Rationale

The rationale for studying English Language as a core subject at senior secondary level is as follows:

- English is the language of global communication. It is not only a powerful learning tool, a medium by which people gain access to knowledge from around the world, but also a medium through which they develop positive values and attitudes, establish and maintain meaningful relationships with people, increase their cultural understanding and expand their knowledge and world-views.

- English is the language of international business, trade and professional communication. Traditionally much emphasis has been placed on English language learning in school. Such a tradition must be continued, since proficiency in English is essential for helping Hong Kong maintain its current status and further strengthen its competitiveness as a leading finance, banking and business centre in the world.

- English plays a crucial role in empowering learners with the capabilities necessary for lifelong learning, critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, innovation and for adapting to the rapid changes and demands of society.

- English opens up the world of leisure and entertainment for learners.

The mastery of English, therefore, is vital to learners in Hong Kong as it opens up new possibilities in intellectual and social development, educational attainment, career advancement, personal fulfilment, and cultural understanding.
Overall Aims

The overall aims of the English Language curriculum are:

- to provide every learner of a second language with further opportunities for extending their knowledge and experience of the cultures of other people as well as opportunities for personal and intellectual development, further studies, pleasure and work in the English medium; and
- to enable every learner to prepare for the changing socio-economic demands resulting from advances in information technology; these demands include the interpretation, use and production of materials for pleasure, study and work in the English medium.