

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

Date of meeting: 5 March 2015 (Thursday)

Gist of the meeting:

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 Oct 2014 were confirmed with no amendments.
2. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.
3. Stakeholders' views on the Medium-term Review recommendations were collected through a school questionnaire survey, focus group interviews, briefing sessions and forums conducted during the 3-month consultation from Nov 2014 to Feb 2015. The feedback was consolidated to inform deliberations at the Joint CDC-PEB meeting in Apr 2015, where the proposed Medium-term Review recommendations would be endorsed.
4. Findings of the Medium-term Review of the Senior Secondary English Language curriculum:
 - The majority of the schools were in favour of the recommendations on the Elective Part regarding the flexibility in offering two to three modules in the course of three years though some of the respondents were concerned about the suggested time allocation.
 - All of the academics interviewed recognised the role of the Elective Part in adding variety to students' learning experiences.
 - While catering for learning diversity was the most frequently raised concern in the planning and implementation of the senior secondary English Language curriculum, teachers opined that they required more support in e-learning and the learning and teaching of grammar in context.
 - Academics also suggested that there should be more support for teachers to expand their pedagogical repertoire in enabling students to apply grammar knowledge meaningfully and purposefully.
5. Findings of the Medium-term Review of the Senior Secondary English Language assessment
 - All teachers and academics agreed that SBA provided more opportunities for students to interact with authentic English texts and proved instrumental in the development of students' speaking skills. There was also a general consensus among teachers that the weighting, requirements and workload of SBA were appropriate.
6. The proposed Medium-term Review recommendations on the Senior Secondary English Language curriculum and assessment
 - Offering two to three modules in the Elective Part in the course of three years
 - Keeping the suggested time allocation for the Elective Part unchanged
 - Keeping the public examination and SBA unchanged