

TWGHs S. C. Gaw Memorial College
Applied Learning Annual Report_01-09-2016 to 31-08-2017
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Forward

Applied Learning (ApL) is an integral part of the senior secondary curriculum. Students at all ability levels could take ApL courses as elective subjects. The design principles of ApL courses are the same as those of other school subjects, focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes. ApL offers studies with equal emphasis on practice and theory linked to broad professional and vocational field. For holistic learning, a flexible combination of ApL with core subjects, elective subjects and Other Learning Experiences helps to provide theoretical and applied learning opportunities to cater for students' diverse learning needs. ApL aims to enable students to understand fundamental theories and concepts and to develop beginners' skill set and generic skills through application and practice. ApL helps students to explore their career aspirations and orientation for life-long learning.

Position

In addition to the core subjects of Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Liberal Studies, Secondary 5 and 6 students may choose ApL course(s) as elective subject(s) according to their interests, aspirations and aptitudes.

Overarching Aims

ApL aims at:

offering diverse learning programmes for students with interest and inclination in areas other than those provided by the existing school curriculum;

providing students with the opportunities to explore their orientation for life-long learning and career aspirations in specific areas;

preparing students for further studies and/or work as well as life-long learning through the development of foundation skills, thinking skills, people skills, values and attitudes, and career-related competencies; and

offering a substantial outcome for students to obtain recognition for further studies, work, or both at the senior secondary level.

Applied Learning Course Contact Hour

Generally, every Applied Learning course covers 180 contact hours, and learning period across Secondary 5 and Secondary Six years. Starting from the 2014-2015 school year, two Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) (ApL(C)) courses are also introduced to provide an additional channel exclusively for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students fulfilling the specified circumstances to obtain an alternative Chinese language qualification to enhance their further studies and employability. ApL(C) is designed from the perspective of second language learners and provides a simulated applied learning context for students to learn Chinese through different modes of activities. The duration of each ApL(C) course is 270 contact hours, extending over three school years at the senior secondary level. There are two students of S.C.Gaw who had applied this course successfully and they will have one more year to go.

Diversity Learning Grant (Applied Learning)

All students studying ApL will be fully subsidized by the Diversity Learning Grant granted by Education Bureau.

Applied Learning – Modes of ApL courses and number of students

There are two modes of ApL courses: Mode 1 and Mode 2. Mode 1 courses are usually conducted on Saturdays at the venues of the course providers, while Mode 2 courses take place mainly in the students' own schools with timetables arranged by the course providers and schools.

S.C.Gaw takes Mode 1 and the number of students taking ApL courses are as follows,

(a) ApL courses (2014-2016 Cohort): 17 students in 2014-2015 and 16 students in 2015-2016.

(b) ApL courses (2015-2017 Cohort): 25 students in 2015-2016 and 21 students in 2016-2017.

(c) ApL courses (2016-2018 Cohort): 24 students in 2016-2017 and 19 students in 2017-2018.

(d) ApL Chinese courses (2015-2018 Cohort): 2 non-Chinese speaking students starting from 2nd school term of 2015-2016 and will complete in 2017-2018. The duration of this course is 270 contact hours, extending over three school years as the senior secondary level.

(e) ApL courses (2017-2019 Cohort): 43 students in 2017-2018.

Applied Learning – Applied Learning Scholarship

The 'ApL Scholarship is co-organized by the Law's Charitable Foundation (LCF 羅氏慈善基金將學金) and the Education Bureau (EDB) to show appreciation to students who demonstrated positive learning attitude and achieved good progress in their study of ApL courses.

All schools with students taking ApL courses are eligible to nominate students for the Scholarship. The maximum number of nominees from each school is set according to the total number of Secondary 5 students enrolled in ApL courses (e.g. schools with less than 25 ApL students can nominate one student for the Scholarship, while schools with 26 to 50 ApL students can nominate two students, etc.). Each winner of the Scholarship will be awarded HK\$1,000 and a certificate by the LCF.

As we had 26 students taking ApL courses in the school year 2016-2017, we thus can nominate two students for the scholarship according to the rule. The priority of nomination is as follows.

- 1. Shewakramani Lavi Kumar (陳兆軒同學) of S.5D, Grade A with 100% attendance.**
- 2. Abdullah Jawaid (何德禮同學) of S.5B Grade A with 98% attendance.**
- 3. Yung Tsz Lo (翁芷璐同學) of S.5A Grade A with 93% attendance.**
- 4. Luk Kim Po (陸劍波同學) of S.5A Grade A with 89% attendance.**

As candidate(s) could be nominated by the course provider for scholarship as well, school will nominate candidate(s) not overlapping with course provider.

HKDSE Result 2016-2017

There were 21 candidates sitting for the HKDSE 2016-2017. We got 6As, 6Bs, 2Cs, 4Ds, 3

unclassified. This was our first time to have 3 failed candidates. The passing rate is 86%.

The passing rate is 100% with one distinction and fifteen passes. The overall result is satisfactory.

Future Development of ApL

Effective from the 2018 HKDSE Examination, the reporting of students' performance is refined to "Attained", "Attained with Distinction (I)" and "Attained with Distinction (II)" for the purposes of further studies and/or work. Performance of "Attained with Distinction (I)" is comparable to Level 3 while "Attained with Distinction Questions and Answers on Applied Learning (II)" is comparable to Level 4 or above of Category A subjects of the HKDSE Examination.

[For Applied Learning Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students), the existing levels of results, i.e. "Attained" and "Attained with Distinction", will continue to be used. Refinement of these levels would be considered when more data is collected.] Candidates with performance below the standard of "Attained", or attendance rate below 80%, will be designated as "Unattained", which will not be reported on the HKDSE certificate

In addition to the HKDSE qualification, some ApL courses are registered in the Qualifications Register as certificate programmes at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 3. ApL(C) courses are also pegged at the QF Levels 1-3. Students will obtain QF certificate(s) issued by course providers in addition to the HKDSE qualification upon meeting the assessment and attendance requirements.

Therefore, ApL may help our students not only to have greater chance of gaining full certificate in the HKDSE, but also through the career-related contexts, students can familiarize themselves with a wide variety of professions and trades. They will also gain precious experience from the practicum sessions of these courses. These eye-opening experiences help them explore their career aspirations and orientation for life-long learning in specific areas.

We have successfully held the course talk and finally attracted 43 students to study ApL in 2017-2018. Hopefully, they will cherish the opportunity and study well in the coming two years.