

EDUCATION BUREAU
CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 120/2023

From: Secretary for Education
Ref. : EDB(CD/ELE)/1054 II
Date: 10 July 2023

To: Supervisors/Heads of all aided (including special schools), government, caput and private secondary schools, and secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme offering the local senior secondary curriculum

(Please circulate this Circular Memorandum to Literature in English panel heads/coordinators and teachers)

**Optimisation of Literature in English and
Release of the *Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide*
(*Secondary 4 – 6*) (2023)**

Summary

The purpose of this Circular Memorandum (CM) is to provide details about the measures to optimise the Literature in English curriculum and assessment and announce the release of the *Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4 – 6) (2023)* (the Guide) for use in schools at Secondary 4 starting from the 2023/24 school year.

Background

2. The Education Bureau (EDB) announced the measures to optimise the four senior secondary core subjects in EDBCM No.39/2021 “Measures to Optimise the Four Senior Secondary Core Subjects” following the recommendations made by the Task Force on Review of School Curriculum (Task Force) in the report titled “Optimise the curriculum for the future, Foster whole-person development and diverse talents” in order to create space for students and cater for learner diversity.

3. In this connection, the Literature in English curriculum and assessment have been thoroughly reviewed along the same directions to create space for students and cater for learner diversity. After careful deliberations in relevant committees as well as public consultation through a school survey and a focus group interview, proposed measures for optimising the Literature in English curriculum and assessment have been formulated by relevant committees and endorsed by the Curriculum Development Council and the Public Examinations Board of the HKEAA. The Guide has also been updated to incorporate the optimising measures and latest curriculum initiatives. The optimised curriculum will be implemented at Secondary 4 starting from the 2023/24 school year, leading to the 2026 HKDSE Literature in English Examination and thereafter.

Details

4. The optimising measures for the Literature in English curriculum and assessment are as follows:

Curriculum

Curriculum components	Optimising measures
Study of Set Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesson time allocation reduced from 60% to 55%• No set texts specified for the film genre to allow teachers flexibility to use any suitable texts (including films previously used as set texts) to develop students' film knowledge and analytical skills for the School-based Assessment portfolio
Portfolio (Group work/Individual tutorials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesson time allocation increased from 15% to 20%• Focusing on an extended essay or an analytical study on film only to facilitate focused learning and teaching and effective use of lesson and learning time

*The "Literary Appreciation" component of the curriculum will remain unchanged.

Assessment

Assessment components	Optimising measures
Paper 1: Essay Writing (50% of total subject mark)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removing the film section• Removing Part II (i.e. cross-genre comparison questions*)• Completing three essays, one on each of the three genres (i.e. novel, play and short stories)
Paper 2: Appreciation (30% of total subject mark)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing only one unseen poem in Section C instead of two
School-based Assessment (20% of total subject mark)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focusing on films only• Removing the options of critical review and creative writing, with analytical study or extended essay as the only choice

*Candidates will still be required to demonstrate cross-text comparison skills in the section on short stories in Paper 1 and the section on seen poetry in Paper 2.

Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4 – 6) (2023)

5. The Guide has been uploaded to the webpage of the English Language Education Section for the reference of schools and Literature in English teachers.

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/LiECAGuide2023>



Major updates include:

- incorporating the latest changes and directions in curriculum development and the major renewal emphases (e.g. the Seven Learning Goals, values education, information literacy)
- providing information on the optimising measures on the Literature in English curriculum and assessment (including allocation of lesson and learning time, refinement of curriculum content, streamlined design of the examination papers and school-based assessment) and relevant suggestions on curriculum planning, learning and teaching (e.g. use of e-learning tools and AI technology, citation and referencing skills)

Support Measures

6. To facilitate schools' implementation of the optimised Literature in English curriculum and assessment, different support measures will be put in place with the release of the Guide. Professional development programmes, resource materials on the learning and teaching of films, as well as an updated School-based Assessment Handbook will be provided to support the implementation of the film-based School-based Assessment.

School Briefing Session

7. This CM shall be circulated to all Literature in English teachers as early as possible with a view to facilitating the implementation of the optimised Literature in English curriculum and assessment in the 2023/24 school year. A briefing session will also be conducted for Literature in English panel heads/coordinators and teachers to gain a holistic understanding of the rationale and measures for optimising the Literature in English curriculum and assessment. Details of the briefing session are as follows:

Briefing Session on Optimisation of Literature in English

Date:	24 October 2023 (Tuesday)
Venue:	Room W421, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong
Time:	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Language:	English

Schools wishing to make nominations for the briefing session are requested to complete and return the Reply Slip at Appendix 1 by fax or email on or before 16 October 2023 (Monday).

Enquiries

8. For enquiries, please contact Ms May WONG of the English Language Education Section, Curriculum Development Institute, EDB on 2892 5433.

Ms Elizabeth WONG
for Secretary for Education

Briefing Session on Optimisation of Literature in English

Reply Slip

(To be returned by fax or email on or before 16 October 2023)

To: English Language Education Section
 (Attn: Ms May WONG)
 Curriculum Development Institute
 Education Bureau
 [Fax: 2834 7810]
 [Email: cdoe4@edb.gov.hk]

Date: 24 October 2023 (Tuesday)
Venue: Room W421, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education
 Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong
Time: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Language: English

The following will attend the Briefing Session (up to 2 nominations from each school):

	Name of Participants	Post & Subject (e.g. Literature in English teacher)	Email Address
1	* Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms		
2	* Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms		

**Please delete where inapplicable.*

Signature of School Head :

Name of School Head:

Name of School:

Telephone number:

Date

School Chop