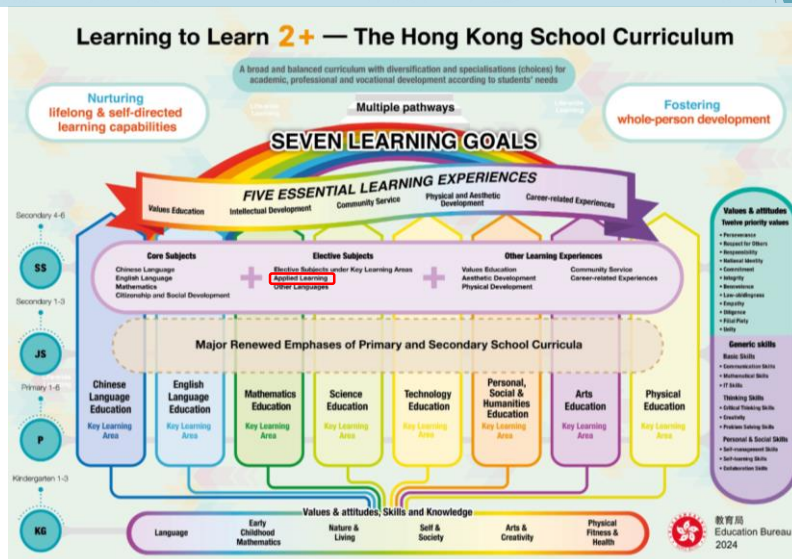# Applied Learning Courses

Applied Learning Section
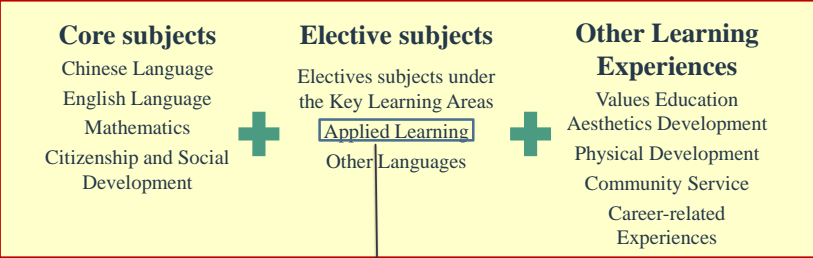**Curriculum Development Institute**
Education Bureau

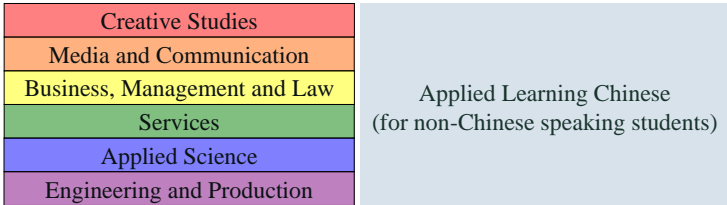
The School Curriculum Framework

Note:
The major renewed emphases of primary and secondary school curricula cover: values education, good use of learning time, STEAM education and media and information literacy (MIL), etc.

Components of the Senior Secondary Curriculum

Core subjects	Elective subjects	Other Learning Experiences
Chinese Language	Electives subjects under the Key Learning Areas	Values Education
English Language	Applied Learning	Aesthetics Development
Mathematics	Other Languages	Physical Development
Citizenship and Social Development		Community Service
		Career-related Experiences

Six Area of Studies

Creative Studies	
Media and Communication	
Business, Management and Law	Applied Learning Chinese
Services	(for non-Chinese speaking students)
Applied Science	
Engineering and Production	

List of Applied Learning Courses
（2025-27 Cohort；2027 HKDSE）

應用學習課程一覽表
（2025-27 年度；2027 年香港中學文憑考試）
List of Applied Learning Courses
(2025-27 Cohort; 2027 HKDSE)

學習範疇 Area of Studies	課程組別 Course Cluster	科目代碼 Subject Code	課程 Course	課程提供機構 Course Provider	教學語言 Medium of Instruction	課程費用 Course Fee
創意學習 Creative Studies	設計學習 Design Studies	730	文創產品設計 Cultural and Creative Product Design	VTC		
		676	時裝形象設計 Fashion Image Design	VTC		
		689	室內與展覽設計 Interior and Exhibition Design	VTC		
	媒體藝術 Media Arts	688	電腦遊戲及動畫設計 Computer Game and Animation Design	VTC		
		707	數碼漫畫與插畫製作 Digital Comic Design and Production	HKU (SPACE)		
		710	流行音樂製作 Popular Music Production	HKCT		
	表演藝術 Performing Arts	599	舞台探索 — 舞出新機 Taking a Chance on Dance	HKAPA		
		677	台前幕後 — 劇藝縱橫 The Essentials of Theatre Arts	HKAPA		
傳意與傳播 Media and Communication	電影、電視與廣播學 Films, TV and Broadcasting Studies	702	影視戲劇及電台製作 Digital Media and Radio Production	HKU (SPACE)		
			電影製作 Film Production	VTC		
	媒體製作及公共關係 Media Production and Public Relations	719	數碼廣告 Digital Advertising	HKU (SPACE)		
			多媒體故事 Multimedia Storytelling	HKBU (SCE)		
			公關及多媒體傳訊 PR and Multimedia Communication	HKCT		
	語言與文化 Language and Culture	715	應用學習（職業英語）— 商業傳意 Applied Learning (Vocational English) – English Communication	VTC		
		723	應用學習（職業英語）— 服務業應用英語 Applied Learning (Vocational English) – English for Service Professionals	HKCT		
		728	創意英語 — 生物與媒體 Creative English – Bio and Media	HKICT		
		736	實用翻譯（漢英） Practical Translation (CHI/ENG)	LIFE		
		731	應用日語及日本文化 Applied Japanese and Japanese Culture	LIFE		

學習範疇 Area of Studies	課程組別 Course Cluster	科目代碼 Subject Code	課程 Course	課程提供機構 Course Provider	教學語言 Medium of Instruction	課程費用 Course Fee
商業、管理及法律 Business, Management and Law	商業學 Business Studies	732	生活日語及日本文化 Everyday Japanese and Japanese Culture	HKU (SPACE)		18.00
		725	韓國語言及文化 Korean Language and Culture	LIFE		18.60
		693	商業數據應用 Data Application for Business	HKIIT		10.70
		734	創業與創新 Innovation and Entrepreneurship	HKU (SPACE)		20.54
		730	金融科技入門 Introduction to Fintech	HKU (SPACE)		18.00
		737	現代物流學 Modern Logistics Studies	UOWCHK		18.00
	法律學 Legal Studies	672	香港執法實務 Law Enforcement in Hong Kong	HKBU (SCE)		16.80
服務 Services	餐飲服務及管理 Food Services and Management	688	酒店及咖啡室營運 Pâtisserie and Café Operations			19.50
		616	西式食品製作 Western Cuisine	VTC		16.93
	款待服務 Hospitality Services	709	機場客運大樓運作 Airport Passenger Terminal Operations	HKICT		21.50
		615	酒店營運 Hotel Operations	VTC		16.98
	個人及社區服務 Personal and Community Services	704	幼兒教育 Child Care and Development	CICE		16.80
		665	幼兒照護 Child Care and Education	VTC		16.23
		610	美容學基礎 Fundamental Cosmetology	CICE		15.00
		733	老年科技與服務 Gerontech and Services	HKICT		19.80
應用科學 Applied Science	食物科學 Food Science	735	食品科技與營養 Food Technology and Nutrition	VTC		18.50
		592	中醫藥基礎 Foundation in Chinese Medicine	HKU (SPACE)		17.00
	醫療科學與健康護理 Medical Science and Health Care	618	健康護理實務 Health Care Practice	CICE		17.25
		660	醫療化驗科學 Medical Laboratory Science	HKU (SPACE)		18.00
		713	復康護理實務 Rehabilitation Care Practice	CICE		18.00
	心理學 Psychology	662	應用心理學 Applied Psychology	LIFE		18.60
		691	實用心理學 Practical Psychology	HKBU (SCE)		17.35
	運動 Sports	604	運動及體適能教練 Exercise and Fitness Coaching	LIFE		15.20
		627	運動科學與健康體適能 Exercise Science and Health Fitness	HKBU (SCE)		20.00

學習範疇 Area of Studies	課程組別 Course Cluster	科目代碼 Subject Code	課程 Course	課程提供機構 Course Provider	教學語言 Medium of Instruction	課程費用 Course Fee
工程及生產 Engineering and Production	資訊工程 Information Engineering	727	智能數碼建築 Digital Construction	VTC		15,100
	土木、電機及機械工程 Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering	683	電機與能源工程 Electrical and Energy Engineering	VTC		18,260
		722	人工智能與機械人 AI and Robotics	HKU (SPACE)		18,600
		684	電腦鑑證科技 Computer Forensic Technology	HKU (SPACE)		15,700
		738	網絡安全 Cybersecurity	HKCT		19,500
		714	電競科技與管理 eSports Technology and Management	HKU (SPACE)		18,600
		706	資訊科技基礎 Tech Basics	HKBU (SCE)		19,800
	服務工程 Services Engineering	640	航空學 Aviation Studies	HKU (SPACE)		18,500
		698	鐵路學 Railway Studies	HKCT		19,000
應用學習中文（非華語學生適用） Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)		695	商業服務中文 Chinese in Business Service	PolyU (SPEED)		46,500
		700	實用情境中文 Chinese in Practical Context	HKBU (SCE)		46,500
		699	實用中文 Practical Chinese	HKCT		42,000

備註 NOTE：

List of Applied Learning Courses
（2025-27 Cohort；2027 HKDSE）

Area of Studies	Course Cluster	No. of courses
Creative Studies	• Design Studies • Media Arts • Performing Arts	8
Media and Communication	• Films, TV and Broadcasting Studies • Media Production and Public Relations • Language and Culture	13
Business, Management and Law	• Business Studies • Legal Studies	5
Services	• Food Services and Management • Hospitality Services • Personal and Community Services	8
Applied Science	• Food Science • Medical Science and Health Care • Psychology • Sports	9
Engineering and Production	• Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering • Information Engineering • Services Engineering	9
Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students)		3
Total no. of courses		**55**

Applied Learning : Learning through Doing

Taking a Chance on Dance
Learning through performing on stage

Film Production
Learning through filming

Law Enforcement in Hong Kong
Learning from sharing by practitioners

Pâtisserie and Café Operations
Learning through making pâtisserie

Health Care Practice
Learning through simulated nursing ward

Aviation Studies
Learning in the flight simulator

ApL ─ A Valued Senior Secondary Elective Subject

- Focuses on practical learning elements linked to **broad vocational and professional fields with dual emphasis on theory and practice**

- **Complements subjects under Category A (subjects under the Key Learning Areas) and Category C (Other Languages)** to form a flexible subject combination that helps enrich students' subject choices to cater for learner diversity

- Develops students' **knowledge, generic skills, proper values and attitudes** through providing simulated or authentic contexts, as well as enhance students' understanding of vocational and professional education and training (VPET), preparing them for further studies and work in future

- **ApL is NOT pre-vocational training**

Applied the learning

ApL ─ A Valued Senior Secondary Elective Subject (Cont.)

- The duration of ApL course is **180 contact hours**; The duration of Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) ("ApL(C)") course is 270 contact hours

- **Category B subjects** of the HKDSE Examination

- ApL courses are **developed by course providers and delivered by tutors** recognised by the course providers

- There is **no public examination** for ApL subjects. Assessments are conducted by course providers while HKEAA is responsible for moderation of assessment results
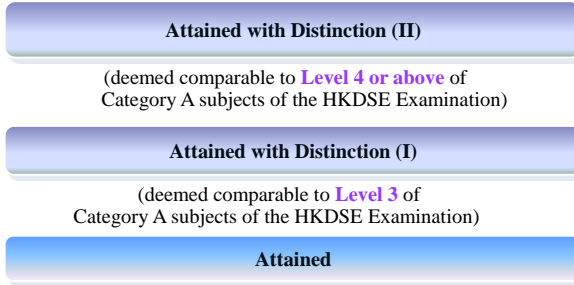
Exploring the future

Recognition

• The reporting of students' performance in ApL subjects is by three levels

Attained with Distinction (II)

(deemed comparable to **Level 4 or above** of
Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination)

Attained with Distinction (I)

(deemed comparable to **Level 3** of
Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination)

Attained

• For ApL(C), students' performance is reported as "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction".

Recognition (Cont.)

Qualifications Framework (QF)

• In addition to the HKDSE qualification, students who have successfully completed ApL courses that are registered in the Qualifications Register (as certificate programmes at QF Level 3) will obtain **QF certificates** issued by the course providers.

• **ApL(C) is pegged at QF Level 1 to Level 3, and ApL(VocE) at QF Level 2 to Level 3.** Students taking ApL(C) / ApL(VocE) will obtain the respective QF certificate(s) issued by the course providers upon meeting the assessment and attendance requirements of different QF levels of the courses.

Category A and Category B Elective Subjects

	Category A (KLA Subjects)	Category B (ApL Subjects)
Learning content	Around 20 subjects under different key learning areas	• Around 55 courses under 6 Areas of Studies • Focus on practical learning elements linked to broad vocational and professional fields • Dual emphasis on theory and practice
Lesson time	250 hours	180 hours
Mode of assessment	Public examination	No public examination
Reporting of students' performance	Level 1 to 5**	• Attained • Attained with Distinction (I) • Attained with Distinction (II)

Further Studies

Student admission in tertiary institutions has followed the principle of institutional autonomy.

Undergraduate programmes
- Tertiary institutions value the learning experiences that students acquire in ApL.
- ApL subjects are recognised as **elective subjects, or considered for award of extra bonus or additional information**, varying by individual institutions, faculties or programmes.

Sub-degree programmes
- The minimum entrance requirements for Associate Degree or Higher Diploma programmes are **Level 2 in five HKDSE subjects (including Chinese Language and English Language)**. Students are allowed to use ApL subjects .

ApL(C)
- For the purpose of admission to post-secondary education programmes, ApL(C) is in general **accepted as an alternative Chinese Language qualification, but it is not considered an elective subject**. Currently, University Grants Committee-funded universities and most post-secondary institutions accept ApL(C) as an alternative qualification in Chinese Language for the admission of NCS students with "**Attained**" as the minimum grade required.

*Realising aspirations*

For Work

The Civil Service Bureau

- accepts students' ApL results in the HKDSE (including "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction", up to a maximum of two ApL subjects) in civil service appointments

- accepts "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction" in ApL(C) as meeting the Chinese language proficiency requirements of relevant civil service ranks

Expressing our talents

Latest Development

- The number of ApL courses has increased from 41 for the 2020-22 cohort to the latest 55 for the 2025-27 cohort.
- New courses this year include "Cultural and Creative Product Design", "Modern Logistics Studies" and "Cybersecurity".
- After the implementation of the optimising measures of the four senior secondary core subjects, there has been a marked increase in the number of student enrolment in ApL courses from about 5 400 for the 2021-23 cohort to about 9 400 for the 2024-26 cohort, reflecting that ApL courses are becoming more popular.
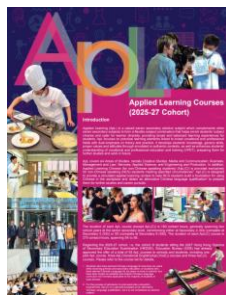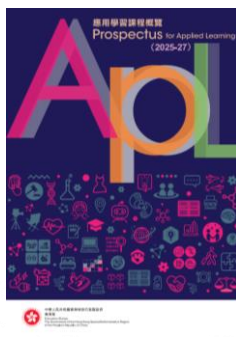
Posters/Prospectus/Leaflet for ApL

Taking Applied Learning Courses

How long does an ApL course last? Which year level of students can apply for the ApL courses?

- In general, each course spans two years at the senior secondary level
  – Application at S3: Commencing at S4 (to be completed at S5)
  – Application at S4: Commencing at S5 (to be completed at S6)

How ApL lessons are arranged?

- Schools may adopt the following two non-exclusive modes in implementing ApL courses to suit their school contexts:
  – **Mode 1:** Lessons are held mainly at the venues of course providers on Saturdays and are taught by the tutors who are recognised by the course providers
  – **Mode 2:** Schools offering ApL courses on their own. Lessons can be held on weekdays or Saturdays and are taught by the tutors who are recognised by the course providers. Subject to the facilities and equipment required for the individual courses, lessons can be held in schools offering ApL courses and/or at the venues of the course providers

Remarks: The ApL courses and year levels to be offered are subject to school's decision.

How do students choose ApL courses?

- Students should have some ideas if the learning content and assessment requirements of the ApL courses before making a decision to take them as elective subjects

- Students should choose suitable ApL courses in accordance with their **interests, abilities, and aspirations**

Do students need to pay the course fees for ApL courses?

- Students in aided, government and caput schools, schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme and special schools with senior secondary classes studying the senior secondary curriculum prepared by the Curriculum Development Council and published for use in schools by the EDB will be fully subsidised by the EDB to take ApL courses

Application Procedures

- ApL courses for the 2025-27 cohort are 2027 HKDSE subjects

- Students intending to take ApL courses for the 2025-27 cohort (i.e. the cohort of students sitting the 2027 HKDSE) can commence their study at S4 in the 2024/25 school year (remarks: relevant application procedures had been completed and the courses had commenced in September / October 2024) or commence their study at S5 in the 2025/26 school year (students should submit application via schools from 24 February 2025 to 3 April 2025)

- Students must apply through their school. Each student can take a maximum of TWO ApL courses as elective subjects throughout his/ her studies at the senior secondary level (NCS students meeting specified circumstances (see remarks) can also take one ApL(C) course**)**

Remarks: Students who have learned Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or students who have learned Chinese Language for six 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.

ApL Course-related Activities, Reference Materials and Publicity

Taster Programmes of ApL

- Course introduction, demonstration and workshops will be provided by course providers to enable students to experience the learning of ApL courses and ApL(C) courses; and provide students with a taste of the related industries / professions.
- Target students: S2 , S3 and S4 students

ApL Extension Programmes

- Duration of each extension programme is 60 hours to provide add-on learning opportunities with workplace experience on top of regular ApL courses
- To help students get better prepared for career development and further explore their career aspirations
- Target students: for S5 and S6 students taking Applied Learning (ApL) courses
- Period: Jul – Aug each year
- The EDB will fully subsidies the programme fee (Students need to meet the attendance requirements)

(https://emm.edcity.hk/media/1_r2aozj71)

Education and Careers Expo 2025

- **The ApL Section participated in the Education and Careers Expo 2025** from 16 to 19 January 2025 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
- A booth counter was arranged in the Education Zone to **promote Applied Learning**
- **Student ambassadors shared** with visitors their **personal stories** on how ApL had helped them explore their career aspirations and the path of lifelong learning

Promotional Materials

ApL Promotional Videos

Applied Learning
Unleashing potential through diversified learning

Education and Careers Expo 2024

ApL Online Exhibition

ApL graduates' success stories

Taster Programmes of Applied Learning

Taster Programmes of Applied Learning

Applied Learning Extension Programmes for Workplace Experience

Applied Learning Extension Programmes for Workplace Experience

API

Success Stories of Graduates

	Name of student	ApL course
1	Angela	Medical Laboratory Science
2	Eric	Film and Video
3	Frances	Introduction to Theatre Arts
4	Henry	Western Cuisine
5	Benny	Railway Studies
6	Kyle	Health Care Practice

Roles of Parents

Roles of Parents

Understand the features of different courses

Accompany, support and encouragement

Understand your child's interests, abilities and aspirations

Opinion/ experience sharing

Help your child make informed choices and choose suitable ApL courses

THANK YOU!

ApL
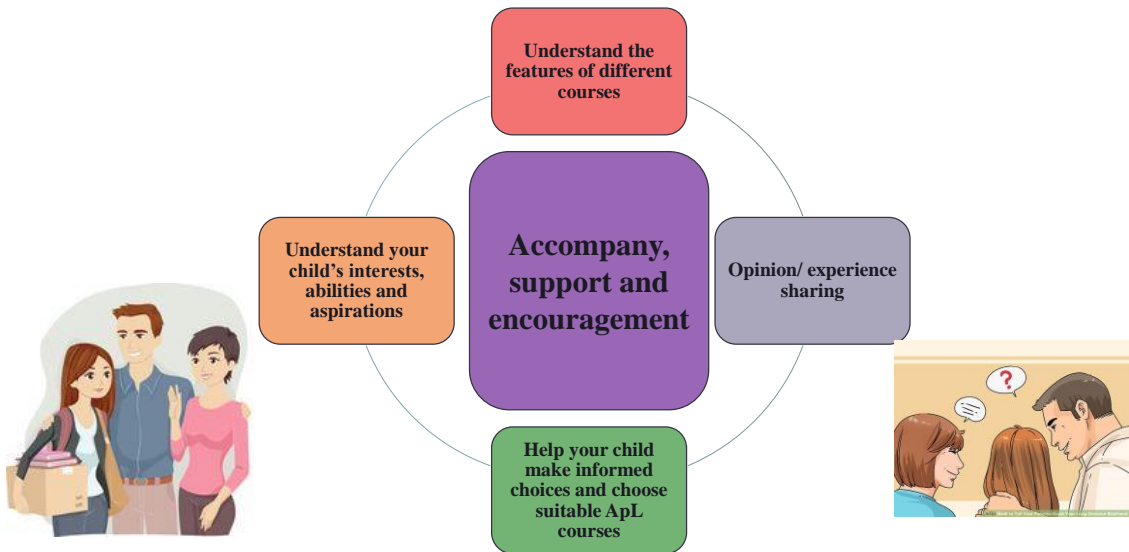
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