

I Want to Be a Vehicle Mechanic

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2-3. I Want to Be a Vehicle Mechanic!

Vehicle Mechanic Career Path Q&A

Q : If I want to learn to repair vehicles and become a vehicle mechanic, when should I start planning my career?

A : You have to attain an education level of Secondary 3 or above in order to enrol in the Automotive Technology course.

Q : If I do not have an education level of Secondary 3, can I still enrol in the Automotive Technology course?

A : If you do not have an education level of Form 3, you can first enrol in the Teen' s Programme of the Vocational Training Council (VTC). Those with good performance will be selected for the Diploma of Vocational Education (Automotive Technology). If you are aged 21 or above, you can also enrol in the programme as a mature student.

Q : How much is the tuition fee for the Diploma of Vocational Education (Automotive Technology)?

A : The Government is currently offering 12 years of free education. If you meet the entry requirements, you can enjoy free enrolment. If you leave school at Secondary 3 (i.e. you have not completed 12 years of free education), you do not need to pay.

Q : How long does it take to complete the Diploma of Vocational Education in Automotive Technology?

A : The Diploma of Vocational Education in Automotive Technology is generally a three year full-time programme, pegged at Qualification Framework Level 3 (QF Level 3), the same level as the senior secondary education in traditional grammar schools. Various modes of study are available. Apart from completing a three-year full-time programme, most students have opted for the 1+3 Earn and Learn Scheme.

Q : What is the 1+3 Earn and Learn Scheme?

A : In brief, students can serve apprenticeship and pursue further education simultaneously to earn steady income and acquire a recognised qualification.

Q : Which one is more appealing, the three-year full-time study mode or the 1+3 Earn and Learn Scheme?

A : Past records show that most students opted for the 1+3 Earn and Learn Scheme. It is relatively appealing to study for a diploma while undergoing an apprenticeship that provides steady income.

Q : Where will students serve their apprenticeships?

A : If students choose the Earn & Learn Scheme, they need to attend a full-day automotive technology programme at college focusing on workshop practice during the first year. By studying the tens of vehicle types in the workshop, students will be able to command the skills of machinery, electronics, body repairs, spray painting and so on. In the next year, the college will arrange apprenticeships at various vehicle repairing agents for the students, who will then work around four days and spend one day at college every week. They will earn an average monthly income of \$11,000, i.e. more than \$500 a day if they work 18 days a month. It is attractive because students can learn at college, serve an apprenticeship and earn a stable income all at the same time.

Q: How long does a student need to study at college and serve an apprenticeship before becoming a vehicle mechanic?

A: It normally takes two to three years. Upon completion of an apprenticeship, students will be awarded a certificate of completion by the Apprenticeship Unit under the Apprenticeship Ordinance. In the vehicle maintenance industry, such certificate holders are mechanics. Furthermore, students completing the diploma of vocational education (automotive technology) programme will also be awarded a diploma of the said discipline, which is a recognised qualification under QF Level 3.

Q: After having obtained a Diploma of Vocational Education, can I further my study or even enrol at a university?

A: You can choose to apply for the Higher Diploma in Automotive Engineering programme (QF Level 4). The programme is available in two modes of study, i.e. two-year day-school full-time programme and three-year evening school part-time programme. After obtaining the Higher Diploma, students can apply for the top-up degree evening programme of around two years and attain QF Level 5 status upon graduation. If everything goes well, students will be able to graduate from university at around the ages of 23 to 24.

Q: What are the differences between taking vocational training programmes and studying in grammar schools? Are there any difference in respect of their prospects?

A: By choosing to join the “1+3 Earn and Learn Scheme” after Secondary Three, a student can obtain a certificate of completion of apprenticeship and the Diploma of Vocational Education (Automotive Technology) (QF Level 3) in two to three years’ time at the earliest and becomes a mechanic (master level) before turning 20. If a student chooses to continue his studies and obtains the Higher Diploma in Automotive Engineering (QF Level 4), followed by a top-up degree evening programme with a duration of around two years, he will attain QF Level 5 upon graduation. Moreover, a student can also make use of his five years of work experience accumulated during his “Earn and Learn” period to apply to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to become a Registered Vehicle Mechanics. As such, learning on the job and gaining work experience in vehicle maintenance for about eight years, you will have the academic qualification and work experience, which would hopefully help you get promoted to the junior management level, earn a better income and purchase your own property probably before turning 30. In contrast, by following the path of education at traditional grammar schools, normally one would have graduated from university and joined the workforce for a relatively short period at the age of 24. With merely one or two years of work experience, one will definitely have to accumulate more hands-on experience before having a chance to be promoted to the management level.

Q: Can I apply for admission to the Higher Diploma in Automotive Engineering Programme (QF Level 4) directly if I have completed Form 6?

A: To enrol for the Higher Diploma in Automotive Engineering Programme, one is required to have obtained at least ten marks in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination with passes in Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and other science subjects. Those who do not meet the above requirement can first enrol in the Diploma of Foundation Studies Programme (either in one-year full-time mode or two-year part-time mode) or the one-year Diploma of Vocational Education in Automotive Technology Programme, and students who have completed the programmes with a pass may enrol in the higher diploma programme. Most of the students prefer the 1+3 Diploma of Vocational Education Programme as they can gain practical work experience early under the dual-track learning approach (i.e. receiving on-the-job training while studying) which helps fulfil the students’ aspiration to complete their apprenticeship and become vehicle mechanics as soon as

possible. As apprentices with Secondary 6 level of education are better educated and more mature, major motor trading companies or car service centres prefer to employ them and are willing to offer them more training and promotion opportunities.

Q: It is said that there were many overseas training opportunities for trainees in the automobile industry. Is that true?

A: Sure. The Automobile Industry Training Centre has worked in close cooperation with overseas training institutes in recent years to organise a wide range of learning/exchange programmes for the trainees, such as visits to the production lines of automobile manufacturers and exposition halls in Europe, exchange activities at automotive training institutes, automotive research centres at universities and car service and sales centres, as well as automotive technology training in places like the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden and the Mainland. All these activities have broadened the horizons of the trainees and enriched their knowledge in the field.

4-5. Points to Note for Disposing Waste Vehicle Batteries

The Government announced the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles in March 2021, setting out measures to proactively promote the popularisation of electric vehicles (EVs), including ceasing new registration of fuel-propelled private cars (including hybrid vehicles) in 2035 or earlier, with a view to achieving the goal of zero vehicular emissions before 2050.

With the popularisation of EVs, fuel-propelled private cars and hybrid vehicles will be gradually phasing out. Consequently, the number of waste batteries from such vehicles is increasing and the vehicle maintenance trade is encountering more occasions that require disposal of such waste vehicle batteries. As waste vehicle batteries contain hazardous metals, improper disposal may create health hazards and lead to environmental pollution. In view of the above, this issue of the RVM Newsletter will introduce to the trade the points to note for disposing waste vehicle batteries.

Waste EV batteries

Waste batteries from hybrid vehicles

Waste lead-acid batteries (WLABs) from general vehicles

In fact, waste batteries from EVs and hybrid vehicles and WLABs from general vehicles are all classified as chemical waste and regulated by the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) and Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354C). A vehicle maintenance workshop producing the above waste batteries in its course of business must:

- register as a chemical waste producer with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD);
- package, label and store the waste batteries properly;
- hire licensed chemical waste collectors to collect and deliver waste batteries to licensed chemical waste disposal facilities for proper disposal; and
- keep the trip ticket of the entire process of chemical waste collection for no less than 12 months for monitoring and record-keeping purposes, to facilitate inspection by the EPD when necessary.

For details of the requirements on the packaging, labelling and storage of chemical waste, please download the Code of Practice on the Packaging, Labelling and Storage of Chemical Wastes from the EPD website (https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_cwc_sub3.html). For the List of Licensed Chemical Waste Collectors, please visit the website of Environmental Protection Interactive Centre (<https://cd.epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICDI/chemicalwaste/download/?lang=en>). Do not hand over waste batteries to unlicensed collectors or deliver them to other places for disposal.

Environmental Protection Department
The Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

6. Members of the Ninth Term of the Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee Officially Take Office

The Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee (VMTAC) has reached the ninth term since its establishment in 2006. Members of the new term of the VMTAC already took office on 1 July 2022 for a period of two years. To maintain its broad representation, the VMTAC, as in the past, comprises members from different trade associations, professional institutions, training institutes, transport operators employing a large number of vehicle mechanics, vehicle suppliers' associations, vehicle owners' association, representatives from relevant government departments, and an independent person, with a view to advising the Government on the vehicle maintenance registration schemes. In addition to the 22 members and Chairman of the VMTAC, there are also eight co-opted members of the Sub-Committees in the current term, to mainly offer professional advice on the registration schemes for individual special industries in the trade to the Management and Review Sub-committee and the Research and Development Sub-committee. The list of members of the new term of VMTAC is set out in the following table:

List of members of the ninth VMTAC

Mr FUNG Man-keung (professional institution)	Mr TANG Wing-hong, Madison (professional institution)	Mr HAU Ka-hau (vehicle suppliers' association)	Mr CHAN Tung (vehicle suppliers' association)
Mr LIU Tat-ming (workers union)	Mr HUI Kin-wah (workers union)	Mr CHUI Hau-leung (workers union)	Mr YIP Lai-hing (workers union)
Mr LAM Kit, Wilson (training institute)	Mr YIP Sui-pong, Ponthey (training institute)	Mr WONG Chi-hang (training institute)	Ms WONG Shun-kwan, Shenky (independent person)
Mr LAM Hing-cheong (trade association)	Mr YEUNG Ka-wo (trade association)	Mr LEE Hong-yip (trade association)	Mr MA Sing-wai (trade association)
Mr MOK Chi-fai (trade association)	Mr YUEN Wai-ming (vehicle owners' association)	Mr WONG Lik-kuen (transport operator)	Mr Kung Wai-hung (transport operator)
Representative from the Transport Department (government department)	Representative from the Environmental Protection Department (government department)		

Note: The VMTAC is chaired by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services.

As the new term begins, the VMTAC will continue to promote the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics and the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops, while reviewing the contents, effectiveness and development directions of the two voluntary registration schemes, so that they can keep abreast of the times and fulfil public aspirations. Starting from this term, apart from continuing to carry out audit inspections of registered mechanics and registered workshops to oversee the trade's compliance with the Code of Conduct and the Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops (Practice

Guidelines), the VMTAC will also continue to assist mechanics or workshops that fail to meet the requirements in making improvements, thereby facilitating the trade to enhance its service standards and head towards the following development directions:

1. Maintain the registration rates of registered mechanics and registered workshops at 70% or above;
2. Monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct and the Practice Guidelines by registered mechanics and registered workshops to enhance service standards of the trade;
3. Make better use of innovation and technology in optimising the two registration schemes;
4. Study the application of Qualifications Framework in the registration schemes;
5. Study the creation of Specific Service Class for Maintenance of Electric Vehicles; and
6. Prepare for the introduction of mandatory registration systems for vehicle mechanics and vehicle maintenance workshops.

The new term of the VMTAC and the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit (VMRU) of the EMSD will continue to strive to enhance the image and standards of the vehicle maintenance trade. We look forward to receiving staunch support from the trade!

7. Latest Updates of Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit

"iAM Smart" stands for "internet Access by Mobile in a Smart way". "iAM Smart" mobile app provides the one-stop personalised digital services platform, which enables users to log in and use online services by their personal mobile phone in a smart and convenient way.

"iAM Smart" users could conduct authentication, digital signing and "e-ME" form-filling functions via "iAM Smart" mobile app or website services so that users could easily log in and use the "iAM Smart" enabled online services. Furthermore, "iAM Smart" users could set up personalised notifications services for receiving government service updates with "iAM Smart" mobile app.

To tie in with the development of digitalisation, the VMRU introduced online registration and renewal services in June this year. Registered vehicle mechanics (RVMs) can complete Form 2 to apply for renewal of registration, or Form 3 to apply for change of service class of registration in a few steps. First of all, install the "iAM Smart" mobile app on the mobile phone, and login with "iAM Smart" after passing the security verification; then select "EMSD (Regulatory Services) Web-Based Registration Services - General" and click "Details"; after that, select "Registered Vehicle Mechanic" and click "Continue"; and at last, select "Online Electronic Submission". As for new applications for registration as a RVM or a registered vehicle maintenance workshop (RVMW), or applications for renewal of registration for a RVMW, the RVMs or the responsible persons for the VMWs concerned should follow the first few steps stated above; select "Other Applicant" after clicking "Details"; and at last, select "Online Electronic Submission". New applicant for registration as a RVM should complete Form 1, whereas the responsible persons for workshops applying for registration of their workshops as a RVMW or applying for renewal of registration should complete Form 5 or Form 6. The application process is easy and convenient, and saves applicants the time required for submission in person or by post.

Please visit the following website or scan the QR code to install the "iAM Smart" mobile app, for access to a wide range of frequently-used online services provided by government departments and public/private organisations.

<https://www.iamsmart.gov.hk/en/about.html>



8. Snapshots of Technical Seminar on Vehicle Maintenance (2)

The Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong (IMIHK) has been commissioned by the VMRU to organise 8 webinars for the industry starting from December 2021 to early 2024, covering latest developments of the voluntary registration schemes, latest equipment and technology in the industry, application of safety equipment, safety precautions in the repair of new vehicle types including EVs and hybrid vehicles, etc. Each participant is eligible to earn 3 continuing professional development (CPD) hours.

The second webinar was held in the evening of 25 June 2022 (Saturday). Apart from introducing the latest information on the voluntary registration schemes for vehicle mechanics and workshops, the webinar also covered the environmental, health and safety requirements related to vehicle maintenance, vehicle air-conditioning systems, as well as handling of chemical waste and control of paint odour emission. Mr KW YEUNG, Mr KW LEUNG, and representatives of the VMRU and the EPD were invited to deliver professional presentations, with a view to giving participants a better understanding and knowledge of the professional development and skills upgrading of the industry.

The third webinar will be held in the evening of 24 September 2022 (Saturday) and will cover vehicle battery systems and automotive electronics fundamentals. For details and the registration method, please refer to the information below.

10.Latest Developments of the Registration Schemes

1. Registered vehicle mechanics who have switched to work in another vehicle maintenance workshop should notify the VMRU by e-mail (vmru@emsd.gov.hk) or fax (3968 7646) the name, address and telephone number of the new workshop.

2. If there is any change in the information of the vehicle maintenance workshop (such as name of the workshop, registration number of the workshop, address, contact number and business registration certificate, etc.) or alteration in the type of workshop being registered, the person-in-charge of the workshop must, within 14 working days of such change, notify the VMRU of the change in writing, and submit the relevant documents for processing.

Information on the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics:

Total number of vehicle mechanics	10 303 Note1
Number of registered vehicle mechanics (as at end-July 2022)	8 240

Information on the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Maintenance Workshops:

Total number of vehicle maintenance workshops	2 783 Note 2
Number of registered workshops (as at end-July 2022)	2 064

Note1:2019 Manpower Survey Report (updated on 13 January 2020) by the VTC and the Automobile Training Board

Note2:Database of the VMRU (updated in July 2019)

If you wish to help protect our environment by receiving the electronic version of RVM Newsletters and leaflets, please send us the completed reply slip by e-mail: vmru@emsd.gov.hk or WhatsApp: 9016 3185. We will contact you by means of e-mail or mobile communication as far as possible.

Reply Slip

I/My company would like to receive the RVM Newsletters and other information leaflets by
 e-mail / WhatsApp

Please provide the relevant contact details for the above selected means of communication:

Name: _____ Vehicle Mechanic Registration No.: VM_____

E-mail address: _____ WhatsApp: _____

The electronic version of the RVM Newsletter is also available on the EMSD website:https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/supporting_government_initiatives/registration_scheme_for_vehicle_maintenance/publications_and_circulars/rvm_newsletter/index.html



Note

Starting from 15 July 2018, new application for registration as Type Four workshop (i.e. a workshop situated at a residential building or a composite building with domestic part) is no longer accepted. Furthermore, requests for conversion from a registered Type One, Type Two or Type Three workshop to a Type Four workshop will not be entertained.

Online Self-learning CPD Platform “VM Learning Station”

The VMRU has completed the upgrading of the CPD platform to provide a better self-learning experience for vehicle mechanics. To meet development needs in the future, the new platform “VM Learning Station” was launched in March 2022 to replace the existing platform. Mechanics who have already registered on the CPD platform are advised to register on the new platform “VM Learning Station” as soon as possible to facilitate the transfer of CPD records to the “VM Learning Station”. The “VM Learning Station” is constantly being updated, please visit regularly for updates.

Please visit the following website or scan the QR code to access the “VM Learning Station” for latest news or announcements.

<https://vmcpd.emsd.gov.hk/>



11. Prize Quiz Issue No.38

Q1. Which Qualifications Framework (QF) level is the Diploma of Vocational Education (Automotive Technology) programme pegged at?

- A. Level 3
- B. Level 4
- C. Level 5
- D. Level 6

Q2. Which QF level is the Higher Diploma in Automotive Engineering programme pegged at?

- A. Level 6
- B. Level 5
- C. Level 4
- D. Level 3

Q3. Which of the following waste vehicle batteries are chemical waste?

- A. Waste electric vehicle batteries
- B. Waste batteries from hybrid vehicles
- C. Waste lead-acid batteries
- D. All of the above

Q4. Which of the following ordinances regulates the disposal of waste EV batteries?

- A. Road Traffic Ordinance
- B. Waste Disposal Ordinance
- C. Noise Control Ordinance
- D. Air Pollution Control Ordinance

Q5. Which of the following actions should be taken by vehicle maintenance workshops producing waste vehicle batteries?

- A. Register as a chemical waste producer
- B. Apply for an environmental permit
- C. Apply for a chemical waste collection licence
- D. None of the above

How to participate (Issue No.38)

Let's protect the environment and submit the answers online! Please scan the QR code or click on the link (<https://vmcpd.emsd.gov.hk>) to log into the VM Learning Station to submit the answers. Vehicle mechanics may also complete the form below, circle the correct answers, and send it to the VMRU by fax (3968 7646) or e-mail (vmru@emsd.gov.hk).



Deadline: 31 October 2022

Question	Answer			
Q1	A	B	C	D
Q2	A	B	C	D
Q3	A	B	C	D
Q4	A	B	C	D
Q5	A	B	C	D

Name:

Vehicle Mechanic Registration No.: VM

E-mail Address:

Contact Tel. No.:









- Participants who answer all the questions correctly will earn one CPD hour and be notified by the VMRU individually.
- Only registered vehicle mechanics with valid registration may participate, each not more than once in each quiz. If you have already submitted your answers at the VM Learning Station, submission by post, fax or email is not necessary.
- If there are duplicate submissions, only the last answers submitted before the deadline will be accepted.
- The decision of the VMRU on the quiz will be final.
- The correct answers will be announced in the next issue of the RVM Newsletter.

The answers for RVM Newsletter Issue No. 37 are as follows:

Question	1	2	3	4	5
Answer	C	C	A	B	D

12. Training Institutes

Providing Continuing Professional Development Courses for Vehicle Mechanics (in random order)

Name of Training Institute	Website/Contents	Enquiry Tel. No.	QR Code
Traffic Services Employees Association	http://www.facebook.com/tseahk	2575 5544	
Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Automobile)	<p>http://www.proact.edu.hk/automobile</p> <p>Certificate in Vehicle Mechanical Repair#, a programme run by the Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Automobile) may serve as another means for qualifying as registered vehicle mechanics. Mechanics who are interested in enrolling in the above programme may visit the website of the Centre.</p> <p># For details and latest developments of the programme, the information issued by the Pro-Act Training and Development Centre shall prevail.</p>	2449 1310	
The Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong	<p>http://www.hkimi.org.hk</p> <p>The Institute of the Motor Industry Hong Kong (IMIHK), formerly known as the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) - Hong Kong Branch, brings the mission and vision of the IMI to the Hong Kong automobile industry. After the reunification in 1997, the IMI - Hong Kong Branch applied to be renamed the IMIHK in Hong Kong. Eligible members of the trade are welcome to join the IMIHK or enroll in its courses or talks.</p>	2625 5903	
Hong Kong Vehicle Repair Merchants Association Limited	https://www.facebook.com/HKVRMA/	2399 7977	
Hong Kong Vehicle Repairing Industry Employee General Union	http://www.vrunion.hk	2393 9955	
Occupational Safety and Health Council	<p>http://www.oshc.org.hk</p> <p>The course of Safe Handling of Chemicals aims to provide employees with basic knowledge of the safe handling of chemicals. The course content includes hazards of chemicals, labelling of chemicals, safety precautions, personal protective equipment, emergency procedures, etc. For more course</p>	2311 3322	
The Society of Operations Engineers (Hong Kong Region)	http://www.soe.org.hk	2617 0311	
Qualifications Framework recognised courses	http://www.hkqr.gov.hk	2836 1700	

Gentle Reminder

The contents in each issue help you catch up on the development of the registration schemes and enhance the quality of service. Please stay tuned! Each issue is available for downloading on the EMSD website:



https://www.emsd.gov.hk/en/supporting_government_initiatives/registration_scheme_for_vehicle_maintenance/publications_and_circulars/rvm_newsletter/index.html

For enquiries on the contents of the RVM Newsletter, please contact the VMRU of the EMSD.

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