Preface

This booklet on the English gifted programme, The Language Magnifier for Problem Solving, is the outcome of the collaboration between the members of Gifted Education Section, Education Bureau and of the teachers of Shung Tak Catholic English College. The programme focuses on facilitating the learning and teaching of English language for a selected group of high ability English learners. With this booklet, we aim to provide secondary schools with recommendations on the design, implementation and evaluation of a school-based gifted language programme.

Gifted, creative and talented students have several kinds of immediate and long term needs. For students with higher levels of potential, given the opportunities and provision, they will be led to life-long commitment and achievement that result in high-level creative productions, inventions, or solutions to major societal problems in the long term. In the short term, the gifted needs to have educational and personal experiences which help them develop important skills, provide immediate happiness and satisfaction, and will eventually facilitate their progress towards the long-term goals.

Reading, thinking and writing are simultaneous, interactive cognitive learning processes. To serve the immediate needs of the high ability students, teachers may design activities for students to maximise achievement of basic skills and conceptual understanding of school subjects, to read extensively about diverse topics, and develop independence in learning. The Creative Problem Solving (CPS) Model provides an environment for high ability students to master skills and construct knowledge at a deeper level. It also serves the practical needs of the gifted to develop language skills and use in the multi-faceted study of daily social issues that leads students towards the forecast and contribution to the future society. Following the learning targets, objectives and outcomes of the English Language curriculum framework, schools are encouraged to plan and develop coherent and extensive language programmes for linguistically gifted learners whose interests in language learning extend beyond the implemented curriculum.

Aims

The pivotal aims of The Language Magnifier for Problem-Solving are to stretch the language development of the linguistically high ability students building on the recommendations made in *English Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4 and 6) (2007)*, *English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – Secondary 3) (2002)*, and *Basic Education Curriculum Guide - Building on Strengths (2002)*. In line with the development of the English Language Education curricula stated in the curriculum guides, the Programme extends the following learning goals of basic education and the aims of the English Language curriculum:

- reinforce learners’ habits of reading;
- engage learners’ in real-life issues;
- lead learners to exercise critical, thinking skills and problem-solving strategies;
- provide opportunities to learners to apply, synthesise and construct their knowledge and understanding of cultures for personal and intellectual development, further studies, career advancement and contribution to society and the world; and
- apply and improve learning and practical skills.

Figure 1 shows the connection between the junior and senior secondary English Language curricula and The Language Magnifier for Problem-Solving.
The booklet starts with a description of the piloted programme ‘The Language Magnifier for Problem Solving’ in the participating school in 2007. The selection procedure adopted to place students in the programme, lesson plans, learning and teaching materials with highlights of gifted education considerations, and remarks on programme evaluation are all included for teachers’ reference.

The suggested activities in the booklet engage students in a variety of ways, such as, games, role-play, discussion and free expression of personal responses, self-reflection and presentation. In any case, teachers are welcome to use and adapt the activities to suit the abilities, needs and interests of students.

We welcome feedback and suggestions from teachers when you have tried out the activities with your students. Comments and suggestions can be sent to the Chief Curriculum Development Officer, Gifted Education Section, Education Bureau, Rm E328, 3/F, Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, by e-mail to gifted@edb.gov.hk or by facsimile on 2490 6888.

For further enquiries about this booklet, please contact the Gifted Education Section on 3698 3472.

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