

Hong Kong's Evolving English Language Policy: Challenges for the Future

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HKSAR Government Language Policy in 1997

- 75% CMI secondary schools
- 25% EMI secondary schools

The fine-tuning policy in 2010

- Schools given more flexibility to choose medium of instruction

Root problem remains:

- Many secondary students have little opportunity to use English in their everyday lives

Because of pen-and-paper exam,
both teachers and students
emphasize the importance of
literacy skills for writing and reading

- Grammar drills
- Practice tests
- Attend tutorial schools

Less attention is paid to oral communication

- Many students only speak English in formal situations

- Teachers and students emphasize cognitive practice
- Social practice is overlooked

- Cognitive and social practices complement each other

Suggest three ways:

- Establish a language on campus policy---
English teachers speak English outside
the classroom
- Promote Hong Kong English
- Increase the weighting of oral English from
10% to 25% in the English Language
paper in HKDSE