

CDC Committee on English Language Education 2013 - 2015
Gist of the First Meeting

Date: 27 September 2013
Time: 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Venue: Room 1421B, 14/F Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai. Hong Kong

1. Election of Chairperson (2013-15)

- The Vice-chairperson welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the CDC Committee on English Language Education (2013-2015).
- Ms Enian TSANG was elected the new Chairperson.

2. Terms of reference, roles and functions of the CDCC on ELE

- The Secretary referred members to the Curriculum Development Council Handbook 2013 and explained the terms of reference, roles and functions and working procedures of the CDC Committee on English Language Education.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 Jan 2013

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

4. Matters arising from the meeting minutes

- There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. Endorsement of the membership of the CDC-HKEAA Committees for English Language and Literature in English

- The Vice-chairperson introduced the background information on the two CDC-HKEAA Committees formed under the CDCC on ELE. These committees would start a new term of office in Oct 2013, which would work on the medium-term review of the Senior Secondary (SS) Curriculum and Assessment.
- The membership had been proposed by CDI and HKEAA and was subsequently endorsed.

6. Brief report on the recommendations of the short-term review of Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment for English Language and Literature in English

- The CDI officer reported on the recommendations of the short-term review of the Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment for English Language and Literature in English. Two HKEAA officers reported on the assessment aspects of the two subjects respectively.
- Recommendations for English Language
 - The curriculum framework, including the Compulsory Part and the Elective Part, would remain unchanged. The number of SBA tasks would be reduced from three to two starting from the 2014 HKDSE Examination.
 - Support measures would be provided to facilitate teachers' planning and implementation of the Senior Secondary English Language curriculum and assessment, e.g. supplementary notes and exemplars, an information sheet on the graded approach, PDPs and network activities.
- Recommendations for Literature in English
 - With effect from the 2016 HKDSE Examination, merging Set 1 and Set 2 texts, and adopting a single list of poems and short stories
 - Support measures would be provided to facilitate teachers' planning and implementation of the Senior Secondary Literature in English curriculum and assessment, e.g. sample papers for the Appreciation Paper, annotated scripts and good portfolio work for the implementation of SBA, PDPs and briefing sessions about the assessment requirements.

7. Medium-term review of the Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment for English Language and Literature in English

➤ English Language

- Views gathered from the participants at the briefing session on the short-term recommendations in May 2013 were reported. Teachers expressed concerns on the Graded Approach and suggested reducing the number of elective modules to be taught.
- The HKEAA officer pointed out that the exam statistics revealed that for candidates in the mid-stream, their choice of the easy or difficult section did not affect their attainment of the desirable HKDSE results.
- The Vice-chairperson pointed out that during the Focus Group Interviews with some S6 graduates conducted by ELE Section of CDI in Jul and mid-Aug 2013, the students either supported or showed no objection to the Graded Approach.
- Members agreed that teachers and students were positive about the Elective modules, with some students regaining interest in learning English. They opined that reducing the number of electives to be taught was undesirable as this would narrow students' choices and limit their learning experiences.

➤ Literature in English

- Views gathered from the participants at the briefing session on the short-term recommendations in May 2013 were reported. Teachers preferred texts offering more international perspectives, and raised concerns about the design of the Appreciation Paper and the necessity of implementing of SBA.
- The HKEAA officer pointed out that they would reinforce the international perspective, introduce more genres, tighten up the marking scheme and make it more transparent at the Moderation Committee.

8. Brief report on the progress of the updating of the Basic Education Curriculum Guide (P1-P6) (BECG)

- The Vice-chairperson briefed the meeting that there was a need to update the BECG published in 2002 to reflect the changing contexts, key emphases of the curriculum reform, and alignment of Basic Education curriculum with the SS curriculum. The first draft of the revised BECG was ready and presented at the CDC meeting on 18 Sep 2013.
- The draft BECG would be brought up to the next CDC meeting in Dec 2013 and consultation would be launched to collect views from the school sector and the public.

9. Proposed measures to support teachers in the development of Key Stage 3 students' reading skills

- The CDI officer reported on the proposed measures to support teachers in the development of KS3 students' reading skills, including PDPs and two teachers' networks.

10. Supplementary materials for the Basic Competency (BC) descriptors to KS1, KS2 and KS3

- The Vice-chairperson informed the members that the ELE Section of CDI had examined relevant past TSA papers and identified question items to illustrate the level of difficulty for teachers' reference. They would be disseminated to teachers when ready.

11. A.O.B.

- The Vice-chairperson reminded members to attend the gathering for all CDC, CDCC and One Committee members, on 10 Oct 2013 in Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.