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Dear Principal

### **2012 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination Regulations**

As you are aware, the new senior secondary curriculum will be implemented in 2009, with the first administration of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination taking place in 2012. To facilitate schools in making preparation for the examination, I am enclosing a document covering the key examination regulations of the HKDSE in both English and Chinese for your reference and circulation among your teachers.

Regarding the maximum number of subjects to be taken by candidates and the subject combination, please note that the decision was based on the structure of the new senior curriculum and the views collected from school councils.

If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact Mr K. W. Lok of the School Examinations and Assessment Division at 3628 8951.

Yours faithfully



Margaret Hui (Ms)  
General Manager  
School Examinations and Assessment Division

**Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority**  
**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination Regulations**

**Introduction**

1. The first Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) will be conducted in 2012 in accordance with the provisions of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority Ordinance.
2. The primary purpose of the HKDSE is to measure the attainment of candidates who have completed a full-time three-year senior secondary course. The Examination is conducted annually, mainly in April and May.

**Subjects of the Examination**

3. There are three categories of subjects:

**Category A**

These refer to the 24 New Senior Secondary (NSS) subjects.

**Category B**

These refer to the Applied Learning subjects. The number of subjects offered has yet to be determined by the Education Bureau (EDB).

**Category C**

These refer to the other language subjects. Six subjects will be offered. The question papers of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) will be used for the examination.

4. The 24 Category A subjects are as follows:

Biology\*  
Business, Accounting and Financial Studies  
Chemistry\*  
Chinese History  
Chinese Language  
Chinese Literature  
Design and Applied Technology\*  
Economics  
English Language  
Ethics and Religious Studies  
Geography  
Health Management and Social Care  
History  
Information and Communication Technology  
Liberal Studies  
Literature in English

Mathematics#  
Compulsory part  
Extended part  
Module 1. Calculus and Statistics  
Module 2. Algebra and Calculus

Music

Physical Education

Physics\*

Science\*

Combined Science (Biology & Chemistry)

Combined Science (Biology & Physics)

Combined Science (Chemistry & Physics)

Integrated Science

Technology and Living\*

Tourism and Hospitality Studies

Visual Arts

**Note:**

- \* Subjects that require laboratory/workshop facilities:
- (a) These include Biology, Chemistry, Design & Applied Technology, Physics, Science and Technology & Living.
  - (b) Participating schools will have to provide the laboratory/workshop facilities for practical work.
  - (c) A private candidate may enter for these subjects only if
    - the candidate can produce evidence of having sat the subject in a previous HKCEE, or in an equivalent public examination;
    - centres and facilities for the examination of the subject are available.

# There are two parts to Mathematics: the compulsory part and the extended part. Candidates may choose to take either the compulsory part or the compulsory part plus one of the modules of the extended part. Candidates can choose to take only one of the modules in the extended part. The results in the two parts will be reported separately on the certificate.

5. Under Category B, there are a wide range of Applied Learning subjects. These are grouped under six areas:

Applied Science  
Business, Management and Law  
Creative Studies  
Engineering and Production  
Media and Communication  
Services

The subjects under Category B have yet to be determined by the Education Bureau. The full course list and the relevant course descriptions will be available by the end of 2008.

Assessment of Applied Learning subjects will be undertaken by course providers. After moderation by the HKEAA, the final results will be recorded on the HKDSE certificate.

**Note:**

The regulations on Applied Learning subjects will be announced in mid 2009.

6. Under Category C, there are six other language subjects:

French  
German  
Hindi  
Japanese  
Spanish  
Urdu

Question papers at AS level from CIE will be used for these six subjects.

**Forbidden combination of subjects**

7. There are two streams in Science: Combined Science and Integrated Science. Candidates who take this subject have to choose either one. In addition, to ensure there is no overlap with Biology, Chemistry and Physics, in each of the following groups of subjects, only one may be entered for in the same Examination:

Biology  
Integrated Science  
Combined Science (Biology & Chemistry)  
Combined Science (Biology & Physics)

Chemistry  
Integrated Science  
Combined Science (Biology & Chemistry)  
Combined Science (Chemistry & Physics)

Physics  
Integrated Science  
Combined Science (Biology & Physics)  
Combined Science (Chemistry & Physics)

**Maximum number of subjects to be taken**

8. Candidates may take up to a maximum of eight subjects. These subjects may come from Categories A, B and C. If a candidate chooses to take the extended part of mathematics, the result on the extended part will be reported separately from the compulsory part. The extended part is not regarded as an additional subject. Also, for candidates choosing eight subjects, at least one of the subjects chosen must come from the following areas:

- (a) Ethics and Religious Studies/Music/Physical Education/Visual Arts in Category A
- (b) Applied Learning subjects in Category B
- (c) Other language subjects in Category C

## **Registration of schools for participating in HKDSE**

9. The participation of schools in the Examination shall be subject to the prior approval of the HKEAA. At the time of application for participation, the school should provide evidence that it is a registered school and is running courses and operating classes in accordance with the Education Bureau registration requirements; and that the school agrees to comply with the examination regulations. For school candidates, there will be a school-based assessment (SBA) component for the following subjects:

Biology  
Chemistry  
Chinese Language  
Chinese History  
Design and Applied Technology  
English Language  
History  
Information and Communication Technology  
Liberal Studies  
Physics  
Science  
Visual Arts

The Authority will not accept entries for these subjects from candidates presented by schools which do not join the SBA scheme.

10. Schools will be asked to apply for first participation in HKDSE with the following conditions:
- (a) For some subjects, schools will have to declare that they can provide the laboratory/workshop facilities for practical work. These subjects are: Biology, Chemistry, Design & Applied Technology, Physics, Science and Technology & Living.
  - (b) Schools will have to submit the application three years before the first examination in March 2009 for the first administration of HKDSE.
  - (c) Schools will also be required to make the declaration that they must place their staff at the reasonable disposal of the HKEAA and make their school premises available as may be required for the conduct of examinations. Schools which cannot comply with this requirement in a particular year will need to apply to the HKEAA for exemption.

**Note:**

Information on school registration will be announced in early 2009.

## **Participation by private candidates**

11. The HKDSE will be open to private candidates who can meet one of the following conditions:
- (a) have sat the previous HKCEE or HKDSE (for private candidates in 2013

- and after), or
- (b) have reached the age of 19 by 1 January of the year of the Examination, or
  - (c) have completed or is currently pursuing a non-HKDSE curriculum equivalent to Secondary 6 in the year preceding the examination.
12. A private candidate may enter for a subject which requires laboratory/workshop facilities (subjects with \*) only if the candidate can produce evidence of having sat the subject in a previous HKCEE, or in an equivalent public examination. [Notwithstanding this provision, the Authority will not accept entries from private candidates for Design and Applied Technology.]
13. The Authority may consider applications from persons possessing other qualifications or pleading special circumstances. Applications under this regulation must be made in writing to the Secretary General before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year preceding the Examination.

### **Reporting of results**

14. For category A subjects, results will be reported in five levels (1-5), with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 5 the highest. Achievements below Level 1 will be designated as “unclassified”. At the top end, to give appropriate recognition to outstanding candidates, top Level 5 candidates will be awarded Level 5\*\* and the next top Level 5 candidates will be awarded Level 5\*.
15. For Category B subjects, results will be reported as “Unattained”, “Attained” and “Attained with distinction”.
16. For Category C subjects, marking and grading will be conducted by CIE. Results will be reported in five grades (A-E), with grade E being the lowest and grade A being the highest. Achievements below grade E will be designated as “ungraded”.

# 香港考試及評核局

## 香港中學文憑考試規則

### 引言

1. 首屆香港中學文憑考試將根據香港考試及評核局條例於 2012 年舉行。
2. 舉辦香港中學文憑考試的首要目的，是考查修畢三年全日制高中課程學生的學業程度。該考試每年舉辦一次，大部分考試於四、五月間舉行。

### 考試科目

3. 香港中學文憑考試設有下列三類學科：

#### 甲類

這包括了新高中的 24 個科目。

#### 乙類

乙類學科指的是應用學習科目。教育局將於稍後確定應用學習學科科目。

#### 丙類

此乃其他語言科目。將舉辦六個其他語言學科考試，並採用英國劍橋國際考試部的試卷進行考核。

4. 甲類學科包含的 24 個科目為：

生物\*

企業、會計及財務概論

化學\*

中國歷史

中國語文

中國文學

設計與應用科技\*

經濟

英國語文

倫理與宗教  
地理  
健康管理與社會關懷  
歷史  
資訊及通訊科技  
通識教育  
英語文學  
數學#  
    必修部分  
    延伸部分  
        單元一 微積分及統計  
        單元二 代數及微積分  
音樂  
體育  
物理\*  
科學\*  
    組合科學（生物及化學）  
    組合科學（生物及物理）  
    組合科學（化學及物理）  
    綜合科學  
科技與生活\*  
旅遊與款待  
視覺藝術

- \* 科目需有實驗室或工場設備：
- (a) 這些科目包括：生物、化學、設計與應用科技、物理、科學以及科技與生活。
  - (b) 參加考試的學校需提供實驗室或工場設備供考生進行實驗或考核。
  - (c) 在以下條件均具備的情況下，自修生可報考各實驗科目：
    - 若該考生能證明過去曾在香港中學會考或相等之公開考試中應考該科考試；
    - 該科考試有足夠的試場及設備供考生應考。
- # 數學科包含兩個部分：必修部分及延伸部分。考生可自行選擇報考必修部分，或必修和延伸部分中的其中一個單元。考生也可只報考延伸部分中的其中一個單元。必修及延伸部分的成績將在成績單上分別註明。



5. 乙類學科包含多個應用學習科目，它們可分為以下六個範疇：

應用科學  
商業、管理及法律  
創意學習  
工程及生產  
媒體及傳意  
服務

乙類學科科目仍有待教育局確定。所有科目名稱及其學習內容將於 2008 年年底公布。

應用學習學科的評核工作將由個別課程提供者負責處理。考生的成績經考評局審訂後匯報於香港中學文憑證書上。

注：有關應用學習學科的考試規則將於 2009 年年中公布。

6. 丙類科目包括了以下六個其他語言科目：

法語  
德語  
印地語  
日語  
西班牙語  
烏爾都語

該些科目將採用英國劍橋國際考試部高級補充程度科目的試卷進行考核。

### **設有選科限制之科目**

7. 新高中的科學科將分為兩個分流：組合科學及綜合科學。選讀科學科的考生必須從這兩個分流中選擇其中一組。另外，為避免重覆學習生物、化學及物理課程的內容，考生只可在同一次考試中報考下面各科目中的其中一個組別：

生物  
綜合科學  
組合科學（生物及化學）  
組合科學（生物及物理）

化學  
綜合科學  
組合科學（生物及化學）  
組合科學（化學及物理）

物理  
綜合科學  
組合科學（生物及物理）  
組合科學（化學及物理）

### **報考科目之上限**

8. 考生最多可報考八科。所報考之科目可從甲、乙及丙三個學科類別中挑選。若考生選擇報考數學科的延伸部分，則該部分的成績將與必修部分分開發布，然延伸部分並不被視為額外的一個學科。此外，若考生選擇報考八科，則至少其中一科需屬下列範疇的科目：

- (a) 甲類學科中的倫理與宗教/音樂/體育/視覺藝術
- (b) 乙類學科中的應用學習科目
- (c) 丙類學科中的其他語言科目

### **學校參加香港中學文憑考試之報名規則**

9. 學校必須經考評局預先批准，方可參加本考試。在遞交參加考試申請時，學校需提供資料，證明該校乃註冊學校，並根據教育局之註冊規則提供有關課程，同時承諾遵守本考試之考試規則。另外，學校考生需參加下列各科之校本評核：

生物  
化學  
中國語文  
中國歷史  
設計與應用科技  
英國語文  
歷史  
資訊及通訊科技  
通識教育  
物理  
科學  
視覺藝術

若學校沒有參與校本評核計劃，則考評局不會接受其學生參加上述科目之考試。

10. 但凡首次報名參加香港中學文憑考試之學校必須符合以下條件：

- (a) 參加某些科目考試時，學校需同時聲明將提供考核用之有關實驗室或工場場地。該些科目包括：生物、化學、設計與應用科技、物理、科學以及科技與生活。
- (b) 參加首屆香港中學文憑考試之學校，必須於舉行考試前三年，即 2009 年 3 月向考評局遞交申請。
- (c) 學校也需作出聲明，承諾派出教職員擔任與本考試有關之職務。此外，有需要時，學校也必須借出其學校以供本考試之用。若學校未能於某考試年份提供工作人員或考試場地，則必須向考評局秘書長提出申請。

注：有關學校報名之詳情將於 2009 年年初公布。

### **自修生參加考試之規則**

11. 但凡符合下列條件中其中一項者，均可以自修生身分參加香港中學文憑考試：

- (a) 曾參加香港中學會考，或香港中學文憑考試（2013 年及以後之自修生適用），或
- (b) 以本考試年分之 1 月 1 日起算，滿十九歲之人士，或

- (c) 非修讀香港中學文憑考試，但於考試前一年已修畢或正在修讀等同中六之課程。
12. 自修生只有在以下情況下方可報考需要實驗室或工場設備之科目（附\*號之科目）：若考生能證明以往曾參加該科目之香港中學會考，或在相等之公開考試中應考該科目（然該條款並不適用於設計與應用科技科）。
13. 具備其他資格或特殊情況者，也可向考評局申請報考本考試。有關申請必須於考試前一年之 9 月 1 日以前，以書面形式向考評局秘書長提出申請。

### **發布成績**

14. 甲類學科的科目成績將以 5 個等級（1 至 5）發布，以第 1 等級為最低，第 5 等級最高，第 1 等級以下的成績將不予評級。考獲第五等級的考生中，表現最優異的其成績將以「\*\*」標示，隨後表現較佳者則以「\*」標示。
15. 乙類學科的科目成績將以三個等級發布，即‘未達標’、‘達標’及‘達標並表現優異’。
16. 丙類學科的科目，評分及成績評級等工作將由英國劍橋國際考試部負責舉行，而成績則以 5 個等級（A 至 E）發布，以 E 級為最低，A 級最高；E 級以下的成績將不予評級。