



中華基督教青年會中學
Chinese Y.M.C.A. Secondary School

2023/24

**Subject Choices
for
Senior Secondary Curriculum**

In GOD | *Through GOD*
We TRUST | **We SERVE**

1. Forward

Secondary Three progressing to Secondary Four is a critical stage, as electives selected will impact students profoundly. To this end, we have devoted tremendous manpower and material resources to optimizing the S3 and S4 curriculum design as well as elective selection process, striving to assist students to strike a balance among personal interests, abilities, and prospects, and thus making the wisest decision.

Our Senior Secondary academic structure adapts to the current situation and provides students with a wide range of courses that cater for the diverse abilities, interests, and career pursuits. Since 2021/22, the Education Bureau has reduced the class hours in Liberal Studies (also renamed and reformed as Citizenship and Social Development in the same year), we encourage S3 students with better academic records to take 3 electives, while the others to take 2 electives. This will not only enrich students' knowledge and learning experiences, but also boost their opportunities for university admission.

Although our S3 curriculum design has already informed students of the basic knowledge of most S4 electives, the depth of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination is not fully reflected due to the large number of subjects and time constraint. As a result, some students find themselves struggling or even regretting their subject choices. To enhance the accuracy of students taking electives that suit them the best, our teachers have invested much time and effort into setting up the “**S3 Elective Subject TASTE Program**”. Details are included in this booklet.

We firmly believe that if students can actively participate in the program and make choices based on the given suggestions in this booklet, they will be able to choose the electives that fit them the best accurately.

2. General Information on Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education

The Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination adopts the Standards-referenced Reporting (SRR) to report students' performance. The SRR aims at reporting candidates' results against a set of prescribed levels of achievement reflecting the performance of typical candidates at those levels.

For each of the levels, a set of descriptors will describe what the typical candidate has achieved at the given level. Candidates' results indicate the standards achieved in terms of knowledge and skills regardless of the performance of other candidates taking the same examination. This reporting system enables stakeholders to understand explicitly what the candidates know and can do when they have achieved a certain level of performance.

The results will be expressed in terms of five levels of performance, of which 5 is the highest and 1 the lowest. The Level 5 candidates with the best performance will be awarded a 5**, and the next top group awarded a 5*. Performance below Level 1 will be labeled as "Unclassified".

Heads of Universities Committee has also announced the general entrance requirements for admission to undergraduate degree programmes of the eight universities in Hong Kong in the 2023/24 academic year¹. Most programmes will consider the results of the 4 core subjects: Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Citizenship and Social Development, and 2 elective(s).

¹ Extracted from <http://www.jupas.edu.hk>

3. Our Senior Secondary Curriculum (2023/24 onwards)

We aim at providing a balanced senior secondary curriculum in accordance with our school's vision and mission, students' interests, abilities and career aspirations, as well as the entrance requirements of the universities.

In the Hong Kong Senior Secondary Curriculum, all prospective S4 students are required to take 4 core subjects (Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Citizenship and Social Development) plus 2 to 3 elective subjects offered by their schools.

In order to cater for the different needs, interests and career pursuits of our students, we provide a more flexible and diversified curriculum which includes 16 elective subjects with about 300 combinations. S4 students can take no more than 3 electives. Below are the subjects offered in our senior secondary curriculum in 2023/24:

3.1. 4 Core Subjects (Compulsory Subjects)

Chinese Language (CN)	English Language (EN)	Mathematics (MA)	Citizenship and Social Development (CSD)
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3.2. 15 Elective Subjects

(A subject will be offered only if no less than 10 students take it.)

No.	Learning Area	Subject	Abbreviation
1	Science	Biology	BI
2		Chemistry	CM
3		Physics	PH
4	Language	Chinese Literature	CL
5	Personal, Social & Humanities	Chinese History	CH
6		Economics	EC
7		Geography	GE
8		History	HT
9		Tourism and Hospitality Studies	TS
10	Technology	Business, Accounting & Financial Studies	BS
11		Health Management and Social Care	HC
12		Information & Communication Technology	IT
13	Arts and Sport	Physical Education	PE
14		Visual Arts	VA
15	Mathematics	Extended Part Module 2	M2

4. S4 Elective Subject Option Forms

To enable us to best match the subjects to your child's needs, please complete **ALL** boxes in Form A and tick the appropriate boxes in Forms B C and D.

4.1. Form A: Options according to the Order of Subject Preference

Please put numbers '1' to '24' to indicate your order of preference.

(1 = 1st choice; **ALL 24 choices should be indicated.**)

SAMPLE

Learning Area	Subject	Medium of Instruction		Order (Put '1' to '24')
		English	Chinese	
Science	Biology 生物	✓		
	Chemistry 化學	✓		
	Physics 物理	✓		
	Language		✓	
Personal, Social & Humanities	中國文學		✓	
	中國歷史		✓	
	Economics 經濟	✓		
	Geography 地理	✓		
	History 歷史	✓		
	旅遊與款待		✓	
	Technology	BAFS 企業、會計與財務概論	✓	
健康管理與社會關懷			✓	
ICT 資訊及通訊科技		✓		
Arts and Sport			✓	
Visual Arts 視覺藝術		✓	✓	
Mathematics	M2	✓		
	數學延伸單元 (二)		✓	

Please put '✓' in the appropriate boxes below in Forms B, C and D:

4.2. Form B: Preference for Applied Learning Subjects (ApL)

SAMPLE

- I will **take** one Applied Learning Subject.
- I will **not take** any Applied Learning Subject.

4.3. Form C: Preference for Three Science Subjects

SAMPLE

- I will **take THREE** science subjects simultaneously.
(Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- I will **not take THREE** science subjects simultaneously.
(Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

4.3. Form D: Preference for Medium of Instruction for Mathematics in S4

SAMPLE

- I prefer taking Mathematics **in English**.
(Attained Grade C or above in S3 English)
- I prefer taking Mathematics **in Chinese**.

5. Applied Learning (ApL)

5.1. Details of ApL

- Applied Learning (ApL) is an integral part of the senior secondary curriculum. Subjects in this category consist of practical elements linked to broad professional and vocational fields.
- The duration of each ApL course is 180 contact hours, extending over two school years.
- There are six areas of studies:
 - Creative Studies
 - Media and Communication
 - Business, Management and Law
 - Services
 - Applied Science
 - Engineering and Production
- Parents and students can scan the QR code to grasp a better understanding of ApL courses offered for 2025 HKDSE.



5.2. Assessment

- There is no public examination for ApL subjects.
- ApL assessments are conducted by the respective Course Providers while the HKEAA is responsible for the moderation and quality assurance of the assessments.

5.3. Report of Results in HKDSE

- The assessment of Category B (Applied Learning) subjects is undertaken by course providers.
- After moderation by the HKEAA, the final results are recorded on the HKDSE certificate.
- The results are reported as the following scale:

Results of ApL	Equivalence to Category A subjects of the HKDSE
Attained	Level 2
Attained with Distinction (I)	Level 3
Attained with Distinction (II)	Level 4

5.4. Concerns

- Not every university's programme will consider ApL as equivalent to Category A HKDSE Subjects.
- Students are required to attend lessons on Saturday offered by Course Providers. Students who failed to meet the attendance requirement will not be able to get "attained" in ApL course.

6. S3 TASTE Program (TASTE = Take a Student to Explore)

6.1. Purpose: To optimize the accuracy of students selecting S4 elective subjects.

6.2. Details of the Program/Curriculum:

- All the S4 electives (except M2²) we provide offer self-directed taster courses.
- Students can take **SIX** courses at most, **THREE** at least.
- Subject teachers select the most representative topics from the HKDSE to design those courses, with the goal of deepening the S3 curriculum and extending it to the HKDSE requirements. Teachers make videos, offering stage-by-stage materials from the elementary to profound, for students to learn by themselves.
- Each course (subject) is divided into 3 stages.
- Each stage requires about 3 hours of online learning, and the end-of-course assessment will be conducted face-to-face at school, lasting for around an hour.

² Admission to M2 depends on students' grade on S3 Mathematics.

6.3. Assessment:

- There are FOUR possible grades for each assessment:
 - Excellent
 - Good
 - Satisfactory
 - Unsatisfactory

6.4. Suggested Time Allocation on Each Course:

Stage	*Study Period	
	Start	End
Stage 1	20/02/2022	12/03/2022
Stage 2	13/03/2023	02/04/2023
Stage 3	03/04/2023	16/04/2023
Assessment	Late April Exact dates and detailed arrangements will be announced in April.	

6.5. Advantages of achieving a GOOD grade in a Taster Course

- Students who have achieved a good grade (or in other words, a high score in an assessment) will be put on the priority admission list.
- Students who are on the priority admission list of an elective subject and obtain a good Form Rank in the annual exam result will be granted the highest possibility to take that elective subject in S4.

7. Allocation of Elective Subjects to Students

- 7.1. We will first collect students' intentions in their subject choices. We will then design the subject combination that suits the most students' interests.
- 7.2. After the conduction of TASTE Program Assessment, students will submit their final choices based on the released subject combination.
- 7.3. A ranking order of the S3 students based on their overall academic performance in S3 will be generated. As recommended by the EDB, the weighting for the subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics is 3 and that for all the other subjects is 1.
- 7.4. We will allocate elective subjects to students according to the above-mentioned ranking order, students' abilities, preferences and career aspirations.
- 7.5. Students will be offered 3 elective subjects if they achieve outstanding academic performance, for the HKDSE results of 2 electives will be considered by the local universities as one of the general entrance requirements.

8. Restrictions of Offering Elective Subjects

We must make the best use of our resources, and use them to the best advantage; therefore, an elective course will be offered only if no less than 10 students take it. It may also happen that certain elective subjects will not be offered in the end due to other technical or factual restrictions.

9. Highlights of S4 to S6 Elective Subjects

- 9.1. Students must complete their School-based Assessment Projects (especially for VA) by the specified date(s). Otherwise, students have to withdraw from the elective subject(s) concerned.
- 9.2. During their studies from S4 to S6, students are not allowed to change their elective subjects.
- 9.3. Students should apply for the HKDSE according to the medium of instructions of the subjects they take at school. Students are not allowed to change it.

10. Tips for Students

To choose the subjects carefully is crucial as your decisions can have significant impacts on what career goals you will achieve in the future. Although you have many factors to consider, choosing your course of study can be made easier if you think about the task calmly and logically following a set of planned steps. A right decision is an informed decision.

10.1. Overall Plan

As an overall plan, we suggest that you choose subjects:

- which reflect your interests and abilities;
- in which you have achieved good results;
- which help you reach your career goals.

10.2. Steps to Make an Informed Decision

- 1) Check out your career implications - will you keep your options open?
Ensure you select the prerequisite subjects required for your preferred university's courses. Whatever you want to do now, you will probably end up changing your mind loads of times before you find the right job. That is why it is important to keep the range of subjects balanced so that you will have more options when you come to choose courses and jobs in the future.
- 2) Choose a combination of subjects that suit your abilities and interests.
 - Think about your abilities - can you do well in these subjects?
 - Think about your interest levels - will you have the motivation?
 - Think about your favourite subjects and best subjects.
 - Think about your skills and interests - everyone has different skills and interests. Some people have good communication skills and are good at writing and speaking. Other people have good numerical skills and are good at problem solving.
- 3) Weigh up any differences between interests, abilities and career ideas.
- 4) Consider others' opinions of the subjects but do not follow them indiscriminately. Talk it over with parents, teachers and people who know you well. Do not select subjects simply because you want to sit next to your friends.

11. Parents' Help

Things parents can do to help:

- Encourage your child to **take responsibility for their choice**; to think things through and to ask for help if they need it.
- Encourage a choice based on your child's abilities and interest rather than gender or what his/her friends are planning to take.
- Encourage discussions - listen to your child's views and how he/she sees his/her future. Research shows that children look to their parents for advice on career choices more than you might think!
- Encourage an open mind about future careers. While having a career idea can help motivate studying, many young people take time to develop their ideas. Choosing a group of subjects which keeps options open allows the freedom to change.

12. General Entrance Requirements of the Universities in Hong Kong³

The entrance requirements of faculties and universities have to be taken into serious consideration when making a wise choice. An overview of the general entrance requirements of the universities in Hong Kong is shown in the following:

Institution	General Entrance Requirements ⁴	Faculty / Programme Entrance Requirements
The University of Hong Kong	English Language : Level 3 Chinese Language : Level 3 Mathematics : Level 2 Citizenship and Social Development : Attained 2 Elective Subjects : Level 3	2 specified or unspecified subjects
The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology		
The Chinese University of Hong Kong		
City University of Hong Kong		
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University		
Hong Kong Baptist University		
Lingnan University	English Language : Level 3 Chinese Language : Level 3 Mathematics : Level 2 Citizenship and Social Development ⁵ : Attained 2 Elective Subjects : Level 2	2 specified or unspecified subjects
The Education University of Hong Kong		

³ Extracted from <http://www.jupas.edu.hk>

Information posted on the websites of the respective universities prevails

⁴ Individual programmes may have additional requirement(s)

13. Important Notes for Parents of S3 / S3 Students

13.1. Important Dates for Selection of Senior Secondary (SS) Subjects

Timeline of Events	
09/12/2022 (Fri)	S3 Parents' Night <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of the Booklet on Subject Choices for Senior Secondary Curriculum• Distribution of S4 Elective Subject Intent Form
10/02/2023 (Fri)	Collection of S4 Subject Elective Intent Form
20/02/2023 (Mon) to 16/04/2023 (Sun)	Implementation of TASTE Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• February to April - Stage 1 to Stage 3• Late April - Assessment
11/05/2023 (Thu)	Collection of Elective Subject Preference Forms
07/07/2023 (Fri)	Announcement of the Allocation of Elective Subjects (After the Final Examination)

13.2. Briefing Videos on Elective Subjects in the Senior Secondary Curriculum

Parents and students can visit the following webpage or scan the QR code to grasp a better understanding of the 15 elective subjects.

<https://sites.google.com/cymcass.org/admission-and-career-guidance/elective-subjects-briefing>

