

Results of Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers released

A total of 1 495 candidates sat for the English Language papers in the Language Proficiency Assessment for Teachers (LPAT) 2019 in January while 1 749 sat for the Putonghua papers.

The results of the assessment are as follows:

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* LPR = Language Proficiency Requirement

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) has sent the results notices to candidates by post. They are expected to reach the candidates tomorrow (May 23). Those who have not received the results by Friday (May 24) should contact the HKEAA on 3628 8860.

The Assessment Reports, which provide the chief examiners' observations on candidates' performance, including their strengths and areas for improvement, will be released in July through the websites of the HKEAA (www.hkeaa.edu.hk) and the Education Bureau (www.edb.gov.hk) for the reference of candidates, schools and teacher education institutions. The question papers, together with a CD for the listening tests, suggested answers and Assessment Reports, will be available for sale in July.

Applications for re-checking of results will be accepted on or before May 29. Candidates will be informed individually of their appeal results by June 27.

Those who intend to attain the LPR in future can do so through assessment and/or exemption. The next calls for applications to sit for LPAT and for applications for exemption will be made in September 2019 and November 2019 respectively. The details will be made available through Education Bureau circular memoranda in the 2019/20 school year.

Stage 2 Public Engagement for the Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Areas launched (with photo)

The Civil Engineering and Development Department and the Planning Department today (May 22) launched the Stage 2 Public Engagement for the Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Areas.

The Study, which commenced in June 2015, aims to explore the potential for underground space development in four selected strategic urban areas (SUAs), namely Tsim Sha Tsui West, Causeway Bay, Happy Valley, and Admiralty/Wan Chai. As revealed by the Stage 1 Public Engagement completed in February 2017, the public generally agreed that the proper utilisation of underground space and provision of an all-weather pedestrian network could alleviate the overcrowded street-level walking environment and improve pedestrian connectivity. It could also provide diverse uses/facilities for the benefit of the community through a holistic planning approach. Among the conceptual schemes of the four SUAs, the Study recommends according priority to taking forward the Kowloon Park Conceptual Scheme in Tsim Sha Tsui West.

The Kowloon Park Conceptual Scheme comprises multi-purpose underground space for accommodating an all-weather and barrier-free underground pedestrian network. Various facilities such as community space, retail/food and beverage and car-parking facilities are also included in the Scheme to address imminent needs and enhance the use of underground space.

In formulating the proposed Kowloon Park Conceptual Scheme, consideration has been made to provide diversified space to enhance accessibility and walkability. The departments will also strive to minimise possible disruptions caused by underground space development to the park, retain Old and Valuable Trees in the park, and preserve built heritage and the Bird Lake. The proposed conceptual scheme will give improve the park area's appearance and re-establish a sustainable green park after the underground space construction.

The Stage 2 Public Engagement of the Study will last for three months to seek public views on the latest recommendations of the Study, including the proposed Kowloon Park Conceptual Scheme. Roving exhibitions, focus group meetings, weekend public events and consultations with key stakeholders will be held during the public engagement period. Virtual reality experiences will be introduced in some of the roving exhibitions to assist the public in understanding the future appearance of the proposed underground space and the rejuvenated Kowloon Park.

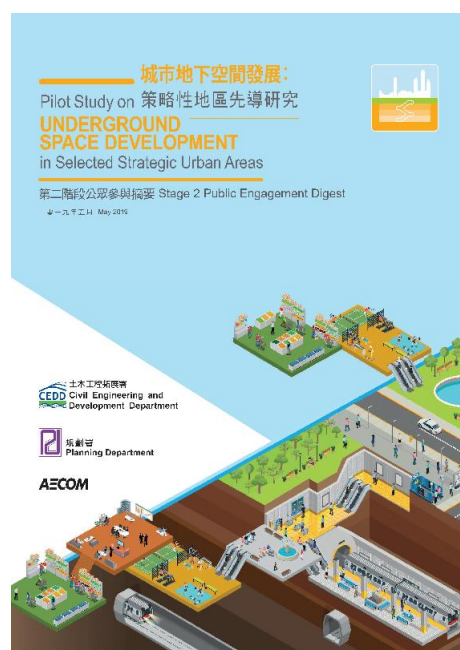
The public engagement digest and details of activities are available on the Study website (www.urbanunderground.gov.hk). Members of the public are invited to provide feedback through the following channels on or before August 21, 2019:

Website: www.urbanunderground.gov.hk

E-mail: info_urbanunderground@aecom.com

Fax: 2714 0247

Post: 11/F, Civil Engineering and Development Building,
101 Princess Margaret Road, Homantin, Kowloon
(Please specify "Underground Space Development"
on envelope)



[CSSA caseload for April 2019](#)

The overall Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) caseload in April showed a drop of 608 cases, representing a decrease of 0.3 per cent compared with that of March, according to the latest CSSA caseload statistics released by the Social Welfare Department today (May 22).

The total CSSA caseload at the end of April stood at 223 995 (see attached table), with a total of 318 774 recipients.

Analysed by case nature, low-earnings cases registered a month-to-month decrease of 1.2 per cent to 3 382 cases. Old age cases dropped by 0.4 per cent to 140 664 cases while single parent cases decreased by 0.3 per cent to 24 311 cases. Permanent disability cases slightly slipped by 0.1 per cent to 16 602 cases.

Both ill-health cases and unemployment cases increased by 0.3 per cent

to 23 103 cases and 11 734 cases respectively.