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Classroom Language Assessment (CLA)
(English Language)
(2026/27 school year)

Briefing for Candidates

Language Teacher Qualifications (LTQ) Team

Education Bureau

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CLA (English Language) Briefing for Candidates

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I. The Arrangements

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I. The Arrangements

- **Assessment period:**

26 October 2026 to 2 April 2027

- Throughout the whole assessment period, candidates are assessed ONCE by one assessor, with some of them receiving a PAIRED visit in which two assessors will observe the same lesson in order to verify the actual attainment of various CLA standards.

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I. The Arrangements

- Notification by phone by the assessor(s) will be given at least **5 calendar days** prior to the assessment visit.

- **Confirmation Sheet** will be sent to candidates through the **email address** provided.

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教育局
Education Bureau

Language Teacher Qualifications Team,
Professional Development & Training Division,
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To : _____ Your Email: _____

Date: _____ Total No. of Pages: 1 (including this page)

Arrangements for Classroom Language Assessment (CLA) (English Language) (2026/27 school year)

This is to confirm the CLA arrangements made over the phone between you and the assessor, with details as follows:

Candidate No.	Date	Time	Class	Assessor
		: - :		

Notes:

1. It is the responsibility of the candidate to read carefully all the notes intended for candidates taking this assessment in the Classroom Language Assessment (English Language) Handbook.
2. Candidates are assessed once with a portion of them receiving a paired assessment visit in which two assessors observe the same period in order to verify the actual attainment of various Classroom Language Assessment standards.
3. The candidate should adhere to the schedule agreed upon by both the assessor and the candidate and no changes are to be made without prior agreement from the assessor.
4. The candidate should inform the principal of the visit.
5. The candidate is normally expected to meet the assessor at the school office and should inform the school office of the arrangement.
6. No observer, audio/video recording in any form, simultaneous online teaching/broadcast or co-teaching is allowed in the class during the period of assessment. The candidate should ensure that the assessor is not invited to take part in any teaching/learning activity as this might unduly distract the assessor from the assessment.
7. A written lesson plan is not required.
8. Discussion after the assessment is generally not encouraged and the candidate should make no attempt to find out from the assessor the results of the assessment.

For enquiries, please contact the Language Teacher Qualifications Team at **2892 5783** or by email to ltq@edb.gov.hk.

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I. The Arrangements

- Candidates should
  - check the details of the visit (e.g. name of candidate, date and time of CLA) and read the notes on the **Confirmation Sheet** carefully
  - keep the **Confirmation Sheet** as a reminder / for future contact
  - inform the school head and relevant parties e.g. janitor(s) at the entrance, staff in the General Office of the visit beforehand

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I. The Arrangements

- **No changes** will be made to the confirmed schedule unless the change is fully justified and agreed upon by the assessor(s).
- **Prompt notification and written confirmation** are required in case of unforeseen circumstances / withdrawal from the assessment.
- A valid **medical certificate** must be provided in case of sickness.

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I. The Arrangements

Reminder

- If there are any changes in the **teaching timetable**, **school calendar** or **form of "Verification of Eligibility for the CLA"** submitted earlier, please notify the LTQ Team by phone (2892 5783) or by email (ltq@edb.gov.hk) as soon as possible.

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I. The Arrangements

- **Release of Results**
  - Results notification letters will be issued to candidates on **20 May 2027** (tentative).
  - If there are changes in the postal address, candidates **must** inform the LTQ Team of the new address in writing **by 16 April 2027** (Email: ltq@edb.gov.hk).
  - Application for rechecking will be accepted from 21 to 27 May 2027 (tentative).
  - Please note that the EDB can only recheck the CLA results for technical errors, e.g. incorrect mark entries.
  - Once the recheck is completed, the results will be considered final and no re-assessment will be conducted for the candidates.

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II. The Assessment

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II. The Assessment – Duration

- One lesson (normally 30-40 minutes)

- A continuous period of **20 minutes' teaching** is the minimum requirement
  - Including the teacher speaking to the students, responding to their questions, providing feedback, etc.

- Not meeting this minimum requirement of duration as a result of external factors would call for a second visit.

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II. The Assessment – Choice of lesson

- The lesson should provide sufficient evidence on all 4 scales:
  - Grammatical and Lexical Accuracy and Range
  - Pronunciation, Stress and Intonation
  - The Language of Interaction
  - The Language of Instruction

- Examples of lessons **NOT** suitable for assessment:
  - Lessons that do not provide evidence on all 4 scales
  - Lessons largely dominated by student activities with little teacher input

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II. The Assessment – Pre-assessment

- Candidate / office staff / janitor meets the assessor (at the General Office / school entrance).
- A written lesson plan is NOT required.

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II. The Assessment – Classroom setting

- Assessor(s) should be seated at the back of the classroom.
- Assessor(s) should not be invited to take part in class activities.
- **None of the following arrangements is allowed in the classroom during the assessment:**
  - **audio and / or video recording;**
  - **simultaneous online teaching or broadcast;**
  - **co-teaching; and**
  - **lesson observation by a person / people other than the assessor(s), including peer lesson observation**

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II. The Assessment – Criteria / Scales

- CLA assesses candidates' language ability to deliver an English lesson and teaching effectiveness strictly relevant to the use of functional language, NOT teaching methodology.
  - Use of Cantonese is NOT encouraged.

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II. The Assessment – Criteria / Scales

- Performance is judged on the **four scales** as follows :
  - Grammatical and Lexical Accuracy and Range
  - Pronunciation, Stress and Intonation
  - The Language of Interaction
  - The Language of Instruction
- Candidates are awarded scores from 1 to 5.
- To attain LPR – attained Level 3 or above on at least three scales and Level 2.5 or above on at most one scale in one sitting

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II. The Assessment – Criteria / Scales

Grammatical and Lexical Accuracy and Range

- The ability to use an appropriate range of grammatical structures and vocabulary accurately
- Demonstrated in
  - **Accuracy**, **variety and complexity** of language used
  - Types and frequency of **errors**
  - Evidence of **self-correction** or **reformulation**

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II. The Assessment – Criteria / Scales

Pronunciation, Stress and Intonation

- The ability to speak in a comprehensible way with no systematic errors in pronunciation and to use stress and intonation in a natural way to convey meaning
- Demonstrated in
  - The use of appropriate **stress** and **intonation patterns**
  - Articulation of **vowel** and **consonant sounds**
  - Frequency and types of **errors**

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II. The Assessment – Criteria / Scales

The Language of Interaction

- The ability to maintain smooth interaction with students using a range of effective and appropriate language
- Demonstrated in
  - **Eliciting**
    - Modifying and reformulating questions, giving clues and hints
  - **Responding**
    - Giving confirmation, seeking clarification or repetition
  - **Providing feedback**
    - Acknowledging, evaluating and commenting on students' responses

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II. The Assessment – Criteria / Scales

The Language of Instruction

- The ability to present and explain lesson content precisely, clearly and naturally, and to give clear instructions
- Demonstrated in
  - **Presenting**
    - Explaining a teaching point, e.g. grammar rules, a vocabulary item or a concept
  - **Giving instructions**
    - Conducting activities / giving homework / managing the classroom
  - **Signalling**
    - Organisation of discourse or a part of lesson / activity

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II. The Assessment – Post-assessment

- **No feedback** on the lesson observed will be provided.
- The assessor will **NOT** discuss with any school personnel the performance of the teacher / students or the lesson itself.

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III. FAQs

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III. FAQ – Question 1

- Will the use of Cantonese among students in group work be penalised in CLA?
  - CLA is an assessment of teachers' language ability not students'.
  - The assessor will not judge a candidate's performance on account of his / her students' language ability.

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III. FAQ – Question 2

- Can an assessor observe a lesson adopting English as the MOI, say a Geography or History lesson, instead of an English lesson for the CLA?

  - All lessons chosen for CLA must be a regular English lesson in the official school timetable.

  - CLA must take place in a regular English lesson with the subject content being English language.

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Reference

- **Classroom Language Assessment (English Language) Handbook**

(available on the EDB website: https://www.edb.gov.hk/cla)

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Enquiries

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Thank you