

Information Notes for Hong Kong Radio Amateurs' Examination

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In Hong Kong, any person who wishes to establish, maintain and operate an amateur station must first obtain an Amateur Station Licence (ASL) issued by the Telecommunications Authority (TA). For the purpose of operating licensed amateur radio equipment without possessing any amateur radio equipment, a person may apply to the TA for an Authority to Operate (ATO) without the need to hold an ASL. To qualify himself for application for the licence and/or the ATO, a person needs to demonstrate through examination that he possesses the necessary knowledge to establish, maintain and operate an amateur station properly.
- 1.2 The “Information Notes for Private Organizations to Conduct Radio Amateur Examination and Amateur Morse Test leading to the Issue of Amateur Station Licence and Permission to Operate Amateur Radio Transmission”, issued by the Office of the Telecommunications (OFTA), is placed in the web site (<http://www.ofta.gov.hk>), specifying the conditions for interested organizations to apply for conducting the Hong Kong Radio Amateurs' Examination (HKRAE) and the Amateur Morse Test (AMT). Successful organizations will conduct the HKRAE and/or AMT in accordance with the conditions specified in the document. OFTA plays the regulatory and monitory roles in the HKRAE and AMT. The examination results of the approved organizations will be recognized by OFTA. Successful candidates in the examinations will be issued with an ASL and/or ATO upon application to OFTA.
- 1.3 The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi) (IVE (Tsing Yi)) is an approved organization for conducting the HKRAE and AMT. In addition, OFTA continues to recognize the radio amateurs' examination conducted by City & Guilds of London Institutes.

2. Structure of the HKRAE and AMT

- 2.1 The HKRAE and AMT are respectively a written examination and a Morse code proficiency test. They may be taken separately. Successful candidates in the written examination are eligible for the application for ASL and/or ATO.

3. Application for the HKRAE

- 3.1 At present the HKRAE is held twice a year by the IVE (Tsing Yi), usually in April and October. Announcement to invite application will normally be made about 3 months in advance. For details of application, please contact:

Head of Department
Department of Engineering
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi)
20 Tsing Yi Road, Tsing Yi
Hong Kong
Tel : 2436 8642 (General Office)

4. Application for Amateur Morse Test

- 4.1 At present AMT is conducted by IVE (Tsing Yi). Normally the test will be conducted once every two months depending on the number of candidates. Applicants are required to make arrangement with IVE (Tsing Yi). For details of application, the candidates may contact IVE (Tsing Yi) by referring to the address, telephone, fax and website given in paragraph 3 above.

5. Eligibility for Application for the HKRAE

- 5.1 The HKRAE is open to all persons regardless of their sex, nationalities and age.

6. Syllabus of the HKRAE

- 6.1 The syllabus of the HKRAE is given in Annex A.

7. Details of the Written Examination

- 7.1 The written examination is conducted by IVE (Tsing Yi) and recognized by OFTA. It consists of 100 multiple choice questions printed in Chinese or English. Choice of language should be made during application. No change in use of language will be accepted after application is submitted. Each question is provided with 1 correct answer and 3 incorrect answers. Candidates are required to select the correct answers.

8. Reference books

- 8.1 A list of relevant books published by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is given in Annex E. Many of these publications are available locally from leading book stores.
- 8.2 Information concerning licence conditions, operation of amateur service in Hong Kong, sample examination questions, etc. are given in the following annexes:


Annex B	Samples of Amateur Station Licence, Authority to Operate, and related forms, etc
Annex C	Operation of Amateur Service in Hong Kong
Annex D	Explanation notes on the licence conditions and the schedules of Amateur Station Licence
Annex F	Equipment for Amateur Station
Annex G	Sample examination questions

9. Details of the Amateur Morse Test

- 9.1 The Amateur Morse Test (AMT) consists of a receiving test and a sending test. Successful candidates must pass both tests. The AMT is conducted by IVE (Tsing Yi) and recognized by OFTA. There are two classes of AMT (5 words per min and 12 words per min).


9.2 Details of the two classes of AMT are shown below:

5 Words per Minute

			Sending		Receiving
Type of Test	Length of Test (No. of words or groups)	Duration of Test	Max. No. of Corrections Allowed	Max. No. of Uncorrected Errors	Max. No. of Errors Allowed
Plain language	15 words (5 letters per word)	3 minutes	3	0	3
5-character code groups	12 groups (5 letters per group)	3 minutes	2	0	2 
5-figure code groups	6 groups (5 figures per group)	1½ minutes	1	0	1

(The test will not include punctuations, accented letters or other symbols.)

12 Words per Minute

			Sending		Receiving
Type of Test	Length of Test (No. of words or groups)	Duration of Test	Max. No. of Corrections Allowed	Max. No. of Uncorrected Errors	Max. No. of Errors Allowed
Plain language	36 words (5 letters per word)	3 minutes	4	0	4
5-character code groups	24 groups (5 letters per group)	3 minutes	4	0	4 
5-figure code groups	10 groups (5 figures per group)	1½ minutes	2	0	2

(The test will not include punctuations, accented letters or other symbols.)

9.3 Normally, the receiving test will be conducted first by broadcasting by loudspeaker the test messages to all candidates. Candidates must copy the messages on paper provided by the examiner. At the end of the broadcast, a short interval will be given for candidates to review the messages.

9.4 A conventional manual Morse key and an audio tone generator will be provided for the sending test. Candidates may, at their discretion, bring their own keys and audio tone generators. A short interval will be given to candidates to adjust the keys and to warm

up before the commencement of the test.

10. Notification of results

- 10.1 For the written examination, candidates will be notified of the examination results individually by letter within 21 working days from the date of the examination. As regards the Amateur Morse Test, the candidates will be notified of the test results within 7 working days from the date of the test.

11. Appeal

- 11.1 Any appeal in connection with the HKRAE and AMT should be made **in writing**, within 7 working days from the date of notification of the result to the Head of Department, Department of Engineering, IVE (Tsing Yi) at the address given in paragraph 3 above. Late appeal or verbal appeal will not be considered.

12. Enquiry

- 12.1 For enquiries about the HKRAE and AMT, please contact the IVE (Tsing Yi) directly at the address given in paragraph 3 above.
- 12.2 For enquiries about this information note, please contact the Support Services Subsection at the following address:

Office of the Telecommunications Authority,
36/F, Wu Chung House,
213, Queen's Road East,
Hong Kong.
Tel: 2961 6608
Fax: 3155 0944
E-mail: support_services@ofta.gov.hk