FAQs about Repeating S6

1 Q: If students are not satisfied with their HKDSE Examination results, can they repeat Secondary 6 (S6) or re-sit for the HKDSE Examination as private candidates? If yes, what do they need to pay attention to? What is the difference between school repeaters and private candidates? Besides repeating S6, what are other pathway options available to them?

A:

- Before deciding whether to repeat S6, students should consider:
  (i) the reasons for the unsatisfactory results;
  (ii) the confidence of making improvement in the new attempt;
  (iii) the advice and suggestions of teachers and family; and
  (iv) whether there are other study pathways.

- The arrangements on School-based Assessment (SBA) for repeaters are as follows:

  - School repeaters have to be re-assessed in S6 and meet the SBA requirements of the respective subjects entered. If the schools do not offer the elective subject(s) that the candidates wish to re-take in the examination, the candidates may apply for exemption from the SBA for the particular subject(s). For details, please visit the HKEAA website (https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/faq/q5/#6).

  - Private candidates are not required to complete the SBA component of the subjects entered (except Visual Arts). Their subject marks will be based entirely on their public examination results. For Visual Arts in which the SBA component carries a weighting of 50%, candidates will be required to submit a portfolio in lieu of the SBA.

  - Local applicants with Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) applications in the previous admissions exercise(s) can apply via JUPAS again in the current admissions exercise on the strength of their past and/or current HKDSE Examination results, provided that they are NOT enrolled in full-time undergraduate programmes offered under JUPAS at the time they submit their JUPAS applications.

- Repeating S6 is definitely not the only option. Student can consider other pathways, including sub-degree programmes, Diploma of Applied Education (DAE) programmes, Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) programmes, Youth Employment and Training Programme (YETP) of the Labour Department (https://www.yes.labour.gov.hk/Home) or employment. For details, please visit "Information on HKDSE Exam Results Release 2026" of the "Designated Webpage for Secondary 6 Students". (https://s6.edb.edcity.hk/en/hkdse/useful_link.php).

- The nine JUPAS participating-institutions and the SSSDP institutions may have different considerations on applicants with their HKDSE Examination results obtained in different examination sittings when assessing admission applications. Applicants should read carefully the general entrance requirements (https://www.jupas.edu.hk/en/programmes-offered/by-funding-category/) of respective institutions and programme-specific entrance regulations.