



The Immigration Department

Ever thought of...

working for the government?

If you want to work in the Hong Kong Government, the biggest employer in the SAR, you need to consider taking the CRE and BLT. These are examinations reserved for university degree holders who wish to apply for positions in the government. The CRE, or *Common Recruitment Examination*, is an examination that gauges applicant's language proficiency in Chinese and in English, as well as their suitability to work in the government. On the other hand, the BLT or *Basic Law Test* assesses the candidate's knowledge in the Basic Law.

CRE

- **Number of papers**

There are a total of 3 papers. One is Use of English (UE), the other is Use of Chinese (UC), and last, Aptitude Test (AT).

- **Examination time**

Time allowed for each of the 3 papers is 45 minutes.

- **Range of grades**

CRE awards three grade levels for UE and UC. They are: Fail, Level 1 and Level 2 with Level 2 being the highest. There are only two possible results for AT, Pass and Fail.

• Recruitment requirements

In order to be eligible for recruitment, for UE and UC, one has to attain a grade Level 1 or above depending on position level and department. Level 2 attainment in UE and UC has permanent validity. For AT, a Pass is required by some departments. A Pass in AT is permanently valid.

• Equivalentents

<u>CRE UE</u>	<u>HKALE UE</u>	<u>GCE English Language</u>	<u>IELTS Academic Module</u>
Level 2	Grade C or above	Grade C or above	6.5 (2-yr validity period)
Level 1	Grade D	Grade D	

<u>CRE UC</u>	<u>HKALE Chinese Language and Culture/Literature</u>
Level 2	Grade C or above
Level 1	Grade D

BLT

- The BLT is a 20-minute bilingual paper.
- It comprises 15 multiple-choice questions.
- It assesses candidates' knowledge of the Basic Law.
- There is no passing mark set for the BLT.
- The full mark of the paper is 100.

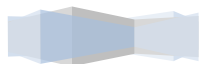
Examination Dates

CRE and BLT are held twice a year. As an example, in 2011, one was held in early June and another one will be held in early October. Enrolment for the exams usually starts two months before the exam dates.

Career and Leadership Centre will notify students exam enrolment period and exam dates via our EBS system. Government exam announcements will also appear on CSB web pages and on the major newspapers such as the SCMP and Mingpao.

AO/EO

Students will only be eligible for AO/EO recruitment exercises if they have attempted CRE and BLT prior to the recruitment exercises. As an example, a final year student in 2010 who only manages to sit for 2011 CRE and BLT, say in mid 2011, can only join AO/EO recruitment exercises late in 2011 — almost a year after their graduation.



Government Links

<http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/recruit/cre/949.html>

Information available:

- Exam dates and registration period
- List of degree or professional grades and requirements on CRE results
- Entry pay points according to grades and academic qualifications
- Examination format
- Sample Questions for
 - Use of English
 - Use of Chinese
 - Aptitude Test
 - Basic Law Test (Degree / Professional Grades)

