

Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE)

Mr Issac Mak

**Senior Manager - Assessment Development
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority**



HKDSE

- Since the inception of the HKDSE in **2012**, it has been an important credential for senior secondary students aiming to pursue their further studies locally or abroad, or to embark on a career.
- Nearly **900,000** candidates entered the HKDSE over the years, including **58,500** candidates in the **2026 HKDSE**.



The Edge of the HKDSE

- Embracing Hong Kong's unique characteristics of **multilingualism** and **inclusiveness**
- Allowing candidates to take the examinations in **Chinese** (Traditional or Simplified Chinese) or in **English**
- Providing a **wide-ranging, balanced, flexible, and diversified** curriculum that includes both **academic subjects** and **Applied Learning subjects**, as well as **Other Languages subjects**, to meet the diverse needs and interests of candidates (including non-Chinese and non-local candidates)



HKDSE Certificate

For candidates achieving, in at least one subject:

Level 1 or above
Category A subject

Attained or above
Category B subject

Category C subject*

**Starting from the 2025 HKDSE, candidates have to take the stipulated language examinations administered in Hong Kong by the official organisations, which are the official providers of the language examinations concerned. Candidates' results obtained in these examinations at the stipulated minimum proficiency level or above will be included in the HKDSE Category C results.*

香港考試及評核局
HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
香港中學文憑考試
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

茲證明
This is to certify that

陳太文
CHAN TAI MAN

參加 2025 年香港中學文憑考試，成績如下：
sat the 2025 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination and achieved the following results:

科目 Subject	科目等級 Subject Level / Grade	分部等級 Component Level
甲類學科 Category A Subjects		
中國語文 閱讀與綜合能力 寫作	CHINESE LANGUAGE Reading and Integrated Skills Writing	5(Five) 5(Five) 4(Four)
英語語文 閱讀 寫作 聆聽與綜合能力 說話	ENGLISH LANGUAGE Reading Writing Listening and Integrated Skills Speaking	3(Three) 3(Three) 2(Two) 3(Three) 3(Three)
數學 必修部分及延伸部分 (微積分與統計)	MATHEMATICS Compulsory Part & Extended Part (Calculus and Statistics)	4(Four) & 3(Three)
公民與社會發展	CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	達標 Attained
乙類學科 Category B Subjects		
時裝形象設計	FASHION IMAGE DESIGN	達標並表現優異(i) Attained with Distinction (i)
丙類學科 Category C Subjects		
註：成績將分開列在《香港中學文憑考試丙類學科 (其他語言科目) 證書》上。 Note: The results are reported separately in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination Category C Subjects (Other Languages Subjects) Certificate.		
科目總數 Total Number of Subjects	七 SEVEN	
身分證明文件號碼 Identification Document No.	Z000009(9)	考生編號 Candidate No. : 250000999

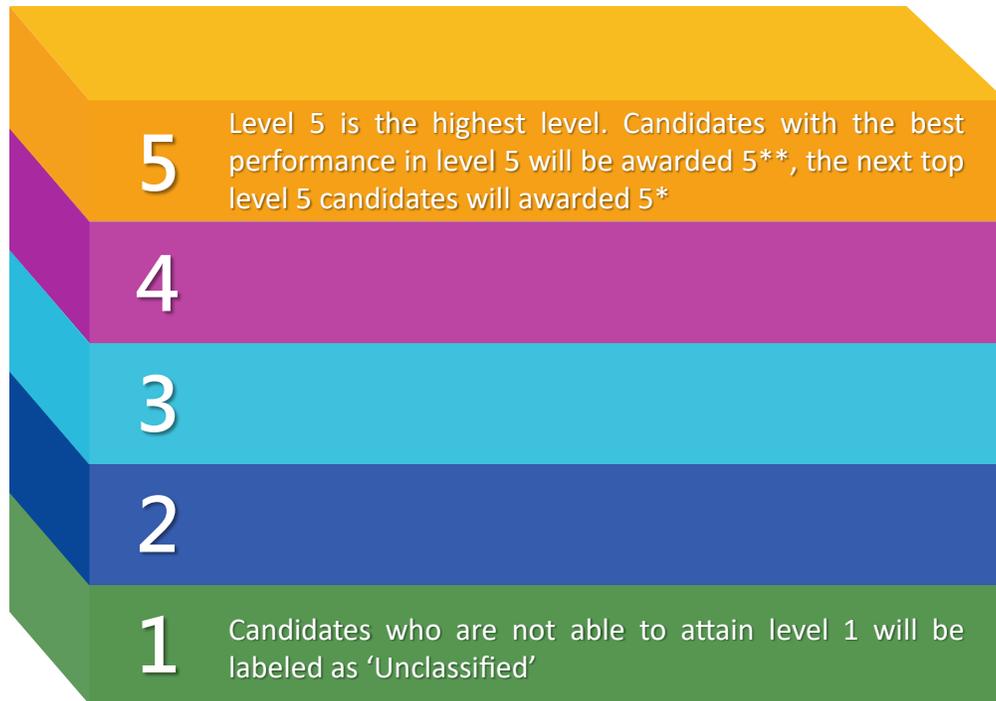
註釋見背頁
Explanatory Notes are printed overleaf

證書編號
Certificate No. : 25000001

魏向東 WEI Xiangdong
秘書長 Secretary General

The Reporting System - Category A Subjects

Performance of candidates in Category A subjects is reported in five levels*



Standards-referenced Reporting system:

- Candidates' levels are reported with reference to a set of explicit and fixed standards of performance
- **Level Descriptors** and **exemplars** are provided to indicate standards required for each level
- Facilitate tertiary institutions and employers to set appropriate entrance/ job requirements

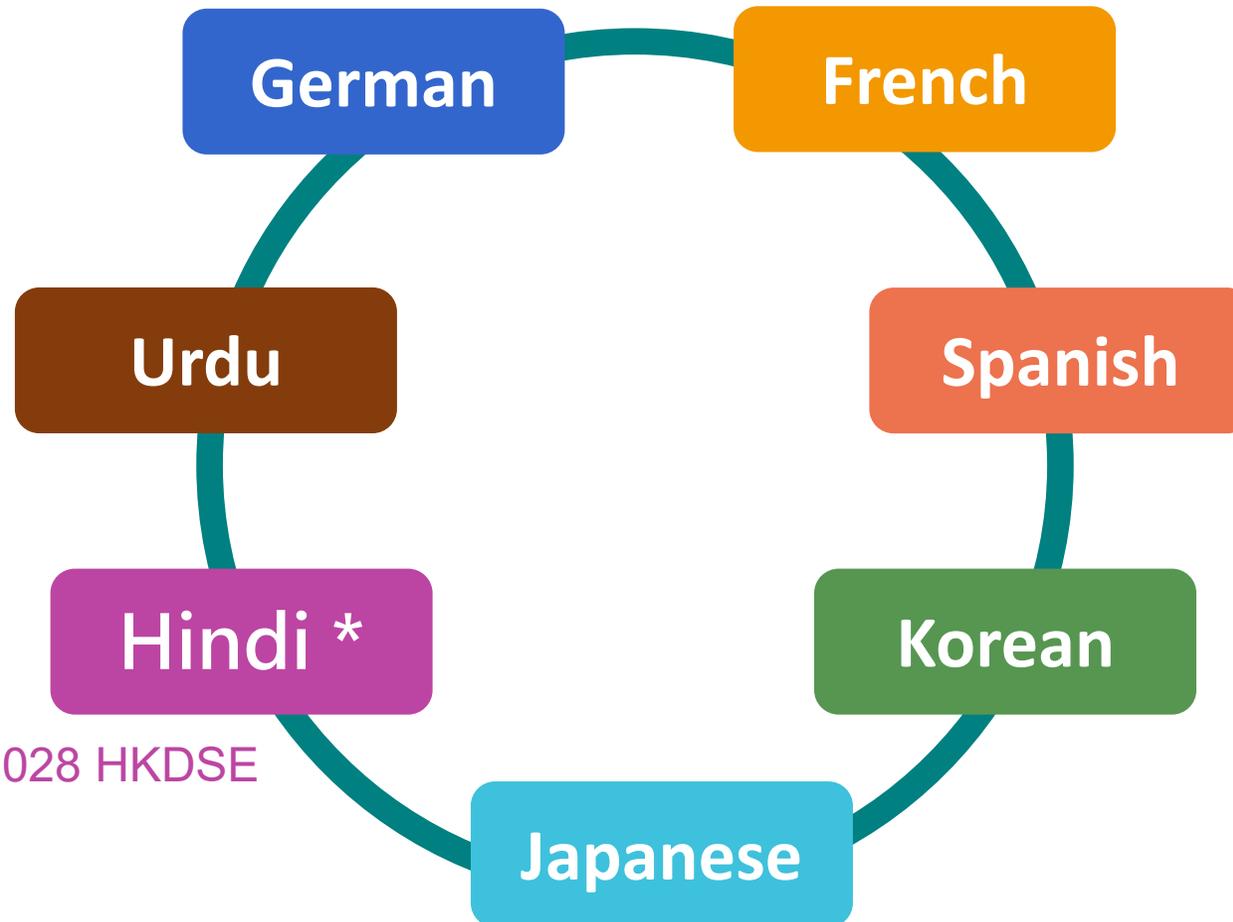
The results of Citizenship and Social Development are reported in one level: **Attained*

The Reporting System - Category B Subjects

Except for ApL Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students),
three levels of performance are reported:



Category C (Other Languages) Subjects



*starting from 2028 HKDSE

Category C (Other Languages) Subjects

- Candidates have to take the **stipulated language examinations** administered in Hong Kong by the **official organisations**.
- Candidates will have to **enroll directly** with the administrators of the stipulated language examinations and opt for the respective Category C subject during HKDSE registration.
- Candidates' results obtained in these examinations **at the stipulated proficiency level or above** will be included in the HKDSE Category C results.
- Candidates may take the language examinations **more than once within the two years preceding the HKDSE they sit** (for example, in the 2026 HKDSE, if a candidate submits his/her results at the time of application but subsequently attains a higher level in the language examination, he/she may submit the highest level achieved to the HKEAA by the deadline of February 28, 2026).

Details of the Examinations

Subject	French	German	Japanese	Korean	Spanish	Urdu	Hindi
Exam	Diplôme d'Études de Langue Française (DELF) Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF)	Goethe-Zertifikat	Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)	Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK)	Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE)	Urdu (International)	Advance Diploma in Hindi Examination
Exam provider (official organisation)	Alliance Française de Hong Kong (AFHK)	Goethe-Institut Hong Kong	Japan Foundation	National Institute for International Education (NIIED), Korea	Instituto Cervantes (Shanghái)	The Federal Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education (FBISE), Islamabad	Central Hindi Directorate
Exam administrator	Alliance Française de Hong Kong (AFHK)	Goethe-Institut Hong Kong	Society of Japanese Language Education, Hong Kong (SJLEHK)	NIIED, Korea Implementing agency: Korean International School & HKEAA	University of Wollongong (UOW) College HK Spanish World HK & other DELE exam centres that may open in the future in HK	FBISE, Islamabad	Central Hindi Directorate & Consulate General of India, Hong Kong and Macau SARs

Details of the Examinations

Subject	French	German	Japanese	Korean	Spanish	Urdu	Hindi
Language proficiency level to be accepted into the HKDSE results	A2 or above	A2 or above	N3 or above	TOPIK II: Grade 3 or above	A2 or above	Grade E or above	Pass or above
Exam component	Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking	Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary / Grammar), Reading, Listening	Listening, Reading, Writing	Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking	Reading and Writing, Essay Writing	Hindi Language and Sentence Structure, Comprehension and Functional Hindi, Internal Assessment
Exam administrator	March/April, November	April to June	July, December	April, July, October	May, November	April-May, September-October	May
Website	www.afhongkong.org/en/exams/delf-dalf/	https://www.goethe.de/ins/hon/en/spr/exams.html?wt_sc=hongkong_exam	www.japanese-edu.org.hk/zh/jlpt/jlpta.html	www.topik-hk.org/chi/index.asp	https://www.uowchk.edu.hk/study-at-uowchk/find-programmes/international-language-tests/diplomas-de-espaol-como-lengua-extranjera-dele/	https://fbise.edu.pk/hongkong_papers.php	https://www.chdpublication.education.gov.in/english/advance-diploma.php

Category A – Public Examinations

Written Exam

MC items

Short / data-based / structured questions

Essays

*Listening and Integrated Skills + Speaking Assessments

Applicable to the subject English Language only

Details: HKDSE Assessment Frameworks of each year's examination.



https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/assessment_framework/

Core Subjects

	Weighting of Written Examinations	Weighting of SBA
Chinese Language	85% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 (Reading) (40%) • Paper 2 (Writing) (45%) 	15%
English Language	85% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 (Reading) (20%) • Paper 2 (Writing) (25%) • Paper 3 (Listening & Integrated Skills) (30%) • Paper 4 (Speaking) (10%) 	15%
Mathematics Compulsory Part	100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 (Conventional questions) (65%) • Paper 2 (Multiple-choice questions) (35%) <p>A good mastery of Foundation Topics of the Compulsory Part is sufficient for candidates who perform well in the HKDSE Examination to attain up to Level 4.</p>	No SBA required
Citizenship and Social Development	100% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results reported will be either 'Attained' or 'Unattained' 	No IES required



Details: HKDSE Assessment Frameworks

www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/assessment_framework/

Category A: School-based Assessment (SBA)

- Assessments administered in schools and marked by the students' own teachers
- SBA scores awarded will count towards students' public assessment results

Advantages

Helps students understand their strengths and weaknesses through quality feedback from teachers

Emphasises the assessment of a wide range of abilities and offers a comprehensive appraisal of students' performance

Reduces dependence on the results of public examinations and boosts students' confidence and motivation to learn

How will fairness be ensured in SBA?

HKEAA provides detailed guidelines, assessment criteria, exemplars and professional development training to help teachers become familiar with the SBA

Majority of the assessments are conducted under close supervision of teachers

Moderate SBA marks submitted by different schools to iron out possible differences among schools in marking standards

Review samples of students' work and assessment records, provide feedback to schools

Candidates may be liable to disqualification from the subject concerned or the whole of the exam, or suffer a mark or grade penalty for proven plagiarism

HKDSE Category A Subjects: School Based Assessment (SBA)

12 Subjects with an SBA Component

Chinese Language	Chinese Literature	English Language	Literature in English
Health Management and Social Care	Information & Communication Technology	Technology and Living	Design & Applied Technology
Biology	Physics	Chemistry	Visual Arts



<https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/sba/introduction/>

Question Papers and Exam Report

HKDSE Question Papers are published every November

Introducing the assessment requirements of Category A Subjects

Question papers with marking schemes and comments on candidates' performance

The HKDSE Exam Report is published every December

Providing useful information and statistics related to the examinations to schools, students and the public at large



www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/exam_reports/

HKDSE Question Papers (Exemplars)

19. The table below shows the market shares of top four subscription video-on-demand (SVoD) service providers worldwide in March 2024.

SVoD service provider	Market share (%)
Netflix	18.8
Amazon Prime Video	17.7
Disney+	11.7
Tencent Video	10.6

Based on the above information, we can conclude that the market structure of the worldwide SVoD market in March 2024 could be regarded as _____ because _____.

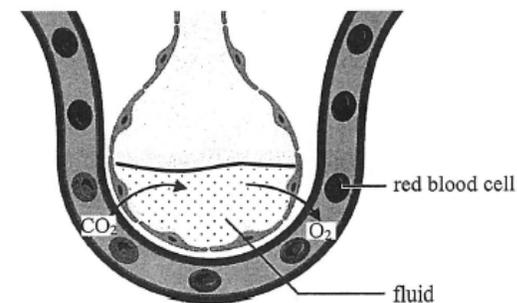
- A. monopolistic competition market information was imperfect
- B. monopolistic competition services provided by different service providers were heterogeneous
- C. oligopoly there were several dominant service providers in the market
- D. oligopoly the governments in different countries controlled the entry of service providers into their markets

2025 Biology Paper 1 Section B

6. The use of electronic cigarettes was initially considered a beneficial solution to quitting conventional cigarettes. However, electronic cigarettes consist of a heating device and a chamber with volatile liquid containing different chemicals. The heating element vapourises the liquid for inhaling. The inhaled vapour passes through the respiratory tract to the lungs, causing damage along its way.

- (a) Some chemicals in the volatile liquid are found to impair the ciliated epithelial cells of the respiratory tract. Explain how this would lead to severe coughing. (2 marks)

- (b) The schematic diagram below shows an air sac in the lung of an electronic cigarette user with lung inflammation caused by the inhaled chemicals:



- (i) Explain why there is an accumulation of fluid in the inflamed air sac. (3 marks)

5. (a) State one region/province that will co-host the 2025 National Games of China with Hong Kong.

(1 mark)

(b) Explain one economic benefit and one cultural benefit for Hong Kong to co-host the National Games of China.

Economic benefit: _____

Cultural benefit: _____

(2 marks)

2024 Physical Education Paper 1 Section B

2024 Technology and Living (Food Science and Technology) Paper 1

3. The Hong Kong Government launched the 'Night Vibes HK' campaign in September 2023.

(a) One measure of this campaign was to provide tourists with discount vouchers for use when having dinner in selected quality restaurants. Suggest two positive effects of this measure on the catering industry in Hong Kong. (2 marks)

(b) The following was suggested as a possible slogan to promote the 'Night Vibes HK' campaign:

*'Expand your options for after-work entertainment.
Experience relaxation and enjoyment like never before.'*

State and explain one advertising technique used in the above slogan. (2 marks)

Exemplars of Candidates' Works

Category A Subjects: English Language Paper 2 – 2023 Samples of Candidates' Performance

Level 5 exemplar 1

Part A

Pop-up Shop Application Form

Company Name: Planet Smart

A. Company Profile (Introduce your company):

Planet Smart is an environmentally-friendly company that aims to produce high quality products that would not only increase the quality of life of the citizens, but also the planet itself. Our eco-friendly products are specifically made to aid global problems such as deforestation and plastic waste. By expanding our company in various areas, such as setting up a pop-up shop inside the shopping centre, will not only promote and ~~increase~~ raise awareness on these devastating topics, but also ~~not~~ allow the general public to learn how to incorporate simple eco-friendly products into their lives. As the saying goes, 'A single step goes a long way.'



Category A: www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/subject_information/

Category B: www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/assessment/subject_information/category_b_subjects/

Category B Subjects: Interior Design – 2023 Samples of Student Performance



Quality Assurance Framework for the HKDSE

Safeguarding of Standards

To ensure that the standards of the examination papers are consistently upheld at the expected and required level

Compliance & Quality of Delivery

To ensure that the examinations are conducted in compliance with the established regulations and guidelines so that fairness and reliability can be maintained

HKDSE Recognition

To ensure that the data and results are processed and reported appropriately, at the necessary standards of reliability and integrity to achieve both local and international recognition

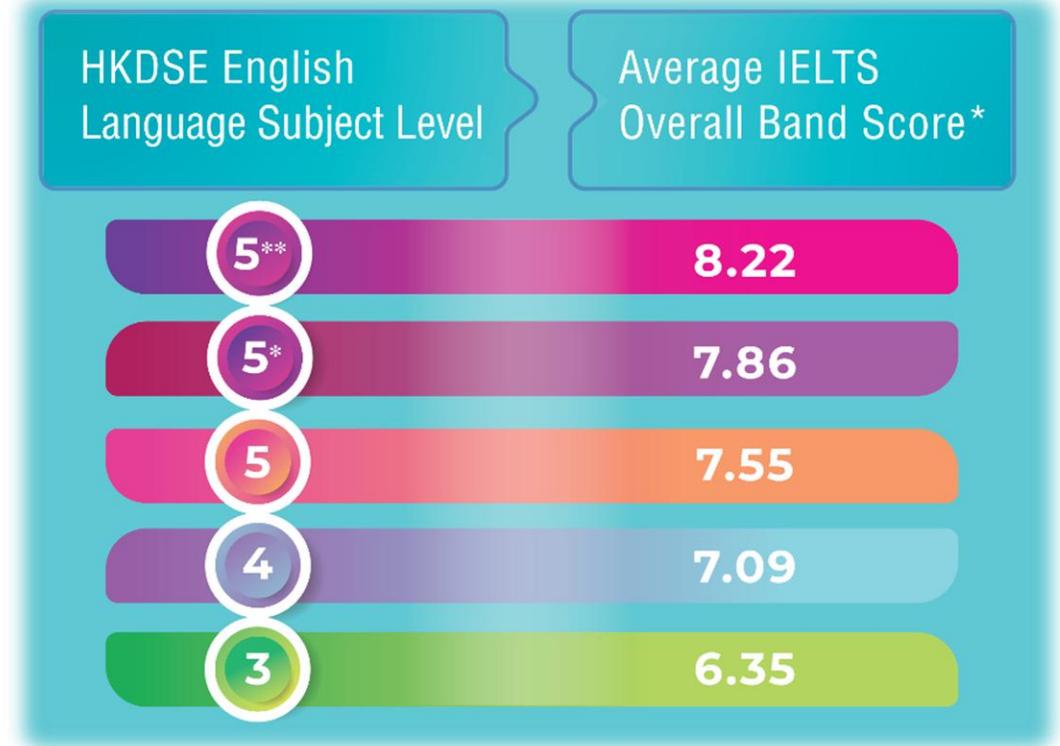
Continuous Improvement

To ensure that feedback is collected from and provided to stakeholders by conducting regular reviews and quality audits in order to improve our service continuously



Benchmarking Studies on HKDSE

- Compare the score levels of the HKDSE English Language Examination to those of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- The table shows the equivalents of Level 3 to Level 5** on the HKDSE English Language Examination with respect to the IELTS band levels, based on a pooled sample of 2019, 2021 and 2023 HKDSE candidates who voluntarily provided their IELTS results.



*based on a pooled sample of candidates of the HKDSE English Language examination (2019, 2021 and 2023) who voluntarily provided their IELTS results to the HKEAA for data analysis

Recognition of the HKDSE

Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF)

The HKDSE is considered as equivalent to Level 3

Non-local Undergraduate Degree Programmes

The HKDSE qualification has been recognised by thousands of overseas universities/ institutions



Local Undergraduate Degree Programmes

Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics Compulsory Part, and Citizenship and Social Development at '332A'

<https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/>



International Recognition of the HKDSE



Non-local
institutions and universities

>1,100

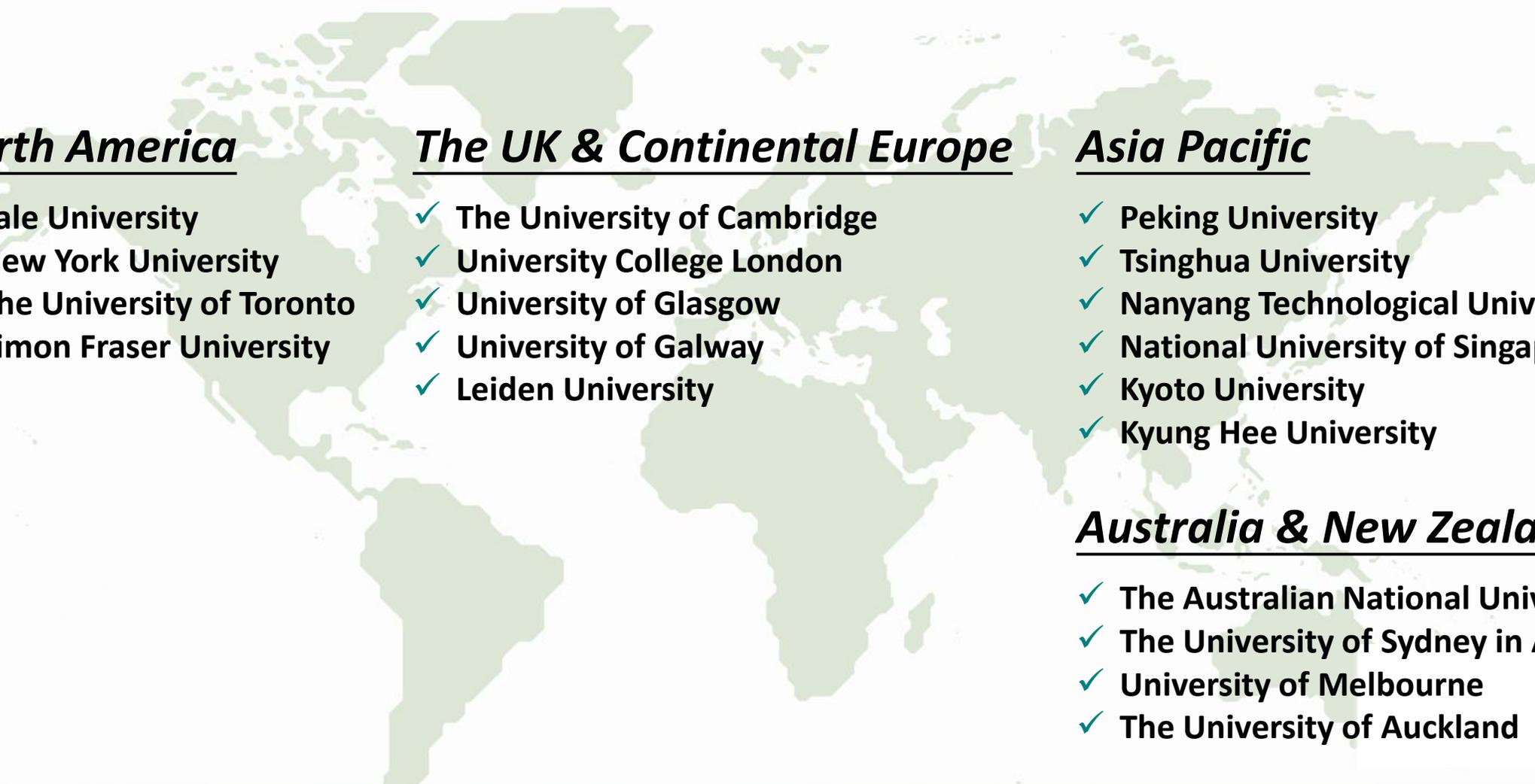
These institutions have published their admission requirements on the HKEAA's website and/or on their official websites.

Mainland China institutions

165

These institutions admit Hong Kong students on the basis of their HKDSE results.

International Recognition



North America

- ✓ Yale University
- ✓ New York University
- ✓ The University of Toronto
- ✓ Simon Fraser University

The UK & Continental Europe

- ✓ The University of Cambridge
- ✓ University College London
- ✓ University of Glasgow
- ✓ University of Galway
- ✓ Leiden University

Asia Pacific

- ✓ Peking University
- ✓ Tsinghua University
- ✓ Nanyang Technological University
- ✓ National University of Singapore
- ✓ Kyoto University
- ✓ Kyung Hee University

Australia & New Zealand

- ✓ The Australian National University
- ✓ The University of Sydney in Australia
- ✓ University of Melbourne
- ✓ The University of Auckland

International Recognition — Europe



Sweden



Netherlands



Spain



Germany



Austria

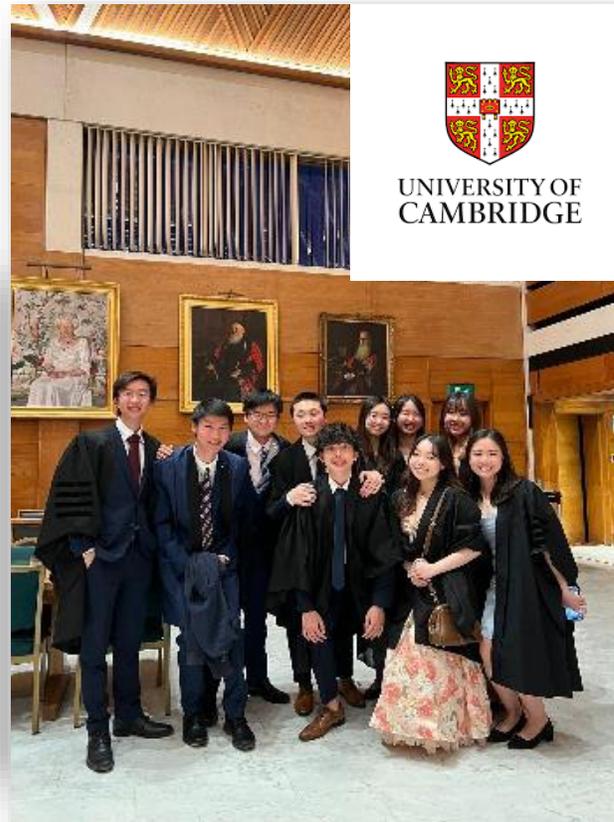


Ireland

Feature Stories:

Pathway for HKDSE Candidates (Non-local Further Studies)

Sharing of HKDSE graduates studying in renowned institutions like Massachusetts Institute of Technology, National University of Singapore and University of Cambridge



Useful Information on HKDSE

<https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/>



The screenshot shows the HKDSE website homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'Eng | 簡', 'Facebook', 'Twitter', and 'YouTube'. Below the search bar, there are links for '考評局簡介', '考評局服務', '香港中學文憑', '文憑試資歷認可', '全港性系統評估', '全球評估及學習', '國際及專業考試', '活動', '資源', and '人才招聘'. The main banner features the HKDSE logo and the text '文憑試丙類其他語言科目成績獲接納為相關公務員職系的入職要求' (HKDSE Category C Other Languages Subjects Results Are Accepted for Relevant Civil Service Grades). It lists languages: 法語 (French), 韓語 (Korean), 西班牙 (Spanish), 日語 (Japanese), and 德語 (German). Below the banner, there is a section titled '文憑試丙類其他語言科目新安排' (New Arrangements for HKDSE Category C Other Languages Subjects) and a '快速連結' (Quick Links) sidebar with items like '香港中學文憑網上服務', '校本評核', '關乎天氣下文憑試安排', and '文憑試 - 樣本試卷及練習卷'. At the bottom, there are tabs for '考生', '家長', '傳媒', and '最新消息'.

<https://blog.hkeaa.edu.hk/index.php>



The screenshot shows a blog post titled 'DSE Express 文憑試快線'. The post is dated '15 Dec 2025' and has a '返回主頁' (Return Home) button. The main text reads: '[考生必看] 2026年DSE《考生手冊》了解考試安排與規則' (Candidates must read: 2026 DSE Handbook to understand exam arrangements and rules). Below the text, there is a '關鍵字' (Keywords) section listing '考生手冊, 考試規則, PESS2, 其他語言科目, 報到表'. The central image shows two book covers: 'Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination Handbook for Candidates 2026' and '香港中學文憑考試 考生手冊 2026'. At the bottom, there is a paragraph: '2026年DSE《考生手冊》今日(12月15日)出版, 我們建議應屆DSE考生應細閱當中各項考試安排、規則及相關資訊, 《考生手冊》電子版已上載考評局網站, 大家亦可於HKDSE App了解《考生手冊》內容重點。' (The 2026 DSE Handbook is published today (December 15th). We recommend that candidates should read the exam arrangements, rules and related information in the handbook carefully. The electronic version of the handbook is available on the HKEAA website, and you can also use the HKDSE App to learn the key points of the handbook.)



香港中學
文憑考試
HKDSE



The advertisement features a green background with a stack of books and a person sitting on top. The text reads: '文憑試手機應用程式 最新版本現已上架' (HKDSE mobile app, latest version now available), 'Download the Latest HKDSE App', and '自修生專區 Private Candidates' Corner'. There is also a small inset image of the app interface showing icons for '有關文憑試', '最新消息', and '自修生專區'.

<https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/app/>

Thank You