



## PRESS RELEASE

### HKDSE level 5\*\* awarded with UCAS Tariff Points

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) announced today (18 December 2012) that the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) of the United Kingdom (UK) has confirmed the tariff points awarded for level 5\*\* of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination after the completion of a recent benchmarking study.

Further to the benchmarking studies in 2010, the UCAS Board approved tariff recommendation for level 5\*\* at 145 points for 23 Category A New Senior Secondary subjects.

With specific reference to Mathematics which carries a unique structure comprising the compulsory part and the extended part, a student taking both parts and attaining level 5\*\* in each when applying for UK university, a tariff of 145 points is also given by adding the 65 tariff points of the compulsory part, and 80 tariff points of the extended part. The tariffs of the compulsory part and extended part of Mathematics are reported separately as at other levels of attainment in Mathematics in HKDSE.

Dr Tong Chong-sze, Secretary General of the HKEAA welcomed the results. "After the completion of the inaugural examination, we continued to work with a panel of experts from UCAS to study the performance of the first HKDSE cohort and review UCAS tariff points for level 5\*\*. The inclusion of tariff points for level 5\*\* has further enhanced understanding of the standards and value of the HKDSE for progression to tertiary education," said Dr Tong.

The tariff is used by UK universities in making offers to applicants, and is a way of comparing different qualifications using a common scale. The tariff points awarded for level 5\*\* is slightly higher than those awarded for grade A\* in GCE A level.

### The UCAS tariff value for HKDSE (2012)

#### **UCAS Tariff points for 23 Category A New Senior Secondary subjects, except Mathematics:**

Level	Tariff	Remarks
5**	145	Slightly higher than grade A* in GCE A level examination
5*	130	Between grades A and A* in GCE A level examination
5	120	Comparable to grade A in GCE A level examination
4	80	Comparable to grade C in GCE A level examination
3	40	Comparable to grade E in GCE A level examination

#### **UCAS Tariff points for Mathematics:**

*\*The overall performance is indicated by the combined tariff points to both parts.*

Level	Compulsory Part	Extended Part	Remarks
5**	65	80	• 145 points (65+80) for 5** in both compulsory and extended parts – slightly higher than grade A* in GCE A level examination
5*	60	70	
5	45	60	• 120 points (60+60) for 5* in the compulsory part and 5 in the extended part – comparable to grade A in GCE A level examination
4	35	50	
3	25	40	

Apart from the UK, the HKEAA continues to promote recognition of the HKDSE to universities in different countries. Currently, 140 tertiary institutions worldwide have acknowledged their acceptance of HKDSE and provided their admission requirements on the HKEAA website ([www.hkeaa.edu.hk](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk)).

In 2013, 70 higher education institutions in the Mainland and 149 Taiwan universities will also exempt Hong Kong students from examination for admission, allowing them to apply for admission with their HKDSE results directly.

**Notes to editor:**

- UCAS is the shared admissions service for higher education in the UK. They manage applications for full-time undergraduate courses.
- Updated information on UCAS Tariff points for HKDSE will be available on 19 December 2012 (UK Time) at [http://www.ucas.com/students/ucas\\_tariff/](http://www.ucas.com/students/ucas_tariff/).

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