

Exercise 7:

Study the text in the box below

- a) What does it mean by the phrase “crashed out” in line 3 of paragraph 1?
- b) What are the advantages of having GCSE as mentioned by Lilibetm?
- c) What are the differences between GCSE Chinese examination and HKCEE Chinese examination?

Box 1

Shaman Mehnaz, 17, and Lilibetm Hilman Siu Xiao, 18, were celebrating at having aced their GCSE Chinese exam - both scoring the top mark of A*, despite having crashed out in the HKCEE earlier this month.

'I thought I might manage to get an A, but obviously an A* is even better,' said Lilibetm. 'I just got a level 1 in the HKCEE so it is a big difference.'

She said she felt unfamiliar cultural elements in the HKCEE exam's oral test had thrown her.

'I think having the GCSE available in Hong Kong is an advantage for non-Chinese people as it does mean we can use this to get a job or go to university,' she said. 'This shows the Hong Kong government is willing to do something to help us.'

Shaman, whose score was unclassified in the HKCEE exam, agreed that there was a huge gulf between the two qualifications.

'The two exams have a very different focus,' she said. 'One is quite easy while the other is very, very hard. But I think that trying the HKCEE was good preparation for the GCSE.'

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<http://www.scmp.com/article/649899/ethnic-minority-students-thrilled-chinese>