

CDC-HKEAA Committee on English Language (2015-2017)
Second Meeting

Date: 28 June 2017 (Wednesday)

Time: 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Venue: Rm E306, East Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong

Gist of the meeting:

1. The proposal of allowing schools the flexibility in allocating 15%-25% of the lesson time for English Language to the Elective Part for catering for learner diversity was presented.
2. Some proposed changes to the design of Paper 2 (Writing), which could come into effect in the 2021 HKDSE Examination at the earliest, were brought forward:
 - Part A: A more guided question which requires candidates to write 150 words, as opposed to 200 words in the current HKDSE Examination
 - Part B: A reduction in the number of questions from 8 to 4 which are not tied to any elective modules but revolve around general topics
 - Duration of Paper 2 (Writing): A possibility of cutting back on the examination time from 2 hours to 1.5 hours, taking into consideration the reduction in the number of words for Part A
3. All members shared the view that the revamped design of Parts A and B of Paper 2 (Writing) made it easier for weak candidates to approach the questions and therefore achieve more.
4. Some members pointed out that the demands on candidates could be perceived to be even more overwhelming if the examination time was shortened.
5. Some members expressed the need to avoid the impression that less importance could be accorded to the elective modules, which were intended to add variety to the ELE curriculum and make English learning more meaningful and purposeful.
6. It was agreed that the HKEAA would put together a finalised sample paper for consultation and make plans for collecting stakeholders' views in the next school year.