

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**SB444**

**(Question Serial No. 5042 )**

Head: (30) Correctional Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Prison Management

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Correctional Services (LAM Kwok-leung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. What education courses are currently provided to people at primary 6 level or below by the Correctional Services Department (CSD)?
2. What education courses are currently provided to persons in custody (PICs) of other nationalities who do not speak English or Chinese?
3. How does CSD divide local PICs/PICs of other nationalities into classes? Is there a big difference in levels of studies among PICs in the same class?
4. Please provide information on all the education and retraining courses offered to PICs (adult and young PICs) by CSD?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Member Question No. (LegCo use):339 )

Reply:

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) provides half-day compulsory education and half-day compulsory vocational training for young persons in custody (PICs) aged between 14 and 20, and arranges qualified teachers and instructors to teach the subjects. Teachers assess the academic levels of young PICs and help them learn in a progressive manner, having regard to the length of sentence. For PICs at primary level or below, correctional institutions provide them with appropriate guidance according to their ability. For non-English and non-Chinese speaking PICs, correctional institutions, having regard to individual circumstances, provide them with assistance as far as practicable.

CSD also encourages adult PICs to pursue further studies in their spare time, enrol in distance learning courses according to their interests and abilities, and take public

examinations under the users-pay principle. CSD provides appropriate assistance to PICs. For example, CSD has set up a number of education funds and subsidy schemes for PICs to apply for financial assistance if they want to pursue further studies but have difficulties in paying for public examination fees, the examination and tuition fees for distance learning courses or purchasing reference books. These funds and subsidy schemes are contributed by donations from charitable organisations and members of the public. In addition, CSD, having regard to the situation of the local employment market, works with various training bodies such as the Employees Retraining Board, the Construction Industry Council and the Vocational Training Council to provide vocational training for eligible adult PICs.

The courses provided to young and adult PICs are as follows:

	Education Course	Vocational Training Course
Young PICs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Junior Secondary Curriculum (including “Teens’s Programme” covering basic education curriculum and vocational training )</li> <li>● New Senior Secondary curriculum</li> <li>● Distance Learning Courses*</li> </ul>	Provision of 20 half-day compulsory vocational training courses covering construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, laundry services and service industries, etc.
Adult PICs (On a voluntary basis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Distance Learning Courses*</li> </ul>	Provision of 40 full-time and part-time vocational training courses covering construction, business, food and beverage, retail, beauty care, transport, logistics, laundry services, computer application and environmental services, etc. for adult PICs with remaining sentences from 3 to 24 months.

\*Mainly distance learning courses of the Open University of Hong Kong

- End -