

Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST) (non-degree level) organised by the Education Bureau (October 2023)

Frequently Asked Questions

About the BLNST Requirement

Q1 : Why is there a BLNST requirement for newly-appointed teachers?

A1 : The Basic Law is closely related to our daily lives and has been a key element of the school curriculum, which shall be strengthened. Teachers should have a correct understanding of the Basic Law so that they could enlighten students and help them correctly understand the constitutional status of Hong Kong and develop positive attitudes towards the Basic Law and “one country, two systems”.

Q2 : Who needs to meet the BLNST requirement?

A2 : Starting from the 2023/24 school year, the following newly-appointed teachers in public sector schools, Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools (DSS schools), kindergartens joining the kindergarten education scheme (Scheme-KGs), are required to fulfil 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 grant¹;
- 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

¹ 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.

- 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 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 schools² (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 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;

² In present, one NET is generally provided for every public sector school to enhance the teaching of 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.

- Re-employment of regular teachers on terms with a defined 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 special schools. This is also applicable to aided schools with the same situation (the two sections are headed by one school head and both sections are aided 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 are by no means exhaustive. For enquiries, please contact the Teacher Professional Development Special Duty Team by phone at 2892 5709.

About Eligibility

Q3 : Who can apply for the BLNST (non-degree level)?

A3 : Applicants for the BLNST (non-degree level) organised by the EDB shall meet one of the following criteria:

- (a) 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
- (b) 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 2023/24 academic year (e.g. Diploma/Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education or equivalent); or
- (c) 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.

The EDB will conduct random check and applicants are required to provide copies of transcripts and/or certificates to prove their eligibility for the test. Applicants who fail to provide the required proof shall be liable to disqualification from the test. The test results will also be voided even the applicants have taken the test.

[Note: Before submitting applications, please refer to the EDB Circular No.13/2022, the EDB Circular Memorandum No. 169/2023 and the EDB webpage at www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst for information.]

Q4 : I have possessed or will have attained a bachelor's degree in the 2023/24 or 2024/25 academic year. Can I apply to sit the BLNST (non-degree level) ?

A4 : 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, they will be required to take the BLNST (degree level) if they wish to apply for graduate teaching posts.

Persons who possess a bachelor's degree or will have attained a bachelor's degree in the 2023/24 or 2024/25 academic year, even they plan to take up non-graduate teaching posts, can apply for the BLNST (degree level) to be organised by the EDB on 3 December 2023, 6 April or 20 July 2024. Teachers who have passed the BLNST (degree level) can apply for both graduate teaching posts and non-graduate teaching posts.

Q5 : I have attained a pass result in the Basic Law Test (BLT), do I need to take the BLNST organised by the EDB again if I plan to join the teaching profession or change schools in the 2023/24 school year or after?

A5 : 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 the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) or various recruiting departments/grades will be deemed to have met the relevant requirement and will not be required to take the BLNST

organised by the EDB again.

Q6 If I have previously taken and passed the BLNST conducted by CSB or various recruiting departments/grades, do I need to apply for the BLNST organised by the EDB if I plan to join or change to another secondary school, primary school or kindergarten to take up a teaching post?

A6 Persons who possess a pass result in the BLNST issued by the CSB or various recruiting departments/grades will be deemed to have met the relevant requirement and will not be required to take the BLNST organised by the EDB again.

About the BLNST organised by the EDB and Application Procedures

Q7 : What is the content and format of the BLNST?

A7 : For the content and format of the BLNST organised by the EDB, the EDB draws reference to the arrangements of the BLNST conducted by the CSB. The written test is a bilingual paper (in both English and Chinese) assessing candidates' knowledge of the Basic Law (including its annexes, instruments, attachments and appendices) as well as the National Security Law. Candidates have to answer 20 multiple-choice questions within 35 minutes in the coming BLNST (non-degree level). For details about the test arrangements, please refer to the EDB Circular No.13/2022.

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.basiclawcourtcas.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>)

Q8 : How many rounds of the BLNST will be organised by the EDB in the 2023/24 school year and when will the BLNST be held?

A8 : The EDB will conduct a total of five rounds of the BLNST for teachers in the 2023/24 school year, and the tests will be held on 28 October, 3 December 2023, 6 April, 16 June and 20 July 2024 respectively. Having regard to the different entry requirements for teaching posts in secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens, the five rounds of tests will be arranged for degree holders and non-degree holders respectively. For details of the test arrangements, please refer to the EDB Circular No. 13/2022 and the EDB Circular Memorandum No. 169/2023. Please also refer to the EDB webpage (www.edb.gov.hk/en/blnst) for details and application procedures of each round of BLNST.

Q9 : Is there a quota for the coming BLNST?

A9 : Yes. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The applicants will be notified of the application results and test details by e-mail on or before 19 October 2023. An SMS message will also be sent to applicants to remind them of the email.

Q10 : Will a fee be charged for the BLNST?

A10 : There is no fee for the BLNST organised by the EDB.

Q11 : If I want to amend my personal particulars after submitting my application, what can I do?

A11 : If you want to amend your personal particulars, such as your name, HKID/Passport No. and correspondence address, etc., you are required to submit your amendment request in writing by providing your English name and HKID/Passport No. to Teacher Professional Development Special Duty Team by post to Room 1110, 11/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong or by e-mail at tpdsdt@edb.gov.hk.

About the result obtained from the BLNST organised by the EDB

- Q12 : Is there a passing mark in the BLNST?
- A12 : Candidates who score at least 10 out of 20 questions will be deemed to have a pass result in both BLNST (degree level) and (non-degree level).
- Q13 : Is the result of the BLNST organised by the EDB of permanent validity?
- A13 : Teachers who have passed the BLNST (degree level) will not be required to take any BLNST at or below an equivalent level again.

For those who have passed the BLNST (non-degree level) and subsequently attained a degree qualification, they will be required to take the BLNST (degree level) if they wish to apply for graduate teaching posts.

- Q14 : Will a teacher's / a prospective teacher's teacher registration status be affected if he/she fails to meet the BLNST requirement?
- A14 : Failing to meet the BLNST requirement will not affect a teacher's registration status / a prospective teacher's application for teacher registration.

About BLNST result notification and recruitment of schools

- Q15 : When and how will I receive the results of the BLNST?
- A15 : Result notifications will be sent **by post** to candidates within one month after the test.
- Q16 : What should I do if I want to request a review on my BLNST result?
- A16 : Your request should be made by e-mail to tpdsdt@edb.gov.hk **by the deadline shown on the result notification**. Late submissions will **NOT** be considered.
- Q17 : Do I need to retain the letter of BLNST result?
- A17 : You must retain the letter of BLNST result and are required to present the letter to the recruiting schools as a proof of your attainment in obtaining the requisite BLNST results when you apply for teaching posts in public sector schools, DSS schools and Scheme-KGs.

- Q18 : I have lost the letter of BLNST result. Can I request another copy?
- A18 : You may make a request to the Teacher Professional Development Special Duty Team by e-mail to tpdsdt@edb.gov.hk.
- Q19 : If I obtain a pass result in the BLNST, will I be qualified for applying for teaching posts?
- A19 : The acquisition of the BLNST pass result does not imply that a candidate has fully met the entry requirements of any teaching post. Verification of academic and / or professional qualifications will be carried out by the recruiting schools which will handle according to their school-based mechanism.