

ECONOMICS

INTRODUCTION

The public assessment of this subject is based on the Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4–6) Economics jointly prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Candidates have to refer to the Guide for the knowledge, understanding, skills etc they are required to demonstrate in the assessment.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this assessment are to evaluate students' abilities and achievements in the following :

1. to know and understand fundamental economic concepts and theories;
2. to apply such concepts and theories to explain real world situations, especially the Hong Kong economy;
3. to understand and interpret economic information presented in various forms;
4. to acquire the basic tools of economic analysis;
5. to analyze economic issues;
6. to evaluate arguments, proposals and policies from different perspectives and make informed judgments; and
7. to present ideas clearly, and in a well-reasoned manner, illustrating answers with diagrams and examples.

MODE OF ASSESSMENT

The following table outlines the various components of the public assessment of Economics in 2012 HKDSE:

Component			Weighting	Duration
Public Examination	Paper 1	Multiple-choice questions will be set on the compulsory part of the curriculum. All questions are compulsory.	30%	1 hour
	Paper 2	Section A: Short questions will be set on the compulsory part of the curriculum. All questions are compulsory.	30%	2 hours
		Section B: Structured/essay-type questions will be set on the compulsory part of the curriculum. All questions are compulsory.	31%	
		Section C: Structured/essay-type questions will be set on the elective parts of the curriculum. Candidates are only required to attempt the questions from one of the two elective parts.	9%	

PUBLIC EXAMINATION

The written examination of Economics will contain questions testing candidates' knowledge and analytic ability in the fundamental and selected areas of economics, and those testing higher order thinking skills. Candidates should be able to apply their knowledge of economic analysis to practical problems and illustrate general principles with relevant examples.

SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT (SBA)

SBA will be implemented starting from the 2014 HKDSE. The assessment will be based on students' performance in the tasks of news commentaries or essays/reports. A minimum of three tasks will be required. The assessment covers the following abilities of students:

- (a) to collect data/information of an economic phenomenon or issue and to give a proper description in the language of economics;
- (b) to analyse the economic phenomenon or issue identified using economic concepts and theories, together with appropriate diagrams and tools;
- (c) to present the arguments or deductions and to derive implications in a logical and systematic way; and
- (d) to discuss and evaluate arguments, proposals and policies from different perspectives and make informed judgments.

The implementation of SBA in Economics is scheduled as follows:

Year of Examination	Implementation of SBA
2012 and 2013	Schools are not required to submit SBA marks. Public examination results constitute 100% of the final subject results.
Starting from 2014, all schools have to submit SBA marks contributing 15% of the final subject results.	

The detailed requirements, regulations, assessment criteria and guidelines will be provided in the SBA Handbook (Trial Version) for HKDSE Economics published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority.

During the transition years, the curriculum for Economics will remain intact and schools will be expected to conduct the SBA activities as an integral part of learning and teaching and internal assessment as recommended in the Curriculum and Assessment guide. In the light of feedback from schools during the transition years, a finalized version of the Handbook will be published when the SBA is implemented.