

# Reforming the Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education



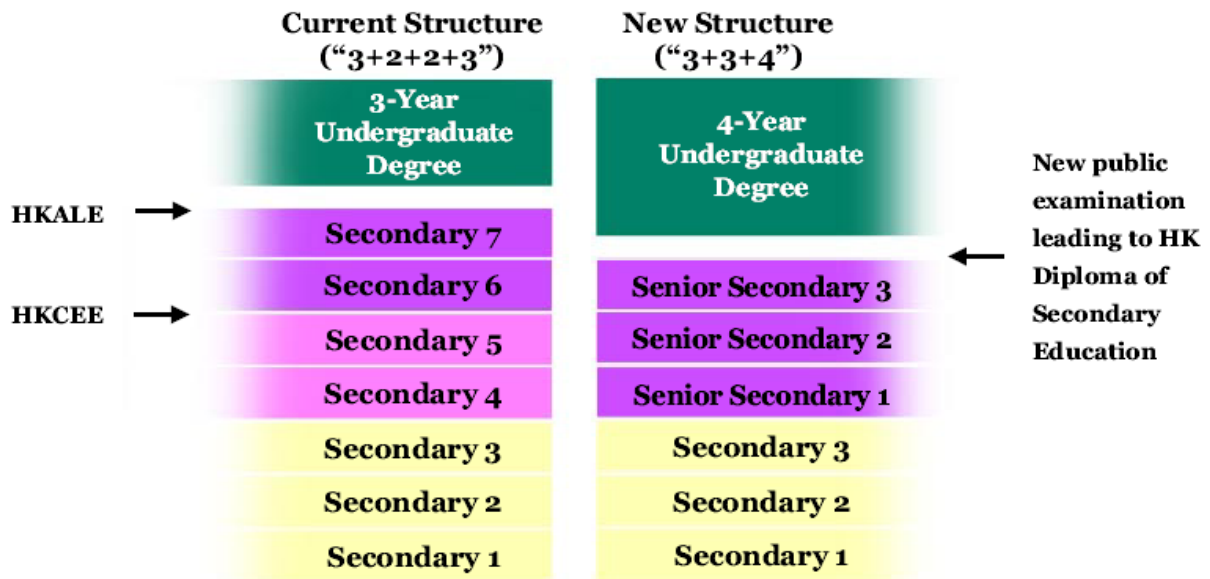
## - Actions for Investing in the Future

### Introduction

To cope with the challenges of the 21st Century and the demands of our rapidly developing knowledge-based society, we need to effectively prepare our next generation. Therefore, we develop a new senior secondary and university system that is of international standard and to give every student access to three years of senior secondary education. This direction has been set in the Policy Address of the Chief Executive in 2004. The Education and Manpower Bureau is now seeking feedback from the community on ***the design blueprint, time for implementation and financial arrangement*** of the reform on the academic structure of the new senior secondary and higher education. We would like to gather views and suggestions to make the best arrangement for our next generation.

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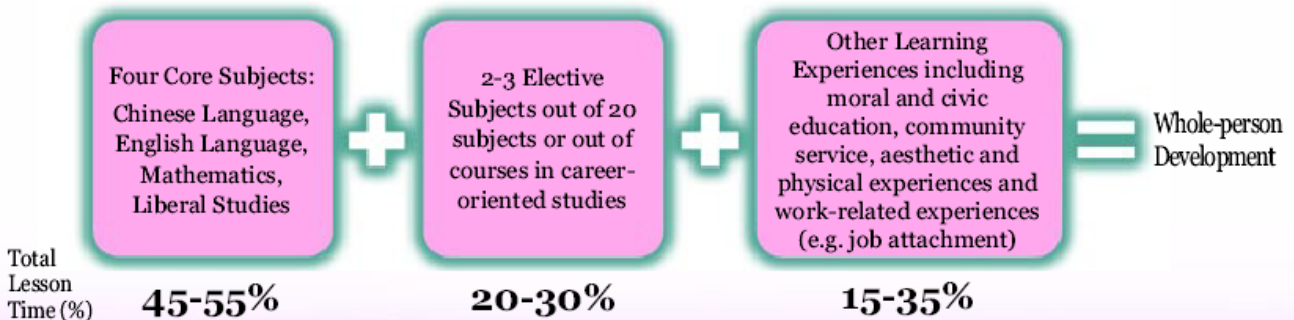
## Comparison of the Current and New Academic Structure



"3+2+2+3" ≠ "3+3+4" because:

Reducing one public examination	→	Increasing learning time and space, enhancing learning effectiveness
All students study Secondary 6	→	Meeting the challenges of the knowledge-based society of Hong Kong
More choices in senior secondary education	→	Developing the full potential of students of different needs, aptitudes and interests
More pathways for study and work	→	Providing opportunities for students to be successful in life

## New Curriculum

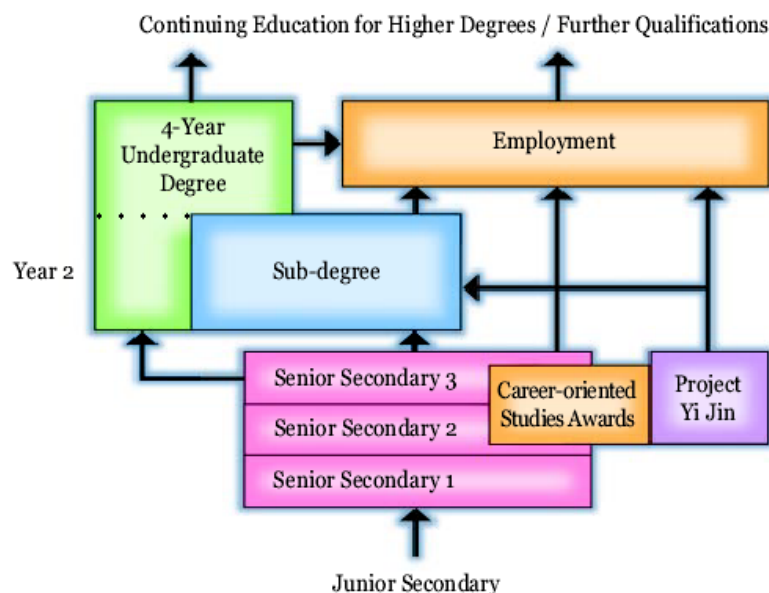


Please refer to the proposed Core and Elective Subjects and career-oriented studies in Annex 1.

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## Multiple Pathways for Students

The New Senior Secondary Curriculum provides multiple pathways for students with different needs, interests and abilities. These pathways can all lead to success in life. The following diagram illustrates the connection between the different pathways of the new academic system with lifelong learning as its principal goal.



## Timetable for Implementation

A minimum lead time of 4 years is necessary for implementation. Assuming that the new senior secondary one level will be implemented in September 2008 (students who are now studying at P6 or earlier than this year level will be affected), the timetable for key actions will be as follows:



2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Consultation on curriculum aims and design of subjects	Finalise curriculum aims and design for all subjects Start writing textbooks and developing learning/teaching resources Specific university admission criteria to schools	Completion of Curriculum and Assessment Guides for all subjects		First cohort of new Senior Secondary 1 (i.e. Secondary 4) students in Sept. (Entry to 4-year first degree at university in Sept 2011) Recommended textbooks available to schools by Feb Learning/teaching resources available
	Develop New Senior Secondary 3 (i.e. Secondary 6) public examination		Examination Handbook to schools in Aug	
	Professional development programmes for teachers and principals			

## Funding Arrangement

We hope that the entire community can take ownership in reforming the academic structure so that it becomes a reality. We estimate that the total non-recurrent cost of the new academic system will be about \$6.7 billion, which covers curriculum development, professional development of teachers, additional construction of university complexes and facilities, and increase in the number of classes during the transitional period. As the overall secondary student decline is expected to become obvious from the 2008/09 school year and onwards, we anticipate that the existing facilities in school will be able to cope with the extra demand arising from the additional classes of senior secondary students. Therefore, we propose that the Government should maintain the policy of recovering 18% of the cost from the school fee of senior secondary.

With the change to 4-year degree programmes, the recurrent cost per annum for undergraduate programme is estimated to increase by \$1.8 billion. We would like to seek feedback from the public as to whether the university tuition fee should be similarly increased to cover part of the cost incurred. At present, the university tuition fee is \$42,100 per annum. Should it be increased to \$50,000 (in 2004 prices)? It should be noted that the Government would continue to provide financial assistance to students in need.

## Your Views and Suggestions

Please visit our website <http://www.emb.gov.hk> for the full text of the Main Document and the Frequently Asked Questions.

We really appreciate your views and suggestions, please join us in shaping our future society. We would like to post your views and suggestions on the EMB website for reference or discussion.

Please send us your views or suggestions by e-mail, fax or post **on or before 19 January 2005**. You may also like to make use of Annex 2, if you feel there are issues that need to be addressed for a smoother implementation of the “3+3+4” academic structure.

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# Proposed New Senior Secondary Subjects

Annex 1

<b>Core subjects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Chinese Language</i></li> <li>● <i>English Language</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Mathematics (core + 2 extensions)</i></li> <li>● <i>Liberal Studies</i></li> </ul>
<b>Elective subjects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chinese Literature</li> <li>● Literature in English</li> <li>● Chinese History</li> <li>● Economics</li> <li>● Ethics and Religious Studies</li> <li>● Geography</li> <li>● History</li> <li>● Tourism and Hospitality Studies</li> <li>● Biology</li> <li>● Chemistry</li> <li>● Physics</li> <li>● Science</li> </ul> <p>In the New Senior Secondary curriculum, courses in career-oriented studies are provided to offer choices and diversity to meet the different needs, aptitudes and interests of students. Courses may be offered in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Business (such as Logistics Fundamentals)</li> <li>● Arts and Media (such as Multimedia Game Design)</li> <li>● Design (such as Fundamental Fashion and Image Design)</li> <li>● Services (such as Beauty Therapy)</li> <li>● Performing Arts (such as Carnival Entertainer Training)</li> <li>● Information Technology (such as Computer Networking)</li> <li>● Engineering (such as Fundamental Vehicle Servicing)</li> <li>● Food and Production (such as Fundamental Western Food Preparation)</li> <li>● Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality (such as Introduction to Leisure and Tourism Studies)</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Business, Accounting and Financial Studies</li> <li>● Design and Applied Technology</li> <li>● Health Management and Social Care</li> <li>● Home Economics</li> <li>● Information and Communication Technology</li> <li>● Music</li> <li>● Visual Arts</li> <li>● Physical Education</li> </ul>	

## Annex 2

What other issues do you think should be addressed for a smoother implementation of the “3+3+4” academic structure?

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Thank You!