

**EDUCATION BUREAU
CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO. 99/2025**

From: Secretary for Education

To: Supervisors and Heads of secondary schools
(excluding English Schools
Foundation schools and international schools)

Ref.: EDB 1125-2035-8060-9040-00011-P001

Date: 6 June 2025

**The Results Release Day of
the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination on 16 July 2025**

Summary

This circular memorandum aims to introduce the information and support measures for Secondary 6 (S6) students and related stakeholders provided by the Education Bureau (EDB) so as to assist schools to prepare for the results release day of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination on 16 July 2025.

Details

2. To help S6 students continue with further studies and/ or work, schools are advised to prepare for the results release and support their students continuously prior to and after the HKDSE Examination results release day.

3. The EDB has updated the content of the “Designated Webpage for Secondary 6 Students” website and its “Reminders for 2025 HKDSE Exam and Exam Results Release” infographics to provide S6 students, parents and schools with the latest information on multiple pathways and important details on support and counselling services. Moreover, S6 students and parents can search for matching local programme information including degrees, sub-degrees, the Diploma of Applied Education, etc. at the “e-Navigator” website or the “e-Navigator” mobile application as downloaded via smartphone in formulating appropriate plans for further studies.

4. For details of preparation work for the results release day and the multiple pathways for S6 students, please refer to **Annex**. For the arrangements of the HKDSE Examination results release, please refer to the latest announcement on the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) website (www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/).



Enquiries

5. For enquiries, please contact Ms Ulrica CHOI of the Council and Secondary Section 2, Curriculum Development Institute of the EDB on 2892 6460.





Ms Anita HO
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Heads of Sections

Preparation for the 2025 HKDSE Examination Results Release Day and Multiple Pathways for S6 Students

1. Preparation for the 2025 HKDSE Examination results release day


The EDB provides S6 students, parents and schools with support measures as below to facilitate their early preparation for the results release day.

- *“Designated Webpage for Secondary 6 Students”*: S6 students and parents can obtain the latest information on the exam results release day, further studies in local/ non-local institutions, multiple pathways, counselling and support services, etc. at this one-stop website (www.edb.gov.hk/s6/en) and its “Reminders for 2025 HKDSE Exam and Exam Results Release” infographics. 
- *“e-Navigator”*: S6 students and parents can input their predicted or actual HKDSE Examination results at this website or mobile application (<https://enavigator.edb.hkedcity.net/main/index.php?lang=en>) to search for matching local programme information including degrees, sub-degrees, the Diploma of Applied Education, etc. to formulate appropriate plans for further studies. 
- *Parents’ Seminar on “Get Prepared for the HKDSE Examination Results Release - the Latest Information on Multiple Pathways”*: To provide updates on multiple pathways to parents of S6 students, the EDB will organise this online parents’ seminar (conducted in Cantonese only) on 10 June 2025. Relevant presentation slides and video clips will be uploaded to the “One-stop Portal on Articulation to Multiple Pathways • Transition to Senior Secondary and Post-secondary Education” website (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/amp/en>) in late June 2025 for reference. 
- *“Leaflet on Understanding Multiple Pathways at a Glance”*: e-version available at the “Concourse for Self-financing Post-secondary Education” website (<https://www.cspe.edu.hk/en/Resources-CareerGuidance.html>) to provide S6 students with the latest information on career guidance and multiple pathways for further studies. 

Telephone enquiry services operated by the HKEAA, the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) Office and other non-governmental organisations are available in July 2025. For details, please refer to the “Counselling and Support Services” on the “Designated Webpage for Secondary 6 Students” website.

Schools are strongly advised to provide their students and parents with advice and updated information on the support measures available through different channels prior to and after the results release day in July.


2. Multiple pathways for S6 students in 2025

Item	Information
2.1 Articulation to local degree programmes	
Admission requirements for local undergraduate programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general entrance requirements (GER) of University Grants Committee-funded undergraduate programmes are set at the Level of “332A” in the four core subjects in the HKDSE Examination (i.e. Level 3 in Chinese Language and English Language, Level 2 in Mathematics and “Attained” in Citizenship and Social Development), plus Level 2 or 3 in two elective subjects. In addition to the GER, institutions may also set other admission requirements in consideration of the nature and needs of specific programmes such as designated/ priority subjects, total number of elective subjects, required results in specific subject(s). For details, please visit the websites of respective institutions. Regarding details of the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS), please visit the JUPAS website (www.jupas.edu.hk/en).  For non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students who have fulfilled the specified circumstances¹, all institutions will continue to accept alternative Chinese qualifications including those under Applied Learning Chinese (ApL(C)) (for NCS students), General Certificate of Education (GCE) Examination, General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) Examination and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Examination.

¹ The specified circumstances refer to:


(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 local schools.

For details, please visit the JUPAS website (<https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/application-procedures-information/application-information/alternative-qualifications-in-chinese-language-acl/>).


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Besides, students may also pursue undergraduate programmes offered by self-financing institutions. Their entrance requirements include Level of “332A” in the four core subjects in the HKDSE Examination (i.e. Level 3 in Chinese Language and English Language, Level 2 in Mathematics and “Attained” in Citizenship and Social Development), plus Level 2 or 3 in at least one elective subject. Further details are available at “Information Portal for Accredited Post-secondary Programmes” (iPASS) (www.ipass.gov.hk). 
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2.2 Articulation to Mainland higher education institutions




Admission to Mainland higher education institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can continue to be exempted from taking the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities on the Mainland through the Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions (“Admission Scheme”). The 145 Mainland higher education institutions participating in the “Admission Scheme” for the 2025/26 academic year will admit Hong Kong students based on their HKDSE Examination results. The minimum entrance requirement for admission to the institutions participating in the “Admission Scheme” is “332 A”, i.e. Level 3 in Chinese Language and English Language, Level 2 in Mathematics and “Attained” in Citizenship and Social Development. Institutions may adopt an alternative minimum entrance requirement for students nominated under the School Principal Nomination Scheme, i.e. “Attained” in Citizenship and Social Development and a total score of 8 or above in the other three core subjects (i.e. Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics) among which none of them is below 2. The online application and confirmation were completed respectively last December and in February this year. Institutions will announce admission results and conduct supplementary enrolment according to the enrolment situation tentatively in late July.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the latest details of the “Admission Scheme” and the related Guidelines/ Handbook (Chinese version only), please refer to the EDB website (www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/postsecondary/policy-doc/pilot-scheme.html). 
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2.3 Articulation to local sub-degree programmes, Vocational Training Council (VTC) programmes and appointment in the civil service

(a)	<p>Articulation arrangements & curriculum design for Associate Degrees, Higher Diplomas and VTC programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be about 27 200 places available for admission to sub-degree programmes (including around 9 000 subsidised Higher Diploma places to be offered by the VTC which are covered below) for the 2025/26 academic year. Students may also pursue other further education programmes under the multiple entry and multiple exit pathways which best suit their aspirations and abilities. The VTC will offer around 14 500 places in the 2025/26 academic year, including Bachelor’s Degree, Higher Diploma, Diploma of Foundation Studies, Diploma of Vocational Education, and hospitality and culinary-related Diploma/ Certificate programmes. For details and latest information on the above programmes, please refer to the “Concourse for Self-financing Post-secondary Education” website (www.cspe.edu.hk/en). 
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(b)	Diploma of Applied Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diploma of Applied Education Programme provides an alternative pathway for S6 school leavers as well as adult learners aged 21 or above to obtain a formal qualification to pursue employment and further study. Students can apply for admission to the full-time programme for the 2025/26 academic year through a web-based application system at www.dae.edu.hk (Chinese version only) by 4 pm, 14 July 2025. The latest details of the programme and application procedure are available at the above application website (www.dae.edu.hk) and the “Diploma of Applied Education Programme” website of the EDB (www.edb.gov.hk/en/edu-system/other-education-program/diploma%20of%20applied%20education/index.html).  
(c)	Apprenticeship Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S6 school leavers may choose to join as apprentices to undergo normally 3 to 4 years of systematic work-cum-study training at employer’s companies and VTC institutions from various trades in engineering, information technology, transportation and logistics, healthcare services, creative industries, testing and certification, hotel operations and Chinese Cuisine, etc. During the apprenticeship, the apprentices will be fully subsidised by their employers to study relevant certificate, diploma or higher diploma so as to acquire recognised qualifications. At the same time, apprentices can also acquire professional trade skills and practical experience from workplaces. On top of the stable salary, eligible apprentices will also receive a monthly training allowance of HK\$1,000 for up to three years. Further details are available at the website of the Office of the Director of Apprenticeship of VTC (apprenticeship.vtc.edu.hk). Some employers may support their apprentices in joining the VTC Earn and Learn Scheme (The Scheme). Apart from the above benefits, eligible apprentices will also be provided with additional financial subsidies up to the amount of HK\$120,800. Details are available on the Scheme website (www.vtc.edu.hk/earnlearn).  

(d)	Qualification requirements for civil service appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has accepted the results in the HKDSE Examination for civil service appointment purposes with effect from 20 July 2012. Details are available at the website of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) (https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/info/2170.html).  • The Government announced in September 2023 and May 2025 respectively that the HKDSE Examination results of “Attained” in the Citizenship and Social Development (as from the 2024 HKDSE Examination) and the specific examination grades / language proficiency levels attained in Category C Other Languages (OL) examinations² (as from the 2025 HKDSE Examination) are accepted as meeting the entry requirements of relevant civil service grades. For details, please refer to the press release concerned (https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/qual/2786.html).  • For the arrangement of accepting results in the HKDSE Examination as equivalent to the results in the Common Recruitment Examination, please refer to the CSB website (www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/cre/949.html). 
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2.4 Arrangements for repeaters

Arrangements for repeaters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EDB reiterates that repetition is not a desirable choice as multiple pathways are provided for the secondary school leavers. However, schools are allowed to admit S6 students of their own or from other schools who wish to repeat S6, should the repetition rate of the whole school not exceed the 5% repeater quota. Under normal circumstances, schools should not allow too many students to repeat at a certain level. A list of schools admitting S6 repeaters from other schools, subjects offered and admission requirements will be released in mid-July at the Life Planning Information Website of the EDB (lifeplanning.edb.gov.hk/en/) and the “Designated Webpage for Secondary 6 Students” website (www.edb.gov.hk/s6/en). 
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² Specific examination grades / language proficiency levels of HKDSE Category C OL subjects refer to -

- **A2 or above** (i.e. A2, B1, B2, C1 & C2 (highest)) in French / German / Spanish;

- **N3 or above** (i.e. N3, N2 & N1 (highest)) in Japanese; and

- **TOPIK II Grade 3 or above** (i.e. TOPIK II Grade 3, 4, 5 & 6 (highest)) in Korean.

3. Cheer Up Videos

To encourage S6 students to maintain a positive attitude towards the results release day, the Curriculum Development Institute of the EDB has launched a series of cheer up videos which have been uploaded in batches to the “Cheer Up Zone” on the “Designated Webpage for Secondary 6 Students” website (<https://s6.edb.edcity.hk/en/cheerup.php>).



List of participating guests in the cheer up videos (as arranged in their order of appearance):

“Exam Preparation”

Principal LI Kin-man	Member of Curriculum Development Council (CDC)
Mr YIP Shiu-yuen	2024 HKDSE Exam Champion
Miss NG Cheuk-yan	HK Para Swimmer
Ms HO Yuen-kei	HK Boccia Athlete
Mr CHIU Siu-leong	Chairperson of CDC-HKEAA Committee on Physical Education

“Exam Results Release” ^

Professor TSANG Po-keung, Eric	Registrar of The Education University of Hong Kong
Mr WONG Ching-hong	2024 HKDSE Exam Champion
Mr MOHAMMAD Abdul Rehman	2024 HKDSE Exam Candidate
Mr YU Yu-yeung	2024 HKDSE Exam Candidate
Mr PANG Ching-ka	2024 HKDSE Exam Candidate
Mr YIU Ho-man	Graduate of Post-secondary institution
Miss CHAN Wing-ki	Graduate of Post-secondary institution

^ Videos to be launched in early July