

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

Date of meeting: 4 April 2014 (Friday)

Gist of the meeting:

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 22 Jan 2014 were confirmed with no amendments.
2. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.
3. The background on the SBA Working Group and the reasons for conducting a comprehensive review of SBA were presented. It was noted that the SBA for English Language placed students in a familiar, less threatening environment in which they undertook a speaking task pitched at their proficiency level. There were increased opportunities for students to interact with authentic English texts and use English in an integrated manner. The reading/viewing strategies and speaking skills involved, including the ability to respond to English texts imaginatively and critically, could not be addressed in Paper 4 (Speaking) in the HKDSE Examination. The existing SBA requirements should therefore remain unchanged.
4. The interim survey previously scheduled for Jun 2014 would be replaced by focus group meetings between Jun and Aug 2014 to collect teachers' views for formulation of medium-term recommendations. The school survey for collection of schools' views on the proposed medium-term recommendations would be advanced to Nov/Dec 2014 to facilitate the announcement of the second batch of medium-term recommendations, which were likely to be advanced to May 2015. The members agreed on the revised plan and the following proposed areas for collection of views in the focus group meetings:
 - The number of Elective Modules to be taught
 - The design of Part B of Paper 2 (Writing)
 - SBA
 - Support measures