Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between enrolling on Yi Jin Diploma and repeating Secondary 6?

Although the core modules of the Yi Jin Diploma programme include Chinese, English, Mathematics and Liberal Studies, the programme curriculum places stronger emphasis on practical application of knowledge in everyday life and work. The Yi Jin Diploma programme is therefore well suited to learners who have greater interest in gaining practical knowledge and skills.

What is the difference between Yi Jin Diploma (YJD) and the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YPTP&YWETS)?

The objective of the YJD programme is to equip students with an array of generic skills and general knowledge to ensure that their attainment under the YJD programme is comparable to Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language and English Language in the HKDSE Examination for the purposes of further studies and employment. In contrast, the YPTP&TWETS provides a comprehensive platform of job search with one-stop and diversified pre-employment and on-the-job training for young school leavers aged 15 to 24 with educational attainment at sub-degree or below level. It enables young people to better understand themselves and their work aptitudes while enriching their job skills and experience so as to enhance employability.

Can Secondary 5 school leavers under the old academic structure enroll on the Yi Jin Diploma programme?

The curriculum of the Yi Jin Diploma programme is specifically designed for Secondary 6 school leavers as well as adult learners with working experience. The programme therefore is not suitable for students who have not yet completed Secondary 6 education or who do not have sufficient working experience.

For Secondary 5 school leavers under the old academic structure who
have attained five passes (including Chinese Language and English Language) in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE), they can apply for civil service posts which require five passes (including Chinese Language and English Language) in the HKCEE as the academic entry requirement. They can also apply for enrolment on courses offered by various continuing education institutions, including Certificate programme, Advanced Diploma programme and Pre-Associate Degree programme, etc. to attain a higher academic qualification. For adults aged over 21, they can apply to enrol on the Yi Jin Diploma programme irrespective of their academic qualification.

**Are the examination results attained under the Yi Jin Diploma (YJD) programme equivalent to those attained under the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination? Are they acceptable qualification for admission to universities?**

The objective of the YJD programme is to equip students with an array of generic skills and general knowledge to ensure that their attainment under the YJD programme is comparable to Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language and English Language in the HKDSE Examination for the purposes of further studies and employment. For students who have satisfactorily completed the Maths Plus elective module, the exit standard of their YJD is comparable to the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics in the HKDSE Examination. The YJD is accepted by member institutions of The Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education (FSTE) as meeting the admission criteria of their Associate Degree and Higher Diploma or equivalent programmes. For those students who have completed the Maths Plus elective module, the YJD qualification obtained is accepted by the FSTE member institutions as meeting the admission criteria of programmes requiring the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics in the HKDSE Examination. YJD graduates can apply for admission to continuing education programmes offered by member institutions of the FSTE to obtain higher qualifications.

However, students should note that they cannot rely on the YJD qualification to directly apply for admission to universities. It is important to note that the curriculum and assessment designs of the YJD are different from those of the HKDSE Examination. Moreover, in the course of the benchmarking study on the exit standard of YJD, the
programme was assessed by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications on a totality basis for comparability with the HKDSE (i.e. the eight modules, including the five core modules and the three elective modules, are assessed in totality instead of individually). Hence, the examination results attained under individual YJD modules are not regarded as equivalent to an attainment in the corresponding HKDSE subjects. For example, a pass attained under the English module of the YJD cannot be independently regarded as an attainment of Level 2 standard in the English subject of the HKDSE Examination.

Are there any employment opportunities in the Government open to Yi Jin Diploma graduates?

The Yi Jin Diploma qualification is accepted by the Government as meeting the academic entry requirement of over 30 grades in the civil service which require Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language and English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. These ranks include Ambulanceman, Amenities Assistant III, Assistant Census and Survey Officer, Assistant Officer II (Correctional), Customs Officer, Fireman, Police Constable, Postal Officer, Social Security Assistant, Tax Inspector II and Welfare Worker etc. For those students who have completed the Maths Plus elective module, the Yi Jin Diploma qualification obtained is also accepted by the Government as meeting the entry qualification of civil service grades requiring Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics in the HKDSE Examination. These ranks include Assistant Clerical Officer, Assistant Taxation Officer, Assistant Trade Controls Officer, Land Inspector II and Supplies Supervisor II, etc

Are Yi Jin Diploma graduates provided with any articulation pathway?

The Yi Jin Diploma is accepted by member institutions of The Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education (FSTE) as meeting the admission criteria of their Associate Degree and Higher Diploma or equivalent programmes. For those students who have completed the Maths Plus elective module, the Yi Jin Diploma qualification obtained is accepted by the FSTE member institutions as meeting the admission criteria of
programmes requiring the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics in the HKDSE Examination.

May students who have completed Applied Learning subjects be exempted from studying the elective modules of the Yi Jin Diploma in a relevant study area?

Students who have completed their study of an Applied Learning subject under the new academic structure with the result of 'Attained' or 'Attained with Distinction' may be exempted from taking up to a maximum of two elective modules in a relevant study area in the Yi Jin Diploma programme. Whether students are eligible for the exemption or the number of elective module to be exempted is determined by individual institutions having regard to the degree of relevance of the content of the Applied Learning subject that the students have completed to the elective modules in question.

How did past Project Yi Jin (PYJ) students fare after graduation?

Of the 65,937 students who completed their PYJ programmes in the previous eleven academic years, about 63% (41,274) have obtained their full PYJ certificates. To trace the study or career pathway of the graduates, the PYJ Programme Management Committee conducted a telephone survey in January to March 2012, targeting at those who completed their full-time PYJ programmes in 2010/11. Of the 8,187 successfully interviewed graduates, nearly 47% (3,812) have taken up employment and about 42% (3,469) choose to pursue further study. Of the respondents who have taken up employment after graduation, around 88% (3,372) were employed in the private sector and 11% (416) in the Government or Government-subsidised bodies. The interviewees who choose to pursue further study are mainly enrolled in higher diploma (foundation year), diploma, pre-associate degree or certificate programmes. It is worthy to note that some of the graduates in the past years have already obtained post-secondary and tertiary education qualifications including bachelor's and master's degrees. The above illustrates that PYJ has been a successful alternative pathway for students to obtain the academic qualification necessary for further study and employment.