

**FAQ on the Recognition of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)  
and Multiple Pathways for Students  
(as of July 2021)**

	Question	Answer
I.	Recognition of the HKDSE	
1.	<p>Has the HKDSE been recognised globally for admission purpose at tertiary institutions worldwide?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HKDSE qualification has gained wide recognition among various end-users, including the HKSAR government, which is the biggest employer in Hong Kong, local tertiary institutions, as well as overseas authorities and governments, including Canada, US, UK, Australia, Europe and Asia. Students can apply programmes of overseas universities or institutions directly by 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 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>• 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/hkds_e_recognition/ircountry_hkdse.html">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/hkds_e_recognition/ircountry_hkdse.html</a>).</li> <li>• Since 2012, some of the Mainland higher education institutions have admitted Hong Kong students through “Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions 2021/22” (<a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/Scheme_2021/Scheme_2021.html">https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/Scheme_2021/Scheme_2021.html</a>). The admission scheme is executed based on the strength of students’ HKDSE Examination</li> </ul>

	Question	Answer
		<p>results and exempted them from the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities in the People’s Republic of China).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 (<a href="https://en.overseas.ncnu.edu.tw/">https://en.overseas.ncnu.edu.tw/</a>).</li> </ul>
2.	<p>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 IB which reaffirms the international recognition of the HKDSE.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>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 the UCAS of the UK have confirmed the tariff points awarded for Level 3 to 5** for 23 Category A Senior Secondary subjects of the HKDSE Examination since 2012, after the completion of a benchmarking study.</li> <li>For details of the UCAS tariff value for the HKDSE (2012), please refer to the website of the HKEAA: (<a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/MainNews/PR_20121218_eng.pdf">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/MainNews/PR_20121218_eng.pdf</a>)</li> <li>The new UCAS Tariff has been introduced since September 2017 to support higher education institutions in the UK for admission purpose. For the details of the new tariff, please refer to the following websites, including, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New UCAS Tariff (2017) for HKDSE and Other International Qualifications (<a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/Leaflets/2017_UCAS_Tariff_factsheet_eng.pdf">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/Leaflets/2017_UCAS_Tariff_factsheet_eng.pdf</a>)</li> <li>b) The new UCAS Tariff for HKDSE (<a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/benchmarking/hkdse/ucas/">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/benchmarking/hkdse/ucas/</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Level 5** in Category A Senior Secondary</li> </ul>

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		<p>subjects is awarded the highest possible 56 points. Level 5** in the Compulsory Part and the Extended Part of Mathematics are awarded 28 points each, so candidates taking both parts of Mathematics can achieve tariff points that are on par with other HKDSE Category A subjects.</p>
4.	<p>If Secondary 6 graduates want to study abroad, can they articulate to 3-year university programmes (e.g. in UK)?</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 Senior Secondary subjects of the HKDSE Examination. From 2012 onwards, graduates with HKDSE Examination results can articulate to overseas 3-year undergraduate programmes, e.g. in the UK universities.</li> <li>• As citizens of a cosmopolitan city, it is common for Hong Kong students to study abroad. But there are some uniqueness among Hong Kong universities. For instance, they edge to hone students' skills so as to become biliterate and trilingual and therefore, enhance their competitiveness.</li> </ul>
5.	<p>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 higher education institutions 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="https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/pilot-scheme.html">https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/pilot-scheme.html</a>).</li> <li>• As at November 2020, the number of Mainland higher education institutions participating in the Admission Scheme has increased to 127, coming from 21 provinces/municipalities and one autonomous region of the Mainland.</li> </ul>
<p>II. Admission Requirements of Local Universities and Post-secondary Institutions</p>		

	Question	Answer
6.	How many subjects are required for university admission? What are the level requirements to fulfill the “General Entrance Requirements” (GER) of the universities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students attaining Level 3 for Chinese Language and English Language, 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.</li> <li>• The 4 core subjects + 1 or 2 elective subject(s) are just the minimum requirements and do not guarantee entrance to a particular university or programme. Universities would conduct further selection on those applicants who satisfied the minimum requirements. The actual selection for admission would 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>* Liberal Studies has been renamed as “Citizenship and Social Development”(CS). The renamed subject will be implemented at Secondary 4 in September 2021. The reporting grade of CS in the public examination will be “Attained” or “Not attained”.</p> <p>** From the admission of the 2024/25 intake, the GER of four core subjects for HKDSE candidates will be revised from “3322” to “332A”, i.e. “332” and “Attained”.</p>
7.	Will different weighting be given to different electives by the universities in their selection?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GER are just minimum requirements that a student has to fulfill before they could be considered for admission. In consideration of the specific nature and needs of the programmes, individual institutions/programmes may set specified elective subject requirements or give different weighting to different electives in the actual selection process. For more details, please visit the websites of respective institutions.</li> </ul>
8.	The general entrance requirements of universities ask for 4 core subjects including Mathematics. Does it mean the compulsory part of Mathematics only? Why do students need to study	<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</li> </ul>

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
	Mathematics?	<p>entrance requirements. For more details, please refer to the websites of individual institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broader mathematical literacy is an essential component for students to prepare their further studies and/or work. It is desirable for students to learn Mathematics at senior secondary level for their preparation for future development. Mathematics is therefore a core subject.</li> <li>• Students may only take the compulsory part in Mathematics, which builds on the basic education for all students. For those students who would like to learn more Mathematics and study engineering, business, science, etc. in university, they could take either one of the extended modules in Mathematics - Module 1 (Calculus and Statistics) or Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus).</li> </ul>
9.	As most universities require 4 core subjects and one elective subject as admission criteria, can students only take 4 core subjects and one elective subject under senior secondary curriculum?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For students to have a broad and balanced education under senior secondary curriculum, it is recommended that they should take 4 core subjects and 2 or 3 electives. Moreover, the 4 core subjects + 1 or 2 elective subject(s) are just the minimum admission criteria for most universities and do not guarantee entrance to a particular university or programme.</li> <li>• During the actual selection process of the programmes, the number of electives and their results could be a factor taking into consideration, served as tie-breakers, given with bonus points or considered as additional information.</li> <li>• For more details, please refer to the websites of individual institutions.</li> </ul>

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
10.	Does a student need to study both extended modules in Mathematics if they want to study in certain science or engineering faculties?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Extended Part comprises two modules with different orientations. Students who are more able in mathematics, more mathematically oriented or need more mathematical knowledge and skills to prepare for their future studies and careers, may choose to study a module from the Extended Part. Module 1 (Calculus and Statistics) focuses more on mathematical applications, whereas Module 2 (Algebra and Calculus) places more emphasis on mathematical concepts and knowledge. Students who would like to learn more mathematics may choose the module which best suits their interests and needs.</li> <li>• Faculties/programmes of UGC-funded universities generally require one of the extended modules in Mathematics, if needed. For details, please refer to the websites of individual institutions.</li> </ul> <p>Reference:</p> <p>Admission Requirements of UGC-funded Undergraduate Programmes under 2021 JUPAS on M1/M2 of Mathematics (As at 17 May 2021)</p> <p>(<a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/ma/u.pdf#page=34&amp;zoom=100,101,349">https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/kla/ma/u.pdf#page=34&amp;zoom=100,101,349</a>)</p>

### III. Other Study Pathways

11. Apart from applying to universities with their HKDSE Examination results, what are the other study pathways for students?

- Under the current academic structure, our students, as always, can choose among multiple pathways available other than degree programmes. They may apply for sub-degree programmes (including Associate Degree (AD) and Higher Diploma (HD) Programmes), the Diploma Yi Jin (DYJ) programme or Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) programmes, according to their interests, needs and abilities. They may also participate in the Youth Employment and Training Programme (YETP) or study in the Mainland/overseas. For the latest information on multiple pathways, please refer to EDB “Designated Webpage for Secondary 6 Students” (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/s6/en>)
- The DYJ programme has been put in place from the 2012/13 academic year onwards to provide an alternative pathway for S6 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 DYJ 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 DYJ programme is comparable to the attainment of Level 2 standard in five subjects including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics in the HKDSE Examination. For latest information of DYJ, please refer to the relevant website (<https://www.yijin.edu.hk>).

12.	What are the minimum requirements for application to sub-degree programmes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minimum entrance requirement to sub-degree programmes (including AD and HD 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” (As at Feb 2017) (<a href="https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Resources.html">https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Resources.html</a>).</li> </ul>
13.	Will the government provide support for early school leavers from S3 to S5?	<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 school leavers and S6 graduates, providing them with multi entry and exit points, and to prepare them for further studies or employment. For details, please refer to the websites of the institutions.</li> </ul>
IV. Recognition on Alternative Qualifications in Chinese Language for Non-Chinese Speaking (NCS) Students		
14.	Will institutions accept students fulfilling the specified circumstances to use alternative qualification(s) in Chinese Language in lieu of HKDSE Chinese Language for admission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the current academic structure, as stated in the LegCo paper in Feb 2008, institutions have already confirmed their acceptance of alternative Chinese Language qualifications (GCSE, IGCSE, GCE) for students fulfilling the following specified circumstances. This will be continued under the current academic structure and the specified circumstances are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The student has learned Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education. This caters specifically students who have a late start in the learning of Chinese Language (e.g. due to their settlement in Hong Kong well past the entry level) or who have been educated in Hong Kong sporadically; or</li> <li>(ii) The student has learned Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but has been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



		<p>applicable to the majority of students in our local schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting from the 2014/15 school year, senior secondary students having met the above specified circumstances may also choose to take Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)). By design, ApL(C) is a language course using the vocational field as the context. It differs from other Applied Learning (ApL) courses which focus on the knowledge and beginners' skill set related to a specific professional /vocational field. Against this background, University Grants Committee (UGC) -funded universities and most post-secondary institutions accept ApL(C) as an alternative qualification in Chinese Language (ACL) for the admission of NCS students with "Attained" as the minimum grade required. In view of this, ApL(C) cannot be treated as an elective subject. Details are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) For UGC-funded universities, ApL(C) is not accepted as an elective subject.</li> <li>(ii) For self-financing institutions, ApL(C) cannot be treated as an elective subject for admission. Apart from ApL(C) as ACL, each applicant is allowed to use a maximum of TWO ApL subjects as elective subjects for admission. Institutions may give special consideration to NCS students with ApL(C) when it is not counted as ACL, according to their individual policy. Nonetheless, ApL(C) cannot be regarded as an elective subject for admission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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15.	Under the current academic structure, will schools allow students to study other languages (e.g. French) in lieu of Chinese Language?	<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 current academic structure.</li> <li>• For NCS students, the EDB encourages them to sit for the HKDSE Chinese Language examination. For NCS students having fulfilled the specified conditions (as stated in Q.14), they may choose to enroll for Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)), or to sit for relevant examinations such as the IGCSE or GCSE administered by the HKEAA to obtain alternative qualifications in Chinese. (Please see Q.16).</li> </ul>
16.	Under the current academic structure, will institutions continue to accept alternative Chinese Language qualifications (e.g. GCSE, IGCSE, GCE) for students fulfilling the specified conditions (as stated in Q.14)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting from the 2008 Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) cycle, the UGC-funded universities have considered, for the purpose of satisfying their entrance requirements, alternative qualifications in Chinese Language, under specified circumstances, in lieu of the general Chinese Language requirement for JUPAS applicants seeking admission based on the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE).</li> <li>• Under the current academic structure, all UGC-funded universities continue with the arrangement to accept alternative qualifications in Chinese Language in lieu of the general Chinese Language requirement in the HKDSE Examination. For more details, please refer to relevant information posted at the website of EDB  (<a href="http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/ncs-students/about-ncs-students/jupas-admission.html">http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/student-parents/ncs-students/about-ncs-students/jupas-admission.html</a>)</li> </ul>

17.	If students would like to sit for the GCSE (Chinese) Examination to obtain the alternative Chinese Language qualification under the JUPAS application, what should they do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those students who have fulfilled the specified conditions (as stated in Q.14) 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>
18.	Is there flexibility for admission to UGC-funded universities for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students taking Category A Chinese Language but not reaching Level 3 or above?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The institutions may consider the application case by case and handle the Chinese Language requirement flexibly for NCS students. For details, please refer to the websites of individual institutions.</li> </ul>
<b>V. Local Recognition – Applied Learning (ApL) Course</b>		
19.	Will students' performance in ApL courses be considered as equivalent to Senior Secondary elective subjects for university admission?	<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 courses as elective subjects/additional information and/or award bonus points.</li> </ul>

20.	<p>Will students' performance in ApL courses 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” (as at Feb 2017), 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="https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/ipass/index.html">https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/ipass/index.html</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 (as stated in Q.14).</p> <p>ApL(C) should, in general, be accepted as an alternative Chinese Language qualification, among other accepted alternative Chinese Language qualifications.</p> <p>Note<sup>2</sup>: The two ApL subjects do not include ApL(C) 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>
21.	<p>Can students of the DYJ programme 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 (I)/(II)” upon their successful completion of ApL courses, they may get exemption for at most two related modules when they are admitted to the DYJ programme. However, the institutions will have the final decision in granting such exemption, having taken into consideration the relevance of the modules.</li> </ul>

22.	<p>The Education Bureau introduced ApL(C) starting from the 2014/15 school year. Do the post-secondary institutions accept results of ApL(C) subject 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 (as stated in Q.14) may choose to take ApL(C). The eight UGC-funded universities and most of the post-secondary institutions 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 specified conditions.</li> <li>• For the purpose of civil service appointments, ApL(C) subject is accepted as one of the ApL subjects in the HKDSE Examination, and "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction" results in ApL(C) subject 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 qualification of ApL(C) course 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="https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/cross-kla-studies/applied-learning/index.html">https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/cross-kla-studies/applied-learning/index.html</a>).</li> </ul>
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VI. Local Recognition – Other Language Subjects		
23.	<p>What is the position of “Other Languages” subjects under the current academic structure? Will institutions consider qualifications in “Other Languages” subjects? Are they considered comparable as elective subjects?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students may choose to study “Other Languages” subjects (French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish and Urdu) as elective subjects. “Other Languages” subjects adopt the syllabus under AS level examination of Cambridge Assessment International Education, and students can study through their schools and sit for this examination administered by the HKEAA. Students’ results in “Other Languages” subjects will be reported on the certificate of HKDSE.</li> <li>• In selecting students for university admission, all eight UGC-funded universities recognise “Other Languages” subjects as unspecified elective subjects/bonus point calculation. Please refer to the websites of individual institutions for more details.</li> </ul>
VII. Local Recognition – Other Learning Experiences (OLE) and Student Learning Profile (SLP)		
24.	<p>Will SLP be considered for university admission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UGC-funded universities have indicated their support for OLE, and would be happy to accept SLP as a document of good reference value in admission under the current academic structure. 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 SLP. In considering admission, institutions will take into account SLP that reflects a student’s achievements in both academic and non-academic aspects.</li> <li>• Overseas institutions also value SLP as it shows students’ achievements 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>

25.	Will the Government and employers consider OLE as a Senior Secondary subject in job recruitment? How will the information facilitate job recruitment?	<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, 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 SLP for a more holistic understanding of a candidate's strengths and abilities.</li> </ul>
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VIII. Issues relating to Repeaters

26.	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?	<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. For details, please visit the webpage of HKEAA (<a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk</a>).</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%, candidates will be required to submit a portfolio in lieu of the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<p>SBA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicants with JUPAS applications in the previous cycle(s) can apply via JUPAS again in the current cycle on the basis of their past and / or current HKDSE Examination results, provided that they are NOT enrolled in full-time bachelor's degree programmes offered under JUPAS at the time they submit their JUPAS applications.</li> <li>• Repeating S6 is definitely not the only option. Student can consider applying for sub-degree programmes or other pathways, including DYJ, VPET programmes, YETP of the Labour Department or employment.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please visit (<a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/s6/en">https://www.edb.gov.hk/s6/en</a>).</p>
27.	How would “JUPAS” participating-institutions consider the combined results of private candidates? Would there be any penalty for repeaters?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nine JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions may consider the HKDSE Examination results obtained by the applicants in different sittings when assessing their eligibility for admission. Some institutions' programmes may impose penalties on applicants with HKDSE Examination results obtained in more than one sitting. In this regard, applicants should study the general entrance requirements and individual programme requirements and the websites of the respective institutions for further information.</li> </ul>
<b>IX. Issues relating to the Support for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)</b>		
28.	Under the current academic structure, do post-secondary institutions adjust their requirements for students with SEN?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current system has already flexibly considered and catered for the needs of SEN students. JUPAS set up a mechanism and 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 on applicants' special needs. Details can be found at the JUPAS website (<a href="https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/application-procedures-information/application-information/applicants-with-disabilities/">https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/application-procedures-information/application-information/applicants-with-disabilities/</a>).</li> </ul>
29.	What are the possible pathways for students with SEN taking the ordinary curriculum when they	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pathways for students with SEN taking the ordinary curriculum are similar to those of other students. If they receive the offer from tertiary</li> </ul>



	<p>have completed the Senior Secondary education?</p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• For existing support services of individual institutions, please refer to EDB relevant information “Contact Details of Local Post-secondary Institutions / Educational Organisations for Transfer of SEN Information of Secondary Students and Services Available in those Institutions / Organisations – 2021/22 Academic Year” (<a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/tc/edu-system/special/support/wsa/secondary/ps_contact.pdf">https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/tc/edu-system/special/support/wsa/secondary/ps_contact.pdf</a>)</li> </ul>
<p>30.</p>	<p>What are the pathways for students with Intellectual Disability under the current academic structure?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the current academic structure, schools will help make related arrangements when students approach the age of school leaving. Schools will help apply 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 the job market can apply to receive appropriate vocational training in the sheltered workshops to develop their social and economic potential to the fullest extent.</li> </ul>

X. Recognition of Non-local Qualifications

31. 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?

- 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. 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. For details, please refer to the website of HKCAAVA (<https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk>).
- 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. For details, please refer to the website of Civil Service Bureau (CSB) (<https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/qual/333.html>)

32.	If I am holding non-local qualifications, will I be eligible to apply for a local teaching post?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons wishing to join the education profession should possess the required academic and/or professional qualifications. For more information, please visit the EDB website (<a href="https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/teacher/qualification-on-training-development/qualification/index.html">https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/teacher/qualification-on-training-development/qualification/index.html</a>)</li> <li>For persons holding non-local qualifications, they should approach the 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>
<b>XI. Local Recognition – Employment</b>		
33.	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 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 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>
34.	After the HKDSE has been put in place since the launching of senior secondary academic structure, what is the change 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 current academic structure, 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 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 website (<a href="http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html">http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html</a>).</li> </ul>

35.	What are the impacts of the current academic structure on appointment to civil service posts with entry requirements set at Form 5 or below?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the current academic structure, 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 current academic structure is accepted as meeting the requirement of completion of Form 1 to Form 5 correspondingly under the old academic structure.</li> </ul>
36.	How would the EDB and HKEAA facilitate recognition of the HKDSE by Hong Kong employers?	<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. Details are available at HKEAA website (<a href="http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/the_reporting_system/SRR/">http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/the_reporting_system/SRR/</a>).</li> <li>• The EDB and the HKEAA will continue to jointly promote employers' understanding of the standards-referenced reporting system and the typical performance at each level.</li> <li>• For details, please refer to EDB "New Academic Structure Web Bulletin" (<a href="https://334.edb.hkedcity.net/new/en/employer.php">https://334.edb.hkedcity.net/new/en/employer.php</a>)</li> </ul>