



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT

DEFINING EDUCATION CENTRE

**INITIAL EVALUATION AND
LEARNING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION**

**CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST
PREPARATION**

SEPTEMBER 2024

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: VA1767), the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), in the capacity of the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (Cap 592) (AAVQO), was commissioned by Defining Education Centre (凝皓教育中心) (“Operator”), a branch of the Maxi Chain Enterprises Limited (嘉靖企業有限公司), to conduct an Initial Evaluation and Learning Programme Accreditation Exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in AAVQO to determine whether the Operator meets the stated objectives and is competent to operate learning programmes that meet the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 2 standard, and can be granted Initial Evaluation Status at QF Level 2; and
- (b) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in AAVQO to determine whether the following programme of the Operator meets the stated objectives and QF standard and can be offered as an accredited programme:
 - (i) Certificate in English Proficiency Test Preparation; and
- (c) To issue to the Operator an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) and (b) by HKCAAVQ.

1.2 The accreditation exercise was conducted according to the relevant accreditation guidelines referred to in the Service Agreement. A site visit took place on 7 August 2024.

2. HKCAAVQ'S DETERMINATION

Initial Evaluation

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that the Operator is competent to achieve its stated objectives and to operate learning programmes meeting QF standard(s) at Level 2, and can be granted Initial Evaluation (IE) status at QF Level 2 with a validity period of two years.

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below.

2.2.2 Within the two-year validity period for IE, the Operator must have at least one programme successfully accredited. If the Operator does not have a current

accredited programme on the Qualifications Register (QR) at the end of the two-year validity period of their IE, the Operator will need to apply for an extension of their IE status at least three months before the validity period expires. An extension of up to 2 years may be granted. Only one extension of IE status will normally be allowed. If the Operator continues to gain successful Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA), their IE status will remain valid.

2.3 The determinations on the Initial Evaluation are specified as follows:

Name of Operator	Defining Education Centre 凝皓教育中心
Address of Operator	Room 302, 3/F, Office Plus @ Prince Edward, No. 794-802 Nathan Road, Kowloon 九龍彌敦道 794-802 號協成行太子中心 3 樓 302 室
Highest QF Level of programme(s) which the Operator can operate upon successful learning programme accreditation	Level 2
Start date of 2-year validity period of Initial Evaluation (IE) accreditation status	1 April 2025
Scope of IE Accreditation Status	For local programmes operating in Hong Kong

2.4 **Recommendation(s)**

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendations for continuous improvement.

Recommendations
<u>Recommendation 1</u> The Operator should provide learners with a comprehensive handbook at the beginning of the Programme. This handbook should document the academic policies and arrangements, as well as other policies related to support services, academic honesty, and procedures for appeals and complaints.
<u>Recommendation 2</u> The Operator should organise regular training for teaching staff to familiarise them with the characteristics and standard of QF Level 2 to ensure effective delivery of the Programme at the pitched QF level. The Operator should also devise a staff development policy and document the policy and implementation plan in the Staff Handbook.

Recommendation 3

The Operator should keep records relevant to the programme development and approval, monitoring and review to facilitate a comprehensive review of different aspects of the programme(s) as well as identification of improvement areas and measures.

Learning Programme Accreditation

2.5 HKCAAVQ has determined that, subject to the fulfilment of all conditions set out in 2.8, the Certificate in English Proficiency Test Preparation meets the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 2, and can be offered as an accredited programme with a validity period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027.

2.6 **Validity Period**

2.6.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below.

2.6.2 The maintenance of the accreditation status within the specified validity period is subject to the fulfilment of all requirements set out in 2.8 by the specified fulfilment deadline.

2.7 The determinations on the Learning Programme Accreditation are specified as follows:

Name of Operator(s)	Defining Education Centre 凝皓教育中心
Name of Award Granting Body	Defining Education Centre 凝皓教育中心
Title of Learning Programme	Certificate in English Proficiency Test Preparation 英語應試能力證書
Title of Qualification(s) (Exit Award(s))	Certificate in English Proficiency Test Preparation 英語應試能力證書
Primary Area of Study and Training	Languages and Related Studies
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Languages and Related Studies
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable

Industry	Not applicable
Branch	Not applicable
QF Level	Level 2
QF Credits	18
Mode(s) of Delivery and Programme Length	Part-time, 6 months 182.75 notional learning hours (including 92.75 contact hours)
Intermediate Exit Award(s)	Not applicable
Validity Period	1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027
Number of Enrolment(s)	9 enrolments per year
Maximum Number of New Students	Maximum of 29 learners per class Maximum of 1,044 learners per year
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Specification of Generic (Foundation) Competencies-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Vocational Qualifications Pathway Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Notes to be indicated on the QR	Not applicable 不適用
Address of Teaching/ Training Venue(s)	See Appendix

2.8 **Condition(s) (including all pre-conditions for obtaining the HKCAAVQ accreditation status as applied for the commencement of the validity period; and all requirements for maintenance of the accreditation status within the validity period)**

Requirement	Date of Fulfilment
<u>Requirement 1</u> The Operator is to conduct a programme review in accordance with the revised quality assurance mechanism and procedures after completing the first cohort and submit a programme review report to	31 October 2025

<p>HKCAAVQ on or before 31 October 2025. The report should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) result of reviewing all teaching materials with the reviewer's comments;(b) class observation reports and follow-up actions taken;(c) results of reviewing the drafted and marked assessments at the pre-assessment and post-assessment stages respectively with the reviewer's comments; and(d) records of programme review meeting(s)	
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2.9 Recommendation(s)

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendation(s) for continuous improvement.

Recommendations
<p><u>Recommendation 1</u></p> <p>The Operator should constantly review the necessity of designing more sets of final examination papers to ensure that sufficient sets of examination papers are available for classes of different cohorts, maintaining the integrity and fairness of assessments.</p>

- 2.10 HKCAAVQ will subsequently satisfy itself whether the Operator remains competent to achieve the relevant objectives and the Programme continues to meet the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator by reference to, amongst other things, the Operator's fulfilment of any conditions and compliance with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report. For the avoidance of doubt, maintenance of accreditation status is subject to fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Established in 2018, Defining Education Centre is an education institute registered under the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279). It offers various tutoring courses to primary and secondary school students as well as IELTS preparation courses.

4. PROGRAMME DETAIL

The following is the programme information provided by the Operator.

4.1 Programme Objectives

This programme aims to equip learners with essential English language skills for taking IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and attain the English language competence comparable to the band score of 4.5 overall in the IELTS Academic. Throughout the programme, learners are able to enhance their English competency in key language skills (including listening, speaking, reading, writing, and the usage of grammar and vocabulary specific to the IELTS), improve essential test-taking strategies, and have a better understanding of the topics that are commonly used in the IELTS Academic.

4.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the programme, learners should be able to:

1. Listen effectively to spoken English in a familiar scenario and identify the main points and relevant details;
2. Extract and comprehend key points from simple texts related to everyday situations;
3. Use basic vocabulary and sentence structures to present and compare data found in graphs, charts and tables, and describe events and processes presented in diagrams;
4. Use basic sentence structures and simple vocabulary to construct a short, written response with appropriate structure which shows the relationship among various ideas with clarity; and
5. Participate in spoken exchanges of ideas on short responses for familiar topics, and understand the flow of conversation even with grammatical errors by maintaining conversational topics.

4.3 Programme Structure

Topic	QF Credits
1. Writing Task 2 (Part 1)	18
2. Reading	
3. Writing Task 1	
4. Listening	
5. Writing Task 2 (Part 2)	
6. Speaking	
7. Final Exam	
Total:	18

4.4 Graduation Requirements

- Attain a minimum attendance rate of 70%; and
- Attain an overall 50% in the assessments

4.5 Admission Requirements

- Obtaining Level 1 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE); or
- Achieving an official overall score of 3.0 or above in IELTS Academic; or
- Completion of Form 3 and obtaining a pass (50%) in the admission test

5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT

5.1 Variation and withdrawal of this Accreditation Report

- 5.1.1 This Accreditation Report is issued pursuant to section 5 of the AAVQO, and contains HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding the accreditation, including the validity period as well as any conditions and restrictions subject to which the determination is to have effect.
- 5.1.2 HKCAAVQ may subsequently decide to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report if it is satisfied that any of the grounds set out in section 5 (2) of the AAVQO apply. This includes where HKCAAVQ is satisfied that the Operator is no longer competent to achieve the relevant objectives and/or the Programme no longer meets the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator (whether by reference to the Operator's failure to fulfil any conditions and/or comply with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report or otherwise) or where at any time during the validity period there has/have been substantial change(s) introduced by the Operator after HKCAAVQ has issued the accreditation report(s) to the Operator and which has/have not been approved by HKCAAVQ. Please refer to the '*Guidance Notes on Substantial Change to Accreditation Status*' in seeking approval for proposed changes. These Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the HKCAAVQ website.
- 5.1.3 If HKCAAVQ decides to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, it will give the Operator notice of such variation or withdrawal pursuant to section 5(4) of the AAVQO.
- 5.1.4 The accreditation status of the Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of this Accreditation Report.

5.2 Appeals

- 5.2.1 If the Operator is aggrieved by the determination made in this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.2 If the Operator is aggrieved by a decision to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the Notice of Variation or Withdrawal.
- 5.2.3 The Operator should be aware that a notice of variation or withdrawal of this Accreditation Report is not itself an accreditation report and the right to appeal against HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding accreditation arises only from this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.4 Please refer to Cap 592A (www.elegislation.gov.hk) for the appeal rules. Details of the appeal procedure are contained in section 13 of the AAVQO and can be accessed from the QF website at: www.hkqf.gov.hk.

5.3 Qualifications Register

- 5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the QR at www.hkqr.gov.hk for recognition under the QF. The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.
- 5.3.2 Only learners who commence the study of the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification listed in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the QF.

Defining Education Centre

Initial Evaluation and Learning Programme Accreditation

Address of Teaching / Training Venues:

- (1) 1/F, Union Park Centre, 771-775 Nathan Road, Kowloon
九龍彌敦道 771-775 號柏宜中心 1 樓全層
- (2) 1/F of Block S, Lee Kee Building, 55 Ngau Tau Kok Road, Kowloon
九龍牛頭角道 55 號利基大廈 S 座 1 樓
- (3) Shops 105-111, 1/F, 68 Yee Wo Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
香港銅鑼灣怡和街 68 號 1 樓 105-111 號舖
- (4) Shops 2125-2128, 2/F, OP Mall, 100 Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.
新界荃灣大河道 100 號海之戀商場 2 樓 2125-2128 號舖
- (5) Units 4-6, 6/F., Chow Tai Fook Centre, 580A Nathan Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon
九龍旺角彌敦道 580A 號周大福商業中心 6 樓 4-6 室

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