

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: C.

Date: May 28, 2009

Topic: First Review of Proposed Revisions of Courses to Satisfy Graduation Requirements for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas in Virginia Public Schools

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Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by
 State or federal law or regulation
 Board of Education regulation
 Other: _____

Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting: June 25, 2009
(date)

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action
date June 28, 2007
action Added Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis as a course that could meet the mathematics graduation requirement above the level of Algebra and Geometry

Background Information:

In February 1998, the Virginia Board of Education approved certain courses that would satisfy the mathematics, science, and history and social science course requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas. Since that time, some additional courses have been added to the list.

On February 19, 2009, the Virginia Board of Education approved revisions to the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-5 et seq.) (Standards of Accreditation or SOA). Section 8 VAC 20-131-50 of the revised SOA sets forth the requirements for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas that will become effective for students entering the ninth grade in 2010-2011. Those requirements specify which level of courses and/or subject area disciplines students must complete to earn either a standard or verified unit of credit in the areas of mathematics, laboratory science, and history and social science, as well as the credit requirements in other content disciplines. The regulations

also specify that the Board of Education shall approve courses (other than those specifically named in the standards) to satisfy the requirements in those areas.

Summary of Major Elements:

Virginia has worked closely with Achieve, The College Board, and ACT to align its graduation requirements and course content in mathematics and English to enable students to successfully enter a career and/or college upon graduation from high school. In June 2007, the Board of Education approved a new mathematics course, *Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis*, that gave an additional option for completion of the mathematics diploma requirements and also provided students with a stronger foundation to continue on to Algebra II or higher. At that time, the Board discussed, but did not take action on, removing the option that Algebra I, Part I, may count as a mathematics credit for graduation for either the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma. Currently, for a Standard Diploma, a student may earn two mathematics credits for each sequence of Algebra I, Parts I and II, and Geometry, Parts I and II. For the Advanced Studies Diploma, only one such sequence may be used to earn two mathematics credits, and the student must also complete Algebra II.

The proposed revisions to the courses approved by the Board of Education to satisfy graduation requirements include the following:

- The addition of courses approved for the Standard Technical and Advanced Technical Diplomas;
- The removal of the option to earn two standard credits in mathematics for completing Algebra I in a two-course sequence or Geometry in a two-course sequence to satisfy the Standard Diploma or that one of the two-course sequences may be used to satisfy the Advanced Studies Diploma.
- The addition of an end-of-course assessment for *Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis*, effective in 2011-2012, to enable students to earn a verified credit for successful completion of the course; and
- The removal of the option to earn two standard credits in science for completing Chemistry in a two-course sequence.
- No revisions have been proposed to the English courses or list of History and Social Science courses to satisfy graduation requirements.

Attachment A contains the proposed list of courses to satisfy graduation requirements. The list of approved courses for graduation would become effective with the ninth-grade class of 2010-2011.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the proposed revised courses to satisfy graduation for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas in Virginia Public Schools.

Impact on Resources:

School divisions will need to review and adjust their course offerings to enable entering ninth graders in 2010-2011 to meet the graduation requirements as outlined in the 2009 *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-5 et seq.).

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Department of Education will notify local school divisions of the changes in courses to satisfy graduation requirements of the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas.

Proposed

**Board of Education Approved Courses to Satisfy Graduation Requirements for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas in Virginia Public Schools
(Effective with Ninth-Grade Class of 2010-2011)**

May 28, 2009

Background Information

Section 8 VAC 20-131-50 of *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) (Standards of Accreditation or SOA) sets forth the requirements for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas. Those requirements specify which level of courses and/or subject area disciplines students must complete to earn either a standard or verified unit of credit in the areas of mathematics, laboratory science, and history and social science, as well as the credit requirements in other content disciplines. The regulations also specify that the Board of Education shall approve courses (other than those specifically named in the standards) to satisfy the requirements in those areas.

Courses Approved for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, and Advanced Technical Diplomas, Effective with Ninth-Grade Class of 2010-2011

In February 1998, the Virginia Board of Education approved certain courses that would satisfy the mathematics, science, and history and social science course requirements for the Standard and Advanced Studies Diplomas. Subsequent to that time, some additional courses have been approved as additions to the original list and requirements for two new diplomas, the Standard Technical and Advanced Technical Diplomas, have been adopted by the Board.

The following tables contain a list of the courses to satisfy graduation requirements for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, and Advanced Technical Diplomas.

Courses from this list must be selected to satisfy the content level requirements prescribed in 8VAC 20-131-50.

Courses in Mathematics

Course Title	Course Codes	SOL Test(s) Required
<i>Courses at or above the level of Algebra I</i>		
Algebra I, 2-yr. Sequence, Part I (or A)*	3131	None
Algebra I, 2-yr. Sequence, Part II (or B)	3132	Algebra I
Algebra I*	3130	Algebra I
Geometry, 2-yr. Sequence, Part I (or A)*	3144	None
Geometry, 2-yr. Sequence, Part II (or B)	3145	Geometry
Geometry*	3143	Geometry
Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis	3134	None <u>Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis</u> <u>[SOL to be assessed in 2011-2012]</u>
Computer Mathematics±	3184	None
Algebra I/Geometry, 3-yr. Sequence, Course I	3146	**
Algebra I/Geometry, 3-yr. Sequence, Course II	3147	**
Algebra I/Geometry, 3-yr. Sequence, Course III	3148	**
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence, Course I	3151	**
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence, Course II	3152	**
Algebra I/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence, Course III	3153	**
<i>Courses above the level of Algebra and Geometry</i>		
<u>Courses at or above the level of Algebra II</u>		
Algebra II	3135	Algebra II
Computer Mathematics	3184	None
<i>Courses above the level of Algebra II</i>		
Algebra II and Trigonometry	3137	Algebra II
Trigonometry (one-semester)	3150	None

Course Title	Course Codes	SOL Test(s) Required
Advanced Placement Computer Science	3185	None
Probability and Statistics***	3190	None
Advanced Placement Statistics	3192	None
Discrete Mathematics***	3154	None
Advanced Mathematics	3160	None
Mathematical Analysis/Pre-Calculus	3162	None
Elementary Mathematics Functions	3163	None
Advanced Placement Calculus	3177	None
Analytic Geometry	3176	None
Multivariate Calculus	3178	None

~~*To earn credit towards meeting the graduation requirements in mathematics using this course, students must also complete Part II of the two-year sequence. Part I and Part II may be used to satisfy two units of mathematics credit.~~

~~Algebra I may not be used in conjunction with Algebra I, Part II, and Geometry may not be used in conjunction with Geometry, Part II, to satisfy the mathematics requirement.~~

~~In the advanced studies diploma program, only one unit of credit for a Part I course may be used to satisfy the four required mathematics credits for graduation. A second unit may be granted as a local school division credit.~~

* Students who earn a mathematics unit of credit for Algebra I, Part I prior to entering the ninth grade in the 2010-2011 academic year may complete the Algebra I graduation requirement by completing an Algebra I or an Algebra I, Part II course. Students who earn a mathematics unit of credit for Geometry, Part I prior to entering the ninth grade in the 2010-2011 academic year may complete the Geometry graduation requirement by completing a Geometry or a Geometry, Part II course. Beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2010-2011, only one unit of credit each may be used to satisfy the mathematics graduation requirements by completing Algebra I or Geometry.

** Students will take the Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II SOL test(s) when they have completed the appropriate SOL content, as determined by the local school division. Students enrolled in Course II must take at least one SOL test. Students enrolled in Course III must take the Algebra II SOL test and the Geometry SOL test if not taken in Course II.

+ Computer Mathematics may be used in conjunction with Algebra I and Geometry to satisfy mathematics graduation requirements if the student also completes a career and technical concentration.

*** May be a one-semester or two-semester course.

Courses in Science

Course Title	Course Codes	SOL Test(s) Required
<i><u>Courses that meet or exceed Earth Science SOL</u></i> <i><u>Courses at or above the level of Earth Science</u></i>		
Earth Science I	4210	Earth Science
Earth Science II – Advanced Survey of Earth Science Topics*	4220	Earth Science
Advanced Placement in Environmental Science*	4270	Earth Science
Earth Science II – Geology **	4240	None
Earth Science II – Oceanography**	4250	None
Earth Science II – Astronomy**	4260	None
<i><u>Courses that meet or exceed Biology SOL</u></i> <i><u>Courses at or above the level of Biology</u></i>		
Biology I	4310	Biology
Biology II – Advanced Survey of Biology Topics*	4320	Biology
Advanced Placement Biology *	4370	Biology
Biology II – Anatomy/Physiology **	4330	None
Biology II – Ecology **	4340	None
Biology II – Genetics **	4350	None
<i><u>Courses That Meet Or Exceed Chemistry SOL</u></i> <i><u>Courses at or above the level of Chemistry</u></i>		
Chemistry I, 2-year Sequence, part I (or A) ****	4400	None
Chemistry I, 2-year Sequence, part II (or B) ****	4401	Chemistry
Chemistry ***	4410	Chemistry
Advanced Placement Chemistry *	4470	Chemistry
Chemistry II **	4420	None
<i><u>Courses that meet or exceed Physics SOL</u></i>		

Course Title	Course Codes	SOL Test(s) Required
<u>Courses at or above the level of Physics</u>		
Physics I ⁺	4510	None
Advanced Placement Physics	4570	None
Physics II	4520	None
Integrated Sciences – Earth Sciences/Biology/Chemistry		
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course 1	4211	**** _
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course 2	4311	**** _
Integrated Science, 3-yr Sequence, Course 3	4411	**** _

* Students who have not taken the first-level course in this discipline will take the SOL test listed.

** The prerequisite content for this course is the first-level SOL core course in this discipline.

~~*** To earn credit towards meeting the graduation requirements in science using this course, students must also complete Part I-II of the two-year sequence. Part I and Part II may be used to satisfy two units of science credit. Board of Education approved as of May 26, 2000.~~

*** Students who earn a science unit of credit for Chemistry, Part I prior to entering the ninth grade in the 2010-2011 academic year may complete the Chemistry graduation requirement by completing a Chemistry or a Chemistry, Part II course. Beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2010-2011, only one unit of credit each may be used to satisfy the science graduation requirements by completing a Chemistry course.

**** Students will take the Earth Science, Biology, and Chemistry test(s) when they have completed the appropriate SOL content, as determined by the local school division.

+ The sequence of Principles of Technology I (9811) and Principles of Technology II (9812) will satisfy one (1) standard unit of credit in laboratory science for physics and one (1) elective credit. Students who enroll in Principles of Technology courses for a physics credit must have completed Algebra I and two (2) other laboratory science courses as specified by the Standards of Accreditation prior to enrolling in Principles of Technology. There is no SOL test associated with Principles of Technology I and II.

Courses in History and Social Science

[No changes are proposed for approved courses in history and social science.]

Course Title	Current Course Codes	SOL Test(s) Required
World Geography	2210	World Geography
World History and Geography Part I	2219	World History I
World History and Geography Part II	2221	World History II
World History Part I and World Geography (one semester each course)	2222	World History I or World Geography
World History Part II and World Geography (one semester each course)	2223	World History II or World Geography
World History	2340	*
Virginia and United States History	2360	Virginia and United States History
Virginia and United States Government	2440	None
<i>Additional courses that may satisfy the history and social science graduation requirements must include the relevant content prescribed in the History and Social Science Standards of Learning (SOL).</i>		
World Studies (Typically a two-year program; Must include the SOL from either World History and Geography Part I or World History and Geography Part II and World Geography.)	2351	The appropriate World History test and World Geography
World Civilization (Typically a two-year program; Must include the SOL from two of the following: World History and Geography Part I, World History and Geography Part II, or World Geography.)	2375	*
American Civilization (Must include the SOL for Virginia and United States History)	2376	Virginia and United States History

8 VAC 20-131-50 K - Students who complete advanced placement, college-level, or courses required for an International Baccalaureate Diploma shall be deemed to have completed the requirements for graduation under these standards provided they have earned the standard units of credit and earned verified units of credit in accordance with the requirements of subsections B and C of this section.

The use of courses that meet the provisions of 8 VAC 20-131-50 K but are not listed below is a school division decision.

Advanced Placement U.S. History	2319	**
International Baccalaureate US History (Higher Level)	IB2360	**
Advanced Placement World History	2380	**
Advanced Placement European History	2399	**
International Baccalaureate History of Europe	IB2219	**
Advanced Placement Human Geography	2212	**
International Baccalaureate Geography	IB2210	**
Advanced Placement Government and Politics: United States	2445	None
Advanced Placement Government and Politics: Comparative	2450	None

* This course must cover the prescribed SOL from two of the following courses: World History and Geography Part I, World History and Geography Part II, or World Geography in order for students to receive a verified credit beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2000-2001. Students will take the corresponding end-of-course test when they have completed the SOL content, as determined by the school division.

** If students have not taken a lower level course and/or the associated test earlier, the approved end-of-course test or an approved substitute assessment test will be required at the completion of the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course.

Courses Approved for the Modified Standard Diploma, Effective with Ninth-Grade Class of 2010-2011

The *Regulations Establishing Accrediting Standards for Public Schools in Virginia* provide the option of a Modified Standard Diploma for "...certain students at the secondary level who have a disability and are unlikely to meet the credit requirements for a Standard Diploma. Eligibility and participation in the Modified Standard Diploma program shall be determined by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) team and the student, where appropriate, at any point after the student's eighth grade year." (8 VAC 20-131-50.F.1). At its November 30, 2000, meeting, the Board of Education approved the list of mathematics, science, and history and social science courses to satisfy the standard units of credit that are required for the Modified Standard Diploma.

The approved list and the provisions identified for certain courses on the following list apply only to the Modified Standard Diploma. This list of courses provides students with options for satisfying the content requirements specified for the Modified Standard Diploma. To encourage and facilitate students' transition from a Modified Standard Diploma program to a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma program, the list includes some of the courses approved by the Board of Education for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, and Advanced Technical Diplomas.

While students are not required to pass Standards of Learning end-of-course tests to earn a Modified Standard Diploma, they must take the tests that are required for any courses in which they are enrolled. Instruction provided in these courses, as well as the Standards of Learning tests associated with them, would be subject to any accommodations required in a student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

Mathematics

Mathematics Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
<i>Courses that will satisfy the mathematics requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma shall include content from among applications of algebra, geometry, personal finance, and <u>probability and statistics</u>. Any of the following courses can be used to satisfy the mathematics content requirement.</i>		
Personal Living and Finance+	3120	None
<i>Courses at or above the level of Algebra</i>		
Algebra I, 2-yr. Sequence, Part I*	3131	None
Algebra I, 2-yr. Sequence Part II	3132	**
Algebra I	3130	**
Geometry, 2-yr. Sequence, Part I*	3144	None

Mathematics Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
Geometry, 2-yr. Sequence, Part II	3145	**
Geometry	3143	**
Algebra/Geometry, 3-yr. Sequence, Course I	3146	***
Algebra/Geometry, 3-yr. Sequence, Course II	3147	***
Algebra/Geometry, 3-yr. Sequence, Course III	3148	***
Algebra/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence, Course I	3151	***
Algebra/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence, Course II	3152	***
Algebra/Geometry/Algebra II, 3-yr. Sequence, Course III	3153	***
<i>Courses above the level of Algebra and Geometry</i>		
Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis	3134	None
Algebra II	3135	**
Computer Mathematics	3184	None
<i>Courses above the level of Algebra II</i> <i><u>Courses at or above the level of Algebra II</u></i>		
Algebra II	3135	**
Algebra II and Trigonometry	3137	**
Trigonometry (one semester)	3150	None
Advanced Placement Computer Science	3185	None
Probability and Statistics	3190	None
Advanced Placement Statistics	3192	None
Discrete Mathematics	3154	None

Mathematics Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
Advanced Mathematics	3160	None
Mathematical Analysis/Pre-Calculus	3162	None
Elementary Mathematics Functions	3163	None
Advanced Placement Calculus	3177	None
Analytic Geometry	3176	None
Multivariate Calculus	3178	None

+A personal living and finance course has been approved to meet a mathematics requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma. The personal living and finance course may not be used to satisfy the mathematics requirement for the Standard, Standard Technical, ~~or~~ Advanced Studies, or Advanced Technical Diplomas. For the purpose of satisfying this requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma, one of the following options may be used: 1) a locally developed personal living and finance course may be based on either the Objectives for Personal Living and Finance approved by the Board of Education in April 1999, and revised in 2006 or; 2) a course based on the 2006 Economics Education and Financial Literacy: Objectives and Correlations to Mathematics and History and Social Science Standards of Learning and Career and Technical Education Competencies; or 3) an economics and personal finance course based on the Standards of Learning for Economics and Personal Finance [under development] for a course to satisfy the requirements for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, and Advanced Technical Diplomas.

* Students may earn one mathematics credit for the Modified Standard Diploma by successfully completing this course.

** Students who are enrolled in a course that requires an end-of-course SOL test must take the test, but they do not have to pass the SOL test to satisfy the requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma.

*** Students will take the Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II SOL test(s) when they have completed the appropriate SOL content, as determined by the local school division, but they do not have to pass the test(s) to satisfy the requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma.

Science

Science Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
<i>Courses that will satisfy the science requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma shall include content from at least two of the following: applications of earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics.</i>		
<i>Courses at or above the level of Earth Science</i>		
Earth Science I, 2-Year Sequence, Part I*	4200	None
Earth Science I, 2-Year Sequence, Part II	4201	**

Science Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
Earth Science I	4210	**
Earth Science II – Advanced Survey of Earth Science Topics	4220	***
Advanced Placement Environmental Science	4270	***
Earth Science II – Geology	4240	None
Earth Science II – Oceanography	4250	None
Earth Science II – Astronomy	4260	None
<i>Courses at or above the level of Biology</i>		
Biology I, 2-Year Sequence, Part I*	4300	None
Biology I, 2-Year Sequence, Part II	4301	**
Biology I	4310	**
Biology II – Advanced Survey of Biology Topics	4320	***
Advanced Placement Biology	4370	***
Biology II – Anatomy/Physiology	4330	None
Biology II – Ecology	4340	None
Biology II – Genetics	4350	None
<i>Courses at or above the level of Chemistry</i>		
Chemistry I, 2-Year Sequence, Part I*	4400	None
Chemistry I, 2-Year Sequence, Part II	4401	**
Chemistry I	4410	**
Advanced Placement Chemistry	4470	***

Science Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
Chemistry II	4420	None
<i>Courses at or above the level of Physics</i>		
Physics I	4510	None
Advanced Placement Physics	4570	None
Physics II	4520	None
Principles of Technology I*	9811	None
Principles of Technology II	9812	None
<i>Integrated Sciences - Earth Sciences/Biology/Chemistry</i>		
Integrated Science, 3-Year Sequence, Course 1	4211	+
Integrated Science, 3-Year Sequence, Course 2	4311	+
Integrated Science, 3-Year Sequence, Course 3	4411	+

* Students may earn one science credit towards the Modified Standard Diploma by successfully completing this course.

** Students who are enrolled in a course that requires an end-of-course SOL test must take the test, but they do not have to pass the SOL test to satisfy the requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma.

*** Students who have not already taken a course in this discipline where a SOL test is required will take the SOL test associated with this discipline, but they do not have to pass the test to satisfy the requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma.

+ Students will take the Earth Science, Biology, and Chemistry test(s) when they have completed the appropriate SOL content, as determined by the local school division, but they do not have to pass the test to satisfy the requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma.

History and Social Science

History and Social Science Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
<i>Courses that will satisfy the history and social science requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma shall include one unit of credit in U.S. and Virginia History and one unit of credit in U.S and Virginia Government.</i>		
<i>Courses at or above the level of U.S. and Virginia History</i>		

History and Social Science Course Title	Course Code	SOL Test
U.S. and Virginia History, 2-Year Sequence, Part I*	2361	None
U.S. and Virginia History, 2-Year Sequence, Part II	2362	**
U.S. and Virginia History	2360	**
American Civilization (must include the SOL for U.S. History)	2376	**
Advanced Placement U.S. History	2319	**
<i>Courses at or above the level of U.S. and Virginia Government</i>		
U.S. and Virginia Government	2440	None
Advanced Placement Government and Politics: United States	2445	None

* Students may earn one credit in U.S. and Virginia History for the Modified Standard Diploma by successfully completing this course. This course may be treated as a survey course of U.S. and Virginia History topics in the SOL.

** Students who are enrolled in a course that requires an end-of-course SOL test must take the test, but they do not have to pass the SOL test to satisfy the requirement for the Modified Standard Diploma.

Electives

Sequential Electives – Effective with the graduating class of 2003, students who wish to receive a Standard or Modified Standard Diploma must successfully complete two sequential electives. On February 5, 2002, the Board of Education approved *Guidelines for Sequential Electives for the Standard and Modified Standard Diploma*. These guidelines are available at: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/suptsmemos/2002/int001a.pdf>.

Fine Arts, and Career and Technical Education, and Foreign Language - The Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas each contain a options or requirements for one standard unit of credit in Fine Arts, or Career and Technical Education, and/or Foreign Language.

The Standards of Accreditation do not require that courses used to satisfy the requirements in these subject areas of Fine Arts or Career and Technical Education be approved by the Board. Therefore, local school officials should use their own judgment in determining which courses students take to satisfy the specific credit requirements of a unit of credit in Fine Arts, or Career and Technical Education, or Foreign Language for the Standard, Standard Technical, Advanced Studies, Advanced Technical, and Modified Standard Diplomas.

Foreign Language - The Advanced Studies Diploma and the Advanced Technical Diploma contains a requirement for either three years of one foreign language or two years of two languages. In March 1998, the Board of Education approved the provision of three years of instruction in American Sign

Language (ASL) for foreign language credit toward meeting graduation requirements ~~an Advanced Studies Diploma~~; other foreign languages will satisfy this requirement as well. Details of this action are available in Superintendent's Memorandum, Interpretive, No. 1, June 12, 1998 (<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/suptsmemos/1998/int001.html>).