Optimising Senior Secondary Core Subjects

Overview
The Task Force on Review of School Curriculum (Task Force) was set up by the Education Bureau (EDB) in November 2017 to holistically review the primary and secondary curricula to equip our students for future challenges, cater for their different learning needs, and create space and opportunities for fostering their whole-person development.

The Task Force submitted its review report to the EDB in September 2020 with six directional recommendations.
Six directional recommendations

- Whole-person development
- Values education and life planning education
- Creating space and catering for learner diversity
- Applied learning
- University admissions
- STEM education
Creating space and catering for learner diversity

- The EDB accepted the directional recommendations set out in the report in December 2020, which include optimising the curricula and assessments of the four senior secondary (SS) core subjects to create space for students as well as to cater for their diverse interests, abilities and aspirations.

- The review of SS subjects is an ongoing curriculum development process for the betterment of student learning.

- In optimising SS subjects, the arrangements will be in place for the four core subjects first.
To follow up on the Task Force’s recommendations for creating space and catering for learner diversity, the EDB has proposed measures in conjunction with the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) to optimise the four SS core subjects through differentiating the curricula and assessments.

As the nature of the four subjects are different, the proposal to optimise each core subject would be different while upholding the curriculum integrity of the subject.
Curriculum planning at the school level

- Upon the full implementation of the measures to optimise the four SS core subjects, schools should enjoy greater flexibility to cater for the diverse learning needs of students through curriculum planning at the school level.

- The release of lesson time from optimising the four SS core subjects is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Lesson time to be released (notional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Language</td>
<td>About 50 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>About 50 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>About 50 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renamed Subject in lieu of Liberal Studies</td>
<td>About 100 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>About 250 hours</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making the most of the lesson time to be released

*Lesson time will be released for students to…*

- take an additional elective subject in Key Learning Areas (KLAs) or Applied Learning (ApL)
- engage in more in-depth study of subjects
- study the Extended Part (Module 1 / Module 2) (M1 / M2) in parallel with the Compulsory Part of Mathematics
- participate more actively in Other Learning Experiences (OLE) / life-wide learning activities
- engage in other personal pursuits to cater for the different interests, abilities and aspirations of students
Catering for the differentiated needs of students within the school context

- The time to be released from each of the four SS core subjects is not prescriptive nor an across-the-board hard indicator because of difference in school contexts and variation in student needs.

- In the interest of student learning, schools should consider the arrangements for all four SS core subjects in a holistic manner, and make professional decisions in consultation with the Incorporated Management Committee (IMC) / School Management Committee (SMC) and staff on the allocation of lesson time and the offer of subject choices.
School questionnaire survey

• conducted from 2 February to 2 March 2021

• questionnaire to be delivered to the schools which have installed the Web-based School Administration and Management System (WebSAMS) via the Communication and Delivery System (CDS)

• each school to complete ONE questionnaire only and return it to the EDB via the CDS on or before 2 March 2021
## Details of school briefing sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Target Audience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briefing Sessions on Optimising the Four Senior Secondary Core Subjects (NEW)</td>
<td>5 and 18 Feb</td>
<td>CDI020211034</td>
<td>Principals and vice-principals</td>
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<tr>
<td>後化高中中國語文科簡介會（新辦）</td>
<td>19 and 23 Feb</td>
<td>CDI020201702</td>
<td>Panel heads and teachers of related subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing Sessions on Optimising Senior Secondary English Language (NEW)</td>
<td></td>
<td>CDI020210997</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing Sessions on Optimising Senior Secondary Mathematics (NEW)</td>
<td></td>
<td>CDI020211057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing Session on the Senior Secondary Renamed Subject (NEW)</td>
<td>10 and 17 Feb</td>
<td>CDI020210811</td>
<td></td>
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