

**Common Recruitment Examination (CRE)
and Basic Law and National Security Law Test (BLNST)
(Degree/Professional Grades)**

The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has announced the arrangement of the coming CRE and BLNST. The examination/test is tentatively scheduled for **3 June 2023**, or another date within June 2023 if necessary. The application period is from **31 March to 13 April 2023**. Details can be found on the CSB webpage at <https://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html>.

Candidates who are interested in the post of Government Counsel (GC) in the Department of Justice may wish to note that as part of the entry requirements for the post, all GC applicants will need to obtain a ‘Level 2’ result in the Use of English (UE) paper and a ‘Level 1’ result in the Use of Chinese (UC) paper in the CRE, as well as a pass result in the BLNST.

Level 5 or above in English Language of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSEE); or Grade C or above in Use of English of the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE); or Grade C or above in English Language of the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) (GCE A Level), are accepted as equivalent to Level 2 in the UE paper of the CRE. Besides, Level 4 in Chinese Language of the HKDSEE; or Grade D in Chinese Language and Culture or Chinese Language and Literature of the HKALE, are accepted as equivalent to Level 1 in the UC paper of the CRE. Other equivalent qualifications can also be found at <https://www.csb.gov.hk/eng/cre.html>.

Under exceptional circumstances, a limited number of candidates who do not meet the requisite Chinese language requirement may be appointed subject to operational needs of the Department.

The GC recruitment exercise will normally be advertised around late August of the year. For all civil service recruitment exercises to be advertised on or after 1 July 2022, attaining a pass result in the BLNST will be an entry requirement for all civil service jobs. **Candidates interested in applying for the GC post must pass the BLNST in order to be considered for appointment, regardless of whether the candidates have previously taken the Basic Law Test (BLT) (either a BLT centrally conducted by the CSB or a BLT arranged by individual bureaux/departments in their past civil service recruitment exercises (degree/professional grades)) and attained a pass result.** Candidates who have taken any BLT in the past and wish to apply for the GC post must take the BLNST and attain a pass result in order to be considered for appointment.

The BLNST (for degree/professional grades) is a 30-minute bilingual paper comprising 20 multiple-choice questions. Answering at least 10 out of 20 questions correct will be deemed to have a pass result in the BLNST.

Candidates interested in applying for the GC post should take the BLNST. For those without the requisite results in the CRE or equivalent, they are also invited to take the CRE. The application period for the coming CRE and BLNST is from **31 March to 13 April 2023**. Candidates who wish to take the coming CRE and BLNST should visit the CSB webpage regularly for latest information about the arrangements on the examination.