

**Hong Kong Diploma of
Senior Secondary Education Examination Framework for
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

I. Course Aims / Targets

Course Aims

The English Language Curriculum at senior secondary level specifically aims to enable learners to:

- broaden and deepen the language competencies they have developed through basic education (P1 – S3), so that they are able to use English with increasing proficiency for personal and intellectual development, effective social interaction, further study, vocational training, work and pleasure;
- further develop their interest and confidence in using English as their understanding and mastery of the language grow;
- further broaden their knowledge, understanding and experience of various cultures in which English is used;
- develop and prepare themselves for further study, vocational training or work; &
- further develop learning how to learn skills and positive values and attitudes conducive to meeting the needs of our rapidly changing knowledge-based society. These include the interpretation, use and production of texts for pleasure, study and work in the English medium.

Course Targets

The subject target of English Language is for learners to develop an ever-improving capability to use English:

- to think and communicate;
- to acquire, develop and apply knowledge;
- to respond and give expression to experience;

and within these contexts, to develop and apply an ever-increasing understanding of how language is organized, used and learned.

II. Requirements of the Subject

Students who have / do the following can have a greater advantage in learning and mastering the subject:

- a habit of reading English materials (eg: readers, novels, newspapers, magazines);
- listening to English songs;
- watching films/TV programs regularly (eg: 30 minutes 2-3 times a week);
- expressing ideas/feelings in spoken English every day;
- expressing ideas/feelings in writing (eg: journal or letter writing) every day.

III. Syllabus

Compulsory Part (75% of Subject Mark)

Task-based approach to language learning to facilitate the teaching and learning of the

four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking), grammar, communicative functions, vocabulary and text-types.

Elective Part (25% of Subject Mark)

This part includes a range of extension modules which reinforce different aspects of English Language learning. It serves the purposes of adding variety to the English Language curriculum, broadening students' learning experience and catering for their diverse needs and interests.

Proposed Framework of Compulsory and Electives from Forms 4-6:

Progression of SS1-3 Studies

<i>Year</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Approximate No. of Hours</i>
SS1 / F.4	Compulsory Elective (Learning English through Short Stories)	75% 25%
SS2 / F.5	Compulsory Elective (Learning English through Poetry & Songs)	75% 25%
SS3 / F.6	Compulsory Elective (Learning English through Social Issues)	75% 25%

IV. Assessment and Examination

<i>Components</i>	<i>Weighting</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
Paper 1 Reading	20%	3 reading texts with various questions on each
Paper 2 Writing	25%	A guided writing task (200 words) One long writing task (400 words) from various choices of writing styles/genres such as essay, argumentative, article, letter (formal/informal) based on 1 of 8 modules in Elective Part
Part A	10%	
Part B	15%	
Paper 3 Listening & Integrated Skills	30%	One situation for the whole paper Tasks 1-4 – short tasks Tasks 5-6 – extended writing tasks
Paper 4 Speaking	10%	Part A – Group Interaction (6 minutes / group) Part B – Individual Response (1 minute)
SBA*	15%	Two assessments: group interaction & individual presentation (report 2 marks) One assessment based on the modules in the Elective Part of the curriculum (report 1 mark)
Part A	10%	
Part B	5%	