

## **Grading of beach water quality released**

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (February 5) released the latest grading of water quality for four gazetted beaches that are open all year round for swimming (see Note).

Four beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Golden Beach
Deep Water Bay Beach	Silverstrand Beach

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality ([www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach)) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note: In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced that all gazetted beaches were closed from December 10, 2020, until further notice.

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## **Effective Exchange Rate Index**

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Friday, February 5, 2021 is 101 (up 0.2 against yesterday's index).

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## **Proposals invited for tenancy of**

## Central Government Offices canteen

The Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, is inviting proposals for a three-year tenancy (subject to the provision for renewal for a further term of three years as stipulated in Special Condition No. (30) of the Third Schedule to the Form of Tenancy Agreement of the invitation documents) of the government canteen on a portion of the first floor, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong, for canteen purposes only.

The Invitation for Proposals notice was uploaded today (February 5) to the Administration Wing's website: [www.admwing.gov.hk/eng/invitation/invitation.html](http://www.admwing.gov.hk/eng/invitation/invitation.html). Invitation documents are available for collection at the Administration Wing Supplies Office at Room G02, ground floor, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong, during the period from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, except public holidays. The documents can also be downloaded from the Administration Wing's website.

Interested bidders who wish to attend the briefing session cum site visit to be held on February 18 should fill in the Enrolment Form for the Briefing Session cum Site Visit and send it by fax or email to the Administration Wing on or before February 16.

Bidders must submit their proposals by placing them in the Administration Wing's Quotation Box located at the second floor entrance, East Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong, before noon on March 19. Late proposals will not be accepted.

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## SED on national security education and Liberal Studies

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, at a media session after attending a Legislative Council Panel on Education meeting today (February 5):

Reporter: Could you tell us why national security can be taught in primary school? Don't you think this kind of concept is difficult for children to understand? Secondly, are teachers allowed to use teaching materials that may be critical of the National Security Law?

Secretary for Education: National security is part and parcel of the whole national education. It is very related. We are talking about helping students

develop a sense of national identity. Being national citizens, they have to develop a sense of taking up the responsibility to protect our country. And so at the earliest stage, such as primary school, I think students could start to learn that Hong Kong is part of China, that he or she is a Hong Kong resident and at the same time also a Chinese national. Then gradually, building on these fundamental concepts, they can start to learn more about the concept of national security, and then know more about the details of the law as they grow up. That is the whole idea. That is why when you look at the curriculum framework in relation to national security education, we are talking about a number of areas spreading across different stages of learning, from junior primary, senior primary to junior secondary and senior secondary. So it is sort of a continuous process that is part of the education as well. Education that we are talking about is a process, not a single topic.

The other question is about teaching materials. Of course, National Security Law is a law. So when a teacher is developing his or her own materials for teaching a law, he or she has to base on facts. So we will be providing a lot of factual information about the National Security Law, and so they can make reference to these materials.

Reporter: But can they choose other materials?

Secretary for Education: It depends on what material it is. I cannot say just what material it is. But I would say we will be providing a lot of factual information about the National Security Law, and I think they can always make reference to the materials that we provide.

Reporter: Would you mind telling us how you reorganise the Liberal Studies subject? Is that to shape students' national identification? And how would you draw a line between political propaganda and national security education?

Secretary for Education: I think – you are talking about Liberal Studies or national security education?

Reporter: Liberal Studies and national identification.

Secretary for Education: In the Liberal Studies subject, if you look at the revised curriculum framework, you can see that we separate it into three sections. The first section is about Hong Kong. It is about under the "one country, two systems", what the constitutional framework for Hong Kong is and how it is related to the Constitution of the country, and everything like that. So for the students, they will know more about Hong Kong, the set-up and the system, so that they know when they discuss issues in the future, they will know the basis of some of the constitutional and legal frameworks.

The second part is about the development of our country. As you know, with the development of our country, Hong Kong now, the economic development and also the social development, we are part of China. So our development will be closely linked to the development of our motherland. On that part, when our students learn more about the development of our country, they will

better prepare themselves for their future development.

The last part is, of course, about the international arena, about different issues like technological development, environmental issues and health issues. This provides an opportunity for the students to have exposure to the international issues as well.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

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## Temporary suspension of public libraries computer system

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department today (February 5) announced that maintenance work for the Hong Kong Public Libraries computer system will be carried out from 00.30am on February 12 to 11.59pm on February 14, during which the following services will be suspended:

- \* library mobile app services and Internet and telephone renewal services;
- \* other online library services, including the library catalogue, borrowers' record enquiries, reservation of library materials and Internet and Digital Service Workstations and electronic resources (e-Books and e-Databases); and
- \* self-service library stations (readers may still return books to the stations before the due date, and the loan records will be updated on the next working day).

Details can be obtained from the website at [www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/library-notices/library-notices-list.html](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk/en/library-notices/library-notices-list.html). For enquiries, please call 2921 0208.