



## PRESS RELEASE

### HKDSE level 3 to 5\*\* included in the new UCAS Tariff

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) announced today (15 June 2016) that after a recent review by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) of the United Kingdom (UK), the new Tariff points awarded to level 3 to level 5\*\* of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) remains comparable to grades E to A\* in the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCE A level) examination.

UCAS has adopted a different number system for the new Tariff from 2017. The total Tariff points are awarded to a qualification according to its size and grades. Some universities and colleges in the UK will continue to use the Tariff as a tool to set their entry requirements and make offers.

Level 5\*\* in 23 Category A Senior Secondary subjects is awarded the highest possible 56 points, which is the same as the new Tariff for grade A\* in GCE A level. Level 3 in the HKDSE is awarded 16 points, which is comparable to grade E in GCE A level.

With specific reference to Mathematics which carries a unique structure comprising the Compulsory Part and the Extended Part, the Tariff of each component is awarded separately. Level 5\*\* in the Compulsory Part and the Extended Part of Mathematics are awarded 28 points each, which means that candidates taking both parts of Mathematics can achieve tariff points that are on par with other HKDSE Category A subjects.

Mrs Christina Lee, Director of Public Examinations of the HKEAA welcomed the results. 'The Tariff points awarded to the HKDSE in the new UCAS Tariff continue to indicate a high level of confidence in the standards of the HKDSE, and further enhanced understanding of the academic achievements of the senior secondary graduates of Hong Kong.' said Mrs Lee.

Since 2010 the HKDSE has been included in the Tariff system, which provides a common scale for comparison of HKDSE with other overseas qualifications, such as the GCE A level and International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. The new UCAS Tariff points apply to students who are currently in S5 and planning to start university in the UK in September 2017.

According to the HKEAA international recognition database, over 90 higher education institutions in the UK accept HKDSE candidates for admission to their undergraduate programmes.

The HKEAA has continued to promote recognition of the HKDSE and nearly 240 tertiary institutions worldwide, as well as 84 universities in the Mainland and around 150 Taiwan universities and some institutions in other parts of Asia, have acknowledged their acceptance of the HKDSE since its launch in 2012. Details are available at [www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/hkdse\\_recognition/ircountry\\_hkdse.html](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/recognition/hkdse_recognition/ircountry_hkdse.html)

### **The new UCAS Tariff for HKDSE (2017)**

#### **HKDSE Category A subjects except Mathematics:**

Level	New UCAS Tariff
5**	56
5*	52
5	48
4	32
3	16

#### **HKDSE Mathematics:**

Level	New UCAS Tariff	
	Compulsory Part	Extended Part
5**	28	28
5*	26	26
5	24	24
4	16	16
3	8	8

#### **Notes to editors:**

- UCAS is the shared admissions service for higher education in the UK. They manage applications for full-time undergraduate courses.
- Updated information on the new UCAS Tariff points for HKDSE is available at [www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires/getting-started/entry-requirements/new-tariff](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires/getting-started/entry-requirements/new-tariff)
- For students applying for undergraduate courses starting in September 2016, please refer to the current UCAS Tariff points at: [www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/tariff-entry-higher-education-2016](http://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/tariff-entry-higher-education-2016)

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