

HKDSE Format, Structure and Approach

Reading

	HKDSE
Time allowed	1 hour and 30 minutes
Weighting	20%
Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Part A (10%) is compulsory.2. Part B (10%): students can choose either B1 (easier) or B2 (more difficult) depending on their own ability. Students who attempt Part A and Part B2 will be able to attain 5** the highest, while students who attempt Part A and Part B1 will be able to attain 4 the highest.3. There can be one or more reading passage(s) in each part.
Question types	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There are a wide variety of question types, e.g. multiple-choice questions, True / False / Not given, blank-filling, short responses and table-filling.2. New items are included, e.g. proofreading, picture identification, matching, re-ordering.3. More open-ended questions are included to test students' critical and creative thinking skills. The answers to these questions may vary and are not limited to the marking scheme.4. Many of the questions test students' grammar and vocabulary knowledge.
Topic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Part A and Part B1 are on relevant topics. Less capable students may find the vocabulary and content in these two parts easier to follow.2. The topics in Part B2 are generally difficult. Inferences are needed to answer some of the questions.3. In Part A and Part B2, the sentence patterns can be sophisticated and the vocabulary can be challenging and unfamiliar to students.
Text type	The text types are diversified, including articles, poems and online postings.

Writing

HKDSE

Time allowed	2 hours
Weighting	25%
Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Part A is compulsory (10%). Students are asked to write about 200 words with the help of the information provided.2. Part B (15%, 400 words): students can choose <u>one out of eight</u> questions. From 2024 onwards, students may choose from <u>one out of four</u> questions.
Topic	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The topic in Part A is related to students' daily lives. Students should have sufficient vocabulary to finish the task.2. Some of the questions in Part B are quite general and require students to write about their personal experience and thoughts.3. Some of the questions test students' knowledge of a specific module, e.g. poem and songs. Students need to have language arts appreciation and critique skills.
Text type	The text types are diversified, including letters, articles, reviews, reports and diary entries.

Listening

HKDSE

Time allowed	about 2 hours
Weighting	30%
Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Part A (15%) is compulsory. Most of the tasks are table-filling and short responses. Students do not need to refer to the Data File for this part. Compared to HKCEE, less guidance is given and some of the answers are longer.2. Part B (15%): students can choose either B1 (easier) or B2 (more difficult) depending on their own ability. Students who attempt Part A and Part B2 will be able to attain 5** the highest, while students who attempt Part A and Part B1 will be able to attain 4 the highest.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In Part B, students are asked to complete two to three writing tasks. For each task, they need to refer to the information provided on the recording and in the Data File. The tasks in B1 and B2 differ in terms of length, text types, level of difficulty and the guidance given. The tasks in B2 generally require students to give longer answers and more marks will be allocated for their language compared to B1.
Recording	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All listening materials will be played once only. A wide variety of spoken material will be used, including conversations, telephone messages, interviews radio programmes and podcasts. The recording involves two to three characters. Students need to identify the speakers to answer some of the questions.
Data File	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some pieces of information in B1 and B2 are the same. A greater variety of written material will be used, including articles, emails, letters, tables, regulations, interviews, graphs, notes, telephone messages, minutes and statistics.
Topic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The topics are similar and related to students' daily lives. Students should have sufficient vocabulary to finish the task. The situations in Part A and Part B are usually different.
Integrated task	More authentic and functional texts will be included, including note sheets, reports, emails and proposals.

Speaking

HKDSE

Time allowed	about 20 minutes
Weighing	10%
Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Part A (Group Interaction) is based on a short text (groups of 4, 10 minutes preparation, 8 minutes interaction). Students are given more time on preparation and discussion.

	<p>2. Part B (Individual Response) is based on students' performance in the Group Interaction (1 minute per candidate, no preparation time is given). Most of the questions are difficult and require students' critical thinking skills</p>
Topic	The topics are similar and related to students' daily lives. Students should have sufficient vocabulary to finish the task.
Text type	The text types are diversified, including advertisements, book synopses, film reviews, letters and short news reports.

School Based Assessment (SBA)

HKDSE	
Weighting	15%
Format	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SBA consists of two parts. 2. Part A (7.5%) is a reading / viewing programme but students need to read / view more than one text (four texts in total) over the course of three years. A Group Interaction or an Individual Presentation is conducted by the teacher. 3. Part B (7.5%) consists of a Group Interaction or an Individual Presentation based on the modules in the Elective Part of the curriculum. 4. <u>Starting from the 2024 HKDSE, the SBA will be based on the reading / viewing programme only.</u> 5. Two marks will be submitted before the end of Secondary six. One mark should be based on a Group Interaction, while the other one on an Individual Presentation.