

CDC Committee on English Language Education 2005-2007
Gist of the Fourth Meeting

Date: 19 December 2006

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 1024A, 10th Floor, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

1. Welcoming new members

The Committee welcomed two new members, Ms Anita MO and Ms Emilie TONG. The Chairperson announced the new Vice-chairperson, Ms Cindy CHAN. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson extended thanks to Mr Sheridan LEE for his contribution as Vice-chairperson during his period of service.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2006

- The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed with an amendment made to Para. 3.8.
- Post-meeting notes were added to clarify Para. 3.3.3. That is, candidates would need to indicate on the cover of the question answer book which sections they have selected and those sections will be marked. If no indication is given, the first two sections will be scored.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Referring to Para. 5.2, it was reported that no comments had been received from members regarding the suggested schemes of work for the 8 elective modules for NSS English Language.

4. Feedback from the Third Round Consultation on the Provisional Final Draft of the New Senior Secondary English Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide

- Observations from 334 Middle Managers' Workshops and a Curriculum Visit to a Secondary School
 - It was reported that at the 334 Middle Managers' Workshops, some teachers expressed that they would like the EMB to provide more professional development programmes and resource materials to support their implementation of the modules. They would also like the HKEAA to provide sample papers for their reference as soon as possible.
 - It was pointed out that professional development programmes were provided for teachers on the implementation of the elective modules. It was added that the schemes of work for the elective modules had been uploaded onto the EMB website and resource materials would be developed for each elective module.
 - It was further reported that during a curriculum visit to a secondary school, the school head expressed strong views about the proposed replacement of the public speaking examination by School-based Assessment (SBA). Also, teachers considered the questions in the sample paper on writing too general.
- Feedback from the Third Consultation Seminars
 - It was reported that the feedback was very positive and there was no controversy over the part on curriculum. Teachers' concerns were largely on the proposed details of the HKDSE for the subject.
- Findings from the school questionnaires on the Third Consultation on NSS English Language
 - It was reported that on average, schools were positive about most of the items on the questionnaire (a score of 3.5 or above on a 6-point scale). However, more schools disagreed with the two items about SBA (a score of 3).
 - Mrs Christina LEE reported that schools which opted to submit SBA marks and have their marks counted towards the public exam tended to be more agreeable with replacing the public speaking examination with SBA. She added 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.
 - Mrs Christina LEE reported on the school comments in the following areas: (1) questions and length of the writing paper; (2) public speaking examination; (3) weighting of the reading paper; (4) graded approach; (5) weighting of SBA; (6) workload for teachers and students; (7) concerns about fairness, reliability and standardization related to SBA; (8) SBA training and support, and mock/sample papers; and (9) professional development programmes on the learning and teaching of the elective modules.

- It was reported that the findings of the school questionnaires would be presented at the joint Public Examinations Board and CDC meeting on 18 January 2007 where members would convene to endorse all the C&A Guides.
- Mrs Christina LEE drew members' attention to the key concerns raised by schools and teachers, and the responses given by HKEAA officers in the following areas: (1) assessment of grammar and usage in the reading paper; (2) focus of assessment of the writing paper; (3) duration of the writing paper; and (4) weighting of SBA.

5. Endorsement of the proposed changes to the Provisional Final Draft of the New Senior Secondary English Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide

The Committee endorsed that no proposed changes would be made to the Provisional Final Draft of the *New Senior Secondary English Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide*.

6. Feedback from the Third Round Consultation on the Provisional Final Draft of the New Senior Secondary Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide

• Feedback from the Third Consultation Seminars

- It was reported that teachers were positive and they were planning to set up an e-discussion group to share ideas and views on the teaching of Literature in English.
- It was pointed out that only 2 sets of texts would be prepared, with a representative sample of texts from writers of different periods and nationalities included in each set.
- It was reported that in response to the comment from the language advisor, the three strands 'Knowledge of Literary Forms and Conventions', 'Appreciation and Response' and 'Language Enhancement' were suggested. It was further reported that the CDC-HKEAA Committee had opted for the new version as members found the revised strands clear and balanced while the original ideas were retained.

• Findings from the school questionnaires on the Third Consultation on NSS Literature in English

- Mr Graham KENNEDY reported that on the whole, schools were positive about the items on the questionnaire. Out of a 6-point scale, many items scored an average of 4 or above, with comparatively lower ratings for the items related to SBA.
- Mr Graham KENNEDY reported on the concerns raised by schools and the responses given by HKEAA officers in the following areas: (1) assessment objectives; (2) format of the paper; (3) sample papers; (4) exemplar scripts; (5) film selection; (6) professional development opportunities; (7) weighting of SBA; (8) assessment of creative skills; (9) marking of portfolios; (10) issue of authentication; (11) student/teacher ratio; and (12) exemplar set texts.

8. Endorsement of the proposed changes to the Provisional Final Draft of the New Senior Secondary Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide

- The Committee endorsed the proposed changes made to the strands and the broad learning outcomes in the Provisional Final Draft of the *New Senior Secondary Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide*.

9. A.O.B.

- The English Language Education Section has prepared a DVD on 'Using Documentaries in Language Teaching' and each member was given a copy.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.