

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

Date: 27 October, 2004

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 1419A, 14th Floor Wu Chung House, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

1. Welcoming New Members

The Committee welcomed Ms LAU Fung-ye and Ms KO Wai-yin as new members of the Committee.

2. Confirmation of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June, 2004 were confirmed without any amendments.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Secretary referred to item no. 3 and reported that the English Language (Primary 1 – 6) Curriculum Guide had been published and a series of seminars was being run to disseminate the key messages in the Curriculum Guide.

4. Discussion of the proposed 3-year Senior Secondary English Language Education Curriculum

- The Secretary reported that the consultation seminars for the New Senior Secondary English Language Education Curriculum would be held on 12th November (for Literature in English) and on 16th, 19th and 20th November (for English Language).
- Members were invited to discuss whether “Exploring English Grammar Forms and Communicative Functions” should be included as an elective module after it was reported that members of the Joint Committee had cast doubt over its suitability as an elective module. It was concluded that further exploration of the content of this module would be conducted and the content of the module revised after teachers’ views had been gathered.
- Members were then invited to express their views on the other parts of the consultation document for English Language. Their comments were directed to the following issues:
 - Curriculum framework;
 - Rationale;
 - Elective Part; and
 - Assessment .

To shed light on how some of the major issues surrounding the implementation of the Elective Part could be resolved, it was agreed that one of the modules in the Elective Part be developed into a full module.

- Members were next invited to express their views on the consultation document for Literature in English. Their views cover the following areas:
 - Status of the subject and the level it aims to pitch at;
 - Components of Portfolio assessment; and

- Differential focuses of Literature in English and the language arts modules in the Elective Part of the proposed English Language curriculum.

5. The 2007 Standards-referenced CE English Language examination

- Ms Christina Lee reported that the sample papers had been discussed and endorsed in principle by the Joint Committee on 20th October 2004.
- She reported the findings of a questionnaire survey that was conducted during the consultation seminar held in July 2004.
 - About 20% of the respondents agreed with the proposed changes and about 60% of the respondents agreed with the proposed changes with reservations.
 - Respondents tended to disagree that the introduction of the SBA will improve the reliability of the CE exam.
- Members were invited to voice their opinions on the revised sample papers. Their views cover the following areas:
 - The level of difficulty of Paper 1A (Reading) and Paper 2 (Listening and Integrated Skills);
 - Concerns over candidates copying ideas from the reading texts when they are tackling the writing tasks in Paper 1B (Writing);
 - Design of the writing tasks in Paper 1B; and
 - Rubrics for Paper 2.

6. A.O.B.

- Members agreed to co-opt Mrs Catherine LI onto the CDC Committee on English Language Education.
- It was reported that the CDC Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment for Learning (Primary) and the CDC Ad Hoc committee on Assessment for Learning (Secondary) had been dissolved. A new ad hoc committee to look at the Learning Outcomes Framework would be established.