1. Introduction

The purpose of this set of guidelines is to familiarise interested e-textbook publishers with the curriculum aims and objectives, guiding principles for writing e-textbooks, of History in a bid to ensure that the e-textbooks are written in accordance with the specific requirements of the curriculum. For the general principles and requirements for writing e-textbooks, publishers should refer to the latest edition of the *Guiding Principles for Quality Textbooks* available from the Education Bureau’s Textbook Information website (www.edb.gov.hk/textbook).

The e-textbooks should be written in line with the following CDC curriculum documents:

- *Personal, Social and Humanities Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1-Secondary 6) (2017) (Draft)*
- *Personal, Social and Humanities Education Key Learning Area (PSHE KLA): The Revised Curriculum Framework of History (Secondary 1-3) (May 2018)*

2. Curriculum Aims and Objectives

e-Textbook publishers should refer to the *Personal, Social and Humanities Education Key Learning Area (PSHE KLA): The Revised Curriculum Framework of History (Secondary 1-3) (May 2018)*. The e-textbook should be written in line with the aims and objectives of the revised junior secondary History curriculum and should facilitate constructing and enhancing students’ historical knowledge foundation, skills development and values formation in the learning and teaching of History.

2.1 Curriculum Aims

The aims of Secondary 1-3 History curriculum are:

(a) to enhance and develop students’ interest in studying history;
(b) to help students understand the present in the context of the past;
(c) to enrich students’ knowledge of their own community and culture, as well as other major cultures of the world;
(d) to develop students’ historical skills and generic skills for further studies and life situations;
(e) to nurture students to become citizens who have global perspectives, knowledge and sense of responsibility.

2.2 Curriculum Objectives
After completion of the junior secondary History curriculum, students should be able to:

(a) Knowledge and Understanding
i. understand and comprehend from a variety of perspectives (political, economic, technological and scientific, social, religious, aesthetic, etc.), the main characteristics of world civilisations in different periods;
ii. understand and comprehend the main characteristics of the development of Hong Kong and to relate them to the national and world development;
iii. comprehend basic historical concepts and terms;
iv. understand the relationship between cause and consequence of historical events;
v. comprehend change and continuity in major historical issues and developments;
vi. understand that the past may be interpreted in different ways.

(b) Skills
i. use historical terminology in an appropriate way;
ii. present historical events accurately in chronological order;
iii. describe characteristics of historical maps, models, diagrams, charts, pictures, tables and cartoons;
iv. make deductions and inferences from historical sources;
v. identify different interpretations of major historical events and personalities;
vi. distinguish the differences between historical facts and opinions;
vii. comprehend the implication of sources, question and explore the accuracy and reliability, and then construct fair and impartial personal viewpoints;
viii. make an imaginative reconstruction of past events;
ix. select, organise and deploy sources, and express in a well-structured way.

(c) Attitudes and Values
i. develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations;
ii. relate the study of history to contemporary life;
iii. understand views, beliefs and values of different societies at different times so as to develop positive values and attitudes;
iv. be willing to take up the responsibility of preserving antiquities and monuments, conserving cultural heritage and promoting history and culture.

3. Guiding Principles

3.1 Bridging of curriculum

- The content should show bridging relation with the Basic Education. Before receiving junior secondary education, students have already acquired initial understanding of some important historical events that influenced global development (e.g. war and peace) from General Studies in primary level. Junior Secondary History textbooks should build on this primary learning foundation to further enrich students’ historical knowledge, enhance their ability to study history and develop positive values and attitudes so as to lay a foundation for lifelong learning.

3.2 Content

- The content should cover the foundation part and the extended part of the 12 topics, as well as all case studies in the revised curriculum.
- The content should be useful to the learning and teaching process and will facilitate students’ active participation and their balanced development in the three aspects of knowledge construction, use of integration skills and development of positive values and attitudes.
- While the historical information provided should be accurate, adequate and systematically organised, due emphasis should be placed to the development of students’ historical concepts and skills.
- To enhance students’ understanding of History as a dynamic and lively subject, the content should be able to provide students with authentic, valid and up-to-date materials and sources which can stimulate curiosity, empathy and a sense of reality in the learning of history.
- Illustrations such as maps, pictures and diagrams, etc. should be included where they can help to stimulate interest or reinforce understanding, and their contents and positions should match the text.
• In the description of historical events, objectivity, impartiality and professionalism should be exercised and different perspectives should be provided. Supporting evidence for the description should be quoted from reliable and credible sources, and the origin of sources should be provided as far as possible. Facts and views/opinions should be distinguished from each other.
• Diverse standpoints and perspectives in understanding and interpreting the past should be provided.
• Headings should align with contents.
• The content should be accurate and systematically organised. It should align with the suggested allocation of time in the curriculum guide in order to avoid too heavy contents.

3.3 Learning and Teaching

• A variety of appropriate learning tasks, activities and exercises should be devised to stimulate students’ enquiry, empathy and imagination. Source-based exercises should be employed to develop students’ abilities to comprehend and analyse the information. Other learning activities such as questioning, discussion, role-play, simulation games, project work, information collecting, etc. could also be suggested. Life-wide learning activities which align with the curriculum can be proposed.
• To facilitate students’ self-directed learning, various supplementary reference materials and extended reading in each chapter should be provided. Extended learning exercises could also be provided in order to enrich students’ knowledge of historical development.
• Learning activities should be challenging enough in view of students’ ability. Activities that require students to copy mechanically from the text or that focus largely on students’ reading comprehension ability should be avoided.
• The design of the learning activities should allow flexibility to cater for the diversity of students’ interests and abilities.

3.4 Structure and Organisation

• The content sequence should be appropriate and logical. Key words and concepts are identified and highlighted.
• The structure of the content should be made apparent by means of functional devices including table of content, chapter titles, headings and outlines.
• To facilitate students using the enquiry approach to learn History, each chapter should start with an enquiry question and the
content of each chapter should be structured and organised by a number of different guiding questions so as to arouse students’ interest, provoke their thinking and help them gradually construct their knowledge and understanding of topics. An overview can be put at the beginning and a summary or conclusion at the end of each chapter. It should aim to introduce the basic content of the chapter and the major trends of historical development, so that students can grasp the historical knowledge holistically and understand the major patterns of historical development.

3.5 Language

- Pinyin should be adopted for Chinese names and places.
- Where appropriate, guidance on pronunciation could be provided to facilitate student learning. For translated Chinese names and places, they can be accompanied by their original terms.

3.6 Pedagogical use of e-features

- Provision of animations to illustrate some famous historical events and figures in more interesting and impressive ways.
- Provision of interactive maps to show the changes of boundaries of countries, relating to different historical events and period.
- Provision of virtual field trips to relatively inaccessible field sites.
- Provision of interactive time-lines and mind-maps to better illustrate some historical concepts.
- Provision of copyright cleared or appropriate hyperlinks to copyright-free virtual field trips.

3.7 Learning elements/skills not replaceable by digital means

- Tours and visits should not be completely replaced by digital means. Museum visits, community visits and heritage tours by students in person can promote life-wide learning and develop their historical imagination and empathy through firsthand experience.
3.8 Technical and functional requirements

- Refer to the latest edition of the *Guiding Principles for Quality Textbooks* for the relevant requirements.

4. Others

4.1 It is incumbent on publishers to ensure all proof-reading work (e.g. language, illustration, pagination, source of information and punctuation) is completed before submitting the e-textbooks for review.

4.2 Publishers should clear all copyrights of the e-textbook contents as appropriate.

4.3 Publishers should select materials objectively and avoid showing brand-names of commercial items in the illustrations.

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