



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

ACCREDITATION REPORT

THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

LEARNING PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN PSYCHOLOGY

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (HONOURS) IN
PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

DECEMBER 2020

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
1. TERMS OF REFERENCE.....	1
2. HKCAAVQ'S DETERMINATION	1
3. INTRODUCTION.....	4
4. PANEL'S DELIBERATIONS	5
4.1 <i>Programme Objectives and Learning Outcomes</i>	5
4.2 <i>Learner Admission and Selection</i>	10
4.3 <i>Programme Structure and Content</i>	14
4.4 <i>Learning, Teaching and Assessment</i>	18
4.5 <i>Programme Leadership and Staffing</i>	21
4.6 <i>Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/Services</i>	25
4.7 <i>Programme Approval, Review and Quality Assurance</i>	26
5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT	29
Appendix 1 HKCAAVQ Panel Membership	
Appendix 2 Graduate Profile of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology and Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics	

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: AA637), 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 The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) to conduct a Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA) exercise with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO to determine whether the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology (BA-PSY) and Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (BSS-PPE) programmes of HSUHK meet the stated objectives and QF standards and can be offered as accredited programmes; and
- (b) To issue to HSUHK an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ.

2. HKCAAVQ'S DETERMINATION

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that the BA-PSY and BSS-PPE programmes meet the stated objectives and QF standard at Level 5. Subject to the approval by the Chief Executive in Council*, the BA-PSY and BSS-PPE programmes can be offered as accredited programmes with a validity period of five years.

** Approval granted in June 2021.*

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below. Operators may apply to HKCAAVQ to vary the commencement date of the validity period. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.3 The determinations on the BA-PSY and BSS-PPE programmes are specified as follows:

Name of Operator	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong 香港恒生大學	
Name of Award Granting Body	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong 香港恒生大學	
Title of Learning Programme	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology 心理學（榮譽）文學士	Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics 哲學、政治與經濟（榮譽）社會科學學士
Title of Qualification [Exit Award]	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology 心理學（榮譽）文學士	Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics 哲學、政治與經濟（榮譽）社會科學學士
Primary Area of Study and Training	Social Sciences	
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Social and Behavioural Sciences	
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 5	
QF Credits	540	554
Mode of Delivery and Programme Length	Full-time, 4 years	
Intermediate Exit Award	Not applicable	
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2021	
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2026	
Number of Enrolment	One enrolment per year	

Maximum Number of New Students	Year 1 Entry – 80 per year* Year 3 Entry – 20 per year (from 2023/24 onwards)	Year 1 Entry – 40 per year Year 2 Entry – 10 per year (from 2022/23 onwards) Year 3 Entry – 20 per year (from 2023/24 onwards)
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	☐ Yes ☒ No	
Address of Teaching Venue	Hang Shin Link, Siu Lek Yuen, Shatin, New Territories	

* Maximum number of new Year 1 full-time students adjusted to 60 per year.

2.4 Recommendations

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendations for continuous improvement of the BSS-PPE programme.

- 2.4.1 HSUHK should ensure integration is well achieved across the three disciplines (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) throughout the four years of study by further incorporating elements of integration within the programme content and assessment. (Para 4.3.8)
- 2.4.2 HSUHK should ensure sufficient depth in the coverage of international/global perspectives throughout the programme by strengthening relevant module content and assessment items. (Para 4.3.9)
- 2.5 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 The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) acquired private university title in October 2018. Its predecessor, Hang Seng Management College, was restructured from Hang Seng School of Commerce in 2010 as a non-profit private institution and registered under the Post-Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320). HSUHK currently offers 24 bachelor's degree programmes at QF Level 5 and 6 master's degree programmes at QF Level 6 under its five Schools (Business, Communication, Decision Sciences, Humanities and Social Science, and Translation and Foreign Languages).
- 3.2 HSUHK commissioned HKCAAVQ to conduct an LPA exercise for the BA-PSY and BSS-PPE programmes. For this exercise, HKCAAVQ formed an expert Panel (Panel Membership at **Appendix 1**). In view of the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the site visit was conducted via video conference from 23 to 25 September 2020 to reduce social contact. HKCAAVQ's *Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under HKQF (Version 1.1, April 2019)* was the guiding document for HSUHK and the Panel in conducting this exercise.
- 3.3 In consideration of HSUHK's track record established from previous accreditation exercises, information on the following aspects of the BA-PSY and BSS-PPE programmes was not required in accordance with HKCAAVQ's Differentiation Approach:

Accreditation Standard	Information Not Required
LPA-3 Programme Structure and Content	Information on Common Core Curriculum including General Education modules and Free Electives is not required.
LPA-6 Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/Services	Information on general student support services for bachelor-level students and physical resources that are not specialised for the two programmes seeking accreditation is not required.

4. PANEL'S DELIBERATIONS

The following presents the Panel's deliberations on a range of issues pertinent to its major findings. For aspects of the accreditation standards where no observations are made they are considered to be appropriately addressed by the Operator.

4.1 Programme Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The learning programme must have objectives that address community, education and/or industry needs, with learning outcomes that meet the relevant HKQF standards, for all exit qualifications from the programme.

BA-PSY Programme

- 4.1.1 The BA-PSY programme is hosted by the Department of Social Science of the School of Humanities and Social Science at HSUHK. The Programme Objectives (POs) and Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) of the BA-PSY programme are as follows:

Programme Objectives (POs)

The BA-PSY programme aims to:

PO1	Develop students' skills in critical and creative thinking for life-long learning;
PO2	Cultivate students' communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills;
PO3	Instil in students a strong sense of social responsibility and high commitment as a local and global citizen;
PO4	Provide students with a comprehensive foundation of theoretical and practical knowledge for scientific study and professional practice in psychology;
PO5	Develop students' research skills in psychology through intellectual and practical training; and
PO6	Enhance students' problem-solving ability in addressing personal, social and societal issues from the perspective of psychology.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

Upon successful completion of the BA-PSY programme, students should be able to:

PILO1	Utilise critical, reflective and creative thinking to guide life-long learning at different stages of life;
PILO2	Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills as a team player and leader;
PILO3	Show a strong sense of ethical, social and professional responsibility in both local and international contexts;
PILO4	Critically analyse and evaluate key concepts, principles and overarching themes in psychology;
PILO5	Interpret, design and conduct psychological research; and
PILO6	Apply psychological knowledge and insight in the personal, social and societal aspects of everyday life.

- 4.1.2 To demonstrate alignment, HSUHK provided to the Panel mapping tables between (a) the POs and PILOs; (b) the POs/PILOs and the HSUHK Desired Graduate Attributes; and (c) the PILOs and all modules from different components of the programme curriculum.
- 4.1.3 During the programme planning stage, HSUHK conducted a market analysis of the demand for psychology programmes at bachelor level in Hong Kong. HSUHK made reference to the application figures of psychology bachelor programmes offered by publicly-funded and self-financed universities in Hong Kong, to ascertain that a strong demand for undergraduate education in psychology still exists, despite a number of universities already offering bachelor programmes in psychology. Furthermore, HSUHK surveyed employers and prospective students in 2019 to evaluate market demand for employees with training in psychology, potential employers' expectations on the competencies of psychology programme graduates, as well as attractiveness of psychology programmes to local secondary school students. Upon review of findings from HSUHK's market analysis, the Panel was of the view that sufficient evidence has been presented to demonstrate the market needs for the BA-PSY programme. Representatives from the industry whom the Panel has met during the site visit also supported that there is potentially a market for students graduating with specialisation in psychology. The Graduate Profile of the BA-PSY programme (in **Appendix 2**) further illustrates various employment and further study pathways for the graduates.

- 4.1.4 Being a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a generalist social science focus, a distinguishing feature of the BA-PSY programme is the non-compulsory specialisations (Educational and Clinical; Business and Technology; and Neuroscience and Health). According to views gathered from discussion with external stakeholders from the industry, the Panel noted that the specialisations would potentially enhance the BA-PSY programme's competitiveness among other psychology bachelor programmes already in the market, as well as the employability of graduates, especially those graduating with an Educational and Clinical specialisation. To leverage on HSUHK's strong and distinctive background in business for further enhancement of graduate employability, the Panel **advised** HSUHK to consider strengthening the linkage between business and psychology within the programme curriculum.
- 4.1.5 To conclude, the Panel considered that the objectives of the BA-PSY programme have been designed to address community, education and industry needs locally, and the learning outcomes also meet the relevant standards.

BSS-PPE Programme

- 4.1.6 The BSS-PPE programme is also hosted by the Department of Social Science of the School of Humanities and Social Science at HSUHK. The Programme Objectives (POs) and Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) of the BSS-PPE programme are as follows:

Programme Objectives (POs)

The BSS-PPE programme aims to:

PO1	Encourage students to think independently and creatively, and to become autonomous learners for life-long learning;
PO2	Cultivate students' interpersonal and communication skills in preparation for them to take up leading roles in their careers;
PO3	Instil students a strong sense of social responsibility and high commitment to be upright citizens;
PO4	Provide students with a solid foundation of the theoretical and practical knowledge required in the areas of Philosophy, Politics and Economics;
PO5	Enhance students' awareness of the multifaceted nature of contemporary public affairs and policies;

PO6	Nurture students' analytical skills through exploring and evaluating the cause, transformation, and significance of contemporary public affairs; and
PO7	Hone students' problem-solving skills to devise innovative solutions in intellectual and professional contexts.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

Upon successful completion of the BSS-PPE programme, students should be able to:

PILO1	Critically analyse and explore complex information, ideas and concepts and take different perspectives to solve problems independently;
PILO2	Possess effective social and interpersonal skills to work with others, and establish and manage good relationships to enhance individual and team collaborations;
PILO3	Evaluate own contributions and responsibilities in becoming responsible citizen in a civil society;
PILO4	Identify the principal theoretical approaches and the main currents in the study of PPE, and the relationships between them;
PILO5	Evaluate contemporary public policies and related issues with an interdisciplinary approach;
PILO6	Apply formal and informal techniques, including quantitative and qualitative methods and method of logic, to analyse theories and data in the study of PPE; and
PILO7	Conduct integrative research and final year projects on public issues and problems.

4.1.7 To demonstrate alignment, HSUHK provided to the Panel mapping tables between (a) the POs and PILOs; (b) the POs/PILOs and the HSUHK Desired Graduate Attributes; and (c) the PILOs and all modules from different components of the programme curriculum. The Panel noted, in particular, elements of global awareness and challenges and international issues which have been instilled in the POs and PILOs.

4.1.8 In the Response to Panel's Initial Comments, HSUHK further explained to the Panel to what extent the POs and PILOs have reflected HSUHK's mission of providing students with an all-round educational experience through the University's "Liberal + Professional" education model. By being "Liberal", HSUHK's bachelor's degree programmes are not designed solely for

acquiring knowledge for better job prospect after graduation, but also for cultivating students' personal values, interests and transferrable core competencies, and nurturing them to be responsible citizens. In terms of being "Professional", many of HSUHK's bachelor degrees have a professional orientation which aims at equipping graduates with competencies to enter into particular professions in the future. The Panel noted that the "Liberal" aspects have been aptly reflected in PO1, PO3, PILO1 and PILO3, and that the "Professional" aspects have been instilled within PO4, PO7, PILO4 and PILO7 as well.

- 4.1.9 To ascertain the demand for a BSS-PPE programme in Hong Kong, HSUHK made reference to manpower projections from recent publications by the HKSAR Government and conducted surveys to prospective employers and students between 2017 and 2018. According to the manpower projections, there will be an upward trend in manpower requirements in the following industries: Financial Services; Professional and Business Services; and Social and Personal Services. HSUHK was of the view that employment pathways of BSS-PPE graduates are not confined to specific industries or enterprises, as the graduates are trained to be generalists with knowledge in three disciplines (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) which can be applied in different positions offered by civil and diplomatic services, local government, private sector corporations, financial institutions, think tanks, educational institutions and other non-government organisations (NGOs). Furthermore, findings from prospective employers' survey revealed that over 90% of the respondents preferred employees to possess analytical and critical thinking skills, which HSUHK considered to be in alignment with the learning outcomes of the BSS-PPE programme. A majority (90%) of the respondents also acknowledged that the training to be provided to students of the BSS-PPE programme would be beneficial to their future employment, with around 65% of the respondents indicated their interest in recruiting future graduates of the BSS-PPE programme. The Panel also met with a number of industry representatives at the site visit, and noted their views that although PPE maybe new to Hong Kong, there is potentially a market for graduates trained in PPE not just in Hong Kong but also in Mainland China. The Graduate Profile of the BSS-PPE programme (in [Appendix 2](#)) further illustrates various employment and further study pathways for the graduates.

- 4.1.10 From the above information, the Panel noted that the BSS-PPE programme would be the first of its kind to be offered in Hong Kong, and that the programme has been designed to address community, education and industry needs. The Panel is also of the view that the learning outcomes of the BSS-PPE programme meet the relevant HKQF standards for a bachelor degree level programme.

4.2 Learner Admission and Selection

The minimum admission requirements of the learning programme must be clearly outlined for staff and prospective learners. These requirements and the learner selection processes must be effective for recruitment of learners with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake the programme.

BA-PSY Programme

- 4.2.1 The minimum admission requirements for the BA-PSY programme, including Year 1/3 entry, as well as non-local and non-standard admissions are outlined in the following table:

Minimum Admission Requirements	<u>Year 1 Entry</u> <u>Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination</u> Level 3 or above in Chinese Language and English Language, Level 2 or above in Mathematics, Liberal Studies and one other subject in the HKDSE Examination. <u>International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme</u> 24 points (including 3 subjects at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level, 12 points or above to be obtained from subjects at Higher Level), i.e. completion of IB Diploma. <u>SAT Qualification</u> A minimum of 1650 on SAT Reasoning Test (Prior to March 2016) or 1190 on Redesigned SAT (From March 2016). Secondary school examination results are suggested to be considered apart from the SAT score.
--------------------------------	---

	<u>Year 3 Entry</u> Completion of an Associate Degree or Higher Diploma in a related discipline from a recognised institution in Hong Kong or overseas, with a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, and a satisfactory level of performance on the assessment required by the programme (e.g. interview). <u>Non-Local Entry</u> Applicants with non-local qualifications are considered on a case-by-case basis according to the criteria for admission as set out by HSUHK. <u>Non-Standard Entry</u> Applicants whose academic attainment did not reach the minimum requirement, or mature applicants aged 23 or above on 1 September when admission is sought, with a minimum of 2 years' work experience in their chosen field of study or demonstrated ability to pursue their chosen field of study, may apply for admission on non-standard entry. Admission will be considered on a case by case basis. The quota for non-standard entrance for degree programmes is no more than 5% of the total intake on a programme basis, and no more than 3% on an institutional basis.
--	---

- 4.2.2 The Panel noted that HSUHK proposed a maximum of 80 full-time students per year for Year 1 entry*, and a maximum of 20 full-time students per year for Year 3 entry, from 2023/24 academic year onwards. Taking into consideration the market analysis conducted by HSUHK to demonstrate a continued demand for psychology programmes in the local market, as well as the current and planned staffing for the BA-PSY programme, the Panel has no further observations on the proposed annual maximum student numbers to be recruited for the programme.

** Maximum number of new Year 1 full-time students adjusted to 60 per year.*

- 4.2.3 On Year 3 entry, the Panel noted the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement is 2.5. During discussion with HSUHK, the Panel gathered that GPA 2.5 is the minimum requirement for

Year 3 entry across different programmes of HSUHK. For Associate Degree (AD) or Higher Diploma (HD) holders of non-psychology related discipline seeking admission into Year 3 of the BA-PSY programme, HSUHK may require a GPA higher than 2.5 for consideration of admission. In the future when the BA-PSY programme admits Year 3 entry students, the Panel **advised** HSUHK to monitor more closely the performance of students admitted to Year 3 on an on-going basis, to ensure the minimum GPA requirement remains effective for selecting students to undertake the programme.

- 4.2.4 In summary, the Panel considered that the minimum admission requirements of the BA-PSY programme have been clearly outlined, and the selection process is effective for recruiting students with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake the programme.

BSS-PPE Programme

- 4.2.5 The minimum admission requirements for the BSS-PPE programme, including Year 1/2/3 entry, as well as non-local and non-standard admissions are outlined in the following table:

Minimum Admission Requirements	<u>Year 1 Entry</u> <u>Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination</u> Level 3 or above in Chinese Language and English Language, Level 2 or above in Mathematics, Liberal Studies and one other subject. <u>International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme</u> 24 points (including 3 subjects at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level, 12 points or above to be obtained from subjects at Higher Level), i.e. completion of IB Diploma. <u>SAT Qualification</u> A minimum of 1650 on SAT Reasoning Test (Prior to March 2016) or 1190 on Redesigned SAT (From March 2016). Secondary school examination results are suggested to be considered apart from the SAT score.
--------------------------------	---

	<u>Year 2 Entry</u> Completion of an Associate Degree or a Higher Diploma which is related to PPE from a recognised institution in Hong Kong or overseas, with a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, and a satisfactory level of performance on the assessment required by the programme (e.g. interview). <u>Year 3 Entry</u> Completion of an Associate Degree or a Higher Diploma which is related to PPE from a recognised institution in Hong Kong or overseas, with a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.8 or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, and a satisfactory level of performance on the assessment required by the programme (e.g. interview). <u>Non-Local Entry</u> Applicants with non-local qualifications are considered on a case-by-case basis according to the criteria for admission as set out by HSUHK. <u>Non-Standard Entry</u> Applicants whose academic attainment did not reach the minimum requirement, or mature applicants aged 23 or above on 1 September when admission is sought, with a minimum of 2 years' work experience in their chosen field of study or demonstrated ability to pursue their chosen field of study, may apply for admission on non-standard entry. Admission will be considered on a case by case basis. The quota for non-standard entrance for degree programmes is no more than 5% of the total intake on a programme basis, and no more than 3% on an institutional basis.
--	--

- 4.2.6 In the Response to Panel's Initial Comments, HSUHK also confirmed that holders of General Certificate of Education (GCE) A Level Examination results would be considered for Year 1 admission, and the minimum requirement would be passes in two A-Level subjects, excluding Chinese.

4.2.7 The Panel noted that HSUHK proposed a maximum of 40 full-time students per year for Year 1 entry, and a maximum of 10 and 20 full-time students per year for Year 2 and Year 3 entry, from 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic year onwards, respectively. In view of the market analysis conducted by HSUHK to ascertain the demand for BSS-PPE graduates in various industry sectors, as well as the current and planned staffing for the programme, the Panel has no further observations on the proposed annual maximum student numbers to be recruited for the programme.

4.2.8 Noting the above, the Panel considered that the minimum admission requirements and the selection process of the BSS-PPE programme have been clearly outlined and are effective for recruiting students with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake the programme.

4.3 Programme Structure and Content

The structure and content of the learning programme must be up-to-date, coherent, balanced and integrated to facilitate progression in order to enable learners to achieve the stated learning outcomes and to meet the programme objectives.

BA-PSY Programme

4.3.1 The BA-PSY programme is designed as a four-year, full-time bachelor's degree programme with a total of 40 modules. Each module consists of 3 university credits; each credit represents a minimum of 15 contact hours between students and instructors. Including approximately 3,600 hours of self-directed study, the total notional learning hours of the BA-PSY programme is around 5400, which is equivalent to a total of 540 QF credits. The following table summarises the curriculum structure of the BA-PSY programme:

Study Area	Core Modules (Credits)	Elective Modules (Credits)	Total Modules (Credits)	Percentage (%)
Psychology	11 (33)	9 (27)	20 (60)	50
Common Core Curriculum				
General Education	1 (3)	6 (18)	7 (21)	17.5
Quantitative Methods and IT Skills	2 (6)	-	2 (6)	5
Languages				
Chinese	3 (9)	-	3 (9)	7.5
English	3 (9)	-	3 (9)	7.5

Business Education	2 (6)	-	2 (6)	5
Free Elective	-	3 (9)	3 (9)	7.5
Total	22 (66)	18 (54)	40 (120)	100

4.3.2 Across the four years of study, students are expected to complete a range of core and elective modules in three Study Areas, namely Common Core Curriculum, Business Education and Major Studies (Psychology). The Major Studies (Psychology) consists of core and elective modules, which makes up about 50% of the total module distribution. The Panel noted a stepped pedagogical approach is embedded within the Major Studies (Psychology) component, but it is not scaffolded by formal prerequisite requirements. HSUHK shared with the Panel that this approach would allow students from other majors to undertake Level 2000 and 3000 psychology electives without having to fulfil prerequisite requirements. Although this approach would facilitate non-psychology major students to enrol in psychology electives, the Panel nevertheless **advised** HSUHK to be aware of any possible impact towards the learning experience of BA-PSY students.

4.3.3 To enhance the uniqueness of the BA-PSY programme, three specialisation streams within the list of psychology elective modules are offered to students, namely the Educational and Clinical, Business and Technology, and Neuroscience and Health specialisation streams. The Panel noted that each specialisation stream consists of four modules. Students may choose to specialise in more than one stream, but it is not mandatory for students to choose any specialisation. Although the specialisation streams do not lead to distinctive majors, the Panel learnt from the BA-PSY programme team that it is currently exploring the possibility of reflecting the specialisations in official documents such as student transcript.

4.3.4 Another feature of the BA-PSY programme, according to information provided by HSUHK, is the optional Psychology Practicum. Students may choose to enrol in the Psychology Practicum in lieu of two psychology elective modules. In the Response to Panel's Initial Comments, HSUHK shared with the Panel that based on past experience, it is anticipated that 30-40% of students would be interested in undertaking the Psychology Practicum. The BA-PSY programme team has been in close contact with potential practicum providers, and it should be able to secure at least 30-40 placements per year starting from 2024/25, for the first cohort of senior year students. The Panel noted the

value of practicum towards the achievement of programme objectives, and **advised** HSUHK to ensure the Psychology Practicum is well-resourced so as not to disappoint interested students if the demand for placements exceeds supply in the future.

- 4.3.5 In consideration of information provided by HSUHK in the documentation and at the site visit, the Panel concluded that the structure and content of the BA-PSY programme will enable learners to progress and achieve the stated objectives and intended learning outcomes of the programme.

BSS-PPE Programme

- 4.3.6 The BSS-PPE programme is designed as a four-year, full-time bachelor's degree programme with a total of 41 modules. Each module consists of 3 university credits; each credit represents a minimum of 15 contact hours between students and instructors. Including approximately 3,690 hours of self-directed study, the total notional learning hours of the BSS-PPE programme is around 5535, which is equivalent to a total of 554 QF credits. The Panel noted that HSUHK aims to develop the BSS-PPE programme to align with its vision and mission, as well as the desired graduate competencies and attributes.
- 4.3.7 Across the four years of study, students are expected to complete a range of core and elective modules in three Study Areas, namely Common Core Curriculum, Business Education and Major Studies (PPE). The Major Studies (PPE) consists of (i) three Disciplinary Core (Philosophy, Politics and Economics), with modules to be undertaken in Years 1 and 2; (ii) an Interdisciplinary Core, with modules that are "dual/paired" in design (i.e. philosophy and economics; philosophy and politics; and politics and economics) to be undertaken in Year 2; (iii) an Integration Core, with two Final Year Projects (FYP) to be undertaken in Year 4 supplemented by foundation modules in research methods and social statistics; and (iv) Disciplinary/Interdisciplinary Electives in Years 3 and 4, with modules designed for students to acquire specific skills and knowledge in a particular discipline or to equip themselves with the ability to analyse social issues with an interdisciplinary perspective. The Panel noted from discussion with HSUHK that the BSS-PPE programme teaching staff will provide advice to students on study pathways that best fit their future career and/or postgraduate study aspirations. To ensure students would receive timely advice, teaching staff will advise students towards the end of Year 2 on the

selection of Year 3/4 electives. The following table summarises the curriculum structure of the BSS-PPE programme:

Study Area	Core Modules (Credits)	Elective Modules (Credits)	Total Modules (Credits)	%
Philosophy, Politics and Economics	13 (39)	8 (24)	21 (63)	51.2
Common Core Curriculum				
General Education	1 (3)	6 (18)	7 (21)	17.1
Quantitative Methods & IT Skills	2 (6)	-	2 (6)	4.9
Languages				
Chinese	3 (9)	-	3 (9)	7.3
English	3 (9)	-	3 (9)	7.3
Business Education	2 (6)	-	2 (6)	4.9
Free Elective	-	3 (9)	3 (9)	7.3
Total	41 (123)			100

4.3.8 During the programme development stage, HSUHK has consulted external stakeholders from academic institutions and relevant industries on curriculum design. At the site visit, the Panel discussed with a number of external representatives involved in providing advice to HSUHK on programme development, and learnt that scaffolding students' learning experience for preparation of their future career and further study was considered an important factor which would contribute to the success of the BSS-PPE programme. Within the curriculum, the Panel noted that integration across the three disciplines (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) will be realised mainly by three interdisciplinary core modules in Year 2, two FYPs in Year 4, some interdisciplinary elective modules in Years 3 and 4, as well as an optional Internship module. However, the Panel had the view that rather than starting from senior years, students should be given more opportunities earlier on in the programme to integrate knowledge gained from the three disciplines. As such, the Panel **recommended** that HSUHK should ensure integration is well achieved across the three disciplines (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) throughout the four years of study by further incorporating elements of integration within the programme content and assessment.

4.3.9 The Panel noted that another important objective of the BSS-PPE programme is to raise awareness about global challenges and international issues in PPE. In the Response to Panel's Initial Comments, HSUHK provided examples from the curriculum to substantiate the achievement of this objective. From the examples, the Panel observed that the coverage of global challenges and

international issues is mainly in one Year 1 module (Public Administration and Policy in the Global Perspective), supplemented by some Year 3/4 elective modules such as Global Justice. As the topic of global challenges and international issues in PPE can be approached from many different perspectives, the Panel had the view that the programme content and relevant assessments could be further strengthened in terms of providing more depth in the coverage of international/global perspectives. Therefore, the Panel **recommended** that HSUHK should ensure sufficient depth in the coverage of international/global perspectives throughout the programme by strengthening relevant module content and assessment items.

- 4.3.10 Based on information on the structure and content of the BSS-PPE programme provided by HSUHK and discussion with relevant internal and external stakeholders during the site visit, the Panel formed the view that the design of the BSS-PPE programme facilitates progression and will enable learners to achieve the stated objectives and intended learning outcomes.

4.4 **Learning, Teaching and Assessment**

The learning, teaching and assessment activities designed for the learning programme must be effective in delivering the programme content and assessing the attainment of the intended learning outcomes.

BA-PSY Programme

- 4.4.1 The medium of instruction for the BA-PSY programme is English. For modules that involve fieldwork, practicum, data collection or interview, supporting instructional materials such as video recorded case studies and research data in the form of surveys and transcripts may be presented or discussed in Chinese or other dialects. Written assignments to be submitted by students will be primarily in English, with the occasional inclusion of verbatim quotes and appendices written in Chinese. In terms of learning and teaching activities, a majority of modules in psychology will be conducted in the form of lectures and tutorials. Lectures with a maximum class size of 40 students are generally didactic in nature, while tutorials in smaller groups of 20 students are interactive and activity-based, such as lab-based or skill-based teaching. Advanced modules may adopt a seminar approach to integrate didactic teaching and other discussions and activities. Other

outside classroom activities such as field trips, site visits and conferences will also be organised to enhance students' learning.

- 4.4.2 To provide experiential learning opportunities, students can choose to enrol in either Psychology Thesis or Psychology Practicum, which are two-semester elective modules with six university credits, in lieu of two psychology elective modules. Students in Psychology Thesis will be supervised by an academic staff in psychology, whereas students in Psychology Practicum will undergo hands-on practice supervised by professional staff in psychology. Students can also pursue a wide range of non-credit bearing internships organised by HSUHK, which generally take place during the summer break between the second and third year, or between the third and fourth year of study. In the Response to Panel's Initial Comments, HSUHK provided further clarifications to the Panel on the rationale of stipulating a minimum cumulative GPA (cGPA) in order to be eligible to enrol in the Psychology Thesis. Students whose cGPAs falling slightly short of the minimum may be granted permission by the Programme Director to enrol in the Psychology Thesis. However, the Panel had the view that if the eligibility requirement for the Psychology Thesis is not firmly upheld, it may cause disputes or appeals among students in the long run. The Panel therefore **advised** HSUHK to ensure entry thresholds for modules, such as the minimum cGPA requirement for Psychology Thesis, are well defined, transparent, and with limited discretion.
- 4.4.3 For the assessment activities of the BA-PSY programme, the Panel was provided with an assessment scheme of all modules in the programme, which outlines the types and weightings of assessment activities in each module. Continuous assessment activities include class participation, in-class discussion activities, projects, assignments, presentations, tests and quizzes, while summative assessments are in the form of final exams. In the accreditation documents and at the site visit, HSUHK provided to the Panel samples of assessment items and associate rubrics of a number of psychology modules to demonstrate alignment between the MILOs, module content and assessment activities.
- 4.4.4 The graduation requirements for the BA-PSY programme is as follows:
- Obtained a Grade D or above on at least 120 credits (40 modules; 39 modules if Psychology Thesis or Psychology Practicum was taken), including all core and elective modules according to the curriculum structure of the Programme;

- Obtained a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0;
- Fulfilled the language competency exit requirement;
- Passed the Information Technology Proficiency Test; and
- Fulfilled the requirements of iGPS Unit (at least 12 units) and College Assembly (at least 5 times), within the course of the Programme.

4.4.5 For the BA-PSY programme, the Panel was of the view that the learning, teaching and assessment activities are effective in delivering the programme content and assessing the attainment of the intended learning outcomes.

BSS-PPE Programme

4.4.6 The medium of instruction for the BSS-PPE programme is English. The maximum class size for lectures of major core and elective modules is 40 students. For more in-depth study and discussion of lecture topics, students will be divided into tutorial groups of 15 to 20. To facilitate integrative academic as well as practical research, students will conduct two FYPs in Year 4 which focus on public affairs and organisation development and management. The FYPs are designed to highlight the interdisciplinary approach and methodology in conducting research, with an aim to enable students to develop their own research projects and gain a reflective summary of their personal learning trajectories in PPE. Further opportunities for students to develop an understanding of real-life practices and operations in related industries will be provided in the Internship elective module. Students enrolled in the Internship module will be required to fulfil a minimum of 150 working hours within Year 2 and Year 4 of study in one organisation approved by the module instructor. Students will also be required to attend a pre-internship workshop where work protocols and ethics will be introduced. HSUHK provided to the Panel a list of potential internship partners for the BSS-PPE programme, including local NGOs and Government Departments, as well as banking and financial institutions offering analyst positions.

4.4.7 For the assessment activities of the BSS-PPE programme, the Panel was provided with an assessment scheme of all modules in the programme, which outlines the types and weightings of assessment activities in each module. Continuous assessment activities include class participation, projects, assignments, presentations, tests and quizzes, while summative assessments are in the form of final exams. In the accreditation documents and at the site visit, HSUHK provided to the Panel samples of

assessment items and associate rubrics of a number of PPE core and elective modules to demonstrate alignment between the MILOs, module content and assessment activities. The Panel noted that written assignments and projects will be used more frequently as assessment methods in more advanced modules of the programme, and the Panel considered the blend of assessment by written work and final exams seems appropriate for the programme. To ensure the integrity of written assessments, HSUHK uses plagiarism software to check the originality of written work submitted by students. While reviewing the sample teaching, learning and assessment materials provided by HSUHK, the Panel observed that some references in the sample materials seem dated, and individual items in some assessment rubrics have not included detailed breakdown/weightings. On these observations, the Panel **advised** HSUHK to ensure (i) references provided in the teaching and learning materials should be kept up to date, and (ii) the breakdown/weightings of items in the assessment rubrics should be made more transparent to students.

4.4.8 The graduation requirements for the BSS-PPE programme is as follows:

- Obtained a Grade D or above on at least 123 credits (41 modules), including all core and elective modules according to the curriculum structure of the Programme;
- Obtained a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0;
- Fulfilled the language competency exit requirement;
- Passed the Information Technology Proficiency Test; and
- Fulfilled the requirements of iGPS Unit (at least 12 units) and College Assembly (at least 5 times) within the course of the Programme.

4.4.9 For the BSS-PPE programme, the Panel formed a view that the learning, teaching and assessment activities are effective in delivering the programme content and assessing the attainment of the intended learning outcomes.

4.5 **Programme Leadership and Staffing**

The Operator must have adequate programme leader(s), teaching/training and support staff with the qualities, competence, qualifications and experience necessary for effective programme management, i.e. planning, development, delivery and monitoring of the programme. There must be an adequate staff development

scheme and activities to ensure that staff are kept updated for the quality delivery of the programme.

BA-PSY Programme

- 4.5.1 The Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science and the Head of the Department of Social Science provide overall academic leadership of the BA-PSY programme. For the management and oversight of programme, a Programme Director and a Co-Programme Director have been appointed. Also, a Programme Development Committee (PDC) chaired by the Programme Director and comprised academic staff of the School of Humanities and Social Science and other relevant supporting departments (Chinese, Computing, English, Management, Marketing, Mathematics and Statistics) was setup by the School Board to oversee the detailed development of the programme, including the module assessment and examination procedures.
- 4.5.2 HSUHK provided to the Panel a staffing plan of the BA-PSY programme for the upcoming five academic years (2021/22 to 2025/26). In the staffing plan, the Panel noted that teaching staff at the ranks of Professor, Associate/Assistant Professor, and Senior Lecturer/Lecturer from the Department of Social Science will be involved in teaching the PSY modules of the programme. During the first year of operation when a majority of the modules will be in Common Core/General Education, teaching of the PSY modules will be covered by three current teaching staff (one Associate Professor and two Assistant Professors) with expertise in psychology. The Panel was provided with the profiles of these three teaching staff and a list of modules they will be teaching in the BA-PSY programme, and the Panel noted the areas of expertise as well as teaching and professional experience of these staff have been appropriately mapped with the assigned modules.
- 4.5.3 According to HSUHK's staffing plan, from the BA-PSY programme's second year of operation onwards, new teaching staff at both professorial and lecturer ranks will be recruited to expand the areas of expertise in psychology to cover the more advanced PSY modules in Years 2 to 4. Recruitment of new teaching staff will begin once the BA-PSY programme is approved, and it is expected that the programme will reach its maximum staff strength of seven full-time equivalent (FTE) staff by 2024. The Panel observed that if the BA-PSY programme reaches its maximum student capacity across the four years of study in the long run, staffing resources to support student advising, personal tutoring and thesis/practicum

supervision may possibly be stretched. In this regard, HSUHK is **advised** to bring in more staffing resources if and when needed, or to encourage more senior students to take up formal peer advisory roles to provide learning support to students.

- 4.5.4 In terms of staff development, the Panel noted that HSUHK's Staff Development Committee provides opportunities for staff to participate in in-house staff development activities and external conferences, courses and seminars. The Department of Social Science also provides support to its academic members for applying government-funded research grants. The Panel noted that a total of fifteen government-funded research grants have been awarded to staff of the Department from 2014/15 to 2018/19.
- 4.5.5 Taking into consideration the staffing plan and staff development opportunities, the Panel formed the view that HSUHK has provided sufficient staff to lead, manage, and deliver the BA-PSY programme, as well as adequate development schemes and activities to ensure that staff will be kept updated for the quality delivery of the programme.

BSS-PPE Programme

- 4.5.6 The BSS-PPE programme is also hosted by the Department of Social Science under the School of Humanities and Social Science; the School Dean and the Head of the Department provide overall academic leadership of the BSS-PPE programme as well. For the management and oversight of programme, a Programme Director has been appointed, who also chairs the PDC comprising academic staff of the School of Humanities and Social Science and other relevant supporting departments (Chinese, Communications, Computing, Economics and Finance, English, Management, Marketing, Mathematics and Statistics, and Translation). The PDC oversees the detailed development of the BSS-PPE programme, including the module assessment and examination procedures.
- 4.5.7 HSUHK provided to the Panel a staffing plan of the BSS-PPE programme for the upcoming five academic years (2021/22 to 2025/26). In the staffing plan, the Panel noted that teaching staff at the ranks of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, and Lecturer from the Department of Social Science will be involved in teaching the PPE modules in the programme. Furthermore, HSUHK supplemented in the Response to Panel's Initial Comments that more than one teaching staff from the Department of Economics and Finance under the School of

Business will be assigned to teach economics-related modules in the PPE curriculum. Based on the profiles of current teaching staff and a mapping of their expertise against the Year 1 PPE modules, the Panel noted that sufficient number of staff with relevant expertise will be available for teaching PPE modules in the first year of operation.

- 4.5.8 From the second year of operations onwards, the BSS-PPE programme would gradually expand its staffing pool in relevant areas of expertise, particularly in the area of the philosophy of economics, for teaching interdisciplinary modules in the PPE core curriculum. It is planned that the BSS-PPE programme would grow from five FTE in 2021 to its maximum staff strength of 11 FTE in 2024. As the Panel observed that the teaching of PPE modules would involve staff from more than one Department/School (i.e. Department of Social Science under the School of Humanities and Social Science and Department of Economics and Finance under the School of Business), to ensure effective module delivery, the Panel **advised** HSUHK to maintain regular cross-departmental/school communication, and clear coordination and lines of reporting of relevant teaching staff.
- 4.5.9 In terms of staff development, the Panel noted that HSUHK's Staff Development Committee provides opportunities for staff to participate in in-house staff development activities and external conferences, courses and seminars. The Department of Social Science also provides support to its academic members for applying government-funded research grants. In the Response to Panel's Initial Comments, HSUHK provided to the Panel a list of external research grants in 2019/20 obtained by teaching staff involved in the delivery of the BSS-PPE programme, and a list of planned professional development activities for the upcoming two years (2021 to 2022).
- 4.5.10 After considering the staffing plan and staff development opportunities presented by HSUHK for the BSS-PPE programme, the Panel was of the view that there is sufficient academic leadership and qualified teaching staff to manage and deliver the programme, and that the staff are provided with ample activities for professional development on a continuous basis.

4.6 Learning, Teaching and Enabling Resources/Services

The Operator must be able to provide learning, teaching and enabling resources/services that are appropriate and sufficient for the learning, teaching and assessment activities of the learning programme, regardless of location and mode of delivery.

BA-PSY Programme

- 4.6.1 As the site visit was conducted via video-conference (Para 3.2), instead of a campus tour, HSUHK gave a presentation of the teaching and learning resources available on campus for the delivery of the BA-PSY programme. The presentation included facilities of the Behavioural Laboratory, which comprises an Individual Behavioural Lab, a Group Behavioural Lab, a reception area and a control room. The Individual Behavioural Lab is for conducting interviews or behavioural experiments; the Group Behavioural Lab is designed for research on interpersonal communication or team dynamics; and the control room is equipped with advanced video monitoring and recording system and a one-way mirror. Other facilities available to students of the BA-PSY programme include computer laboratories and other venues for small group consultation sessions, workshops and seminars. In the Response to Panel's Initial Comments, HSUHK also provided information on e-learning platforms which enable teaching staff to conduct online/blended learning with students, as well as electronic resources from the Library accessible online, including some psychology-related databases (e.g. PsycARTICLES, PsychINFO, Oxford Scholarship Online – Psychology, Cambridge Core and Oxford Reference Online Premium).
- 4.6.2 Based on information provided by HSUHK in the accreditation documents and during the presentation, the Panel considered that up to date library and pedagogical resources are available to students. The Panel observed that potentially, HSUHK may experience significant growth in student numbers in the upcoming years, with the introduction of new bachelor degree programmes including the BA-PSY. In this regard, the Panel **advised** HSUHK to plan accordingly at present, to accommodate any potential resource constraints in the future arising from increased student numbers and research needs of academic staff.
- 4.6.3 To summarise, the Panel considered that HSUHK have provided appropriate and sufficient resources for the teaching and learning activities of the BA-PSY programme.

BSS-PPE Programme

4.6.4 HSUHK also gave a presentation via video-conference of the teaching and learning resources available on campus for the delivery of the BSS-PPE programme. The presentation included a general introduction of library facilities and resources available to students, particularly electronic resources in the disciplines of philosophy, political science, public policy and administration, and economics. Software for econometrics modelling, machine learning and neural network analysis available to students at the computer laboratories was briefly introduced to the Panel as well. Given the potential growth in student numbers, HSUHK was advised, as mentioned in Para 4.6.2, to continuously ensure the adequacy of resources for teaching and learning. To enhance graduate employability, internship opportunities are available to BSS-PPE students. Sources of internships will be provided to students at the programme and university levels, and the Career Planning and Development team of the Student Affairs Office also provides career services and industry networking activities to students. Furthermore, to support students' academic and personal development, the Department of Social Science has in place systems for academic advising and personal tutoring.

4.6.5 In light of the above, the Panel considered that HSUHK have provided appropriate and sufficient resources for the teaching and learning activities of the BSS-PPE programme.

4.7 Programme Approval, Review and Quality Assurance

The Operator must monitor and review the development and performance of the learning programme on an on-going basis to ensure that the programme remains current and valid and that the learning outcomes, learning and teaching activities and learner assessments are effective to meet the programme objectives.

BA-PSY Programme

4.7.1 The Panel noted HSUHK has in place an established Quality Assurance (QA) system for internal approval/re-accreditation of learning programmes, as well as regular monitoring and review of programmes by use of feedback from internal/external stakeholders. The Panel was provided with documentations such as minutes of relevant Boards/Committee meetings to demonstrate that the BA-PSY programme had gone through the internal approval process as

stipulated in HSUHK's QA processes and mechanisms for new programme approval. The Panel noted that the Programme Accreditation Document (PAD) prepared by the Programme Development Committee (PDC) of the BA-PSY programme was initially reviewed and endorsed by the Departmental Board (DB) and the School Board (SB), and approved by the Academic Planning and Development Committee (APDC). Subsequent to APDC's approval, an Independent Review Panel (for LPA) (IRP-LPA) with external members from academic and industry sectors was formed to review the PAD and conduct an IRP-LPA meeting. The Panel was provided with the Report on the IRP-LPA meeting held in February 2020. The Report contains general comments by the IRP-LPA and key discussion items at the IRP-LPA meeting, as well as HSUHK's response and follow-up actions taken in relation to IRP-LPA's comments and recommendations. The finalised PAD was then endorsed by the SB and the APDC and approved by the Academic Board (AB) for submission to HKCAAVQ.

- 4.7.2 The Panel noted that once the programme is in operation, it will undergo Annual Programme Review to ensure the quality of programme delivery. During the Annual Programme Review process, various channels will be used to collect feedback from key stakeholders, such as Students' Feedback on Modules and Graduate Employment Survey. For the BA-PSY programme, regular internal review is also in place to ensure external requirements such as curriculum requirements of international psychological associations are continually met. In view that the BA-PSY programme needs to satisfy professional requirements on an on-going basis, the Panel **advised** HSUHK to ensure the programme's feedback loop remains effective and driven by data and evidence to provide timely and continual improvement and enhancement in teaching and learning.
- 4.7.3 Considering the above, the Panel concluded that HSUHK has monitored the development of the BA-PSY programme according to its internal QA processes, and will continue to review the performance of the programme on an on-going basis to ensure it remains current and valid.

BSS-PPE Programme

- 4.7.4 For the BSS-PPE programme, it also follows the same QA system for internal approval and annual programme reviews. The Panel was provided with documentations such as minutes of relevant Boards/Committee meetings to demonstrate that the BSS-PPE

programme had gone through HSUHK's internal approval process for new programmes. The Panel noted that the Programme Accreditation Document (PAD) prepared by the Programme Development Committee (PDC) of the BSS-PPE programme was initially reviewed and endorsed by the Departmental Board (DB) and the School Board (SB), and approved by the Academic Planning and Development Committee (APDC). Subsequent to APDC's approval, an Independent Review Panel (for LPA) (IRP-LPA) with external members from academic and industry sectors was formed to review the PAD and conduct an IRP-LPA meeting. The Panel was provided with the Report on the IRP-LPA meeting held in January 2020. The Report contains general comments by the IRP-LPA and key discussion items at the IRP-LPA meeting, as well as HSUHK's response and follow-up actions taken in relation to IRP-LPA's comments and recommendations. The finalised PAD was then endorsed by the SB and the APDC and approved by the Academic Board (AB) for submission to HKCAAVQ.

- 4.7.5 Besides the IRP-LPA, the Panel noted that HSUHK has also conducted detailed benchmarking study of similar programmes offered in local institutions. Based on findings from the benchmarking study, HSUHK considered that the BSS-PPE programme differentiates from other similar programmes by being interdisciplinary, practical, and focusing on local awareness. To further incorporate external input during the programme development process, external Module Vettors have been engaged to provide feedback on areas of improvement to the programme and module content. The Panel met with one of the Module Vettors during the site visit and learnt that HSUHK is receptive to suggestions for improvement made by the Module Vetter. Once the programme is in operation, it will undergo Annual Programme Review to ensure the quality of programme delivery is maintained on an on-going basis. Data on student performance, attrition rates, programme/module survey feedback, etc. will be used as indicators for programme monitoring and continuous improvement.
- 4.7.6 In view of the above, the Panel considered HSUHK has taken steps according to its internal QA processes to solicit sufficient internal/external input during the development of the BSS-PPE programme, so as to ensure that the programme is current, valid, and the content and activities are effective in meeting the programme objectives.

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 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 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 (<http://www.legislation.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 <http://www.hkqf.gov.hk>.

5.3 **Qualifications Register**

- 5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the Qualifications Register ("QR") at <https://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.

Ref: 56/31/01

1 December 2020

AbC/JoH/JrL/jrl/evl

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

Learning Programme Accreditation

- (i) Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Psychology**
(ii) Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

23 – 25 September 2020

Panel Membership

Panel Chair

Prof Philip BODMAN
Deputy Executive Dean
Faculty of Business, Economics and
Law
University of Queensland
AUSTRALIA

*** Panel Secretary**

Dr Jennifer LAW
Registrar
Academic Accreditation and
Assessment
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic and Vocational
Qualifications
HONG KONG

Panel Members – Psychology

Prof Cecilia CHENG
Professor and Associate Dean
University of Hong Kong
HONG KONG

Dr CHENG Wing Heng Viviana
Research Associate
Asian Academy of Family Therapy
HONG KONG

Dr HOU Wai Kai
Associate Professor and Director of
Centre for Psychosocial Health
Department of Psychology
The Education University of Hong Kong
HONG KONG

Panel Members – Philosophy, Politics and Economic

Prof Roman DAVID
Professor and Head
Department of Sociology and
Social Policy
Lingnan University
HONG KONG

Dr YU Kar Ming Patrick
Former Dean of Students
The Education University of Hong Kong
HONG KONG

* The Panel Secretary is also a member of the Accreditation Panel.

Appendix 2

Graduate Profile of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology

Qualification Title	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology 心理學（榮譽）文學士
Qualification Type	Bachelor Degree
QF Level	Level 5
Primary Area of Study and Training	Social Sciences
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Social and Behavioural Sciences
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable
Programme Objectives	1. Develop students' skills in critical and creative thinking for life-long learning; 2. Cultivate students' communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills; 3. Instil in students a strong sense of social responsibility and high commitment as a local and global citizen; 4. Provide students with a comprehensive foundation of theoretical and practical knowledge for scientific study and professional practice in psychology; 5. Develop students' research skills in psychology through intellectual and practical training; and 6. Enhance students' problem-solving ability in addressing personal, social and societal issues from the perspective of psychology.
Programme Intended Learning Outcomes	1. Utilise critical, reflective and creative thinking to guide life-long learning at different stages of life; 2. Demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills as a team player and leader; 3. Show a strong sense of ethical, social and professional responsibility in both local and international contexts;

	4. Critically analyse and evaluate key concepts, principles and overarching themes in psychology; 5. Interpret, design and conduct psychological research; and 6. Apply psychological knowledge and insight in the personal, social and societal aspects of everyday life.
Education Pathways	Graduates of the BA-PSY programme may pursue (research and taught) postgraduate studies locally or overseas in disciplines such as Psychology, Social Work, Management and Education.
Employment Pathways	Employment pathways of BA-PSY graduates are not confined to specific industries or enterprises as the knowledge of psychology can be applied in different positions offered by the government, commercial and industrial firms, financial institutions, consultancy firms, educational institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The typical positions for BA-PSY graduates are Behavioural Therapist, Psychological Counsellor, Psychological Assistant, Programme Worker, Welfare Worker, Play Specialist, Civil Servant, Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, User Experience Analyst, Consumer Behaviour Analyst, Management Trainee, Human Resource Personnel, Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant.
Minimum Admission Requirements	<u>Year 1 Entry</u> <u>Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination</u> Level 3 or above in Chinese Language and English Language, Level 2 or above in Mathematics, Liberal Studies and one other subject in the HKDSE Examination. <u>International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme</u> 24 points (including 3 subjects at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level, 12 points or above to be obtained from subjects at Higher Level), i.e. completion of IB Diploma. <u>SAT Qualification</u> A minimum of 1650 on SAT Reasoning Test (Prior to March 2016) or 1190 on Redesigned SAT (From March 2016). Secondary school examination results are suggested to be considered apart from the SAT score. <u>Year 3 Entry</u> Completion of an Associate Degree or Higher Diploma in a related discipline from a recognised institution in Hong Kong or overseas, with a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, and a

	satisfactory level of performance on the assessment required by the programme (e.g. interview). <u>Non-Local Entry</u> Applicants with non-local qualifications are considered on a case-by-case basis according to the criteria for admission as set out by HSUHK. <u>Non-Standard Entry</u> Applicants whose academic attainment did not reach the minimum requirement, or mature applicants aged 23 or above on 1 September when admission is sought, with a minimum of 2 years' work experience in their chosen field of study or demonstrated ability to pursue their chosen field of study, may apply for admission on non-standard entry. Admission will be considered on a case by case basis. The quota for non-standard entrance for degree programmes is no more than 5% of the total intake on a programme basis, and no more than 3% on an institutional basis.
Operator	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong 香港恒生大學

Graduate Profile of Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Qualification Title	Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics 哲學、政治與經濟（榮譽）社會科學學士
Qualification Type	Bachelor Degree
QF Level	Level 5
Primary Area of Study and Training	Social Sciences
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Social and Behavioural Sciences
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable
Programme Objectives	1. Encourage students to think independently and creatively, and to become autonomous learners for life-long learning; 2. Cultivate students' interpersonal and communication skills in preparation for them to take up leading roles in their careers; 3. Instil students a strong sense of social responsibility and high commitment to be upright citizens; 4. Provide students with a solid foundation of the theoretical and practical knowledge required in the areas of Philosophy, Politics and Economics; 5. Enhance students' awareness of the multifaceted nature of contemporary public affairs and policies; 6. Nurture students' analytical skills through exploring and evaluating the cause, transformation, and significance of contemporary public affairs; and 7. Hone students' problem-solving skills to devise innovative solutions in intellectual and professional contexts.
Programme Intended Learning Outcomes	1. Critically analyse and explore complex information, ideas and concepts and take different perspectives to solve problems independently;

	2. Possess effective social and interpersonal skills to work with others, and establish and manage good relationships to enhance individual and team collaborations; 3. Evaluate own contributions and responsibilities in becoming responsible citizen in a civil society; 4. Identify the principal theoretical approaches and the main currents in the study of PPE, and the relationships between them; 5. Evaluate contemporary public policies and related issues with an interdisciplinary approach; 6. Apply formal and informal techniques, including quantitative and qualitative methods and method of logic, to analyse theories and data in the study of PPE; and 7. Conduct integrative research and final year projects on public issues and problems.
Education Pathways	Graduates of the BSS-PPE programme may pursue (research and taught) postgraduate studies locally or overseas in disciplines such as Public Administration, Government and Politics, Economics, Global Political Economy, International Studies, Public Policy and Management, International and Public Affairs, Social Policy and Social Development.
Employment Pathways	Employment pathways of BSS-PPE graduates are not confined to specific industries or enterprises as the knowledge of Philosophy, Politics and Economics can be applied in different positions offered by civil and diplomatic services, local government, private sector corporations, financial institutions, think tanks, educational institutions and other non-government organisations (NGOs). The typical positions for BSS-PPE graduates are Policy Analyst, Research Analyst, Business Analyst, Investment Analyst, Economics Analyst, Business Consultant, Government Relations Consultant, Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, Management Trainee, Journalist, and Civil Servant.
Minimum Admission Requirements	<u>Year 1 Entry</u> <u>Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination</u> Level 3 or above in Chinese Language and English Language, Level 2 or above in Mathematics, Liberal Studies and one other subject in the HKDSE Examination. <u>International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme</u> 24 points (including 3 subjects at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level, 12 points or above to be obtained from subjects at Higher Level), i.e. completion of IB Diploma.

	<u>SAT Qualification</u> A minimum of 1650 on SAT Reasoning Test (Prior to March 2016) or 1190 on Redesigned SAT (From March 2016). Secondary school examination results are suggested to be considered apart from the SAT score. <u>Year 2 Entry</u> Completion of an Associate Degree or Higher Diploma which is related to PPE from a recognised institution in Hong Kong or overseas, with a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, and a satisfactory level of performance on the assessment required by the programme (e.g. interview). <u>Year 3 Entry</u> Completion of an Associate Degree or Higher Diploma which is related to PPE from a recognised institution in Hong Kong or overseas, with a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.8 or above on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent, and a satisfactory level of performance on the assessment required by the programme (e.g. interview). <u>Non-Local Entry</u> Applicants with non-local qualifications are considered on a case-by-case basis according to the criteria for admission as set out by HSUHK. <u>Non-Standard Entry</u> Applicants whose academic attainment did not reach the minimum requirement, or mature applicants aged 23 or above on 1 September when admission is sought, with a minimum of 2 years' work experience in their chosen field of study or demonstrated ability to pursue their chosen field of study, may apply for admission on non-standard entry. Admission will be considered on a case by case basis. The quota for non-standard entrance for degree programmes is no more than 5% of the total intake on a programme basis, and no more than 3% on an institutional basis.
Operator	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong 香港恒生大學

