

Literature in English

[applicable to the 2029 HKDSE Examination
and onwards]

English Language Education Section
Curriculum Development Institute
Education Bureau

1

Curriculum Aims

The aims of the Literature in English curriculum are to enable students to:

- ▶ appreciate and enjoy a wide range of **literary or creative texts** and other related cultural forms;
- ▶ develop their capacity for **critical thinking, creativity, self-expression, personal growth, empathy and cultural understanding**;
- ▶ enhance their awareness of the **relationship between literature and society**;
- ▶ develop a **greater sensitivity to the nuances of the English language**; and
- ▶ be adequately prepared for areas of **further study or work**, where qualities promoted in the study of literature, such as creativity, critical thinking and inter-cultural understanding, are highly valued.

2

Curriculum Framework

- ▶ The senior secondary Literature in English curriculum exposes students to a wide range of texts from different cultural backgrounds, develops their faculty to appreciate and criticise the texts, and cultivates a lifelong interest in reading literature.
- ▶ The diagram below shows the three components of the curriculum and the suggested time allocation:

S6	Study of Set Texts (55%)	Literary Appreciation (25%)	Portfolio (20%)
S5			
S4			

3

Curriculum Framework (cont'd)

▶ Study of Set Texts

- ▶ focusing on the appreciation and analysis of literary texts of different genres:

Plays	Short Stories
Poetry	Novels

▶ Literary Appreciation

- ▶ focusing on approaches and strategies to interpret, analyse and respond to extracts from literary texts.

▶ Portfolio

- ▶ focusing on the film genre.

4

Assessment Framework

► Public Examination

- Paper 1 Essay Writing (3 hours) (50%)
 - Candidates are required to answer **three questions covering three genres respectively (i.e. novels, plays and short stories)**. All questions require **essay-type answers**, with some inviting **imaginative expansion of texts**.
- Paper 2 Appreciation (2 hours) (30%)
 - Candidates are required to answer **three questions which invite critical analyses of texts of different genres** (e.g. novels/plays, set poems and unseen poems).

► School-based Assessment (20%)

- This part develops students' critical and analytical skills through producing the following work of around **2000 to 2500 words**:
 - an **analytical study** of at least one **film/filmmaker/film genre**; OR
 - an **extended essay** on a topic related to at least **one film/filmmaker/film genre**.

5

Examples of Learning and Teaching Resources & Activities

► EDB resource materials in support of curriculum development, for example:

- Learning and teaching resources (e.g. *The Learning and Teaching of Poetry (Senior Secondary): A Resource Package, A Guide to Writing and Referencing for Literature in English School-based Assessment, Resource Materials on the Learning and Teaching of Poetry and Film*)

[https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/eng-edu/references-resources/resource%20sec Lit.html](https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/eng-edu/references-resources/resource%20sec%20Lit.html)

- Student activities (e.g. Campaign on “Promoting Positive Values and Attitudes through English Sayings of Wisdom 2025/26”)

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/sow>



6

Examples of Learning and Teaching Resources & Activities (cont.)

▶ Other learning resources and activities, including:

- ▶ Literary journals;
- ▶ Film magazines;
- ▶ Television programmes and commercial cinema;
- ▶ Public performances and theatre productions;
- ▶ Competitions (e.g. Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival; Hong Kong Young Writers Awards, Hong Kong Budding Poets (English) Award);
- ▶ Cultural and literary activities organised by such bodies as the Hong Kong Arts Centre, the Hong Kong Film Archive, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department; and the Hong Kong International Literary Festival Ltd.; and
- ▶ Resource materials in Hong Kong Public Libraries and bookshops.

7

Further Studies and Career

- ▶ Literature in English at the senior secondary level brings students **diversified options for further studies**, especially in the following fields:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| - English studies | - English language education | - English literature |
| - Linguistics | - Sociology | - Humanities |
| - Law | - Translation | - Journalism |

- ▶ Students may seek development in the following **professions**, among others:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| - Academia | - Education (English Language and Literature in English) |
| - Creative writing | - Media and communication |
| - Legal | - Translation and interpretation |

8

Reference

- ▶ *English Language Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – Secondary 6)* (2017)
https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/eng-edu/Curriculum%20Document/ELE%20KLACG_2017.pdf
- ▶ *Literature in English Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4 – 6)* (2023)
<https://www.edb.gov.hk/LiECAGuide2023>
- ▶ HKDSE Elective Subject: Literature in English - Assessment Framework
https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/hkdse_subj.html?A2&2&17_1
- ▶ HKDSE Elective Subject: Literature in English - Sample Papers
https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/hkdse_subj.html?A2&2&17_3
- ▶ SBA for HKDSE - Elective Subject: Literature in English - SBA Teachers' Handbook
https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/sba_hkdse_elective/dse_subject.html?17&2
- ▶ SBA for HKDSE - Elective Subject: Literature in English - SBA Sample Tasks
https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/sub_info_sba/dse_subject.html?17&3



For enquiries, please contact the respective subject teacher(s) at school.

9

Thank you

10