香 港 資 優 教 育 學 苑
The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

HKAGE Nomination for Membership Scheme 2026/27
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 "Screening Test"?**

- Students must only be studying in a Hong Kong registered primary or secondary school (AM / PM / WHOLE DAY)*, and must not be registered as a full-time student at any school outside Hong Kong. **(*Note: Only schools listed on the Academy’s application platform will be accepted.)**
- Students must be aged 10 to 18, and at least 10 years old on or before 30 September 2027. Their birth dates must fall between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2017.
- 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"**.
- Students applying through either the **"Parent Nomination" or "School Nomination"** route are assessed using the same standards and selection criteria.

Q4. **[*NEW*] If a student is absent from the Screening Test, can he/she participate in the Screening Test again in the following school year?**

- Starting from the 2026/27 school year, HKAGE will implement a new arrangement. Nominated students who are absent from the Screening Test in this school year (i.e. 2026/27 school year) will not be eligible to participate in the Screening Test in the following school year (i.e. 2027/28 school year).
- As assessment places and arrangements are planned in advance based on nominations submitted by schools or parents, HKAGE encourages schools and parents to carefully consider students' availability and commitment before confirming participation in the nomination and assessment process, so as to ensure students’ attendance and effective use of limited assessment places and related resources.

Q5. **How many students can each school nominate for the "Screening Test? What should students do if they want to change their application method?**

- Each school may nominate up to 12 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.**

Q6. **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 may have access to application-related information, screening test progress and nomination results of students from their school who apply through either “School Nomination” or “Parent Nomination”.
- **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

Q7. **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 specialised training, preparation courses, or 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)**.

Q8. **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.

Q9. **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 input method are not supported. Candidates may only use input methods already installed in the computer system and designated approved models of handwriting tablets (details to be announced later).
- 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.
- 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 persoanl profiles afterwards. Admission is based solely on the test results.

Q10. **[*UPDATE*] Does the computer used for the "Screening Test" need to have software pre-installed?**

- Computers used for the "Screening Test" must have designated software installed to ensure that the launching of other programmes is strictly prohibited during the test.
- If the designated software has previously installed on the computer, you must uninstall the old version before installing the latest version.

Q11. **[*NEW*] Is it compulsory for candidates to complete the Mock Test?**

- A Mock Test will be arranged prior to the Screening Test. All candidates MUST complete this Mock Test to familiarise themselves with the platform's login procedures and operations. Candidates who fail to complete the Mock Test within the designated period will not be permitted to take the actual test.
- The Mock Test for all levels of candidates will be scheduled between 22 January and 4 February 2027.

Q12. **Is there a fixed date and time for the “Screening Test”?**

- Candidates can log in to the actual Screening Test during the specific periods based on their level of study:
  - Secondary Level: 18 February to 23 February 2027
  - Primary Level: 25 February to 2 March 2027
- “Screening Test Platform” Availability:
  - Available 24 hours a day (students may log in at any time during the test period)
- Final Login Deadline:
  - Students must log in before 9:00 p.m. on the last day of the test period (to ensure sufficient time to complete the test and avoid 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.

Q13. **How does the online platform for the "Screening Test" verify students' identities?**

- Upon logging in, candidates must upload their identification documents (HK Identity Card, passport, Home Return Permit, or student card only) in the platform, clearly displaying their face and name.
- Video recordings will be used solely for identity verification and test integrity purposes in accordance with HKAGE's data protection requirements.

Q14. **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: Candidates should remain seated throughout the test. Requests to leave the seat will only be considered under exceptional circumstances.

Q15. **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.

Q16. **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.

Q17. **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.

Q18. **[*UPDATE*] The test includes short-answer questions. Must candidates know how to type in Chinese? Can voice input be used?**

- Short-answer questions are displayed in both Chinese and English, and candidates may answer in whichever language they are most familiar with.
- The testing platform does not support voice input. Candidates may only use input methods already installed on the computer system and designated approved models of handwriting tablets (details to be announced later). Candidates may familiarise themselves with the platform operations and text input methods during the Mock Test period.

Q19. **How is cheating prevented in the test?**

- To ensure fairness in the test, the system will implement multiple anti-cheating measures, including:
  - Computers used for the "Screening Test" must have designated software installed
  - 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.

Q20. **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 passed or not. No actual scores will be displayed.
- Individual test scores and admission thresholds are confidential and will not be disclosed.
- **The test result is the final nomination result; no appeal or re-assessment will be accepted.**

Part 3 - HKAGE Membership & Programmes

Q21. **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 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.

Q22. **[*UPDATE*] 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 use of the Three-tier Implementation Model of Gifted Education and establish a "School-Based Student Talent Pool" to identify suitable students. In addition, schools may also make reference to students' academic performance, development of multiple intelligences, or internal assessment results to nominate students who demonstrate outstanding potential in different domains to participate in the selection.

Q23. **How many members does the HKAGE admit each year?**

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

Q24. **Are HKAGE programmes free? When and where are they held?**

- Most HKAGE programmes are offered free of charge. Additional fees may apply to selected activities, such as overseas study programmes.
- Most programmes are held on weekends or school holidays at the HKAGE premises, Satellite Centres, or venues provided by partner institutions.

Q25. **What language is used for the HKAGE programmes?**

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

Q26. **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.

Q27. **Must a student reapply for the "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 to reapply.