

**Common Recruitment Examination and  
Basic Law and National Security Law Test (Degree / Professional Grades)  
of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China**

**Notes for Applicants**

**Please read these notes carefully before completing the application form for the Common Recruitment Examination and the Basic Law and National Security Law Test (Degree / Professional Grades) (CRE and BLNST). Please keep these notes for reference until the examination results are available.**

**Date of Examination:** 1 June 2024, or another date within June 2024 if necessary

**Application Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. on 5 April 2024 (Hong Kong time)

- (a) Please ensure that all parts in the application form are completed (except those items marked as “Optional”) and the information is accurate. **Your application will not be considered** if you fail to provide all information as requested.
- (b) Applicants will be notified of the examination details **by e-mail** by 20 May 2024. Any requests for change of examination date / time / venue will **not** be considered. Persons who wish to take the coming CRE and BLNST should visit the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) webpage at [www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html](http://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html) regularly to check for updates on the examination and refer to the relevant details.
- (c) Candidates will be notified of their examination results **by post** within one month after the examination.
- (d) For enquiries, please contact the Civil Service Examinations Unit (CSEU) by phone at (852) 2537 6429, by e-mail to [csbcseu@csb.gov.hk](mailto:csbcseu@csb.gov.hk), or by post to Room 2511, 25th Floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

**Eligibility**

- (1) Applicants for the coming CRE and BLNST should be –
  - (a) holders of degree (not including Associate Degree); or
  - (b) university students who will have attained a degree in the academic year of 2023-24 or 2024-25; or
  - (c) holders of a qualification meeting the entry requirement on professional qualifications for civil service degree or professional posts. (Only applicable to those who are not in the above two categories.)

[Note: For this category of applicants, before submitting an application for the CRE and BLNST, please refer to the “Frequently Asked Questions” available at [www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html](http://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html) for information about the eligibility of applicants. You should also check with the departments / grades concerned to confirm whether the qualification that you are holding is accepted for appointment to the relevant post(s).]

**Application Procedure**

- (2) Applicants should submit an application for the CRE and BLNST before the application deadline through **one** of the means below –
  - (a) through the on-line application system on the CSB webpage at [www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html](http://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html); or
  - (b) by post to the CSEU at Room 2511, 25th Floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (date of postmark on or before 5 April 2024). To avoid unsuccessful delivery of mail items, please ensure that the address on the envelope is clear and correct, and sufficient postage has been paid. Mail items bearing insufficient postage will not be delivered to the CSEU and will be returned to the sender or disposed of by the Hongkong Post, where appropriate. An applicant will bear any consequences arising from not paying sufficient postage or any delay or unsuccessful delivery of applications by post.
- (3) Each applicant should submit only **one** application. Duplicate applications will **not** be processed. Submissions by fax or e-mail will **not** be accepted. Applications with incomplete or unclear information will **not** be processed.
- (4) The on-line application system does not support on-line application via browsers of mobile devices (including mobile phones and tablets) at the moment. Please use **desktop computer** to submit an on-line application.
- (5) Late or incomplete applications will **not** be accepted. Towards the deadline for application, the on-line system would likely be heavily loaded with large volume of applications, and it may render applicants unable to complete their on-line applications in time. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to submit their application as early as possible.
- (6) On receipt of an **on-line application**, a confirmation e-mail with a serial number will be sent to the applicant’s e-mail address immediately. Applicants should contact the CSEU by phone at (852) 2537 6429 or by e-mail to [csbcseu@csb.gov.hk](mailto:csbcseu@csb.gov.hk) immediately, and **not later than 5:00 p.m. on 5 April 2024**, if they do not receive the confirmation e-mail after submitting the application. For applications submitted **by post**, an acknowledgement with a serial number will be sent to the applicant’s correspondence address. Applicants should contact the CSEU by phone or by e-mail **not later than 5:00 p.m. on 5 April 2024**, if they do not receive the acknowledgement. Applicants are required to keep the serial number until the examination is over.
- (7) As an **e-mail** will be sent to applicants notifying them of the relevant examination details, applicants should provide an accurate email address in their application. To avoid missing any notification, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their email accounts can receive emails from CSEU, and checking each incoming mailbox (including the folders for spam, bulk and junk mails) regularly. Applicants who do not receive the e-mail by **20 May 2024** should immediately contact the CSEU by phone or by e-mail.

**CRE and Civil Service Recruitment**

- (8) The CRE consists of three 45-minute papers, namely Use of English (UE), Use of Chinese (UC) and Aptitude Test (AT), in multiple-choice format. The UE and UC papers assess proficiency in English and Chinese languages respectively whereas the AT paper assesses reasoning abilities. Candidates’ results in the UE and UC papers are classified as Level 2, Level 1 or Fail, with Level 2 being the highest. Results in the AT paper are classified as Pass or Fail. Level 2 and Level 1 results of the two language papers and Pass result of the AT paper are of permanent validity.
- (9) In general, applicants for civil service posts at degree or professional level are required to obtain either Level 2 or Level 1 in the UE and UC papers of the CRE for meeting the language proficiency requirements as stipulated by individual recruiting departments / grades in the relevant recruitment advertisements. Applicants with Level 2 in the UE and UC papers are considered as meeting the general language proficiency requirements of all degree or professional grades. The list of civil service grades which require Level 2 or Level 1 in the two language papers can be found on the CSB webpage.

- (10) Applicants for some of the civil service posts at degree or professional level are also required to obtain a Pass in the AT paper in addition to the requisite results in the UE and UC papers. The list of civil service grades which require a Pass in the AT paper for appointment can be found on the CSB webpage.
- (11) Some civil service grades (e.g. disciplined services grades) offer different entry pay points to recruits according to their academic qualifications. Degree holders without the requisite CRE results may still apply for these posts but will not be eligible for the degree pay point. The list of grades offering different entry pay points according to academic qualifications can be found on the CSB webpage.
- (12) Persons who wish to apply for civil service posts at degree or professional level should first obtain the requisite CRE results unless otherwise specified in the relevant recruitment advertisements. Applicants may choose to attempt all, any one, or any combination of the CRE papers. Applicants are advised to ascertain the requirements of the civil service post(s) in which they are interested and other examination results accepted as equivalent to CRE results before deciding on which paper(s) they should attempt in the coming examination (see notes (17) to (22) below). Any change to the choice of papers is **not** allowed after the application deadline.
- (13) The CRE is held independently of the recruitment process for any civil service post. Persons who wish to apply for civil service posts should apply to the recruiting departments / grades direct. The acquisition of the requisite CRE results does not imply that a candidate has fully met the entry requirements of any civil service post at degree or professional level. Vetting of academic and / or professional qualifications will be carried out by the recruiting departments / grades which may also conduct separate examinations / interviews in addition to the CRE.

### **BLNST and Civil Service Recruitment**

- (14) For all civil service recruitment exercises **advertised on or after 1 July 2022**, attaining a pass result in the BLNST is an entry requirement for all civil service jobs. The BLNST will assess candidates' knowledge on both the Basic Law and the National Security Law. All candidates for civil service jobs must pass the BLNST in order to be considered for appointment, regardless of whether the candidates have previously taken the Basic Law Test (BLT) (either a BLT centrally conducted by the CSB or a BLT arranged by individual bureaux/departments in their past civil service recruitment exercises) and the result. Candidates who have taken any BLT in the past and wish to apply for any civil service job advertised on or after 1 July 2022 must take the BLNST and attain a pass result in order to be considered for appointment.
- (15) The BLNST (Degree/Professional grades) is a 30-minute bilingual paper (in both English and Chinese) comprising 20 multiple-choice questions. Answering at least 10 out of 20 questions correct will be deemed to have a pass result in the BLNST. The pass result of the BLNST (Degree/Professional grades) is acceptable for the purpose of applying for all civil service jobs. Candidates who possess a pass result in BLNST will **not** be arranged to take the BLNST again.
- (16) More details about the BLNST can be found on the CSB webpage.

### **Choice of Examination Papers**

- (17) Level 5 or above in **English Language** of the **Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSEE)** is accepted as equivalent to Level 2 in the UE paper of the CRE. Level 5 or above in **Chinese Language** of the **HKDSEE** is accepted as equivalent to Level 2 in the UC paper of the CRE. Applicants with the above result(s) will **not** be arranged to take the UE and / or UC paper(s).
- (18) Level 4 in **English Language** of the **HKDSEE** is accepted as equivalent to Level 1 in the UE paper of the CRE. Level 4 in **Chinese Language** of the **HKDSEE** is accepted as equivalent to Level 1 in the UC paper of the CRE. Applicants with the above result(s) may wish to take this into account in deciding whether they need to take the UE and / or UC paper(s) having regard to the requirements of the civil service post(s) in which they are interested.
- (19) Grade C or above in **Use of English** of the **Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE)** or in **English Language** of the **General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) (GCE A Level)** is accepted as equivalent to Level 2 in the UE paper of the CRE. Grade C or above in **Chinese Language and Culture** or **Chinese Language and Literature** of the **HKALE** is accepted as equivalent to Level 2 in the UC paper of the CRE. Applicants with the above result(s) will **not** be arranged to take the UE and / or UC paper(s).
- (20) Grade D in **Use of English** of the **HKALE** or in **English Language** of the **GCE A Level** is accepted as equivalent to Level 1 in the UE paper of the CRE. Grade D in **Chinese Language and Culture** or **Chinese Language and Literature** of the **HKALE** is accepted as equivalent to Level 1 in the UC paper of the CRE. Applicants with the above result(s) may wish to take this into account in deciding whether they need to take the UE and / or UC paper(s) having regard to the requirements of the civil service post(s) in which they are interested.
- (21) An overall band of 6.5 or above with no subtest score below band 6 obtained in the same sitting in the **Academic Module of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** within the 2-year validity period of the test is accepted as equivalent to Level 2 in the UE paper of the CRE. Applicants with the above results may wish to take this into account in deciding whether they need to take the UE paper.
- (22) Applicants may choose to take any of the CRE papers and / or the BLNST paper in the coming examination.

### **Data Privacy**

- (23) The information provided by applicants and their examination results may be provided to government departments and other organisations or agencies authorised to process such data for purposes relating to recruitment by and employment with the Government. Requests for correction of or access to personal data after the submission of an application form should be addressed in writing to Senior Executive Officer (Examinations)<sup>2</sup> of the CSEU at Room 2511, 25th Floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

- \* **Applications with incomplete or unclear information, late applications, duplicate applications, or applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be processed.**
- \* **The Application Form for the CRE and BLNST is NOT a job application form for employment with the Government. Persons who wish to apply for civil service posts should follow the procedures stipulated in the relevant recruitment advertisements.**