

## Section 6: Assessment Mechanism

### (1) Basic Competency Assessments

#### Target

Basic Competency Assessments consist of two components: Student Assessment and Territory-wide System Assessment. Student Assessment, which is conducted on-line, helps teachers better understand the learning needs and problems of students in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics so that timely assistance can be provided to enhance their learning effectiveness. Territory-wide System Assessment, which is conducted in paper and pencil, provides the Government and school management with useful information on students' standards at the levels of Primary 3, Primary 6 and Secondary 3 in the three subjects mentioned above. While the Government can understand the teaching effectiveness of schools by reference to the information, schools can adjust their teaching strategy accordingly to enhance the effectiveness of learning and teaching.

#### Last Year's Progress

- HKEAA continued to enrich the online Student Assessment introduced to primary schools in 2003. More than 80% of primary schools are frequent users of the service to assist learning and teaching. HKEAA will launch the service to secondary schools shortly.
- Territory-wide System Assessment at Primary 3 level was administered with the participation of the entire population of Primary 3 students. Speaking assessments of Chinese and English Languages were conducted in May 2004 using random sampling. The written assessments for the three subjects (i.e. reading, writing and listening in both languages as well as Mathematics) were administered in July 2004. The results were announced in early December 2004.

#### Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year

- To fully extend the Student Assessment to all secondary schools.
- To administer the Territory-wide System Assessment at Primary 3 and Primary 6 levels in mid-2005.

## (2) Public Examination Reforms

### Target

HKEAA strives to enhance the validity and reliability of the public examination system with a view to improving its interface with the curriculum reform and providing a more comprehensive assessment of students' performance.

### Last Year's Progress

- Seminars were conducted to enhance communication with teachers and to share with them the rationale underlying the setting of questions and what were expected of candidates. Appropriate questions were set for HKCEE and HKALE to put more emphasis on the assessment of candidates' ability to apply what they have learnt to solve problems. Besides, a flexible approach in awarding marks was adopted to encourage independent and critical thinking.
- HKEAA has reviewed the subjects in HKCEE based on curriculum changes and needs. Two new subjects, namely "Science & Technology" and "Integrated Humanities", and the merged subject of "Computer & Information Technology" (from "Computer Studies" and "Information Technology") will be introduced in the 2005 HKCEE. Based on CDC's proposal, HKEAA has approved abolishing five HKCEE subjects and three HKALE subjects in 2007.
- The HKCEE Chinese Language and English Language examinations have been revised. Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills and integrated language skills will be assessed in the new examinations. The new syllabus and sample papers for Chinese Language have already been approved after consultation with schools. The new syllabus and sample papers for English Language were circulated to schools for comment after consideration by the School Examinations Board.
- SBA was extended to more subjects of the HKCEE and HKALE. SBA was first introduced in A/AS-level Art, A-level Engineering Science, A/AS-level Physics and HKCEE Ceramics for the 2004 examinations and in HKCEE Science & Technology, HKCEE Integrated Humanities, HKCEE Computer & Information Technology, HKCEE Visual Arts and A-level Chinese Literature for the 2005 examinations. SBA is implemented in 13 HKALE subjects and 11 HKCEE subjects in the 2004/05 school year.

### *Tasks Ahead for the Coming Year*

- To work closely with CDI to develop standard-referencing assessments in the Chinese Language and English Language examinations in HKCEE, including setting standards for different levels of achievement, and preparing grade descriptors and exemplar materials.
- To continue extending SBA to other subjects in HKCEE and HKALE as follows:

|      |       |                                    |
|------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 2006 | HKCEE | Chinese History, History           |
| 2007 | HKCEE | Chinese Language, English Language |
|      | HKALE | Computer Studies                   |
- To continue with assessment development and research activities to further improve public examinations, by way of comparability studies between different examinations, e-marking, etc.
- To continue setting appropriate questions in HKCEE and HKALE to assess students' ability to apply what they have learnt to solve problems.
- EMB is now conducting a public consultation on the implementation details of the reform of the new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education (see Section 8), including the new senior secondary school curriculum framework of various subjects. With reference to views collected and the latest development of the new senior secondary curriculum, HKEAA will work with CDI to design detailed assessment modes for the various subjects.