

Tips for Purchasing Textbooks 2025

① When is the most suitable time to buy textbooks?

Upon receiving the school textbook list, parents should buy the textbooks at the earliest.



② Points to note on using second-hand textbooks

How to get the “Corrigenda”?

How to buy “Learning materials accompanying the textbooks”?

③ Differences among “Revised”, “Reprinted” & “Reprinted with minor amendments” textbooks



④ Websites and Contact Information

Useful websites, contact information of publishers/developers and Textbook Committee Secretariat of Education Bureau





1. When is the most suitable time to buy textbooks?

- ◆ The school year is coming to an end, and the school will distribute the textbook list for the next school year to students. Parents / students are advised to **purchase textbooks as soon as possible** after receiving the textbook list. Generally speaking, the textbook stocks of various bookstores are relatively sufficient in July.



- ◆ In order to avoid parents from the hassle of purchasing textbooks, the Education Bureau (EDB) suggests that, before purchasing textbooks, parents should browse the “Textbook Information” webpage (www.edb.gov.hk/textbook), which provides the “Information on the Supply of Textbooks on the Recommended Textbook List and their Accompanying Learning Materials for the New School Year” from textbook publishers, helping parents understand the latest information about the supply of textbooks and learning materials and the





expected dates of publication. The EDB will continuously update the information from July to September for parents' reference. If individual textbooks are out of stock, some textbook retailers may provide reservation service (full payment in advance may be required).



- ◆ To cater for students' learning needs, individual schools may develop "school-based teaching materials" on their own or in cooperation with publishers. Parents / students are advised to **check if they need to place an order for this kind of teaching materials through their schools.**
- ◆ Sometimes, parents / students may not be able to purchase all the textbooks required before the new school year commences because some textbooks are out of stock in individual textbook retailers or some publishers are not able to print the new textbooks on schedule. In such case, parents and students can directly approach the publishers concerned and / or the textbook retailer that assisted printing the school textbook list. Contact





information of publishers has been uploaded to the EDB's webpage. Please refer to Part 4 of this pamphlet.



**Publishers' /
Developers' Tel**

▼ Publishers



**Textbook
Committee
Secretariat, EDB**

▼ Contact

[Remarks: The EDB has urged publishers to inform schools and take remedial actions if they cannot supply sufficient copies before the new school year commences. Such actions include arranging direct ordering services for schools and providing students with part of the content of textbooks free of charge so as to avoid affecting students' learning.]



2. Points to note on using second-hand textbooks

- Students who use second-hand textbooks can find the applicable edition of the books on the school textbook list. For example:



English Language (2018 1st Edition, 2020 Reprinted)
Book 1

Primary Mathematics (2019 2nd Edition, 2023 Reprinted
Book 2 with minor amendments)





- The year of its previous edition and the year of reprint are also clearly marked on the textbooks, and “Reprinted with minor amendments” (if applicable) is marked. For example,

2020 1st Edition

2023 Reprinted with minor amendments



- In the examples above, the English Language textbook and the Mathematics textbook have been “Reprinted” and “Reprinted with minor amendments” after 2018 and 2019 respectively but have not been “revised”. Their **appearance** (including the design of the front and back covers, the title, the size of paper and the order of pages) remains unchanged. The amendments on both textbooks only involve corrections of the typographical errors or minor amendments to the content. Students can rest assured to use the second-hand textbooks.





- The information about the applicable edition of textbooks is detailed on the **Recommended Textbook List** (www.edb.gov.hk/rtl).
- Students using second-hand textbooks can download the “**Corrigenda**” which indicates the updated content for **free** via schools or publishers’ websites. Relevant links can be found on the webpage of the **Recommended Textbook List**.
- If students need to buy the “learning materials accompanying the textbooks”, such as worksheets, workbooks, accounts for e-learning resources, etc., they can place an order through their schools, or contact the publishers / textbook retailers for direct purchase. Contact information of publishers has been uploaded to the EDB’s webpage. Please refer to Part 4 of this pamphlet.






3. Differences among “Revised”, “Reprinted” and “Reprinted with minor amendments” textbooks


☆ “Revised” textbooks: Publishers have to observe the “five-year-rule of no revision” for textbooks. The content of the “revised edition” textbooks should have significant changes and improvements when compared with the original edition. When publishers submit their application for review of “revised edition” textbooks, the proposed changes and their justifications must be submitted to the EDB for review and approval before the issuance of the “revised edition”. Parents and students should buy the textbooks according to the “applicable edition(s)” as shown on the textbook list.

☆ “Reprinted with minor amendments” textbooks: They are neither “new edition” nor “revised edition”. Their appearance and order of pages are the same as the original edition. These textbooks only involve minor





amendments to the content (such as the updates of necessary data) which have been reviewed and approved by the EDB. Students can still use the second-hand textbooks of the previous edition(s).

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- ☆ “Reprinted” textbooks: In general, the reprinted version mainly involves minor amendments (e.g. corrections of typographical errors). Students can still use the second-hand textbooks of the previous edition(s). Since reprinted textbooks only involve minor amendments, they are not required to undergo the textbook review procedures.

4. Websites and Contact Information

- ✧ Textbook Information:
www.edb.gov.hk/textbook



- ✧ Recommended Textbook List (RTL) /
Recommended e-Textbook List (eRTL):
www.edb.gov.hk/rtl





✧ Student Finance Office: www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo

✧ Contact information of textbook publishers on the EDB's RTL and eRTL



**Textbook Committee Secretariat
Education Bureau**

Address : E326, 3/F, East Block,
EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre,
19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon

Tel : [3698 3947](tel:36983947) / [3698 4025](tel:36984025)

Fax : 2194 0219

Email : textbook@edb.gov.hk

