

CDC Committee on English Language Education 2005 – 2007  
Gist of the Third Meeting

Date: 16 June 2006  
Time: 4:30 p.m.  
Venue: Room 1024A, 10th Floor, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

**1. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2005**

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without amendments.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes**

It was reported that the CDI schedule for the development of the English Language C&A Guide had been passed to HKEAA.

**3. Public Assessment for the New Senior Secondary (NSS) English Language Curriculum**

- Mrs Christina LEE highlighted that as the new assessments and examinations are designed to accommodate the full spectrum of student aptitude and ability, a graded approach will be adopted in the reading paper and the listening and integrated skills paper to cater to the needs of students with different levels of proficiency.
- Paper 1 Reading (20%)
  - It will be divided into 3 sections. All candidates must do Section 1 and then choose either Section 2, the easiest section or Section 3, the most difficult section. Candidates attempting Sections 1 and 3 will be able to attain the full range of possible levels, while Level 4 will be the highest level attainable by candidates attempting Sections 1 and 2. It was explained that candidates attempting Sections 1 and 2 would not be deprived of the opportunities for further studies as the requirement for tertiary admission would be set at Level 3.
  - To avoid labelling effect, candidates do not need to specify which sections they would attempt until they are in the examination room.
- Paper 2 Writing (30%)
  - It will be divided into 2 parts. In Part A, candidates will be asked to write a short, guided piece of writing of about 200 words. In Part B, candidates will choose one out of eight questions, each based on one of the eight modules in the Elective Part of the NSS curriculum, and write about 400 words.
  - Candidates can choose to attempt the question on the elective module they have not taken and they need not indicate their choice until they are in the examination room. Candidates would be assessed primarily on their writing skills rather than the content knowledge.
- Paper 3 Listening and Integrated Skills (30%)
  - Same as Paper 1, all candidates must do Section 1 (listening tasks) and then choose either Section 2 (integrated listening / reading and writing tasks), the easiest section or Section 3 (integrated listening / reading and writing tasks), the most difficult section.
  - It was explained that because of the constraints on broadcasting, the same listening input will be provided for all candidates but they will have to attempt tasks of different levels of difficulty in different sections. The texts given in the Data File will also vary in length and complexity.
- Paper 4 Speaking (20%)
  - It is for private candidates only because they will not have the School-based assessment (SBA). In Part A, candidates will be given 10 minutes for preparation and will take part in a group discussion for 8 minutes based on given text. In Part B, candidates will respond individually to an examiner's question(s).
- School-based assessment (20%)
  - It is for school candidates only. In Part A, school candidates will take part in a group discussion with classmates, or make an individual presentation and respond to their teacher's questions based on the texts they have read/viewed. Teachers need to conduct three assessments in S5 and S6.
  - In Part B, the focus will be on assessing candidates' ability to reflect on, make use of and communicate the knowledge, skills and experience gained in the Elective Modules. The assessment tasks will be in the form of group interactions or individual presentations.
- It was reported that in setting standards for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE), Levels 4 and 5 will be set with reference to the standards achieved by students

awarded grades of A-D in the current HKALE.

- It was explained that Level 5\* and Level 5\*\* are only sub-sets of Level 5. No separate level descriptors will be given for 5\* and 5\*\*.
- It was stressed that details regarding the public assessment would be confirmed following a further round of consultation in early 2008 in the light of experience in implementing the 2007 HKCE English Language Examination, including the school-based assessment component.
- It was reported that the Assessment framework of NSS English Language would be presented to the Public Examinations Board and CDC for endorsement before the third consultation.

#### **4. Public Assessment for the New Senior Secondary (NSS) Literature in English Curriculum**

- Mr Graham KENNEDY explained that the weighting and duration of the papers would be changed in view of the difficulty in drafting the sample papers. However, there would be no change in SBA.
- Paper 1 Appreciation (30%)
  - It will be divided into 3 sections and candidates will answer three questions in total, one from each section. In Section A, candidates will be required to give a critical analysis based on the extracts from a novel or a play in the set texts. In Section B, candidates will be asked to compare two or three set poems either by the same or different poets. In Section C, candidates will be asked to analyze one or two unseen poems.
- Paper 2 Essay writing (50%)
  - It will be divided into 2 parts and candidates will answer three questions in total, two from Part I and one from Part II. Part I will be comprised of four sections, each focusing on one genre (short story, novel, film, drama). There will be two questions for each section. Students will answer two questions from two different sections. Part II will be comprised of eight questions requiring comparisons of two more of the set texts from Part I and students will answer one question. Students must cover those texts they have not already covered in Part I.
- It was reported that the CDC-HKEAA Committee had helped in developing examples of text sets, with Set 1 focusing more on classical works and Set 2 more on modern works. It was added that members of the CDC-HKEAA Committee were happy with the questions in the Sample Papers as they were pitched at the right level.
- In response to the small candidature for Literature in English, it was explained that EMB was encouraging different institutions to develop courses for teachers on language arts and literature. With the introduction of the language arts component in the NSS English Language curriculum, it was hoped that more students would be interested in studying Literature in English.

#### **5. A.O.B.**

- It was agreed that the CDC Ad Hoc Committee on Literature in English would be dissolved as the development of the two resource packages: *The Learning and Teaching of Poetry (Secondary 1-3)(2002)* and *The Learning and Teaching of Poetry (Senior Secondary)(2005)* had been completed. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for their good work and contributions.
- Members were invited to comment on the suggested schemes of work on the eight elective modules for NSS English Language and send in their comments to the Secretary by the end of June.
- It was reported that the tryouts of the elective modules were still going on. Teachers generally found the modules teachable and they would adapt the materials to suit the needs of their students.
- Dr Fiona HYLAND will resign from the Committee in late July. The Committee thanked her for her contributions during her period of service.
- There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.