

New Arrangement for Category C (Other Languages) Examination for 2025 HKDSE and beyond

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香港考試及評核局
Hong Kong
Examinations and
Assessment Authority

Background



香港考試及評核局
Hong Kong
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Assessment Authority

- offers OL examinations pitched at **Advanced Subsidiary (AS)** level
- conducts marking and grading

SS Curriculum: Elective Subjects

French	German	Hindi
Japanese	Spanish	Urdu

HKDSE Category C: Other Languages (OL)

- administers the six OL examinations
- reports OL candidate results on the HKDSE certificate



2025 HKDSE

Not able to administer the OL examinations or report results

New arrangements

- Candidates are to take the language exams administered by **official cultural organisation** recommended by the respective Consulate General (CG).
- The examination is linked to the **national standard** of the language proficiency level for recognition of the results.
- Candidates' results in the language examinations obtained from these organisations would be passed to the HKEAA for inclusion in the HKDSE results and released to the tertiary institutions.



Other Languages

Highlights of the examinations

Relevant Info	Japanese	French	Spanish	German	Korean
Stipulated Language Exam	Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)	(i) Diplôme d'Études de Langue Française (DELF) (ii) Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF)	Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE)	Goethe-Zertifikat	Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK)
Exam provider / administrator in HK	Japan Foundation (Exam administrator: Society of Japanese Language Education, Hong Kong)	Alliance Française de Hong Kong	Instituto Cervantes (Shanghái) (Exam administrators: University of Wollongong College Hong Kong, Spanish World HK)	Goethe-Institut Hong Kong	National Institute for International Education (NIIED), Republic of Korea (Exam administrator: Korean International School, Hong Kong)
Issuing organisation	Japan Foundation	French Ministry of Education	Instituto Cervantes, founded by Spanish Govt	Goethe-Institut	National Institute for International Education (NIIED)



Other Languages

Highlights of the examinations

Relevant Info	Japanese	French	Spanish	German	Korean
Level of exams	Exams at different proficiency levels are offered: N1, N2, N3, N4, N5 (N1 is the highest; N5 is the lowest)	Based on Common European Framework of Reference for Languages Exams at different proficiency levels are offered: DELF: A1, A2, B1, B2 DALF: C1, C2 (C2 is the highest; A1 is the lowest)	Based on Common European Framework of Reference for Languages Exams at different proficiency levels are offered: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2 (C2 is the highest; A1 is the lowest)	Based on Common European Framework of Reference for Languages Exams at different proficiency levels are offered: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2 (C2 is the highest; A1 is the lowest)	TOPIK I: Grade 1 to 2 TOPIK II: Grade 3 to 6 (Grade 6 is the highest; Grade 1 is the lowest)
Language proficiency level required for university entry in respective country	N2 or above	B2 or above	B2 or above	B2 or above (German programs) A1-A2 (programs taught in English)	Grade 3 (university entrance for foreign students) Grade 2 (entrance to some vocational institutes for foreign students)
Language proficiency level(s) to be reported under the HKDSE	N3 or above	A2 or above	A2 or above	A2 or above	Grade 3 or above

Other Languages

Highlights of the examinations

Relevant Info	Japanese	French	Spanish	German	Korean
Exam paper/ component	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary, Grammar) Reading, Listening	Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking	Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking	Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking	Reading, Writing, Listening
Reporting of results	A passing score is set for each proficiency level. For those who pass the exam will be awarded the qualification of the respective proficiency level.				Results will be reported based on the total scores obtained by candidates. Scores lower than the requirement for Grade 3 (TOPIK II) will be reported as 'Fail'
Exam Schedule (TBC by exam provider)	Jul, Dec	Mar/Apr, Nov	May, Nov	Apr to Jun (flexible, A2 to B2 exam throughout the year)	Apr, Jul, Oct
Schedule for Release of Exam Results	(online/ hardcopy) July exam: August/September December exam: January/March	March/April exam: April/May November exam: Nov/Dec (3 weeks after the exam)	May exam: August November exam: February (about 3 months after the exam)	Apr to Jul (14 days after the exam date depending on candidature)	April exam: May July exam: August October exam: Nov (about 1 month after the exam)

Other Languages

Highlights of the examinations

Relevant Info	Japanese	French	Spanish	German	Korean
Relevant Website	www.japanese-edu.org.hk/jp/jlpt/en/news.html	www.afhongkong.org/en/exams/	www.uowchk.edu.hk/study-at-uowchk/find-programmes/international-language-proficiency-tests/diplomas-de-espaol-como-lengua-extranjera-dele/	www.goethe.de/ins/cn/en/sta/hon/prf.html	www.topik-hk.org/eng/index.asp



Other Languages

Exam arrangements

1. A list of the **stipulated examinations** for each Category C subject have been **published in the 2025 HKDSE Examination Regulations** (https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Exam_Regulations/2025_HKDSE_Regulations_E.pdf) and on the HKEAA webpage for **Category C** (https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/subject_information/category_c_subjects/)
2. Candidates should **enroll at the stipulated Organizations** for the relevant language examination.
3. Candidates should **register** in the **HKDSE examination** for the relevant language subject under Category C.
4. Candidates should **give consent to allow the Organisation to pass their results** in the relevant language examination to the HKEAA **for inclusion as the HKDSE Category C subject result**.



Other Languages

Exam arrangements

5. The language examinations should be **taken within 2 years prior to the HKDSE** the candidate sits.
6. Candidates should take the OL exam latest by **Oct/Nov/Dec (depending on the exam schedule of the OL subject)** in the year **before the HKDSE** they sit.
7. If a candidate takes the language examination more than once at the same or different levels, **only the highest achieved level and result will be taken** into the HKDSE Category C result. A deadline will be stipulated for the acceptance of the results obtained from the Organisations.



Other Languages

Exam arrangements

8. The Organisations

- ① provide and administer the language examinations **according to their schedule and standard practices**;
- ② **accept enrollment** of candidates in their examinations according to their standard practices and **without a mandatory requirement** on the candidates to take the learning courses run by the Organisation;
- ③ upon receiving from the HKEAA a list of HKDSE candidates who have enrolled in the Category C examination, **pass the candidates' results (the highest level attained and obtained within two years preceding the HKDSE sat)** in the language examination taken by the candidate (together with other relevant personal data for identification purposes) to the HKEAA for inclusion as the HKDSE Category C subject result



Example of Timeline for Category C exam (2025 HKDSE)

	2025 HKDSE		
	Enroll at the Organisations for the exams (Check the enrollment period and exact exam dates from the Organisations)		Register at the HKEAA for 2025 HKDSE (for all subjects entered, including Categories A and B, and the relevant language subject under Category C)
	2023 (Exam schedule)	2024 (Exam schedule)	2024
Japanese	Jul, Dec	Jul, Dec	September
French	Mar/Apr, Nov	Mar/Apr, Nov	
Spanish	May, Nov	May, Nov	
German	Apr to Jun (flexible)	Apr to Jun (flexible)	
Korean	Apr, Jul, Oct	Apr, Jul, Oct	



Other Languages

Examination and Administration fees

- Fee to be paid by candidates for entry in HKDSE Category C (2025+):
 - Examination fee payable to exam providers/administrators for taking the OL exam
 - Administration fee payable to the HKEAA for HKDSE



Other Languages

Key features of new OL arrangements

1. Change in the OL subjects
2. Change in the OL examinations and the operation
3. Higher recognition of the OL examinations
4. Greater flexibility of taking the OL examinations
5. “One exam two certificates”
6. Training and support measures to schools and students could be provided by the examination providers / cultural organization



Thank you