

circular memorandum (EDBCM No. 48/2013) was issued to schools on 30 April. It is therefore deemed necessary to update the C&A Guides in the light of the short-term recommendations. As there is a need to address the unresolved issues that may require a longer time and a more holistic/macro-approach to the NAS/NSS policy, the medium-term review has been launched in October 2013 and it is expected to implement further recommendations (first batch and last batch to be announced by July 2014 and July 2015 respectively) in 2014/15 at the earliest. Considering the forthcoming medium-term recommendations which will probably trigger the need for further alignment and updating of all C&A Guides, the scope of this updating exercise is kept minimal to include only the relevant short-term recommendations made on curriculum, assessment, School-based Assessment (SBA) and public examinations for relevant subjects. The updating of the C&A Guides will be a regular exercise to be conducted on a need basis in the best learning interests of our students and to meet the changing needs.

Details

3. Following the short-term recommendations on curriculum such as streamlining and revising curriculum content in various subjects, relevant chapters in the C&A Guides on curriculum, mainly Chapter 2 (Curriculum Framework) and Chapter 3 (Curriculum Planning) are updated. To align with the changes in assessment, Chapter 5 (Assessment) is also updated in collaboration with the HKEAA. (Please see the joint message by the EDB and HKEAA in Annex 1.) As regards the recommendation of adopting a flexible range of total lesson time at $2,400 \pm 200$ hours over three years for school-based curriculum planning, the recommended lesson hours for subjects have been revised accordingly in the C&A Guides for relevant subjects. Apart from these chapters, there may be updates on curriculum and assessment in other chapters as deemed necessary by individual subjects.

4. The updated C&A Guides have been uploaded to the NAS Web Bulletin (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/nas/en>) and the websites of respective subjects for schools' reference. Checklists of major updates in the three chapters of respective subjects are available on the websites for teachers' easy reference. To economise the use of paper in compliance with our environmental policy, only the web version of the updated C&A Guides is provided for schools' reference.

5. School heads are requested to circulate this CM to all members of the teaching staff in order to keep them informed of the updated C&A Guides to ensure a smooth implementation of the fine-tuned Senior Secondary curriculum and assessment.

6. Please visit the NAS Web Bulletin (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/nas/en>) or the designated webpage (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/nas/review/en>) for the latest developments. The assessment design of the public assessment is subject to continual refinement in the

light of feedback, Full details are provided in the Regulations and Assessment Frameworks for the year of the examination and other supplementary documents, which are available on the HKEAA website (www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/assessment_framework/).

Stephen YW YIP
for Permanent Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections --- for information

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To: Supervisors and Principals of all schools offering the local senior secondary curriculum

Dear Supervisor and Principal,

Updating of Curriculum and Assessment Guides of 24 Senior Secondary Subjects

First of all, we would like to thank you and your colleagues for your valuable advice and continuous support to the New Academic Structure (NAS) Review, jointly launched by the Education Bureau (EDB), the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA). Successful changes, including the smooth implementation of the New Senior Secondary (NSS) curriculum and assessment and the NAS review, would not have been possible without your dedicated efforts. Your feedback and experiences have also helped to inform the short-term recommendations at the system/school level and the subject level, which were endorsed at the joint CDC-PEB meeting on 25 February 2013 and announced in April 2013 in order to address the concerns and fine-tune the delivery of the NAS for the betterment of student learning (please see Annex 2 for details).

At the outset, the Curriculum and Assessment (C&A) Guides have been jointly prepared by the CDC and HKEAA to provide essential information on curriculum development and implementation as well as examinations and assessments. All chapters in the C&A Guides should be read in a holistic manner as one key concept underlying the senior secondary curriculum is that curriculum, pedagogy and assessment should be well aligned, with learning and teaching forming an integral part of the curriculum and assessment as a means to improve learning. The CDC and HKEAA have therefore been working together also in keeping the curriculum and assessment under constant review to enhance student learning, and to keep abreast with the latest development in the field as well as the changing needs of the world. The NAS Review was collaboratively launched in the 2012/13 school year by the CDC and HKEAA, leading to the announcement of the short-term recommendations in April 2013. Likewise, we have updated the C&A Guides in the light of the short-term recommendations, with alignment of curriculum and assessment for the benefit of student learning as our key considerations.

As always, you are our valued partners and we will continue to listen to your views and suggestions on the delivery of the NAS. Thank you again for your great effort and continuous support in enhancing the quality of education in Hong Kong.

**Secretariat,
Curriculum Development Council**

**Secretariat,
Public Examinations Board, HKEAA**

Summary of *Short-term Recommendations*

Subject Level

(1) *On curriculum:*

- Streamline curriculum content (2 subjects): Math¹ (M1/M2), BAFS (about 15%)
- Reduce no. of elective modules to be taken by students (without cutting the no. of choices) (3 subjects): Chin Lang, Chin Lit, Chin Hist
- Update and revise curriculum content (9 subjects): Lit in Eng, Bio, Chem, Phy, CS, Geog, THS, ICT, Econ
- Provide more choices in curriculum to cater for learner diversity: Lit in Eng
- Clarify curriculum breadth and depth: provide supplementary notes for all subjects
- Regular review and update of the development of curriculum and assessment, with various working groups set up to discuss related issues

(2) *On assessment:* The recommendations on assessment are aligned with the principles and changes in curriculum.

(i) *School-based Assessment (SBA)*

- Not implementing SBA (3 subjects): Math, BAFS, PE
- Defer SBA to 2019 HKDSE (9 subjects): Chin Lit, Lit in Eng, Econ, ERS, Geog, THS, HMSC, TL, Music*
- Streamline SBA arrangements (11 subjects): Chin Lang, Eng Lang, LS, Chin Lit, Econ, Geog, HMSC, ICT, THS, TL, Music*
- Clarify SBA requirement: e.g. LS (IES), Chin Lang (reading records)
- Replace SBA by public practical exam (1 subject): PE

* SBA will be implemented in Music earlier if supported by schools

(ii) *Public Examination*

- Adjust examination time
 - lengthen examination time to provide candidates with more time to study the questions and organise their answers (4 subjects): Econ, Geog, Hist, HMSC
 - reduce examination time with corresponding adjustment in paper design to align with streamlining or improvement of curriculum/assessment (3 subjects): Chin Lit, BAFS, Lit in Eng
- Improve assessment design
 - streamline examination papers (2 subjects): Chin Lang, Chin Hist
 - integrate examination papers (1 subject): Chin Lang
 - provide more options for examination papers (2 subjects): BAFS, Lit in Eng

System/School Level

- Adopt a flexible range of total lesson time at 2,400±200 hours;
- Allocate a flexible 10-15% of total lesson time to OLE;
- Improve provision of ApL courses, which includes strengthening administrative support and enhancing recognition;
- Provide timely information on further study options for students with different levels of attainment;
- Provide support to schools, including professional development programmes, supplementary notes, practical examples, learning and teaching materials and information sheets on curriculum and assessment for 24 subjects (S4 to S6 student version).

¹ Subject names - *Chin Lang*: Chinese Language; *Chin Lit*: Chinese Literature; *Eng Lang*: English Language; *Lit in Eng*: Literature in English; *Math*: Mathematics; *LS*: Liberal Studies; *Chin Hist*: Chinese History; *Econ*: Economics; *ERS*: Ethics & Religious Studies; *Geog*: Geography; *Hist*: History; *THS*: Tourism and Hospitality Studies; *Bio*: Biology; *Chem*: Chemistry; *Phy*: Physics; *CS*: Combined Science; *IS*: Integrated Science; *BAFS*: Business, Accounting and Financial Studies; *DAT*: Design and Applied Technology; *HMSC*: Health Management and Social Care; *ICT*: Information and Communication Technology; *TL*: Technology and Living; *VA*: Visual Arts; *PE*: Physical Education; *ApL*: Applied Learning. Others - *IES*: Independent Enquiry Study; *M1/M2*: Module 1/Module 2; *OLE*: Other Learning Experiences.