

Business curriculum: possibilities and challenges

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Definition of Commercial Subjects in HK

- “Commercial Subjects” is a comprehensive term generally understood to include all the subjects of value to a commercial career ranging from typing, shorthand, general commercial knowledge, office practice, and business management to all the stages of accountancy and others (1973).

Historical development of business subjects in HK secondary curriculum

- It first appeared in the form of vocational subjects to supply enough manpower as technicians and secretaries for the growing economy.
- Commerce was then offered in the HKCEE in 1978. It can be noted from the *Teaching Syllabuses of Commercial Subjects for Secondary Schools* drafted by the CDC (1976) that this subject is offered not to a particular group of students who may not have the marks to further their studies, but to all students interested in business education.

- Later, Principles of Accounts and Commerce were introduced in the Hong Kong High Level Examination (HKHLE) and Business Studies and Principle of Accounts in the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination. These decisions were based on the following observations noted in a Commercial Subjects Committee meeting on 12 December, 1979:

- Many secondary school students study Accounts in some evening private institutions. This indicates there is a definite demand for the subject. Members who are secondary school teachers expressed the view that the students are hopeful to have a continuation subject for Principles of Accounts in the Higher Level Examination. This is evidenced by a number of secondary school principals writing to the Examination Authority requesting for the establishment of the subject in the High Level Examination.

- At the same meeting, all the members were in favour of the recommendation of a continuation subject for Commerce in the Advanced Level Examination.

Continuation

- In a statement paper, *Commercial Subjects in Secondary Schools*, some of the views expressed by the advisory inspectorate in the Commercial Subjects Section of the ED is as follows (Education Department, 1980):
- Commerce has a great deal to contribute to sound general education and can be justified as a subject for everyone since it bears on the life of everyone at all times and at many points.

- Consistent with the views earlier expressed by the Commercial Subjects Committee, Business Studies was introduced into the A-Level curriculum and was first examined in 1981.

Business Education In Hong Kong Secondary School After 1997

- **The Separation of Business Education from Vocational Education**
- **Internationalization of Materials**
- **The Inclusion of Information Technology into the Business Curriculum**
- **The Training of Attitudes**
- **The Teaching of Ethics in Business Education**

What is needed in the future?

- Is BAFS the solution?
- If not, what should be done instead?

The real Business education

- Business stream
- Business education in junior secondary curriculum
- Separation from the Technology KLA
- Development of entrepreneurship education
- University admission criteria