

CDC Committee on English Language Education 2004-2005
Gist of the Second Meeting

Date: 10 January, 2005
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 1023A, 10th Floor, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

1. Welcoming New Members

The Committee welcomed Ms Catherine LI as a co-opt member.

2. Confirmation of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2004 were confirmed with a minor amendment in item 5.2.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Secretary reported that five consultation sessions for the New Senior Secondary (NSS) English Language Education curriculum (one for the subject of Literature in English and four for the subject of English Language) were held between 10 November and 2 December 2004.

4. Findings from the consultation seminars on the new senior secondary English Language curriculum

- A summary of the findings from the questionnaire survey conducted during the seminars on the NSS English Language curriculum was reported. Respondents were in general positive but some expressed reservations about the Elective Part.
 - Members were invited to express their views on the two modules for the Elective Part. It was concluded that the “Exploring English Grammar Forms and Communicative Functions” be dropped and replaced by “English Language Arts for Young Adults”, which would be split into “Learning English through Poems and Songs” and “Learning English through Short Stories”, while the “Learning English through Sports Communication” be kept.
- A summary of the major findings from the questionnaire survey conducted during the seminar on the NSS Literature in English curriculum was then reported. Respondents were generally positive but some were sceptical about the weighting accorded to the creative part of the Portfolio component. It was reported that the proposed ratio had been reviewed by the CDC-HKEAA Committee on Literature in English (Senior Secondary) and, in order to cater for students’ diverse interests and abilities, the Joint Committee on Literature in English decided that students would have a choice between analytical essay and creative writing in the Portfolio component.

5. Results of questionnaire survey on the proposed 2007 CE English Language Syllabus and sample papers and response to school comments

- Mrs Christina Lee from the HKEAA reported that the response in the questionnaire survey was generally favourable. However, respondents expressed their concern over the following issues:
 - weighting of papers;
 - duration of papers;
 - content of sample papers; and
 - the School-based Assessment (SBA) component.
- Members were then invited to express their views on the issues of concern. It was agreed that:
 - the weighting of Paper 1 would remain unchanged while the weighting of Paper 3

- would be raised to 15% in response to a corresponding reduction in the SBA weighting from 20% to 15%;
- Paper 1 would be split into two separate sittings (60 minutes for reading and 90 minutes for writing) while the duration of Paper 3 would remain unchanged;
- there would be more contextualized usage items based on the reading texts in Paper 1A;
- a second, more demanding task would be included in Paper 1B to discriminate among candidates;
- the reading and writing papers for Paper 1 would be thematically related to make the writing more contextualized;
- items of different levels of difficulty would be included in Paper 2 to discriminate among candidates;
- the weighting for SBA would be reduced to 15%;
- the written component would not be assessed for the purpose of the SBA;
- four texts over two years would be reasonable for the Reading Programme in SBA; and
- the list of recommended texts and the free choices of the teachers would be able to cater for the needs of the less able students.
- It was reported that the HKEAA would release to schools a summary of the views collected during the December consultation exercise, the changes made to the syllabus and the justifications for making / not making changes. The endorsement of the revised proposal by the CDC Committee on English Language Education would be sought before the proposal was presented to the School Examinations Board meeting in late January. Schools would then be presented with the revised proposal.
- The CDC Committee on English Language Education endorsed the proposed changes in the 2007 CE English Language Examination Syllabus.
- Matters relating to professional development for SBA were reported. A professional development session on SBA would be organized for teachers teaching F.4 in the 2005-06 school year between October and December 2005, and a related training package would be produced.

6. A.O.B.

- It was reported that membership nominations for the revamped Ad-hoc Committee on Learning Outcomes Framework had been passed onto the responsible CDI officers and the new committee would be formed once everything was in place.
- There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m..