

**Consultation Forum for
NSS Curriculum and Assessment Review
(Part 2) –
Business, Accounting and
Financial Studies
Proposed Changes to
Assessment Framework**

21 November 2012



Incoming Mails

(23 March 2012 - 14 August 2012)

- Schedule (start and end year) of review
- Cancel SBA
- Trim curriculum by 30%
- Split the subjects; expand the business curriculum; set up a key learning area for business subjects Adjust paper design without changing the existing curriculum
- Examination time moved from Paper 1 to 2
- Specify which topics to be assessed the three sections of Paper 2
- Provide choices in Sections A and B
- Paper 1: Choice of 7 out of 10 questions in Section B
- Paper 2A: Choice of 4 out of 6 questions in Section A
Choice of 3 out of 5 in Section B
Choice of 1 out of 3 in Section C
- Provide Practice Paper in 2003 and after
- Inconsistent use of terminology between C&A Guide and question paper
- Inconsistent use of terminology between Paper 1B and Paper 2A
- Test of topics in compulsory part in Paper 2
- Queries on the presentation mark for Paper 1B Q5(a)
- Specification of relevant accounting standards
- Inapplicability of financial report standard for SMEs
- Progress of the compilation of a detailed teaching guide



HKEAA Focus Group Meeting

(22 August 2012)

Feedback

- Queries about the fairness of equating results of Paper 2A & 2B.
- Insufficient teaching hours and unclear learning contents of Personal Financial Management
- Remove books of original entry and different types of ledgers from compulsory part as the knowledge is not applicable for BM students
- Relatively few marks on Personal Financial Management

Suggestions

Paper 1

- Reduce the exam duration
- Delete short questions

Paper 2A

- Reduce the no of question in Section A and/or B (2013)
- Provide choices in Section A and/or B
- No purely written question (e.g. Q3) in Section A
- Section A and B questions should be easier
- Set integrated questions of financial accounting and cost accounting in the Section C

Paper 2B

- Questions in Section A should be more straightforward (2013)
- Choices in Section C should not be provided

Others

- Cancel SBA (including trial)
- Change format of SBA to include internal tests and examination scores provided by schools
- Separate grading (and reporting) for Accounting and Business Management module (equating not needed)



PTU Subject Forum

(25 August 2012)

Feedback

- Too broad
- Curriculum of BM module adopted most of the AL BS syllabus but that of Acct Module adopted AL PA with lots of topics were removed
- Topics on Personal Finance were too broad and in-depth.

Suggestions

- Trimming 30% of the BAFS curriculum
- Cancel/ defer/ revise SBA
- Disclose statistics on HKDSE BAFS, including:
 - Comparisons of students' performance in 2 elective module; and those taking Chi Vs Eng
 - Cut-score of Level 2
- Separate reporting of scores obtained by BM and Accounting students (i.e. no equating is required)
- Provision of more choices / optional questions in exam papers
- Set up the 9th KLA on Business Education
- Separate BAFS into 2 subjects: Accounting and Business Management (BM)
- Query about the rationale for inviting Hong Kong Association of Business Education (HKABE) to produce the supplementary notes/ guidelines



Consultation Forum (Part 1)

(29 August 2012)

Feedback

- The implementation of SBA would spoil students' interest in the learning activities and affect the learning outcomes.
- It also led to fairness issues in connection to the moderation of the scores.
- Besides, the implementation would further reduce the curriculum time and increase the workload on teachers and students.
- Examination requirements were too demanding in BAFS in terms of the learning skills required in different papers, the number of questions and the duration of the examination.

Suggestions

- Trim down the curriculum, especially the contents in the compulsory part.
- Amendments on public examination are suggested as follows:
- Remove all short questions in paper 1 leaving only MC questions. (some teachers opposed to it)
- Shorten the duration of examination
- Provide more 'optional questions' and Provision of 'Supplementary Note' to clarify the breadth and depth of the curriculum.
- Separate grading and reporting of scores in Accounting and BM modules
- Others
- Separate BAFS into 2 subjects: Accounting and Business Management (BM)
- Cancellation of SBA.



Expanded Discussion Forum

(7 September 2012)

- Changes for 2016+ hinge on curriculum changes. Attention be given to the 2013 – 2015 cohorts when the curriculum is not yet trimmed.
- Proposals will not be timely for implementation in 2013 examination.
- Proposals for 2014 and 2015 cohorts (and after if appropriate): offer more choices to candidates

Suggestions

Paper 1

- Section A (60 marks): 30 MCs
- Section B (40 marks): 20 marks compulsory ; 20 marks with choice of 2 out of 3 questions @ 10 marks each

Paper 2A

- Section A (35 marks): 30 MCs
- Section B (45 marks): choice of 3 out of 4 questions @ 15 marks each
- Section B (20 marks): choice of 1 out of 2 questions @ 20 marks each (*unchanged*)

Paper 2B

- Change in paper structure not required and increased choice is undesirable
- Only requires shorter cases and fewer parts in view of the lesser time allowed as compared to AL Business Studies examination

Justifications:

1. BAFS has little choice compared to other subjects.
2. Allow candidates to attempt questions that they can perform better.
3. MC and other compulsory questions serves to deter from candidates picking on topics in their studies.



Expanded Discussion Forum

(7 September 2012)

SBA

- Cancel SBA

Justifications:

1. Investigation skills required will heavily overlap with those of IES in LS;
2. Participation will require good foundation of business knowledge and hence should start in S5 at the earliest, thereby increasing students' overload as IES will start at the same time
3. Business ventures and activities provide valuable experience to students but the function and benefits will change nature once done in the context of public assessment
4. Business planning, problem solving and analysis involved in business ventures and activities can be assessed in examination, e.g. through case studies and decision-making scenarios in costing

Others

- Medium to long-term proposals:
 - Split BAFS into 2 subjects – Accounting and Business Studies
 - Add a new subject 'Integrated Business'



School Survey on NSS Review - **BAFS**

As at 17 Sept 23:59

- No. of participating schools: **467**
- No. of replies received: **186 (39.8%)**

		Average rating
A. 2012 Assessment Framework		
Q3	The 2012 assessment framework of the subject enables a comprehensive assessment of candidates' achievements.	4.2
Q4	The examination paper structure is appropriate.	4.1
Q5	The weighting of each paper is appropriate.	4.1



School Survey on NSS Review - BAFS

		Average rating
B. Public Examination in 2012 HKDSE		
Q7	The duration of the public examination is appropriate.	4.0
Q8	The level of difficulty of the public examination is appropriate.	4.1
Q9	The public examination reflects the assessment aims and objectives stated in the Curriculum and Assessment Guide.	4.1
Q10	The public examination is well-balanced in terms of curriculum coverage.	4.0
Q11	There is an appropriate balance between questions testing basic knowledge/skills and those testing higher-order skills.	4.2
Q12	The wording of the questions is clear and easily understandable.	4.3
Q13	The optional questions are at a comparable level of difficulty.	4.3
Q14	The two language versions are identical in meaning.	4.7

School Survey on NSS Review - **BAFS**

		Average rating
D. Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR)		
Q23	SRR helps teachers to have a better understanding of the standards required at different levels of performance in the subject.	3.7
Q24	SRR motivates student learning through the provision of explicit standards expected at different levels.	3.5
Q25	The level descriptors and the exemplars provided in the SRR Information Package and on the HKEAA website are useful for illustrating the typical performance of candidates at different levels of achievement.	3.6



Feedback and Major Concerns

- teachers have difficulty mastering the breadth and depth of the topics in the curriculum
- insufficient lesson time for teachers to cover the curriculum
- **the duration of examination, length and choice of questions as well as weightings of the papers**
- **teachers' and students' workload in SBA**



Initial Recommendations - SBA

- overlap with skills assessed in
 - public examination of the subject
 - SBA of the core subjects
- ⇒ **not** be implemented in the 2016 HKDSE BAFS Examination and thereafter
- ⇒ further review to be conducted in the long term



Options for Public Examination Explored

- Only MC questions in Paper 1 (45 Qs, 1 hour, 30%)
- All optional questions in Paper 1 Section B
- Choice in Paper 2A and/or 2B Section B
- Separate reporting and/or grading of elective modules



Initial Recommendations – Public Examination

Paper 1

- examination duration: reduced from 1.5 hrs to **1 hr 15 mins**
- Section B: reduced from 40 to **30** marks
 - Part 1 (20 marks): 3-4 compulsory questions
 - Part 2 (**10 marks**): a **choice** of one out of two questions



Initial Recommendations – Public Examination

Paper 2A and 2B

- examination duration: reduced from 2.5 hrs to **2 hrs 15 mins**
- total mark: reduced from 100 to **80** marks
 - Section A: **24** marks
 - Section B: **36** marks
 - Section C: 20 marks (unchanged)



Proposed 2016 Assessment Framework

(S4 students in September 2013)

Component		Weighting	Duration
Public Exam	Paper 1 Compulsory Part	40%	1 hour 15 mins
	Paper 2 Elective Part (choose one only) 2A Accounting module 2B Business management module	60%	2 hours 15 mins



Proposed 2016 Assessment Framework

Paper 1

There will be two sections in this paper: Section A (60 marks) will consist of multiple choice questions and Section B (**30 marks**) short questions divided into two parts. Candidates are required to answer **3-4 compulsory questions in Part 1 (20 marks)** and there will be **a choice of one out of two questions which carry 10 marks each in Part 2 (10 marks)**.

Questions will be set on the compulsory part of the curriculum.



Proposed 2016 Assessment Framework

Paper 2	Paper 2A (Accounting module)	Paper 2B (Business management module)	Remarks
Section A (24 marks)	3-4 short questions	4-5 short questions	All questions are compulsory.
Section B (36 marks)	2-3 application problems	2 case studies	
Section C (20 marks)	Case/Theory questions	Essay questions	Candidates are required to answer one out of two questions.

Initial Recommendations – Public Examination

- Earlier implementation ?
 - no major implications on learning and teaching
 - supported by the majority of schools
 - **2014** HKDSE Examination (S6 students in 2013/14)
 - **2015** HKDSE Examination (S5 students in 2013/14)



Initial Recommendations – Public Examination

Paper 1 and 2A

- cutoff date for accounting standards specified by the **issue or revision date** of the standards instead of the commencement date of the financial periods concerned.

Candidates are expected to be aware of the impact of standards issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants upon the accounting definitions and treatments covered by this curriculum. Standards *newly issued or revised before 1 September 2013* are applicable to the examination.

Applicable Accounting Standards

- For learning and teaching, as well as public assessment purposes
- Paper 1 (AC and BM) and / or Paper 2A

1. SME-FRF and SME-FRS

http://app1.hkicpa.org.hk/ebook/HKSA_Members_Handbook_Master/volumell/sme-frf&sme-frs.pdf or

HKFRS-PE ?

http://app1.hkicpa.org.hk/ebook/HKSA_Members_Handbook_Master/volumell/hkfrspe.pdf

or

2. Appendices to Supplementary Notes

Appendix 1: relevant contents / illustrative statements

Appendix 2: use of terminology

Appendix 3: formulae of ratios



*Look Forward to
Hearing Your Views!*

