

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****SB351****(Question Serial No. 5223)**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (SIN Yat-kin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume 1 Page 135

Question (Member Question No. 151):

Please provide the numbers of persons in custody taking the new senior secondary education curriculum and post-secondary courses with the assistance of the Department in the past three years.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yuk-man

Reply:

(a) Persons in custody taking the new senior secondary education curriculum

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) has implemented the New Academic Structure in correctional institutions for young persons in custody. CSD provides the new senior secondary education curriculum for eligible young persons in custody with a view to facilitating them to sit for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination. The subjects are taught by qualified teachers. CSD hopes that persons in custody can obtain recognised qualification to pursue further studies or seek employment upon release.

In the past three years, the numbers of young persons in custody taking the new senior secondary education curriculum are as follows:

Year	2011	2012	2013
Numbers of persons in custody taking the new senior secondary education curriculum	12	23	28

(b) Persons in custody taking post-secondary courses

CSD encourages persons in custody to take different distance learning courses for self-improvement through the effective use of resources and professional services provided by external educational organisations. Over the years, CSD has cooperated with the Open University of Hong Kong and other educational organisations to promote higher learning at correctional institutions.

In the past three years, the numbers of persons in custody taking post-secondary courses are as follows:

Year	2011	2012	2013
Numbers of persons in custody taking post-secondary courses	139	127	184