

**FAQ on the Recognition of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)  
and Multiple Pathways for Students  
(as of June 2017)**

Question	Answer
<b>Recognition of the HKDSE</b>	
<p>1. Has the HKDSE been recognised globally for admission purpose at tertiary institutions worldwide?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The New Academic Structure (NAS) has enhanced the smooth articulation of students to multiple pathways. The HKDSE qualification has gained wide recognition among various end-users, including the HKSAR government, which is the biggest employer, local tertiary institutions, as well as overseas authorities and governments, including Canada, US, UK, Australia, Europe and South East Asia. Students can apply directly to overseas universities or institutions using their HKDSE Examination results.</li> <li>• The HKDSE qualification has been included in the Tariff system of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in the United Kingdom (UK), which provides a platform for comparison of HKDSE with other overseas qualifications, such as the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCE A Level) and International Baccalaureate (IB). The HKDSE has been recognised as comparable to an Australian Senior Secondary School Certificate for admission to the universities and post-secondary institutions in Australia.</li> <li>• Leading universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge in the UK, Ivy League universities such as Yale in the USA, have been admitting high-performing HKDSE candidates. For the most updated information on the international recognition of the HKDSE, please visit the website of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) (<a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/hkdse_recognition/ircountry_hkdse.html">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/hkdse_recognition/ircountry_hkdse.html</a>).</li> <li>• Since 2012, some of the Mainland universities have admitted Hong Kong students on the strength of their HKDSE Examination results and exempted them from the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities in the People's Republic of China. Starting from 2012, universities in Taiwan have also waived the Overseas Joint College Entrance Examination for Hong Kong students and consider their admissions on the strength of their HKDSE results.</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
<b>International Benchmarking Studies on the HKDSE</b>	
<p>2. What is the significance of including the HKDSE in the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Tariff system?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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) which reaffirms the international recognition of the HKDSE.</li> </ul>
<p>3. What is the UCAS tariff value for HKDSE? What about the compulsory part and the extended part of Mathematics?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HKEAA and UCAS of the UK has confirmed the tariff points awarded for level 3 to 5** for 23 Category A Senior Secondary subjects of the HKDSE Examination after the completion of a benchmarking study.</li> <li>For details of the UCAS tariff value for the HKDSE, please refer to the website of HKEAA: <a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/MainNews/PR_20121218_eng.pdf">www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/MainNews/PR_20121218_eng.pdf</a></li> <li>Starting from 2017, UCAS will adopt a different number system for the new tariff. The total tariff points are awarded to a qualification according to its size and grades. For the details of the new tariff, please refer to the following web page: <a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/Press_20160615_eng.pdf">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/Press_20160615_eng.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<p>4. 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"> <li>UCAS has confirmed the tariff points awarded for level 3 to 5** for 23 Category A Senior Secondary subjects of the HKDSE Examination, including single-discipline science subjects, Combined Science and Integrated Science. For details, please refer to the following website of HKEAA. Existing tariff value: <a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/MainNews/PR_20121218_eng.pdf">www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/MainNews/PR_20121218_eng.pdf</a> New tariff value starting from 2017: <a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/Press_20160615_eng.pdf">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/Press_20160615_eng.pdf</a></li> <li>Apart from the universities' general entrance requirements, individual institutions may base on the specific nature and needs of the programmes to set additional faculty/programme requirements, including specified/preferred subjects, the number of electives and the required results, or give different weighting to different electives in the actual selection process. Details can be found on the websites of individual institutions/faculties/programmes.</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
<b>Recognition for Further Studies – Non-local</b>	
<p>5. Will HKDSE be recognised for entry to the Mainland higher education institutions? Is there any impact on Hong Kong students who plan to pursue further studies in the Mainland?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2012 onwards, some of the Mainland universities have admitted Hong Kong students on the strength of their HKDSE Examination results and exempted them from the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities in the People’s Republic of China. For more details, please refer to relevant information posted at the website of EDB (<a href="http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/pilot-scheme/index.html">http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/pilot-scheme/index.html</a>).</li> </ul>
<p>6. After the implementation of the NAS, if students 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UCAS Tariff system has included the tariff points for Level 3 to 5** for 23 Category A New Senior Secondary subjects of the HKDSE Examination. Students with HKDSE Examination results can articulate to overseas 3-year undergraduate programmes, e.g. in the UK universities.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Recognition for Further Studies – Local degree programmes</b>	
<p>7. How many subjects are required for university admission? What are the level requirements?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students attaining Level 3 for Chinese Language and English Language and Level 2 for Mathematics and Liberal Studies in the HKDSE Examination (“3322”) are eligible to be considered for admission to the 4-year undergraduate programmes of local publicly-funded and self-financing tertiary institutions. Individual institutions/faculties/programmes will determine the attainment level required for one or two elective subjects (usually at Level 2/3) and other admission requirements. These are the minimum requirements as admission will be on a competitive basis.</li> <li>The latest admission requirements have been uploaded to respective website of the institutions/faculties/programmes.</li> </ul>
<p>8. Regarding Mathematics in the “3322” requirement, is the compulsory part required only?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding Mathematics in the “3322” requirement, only the compulsory part is required. Individual institutions may recognise the extended part in Mathematics (Module 1/Module 2) as unspecified/extra elective subjects for meeting the general entrance requirements. Details can</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
	be found on the websites of individual institutions.
<p>9. Under the NAS, will schools allow students to study other languages (e.g. French) in lieu of Chinese Language?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 conditions<sup>1</sup>, they may choose to sit for relevant examinations such as the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) administered by the HKEAA to obtain alternative qualifications in Chinese. (Please see Question 10).</li> </ul> <p>Note<sup>1</sup>: The specified conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or</li> <li>(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 local schools.</li> </ul>
<p>10. Under the NAS, will institutions continue to accept alternative Chinese Language qualifications (e.g. GCSE, IGCSE, GCE) for students fulfilling the specified conditions<sup>1</sup>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 conditions<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>Note<sup>1</sup>: The specified conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or</li> <li>(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 local schools.</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
<p>11. If students would like to sit for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) (Chinese) Examination to obtain the alternative Chinese Language qualification under the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) application, what should they do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those students who have fulfilled the specified conditions<sup>1</sup> 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 candidates only. Students should submit their entry forms through schools which have registered as GCSE (Chinese) sub-centres. Further information on the Examination is available at the website of the HKEAA (<a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce_gcse_igcse_ial/gcse/">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce_gcse_igcse_ial/gcse/</a>).</li> </ul> <p>Note<sup>1</sup>: The specified conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or</li> <li>(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 local schools.</li> </ul>
<p>12. 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"> <li>• 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 certificate of HKDSE.</li> <li>• In selecting students for university admission, all 8 UGC-funded institutions recognise other languages as unspecified/extra elective subjects. Please refer to the websites of individual institutions for more details.</li> </ul>
<p>13. After the implementation of NAS, will institutions adjust their requirements for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 the JUPAS website (<a href="http://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/application-procedures/application-information/applicants-with-disabilities/">http://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/application-procedures/application-information/applicants-with-disabilities/</a>).</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
<b>Recognition for Further Studies – Other Educational Pathways</b>	
<p>14. Apart from applying to universities with their HKDSE Examination results, what are the other educational pathways for students?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 higher diploma programmes), the Diploma Yi Jin or Vocational and Professional Education and Training programmes, according to their interests, needs and abilities. They may also participate in the Youth Employment and Training Programme or study overseas.</li> <li>• The Diploma Yi Jin has been put in place from the 2012/13 academic year onwards to provide an alternative pathway for secondary 6 school leavers to obtain a formal qualification for the purposes of employment and further studies. The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) has evaluated and confirmed that the exit standard of the Diploma Yi Jin programme is deemed comparable to the attainment of Level 2 in five subjects including Chinese Language and English Language in the HKDSE Examination. For students who have satisfactorily completed the Maths Plus elective module, the exit standard of their Diploma Yi Jin is comparable to the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics in the HKDSE Examination.</li> </ul>
<p>15. Under the NAS, will the government provide support for early school leavers from S3 to S5?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Vocational Training Council (VTC) will continue to provide alternative educational pathways for early school leavers, including Diploma of Vocational Education Programmes for S3, S4, S5 schools leavers and S6 graduates, providing them with multi-entry and exit points, and to prepare them for further studies or employment.</li> </ul>
<p>16. What are the minimum requirements for application to sub-degree programmes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minimum entrance requirements to sub-degree programmes (including associate degree and higher diploma programmes) is Level 2 obtained in five subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language) in the HKDSE Examination or equivalent (may include at most two Applied Learning subjects).</li> <li>• For details, please refer to the “Updated Revised Common Descriptors for Associate Degree and Higher Diploma Programmes under the New Academic Structure” (<a href="http://www.cspe.edu.hk/GetFile.aspx?databaseimageid=14773-0">http://www.cspe.edu.hk/GetFile.aspx?databaseimageid=14773-0</a>).</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
17. Under the NAS, will students studying non-publicly-funded post-secondary programmes be able to apply for grants and loans?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As in the past, students can apply for government grants and loans under the Financial Assistance Scheme for Post-secondary Students for studying in locally accredited full-time sub-degree programmes. For details, please visit the website of Student Finance Office (<a href="http://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo/eng">http://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo/eng</a>).</li> </ul>
<b>Local Recognition – Employment</b>	
18. Does the Government accept HKDSE qualifications for civil service appointments?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government has announced that results in the HKDSE Examination are accepted for civil service appointment purposes with effect from 20 July 2012. Details are available at the website of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) (<a href="http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html">http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html</a>).</li> <li>• For the arrangement of accepting results in the HKDSE Examination as equivalent to the results in the Common Recruitment Examination, please refer to CSB’s website (<a href="http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/cre/949.html">http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/cre/949.html</a>).</li> </ul>
19. With the HKDSE in place, what is the acceptance arrangement for civil service posts with entry requirement set at “a pass in five subjects in HKCEE”?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the NAS, a combination of the following results in five subjects in the HKDSE Examination are accepted as meeting the requirement of “a pass in five subjects in HKCEE”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Level 2 in Senior Secondary subjects;</li> <li>- “Attained” in Applied Learning (ApL) subjects (subject to a maximum of two ApL subjects); and</li> <li>- Grade E in Other Language subjects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Details are available at CSB’s website (<a href="http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html">http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html</a>).</li> </ul>
20. What are the impacts of the NAS on appointment to civil service posts with entry requirements set at Form 5 or below?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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). For appointment to civil service posts with entry requirement set at the completion of specific secondary level, such as completion of Form 5 or Form 4, a candidate who has completed respective levels from Secondary 1 to Secondary 5 under the NAS is accepted as meeting the requirement of completion of Form 1 to Form 5 correspondingly under the old academic structure.</li> </ul>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p>21. How would the EDB and HKEAA facilitate recognition of the HKDSE by Hong Kong employers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HKEAA has drawn up a set of level descriptors, with samples of student performance, to describe the performance standards of students. A set of generic descriptors of each level has also been published to enhance understanding of the public about the standards of the HKDSE.</li> <li>• Starting from 2009, EDB has enhanced communication and contact with the employer sector. Meetings and briefing sessions have been conducted to enhance the employers' understanding of the HKDSE. The NAS has also been introduced through different communication platforms (e.g. the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, the Labour Department, the Employees Retraining Board, associations of different trades, as well as small and medium enterprises associations), and received positive feedback and support.</li> <li>• EDB and HKEAA will continue to jointly promote employers' understanding of the standards-referenced reporting system and the typical performance at each level.</li> <li>• In addition, videos, APIs and factsheets targeted at employers have also been developed, to enhance their understanding of the NAS and the HKDSE qualification, facilitating them in preparing recruitment of the Senior Secondary graduates.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Recognition – Applied Learning (ApL)</b>	
<p>22. Will students' performance in ApL subjects be considered as equivalent to Senior Secondary elective subjects for university admission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general, the tertiary institutions recognise the experience attained by students through ApL. For university admission, individual institutions/faculties/programmes will consider ApL subjects as elective subjects/additional information and/or award bonus points.</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
<p>23. Will students' performance in ApL be considered for admission to sub-degree programmes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the “Updated Revised Common Descriptors for Associate Degree and Higher Diploma Programmes under the New Academic Structure”, applicants are eligible to apply for admission to sub-degree programmes if they meet the minimum entrance requirements of Level 2 in five HKDSE subjects including English Language and Chinese Language<sup>1</sup>. Each applicant is allowed to use not more than two ApL subjects in the application<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>• For details, please visit “Information Portal for Accredited Post-secondary Programmes” (iPASS) (<a href="http://www.ipass.gov.hk">http://www.ipass.gov.hk</a>).</li> </ul> <p>Note<sup>1</sup>: For non-Chinese speaking students, institutions will continue to accept alternative Chinese Language qualifications for students who have met the specified conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or</li> <li>(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 local schools.</li> </ul> <p>Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) should, in general, be accepted as an alternative Chinese Language qualification, among other acceptance alternative Chinese Language qualifications.</p> <p>Note<sup>2</sup>: The two Applied Learning subjects do not include Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) as this subject is introduced to provide an additional channel exclusively for non-Chinese speaking students to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification. For the 2012-2017 HKDSE Examinations, students attaining the results of “Attained” and “Attained with Distinction” in the Applied Learning courses are accepted as attaining the competencies required at Level 2 and Level 3 or above of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination respectively for the purposes of further studies and work. Effective from the 2018 HKDSE Examination, the reporting of students' performance is refined to “Attained”, “Attained with Distinction (I)” and “Attained with Distinction (II)”. Performance of “Attained with Distinction (I)” is comparable to Level 3 while “Attained with Distinction (II)” is comparable to Level 4 or above of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination.</p>
<p>24. Can students of the Diploma Yi Jin get exemption for specific modules if they have studied such modules in their ApL courses?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For those students who have been awarded either “Attained” or “Attained with Distinction” upon their successful completion of ApL courses, they may get exemption for at most two related modules when they are admitted to the Diploma Yi Jin programme. However, the institutions will have the final decision in granting such exemption, having taken into consideration the relevance of the modules.</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
<p>25. The Education Bureau introduced Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)) starting from the 2014/15 school year. Are results of ApL(C) subject accepted by post-secondary institutions for admission? How about its acceptance for employment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting from the 2014/15 school year, senior secondary students having fulfilled the specified conditions<sup>1</sup> may choose to take ApL(C). The eight University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions and most of the post-secondary institutions (23 in total) have accepted the “Attained” result of ApL(C) as the minimum grade required for an alternative qualification in Chinese language for the admission of students fulfilling the above specified conditions.</li> <li>• For the purpose of civil service appointments, ApL(C) is accepted as one of the ApL subjects in the HKDSE Examination, and "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction" results in ApL(C) are accepted as meeting the Chinese language proficiency requirements of relevant civil service ranks. Major employers and professional bodies, such as the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management and the Hong Kong Retail Management Association, have recognised the qualifications of ApL(C) as well.</li> <li>• For details, please refer to relevant press release (<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201412/11/P201412110450.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201412/11/P201412110450.htm</a>) or visit the EDB Applied Learning website (<a href="http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/cross-kla-studies/applied-learning/index-1.html">http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/cross-kla-studies/applied-learning/index-1.html</a>).</li> </ul> <p>Note<sup>1</sup>: The specified conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) students who have learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education; or</li> <li>(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 local schools.</li> </ul>
<p>Local Recognition – Other Learning Experiences (OLE) and Student Learning Profile (SLP)</p>	

Question	Answer
<p>26. 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"> <li>• UGC-funded institutions have indicated their support for the OLE, and would be happy to accept the SLP as a document of good reference value in admission under the NAS. SLP will also serve the purpose of providing topics for discussion in selection interviews.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Overseas institutions also value the SLP as it shows students' achievement in various aspects.</li> <li>• Qualitative information in SLP provides comprehensive information on the student's all-round development. A concise SLP would be a document of good reference in both selection interviews and admission.</li> </ul>
<p>27. Will the Government and employers consider OLE as a Senior Secondary subject in job recruitment? How will the information facilitate job recruitment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OLE is not a subject, but one of the three essential components of the Senior Secondary curriculum that occupies 10 to 15% of the total lesson time. They are essential to facilitate students' balanced and all-round development.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Local Recognition – Training for Nurses</p>	

Question	Answer
<p>28. Is the HKDSE recognised by the Nursing Council of Hong Kong? What are the minimum entry requirements for the training programmes of nurses?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nursing Council of Hong Kong has set out the minimum entry requirements for applicants with HKDSE Examination results for receiving 3-year pre-registration or 2-year pre-enrolment nursing programmes, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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 Senior Secondary subject in the HKDSE Examination.</li> <li>- 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 Senior Secondary subjects or Applied Learning subjects (“Attained”) in the HKDSE Examination.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Details are available at the website of the Council (<a href="http://www.nchk.org.hk/en/pre_enrolment_pre_registration_nursing_training/minimum_entry_requirements_for_training_of_nurses/index.html">http://www.nchk.org.hk/en/pre_enrolment_pre_registration_nursing_training/minimum_entry_requirements_for_training_of_nurses/index.html</a>).</li> <li>• Individual training institutions may set their own 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Issues relating to Repeaters</p>	

Question	Answer
<p>29. If students are not satisfied with their HKDSE Examination results, can they repeat S6 or sit for the HKDSE Examination again as private candidates? If yes, what do they need to pay attention to? What is the difference between repeating S6 at a school and being a private candidate? Besides repeating S6, do they have other options?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before deciding whether to repeat S6, students should think and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the reasons for the unsatisfactory results;</li> <li>(ii) the confidence of making improvement in the new attempt;</li> <li>(iii) the advice and suggestions of teachers and family; and</li> <li>(iv) whether there are other study pathways.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The arrangements on SBA for repeaters are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SBA is compulsory for S6 school repeaters. They, however, need to submit SBA marks for S6 only, which will be proportionally adjusted to the full weighting of individual subjects and incorporated into their subject mark. Their SBA results obtained in previous examinations will not be counted.</li> <li>- Private candidates are not required to complete the SBA component of the subjects entered. Their subject marks will be based entirely on their public examination results. For Visual Arts in which the SBA component carries a weighting of 50%, private candidates will be required to submit a portfolio in lieu of the SBA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For information on schools admitting S6 repeaters from other schools, students may visit the life planning website of EDB (<a href="http://www.edb.gov.hk/lifeplanning_eng">http://www.edb.gov.hk/lifeplanning_eng</a>).</li> <li>• Repeating S6 is definitely not the only option. Multiple pathways under the NAS are available to senior secondary graduates. Students can consider applying for sub-degree programmes or other programmes/training, including Diploma Yi Jin, Vocational and Professional Education and Training programmes, Youth Employment and Training Programme of the Labour Department or employment. For more information, please visit the “New Academic Structure Web Bulletin – Multiple Pathways for Senior Secondary Graduates” (<a href="http://www.edb.gov.hk/nas/en/multiplepathways">http://www.edb.gov.hk/nas/en/multiplepathways</a>).</li> </ul>
<b>Issues relating to the Support for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)</b>	
<p>30. What are the possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pathways for students with SEN taking the ordinary</li> </ul>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p>pathways for students with SEN taking the ordinary curriculum when they have completed the Senior Secondary education?</p>	<p>curriculum are similar to those of normal students. If they are admitted by tertiary institutions, the 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 local sub-degree programmes, Diploma Yi Jin, Vocational and Professional Education and Training programmes, study overseas or seek employment.</p>
<p>31. What are the pathways for students with Intellectual Disability under the NAS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the NAS, schools will help making related arrangements when students approach the age of school leaving. Schools will help applying suitable specific skills training and rehabilitation and support services, such as the skill centres under VTC, the sheltered workshop under the Social Welfare Department and the integrated vocational training centre. Students with Mild or Moderate Intellectual Disabilities may pursue full-time training, such as the courses provided by the Shine Skills Centre under VTC and the integrated vocational training centres organised by non-governmental organisations. For students with disabilities who are not able to enter into open employment with appropriate vocational training can apply to receive training in the sheltered workshops to develop their social and economic potential to the fullest extent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recognition of Non-local Qualifications</b></p>	
<p>32. If I attend a university in a place outside Hong Kong (e.g. the United States, the Mainland and Taiwan), will the qualifications that I obtained from the university be recognised in Hong Kong?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of non-local qualifications is essentially 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,</li> </ul>

Question	Answer
	<p>registration and study purposes still rest with the employer/body/institution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For civil service appointments, 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 may also apply for government posts. The government will arrange qualifications assessment for these candidates according to the established procedures. Candidates 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 and that they can also fulfill the other requirements of the posts, such as those on language proficiency and work experience.</li> </ul>
<p>33. 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"> <li>Persons wishing to join the education profession should possess the required academic and/or professional qualifications.</li> <li>For persons holding non-local qualifications, they should approach the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic &amp; 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 (<a href="http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk">http://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk</a>).</li> </ul>