

**FAQ on the Recognition of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)
and Multiple Pathways for Students
(30/1/2012)**

Question	Answer
International Benchmarking Studies on the HKDSE	
<p>1. What is the impact of including the HKDSE in the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) Tariff system?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By including the HKDSE in the UCAS Tariff system, the UCAS tariff points can serve as a useful reference for application for various programmes in the UK universities. It also provides a platform for comparison of HKDSE with other overseas qualifications, such as International Baccalaureate (IB), and facilitates the next phase of the benchmarking exercise.
<p>2. While the UCAS Tariff system is mainly for UK, why doesn't the HKEAA promote HKDSE to US, Canada and other countries as well?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Education Bureau (EDB) and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) have already visited universities of Canada, the US, the UK, Australia, some Asian countries (including Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, India, Vietnam and Brunei) and some European countries (including Belgium, France and Germany) to promote the New Academic Structure (NAS) as well as the HKDSE and explain the results of the UCAS study. Very positive comments have been received from these visits. EDB and HKEAA will continue to visit other countries. HKEAA has also written to overseas universities seeking their recognition of the HKDSE as well as other necessary information for application for admission to undergraduate programmes. Details about the general admission requirements for HKDSE from individual universities / institutions are available at the HKEAA website.
<p>3. According to the UCAS report, Level 3 of the HKDSE is broadly comparable to grade E in GCE A Level in UK. How should Level 2 be interpreted? Does HKEAA have plans to gain further international recognition / benchmark in the study?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UCAS studies focus on the award of tariff points to Levels 3, 4, 5 and 5* as its purpose is to provide information for reference of tertiary institutions in UK in formulating their admissions policy. HKEAA has been working closely with Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in the HKDSE benchmarking study on Levels 1 and 2 as well as their comparisons with the other UK examination

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	<p>qualifications (e.g. AS Level, GCSE).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the benchmarking study of the HKDSE are expected to be further announced.
<p>4. Levels 5, 4 and 3 of the HKDSE are broadly comparable to grade A, C and E in GCE A Level in UK respectively. With Grades B and D missing in the tariff points, will there be any impact on the admission of candidates to the UK universities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to other international qualifications, the mode of assessment and grading system of the HKDSE are different from those of GCE A Level. It is therefore impossible to establish exact grade-to-grade matching between the two qualifications. A similar situation occurs when GCE A Level is benchmarked with other international qualifications. Taking Advanced Placement Program as an example, Levels 4 and 5 are awarded 90 and 120 tariff points respectively. As for IB, Levels 5 and 6 are awarded 80 and 110 tariff points respectively. The tariff point of 100 is missing in both examples, indicating that there is no direct match with Grade B in GCE A Level. When admitting students with different qualifications, the UK universities will consider the UCAS tariff points only as one of the references. The UK universities attach great importance to the overall performance of students, and regard the Student Learning Profile (SLP) as a useful reference. UK universities are very experienced in admitting students from other regions. Given the diverse qualifications possessed by applicants all over the world, it is difficult to adopt grade-to-grade matching when considering the qualifications of the applicants. In formulating admissions requirements, the UK universities will consider an array of factors including the curriculum and assessment guides and the criteria for setting the standards adopted in the grading system.
<p>5. How do Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the compulsory part of Mathematics compare with GCSE Mathematics (bearing in mind that local universities have set a minimum of Level 2 in the compulsory part for general entrance requirements)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS results focus only on Levels 3, 4, 5 and 5*, which are comparable to UK GCE A Level and relevant for acceptance as universities entry requirements. The UCAS study also indicates that Level 3 of the compulsory part of Mathematics is broadly comparable to a passing grade in the GCE AS Level. The HKEAA will also explore further benchmarking of Levels 1 and 2, and their comparisons with the other UK examination qualifications during Phase 2


Question	Answer
	of the HKDSE benchmarking study.
6. According to the UCAS report, Level 5 of the compulsory and extended parts of Mathematics together is awarded 105 points. This is lower than the 120 points awarded to Level 5 of the other subjects. Does it mean that UCAS is more demanding in Mathematics than other subjects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics adopts a different structure that includes a compulsory part and an extended part. Descriptors are separately developed and results separately reported. The tariff points awarded cannot be compared directly with other subjects. • Under the NAS, Mathematics is a core subject but it is not compulsory in the UK GCE A Level. Only those who want to enter the Mathematics Faculty or Mathematics-related departments need to study the compulsory part and extended part, and reach the specified admissions requirement.
7. Are the generic descriptors drafted in line with the standards generally adopted in international benchmarking exercise?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The generic descriptors are designed according to the requirement of the overall curriculum. They describe the performance standards students can reach, including application of knowledge and thinking skills. • There are also subject level descriptors which describe the performance standards of candidates in each subject, including application of knowledge and thinking skills. Exemplars for various levels of attainment are given as illustration. • The descriptors will be revised in light of the live data from the first cohort of HKDSE candidates in 2012.
Recognition for Further Studies – Non-local	
8. Will HKDSE be recognised for entry to Mainland higher education institutions? Is there any impact on Hong Kong students who plan to pursue further studies in the Mainland?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Mainland also adopts 3-year senior secondary education articulating to 4-year undergraduate programmes, articulation of the Hong Kong and Mainland systems will be smoother. • It is a general requirement that Hong Kong students wishing to study in Mainland universities should sit for the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities in People’s Republic of China (JEE) set by the Ministry of Education. However, Mainland universities will exempt Hong Kong students from attending the JEE from 2012 onwards. Sixty-three Mainland universities will start to pilot admitting Hong Kong students based on their HKDSE or HKAL results in 2012. For more details, please refer to the document

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	for the Pilot Scheme 2012 (Chinese version only) (http://www.edb.gov.hk/FileManager/TC/Content_8790/pilot%20scheme.pdf).
9. Is the HKDSE recognised by other countries apart from UK?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apart from the UK, the Australian Government has recognised that the level of HKDSE is comparable to that of the Australian Senior Secondary Certificate of Education. • Besides, to enhance the recognition of the HKDSE, EDB and HKEAA are proactively promoting the HKDSE to overseas universities, qualification accreditation bodies and admission agencies. Canada, the US, the UK, Australia, some Asian countries (including Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, India, Vietnam and Brunei) and some European countries (including Belgium, France and Germany) have been visited. HKEAA and EDB will continue to visit other countries / regions to promote the HKDSE. • HKEAA is compiling further information pertaining to admissions requirements of overseas universities. Details about the general admission requirements for HKDSE from individual universities / institutions have been uploaded by phases at the HKEAA website.
10. Under the NAS, students will only receive 6 years of secondary education. Will this cause problems if students want to further their study in the overseas universities that offer programmes for students graduating from 7-year secondary education (e.g. in the UK)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas universities generally consider many factors when considering applications of students from different education systems. Apart from duration of their secondary education, the objectives, contents and academic rigor of the curriculum, as well as the assessment modes and standards, also carry much significance. • The HKDSE has been included in the UCAS Tariff system, which can serve as an admission reference for application to various programmes, including those offered by the UK universities.
11. After the implementation of the NAS, can students still apply to UK universities on the strength of the HKALE results they got in the past?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the NAS, the HKALE no longer exists. Students graduating after 2012 can apply to UK universities on the strength of HKDSE examination results. If students possess past HKALE qualifications, they could still use their past HKALE results to apply for admission to the UK universities.
12. After the implementation of the NAS, if students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with HKDSE examination results can articulate to overseas 3-year undergraduate

Question	Answer
<p>want to study abroad, can they articulate to 3-year university programmes (e.g. in UK)? Will students be attracted to overseas 3-year undergraduate programmes rather than to further their studies in Hong Kong?</p>	<p>programmes, e.g. in the UK universities. At present, UK universities do admit students from a 6-year secondary curriculum (e.g. Mainland China). The UCAS report also pointed out that Level 3 of the HKDSE is broadly comparable to Grade E in GCE AL. Hence, there should not be any problem in articulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is common for students in an international city to study abroad. Hong Kong universities are unique. For instance, they have the edge in providing an environment for students to hone their biliterate and trilingual skills and enhancing their competitiveness. There is therefore no cause for concern and the EDB anticipates that most of our students will choose to further their studies in Hong Kong.
<p>13. In the UCAS report, what are the benchmarking results for the single-discipline science subjects, Combined Science and Integrated Science? Under the NAS, how will these subjects be considered for university admission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the UCAS study, similar to other HKDSE subjects (except Mathematics), Level 3 of single-discipline science subjects, Combined Science and Integrated Science are broadly comparable to Grade E in the GCE A Level and Grade C in the GCE AS Level. • The Heads of Universities Committee (HUCOM) announced in 2006 that universities supported including Combined Science and single-disciplined science subjects in their entrance requirements. This will give students more room to select elective subjects from different KLAs that suit their interest, so as to broaden their learning and knowledge foundation. • A number of science-related faculties in local universities have indicated their acceptance of students taking the Integrated Science. For details, please refer to the link provided by the NAS Web Bulletin at EDB homepage. (http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/doc/eng/ER_of_UGC_e.pdf)
<p>Recognition for Further Studies – Local degree programmes</p>	
<p>14. Is the HKDSE qualification recognised by local subsidised and self-financed universities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions have accepted that students attaining Level 3 for Chinese Language and English Language and Level 2 for Mathematics and Liberal Studies in the HKDSE (“3322”) will be eligible to be considered for admission to their undergraduate programmes.

Question	Answer
	Local self-financed universities may make reference to this requirement in admission.
15. How many subjects are required for university admission? What are the level requirements? Will universities set any extra requirements for admission? If yes, when will this be announced?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In secondary education, it is more important for students to acquire a broad knowledge base, thinking skills and self learning skills. Apart from the 4 core subjects, universities will also consider students' performance in one or two elective subjects. The requirements of elective subjects by institutions were released in September 2010. Details are available at the link provided by the NAS Web Bulletin at EDB homepage. (http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/doc/eng/ER_of_UCG_e.pdf)
16. Under the NAS, Levels "3322" are set as the requirement for consideration for admission to university programmes. What are the considerations for setting the requirement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement of "3322" will help ensure that students entering UGC-funded institutions have the necessary knowledge base, learning skills, and proficiency in Chinese and English to benefit from university education. The requirement also helps enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the knowledge-based and globalised world of today.
17. Under the NAS, "3322" is set as the minimum requirement for university admission. Will this requirement be regarded as inadequate, such that individual universities might set their own extra requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "3322" requirement is set after lengthy discussions between the Government and local universities, and has been affirmed by HUCOM. The 12 years of schooling under NAS is different from the 13 years of schooling under the old system. It is therefore impossible to make direct comparison. For example, there are 4 core subjects and 2 to 3 elective subjects under NAS whereas Mathematics and Liberal Studies are not compulsory subjects in the old system. The UCAS report pointed out that Level 3 of the HKDSE is broadly comparable to Grade E in the GCE A Level, or Grade C of the GCE AS Level. In addition, the UCAS report indicates that Level 3 of the compulsory part of Mathematics is broadly comparable to a passing grade in GCE AS Level. Hence, the "3322" requirement is comparable to the existing requirement of 2 passes in A Level and 2 passes in AS Level in HKALE. This is also in line with the international standard.

Question	Answer
<p>18. If students fail to achieve the common standard in one of the core subjects (e.g. Mathematics), does it mean that they will not be able to enter university?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present, the common standard for the 4 core subjects for university admission is set at Level 3 for Chinese Language and English Language and Level 2 for Mathematics and Liberal Studies in the HKDSE. Universities, however, have the flexibility to consider applications on an individual basis.
<p>19. Regarding Mathematics in the “3322” requirement, is the compulsory part required only?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding Mathematics in the “3322” requirement, only the compulsory part is required. Individual institutions, however, may require candidates to study the extended part (Module 1 or Module 2), e.g. HKUST has announced that “4 core subjects (including Module 1 or Module 2 in Mathematics) plus one elective subject” may replace “4 core subjects + 2 elective subjects”. Details can be found on the NAS Web Bulletin (http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/doc/eng/ER_of_UGC_e.pdf).
<p>20. Under the NAS, Level 3 of the compulsory part of Mathematics in HKDSE is only broadly comparable to Grade E in GCE AS Level. Will this affect students’ applications for overseas studies (e.g. in UK)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the NAS, Mathematics comprises the compulsory part and the extended part. All students must study the compulsory part; while the extended part is optional. The results of the compulsory and the extended parts will be reported separately on the HKDSE. Similarly, in the UCAS study, the tariff points for the compulsory and extended parts of Mathematics are reported separately. In the UK, Mathematics is not a core subject in GCE A Level. Only students planning to study Mathematics or related programmes will need to take both the core and the extended part to fulfill the admissions requirements. Individual countries / regions have different requirements for Mathematics. The UCAS tariff point system can serve as a reference for other universities in admission.
<p>21. Under the NAS, will there be a sufficiently large pool of eligible candidates for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The common standard of "3322" is set in accordance with the changes in university curriculum when they turn from 3-year to 4-year programmes in duration.

Question	Answer
admission to university programmes / faculties?	According to a simulation study conducted by the HKEAA, the number of students attaining "3322" is estimated to be broadly comparable to the number of eligible applicants under the existing system.
22. Under the NAS, will schools allow students to study other languages (e.g. French) in lieu of Chinese Language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the policy of promoting biliterate and trilingual proficiency in students, the EDB is of the opinion that all students are entitled to study Chinese. Schools should provide all students with opportunities to learn Chinese under the NAS. • For Non-Chinese-Speaking (NCS) students, the EDB encourages them to sit for the HKDSE Chinese Language examination. For NCS students having fulfilled the specified conditions¹, they may choose to sit for relevant examinations such as the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) administered by the HKEAA to obtain alternative qualifications in Chinese. (Please see Question 23). <p>Note¹: The specified conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or (b) students who have learned Chinese Language for 6 years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in our local schools.
23. Under the NAS, will institutions continue to accept alternative Chinese Language qualifications (e.g. GCSE, IGCSE, GCE) for students fulfilling the specified conditions ¹ ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LegCo Paper No. CB(2)1180/07-08(05) in February 2008 stated that institutions will continue to accept these qualifications. Unless otherwise stated in the admissions requirement, all institutions will continue to accept alternative Chinese qualifications for students who have met the specified conditions¹. <p>Note¹: The specified conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or (b) students who have learned Chinese Language for 6 years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in our local schools.
 24. If students would like to sit for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) (Chinese) Examination to obtain the alternative Chinese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those students who have fulfilled the specified circumstances¹ may choose to sit for the GCSE (Chinese) Examination to obtain the alternative Chinese Language qualification under the JUPAS to apply for admission to UGC-funded institutions. The GCSE (Chinese) Examination is offered to school

Question	Answer
<p>Language qualification under the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) application, what should they do?</p>	<p>candidates only. Students should submit their entry forms through schools which have registered as GCSE (Chinese) sub-centres. The registration period for the GCSE Chinese May / June 2012 Examination is open from 1 to 7 December 2012. Further information on the Examination is available at the website of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce_gcse_igcse/gcse).</p> <p>Note¹: The specified conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or (b) students who have learned Chinese Language for 6 years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in our local schools.
<p>25. What is the position of other languages under the NAS? Will institutions consider qualifications in other languages? Are they considered comparable as elective subjects?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the NAS, students may choose to study other languages (French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish and Urdu) as elective subjects. Other languages adopt the syllabus under CIE ASL examination, and students can study through their schools and sit for the CIE examination administered by the HKEAA. Students' results in other languages will be reported on the HKDSE. • In selecting students for university admission, all 8 UGC-funded institutions recognise other languages as unspecified / extra elective subjects, as shown in the entrance requirements released by institutions in September 2010 (http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/doc/eng/ER_of_UGC_e.pdf). Reference can be made to the websites of individual institutions for more details.
<p>26. Are the 6 other languages recognised as AS Level qualifications? What are their tariff points?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 6 other languages are comparable to other GCE AS Level subjects. Please refer to the HKEAA website for their tariff points.

Question	Answer
27. After the implementation of NAS, will institutions adjust their requirements for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the present system, the needs of SEN students are already flexibly considered and catered for. JUPAS has a mechanism for students with SEN through which institutions can provide assistance and advice for students with disabilities. The mechanism does not set a lower entry requirement, but aims at giving appropriate considerations to applicants' special needs. Details can be found at JUPAS website (http://www.jupas.edu.hk/jupas/jupasFront.htm).
28. When will schools be notified of the JUPAS arrangements under the NAS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAS students will apply for university places through the JUPAS in late 2011. JUPAS has been in touch with schools about the arrangements under the NAS, for which schools in general have indicated their support. JUPAS will announce the application details in 2011. Information and activities in the JUPAS cycle year will also be further consolidated at the websites of JUPAS and its participating institutions.
Recognition for Further Studies – Other Education Pathways	
29. Apart from applying to university with their HKDSE results, what are the other education pathways for students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the NAS, our students, as always, can choose among the multiple educational pathways available. They may apply for sub-degree programmes (including associate degree and diploma programmes) or vocational education, according to their interests, needs and abilities, as well as admissions requirements of the programmes. They may also participate in Youth Pre-employment Training Programme, Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme or study overseas.
30. Under the NAS, will the government provide support for early school leavers from S3 to S5?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the NAS, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) will continue to provide alternative educational pathways for early school leavers. Starting from the 2009/10 school year, the VTC will offer Diploma in Vocational Education Programmes for S3, S4, S5 schools leavers and NSS S6 graduates, providing them with multi-entry and exit points, and to prepare them for further studies or employment. The current Project Yi-Jin will be extended up to the end of the 2011/12 school year. The EDB is currently

Question	Answer
	<p>working with the Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions (FCE) to review a new programme based on the Project Yi Jin model under the NAS. The first stage of the study is expected to be completed in the first half of 2010. If the new programme is considered meritorious and feasible, a second stage of the study will be carried out to design the details of the programme which will be put in place from the 2012/13 academic year onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some current senior secondary schools are providing featured programmes for their S4 to S6 students. Details can be found at the websites of all secondary schools at https://cd.edb.gov.hk/334map/ (NSS School Information Network).
<p>31. Although universities will double the number of first year first degree places in 2012, will the government ensure that there are sufficient places in post-secondary programmes for students who cannot get into university?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EDB has been communicating closely with sub-degree and vocational training programme providers on the provision of places to meet the future demand from the senior secondary school graduates who have reached the minimum admissions requirements.
<p>32. Is the HKDSE recognised by the post-secondary sector? What are the minimum requirements for application to sub-degree programmes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB and FCE are currently working together to set the admissions requirements for sub-degree programmes (including associate degree programmes and higher diploma programmes) under the NAS. FCE initially recommends that the minimum requirement be set at Level 2 in 5 subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language) or equivalent. Post-secondary institutions are revising their curriculum to facilitate better interface with the NSS curriculum.
<p>33. Under the NAS, students need to attain Level 2 in 5 subjects in order to be eligible for application to associate degree programmes. Why do they consider 5 subjects, while 4 subjects are considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "3322" applies to the 4 core subjects. Apart from this, institutions will require one or two elective subjects. There may also be programme / faculty requirements.

Question	Answer
under the "3322" requirement?	
34. Under the NAS, how many sub-degree places (including government funded and private) will be provided? Will students be able to apply for grants and loans?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012, there will be additional provision to respond to the demand for places from the last cohort of S7 and the first cohort of NSS students graduating in the same year. Based on the current information from post-secondary institutions, we initially estimate that there will be about 9,200 places for subsidised sub-degree programmes (provided by VTC, UGC-funded institutions and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts), and 32,000 places for self-financed sub-degree places. • Starting from 2013, the number of places will resume the normal level. We estimate that the number of subsidised and self-financed sub-degree places would be stabilised at the figures around 7,000 and 24,000 respectively. (The above figures will vary subject to different factors). • As at present, students can apply for government grants and loans under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students (FASP) for studying in locally accredited full-time sub-degree programmes.
Local Recognition – Employment	
35. Is the new qualification recognised by employers? What is the impact on job application and recruitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the NAS, the government will continue to adopt the current policy in civil service appointment, and welcome holders of different qualifications to apply for government positions to serve the community. • The government has announced that results in the HKDSE Examination will be accepted for civil service appointment purposes from 20 July 2012 onwards. For details, please refer to http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201106/28/P201106280216.htm.
36. At present, some civil service positions require applicants to attain 5 passes in the HKCEE in their recruitment exercise. With the HKDSE in place,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the implementation of the HKDSE, the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has announced that results in the HKDSE will be accepted for civil service appointment purposes from 20 July 2012 onwards. A candidate attaining a combination of results in five HKDSE subjects of Level 2 in NSS subjects,

Question	Answer
<p>what changes will be made in the requirements in civil service recruitment?</p>	<p>“Attained” in ApL subjects (subject to a maximum of two ApL subjects), and Grade E in Other Language subjects will be accepted as having met the existing requirement of “five HKCEE passes”. For details, please refer to http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201106/28/P201106280216.htm.</p>
<p>37. Will the NAS have any impact on appointment to those civil service posts with entry requirements set at Form 5 and below? What are the impacts?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some civil service posts set their entry requirements at completion of specific secondary levels at Form 5 or below (e.g. Form 4). Under the NAS, students have to undertake three years of junior secondary (S1 to S3) followed by a three-year senior secondary education (S4 to S6). Despite the implementation of the NAS, there will not be any changes in the duration of study at secondary level required for the posts concerned.
<p>38. Under the NAS, students will study 4 core subjects including Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Liberal Studies. Currently, in civil service recruitment, there are requirements for Chinese Language and English Language as a proof of language proficiency. In the future, will the government also include Mathematics and Liberal Studies as recruitment requirements?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual user Bureaux / Departments has their specific requirements on academic and professional qualifications, skills, experience, and language proficiency. Whether Mathematics and Liberal Studies are required is subject to the needs of the individual user Bureaux / Departments.
<p>39. How would the Government facilitate recognition of the HKDSE by Hong Kong employers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDB and HKEAA will continue to jointly promote employers’ understanding of the standards-referenced reporting system and the typical performance at each level. A set of generic descriptors of each level is already published by HKEAA to enhance understanding of the public about the standards of the HKDSE. Starting from 2010, EDB has been meeting employers (in human resources, enterprises of different sizes and specific trades). Videos, APIs, pamphlets targeted at employers are also being

Question	Answer
	developed.
Local Recognition – Old vs. New Qualifications	
40. Will the phasing out of the HKCEE and HKALE have a negative impact on students' pathways?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HKDSE qualifications have been recognised locally by different stakeholders including the government (the largest employer in Hong Kong), universities and post-secondary institutions; and internationally by university admission authorities and governments of different countries. • The new qualifications guarantee smooth articulation to further studies and employment after students' completion of senior secondary education. EDB and HKEAA will liaise closely with relevant local and international bodies to keep them informed of the latest development regarding the HKDSE.
41. Could S7 students take the HKALE as school candidates while at the same time take the HKDSE Examination in the capacity of private candidates in 2012 and apply for university places through the non-JUPAS route?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HKEAA confirms that there will be no restriction for a candidate to take both HKAL and HKDSE examinations in the same year. While provision of university places will be doubled in 2012, there will be separate quotas for HKAL candidates and HKDSE candidates. Students sitting for both examinations can only apply for admission with either HKAL or HKDSE results.
Local Recognition – Applied Learning (ApL)	
42. Will students' performance in Applied Learning (ApL) courses be considered as equivalent to NSS elective subjects (unspecified) for university admission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HKEAA recommends that ApL courses (Attained with Distinction) are considered comparable to Level 3 or above in HKDSE. Institutions will announce to the public how ApL courses will be considered for university admission in due course.
43. Is international recognition of ApL obtained already?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic ability of "Attained with Distinction" in ApL subjects is deemed comparable to Level 3 or above in HKDSE Category A subjects (24 NSS subjects). Level 3 in these Category A subjects (except Mathematics) is benchmarked by UCAS as broadly comparable to a Grade E in GCE A Level.

Question	Answer
<p>44. Completion of a quality-assured ApL course is currently accepted as a pass in HKCEE subjects (excluding Chinese Language and English Language) for civil service appointment purpose, up to a maximum of two subjects. Will the ApL courses continue to be accepted for civil service appointment and will the number of courses be capped at a maximum of two subjects?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSB has announced that HKDSE results will be accepted for civil service appointment purpose with effect from 20 July 2012. Please refer to http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201106/28/P201106280216.htm for details. • Subject to a maximum of two ApL subjects, an "Attained with Distinction" in an ApL subject in the HKDSE will be accepted as having met the requirement of Grade E in the HKALE or Grade C in the HKCEE in a similar subject. An "Attained" result in an ApL subject in the HKDSE will be accepted as having met the requirement of Grade E in a similar subject under the HKCEE.
<p>Local Recognition – Other Learning Experiences (OLE) and Student Learning Profile (SLP)</p>	
<p>45. Will Student Learning Profile (SLP) be considered for university admission? Are there any weighting or assessment framework for SLP?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGC-funded institutions have made a unified announcement on 21 October 2008 on its support for the OLE, and would be happy to accept the SLP as a document of good reference value in admission under the NAS. JUPAS reconfirmed in October 2009 that SLP will be considered as a document of good reference value in university admission, and will serve the purpose of providing topics for discussion in selection interviews. • OLE values student participation and experience, and thus there will be no assessment. Students' OLE will be recorded on the SLP. In considering admission, institutions will take into account the SLP that reflects a student's achievement in both academic and non-academic aspects. • Overseas institutions also value the SLP as it shows students' achievement in various aspects. • Qualitative information in SLP provides comprehensive information on the student's all-round development. A concise SLP would be a document of good reference both in selection interviews and admission.
<p>46. Will the Government and employers consider OLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OLE is not a subject, but one of the three essential components of the NSS curriculum that occupies 15%

Question	Answer
<p>as an NSS subject in job recruitment? How will the information facilitate job recruitment?</p>	<p>or more lesson time. They are essential to facilitate students' balanced and all-round development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government has no plan to include OLE as one of the entry requirements for civil service appointment purpose. Nevertheless, the SLP may be taken into account in assessing the suitability of the candidate for the job (including the student's participation and achievement in different areas and in whole-person development) • Similarly, we encourage employers to take into account the information in the SLP for a more holistic understanding of a candidate's strengths and abilities.
<p>47. What are JUPAS' arrangements in regard to the SLP?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JUPAS affirmed in its press release issued on 29 January 2010 that OLE is regarded as very useful supplementary information which the institutions will consider in the admissions process. • JUPAS has designed a template, in consultation with school councils and principals, to aid students in concisely recording information of their OLE and other extra-curricular activities.
<p>Local Recognition – Training for Nurses</p>	
<p>48. Is the HKDSE recognised by the Nursing Council of Hong Kong? What are the minimum entry requirements for the training of nurses under the NSS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nursing Council of Hong Kong has released the minimum entry requirements for applicants with HKDSE results for receiving 3-year pre-registration or 2-year pre-enrolment nursing programmes, as follows: • The minimum entry requirement for 3-year pre-registration nursing programmes is Level 3 for Chinese Language and English Language, and Level 2 for Mathematics, Liberal Studies and one NSS subject in the HKDSE. • The minimum entry requirement for 2-year pre-enrolment nursing programmes is Level 2 in five subjects, including Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and two other NSS subjects or Applied Learning subjects (“Attained”) in the HKDSE. • Details are available at the website of the Council (http://www.nchk.org.hk/en/home/index.html). • Individual training institutions may set their own

Question	Answer
	<p>entry requirements and admission policy for nurse training, provided that the required standards meet the minimum educational standard set by the Council. Students may note further information to be provided by individual institutions in due course.</p>
<p>Issues relating to repeaters</p>	
<p>49. If students get unsatisfactory results in 2012 HKALE, could they apply for degree programmes / sub-degree programmes with both HKALE and HKDSE results?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2012, students can apply for university places via JUPAS using either HKALE or HKDSE (but not both at the same time).
<p>50. If students get unsatisfactory results in 2012 HKALE, could they repeat HKALE while at the same time take the HKDSE in the capacity of private candidate in 2013 and apply for university places through the non-JUPAS route?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKEAA will set no restriction for a candidate to take both HKAL and HKDSE examinations in the same year. In 2013 and beyond, (i) students who re-take HKALE and with HKALE results only should apply for admission to universities via non-JUPAS channel. (ii) Students with HKDSE results only should apply for admission to universities via JUPAS channel. (iii) Students with a combination of HKALE and HKDSE results, and HKDSE results alone would make them eligible for admission <i>either</i> via JUPAS <i>or</i> non-JUPAS channel, but not both at the same time. Assessment of such applicants applying via JUPAS will be based primarily on HKDSE. (iv) Students possessing both HKALE and HKDSE results which together make them eligible for admission to the universities should apply via non-JUPAS channel.
<p>51. Will S7 repeaters in 2013 be given exemption in the 4-year undergraduate programme?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual institutions / programmes might make their own decision. (In principle, students should be admitted to 4-year programme from 2013 but advanced standing may be considered by institutions.)
<p>Issues relating to the support for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)</p>	
<p>52. What are the possible pathways for students with SEN taking the ordinary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pathways for students with SEN taking the ordinary curriculum are similar to those of normal students. If they are admitted by universities,, they

Question	Answer
<p>curriculum when they have completed the NSS education?</p>	<p>will study the 4-year undergraduate programme. Tertiary institutions will provide them with support such as providing specific equipment to aid their learning, assigning counselors / tutors to assist them, and giving them priority in hostel allocation. They may also consider other pathways such as sub-degree programmes, vocational education and training, study overseas or seek employment.</p>
<p>53. What are the pathways for students with Intellectual Disability (ID) under the NAS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past, most students with ID will go on to study in programmes offered by the VTC training centres when they finish junior secondary education. The VTC has made the following plans to revamp the programmes offered by the training centres to facilitate the transition to the NAS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To infuse a broader range of educational elements, e.g. language training, interpersonal skills; (b) To pilot test in skills centres a series of new programmes (e.g. printing and publishing), to provide the first tier recognition in the Qualifications Framework (QF) to facilitate for students to articulate to relevant certificate programmes offered by the VTC, which in turn will provide them with 2nd tier recognition in the QF. This is one of the exit pathways for the first cohort of NSS students with ID; and (c) To strengthen the opportunities for students to participate in practical work experience, in order to enhance their employability after graduation. • EDB is currently working with the Skills Centre to develop a one-year bridging course for NSS graduates to articulate to programmes offered by the Skills Centre or the IVE, with the aim to broaden the training opportunities of senior secondary students with ID. EDB is also providing advice and making new plans, through the Committee on Vocational Training for People with a Disability and representatives from all sectors (e.g. Labour and Welfare Bureau), on designing exit pathways for senior secondary students with ID.
<p>Recognition of Non-local Qualifications</p>	
<p>54. If I attend a university in a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of non-local qualifications is essentially

Question	Answer
<p>place outside Hong Kong (e.g. the United States, Mainland China and Taiwan), will the qualifications that I obtain from the university be recognised in Hong Kong?</p>	<p>user-defined. Generally speaking, it is up to individual employers, professional bodies or education institutions to decide as to whether a particular qualification obtained by an applicant should be regarded as having met the applicable requirements for filling a job position, membership registration or enrolling in a study programme. As regards education qualifications awarded by granting bodies outside Hong Kong, the assessment of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) will often be sought, and such assessments will often be taken into account by the relevant employer / body / institution. This notwithstanding, final decisions as to whether or not to accept particular qualifications for employment, registration and study purposes still rest with the employer / body / institution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For civil service appointment in Hong Kong, qualification requirements for civil service posts are normally set with reference to qualifications obtainable under the local education system or from local institutions. Candidates holding non-local qualifications, including those awarded by Mainland and Taiwan education institutions, may also apply and they will be considered for appointment if their qualifications are assessed as comparable in standard to the entry qualification requirements of the posts being applied for. Where necessary, the Civil Service Bureau will seek the advice of HKCAAVQ on a case-by-case basis for the assessment of non-local qualifications.
<p>55. If I am holding non-local qualifications, will I be eligible to apply for a local teaching post?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons wishing to join the education profession should possess the required academic and / or professional qualifications. <p>For persons holding non-local qualifications, they should approach the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for assessment of their qualifications. They may submit the diplomas / certificates, transcripts showing details of the courses taken, together with the fees required, to the HKCAAVQ for assessment. Information on assessment application is available from the HKCAAVQ website www.hkcaavq.edu.hk.</p>