

**Requirement for Newly-appointed Teachers to
Pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test**

Q&A

General Information

Q1 What is the content and format of the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST)?

A1 The BLNST, available in both English and Chinese, assesses teachers' knowledge of the Basic Law (including its annexes, instruments, attachments and appendices) as well as the National Security Law. Candidates are required to answer 20 multiple-choice questions within 30 minutes in the BLNST (degree level), or 20 multiple-choice questions within 35 minutes in the BLNST (non-degree level).

The scope of the BLNST will be based on the text of the Basic Law (which includes all its annexes, instruments, attachments and appendices) (Basic Law (full text) (<https://www.basiclaw.gov.hk/en/basiclaw/index.html>) and the National Security Law (National Security Law - (a) Preamble (English) (<https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20202444e/es220202444136.pdf>) (b) Full text (English) (<https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20202448e/egn2020244872.pdf>)).

Candidates who wish to acquire a better understanding of the Basic Law and the National Security Law may refer to the following links:

- Government's website on the Basic Law
(<https://www.basiclaw.gov.hk/en/index/index.html>)
- Government's website on the Basic Law Court Case Database
(<https://www.basiclawcourtcase.gov.hk/en/home/index.html>)
- Government's website on National Security Education Day
(<https://www.nsed.gov.hk/?l=en>)
- Government's website on Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong
(<https://www.isd.gov.hk/nationalsecurity/eng/index.html>)

Q2 Who needs to meet the BLNST requirement?

A2 Starting from the 2023/24 school year, all newly-appointed teachers in public sector schools¹, Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools (DSS Schools), kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme (Scheme-KGs) are required to fulfill the BLNST requirement:

In general, newly-appointed teachers include newly-joined teachers and teachers changing schools:

- (i) Newly-appointed teachers in public sector schools include:
 - Regular teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant;
 - Teachers remunerated with cash grant²;
 - Teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant and cash grant simultaneously;
 - Teachers remunerated with cash grant switching to (i) teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant or (ii) teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant and cash grant simultaneously in the same public sector school;
 - Monthly-paid temporary teachers switching to (i) regular teachers, (ii) teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant and cash grant simultaneously or (iii) teachers remunerated with cash grant in the same public sector school; and
 - Monthly-paid temporary teachers (including those filling temporary vacancies of teaching posts within staff establishment or serving for more than 90 days and are approved by schools switching from daily-rated to monthly-paid temporary teachers).
- (ii) Newly-appointed teachers in DSS schools and Scheme-KGs refer to all newly-appointed monthly-paid teachers.

The BLNST requirement is **not applicable** to the following newly-appointed

¹ Public sector schools include government, aided and caput schools.

² Cash grant includes the grant obtained by schools upon freezing their teaching establishment or other grants provided to schools for employment of teaching staff in light of the new initiatives.

teachers:

- Daily-rated supply teachers;
- Teachers employed under the Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Scheme in public sector schools or NETs appointed on terms (e.g. entry requirements, fringe benefits, etc.) comparable to the NET Scheme for performing the same kind of duties in DSS schools³ (In general, each DSS school could nominate at most one teacher to perform the same kind of duties as NET, primary-cum-secondary schools are counted as two schools);
- Teachers mainly teach a non-local curriculum (i.e. teaching non-local curriculum as approved by the Education Bureau (EDB) in 80% or more of their lessons) in DSS schools;
- NETs in Scheme-KGs;
- Teachers mainly teach a non-local curriculum (i.e. teaching non-local curriculum as approved by the EDB in 80% or more of their lessons) in Scheme-KGs which also offer a non-local curriculum;
- The following newly-appointed teachers in public sector schools:
 - Re-employment of part-time teachers in the same school, but have his/her part-time ratio changed;
 - Re-employment of teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant and cash grant simultaneously (e.g. each accounts for 50%), but his/her ratio of remuneration with Salaries Grant changed. This includes teachers switching from regular teachers (remunerated with Salaries Grant) to teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant and cash grant simultaneously in the same school;
 - Re-employment of teachers remunerated with cash grant in the same school;
 - Re-employment of regular teachers on terms with a defined

³ In present, one NET is generally provided for every public sector school to enhance the effectiveness of teaching English Language and increase exposure of students to English. DSS schools may appoint one NET to perform same kind of duties on terms (e.g. entry requirements, fringe benefits, etc.) comparable to NET Scheme in aided schools as the funding related to NET Scheme in aided schools has been subsumed into the DSS unit subsidy rate.

contract period (DCP) in the same school;

- Surplus teachers switching from teachers remunerated with Salaries Grant to teachers remunerated with cash grant in the same school;
- The deployment of teachers within the primary and secondary sections of schools (including special schools) which the two sections are headed by one school head and both sections are either aided schools or DSS schools; and
- In principle, a teacher who is redeployed to another school by the School Sponsoring Body because of his/her redundant/surplus status is considered to be a newly-appointed teacher and is required to meet the new requirement. In view of various scenarios involved, schools wishing to appoint these redundant/surplus teachers may apply for a discretionary arrangement by submitting relevant supporting documents issued by the School Sponsoring body. The Bureau will consider their applications on a case-by-case basis.

The examples above are by no means exhaustive. For enquiries, please contact the Teacher Administration 2 Section of the Professional Development and Training Division of EDB by phone at 2892 5709.

Q3 Is the BLNST requirement applicable to teachers to be promoted?

A3 A teacher who is promoted to another school is a newly-appointed teacher and is required to meet the BLNST requirement. A teacher who is promoted in the same school (both posts are within the approved establishment and remunerated with Salaries Grant) is not a newly-appointed teacher and the BLNST requirement is **not applicable**.

Q4 Is the BLNST requirement applicable to teachers of the child care centre section who are deployed to serve in the kindergarten section of the same kindergarten-cum-child care centre?

A4 In the Scheme-KGs (including kindergartens/ kindergarten-cum-child care centres and schools with kindergarten classes), the BLNST requirement is applicable to all newly-appointed monthly-paid teachers. Monthly-paid teachers serving in the child care centre section who are deployed to serve in the kindergarten section of the same kindergarten-cum-child care centre without break in service are not newly-appointed teachers or teachers changing schools and the BLNST requirement is **not applicable**.

Q5 If a teacher has already taken the BLNST organised by the EDB, is he/she required to take the test again in the future?

A5 Teachers who have passed the BLNST (degree level) will not be required to take any BLNST at / below an equivalent level again. For those who have passed the BLNST (non-degree level) and subsequently attained a degree qualification and wish to apply for graduate teaching posts, they will be required to take the BLNST (degree level) to meet the relevant requirement.

Q6 For teachers who have attained a pass result in the Basic Law Test (BLT), do they need to take the BLNST again if they plan to join the teaching profession or change schools in the 2023/24 school year or after?

A6 The content of the BLT and BLNST is different. In this regard, newly-appointed teachers are required to obtain a pass result in the BLNST in order to be considered for appointment if they plan to join the teaching profession or change schools in the 2023/24 school year or after.

Teachers who possess a pass result in the BLNST issued by EDB, CSB or government departments will be deemed to have met the relevant requirement and will not be required to take the BLNST again. Please note that the pass result of the BLNST organised by the Independent Commission Against

Corruption or other organisations not for civil service recruitment is **not reckoned as having met** the BLNST requirement for newly appointed teachers.

Q7 If teachers possess a pass result in the BLNST issued by the EDB, is it acceptable for applying for civil service jobs?

A7 The CSB announced on 28 July 2023 that for all civil service posts advertised on or after 28 July 2023, job applicants could apply for the relevant civil service posts, or teaching posts in public-funded schools or kindergartens joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme with the pass result obtained in the BLNST conducted by EDB, CSB or government departments. The mutual acceptance arrangement is applicable to the pass results issued by EDB, CSB or government departments, regardless of whether the BLNST is conducted before or after the implementation of the new arrangement. For details, please refer to the press release (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202307/28/P2023072700450.htm?fontSize=2>).

Q8 Can schools appoint a teacher if he/she has yet to obtain a pass result for the BLNST at the time of appointment?

A8 According to the requirement, all public sector schools, DSS schools and Scheme-KGs are required to verify teachers' prior attainment of a pass result in the BLNST issued by EDB, CSB or government departments before the appointment is effective.

Schools shall bear the responsibility and pay the salaries on their own if the newly-appointed teachers fail to meet the BLNST requirement for the corresponding teaching post. The EDB will also take follow-up actions, including requesting the schools to refund any overpayment of salaries to the EDB.

Q9 How do schools verify the teachers to be appointed have met the BLNST requirement?

A9 Teachers to be appointed for graduate teaching posts should provide the pass result in BLNST (degree level) or BLNST (Degree / Professional Grades); Teachers to be appointed for non-graduate teaching posts should provide the pass result in BLNST at or above non-degree level.

In view that CSB has launched the electronic result certificate for BLNST starting from November 2024 to replace the result notification letters, schools may accept the printed copy of the pass result of the BLNST issued by EDB, CSB, or government departments, and also the printed version of the electronic result certificate issued by CSB. The electronic result certificate contains an e-Proof QR code and schools can access the e-Proof website (www.eproof.gov.hk) and scan the e-Proof QR code by using the built-in scanner to verify the validity of the electronic result certificate. The verification result of the electronic result certificate will be shown in a frame with different colours, i.e. “Verified” (In Green) or “Revoked” (In Red) respectively. For more details, please refer to CSB’s webpage (<https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/cre/ecert/2926.html>).

Q10 How does the EDB ensure the schools’ compliance with the BLNST requirement during their appointment of new teachers?

A10 Starting from the 2023/24 school year, public sector schools, DSS schools and Scheme-KGs are required to verify teachers’ prior attainment of a pass result in the BLNST issued by EDB, CSB or government departments before the appointment is effective and submit the BLNST information of all newly-appointed teachers to the EDB through the e-Services Portal (<https://eservices.edb.gov.hk>) at the beginning of each school year. For details, please refer to EDB’s letter to schools “Arrangements for Submitting the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) Information of Newly-appointed Teachers in the 2023/24 School Year” in May 2023 and “User Manual about the submission of BLNST information for Newly-appointed Teachers through the e-Services Portal”, which are available on the EDB

webpage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst>). Besides, starting from the 2023/24 school year, schools must properly keep the employment records of the newly-appointed teachers and copies of teachers' pass results in the BLNST for not less than two years for EDB's inspection as and when necessary.

Q11 Will serving teachers be required to take the BLNST?

A11 The words and deeds of teachers have a far-reaching impact on students' growth. Teachers should have a correct understanding of the Basic Law and the National Security Law so that they can enlighten students by helping them fulfill their responsibilities as a national and Hong Kong resident with a positive, law-abiding, public interest-oriented and responsible attitude. All schools, including public sector schools, DSS schools and Scheme-KGs, should encourage teachers to take the BLNST to correctly understand the Basic Law and the National Security Law. Moreover, the EDB will continue to provide training in relation to the Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law to serving teachers.

BLNST (degree level)

Q12 When will the BLNST (degree level) organised by EDB be held?

A12 In view of the launch of Digitalised BLNST (Degree/Professional Grades) by Civil Service Bureau (CSB) (hereinafter referred to as the Digitalised BLNST), to optimise the utilization of resources, EDB will no longer organise BLNST (degree level) starting from the 2025/26 school year.

Teachers can take the Digitalised BLNST according to their needs and schedules starting from the 2025/26 school year. The examination format, duration and content of the Digitalised BLNST are identical to the past paper-based BLNST (degree level) organised by the EDB. Candidates will also receive their test results through e-mail in the form of electronic result certificates on the same day of the test. Teachers who possess a pass result in the BLNST issued by CSB will be deemed to have met the relevant

requirement and can be considered for appointment.

Please note that applicant who is absent from the test or has not attained a pass result in the test will not be allowed to take the Digitalised BLNST again during the three-month suspension period. For details of the Digitalised BLNST and online application methods, please visit the CSB webpage (<https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/2934.html>).

BLNST (non-degree level)

Q13 When will the BLNST (non-degree level) organised by EDB be held? When will the test result be announced? Is there a review mechanism? Will there be any supplementary test if a teacher cannot obtain a pass result?

A13 In the 2025/26 school year, EDB will organise one round of paper-based BLNST (non-degree level), which is tentatively scheduled for 7 June 2026 (Sunday). Details and application arrangements of the test will be announced through press release and EDB webpage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst>) in mid-April 2026. For details of the requirement and arrangements for the BLNST, please refer to the [EDBC No. 13/2022 “Requirement for Newly-appointed Teachers to Pass the Basic Law and National Security Law Test”](#), [EDBCM No. 141/2025 “Arrangements for Basic Law and National Security Law Test in the 2025/26 school year”](#) and the EDB webpage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst>).

Candidates will be notified of their test results by post within one month after the test. If candidates would like to have a review of their BLNST results, they should make the request to the EDB by e-mail by the deadline shown on the result notification. There is no supplementary test for the BLNST.

Q14 Who can apply for the BLNST (non-degree level)?

A14 Applicants for the BLNST (non-degree level) organised by the EDB shall meet one of the following criteria:

- (i) should be a serving teacher who does not possess a bachelor's degree and plans to change to another public sector school or DSS school to take up a non-graduate teaching post, or be a teacher in another Scheme-KG; or
- (ii) should be a person who does not possess a bachelor's degree and plans to take up a non-graduate teaching post in public sector schools or DSS schools, or be a teacher in Scheme-KGs and will have attained relevant qualification in the 2025/26 academic year (e.g. Diploma/Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education or equivalent); or
- (iii) should be a person who does not possess a bachelor's degree and plans to take up a non-graduate teaching post in public sector schools or DSS schools, or be a teacher in Scheme-KGs.

A pass result in BLNST (non-degree level) is only applicable for applying for non-graduate teaching posts. For those who have passed the BLNST (non-degree level) and subsequently attained a degree qualification and wish to apply for graduate teaching posts, they will be required to take the BLNST (degree level) to meet the relevant requirement.

Persons who possess a bachelor's degree or will have attained a bachelor's degree in the 2025/26 or 2026/27 academic year, even they plan to take up non-graduate teaching posts, can apply for the Digitalised BLNST organised by the CSB. Teachers who have passed the BLNST (degree level) or BLNST (Degree / Professional Grades) can apply for both graduate teaching posts and non-graduate teaching posts.

Professional Development and Training Division

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