

Joint Meeting of the CDC-HKEAA Committee on English Language (2013-2015) and the HKDSE English Language Subject Committee (2013/2014)

Date of meeting: 22 January 2014 (Wednesday)

Gist of the meeting:

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2013 were confirmed with no amendments.
2. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.
3. The major updates in Chapters 2, 3 and 5 of the *English Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6)* were presented.
4. The findings from the teacher survey on the assessment framework, the design of the 2013 Examination, SBA as well as standards-referenced reporting were reported.
5. The schedule for stakeholder engagement in the Medium-term Review and the major findings from the focus group meetings conducted between Jun and Dec 2013 were presented.
6. Discussion on the issues identified for the Medium-term Review
 - There was concern about the breadth and depth of the Elective Part. It was commented that some support measures to help teachers deliver the Elective Part more effectively were needed.
 - It was pointed out that SBA had facilitated authentic use of English and led to marked improvements in students' speaking skills, and that the inter-paper correlation figures for SBA were higher than Paper 4 (Speaking). Since SBA provided a fairly reliable indication of the speaking abilities of students, keeping the weighting unchanged was warranted. However, some work lay ahead in enhancing teachers' understanding of the moderation of SBA marks.
 - It was remarked that the adoption of the Graded Approach was based on a large candidature as well as reliable assessment tools. Schools were advised not to make attempts to align raw scores in internal examinations with the award of Levels in the HKDSE. As teachers' experience with the Examination grew over time, they would have a better understanding of the requirements of the graded sections and the standards expected at different Levels.
 - It was noted that students' low awareness of grammatical accuracy had been an issue all along. There was a need to provide professional development programmes which aimed to upskill both primary and secondary teachers in teaching grammar in context.
7. Two school surveys would be conducted - the first one in Jun 2014 to collect teachers' views for formulation of the proposed recommendations and the second one in Jan 2015 to collect views on the proposed recommendations.
8. Members were reminded that three sets of supplementary notes to the *English Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6)* had been uploaded to the EDB website.