Preamble

The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) stated in its report[1] in 2005 that the implementation of a three-year senior secondary academic structure would commence at Secondary 4 in September 2009. The senior secondary academic structure is supported by a flexible, coherent and diversified senior secondary curriculum aimed at catering for students' varied interests, needs and abilities. This Curriculum and Assessment (C&A) Guide is one of the series of documents prepared for the senior secondary curriculum. It is based on the goals of senior secondary education and on other official documents related to the curriculum and assessment reform since 2000, including the *Basic Education Curriculum Guide* (2002) and the *Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide* (2007). To gain a full understanding of the connection between education at the senior secondary level and the basic education level, and how effective learning, teaching and assessment can be achieved, it is strongly recommended that reference should be made to all related documents.

This C&A Guide is designed to provide the rationale and aims of the subject curriculum, followed by chapters on the curriculum framework, curriculum planning, pedagogy, assessment and use of learning and teaching resources. One key concept underlying the senior secondary curriculum is that curriculum, pedagogy and assessment should be well aligned. While learning and teaching strategies form an integral part of the curriculum and are conducive to promoting learning to learn and whole-person development, assessment should also be recognised not only as a means to gauge performance but also to improve learning. To understand the interplay between these three key components, all chapters in the C&A Guide should be read in a holistic manner.

The C&A Guide is jointly prepared by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA). The CDC is an advisory body that gives recommendations to the HKSAR Government on all matters relating to curriculum development for the school system from kindergarten to senior secondary level. Its membership includes heads of schools, practising teachers, parents, employers, academics from tertiary institutions, professionals from related fields/bodies, representatives from the HKEAA and the Vocational Training Council (VTC), as well as officers from the EMB. The HKEAA is an independent statutory body responsible for the conduct of public assessment, including the assessment for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). Its governing council includes members drawn from the school sector, tertiary institutions and

[1] The report is *The New Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education – Action Plan for Investing in the Future of Hong Kong*, and will be referred to as the *334 Report* hereafter.

government bodies, as well as professionals and members of the business community.

The C&A Guide is recommended by the EMB for use in secondary schools. The subject curriculum forms the basis of the assessment designed and administered by the HKEAA. In this connection, the HKEAA will issue a handbook to provide information on the rules and regulations of the HKDSE examination as well as the structure and format of public assessment for each subject.

The CDC and HKEAA will keep the subject curriculum under constant review and evaluation in the light of classroom experiences, students' performance in the public assessment, and the changing needs of students and society. All comments and suggestions on this C&A Guide may be sent to:

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Acronyms

AL	Advanced Level
ApL	Applied Learning
ASL	Advanced Supplementary Level
C&A	Curriculum and Assessment
CDC	Curriculum Development Council
CE	Certificate of Education
COC	Career-Oriented Curriculum (pilot of the Career-oriented Studies)
EC	Education Commission
EMB	Education and Manpower Bureau
HKALE	Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination
HKCAA	Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation
HKCEE	Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination
HKDSE	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education
HKEAA	Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
IT	Information Technology
KLA	Key Learning Area
KS1/2/3/4	Key Stage 1/2/3/4
OLE	Other Learning Experiences
One Committee	CDC-HKEAA Committee
P1/2/3/4/5/6	Primary 1/2/3/4/5/6
PDP	Professional Development Programmes
RASIH	Review of the Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Interface with Higher Education
S1/2/3/4/5/6/7	Secondary 1/2/3/4/5/6/7
SBA	School-based Assessment

SEN	Special Educational Needs
SLP	Student Learning Profile
SRR	Standards-referenced Reporting
SSCG	Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide
TPPG	Teacher Professional Preparation Grant