

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

Date: 8 May 2014
Time: 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 5302, 53/Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 Sep 2013

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

2. Matters arising from the minutes

- One of the members' appointment to the CDC-HKEAA Committee for English Language as a co-opt member was endorsed by circulation with a two-third majority in early December 2013.
- Members were informed about two 3-hour workshops organised by the ELE Section to develop primary and secondary English teachers' knowledge and skills in using storytelling as a teaching strategy to arouse students' interest in reading.

3. Progress of the medium-term review of the Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment for English Language and Literature in English

- The CDI officer reported that issues related to the medium-term review had been discussed in the meetings held by CDC-HKEAA Committees on English Language and Literature in English.

- Issues discussed included

English Language

- There were divided views on the number of Elective modules to be taught but a reduction in the number of questions in the Writing paper was welcomed.
- It was agreed that since SBA was complementary to, rather than duplicating Paper 4 (Speaking) in the public exam, the existing format of SBA should be retained.

Literature in English

- It was agreed that a set text should be on the list for at least four years but no more than six years.
- It was agreed that since there was no major overlap between the skills assessed in SBA for Literature in English and the three core subjects, the existing SBA requirements should remain unchanged. A holistic framework for awarding a final SBA mark should also be adopted.
- Members were informed that, for both subjects, Focus Group Meetings with teachers would be conducted between June and August 2014 to collect their views for making recommendations for the medium-term review. Other stakeholders' views on the recommendations would be sought through a questionnaire survey in November/December 2014.
- The HKEAA officer pointed out that the graded approach adopted in Paper 1 (Reading) and Paper 3 (Listening and Integrated Skills) would continue to be implemented as it had proved to work well and was no longer an issue of debate. The portfolio work of

Literature in English would continue to be implemented until 2018 and would be replaced by SBA in 2019.

- The Chairperson observed that a reduction in the number of elective modules would not be welcomed by schools. Members opined that the number of questions in the Writing Paper could fall between four and eight or a more feasible change would be for each of the four questions to be loosely linked to two elective modules.

4. Progress of the updating of the Basic Education Curriculum Guide (BECG) (P1-P6)

5. Development of the Secondary Education Curriculum Guide (SECG) (S1-S6)

- The CDI officer reported that the SECG would be developed to follow on findings in the NAS curriculum and assessment review. The updated BECG (P1-6) had been endorsed by the CDC and the launch of its online Chinese version was scheduled for June 2014. The final draft of the SECG would be submitted to the CDC for endorsement in October 2015. The English version of the SECG would first be developed.
- Members considered it appropriate to have a separate curriculum guide for secondary schools' reference when planning and implementing the school-based curriculum. In light of the different rationale behind basic education and primary education, the BECG (P1-P6) should be more appropriately named Primary Education Curriculum Guide. Web links to good practices could be provided on EDB's website for teachers' reference.

6. Updating of the English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (P1-S3)

- The CDI officer explained that updating of curriculum guides at the KLA level would be undertaken for alignment with the BECG (P1-P6) and SECG (S1-S6). The 2002 ELE KLACG would be extended to cover P1-S6. Supplements (on KS3 learning targets and grammar items and structures) as well as exemplars would be developed for the KLACG in the process of updating. The *Syllabuses for Secondary Schools: English Language (Secondary 1-5)* (1999) would be phased out.
- Members were briefed about the tentative timeline of the ELE KLACG updated.
- The Vice-chairperson informed members that the updated KLACG would follow the organisation of the 2002 guide. New focuses including the promotion of reading across the curriculum, e-learning and use of e-textbooks, generic skills (collaboration and self-management skills), assessment as learning, self-directed learning, etc. would be incorporated.

7. A.O.B.

- The Chairperson drew members' attention to the Fine-tuned Medium of Instruction (MOI) Policy led by a shrinking student population.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.