

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Chinese Language Enhancement Programme (CLEP)

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

As a sub-division of the School of Chinese, the Chinese Language Enhancement Programme (CLEP) offers compulsory undergraduate courses to students in all Faculties at The University of Hong Kong: 3-credit courses for the 3-year cohort and 6-credit courses for the 4-year cohort. These courses have been specially tailored to suit the specific learning needs in different disciplines and are intended primarily to raise students' level of competence in the use of the Chinese language in academic and professional settings. The CLEP has also played a key role in developing inter-faculty language courses for Mainland and non-Cantonese speaking students.

Normally a 3-credit course will entail **60** hours of student learning activities, including about 12 – 24 teacher-student contact hours in a variety of modes ranging from lectures and workshops to small group tutorials and individual consultation sessions. A 6-credit course will usually entail **120** hours of student learning activities, including 24 – 39 teacher-student contact hours and 81 – 96 hours of preparation, discussion, consultation and other forms of instruction. The combinations of these activities vary, sometimes considerably, from one course to another, depending largely on the distinctive features and specific requirements of individual disciplines.

A mixed mode of evaluation featuring both continuous assessment and final examination is adopted across the board, only with the exception of two 3-credit courses which will be phased out. For the majority of CLEP courses, the coursework to examination ratio is 50 to 50. Coursework requirements usually include in-class drills, quizzes, oral presentations, tutorial discussions, project reports, essays, article reviews, professional writing practices as well as self-access and online exercises. The total assessable output is normally around 2,500 – 5,000 Chinese characters in written and spoken forms for a 3-credit course, and 5,000 – 10,000 Chinese characters in both forms for a 6-credit course.

To gauge students' progress of enhancement in Chinese, the CLEP administers a **pre-test** at the beginning of a course and a **post-test** (i.e. an examination) at the end of the term. Two sets of statistical data compiled from these two tests are collated, compared and analyzed with a view to tracking students' progress over time and, in the light of this information, devising plans to improve student learning. Such an evaluative process has proved to be an integral part of an effective quality assurance mechanism, which in turn forms a solid basis of long-term quality enhancement methodologies and strategies.