

# A broadside at Green Paper on Education

The Board of Education's Green Paper on Education has been given another broadside, this time by six members of the Department of Education of the University of Hongkong.

The criticisms are levelled at the parts of the Green Paper which relate to the examination system in Hongkong. Despite

the declared intention of the Board of Education to consider "any change in the present examination system that should be introduced," the critics maintain that no recommendations for major changes have been made.

"The Green Paper states flatly: 'Public examinations must inevitably be maintained. (Para 9)' It comes to this decision in spite of the serious flaws in these examinations, and in spite of the fact that it admits that these examinations lead to many 'deleterious effects . . . on pupils and their study programmes in Secondary Schools.' (Para 11)."

The paper, signed by R. T. Allsop, P. D. Reynolds, Mrs H. Yapp, H. S. McNair, A. E. Sweeting and Mrs M. S. Young, goes on to say that the Green Paper "expresses some vague wishes, but it does not allocate responsibility for the carrying out of wishes."

The attack also connects with the Board's treatment of examination syllabuses. "No concrete proposals are made for rectifying the dominating position of university entrance syllabuses on the whole of secondary education," they say.

"In brief, the Board's treatment of the examination system in Hongkong is disappointing. In the face of the difficulties involved in improving this system the Board of Education draws back and contents itself with ineffective and generalised remarks. It fails to take into account the connection of these educational problems with general social attitudes. Its conclusions are not based on the in-depth research that this serious problem merits," say the critics.