

**EDUCATION BUREAU**  
**CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 72/2021**

From: Secretary for Education  
Ref.: EDB(CD/C&S)/ADM/75/1/16C(1)  
Date: 28 June 2021

To: Supervisors/Heads of all aided (including special schools), government, caput and private secondary schools, and secondary schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme offering the local senior secondary curriculum

(Please circulate this Circular Memorandum to all members of the School Management Committee (SMC) / Incorporated Management Committee (IMC) and all teachers.)

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**Curriculum Documents in Support of  
the Optimised Senior Secondary Core Subjects and  
Supplementary Notes to the Secondary Education Curriculum Guide (2017)**

**Summary**

The purpose of this Circular Memorandum is to announce the launch of the *Chinese Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4 – 6)* (2021), the *English Language Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4 – 6)* (2021), the *Guidelines on Catering for Learner Diversity and Creating Space for Senior Secondary Mathematics* (2021), and the *Supplementary Notes to the Secondary Education Curriculum Guide (SECG)* (2017) for use in schools.

**Background**

2. The Education Bureau (EDB) announced the measures to optimise the four senior secondary (SS) core subjects (i.e. Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Citizenship and Social Development in lieu of Liberal Studies) through the EDBCM No. 39/2021 issued in April 2021. The arrangements for optimising the four SS core subjects will be effective from Secondary 4 (S4) in the 2021/22 school year.

3. In tandem with the EDB's announcement about the measures to optimise the four SS core subjects, the relevant committees under the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) and Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) have prepared their respective curriculum documents after conducting a thorough review and gathering views from stakeholders through

different channels. The four curriculum documents set out in the Summary above were endorsed by the CDC on 25 June 2021, and will be used from S4 in the 2021/22 school year and beyond.

## Details

4. As the nature and ways of optimising are different for the four SS core subjects, the curriculum documents of the four subjects are updated, revised or supplemented to various degrees so as to clearly present the optimising measures and details of each subject. The revised Curriculum and Assessment Guide of **Chinese Language** further emphasises the natural integration of the learning areas such as reading, writing, listening and speaking, and the use of “recommended passages” in curriculum planning to develop students’ language literacy comprehensively. The content of the public assessment is revised at the same time to illustrate the arrangement of streamlining the public examination and School-based Assessment. For **English Language**, the revisions made to the Curriculum and Assessment Guide serve to provide recommendations on the integration of the Compulsory and Elective Parts of the curriculum, promotion of the academic and creative uses of English, and the effective use of the released space for differentiation arrangements. For **Mathematics**, the optimising measures focus on the better use of the current curriculum framework in catering for learner diversity and do not involve revision of the current curriculum and the design of its assessment in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. Thus, the Curriculum and Assessment Guide does not have to be revised. The newly announced set of *Guidelines on Catering for Learner Diversity and Creating Space for Senior Secondary Mathematics* (2021) aims at illustrating how to better address learner diversity at the curriculum planning level and providing examples of timetabling arrangements for the Compulsory and Extended Parts to assist schools in planning the Mathematics curriculum based on students’ abilities, interests and aspirations. The Curriculum and Assessment Guide of **Citizenship and Social Development** (Secondary 4-6) (Chinese version) was uploaded to the EDB website on 2 June 2021.

5. With the implementation of the optimising measures of the four SS core subjects, the CDC has timely prepared the *Supplementary Notes to the Secondary Education Curriculum Guide* (2017) to state clearly the relevant updates such as the suggested time allocation of the SS curriculum, and list the major emphases in ongoing renewal of the curriculum in recent years, including national security education, values education, etc. for school leaders’ use and inform them of the major updates that should be noted when devising a holistic

curriculum plan for the 2021/22 school year and beyond.

6. The above-mentioned curriculum documents have been uploaded to the EDB webpage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/renewal/guides.html>) for schools' reference. The EDB will provide schools with continued support such as organising school leaders' workshops to enhance their capacity for whole-school curriculum planning, as well as offering teacher professional development programmes and developing learning and teaching resources to facilitate the implementation of the optimising measures. Please access the EDB Training Calendar System and the related webpages for details.



### **Enquiries**

7. For enquiries, please contact the following officers from the Curriculum Development Institute of the EDB:

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Ms Grace LAW  
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c.c. HKEAA & Heads of Sections – for information