submitted as evidence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SBA task/assignment 2. The student's work, with the plagiarised part(s) highlighted 3. The source material(s) from which the unacknowledged work is copied 4. Others (<i>please specify</i>): _____ _____ |
| Follow-up actions taken | <p>Student was interviewed on _____ (Date) and informed about the submission of this report to the HKEAA.</p> <p>Others (<i>please specify</i>): _____ _____</p> |

Contact Person

Name: _____ Post: _____

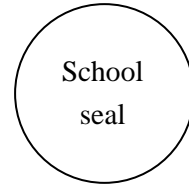
Telephone No.: _____

Signature of Subject Teacher

Signature of Principal

Name of Subject Teacher

Name of Principal



Date