

English Language

(for students studying in S4 in the 2013/14 sy and taking the 2016 HKDSE Exam)

Why do you need to study English Language?

The three-year senior secondary English Language curriculum, which has been implemented since the 2009/10 school year, aims to enable learners to:

- increase language proficiency for study, work and leisure;
- develop subject knowledge, generic skills, learning strategies and positive attitudes for lifelong learning; and
- enhance personal and intellectual development, cultural understanding and global competitiveness in a rapidly changing knowledge-based society.

What will you learn from English Language?

The senior secondary English Language curriculum is made up of the Compulsory Part and the Elective Part. It provides a flexible framework that broadens students' learning experience and caters for their diverse needs, interests and abilities.

The diagram below shows the two parts of the curriculum and the suggested time allocation in brackets:

S6	Compulsory Part (75%)	Elective Part (25%)
S5		
S4		

Compulsory Part

This part focusses on the learning and use of the following through engaging students in a variety of activities:

- Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Grammar and communicative functions
- Vocabulary
- Text-types

Elective Part

This part comprises a range of modules which provide different contexts for students to reinforce and apply what they have learnt in the Compulsory Part.

The modules in the Elective Part are categorised into the following two groups:

Language Arts

Learning English through Drama

Learning English through Short Stories

Learning English through Poems and Songs

Learning English through Popular Culture

Non-Language Arts

Learning English through Debating

Learning English through Social Issues

Learning English through Sports Communication

Learning English through Workplace Communication

Learners are required to take three of the modules in the Elective Part, with at least one from each group.

How will you be assessed in English Language?

The public assessment, which has been implemented since 2012, consists of four public examination papers and a school-based assessment component as outlined below:

<i>Components</i>	<i>Weighting</i>	<i>Duration</i>
Paper 1* Reading	20%	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 2 Writing <u>Part A</u> Short guided task on the Compulsory Part (about 200 words) <u>Part B</u> Long open-ended task on the Elective Part (about 400 words)	25%	2 hours
Paper 3* Listening and Integrated Skills	30%	About 2 hours
Paper 4 Speaking <u>Part A</u> Group interaction	10% (for school candidates)	About 20 minutes
<u>Part B</u> Individual response	25% (for private candidates)	About 20 minutes
School-based Assessment[#] <u>Part A</u> Group interaction or individual presentation based on the texts read/viewed over the course of three years <u>Part B</u> Group interaction or individual presentation based on the modules taken in the Elective Part of the curriculum		15% (for school candidates only)

* The graded approach is adopted in the design of Papers 1 and 3. For both papers, students must complete the compulsory section and answer either the easier or more difficult section. Students attempting the compulsory and the more difficult sections will be able to attain up to the highest level of performance, i.e. Level 5**, while Level 4 will be the highest level attainable by students attempting the compulsory and the easier sections.

Of the two marks reported (one from Part A and one from Part B), one mark should be based on a group interaction and one on an individual presentation.

How can the subject help you prepare for your future?

The subject of English Language not only provides learners with relevant and engaging learning experiences, but also helps them develop the necessary language knowledge and skills for their future needs, whether they choose to pursue vocational training or university education, or to work after they complete secondary education. It opens up a large variety of post-secondary educational and career pathways, particularly in the areas of media production, language studies, translation and interpretation, performing arts, education, business, law and social sciences.

For further information, please refer to EDB's website "New Academic Structure Web Bulletin" (<http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/EN/>) or consult your teacher.