

Recognition of Alternative Chinese Language Qualifications under the Procedure 2008

Q1 Can schools choose not to consider applicants who hold alternative Chinese Language qualifications at any stage of the Secondary 6 Admission Procedure?

A1 The Education Bureau encourages schools to consider applicants who hold alternative Chinese Language qualifications and meet specific conditions in their S6 admission. Upon consultation, we will, starting from 2008, invite schools to consider applicants who hold alternative Chinese Language qualifications. Pending the release of GCSE/IGCSE/GCE O-level results in late August, schools concerned can make conditional offers to the applicants at each stage of the Procedure, provided that the applicants have, except for Chinese Language, fulfilled all the admission requirements pertaining to the respective stage (including school-based admission criteria) and have attained equal or higher points compared with their counterparts. Schools are given the discretion to consider or not consider these applicants.

Q2 For schools which choose to consider applicants who hold alternative Chinese Language qualifications (schools concerned), are they required to check whether the applicants have fulfilled the specific conditions, such as a late start in the learning of the Chinese Language or have not been given full opportunities to learn the local Chinese Language? If yes, what kind of documentary evidences would students need to produce at time of application?

A2 Schools concerned are required to check whether the applicants have fulfilled the specific conditions. As deem appropriate, they can ask students to produce documents to the effect that the applicants have fulfilled the specific conditions, listed below -

(a) The student has learned Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or

(b) 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 applicable to the majority of students in the local schools.

Schools can decide, at their discretion, what kind of documents they would require from the applicants. Generally speaking, documents may include student report cards showing the history of schooling in or outside Hong Kong, letters certifying the students having been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in the local schools, etc.

Q3 If applicants holding alternative Chinese Language qualifications fail to produce the relevant/sufficient documentary evidences, can schools turn down their application?

A3 Generally speaking, if students fail to produce the relevant/sufficient documentary evidences when applying for an S6 place under the Procedure, schools are free to decide if the applications should be turned down or otherwise.

Since the recognition of alternative Chinese Language qualifications under the Procedure 2008 is a new admission criterion, some schools and students may not be able to have all relevant documentary evidences ready at the time of application under the Procedure; hence, we suggest schools concerned to consider individual cases on their own merits. If there are sufficient reasons, schools may wish to allow the applicants to produce the required documents at a later time.