

e-Textbook Writing Guidelines for the Technology Education Key Learning Area Curriculum (Secondary 1 – 3) – Design and Technology (Knowledge Context)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this set of guidelines is to familiarise interested e-textbook publishers with the curriculum aims and objectives and related principles for writing e-textbooks of the Technology Education Key Learning Area (TEKLA) curriculum (S1 – 3) - Design and Technology (Knowledge Context), etc. in a bid to ensure that the e-textbooks are written in accordance with the specific requirements of the curriculum and the updated “Seven Learning Goals of Secondary Education” (www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/7-learning-goals/secondary/index.html). For details, please refer to the *Secondary Education Curriculum Guide* (2017) and its Supplementary Notes (2021)(www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/major-level-of-edu/secondary/CG_documents.html).
- 1.2 The *Values Education Curriculum Framework (Pilot Version)* was released in 2021 and ten priority values and attitudes (PVA) were introduced. The PVA have been optimised since 2023 with the PVA “Care for Others” extended to “benevolence” and two PVA (i.e. “Filial Piety” and “Unity”) added. Publishers should incorporate the learning elements of values education in the e-textbooks where appropriate. For details, please refer to the *Values Education Curriculum Framework (Pilot Version)* (2021) (Chinese version only) (www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/4-key-tasks/moral-civic/ve_curriculum_framework2021.html) and the EDBCM No.183/2023 on *Enriching the Values Education Curriculum Framework (Pilot Version) – Optimisation of “Priority Values and Attitudes”* (applications.edb.gov.hk/circular/upload/EDBCM/EDBCM23183E.pdf).
- 1.3 The *Curriculum Framework of National Security Education in Hong Kong* was released in 2021 and updated in 2025. Publishers should incorporate the learning elements of national security education in the e-textbooks where appropriate. They may also refer to the government website “National Security Education Day” for information such as major fields of national security. For details, please refer to the *Curriculum Framework of National Security Education in Hong Kong* (www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/national-security-education/index.html) and the government website “National Security Education Day” (www.nsed.gov.hk/index.php?l=en).
- 1.4 For the general principles and requirements for writing e-textbooks and the requirements for submission of e-textbooks for review, publishers should refer to the latest edition of the *Guiding Principles for Quality Textbooks and*

Guidelines on Submission of e-Textbooks for Review available on the EDB's Textbook Information website (www.edb.gov.hk/textbook).

- 1.5 The e-textbooks should be written in line with the following CDC curriculum document:
- Technology Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 - Secondary 6) (2017)

2. Curriculum Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the TEKLA curriculum - Design and Technology (Knowledge Context) are to enable students to:

- 2.1 be aware of the modern technology and its impact on society;
- 2.2 understand the relationship between technology and other disciplines;
- 2.3 design with consideration of related design factors;
- 2.4 explore the characteristics of different kinds of materials and their influences to the environment;
- 2.5 solve problems logically and creatively, through hands-on and exploratory design and make activities;
- 2.6 master basic skills in the safe use of materials, tools and machines; and
- 2.7 retrieve, process, present and communicate information and ideas using information technology tools whenever appropriate.

3. Guiding Principles

3.1 Content

- *The Technology Education Key Learning Area (TEKLA) Curriculum Guide* was published in 2002 and has been implemented in schools since then. It has been reviewed and the learning elements at junior secondary level were enriched in 2017 for schools' reference. For details, please refer to Education Bureau website at www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/technology-edu/curriculum-doc/index.html.
- The TEKLA curriculum comprises six knowledge contexts. The Design and Technology related knowledge contexts include Materials & Structures, Operations & Manufacturing and Systems & Control. Selection of materials should be done with a view to attaining the aims and objectives stated in the TEKLA curriculum and covering the contents under the Design and Technology related knowledge contexts; the learning elements under the six knowledge contexts could be connected or integrated to enhance students' learning. Information/data included should be accurate, systematic and relevant.

- In order to arouse students' interest in learning and to facilitate effective learning, the learning and teaching materials should, as far as possible, be linked to real life situation, technological applications, social issues, and students' daily experiences so as to help students in realising the importance and relevance of the concepts being discussed. Furthermore, local examples should be cited wherever appropriate.
- Learning materials should be arranged in an appropriate sequence, e.g. from easy to difficult, from concrete to abstract. It must also be emphasized that the sequencing of topics in the curriculum is for reference only and should not be taken as the only way in organising the topics.
- Bias and discrimination should be avoided in the selection of contents, examples, illustrations, activities, etc. Furthermore, information should be provided to help students in understanding and analysing an issue from different perspectives.
- All modules of learning elements (core and extensions) under the Design and Technology related knowledge contexts should be covered.

3.2 Learning and Teaching

- The curriculum emphasises on learning through real-life situation. Authentic learning activities should be included to facilitate the study of technological applications and to develop students' generic skills such as problem solving skills, effective communication skills, creativity, etc.
- Activity-based and project-based approach should be included in the teaching of Design and Technology.
- A number of case studies should be included in the e-textbooks, which covered the contents of the modules. The authentic cases should relate to students' daily experience, and they can learn through investigation, analysis, and applied these technologies. The case studies should include relevant background information, together with a variety of learning activities and projects, so that their learning experience can be enhanced.
- A variety of activities such as design projects, hands-on practical work, case studies, discussion, role-play, debate, investigation, survey, library search, Internet search, etc., should be included as appropriate.
- Learning activities and exercises should be so designed to develop various types of student competence at appropriate levels, including their higher order thinking skills, such as application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation, critical thinking and creative thinking, problem solving, sensitivity to the environment, etc. Student-centred and interactive approaches are highly recommended, as they are useful in providing suitable learning experiences for stimulating and developing higher order

thinking. The skills to be developed in a particular-activity should preferably be identified for teachers' reference.

- Activities and exercises must be categorised as basic, extension and enrichment to allow teachers using flexibly to cater learners' diversity.
- Exercises should be so designed to help students learn how to locate and process important information in the text. They should help students focus on important learning objectives and check their own progress. Stimulus materials, such as newspaper cuttings, extracts from articles, flow-charts, photos, videos, diagrams, statistical tables or graphs, Internet web sites, etc., should be provided so that students can have some concrete materials to base on, some food for thought and incentive for attempting the exercise.

3.3 Structure and Organisation

- Concept clarity is an important aspect affecting students' learning. New concepts should be introduced at an appropriate pace and when needed during the development of the text. Effort should be made to help students connect new concepts with the concepts already learned.
- Structure of text should be readily apparent to students as evidenced by chapter titles, headings, outlines, introductions and conclusions.
- The text should be coherent at a local level. For instance, pronouns should have a clear referent and the relationship between ideas should be explicit and obvious.
- Illustration should be appropriate and effective, of proper size, suitably labelled and explained. Graphics and colours should be clear, accurate and attractive. Illustrations should be numbered for ease of reference. Scales should be included wherever appropriate.

3.4 Language

- Publishers should refer to the [Design and Technology glossary](#) provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) in developing e-textbooks. The latest version can be downloaded from the EDB website.
- The interspersing of languages (e.g. English followed by its Chinese translation or vice versa) in the text is undesirable.
- Pinyin should be adopted for Chinese names and places.
- The language used should be clear, fluent, accurate and easy to understand.

3.5 Pedagogical Use of e-Features

- The e-textbooks should meet the technical and functional requirements with appropriate pedagogical use of e-features for learning and teaching activities and assessments.
- Appropriate multimedia - video, audio and/or animation, should be included in layout according to the aforesaid requirements, and with captions / labels / synopsis where available.
- Glossary in multimedia format on essential technological terms for the learning of material properties, structures, electronic components, mechanical device/part, tools machines, work procedures, etc. to illustrate the concept and information.
- Multimedia, such as photographs, illustrations, pictures, graphs, videos and simulations should be relevant to the e-textbook content and be accurate with appropriate descriptions to stimulate and facilitate learning. They should serve to direct students to the instructional focus rather than to distract them from them.
- Interactive assessment tasks should be included in the e-textbook to facilitate assessment for learning.

3.6 Technical and Functional Requirements

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

4. Others

- 4.1 When writing e-textbooks, publishers have to ensure that the content and information provided in the materials should be correct, complete, up-to-date, objective and impartial. The source and the date of the information should be provided as appropriate. The information in the illustrations and images should avoid showing the brand names of commercial items unless they are necessary.
- 4.2 All URLs and hyperlinks (including the publisher's self-developed learning materials and the learning and teaching resources developed by the third party) in the e-textbooks should be linked to the publisher's website for the publisher's easy management. For the third party resources, the URLs or hyperlinks should be linked to the websites with high credibility, such as the official websites and the websites of academic institutions, and avoid linking to commercial or social media platforms. In case problems arise from the hyperlinked content (including the third party resources), the publisher should take immediate follow-up actions and bear the relevant liability.
- 4.3 Publishers should avoid putting excessive hyperlinks that provide additional references in the e-textbooks so as not to violate the self-containment

principles. Publishers may place the hyperlinks of their self-developed supplementary learning materials or the learning and teaching resources developed by the third party on their website. Publishers may also provide their website's URL in the Teacher's Book for teachers' reference to facilitate lesson preparation or design of learning and teaching activities. Publishers should be accountable for the learning and teaching resources they provide.

- 4.4 The maps included in the e-textbooks should be accurate and only contain essential information suitable for student learning. Reference should be made to the requirements and standard maps of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China for all maps of China included in the e-textbooks, and wherever appropriate, the respective map review numbers and dates of reference should be quoted. Textbook publishers should also follow strictly the provisions in “公開地圖內容表示規範” issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources (https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2023-02/17/content_5741977.htm).
- 4.5 When using images of the national flag, national emblem, regional flag and regional emblem, the following points should be noted:
- **avoid drawing** the national flag, national emblem, regional flag and regional emblem on your own;
 - use real photos to show the national flag, national emblem, regional flag, regional emblem, etc.;
 - use the files of the national flag, national emblem, regional flag and regional emblem downloaded from the Protocol Division Government Secretariat and follow the relevant requirements stipulated by the Protocol Division Government Secretariat on the use of these images.
- 4.6 It is mandatory for the publishers to ensure that all proof-reading work, including that for e-features, language, punctuation, information, illustration, pagination, etc., is completed and the e-textbooks are error-free before submitting them for review.
- 4.7 Publishers should review the e-textbook content from time to time. When necessary, publishers can make amendments to the e-textbook content with the EDB's consent. The EDB may also require publishers to make amendments when needs arise.
- 4.8 Publishers should clear all copyright issues of the e-textbooks as appropriate.
- 4.9 The suggested time allocation set out in the curriculum documents should be taken into consideration to ensure that the learning content is designed with an appropriate quantity and level.
- 4.10 If publishers submit other versions (such as Chinese version or printed version) of the same textbook title for review at the same time, they should duly check the consistency of the content among all the versions. If another version is to be submitted at a later stage, the suggestions in the e-Textbook Review Report

for the previously submitted version should be duly followed before submission.

Technology Education Section
Education Bureau
August 2025