



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔案 Our Ref. :

電話 Telephone : (852) 3509 8529

來函檔案 Your Ref. : CB4/PL/ED

傳真 Fax Line : (852) 3104 0425

27 December 2017

Ms Angel Wong
Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Wong,

Panel on Education
Follow-up to Meeting on 13 February 2017

I refer to your letter dated 16 February 2017. The information in respect of the agenda item of "The Liberal Studies subject under the New Senior Secondary Curriculum" requested by the Panel on Education is provided at the Annex for Members' reference.

(NG Ka Shing, Joe)
for Secretary for Education

Panel on Education
Information on
The Liberal Studies Subject under the New Senior Secondary Curriculum

(a) Report of the recent study conducted by academics in 2016

The report of the "Study on Civic Values and Engagement of 'Post-90s' in Hong Kong" conducted by academics in 2016 is accessible at http://www.cpu.gov.hk/en/research_reports/index.html.

(b) Measures undertaken to alleviate students' workload

To alleviate students' workload, streamlined measures on the school-based assessment were implemented in 2014. Starting from September 2015, revisions to part of the curriculum content were made to refine the scope and focus of the related areas. The Liberal Studies Curriculum Resources Booklet Series published by the Education Bureau (EDB) provides students with learning materials. The above appropriate support measures could alleviate students' workload on studying Liberal Studies, in the aspects of school-based assessment, curriculum coverage and learning resources.

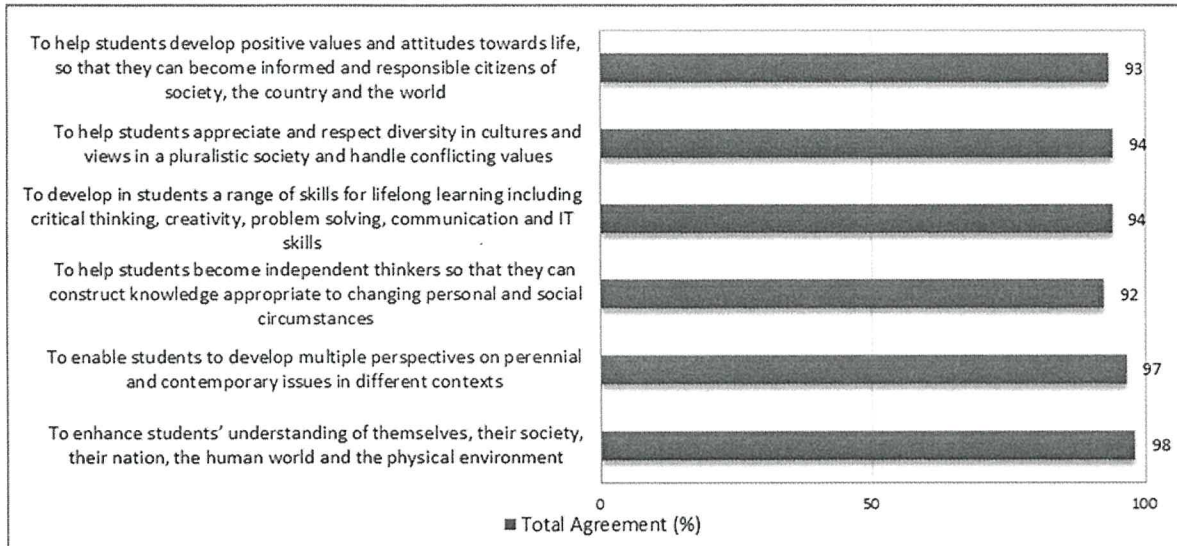
(c) Findings of the surveys

As stipulated in "The Report on the New Academic Structure Medium-term Review and Beyond"¹, schools have indicated that the curriculum aims of Liberal Studies, including the development of students' understanding of multiple perspectives, respect, and positive values and attitudes, are being realised. In the School Survey on Medium-term Review (2014/15), the majority were highly positive regarding student achievement of the curriculum aims of

¹ The Report is accessible at the following link: http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/doc/eng/MTR_Report_e.pdf

Liberal Studies upon completion of their secondary education, with over 90% agreeing that these aims were achieved.

Panel heads' views on achievement of curriculum objectives/aims of Liberal Studies



Source: *School Survey on Medium-term Review (2014/15)*.

Regarding the curriculum structure, 78% of teachers agreed that the curriculum framework of three Areas of Study and six Modules should be maintained. Besides, according to the relevant information gathered through various channels, including school visits and evaluation surveys of professional development programmes, the provision of support measures, including professional development programmes, learning and teaching resources and web-based resource platform, were supported by teachers.

(d) Speech-to-text software for Liberal Studies Examination

In the 2017 HKDSE, totally 226 candidates with specific learning disabilities (SLD) applied to use speech-to-text (STT) software in the Liberal Studies examination and 220 applicants who met the prescribed criteria were approved. Of the 220 approved applications, 76 candidates confirmed their withdrawal from using the software after school practice while 16 candidates decided not to use the software on the day of the examination. The majority of the candidates who withdrew felt that they did not manage to use the software

well or there was no substantial improvement in performance with the use of the software. As such, only 128 candidates from 67 schools used the software in the 2017 HKDSE Liberal Studies examination.

To ensure that all candidates are equitably assessed under suitable conditions, schools have to make special seating arrangements for candidates using STT software so as to avoid disturbing other candidates. A set of guidelines on invigilation has been drawn up with input from schools based on their practical experience in administering internal examinations and distributed to all the schools concerned to familiarise them with the special examination arrangements in advance.

(e) Number of Liberal Studies teachers

As a core subject connecting different disciplines of knowledge (such as science, technology, history and geography), teachers of Liberal Studies are from various disciplines. They are deployed to teach Liberal Studies according to their professional training and experience in schools. For the 2016/17 school year, there are 3 083 teachers teaching Liberal Studies in S4-S6, and 98% (3 035 teachers) of them are with teacher training qualification.

The EDB will continue to strengthen the professional training of teachers, including understanding and interpreting the curriculum, learning and teaching strategies as well as knowledge enrichment and assessment.

Education Bureau

December 2017