

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

Date: 15 May 2009
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 1023A, Wu Chung House, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2008

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed with the following amendments:

2. Matters arising from the minutes

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

3. Report on the latest development of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)

- The HKEAA Officers reported that three briefing sessions for teachers on English Language and two on Literature in English were held in December 2008. The finalised version of the HKDSE Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR) Information Package for English Language and Literature in English would be published in early June. Exemplars showing samples of typical students' performance would be provided to illustrate the requirements of each level.
- The Reading paper and the Listening and Integrated Skills paper adopt a graded approach. Candidates can choose whether they would like to attempt the easier or more difficult section.
- When asked how candidates' performance in the Listening and Integrated Skills paper would be reported, the HKEAA officer replied that it would be counted as Listening. Members pointed out that the Listening and Integrated Skills paper assesses different skills and it would not be accurate to count the scores under the Listening skills only.
- In response to the enquiries about whether there would be any significant changes if the scores for the Listening and Integrated Skills paper were broken down into the different skill components, the HKEAA officers agreed to conduct a study later to explore the issue to see how it would affect students' performance. It was added that a review would be conducted after the 2012 exam and changes could be implemented in 2015 as the curriculum is a 3-year programme.
- In response to an enquiry about how candidates' performance would be marked if they attempted both the easier and difficult sections, the HKEAA officer explained that to give the candidates the benefit of the doubt, both sections would be marked and the section with the higher marks would be counted.
- For the subject of Literature in English, it was reported that from 2012 to 2014, there are 3 externally-marked papers, Paper 1 on Appreciation (30%) Paper 2 on Essay writing (50%) and Paper 3 which would require candidates to submit a portfolio. From 2014 onwards, the portfolio would become the SBA component of the subject, accounting, as does Paper 3, for 20% of the subject mark.
- It was further reported that in Paper 1, candidates are required to do a critical analysis of seen passages from the set texts for fiction or drama, make comparison of set poems and answer questions on an unseen poem. The set texts for the actual examination had been agreed on by teachers and approved by the Public Exam Board. When asked whether all the candidates would be doing the same texts, the HKEAA officer explained that there are two sets of texts to choose from, both of the same levels of difficulty. In the portfolio for SBA, students would be asked to conduct an independent study or write an extended essay. They would also be required to do a review of a film or play or write a piece of creative work.

4. Report on the latest development of the Learning Progression Framework (LPF)

- It was reported that more than 186 teachers from 140 schools attended the professional development programmes on LPF in the 2007-2009 school years. Also, 252 teachers from 43 schools participated in the school-based professional programmes. Regarding the tryouts of the use of the LPF in schools, most schools were interested in the reading and writing frameworks and more than 600 primary and secondary school students were involved. In the 2007-2009 school years, more than 2700 students from primary and secondary school took part in the tryouts of the LPF assessment tasks.
- To help teachers develop a better understanding of the LPF, an e-version was produced and exemplars were included to illustrate the different levels of performance.
- The Chairman pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment for Learning (English Language) was set up to oversee the development of the LPF. As the task had been completed, he declared that the Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment for Learning (English Language) would be dissolved.

5. Discussion on the promotional activities for The Sunday Smile (the radio programme for primary students)

- The CDI officer reported that the English radio programme for primary students, The Sunday Smile, which aims to enhance primary school students' exposure to authentic English and their motivation in learning English, had been launched since December 2008. The programme is broadcast every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on RTHK3. Programme archives are available at the Sunday Smile website (<http://app1.rthk.org.hk/special/sundaysmile/index.html>). Teachers could download the podcasts and play the programme to the students as a class listening activity.
- Members were shown the website of The Sunday Smile and features of the programme were briefly introduced. It was reported that stories / poems, episodes of Crazy Chris, Fun facts and interviews with students from primary schools were included.
- It was further reported that different promotional activities had been conducted to publicise the programme. To further promote the programme, The Sunday Smile Drawing and Writing Competitions would be held. Members were invited to give suggestions on ways to further promote the programme to its target audience.

6. Discussion on the draft Parents' Leaflet on Dictation (for KS1 students)

- It was planned that a leaflet on dictation be distributed to parents to clarify their misconceptions, give suggestions on how they could help their children to prepare for dictation and inform them of some of the dictation activities used by schools.
- Members were invited to give suggestions. As parents may not have any knowledge about the terms used, e.g. phonics skills and the different ways of conducting dictation, it was considered more appropriate to target at the teachers and encourage schools to conduct Parents' Seminars to explain the messages about dictation to parents.

7. A.O.B

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m.