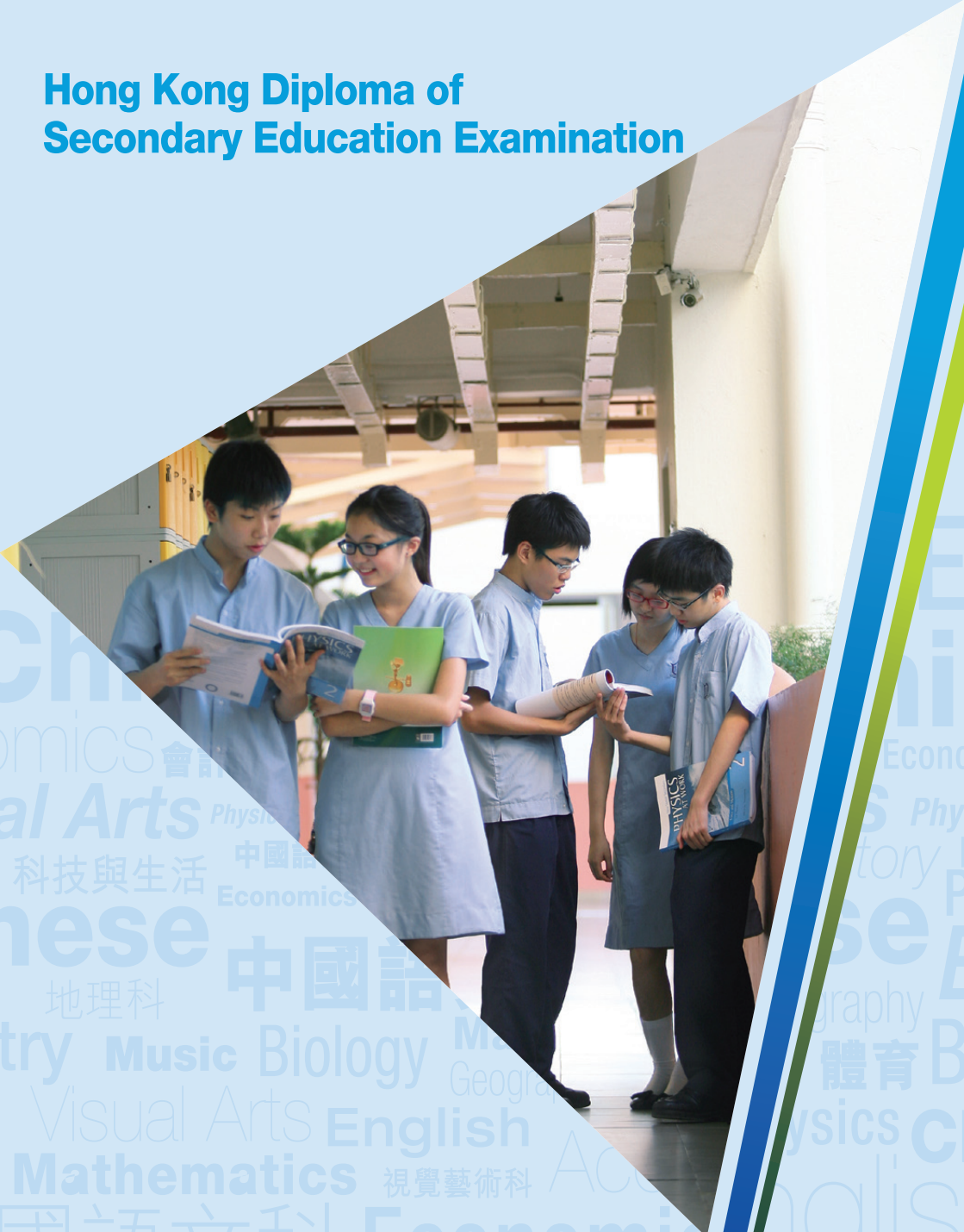


# Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination



# HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION



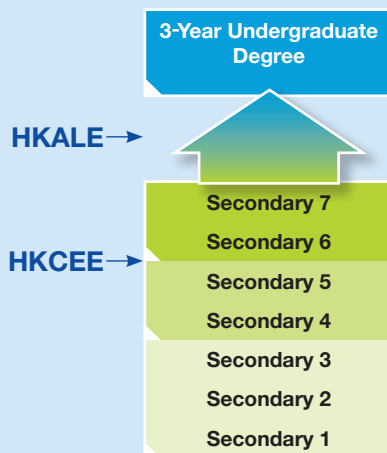
## Introduction

With the implementation of the new academic structure in 2009, all students will continue to study a three-year senior secondary curriculum after completing a three-year junior secondary curriculum. The new senior secondary academic structure allows all students the opportunity to receive six years of secondary education, the aim being to promote life-long learning and to meet the changing needs of Hong Kong. A new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination will be implemented in 2012 to replace the existing public examinations, the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE).

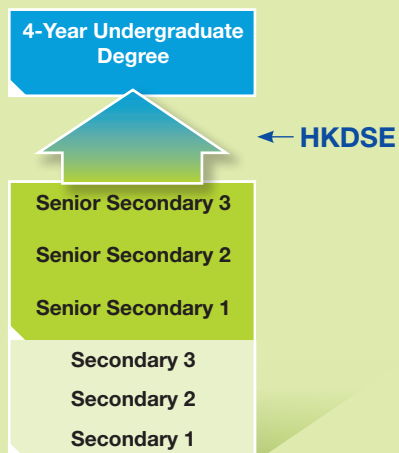
## New Senior Secondary Structure

### The current and new academic structures in Hong Kong

#### Current Structure



#### New Structure



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The main impact of the change to the academic structure is that all students will enjoy six years of secondary education and participate in one public examination - the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. With the implementation of the NSS curriculum in 2009, the first cohort of students will take the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination in 2012.

## Implementation Timetable of HKDSE Examination

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
HKCEE	✓	Last offer for school candidates in current academic structure	Last offer for private candidates, including repeaters	—	—
HKALE	✓	✓	✓	Last offer for school candidates in current academic structure	Last offer for private candidates, including repeaters
HKDSE Exam	First implementation of New Senior Secondary (NSS) academic structure in Sept 2009	—	—	<b>First cohort of NSS students taking part in HKDSE Examination</b>	✓

# HKDSE Subjects

## (a) Structure of HKDSE Examination

### 4 Core Subjects:

**Chinese Language**  
**English Language**  
**Mathematics**  
**Liberal Studies**



### 2 or 3 elective subjects chosen from:

(A) 20 NSS elective subjects  
(B) Applied learning subjects  
(C) Other language subjects

## (b) The Three Categories of HKDSE Subjects

Category A : 24 new senior secondary subjects

Category B : Applied learning subjects

Category C : Other language subjects (6 subjects will be offered)

Candidates may take up to a maximum of eight subjects from Categories A, B or C. If a candidate chooses to take the extended part of Mathematics, the result of the extended part will be reported separately, though it will not be regarded as an additional subject.

Categories	Subjects
<b>A</b>	<b>24 New Senior Secondary Subjects</b>
	<b>4 Core Subjects</b> Chinese Language English Language Mathematics Liberal Studies <b>20 Elective Subjects</b> Biology; Business, Accounting and Financial Studies; Chemistry; Chinese History; Chinese Literature; Design and Applied Technology; Economics; Ethics and Religious Studies; Geography; Health Management and Social Care; History; Information and Communication Technology; Literature in English; Music; Physical Education; Physics; Science; Technology and Living; Tourism and Hospitality Studies; Visual Arts

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Categories	Subjects	
<b>B</b>	<b>Applied Learning Subjects</b> <b>Design Studies</b> - Image Design - Innovative Product Design - Jewellery, Arts and Design <b>Media Arts</b> - Commercial Comic Art - Multimedia Entertainment Studies <b>Performing Arts</b> - Introduction to Theatre Arts - Taking a Chance on Dance <b>Films, TV and Broadcasting Studies</b> - Film and Video Studies - Infotainment Production <b>Media Writing and Production</b> - Radio Host and Programme Production <b>Business Studies</b> - Marketing in Global Trade - Practical Accounting for SMEs - Understanding Financial Services <b>Clientele Management</b> - Purchasing and Merchandising - Retail Management <b>Legal Studies</b> - Understanding Hong Kong Law	<b>Hospitality Services</b> - Hospitality Services in Practice - Hotel Operations - Western Cuisine <b>Event Management</b> - Events Planning and Operation <b>Personal and Community Services</b> - Fundamental Cosmetology - Child Development and Care <b>Medical Science and Health Care</b> - Health Care Practice - Health and Beauty Keeping in TCM - Fundamental Health Care <b>Sports</b> - Exercise Science and Health Fitness - Sports Coaching and Management <b>Civil and Mechanical Engineering</b> - Automotive Technology <b>Services Engineering</b> - Aviation Studies - Building Facilities Engineering
	(The above is the provisional list of subjects to be offered in 2012.)	
	<b>C</b>	<b>Other Language Subjects</b> French German Hindi Japanese Spanish Urdu

For candidates choosing eight subjects, at least one of the subjects chosen must come from the following areas:

- Ethics and Religious Studies/ Music/ Physical Education/ Visual Arts in Category A
- Applied learning subjects in Category B
- Other language subjects in Category C (Cambridge International Examinations AS Level question papers will be used)

## School-based Assessment

School-based Assessment (SBA) is one of the salient features of the HKDSE Examination and refers to assessments carried out by schools as part of the teaching and learning process, with students being assessed by their subject teachers. The marks awarded will count towards the results of public examinations.



### Benefits of School-based Assessment

#### Enhancing the validity of assessments

SBA emphasizes the assessment of a wide range of abilities of students.

#### Improving the reliability of assessments

School assessments are typically based on observations of student performance over an extended period of time, providing a more reliable indication of the true abilities of students.

#### Integration of teaching and learning with assessment

SBA helps students understand their strengths and weaknesses through quality feedback from teachers, leading to continuous improvement.

#### Moderation of SBA Results

Statistical and expert moderation will be carried out to ensure consistency of standards across schools.

## The Reporting System

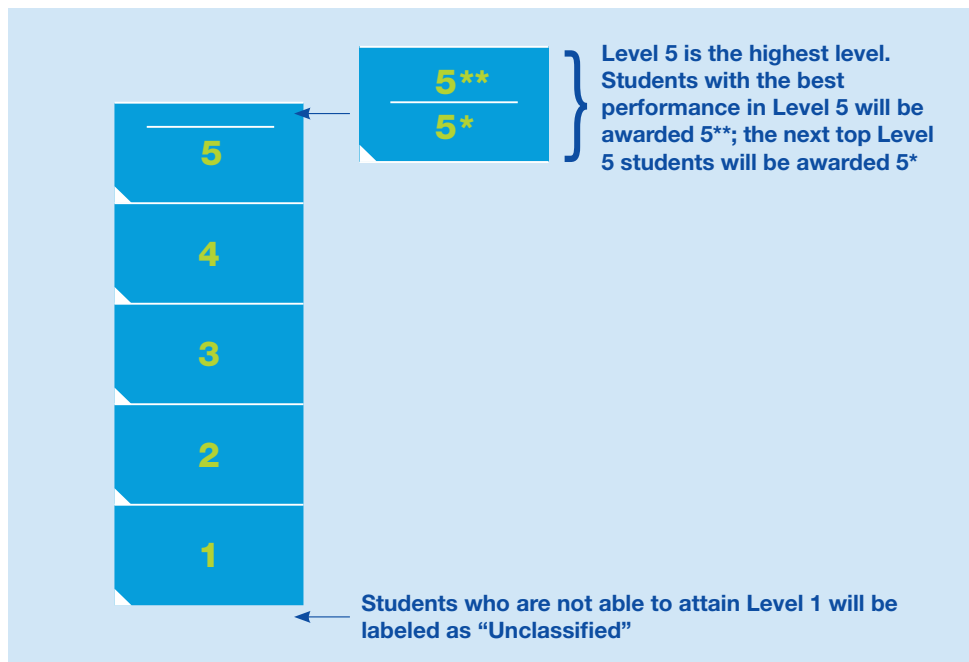
### Reporting system for category A subjects: Standards-referenced Reporting

A standards-referenced reporting system will replace the current reporting system used for HKCEE and HKALE.

In the HKDSE Examination, candidates' performance will be reported with reference to a set of standards. Student performance will be reported in five levels (Levels 1 to 5), with 5 being the highest. The top Level 5 students will be awarded Level 5\*\* and the next top Level 5 candidates will be awarded Level 5\*. Those not attaining the Level 1 standard will receive an "Unclassified" result.

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For each of the levels, there is a detailed set of written descriptors to describe the typical performance of students at each of the levels.



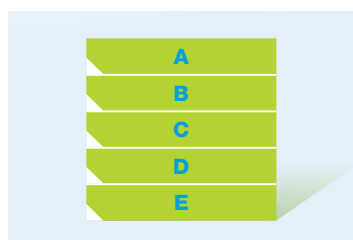
## Reporting System for Category B subjects:

For Category B subjects, assessment will be undertaken by course providers. After moderation by the HKEAA, the final results will be recorded on the HKDSE certificate. The results will be reported as **"Attained"** and **"Attained with Distinction"**.



## Reporting System for Category C subjects:

For Category C subjects, marking and grading will be conducted by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). Results will be reported in **five grades (A-E)**, with grade E being the lowest and grade A being the highest. Achievements below grade E will be designated as "ungraded".



## HKDSE Recognition

### Admission to local universities

Members of the University Grants Committee (UGC) and of the Heads of Universities Committee (HUCOM) announced in 2005 that the four core subjects in the secondary school curriculum - Chinese, English, Mathematics and Liberal Studies - are mandatory requirements for entry. HUCOM expects the language proficiency of future university entrants to be comparable to the current minimum entrance requirements for university entrance, which is likely to be Level 3 in HKDSE Chinese Language and English Language. For Mathematics and Liberal Studies, the requirement will be lower than that of language subjects; most likely it will be Level 2. The final decision with regard to this is to be confirmed by the respective senates and academic boards.



The UGC further announced in July 2009 the admission requirements. The revised general entrance requirement (GER) of all institutions will include:

- 4 core subjects + 1 elective subject; or  
4 core subjects + 2 elective subjects
- No institution requires a third elective subject in their GER.
- All 8 UGC-funded institutions will recognize other language subjects (French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish and Urdu) as unspecified elective subjects.

The final decision concerning admission to tertiary institutions will depend on the relative performance of applicants and requirements of respective faculties/programmes.

For further details about the entry requirements of different tertiary institutions for NSS students, you may refer to <http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/EN/index.php>



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## International recognition

HKEAA has been working closely with international agencies, overseas universities and colleges to promote recognition of HKEAA qualifications.

To secure appropriate recognition of HKDSE qualifications, the HKEAA has been holding discussions with international agencies including Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC), Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS) in the UK and the Australian Education International

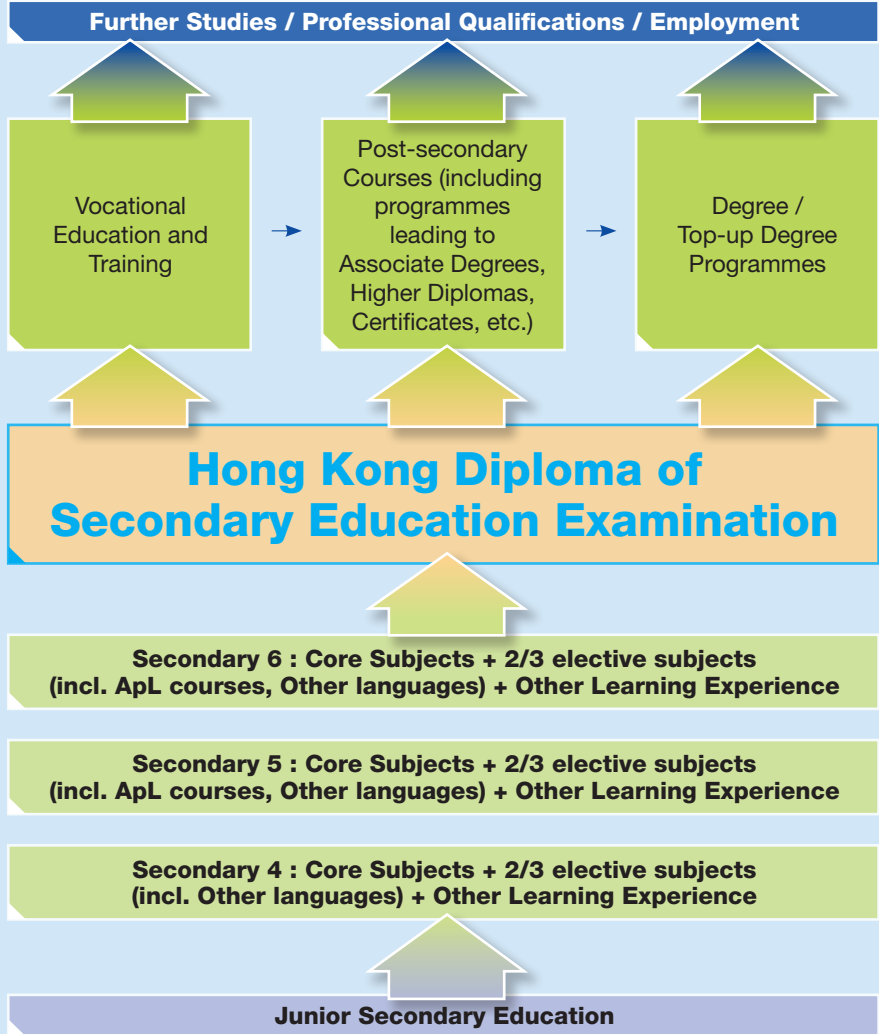
(AEI) in Australia to conduct benchmarking and comparability research on HKDSE. The HKDSE qualifications have received positive comments from these parties.

As HKDSE standards at the higher end are benchmarked at the standards of performance typically exhibited by candidates obtaining various grades in the HKALE, candidates who secure good results in the HKDSE Examination should be able to use the results for admission to overseas tertiary institutions.

Although HKEAA examinations have been widely accepted, some universities have set particular criteria for admission of overseas students. In cases where candidates wish to further their studies abroad, they may be required to take as one of the basic requirements specified examinations conducted by the examination authorities of that particular country.



## Multiple Pathways for HKDSE Students



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## Supporting Materials for HKDSE Examination

To provide the latest information about the development of HKDSE Examination, a number of publications and supporting materials for HKDSE have been published. You may refer to the following resources for further information:

**HKDSE web page:** <http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/>

**International recognition:** <http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ir/>

**HKDSE regulations:** [http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/Exam\\_Regulations/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/Exam_Regulations/)

### HKDSE SRR Information Packages:

The SRR information packages include the Assessment Framework, Level Descriptors, Sample Papers, Marking Guidelines/Suggested Answers and Exemplars illustrating the standards of performance at different levels contained in CD. For further details about the packages, please refer to the following link: [http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/resources/publications/list\\_of\\_publications/hkdse\\_srr\\_pub/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/resources/publications/list_of_publications/hkdse_srr_pub/)

**HKDSE SBA information:** [http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/SBA/sba\\_hkdse/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/SBA/sba_hkdse/)

### HKDSE Subjects information and assessment framework:

[http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/Subject\\_Information/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/Subject_Information/)

### HKDSE Examination Publications

Available at: A) HKEAA offices

1. Wan Chai Office  
12/F Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road,  
Wanchai, Hong Kong
2. San Po Kong Office  
HKEAA Publications Unit, 17 Tseuk Luk Street,  
San Po Kong, Kowloon, Hong Kong

B) Online bookstore:

<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/Resources/publications/>

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