

CDC Committee on English Language Education 2007-09
Gist of the First Meeting

Date: 8 November 2007
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 1419A, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

1. Terms of reference, roles and functions of the CDC Committee on English Language Education

- The Vice-chairperson introduced and welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the CDC Committee on English Language Education (2007-09).
- Members' attention was drawn to the terms of reference, roles and functions, and working procedures of the CDC Committee on English Language Education in the Curriculum Development Council Handbook 2007.

2. Election of chairperson

Mr Eddie YAU was elected as the new Chairperson.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2007

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without any amendments.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no follow-up matters arising from the last minutes.

5 Report on the implementation of SRR and SBA in the 2007 HKCEE

- The HKEAA ex-officio member reported on the implementation of SRR and SBA in the 2007 HKCEE. It was pointed out that in the 2007 HKCEE, students' performances were reported against the level descriptors. As far as SBA is concerned, schools were given 3 options: Option 1 (to submit SBA marks and have the marks included in the subject result), Option 2 (to submit SBA marks for feedback only) and Option 3 (not to submit SBA marks). About 34% of schools (where 43% of the school candidates studied) chose Option 1 while about 22% of schools (with 28% of the school candidates) chose Option 2.
- The HKEAA ex-officio member gave an analysis of the results of the 2007 HKCEE in relation to SRR and SBA.
 - Fewer candidates received the level 'Unclassified' in 2007 than in the past.
 - Candidates performed better in SBA than the public speaking examination. This might result from a more familiar assessment environment in their own schools and guidance provided by their own English teachers during the SBA practice.
 - 72.4% of Option 1 schools awarded SBA marks that were within the expected range, while 64.8% of the Option 2 schools were able to do so.
 - As far as the spread of the marks was concerned, 89.9% of the Option 1 schools were within the expected range, and so were 93.6% of the Option 2 schools.
 - Statistical moderation of the SBA marks was carried out to ensure that candidates with similar abilities (as reflected by their performance in the public exam) would receive comparable moderated SBA scores.
 - The absentee rate of school candidates in the public speaking examination in 2007 was significantly lower compared with the ones for school candidates taking the Syllabus A and Syllabus B examinations in 1996.

6. Proposed Assessment Framework for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) English Language Examination

- The HKEAA ex-officio member reported that no changes had been made to the proposed assessment framework for HKDSE at this stage. Details regarding the public assessment would be confirmed following the consultation in early 2008 in the light of experience in implementing the 2007 HKCE English Language Examination.
- She further explained that in view of the feedback from schools in the third consultation, the questionnaire to be used in the final consultation would focus on three areas, namely, the assessment of the modules in the Elective Part, replacing the speaking examination with SBA, and resources and support provided by the HKEAA and EDB.
- In response to teachers' concern about the reliability of SBA in the third consultation, it was pointed out that the 2007 experience indicates that most teachers have a good understanding of the assessment criteria and can assess their students reliably. It was further remarked that SBA is more reliable as an indicator of students' overall language performance than the public speaking examination as SBA marks correlate better with students' performance in other papers.
- Members were invited to give comments on the draft questionnaire and share their experience of conducting SRR and SBA. Comments noted were related to teachers' attitude, teachers' workload, the replacement of the public speaking examination by SBA and the moderation of SBA marks.
- The HKEAA ex-officio member reported that endorsement from the CDC-HKEAA Committee would be sought before sending the draft questionnaire for the final consultation to schools. Schools would be informed of the finalised assessment framework in late April 08, which is 4 years ahead of the examination.

7. A.O.B

- Members were each given a copy of the *Suggested Schemes of Work for the Elective Part of the Three-year Senior Secondary English Language Curriculum (Secondary 4-6)*, which would be disseminated to schools in mid-November.
- It was reported that web resources on some learning and teaching activities to support the Suggested Schemes of Work would also be uploaded in mid-November.
- A full package for each of the modules in the Elective Part would be disseminated by phases at a later stage.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.