

**A summary of the minutes of the third meeting of
the CDC Committee on English Language Education, 2003-04**

Date: 25 February 2004 (Wednesday)
Time: 4.30 p.m.
Venue: Room 1419A, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai

1. Confirmation of meeting minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2003 were confirmed without amendment.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Referring to item 3.2 of the minutes, the Secretary reported that no further comments and suggestions were received from members on the revised draft English Language Curriculum Guide (Primary 1-6), which was endorsed in principle at the previous meeting.

3. Draft consultation document for English Language (Senior Secondary)

- 3.1 The Secretary referred members to the tabled draft consultation document for English Language (Senior Secondary) and explained that it was the updated version of the document sent to them prior to the meeting. The tabled document contained revisions that were based on feedback from the Principal Assistant Secretary (Curriculum Development).
- 3.2 The Secretary explained that the Preamble to the document was provided by the Council and Secondary Section of CDI, and that a new Preamble was being prepared to replace the existing one.
- 3.3 He observed that only the learning targets and objectives were provided in the Curriculum Framework section of the document for the first round of consultation. A much more elaborate framework with details about the content of learning for the subject of English Language (e.g. language skills, grammatical structures and items, communicative functions, text types, vocabulary) would be featured in the documents for subsequent rounds of consultation.
- 3.4 He also said that the bold parts under “Learning Targets” and “Learning Objectives” of the Curriculum Framework section represented new or additional features not found in the current S4-5 English Language curriculum.
- 3.5 Members deliberated on the draft document, making comments and suggestions for improving the sections “Introduction”, “Rationale”, “Curriculum Framework”, and “Assessment”.
- 3.6 Members endorsed the draft consultation document for English Language (Senior secondary) in principle. They were encouraged to consult the views of their colleagues and send in any written feedback they might have regarding the document to the Secretary by 10 March 2004.

[Post-meeting Note: Written comments and suggestions from five members were received and would be taken into consideration in the process of revising the draft consultation document.]

4. Draft questionnaire for new senior secondary English Language curriculum consultation

- 4.1 The question whether the draft consultation document for English Language (Senior Secondary) would provide sufficient information for respondents to easily answer Question 4 “Assessment” on the questionnaire was raised. It was explained that when schools received the questionnaire, they would need to refer not only to the draft consultation document for English Language (Senior Secondary) but also the overall NSS document, as well as the “Review of the Academic Structure of Senior Secondary Education (RASIH)” report (available on the Web) where basic information about assessment would be provided. This would help teachers to understand and respond to the question.

- 4.2 To make it clear to the respondents the information that Question 7 seeks to obtain, it was proposed that the question be revised by, for example, adding the line, "To help us plan professional development programmes and resource packages to support the new senior secondary English Language curriculum more effectively, we would like to collect your views on the modules or topics to be offered in the 'Elective Part'", or something to this effect.

5. Draft consultation document for Literature in English (Senior Secondary)

The draft document was endorsed in principle. Members were likewise invited to consult the views of their colleagues and send in any written feedback they might have regarding the document to the Secretary by 10 March 2004.

[Post-meeting Note: There was no further feedback from members.]

6. Progress update on the development of the 2007 Standards-referenced CE English Language examination

- 6.1 The Secretary reported on the three main tasks that were in progress regarding the development of the 2007 SR CE English Language examination:

(1) Development of Grade Descriptors

According to the schedule, the first draft of the grade descriptors (which The National Foundation of Educational Research (NFER) of the United Kingdom had been commissioned to develop) would be available in March 2004.

(2) Development of Sample Papers

Concurrent to NFER's development of grade descriptors, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) was in the process of developing sample papers for the 2007 SR CE English Language examination to be piloted at the end of March 2004.

(3) School-based Assessment (SBA)

An SBA Working Group had been formed under the CDC-HKEAA Committee on English Language (Senior Secondary) to work out the details of the SBA component of the SR CE English Language examination, including the SBA reading programme, the SBA tasks and the reporting of candidates' performance in SBA.

- 6.2 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6.40pm.