

**Notes from the Vocational Training Council (VTC)
for the Special Meeting on Building Quality of Public Housing Flats
to be hold by the LegCo Panel on housing on 7.12.1999**

VTC offers various courses for technicians, crafts, pre-employment and upgrading training as well as the running of trade tests for the electrical and mechanical services sector of the construction industry.

Technician Courses

The technician courses are operated in modes of full-time, part-time day release and part-time evening. A summary of the courses offered is as below:

Course Title	Nominal Annual Intake as at 1.11.1999	Offering Campus
(i) <u>Full-time</u>		
HD in Civil/Structural Engineering	120	TY
HD in Building Services Engineering	80	TY
D in Building Studies	120	MH & TM
D in Civil Engineering	120	MH & TM
D in Building Services Engineering	160	MH & TM
(ii) <u>Part-time Day Release</u>		
HC in Civil Engineering	120	TY
HC in Building Studies	240	TY
HC in Quantity Surveying	120	TY
HC in Building Services Engineering	120	TY
C in Building Studies	160	MH & TM
C in Civil Engineering	120	MH & TM
C in Quantity Surveying	80	MH
C in Building Services Engineering	120	MH & TM

Course Title	Nominal Annual Intake as at 1.11.1999	Offering Campus
(iii) <u>Part-time Evening</u>		
HC in Civil Engineering	120	TY
HC in Building Studies	240	TY
HC in Valuation and Property Management	40	TY
HC in Building Services Engineering	140	TY
C in Building Studies	400	MH & TM
C in Civil Engineering	240	MH & TM
C in Quantity Surveying	40	MH
C in Building Services Engineering	80	MH & TM
C in Property Management	80	MH

Craft Courses

The craft courses are also operated in part-time day release and part-time evening modes. A summary of the craft courses offered is as below:

Course Title	Nominal Annual Intake as at 1.11.1999	Offering Campus
(i) <u>Part-time Day Release</u>		
Craft C in Plumbing and Pipefitting	240	MH & TM
Craft C in Wood Trade	360	MH & TM
Craft C in Trowel Trade	360	MH & TM
Craft C in Painting Trade	240	MH & TM
Craft C in Scaffolding	60	TM
Craft C in Marble-Laying and Masonry	60	TM
(ii) <u>Part-time Evening</u>		
Vocational C in Engineering Surveying	80	MH
Vocational C in Building Measurement	80	MH & TM
Craft C in Plumbing and Pipefitting	80	MH & TM
Vocational C in Civil Engineering Laboratory Technique	40	TM
Craft C in Site Foremanship Studies	40	TM

Short Training Courses

The short training courses are run for the Buildings Department in collaboration with the CITA. A summary of the courses offered is as below:

Course Title	Nominal Annual Intake	
	as at 1.11.1999	Offering Campus
Topping-up Training Courses for TCP Grade T1 – Interim Certificate	753	TY
Topping-up Training Courses for TCP Grade T1 – Equivalent Certificate	250	TY
*Topping-up Course for the Authorized Signatories of Current Registered Building Contractors	160	TY

(* This course will be started in December 1999)

Pre-employment Training

Pre-employment courses are provided to equip secondary school leavers with basic skills in key E&M trades. A summary of the courses offered is as below:

<u>Course</u>		<u>Duration</u>	<u>1999/2000 Annual Capacity</u>
<i>(a) Basic Craft Courses</i>			
ELTC:	(i) Electrical	1 year	300
	(ii) Air-conditioning & Refrigeration	1 year	160
	(iii) Lift	1 year	80
	(iv) Building Services	1 year	108
METC:	(v) Mechanical	1 year	360
GATC:	(vi) Gas Utilization Fitting	1 year	36
WETC:	(vii) Welding and Fabrication	1 year	42
Total			1086

<u>Course</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>1999/2000 Annual Capacity</u>
(b) <i>Basic Craft Courses</i>	1 year	32
ELTC: (i) Building Services		
(c) <i>Basic Skill Training Course for S5 Leavers</i>	32 weeks	90
METC: (i) Mechanical Engineering		
(d) <i>Short Courses</i>	15 weeks	75
WETC: (i) Basic Welding Operation		

Upgrading Training

Upgrading courses are to equip in-service workers with improved or new skills for the purpose of either meeting legislative requirements, keeping abreast of technological changes, securing a higher level job or changing employment to another trade. A summary of the courses offered is as below:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>1999/2000 Annual Capacity</u>
ELTC: (i) Upgrading training for air-conditioning mechanics, electricians, lift mechanics, and water heater workers	20 - 40 hours	1460
GATC: (ii) Upgrading training for gas workers	26 - 80 hours	575
WETC: (iii) Upgrading training for welding workers	13 - 38 hours	423
METC: (iv) Upgrading training for mechanical services workers	8 hours	90
Total		2648

Trade Tests for Tradesmen (TT)

The main objectives of the trade tests are: (i) to facilitate the acquisition of recognised qualifications for those workers who have not gone through formal training; and (ii) to ensure that there will be sufficient qualified tradesmen for employment by E&M contractors in meeting the new contractual requirements (The Works Bureau and the Housing Department require E&M contractors of all capital works and maintenance works contracts to employ a minimum number of qualified tradesmen and intermediate tradesmen). VTC's current trade testing capacity for E&M tradesmen is as follows:

<u>Trade</u>	<u>Annual Capacity</u>	
	<u>1999/2000</u>	<u>2000/2001</u>
ELTC: (i) Electrician	600	1000
ELTC: (ii) Air-conditioning/Refrigeration Mechanic	40	440
METC: (iii) Mechanical Fitter	30	30
Total	670	1470

Intermediate Trade Tests for Semi-skilled Workers (ITT)

VTC also conducts intermediate trade tests in key E&M skills for semi-skilled workers to satisfy the demand for certification of semi-skilled workers in key E&M trades in meeting the government and Housing Authority's contractual requirements. The testing scheme aims at establishing a pool of certified local semi-skilled workers in E&M trades to enhance their employment opportunities. The VTC's current ITT capacity for key E&M skills is as follows:

<u>Skill</u>	<u>Annual Capacity</u>	
	<u>1999/2000</u>	<u>2000/2001</u>
(i) Electrical Work	1500	1500
(ii) Mechanical Fitting	2400	2400
(iii) Pipe Work	2400	2400
(iv) Sheet Metal Work	2400	2400
(v) Welding (E&M)	1000	1000
Total	9700	9700

Gas Workers

Under the Gas Safety Ordinance gas workers are not required to pass trade tests for registration. They have to attend and complete the specified courses conducted by VTC's Gas Industry Training Centre for qualifying as registered gas workers.

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