



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HKEAA Announces 2026 HKDSE Examination Fees**

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) announced the examination and supplementary fees for the 2026 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) today (25 July 2025).

The HKEAA is a financially independent statutory organisation, with its income primarily derived from examination fees and other assessment services. In determining the examination and supplementary fees for the 2026 HKDSE, the Authority has taken into account a range of factors, including its overall financial position, the operational costs and resources involved in administering the examinations, the affordability for ordinary families, and the competitiveness of the HKDSE.

Each year, around 90% of HKDSE candidates are school candidates and private candidates holding a Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (Permanent HKIC). For the 2026 HKDSE, the examination fees and Initial fee (applicable to private candidates only) payable by these candidates will be increased by approximately 4% compared to the 2025 HKDSE. For school candidates, the examination fee for each Category A language subject will be increased by HK\$30, and that for each other subject by HK\$20. Based on a candidate taking six subjects, including two language subjects and four other subjects, the total examination fees will amount to HK\$3,630.

The HKEAA spokesperson said, 'The adjustment in examination fees applicable to the majority of candidates entering the 2026 HKDSE is comparable to that of the previous year and remains at a relatively moderate level. Candidates with financial needs can apply for examination fee remission from the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.'

Eligible school candidates studying Secondary 6 (S6) at HKDSE Participating Schools in the Mainland approved by the HKEAA, and sitting the 2026 HKDSE at the designated examination centres in the Mainland, will each have to pay an additional Initial Fee (Mainland examination centre), on top of the subject examination fees. This fee covers the additional costs incurred in setting up the Mainland examination centres, including the delivery and secure storage of examination papers, answer scripts, and examination-related materials, as well as the deployment of examination personnel. The Initial Fee (Mainland examination centre) for the 2026 HKDSE has been adjusted as appropriate based on the costs and resources involved in administering the examinations at these centres.

Moreover, there has been a notable increase in the number of private candidates in recent years. Some of these candidates, holding non-HKDSE qualifications, are required to submit Special Entry applications, which necessitate substantial manpower and resources from the

Authority to carefully vet each case. Additional examination centres and personnel have also been arranged to accommodate the growing number of private candidates, further increasing the operational costs of the HKDSE.

The examination fee structure for private candidates for the 2026 HKDSE and thereafter has been revised to optimise the use of resources and maintain the long-term financial stability of the Authority. The revisions are underpinned by two principles: the ‘user-pay’ principle and the general principle of avoiding cross-subsidisation for candidates who do not possess a Permanent HKIC. The changes include (1) the introduction of two tiers of subject fees for private candidates according to their residency status; and (2) the introduction of a new Special Entry Application Fee for individuals applying to enter the HKDSE as private candidates through the Special Entry procedure.

The 2026 HKDSE examination fees were published in the Government’s gazette today. The latest examination and supplementary fees are listed in the annex. Registration for 2026 HKDSE Categories A, B and C subjects will commence in September 2025. Please visit the HKEAA website (<https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/>) for details.

–End–

Date: 25 July 2025

## Annex

### 2026 HKDSE List of Examination and Supplementary Fees

Examination Fees		
Initial Fee (Applicable to private candidates only)		\$595
Initial Fee (Mainland examination centre) ^		\$2,500
Subject Fee (per subject)		
Status of candidates	Language Subjects #	Other Subjects
- School candidates - Private candidates who possess a Permanent HKIC	\$777	\$519
- Private candidates who do not possess a Permanent HKIC	\$1,377	\$1,119

^ Applicable only to eligible school candidates studying S6 in the Participating Schools in the Mainland approved by the HKEAA and will sit the examination at designated examination centres in the Mainland.

# Applicable to Category A Chinese Language and English Language only.

Supplementary Fee – Special Entry Application		
Category		18 August - 8 October 2025 (i.e. application period for Special Entry)
1	Special Entry Application Fee *	\$2,000 (per application)

\* The fee is non-refundable regardless of whether the application is approved.

Supplementary Fees – Subject Amendment			
Category		14 November – 5 December 2025 (i.e. subject amendment period)	6 December 2025 or after
2	Deletion of subjects	Subject fees will not be refunded; and no supplementary fee will be charged	Application for deletion of subjects will normally <b>not be accepted</b>
3	Substitution of subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$309 (per application); and</li> <li>Difference in subject fees (If there is an excess of the subject fee paid, the balance will not be refunded.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$714 (per subject); and</li> <li>Subject fee concerned</li> </ul>
4	Addition of subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$309 (per application); and</li> <li>Subject fee concerned</li> </ul>	
5	Late entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$479 (per application); and</li> <li>Subject fee concerned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$958 (per application); and</li> <li>Subject fee concerned</li> </ul>

Supplementary Fees – Change of Examination Centre District				
Category		5 December 2025 or before	6 – 15 December 2025	After 15 December 2025
6	Change of Examination Centre District Choice <sup>@</sup>	No supplementary fee will be charged	\$479 (per application)	\$958 (per application)

@ Includes the change of choice of examination centre district or change of sitting the core subject examinations in Home Centre to Non-home Centre and vice versa (applicable to school candidates only). Applications after 15 December 2025 will normally **not be accepted**, unless there are justifications.