

## **Right of Ethnic minorities**

### **Recommendation for Uniform conversion of alternate Chinese exams and minimum DSE Chinese level accepted for University admission lowered**

Are ethnic minority students clear about how to convert their score from an alternative Chinese exam into the DSE level requirements for admission to universities? The answer is a resounding no but then who is accountable for the lack of transparency and basic access to information regarding conversion of their scores. There is an absence of conversion table for alternate Chinese examinations such as GCSE and GCE. This leaves students perplexed on what programs are they eligible to apply for and how will that convert into a DSE score when they submit university application through the JUPAS system, the startling fact is that this acts as a deterrent for students to apply for programs they wish to enter as this situation propels them into underestimating the score they achieve in an alternative Chinese exam. They cannot make an informed decision.

To illustrate, in the 9 JUPAS participating institutions, only one of them provides a clear table regarding the conversion of an alternative Chinese exam's grade into the level considered for DSE for admission purposes. Besides, with the scaling system for these alternative Chinese examinations changing constantly, the information is also not updated regularly. Therefore, I would recommend a uniform conversion of alternative Chinese exams to be put in place across all universities and the SSSDP Institutions. This would enable ethnic minority students to make a well-informed decision regarding their future career paths.

Another issue I would like to raise is about the general entrance requirement of the Chinese subject to enter a bachelor's degree program. According to the 2019 DSE result's statistics from the HKEAA, more than 40% of the students cannot satisfy the local Chinese Language requirement which immediately deprives them of a chance to enter a local 4-year undergraduate program and it is unfair to students who excel in other subjects. Therefore, I think that the current university entrance requirement is too rigid and inconsiderate, I would suggest loosening the DSE Chinese admission requirement from level 3 to level 2 with the exception for programs that require extensive use of Chinese language as apart from these Chinese programs the majority of the courses provided in the university uses English as the medium of instruction. All in all, in order to ensure all students go through a fair articulation process, proper improvements are needed in our education system.

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