

HKAGE Nomination for Membership Scheme 2025/26 Frequently Asked Questions

Part 1 - HKAGE & Nominations

- Q1. **What is the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE)? What services does it provide?**
- The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE) is a non-profit-making educational institute fully funded by the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government. It operates independently from government departments to provide diversified off-school gifted education services for gifted students aged 10 to 18, currently studying in registered primary or secondary schools in Hong Kong.
 - In addition to services to students, the HKAGE also provides relevant professional support services for parents and teachers.
 - Learning programmes cover academic areas such as **STEAM, humanities, and languages**, as well as non-academic areas like **leadership, creativity, interpersonal skills, and community commitment**. These programmes aim to help students explore their potential, develop their abilities, foster a passion for learning, and support their social and emotional needs.
- Q2. **How to become an HKAGE member? What are the application pathways?**
- Students can join the HKAGE through the following pathways:
 - **School Nomination:** Nominated by schools and participate in the HKAGE's "Screening Test".
 - **Parent Nomination:** Nominated by parents and participate in the HKAGE's "Screening Test".
 - **Principal's Nomination:** Nominated by principals, exempted from the "Screening Test". Students must submit their personal profiles directly to the HKAGE (for the Visual Arts Domain) or submit personal profiles plus attend an interview (for the Leadership Domain) for assessment.
 - **Nurturing the Gifted Scheme:** For students who have demonstrated exceptional performance in significant competitions, scholarships, and award schemes in Hong Kong, they will receive invitations from HKAGE for membership.
- Q3. **What are the eligibility restrictions for applying to the HKAGE's new "Screening Test"?**
- Students must only be studying in a Hong Kong registered primary or secondary school*, and not register as a full-time student at any school outside Hong Kong. (*Note: Refer to the "school level" listed in the [EDB School Information Page](#))
 - Students must be aged 10 to 18, and at least 10 years old on or before 30 September 2026. Their birth dates must fall between 1 July 2008 and 30 September 2016.
 - Each student can only apply once per school year through either "School Nomination" or "Parent Nomination".
 - Students who have enrolled in the "Screening Test" cannot participate in the "Principal's Nomination" in the same school year.
 - Students in their **final year of secondary school** are not eligible to apply due to impending graduation and **cannot participate in the "Principal's Nomination"**.
 - Admission opportunities are equal for both "**Parent Nomination**" and "**School Nomination**".
- Q4. **How many students can each school nominate for the new "Screening Test? What should students do if they want to change their application method?**
- Each school may nominate up to 10 students per school year through the "School Nomination". The number of students applying through the "Parent Application" or "Principal's Nomination" does not count towards this quota.
 - If a student wishes to **change their application method** during the application process (e.g., from School Nomination to Parent Nomination), they **must notify the HKAGE by email to withdraw the original application and then reapply**.



Q5. Other Important Notes

- **Providing false information:** HKAGE may request supporting documents from the applicants at any time or directly verify a student's enrolment status with the relevant school. Submission of any false or misleading information will result in immediate termination of the nomination process. Furthermore, the parent and/or student may have to assume criminal liability.
- **Access rights:** Schools can access relevant information about students applying through "School Nomination" or "Parent Nomination", including application progress and nomination results.
- **Application changes:** All changes, including withdrawal, must be submitted by email.
- **Applicants' responsibility:** Applicants must provide a correct and valid email address. If application results and login details are not received after the "Screening Test" begins, parents/students should immediately contact the HKAGE at sss@hkage.org.hk.

Part 2 - Screening Test Arrangements

Q6. What is the "Screening Test"? How does it differ from the previous screening programmes? Does it require prior preparation?

- The "Screening Test" is a **comprehensive ability assessment** designed to identify gifted students. It covers multiple aspects of ability, including language, mathematics and humanities, logical reasoning, creativity, and task commitment. The test is designed to allow students not only to answer standard multiple-choice questions but also to express original ideas through short-answer questions, showcasing creative thinking that goes beyond traditional formats.
- Compared to the previous screening programmes, the "Screening Test" focuses more on assessing students' **diverse qualities and abilities, not just academic performance. No prior drilling is required.**
- The "Screening Test" does not require studying an online courses, saving time and reducing prolonged computer use or device dependence, making the test more inclusive and reducing the possibility of students dropping out.
- The "Screening Test" is divided into three levels: **Primary, Junior Secondary (S1 - S3), and Senior Secondary (S4 - S5).**

Q7. As the "Screening Test" is divided into only three levels according to school grades, are students in lower grades within each level less likely to be admitted?

- The "Screening Test" is designed based on ability levels, not school grades, to reflect actual performance. Therefore, students in lower grades within each level who possess the corresponding abilities have an equal chance of admission.

Q8. How is the "Screening Test" conducted? How long is the test?

- The "Screening Test" is conducted on a **designated online platform.**
- Candidate can participate from anywhere in Hong Kong.
- Required equipment:
 - Desktop computer or laptop (the online platform does not support tablets)
 - Stable internet connection
 - Webcam
 - Microphone (audio input)
 - Computer keyboard and mouse
- Voice input and handwriting input methods are not supported.
- Only input methods installed on the computer system can be used.
- The test duration varies by level:
 - Primary Level: 100 minutes
 - Junior Secondary Level (S1–S3): 120 minutes
 - Senior Secondary Level (S4–S5): 135 minutes



- All questions (except for the language ones) will be displayed in both Traditional Chinese and English.
- Candidate can choose either Chinese Language or English Language as the language subject. Once chosen all other questions must be answered in the same language. Mixing Chinese and English characters is not allowed for short-answer questions.
- Most questions are multiple-choice, with some short-answer questions.
- The test can only be taken once, with no retake.
- Candidates participating in the “Screening Test” **do not** need to submit personal profiles afterwards. Admission is based solely on the test results.

Q9. Does the computer used for the "Screening Test" need to have software pre-installed?

- The online platform generally requires only a web browser to login. During the test, the designated online platform does not allow other applications to be opened.
- Mock sessions will be arranged before the test for candidates to test the equipment and familiarise themselves with the platform's login and operations.

Q10. How does the online platform for the "Screening Test" verify students' identities?

- Upon logging in, candidates must show their identification documents (HK Identity Card, passport, Home Return Permit, or student card only) in front of the camera, clearly displaying their face and name.
- The system will use artificial intelligence to verify identity.

Q11. Is there a fixed date and time for the “Screening Test”? (*Updated*)

- Candidates can log in during the specific periods based on their level of study:
 - Senior Secondary Level (S4–S5): 23 February to 28 February 2026
 - Junior Secondary Level (S1–S3): 2 March to 7 March 2026
 - Primary Level: 9 March to 14 March 2026
- “Screening Test Platform” Availability:
 - Available 24 hours a day (students may log in at any time during the test period)
- Last Login Time:
 - Students must log in before 9:00 p.m. on the last day of the test period.
 - This ensures sufficient time to complete the test and avoids situations where the platform closes before submission is made.
- Attention: For School Nomination, schools should make flexible arrangements for candidates to take the test during class time.

Q12. Can the timer be paused after the test begins? Can I leave my seat to go to the restroom during the test?

- No time pause is allowed after the test begins, and no compensated time. Candidates should plan their time accordingly to allow sufficient time to complete the test.
- Friendly reminder: Candidates are recommended to use the restroom before the test.
- If candidates need to leave their seat to go to the restroom due to an unforeseen situation, they must raise their hand in front of the webcam and briefly explain the reason for the system to record it.
- Note: Other reasons for leaving are not accepted.

Q13. If the network suddenly disconnects or I encounter technical problems during the test, will it affect my test score? Can I log back in to continue the test??

- If candidates encounter network interruptions or technical problems occur during the test, they must immediately contact the online technical support platform.
- The system retains the test record up to the point of disconnection, and the technical support will assist students in logging back in to complete the remaining questions.
- No time pause is allowed after the test begins, and no compensated time will be given.

Q14. Does the test require teacher or parent accompaniment or assistance?

- Candidates must complete the entire test independently to ensure fairness and integrity. If anyone other than the candidate appears in front of the camera or if voice prompts from others are detected, it will be recorded as suspicious behaviour. Confirmed cheating or suspicious behaviour will result in disqualification without notice.
- Teachers or parents may only assist with logging into the platform and technical operations before the test begins. Once the test starts, candidates must proceed independently.
- Teachers or parents can only assist candidates during the mock sessions to familiarise them with the login and operation procedures.

Q15. Can the test be rescheduled if students are unable to take it within the designated period?

- If a candidate fails to complete the test within the designated period for any reason, it is considered abstention, and no rescheduling will be arranged.

Q16. The test includes short-answer questions. Is it necessary to know how to type in Chinese? Can voice input be used?

- Voice input and handwriting input methods are not supported; only input methods installed on the computer system can be used.
- Candidates are advised to use a familiar Chinese input method for short-answer questions if they choose Chinese Language, and should be familiar with the platform operations and text input methods during the mock session period.
- All other questions must be answered in the same language, which cannot be changed after the application. A mixture of Chinese and English characters is not allowed.

Q17. How is cheating prevented in the test?

- To ensure fairness in the test, the system will implement multiple anti-cheating measures, including:
 - Requiring a designated browser
 - Randomised questions
 - Webcams and microphones are enabled for identity verification and recording the entire test process
 - Artificial intelligence technology to detect suspicious behaviour
- All recordings and related data are used solely for the "Screening Test" and securely destroyed in a specified timeframe after the nomination process is completed.
- Note: Confirmed cheating or suspicious behaviour will lead to disqualification without further notice.

Q18. How will the test results be announced? What is the passing score?

- After the final result is confirmed, students can log in to the online nomination platform to check their results. The platform will only indicate whether the candidate has been passed or not. No actual scores will be displayed.
- The actual test scores and the passing scores are internal information and will not be released.
- **The test result is the final nomination result; no appeal or re-assessment will be accepted.**

Part 3 - HKAGE Membership & Programmes

Q19. How does the HKAGE screen members? What screening criteria are used?

- Screening is based on Dr Joseph Renzulli's Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness. The HKAGE selects students who are likely to benefit from its programmes, based on:
 - **Above Average Abilities:** High levels of abstract thinking, verbal and numerical reasoning, spatial relations, memory, and word fluency.
 - **Creativity:** Fluency, flexibility, a high level of curiosity, and originality of thought. Students demonstrating creativity are receptive to that which is new and different (even rational) in thoughts, actions, and work products.



- **Task Commitment:** High levels of interest, enthusiasm, fascination, involvement, and perseverance in a particular area of study.

Q20. How do schools decide which students to nominate? How can parents identify gifted students??

- Parents and teachers can observe students' daily behaviours in learning, leisure, and interactions with peers. They can also refer to:
 - Dr Joseph Renzulli's Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness
 - Reference materials on the HKAGE website ([website link](#))
 - Identification tools provided by the Education Bureau ([website link](#))
- Schools can make reference to the three-tier framework of gifted education and establish a "School-Based Student Talent Pool" to identify suitable students.

Q21. How many new members does the HKAGE admit each year?

- The HKAGE admits approximately 1,800 new members each year, though the actual number may vary annually.

Q22. Are HKAGE programmes free? When and where are they held?

- All applications and student programmes are free, with exceptions for special activities like overseas study programmes.
- Most programmes are held on weekends or school holidays at the HKAGE premises, Satellite Centres, or venues provided by partner institutions.

Q23. What language is used for the HKAGE programmes?

- Most programmes are conducted in Cantonese. Some programmes are offered in English or Putonghua.

Q24. Can primary student members apply for secondary programmes?

- Primary student members can apply for secondary programmes with no grade-level restrictions, based on their individual abilities and interests.

Q25. Must a student reapply for the new "Screening Test" when moving to secondary school?

- Primary 6 student members who meet the requirements for membership renewal of the first review period or the annual review period will automatically transit to secondary school membership without the need for reapplying.