

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a website about email:

Why Are Young People Abandoning Email?

Having an email account used to be cool. You could send people in Africa your thoughts on a new K-Pop song, receive email confirmation for movie tickets you bought on the phone and ignore scam messages. Not anymore. Why? New York Times technology writer Matt Richtel has a theory – email just isn't cool anymore. An email account in the year 2014 is a "sign you're old. It's the technology your Dad uses". And, as we all know, the last thing a teenager wants to be is like his Dad. It also requires a "boringly long process of signing into an account, typing out a subject line and then sending a message that might not be received or answered for hours".

Teens, needless to say, do not have time for this sort of nonsense. As Ken Kampu, a 17-year-old student from Nairobi writes, "I don't use email for casual correspondence, why would I? It's too formal and unnecessary, it would be like writing your friend a long letter asking if they wanted to get coffee next Tuesday." Which is probably why, as Richtel notes, the "number of visitors in the United States to major e-mail sites like Yahoo! and Hotmail is now in steady decline, peaking as long ago as November 2009".

Yahoo! Senior Director of Product Management David McDowell, however, points out many email functions (attachments, cc lines) are not designed for teenagers anyway. Maybe they'll come around when they enter the workplace.

You are preparing to give a talk in your school to school leavers about writing emails in their lives after leaving school. You may want to talk about:

- whether young people write emails in their daily lives
- the challenges young people may face when writing formal emails
- the advantages of using email over other forms of communication
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you write emails often?
2. Do you find writing emails easy or difficult?
3. What is the most popular way for young people to communicate with each other?
4. Do you prefer writing an email or writing a letter?
5. What is the hardest thing about writing a formal email?
6. What kinds of letters cannot be replaced by emails?
7. Why do you think emails have replaced letters?
8. Do you agree that using emails is a sign that you are old?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an advertisement taken from the Hong Kong International Airport website:

Airport Ambassadors

The Hong Kong International Airport is looking for youths aged 18-24 to be Airport Ambassadors. These Airport Ambassadors are stationed at busy locations throughout the airport to offer immediate assistance to anyone in need and ensure that all passengers feel at home the minute they arrive at the airport. Typical duties of an Ambassador include providing onsite assistance to travellers inside the terminals and handling customer enquiries at Customer Services Counters.

Since the launch of the Airport Ambassador Programme (AAP) in 2002, over 560 young people have received on-the-job training and many graduate ambassadors have found their ideal jobs in aviation or tourism related industries after completion of training.

The Airport Ambassadors' duties include:

- Greeting passengers
- Answering passenger enquiries and giving directions
- Offering assistance to passengers in need
- Promoting passenger safety

To be eligible to apply for the AAP, candidates need to have completed secondary school but should not have a university degree. Language proficiency in Cantonese, Putonghua and English is also required.



Your group is meeting to discuss the Airport Ambassador Programme. You may want to talk about:

- why the Airport needs Ambassadors
- whether being an Airport Ambassador would be difficult for young people
- what qualities/skills/characteristics are necessary to be a good Airport Ambassador
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Have you been to the airport?
2. Would you like to be an Airport Ambassador?
3. What would be the best part of being an Airport Ambassador?
4. Do you think the Airport Ambassador Programme would be popular with young people?
5. What can the Airport do to promote its Ambassador Programme?
6. Should senior citizens be recruited as Airport Ambassadors?
7. Do you think the Airport Ambassador Programme enhances the image of Hong Kong?
8. How do you think you would benefit from being an Airport Ambassador?

DO NOT TAKE AWAY

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is a letter to the editor about parenting:

Helicopter parenting – good or bad?

The phrase ‘helicopter parenting’ is used to describe parents who hover over their kids at all times, ready to step in at a moment’s notice to keep their children safe. I believe helicopter parenting can be a good thing for younger children. However, others think that helicopter parents create conditions that make it difficult for their kids to succeed.

Our job as parents is to protect our kids and give them the tools they need to both survive and succeed in the real world. We all want our kids to grow up to be productive members of society. No one wants to be the parent who suffocates their kid. Our role is to protect them 24 hours a day, seven days a week when they first come into the world and then gradually ease off, giving them more and more freedom and responsibility as they prove ready for the task. And while kids fight for more freedom, it is ultimately up to the parent to decide what they are ready to handle on their own.

We all look down on parents who are not involved enough with their kids, who don’t spend enough time teaching them. The danger with helicopter parents is when they don’t allow their own kids to make decisions to keep themselves safe. Those are the kids who grow up to be kids unable to make good choices and unable to protect themselves from their own stupidity.

Your group wants to write a letter to the editor to express your views about helicopter parenting. Discuss what to include in the letter. You may want to talk about:

- the qualities of good parents
- whether helicopter parenting is good
- other complaints young people have about the relationship with their parents
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you make your own decisions in your family?
2. When you have a problem, do you ask your parents or your friends for help?
3. Is it helpful for parents to always check on their children’s studies?
4. Why do you think some parents want to control everything in their child’s life?
5. Do you think helicopter parenting is common nowadays?
6. Should parents allow their children to make mistakes?
7. What is the best way for parents to monitor their child’s development?
8. How can parents and children have better communication?

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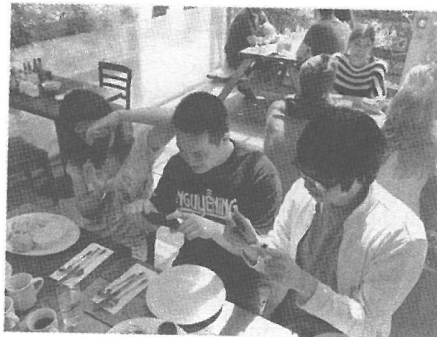
PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an online article about taking photos of food:

Crazy about food photos!

Years ago, if you took out a camera to take pictures of your food, or your friend's food, people might have laughed at you. Nowadays, more and more people are taking food photos and uploading them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. But according to a mental health expert, Dr. Valerie Taylor, photographing food is an indication of mental illness and of health problems. She says that those who constantly take pictures of what they're eating usually have some type of unhealthy relationship between food and their weight.

"We take pictures of things that are important to us, and for some people, the food itself becomes central and the rest – the venue, the company, etc. – is background," Dr. Taylor says. Obsessing about food photography could lead to "unhealthy weight disorders".



However, others feel that taking photos of food could also suggest one's eagerness to share with others what one has eaten or the celebration of one's passion. Some also feel that a picture speaks a thousand words, and so a picture of last night's dinner might best describe an incredible meal. It is also sometimes fun to take pictures of strange foods (e.g. grasshoppers covered in chocolate), or the food you encounter when you are travelling to keep a memory of that moment.

Your group is doing a project on taking photos of food for a food blog. You may want to talk about:

- why some people love taking photos of food
- any negative effects of taking photos of food
- how to put together a blog about food photos
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like looking at photos of food?
2. Do your friends like taking photos of food?
3. How do you feel when your friends take photos of *your* food?
4. Have you ever scolded someone for taking photos of food?
5. Do you think taking photos of food is bad manners?
6. Should restaurants ban people from taking photos of their food?
7. How has social media enhanced people's love of food photography?
8. Can food photography be considered "works of art"?

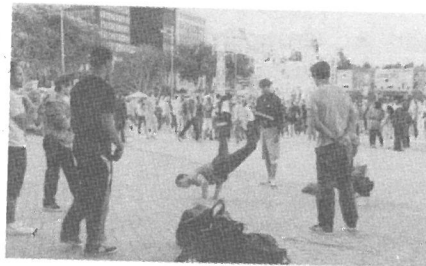
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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an article about street culture in Hong Kong:

“We’re no trouble at all”

Street culture – seen in the likes of street art, dance, graffiti and skateboarding – is becoming far more accepted than it used to be in Hong Kong. And yet youngsters who enjoy dancing in the street or doing tricks with their skateboards at night are sometimes still dismissed as “troublemakers” and “youths at risk”. Yeung Kin-tong, a social worker at the Chai Wan Centre of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, is familiar with such negative labels.



“People see kids hanging out at night and think they are troublemakers. But the truth is they can only enjoy their hobby at night, when there are fewer people around,” Yeung says. “They are not making trouble; they are trying to avoid it.” Yeung started interacting with youths who began dancing and skateboarding on the street a decade ago. She adds that Hongkongers have come a long way in recognising the value of street culture.

“People used to frown upon teens on skateboards. They did not respect it as a sport. Same with street dancing or graffiti. People did not consider them as art. But that was in the past; now people understand more about street culture,” she says. Yeung cites the Hong Kong International Street Jam Festival held on April 19 at Victoria Park, which was the first government-sponsored street culture event. “Street culture is gaining recognition,” she says.

Your group wants to give a presentation about street culture in Hong Kong. Discuss with your group what to include in your presentation. You may want to talk about:

- why some people think street culture is negative
- reasons why street culture is becoming more popular
- how to change people’s attitudes towards street culture
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you have friends who like street dancing?
2. Do your parents allow you to go out with your friends at night?
3. What do you think of people who skateboard in the street?
4. Should schools promote street culture?
5. Should teenagers be encouraged to take part in street culture?
6. What difficulties may street performers encounter?
7. What do you think of people who write graffiti?
8. Do you think street culture promotes creativity?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article about the happiest citizens in the world:

Happy in Switzerland!

Switzerland is home to one of the world's most successful economies and also one of the happiest populations in the world. In fact, Switzerland was ranked the world's 3rd happiest country in the United Nations' 2013 World Happiness Report, while Hong Kong was ranked 64th (out of 156 countries).



So what's Switzerland's secret? The tiny European country – with a small population and very few natural resources – is known for investing in its people. Switzerland invests more in the health, education and talent of its people than any other country in the world. This has led to an economy that is competitive, highly innovative and an educated society that has adopted technology quickly. Below are four things we can learn from Switzerland.

1. **Excellent healthcare.** With a high-quality healthcare system that provides universal coverage, the Swiss live longer, are emotionally and physically healthy, and thus feel better.
2. **High-quality education.** 86% of adults aged 25-64 in Switzerland have earned a high school diploma, and the Swiss also have higher average test scores in literacy, math and science.
3. **Talent and innovation.** Switzerland is number one in the world for innovation, on-the-job staff training, attracting talent from elsewhere and government-funded training. The Swiss are well-paid and retain their own talent.
4. **Well-developed infrastructure.** The Swiss have created an efficient transportation system and excellent Internet connectivity.

As members of your school's Model United Nations club, your group has to give a talk about Switzerland and Hong Kong. Discuss with your group what to include in the talk. You may want to discuss:

- how Hong Kong compares with Switzerland in the four points mentioned
- whether Hong Kong's ranking should be higher
- how Hong Kong can improve its happiness ranking
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What makes you happy?
2. What makes you unhappy?
3. Are you happier than your friends?
4. Do you think young people in Hong Kong are happier than their parents?
5. Why are some people unhappy even though they have good health?
6. Does having poor Internet connection make you unhappy?
7. Is there a relationship between education and happiness?
8. Can where you live affect your happiness?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract about the Urban Dictionary:

Urban Dictionary

The Urban Dictionary was started in 1999 by Aaron Peckham. Since then, it has become an archive for any new term or slang word, particularly those used to describe the behaviour and activities that have arisen because of social media and the web. More than 7 million entries are listed on the site and 2,000 definitions are added daily and it has become the default dictionary for many users.

The Urban Dictionary documents words, photos and videos posted on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. with words/phrases that would not be found in a standard dictionary. Anyone can add a word, no matter how offensive or controversial. Submissions are approved and rated by volunteers and visitors to the website. Mr Peckham said that he rarely edits or removes words unless they reveal someone's private information. Because Urban Dictionary's users contribute and vote on which definitions are most popular, it says something about our current culture – something that traditional dictionaries can't do.

'People have always been inventive with language,' said Katherine Connor Martin, the head of U.S. Dictionaries at Oxford University Press. 'In the 19th century, if young people were using slang terms among themselves, those words had to become very well entrenched before anything came into popular use,' she added. 'Now, if someone invents a new word on Twitter, it can go viral.'

Your group has to do a project to compile a dictionary of English words commonly used by teenagers. Discuss with your group how to carry out this project. You may want to talk about:

- useful sources for collecting words commonly used by teenagers
- ways to decide what words to include in your dictionary
- how to present the information for the dictionary in an interesting way
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like to learn new English words?
2. How often do you use a dictionary?
3. Are dictionaries useful in learning a language?
4. Do you like to learn new words from pop songs and rap music?
5. Should schools promote the use of the Urban Dictionary?
6. Do you think the Urban Dictionary is a reliable source of information?
7. Do you think slang plays an important role in learning a language?
8. Should standard dictionaries include words from the Urban Dictionary?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a magazine about Finland's education system:

Finland – the world's best education system

The 2012 global league table, produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit, has found Finland to have the best education system in the world. The rankings combined international test results and data such as graduation rates between 2006 and 2010. Finland has consistently topped the international rankings for education systems. Why is it so successful? Below are some characteristics:

1. Students don't start school until they're 7 years old.
2. No standardized tests until they are 16 years old.
3. Grades are not compulsory until students are in lower secondary.
4. Students of different abilities are taught in the same classroom.
5. No homework because it is assumed that mastery is achieved in the classroom.
6. Education emphasizes "equal opportunity for all". They value equality over excellence.
7. About two-thirds of students in Finland attend college. That's the highest rate in all of Europe.
8. Only the top 10% of school graduates are eligible to become teachers.
9. All teachers are required to have a master's degree, which is fully paid for by the government.
10. Teachers receive more professional development.

Your group is preparing for a discussion topic "Our Education System" for a Critical Thinking class. You may want to talk about:

- the most positive aspects of Finland's education system
- positive aspects of Hong Kong's education system
- which characteristics of Finland's education system would not work in Hong Kong
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Did you enjoy studying at primary school?
2. Does homework help you to learn better?
3. Is it too late to start school at seven years old?
4. Would you like to study in a school like the ones in Finland?
5. Should students of different abilities be separated into different groups?
6. Do examinations motivate you to study?
7. Would you have learnt more if you had studied in Finland?
8. Do all students in Hong Kong have equal opportunities in education?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an article about constructing a ferris wheel:

The government is going ahead with the construction of a giant ferris wheel on the Central waterfront. The wheel will reach 60 metres into the sky, carrying passengers in air-conditioned gondolas. It is estimated that about 2,000 people will ride on weekdays and 4,000 on weekends and public holidays. Each ride could last 10 to 15 minutes, with a fare of about HK\$100.

Supporters of the plan say that Hong Kong would benefit from adding a ferris wheel to its skyline. "It will offer a unique experience that both locals and tourists can enjoy."

But not everyone is convinced that a ferris wheel will be good for Hong Kong. Lawmaker Paul Tse stressed Hong Kong has very few tourist spots along the coast and that the Central waterfront is a prime location and very expensive. Hong Kong already has very good observation points on The Peak and Sky100 in Kowloon, where people can enjoy the view from both sides of the harbour.

His concerns are echoed in part by Paul Zimmerman of the Society for the Protection of the Harbour. He feels that Hong Kong should not be seen as a 'copycat' simply mimicking the London Eye and the Singapore Flyer, two ferris wheels which are bigger than the one proposed to be built in Hong Kong. "I would rather the land is used for waterfront restaurants or a kids' playground."



Your group is discussing the proposed construction of a ferris wheel on the Central waterfront. You may want to talk about:

- whether Hong Kong needs a tourist attraction along the waterfront
- whether a ferris wheel would be an ideal tourist attraction
- how the land could be developed for other purposes
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to ride a ferris wheel?
2. Do you think that riding a ferris wheel is fun?
3. Would you rather ride a ferris wheel during the day or at night?
4. Would you pay HK\$100 to ride a ferris wheel to see Hong Kong's harbour?
5. Do you think a ferris wheel in Hong Kong will be successful?
6. Do you agree that the best tourist attraction in Hong Kong is its harbour?
7. Do you think that the ferris wheel should be a temporary or a permanent attraction?
8. Do you agree that Hong Kong is always copying other cities?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article about cyber-spying:

Cyber-spying on kids

Last year, the Hong Kong Research Association interviewed around 1,000 people (500 parents and 500 children aged 10 to 19) on their internet use and social media habits.

The study found that over 90% of young people used social media compared to 80% of parents. However, when it came to Facebook, 75% of young people used Facebook while only 56% of parents used it.

The study also revealed that 13% of parents admitted using fake identities to check up on their children through Facebook. A further 6% used their children's username and password to access their social media accounts.

When interviewed, parents explained that they wanted to monitor their children's online activities, but had to create fake identities because children tended to set a level of privacy to exclude their parents. Children, however, did not like parents checking up on them. One reason given for not wanting to have parents as Facebook "friends" was because their parent might embarrass them by posting awkward comments or baby photos online.

Not all children felt this way, though. One S6 student said that she had no problems with her parents as Facebook "friends" because they already knew everything about her.

As members of your school's Computer Club, your group is to give a presentation to club members on the topic "Communicating with Parents through Social Media". You may want to talk about:

- whether parents should access their children's social media accounts
- why parents want to monitor their children's online activities
- why some children may not want their parents to be their Facebook "friends"
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do your parents use Facebook?
2. Do you communicate with your parents through social media?
3. Would you allow your parents to be your Facebook "friends"?
4. Should parents allow their young children to have Facebook accounts?
5. How would you feel if your parents did not allow you to have a Facebook account?
6. Would you give your social media username and password to your parents?
7. How would you feel if your parents created fake accounts to monitor your online activities?
8. Do parents have the right to spy on their children's online activities?

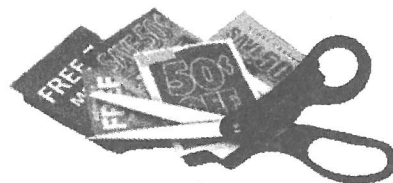
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PART A Group Interaction

Below is a blog entry about couponing:

Couponing – Job, Hobby, or Necessity?

Using coupons has become very popular these days. There are hundreds of websites and blogs available on the web for people to visit to help them learn how to use coupons effectively, share deals, get advice and exchange information on tips and deals.



When I am asked “doesn’t couponing seem like a full time job to you?”, my response is “It is my job to save my family money on groceries and other things.” When I first started couponing I spent a fair amount of time each week cutting, organizing, researching deals, etc. but it was not long before I got the hang of it and had a system! Now a couple of hours a week accomplishes my money saving goals!

I actually feel couponing is a hobby more than a job because hobbies are something people do because they enjoy it. I enjoy using coupons! It is exciting to see how much you saved at the end of a shopping trip just as a person would be excited seeing a completed hobby project!

When I started couponing I was a single mother of four young children and had just lost my job. It was not a hobby to start cutting costs, it was an absolute necessity. Although I am no longer a single mother, saving money is still a necessity. The fact is, no matter what your financial situation is, coupons can help save money to let you achieve your goals!

Your group is discussing the culture of using coupons. You may want to talk about:

- the types of coupons students normally use
- the reasons why people like to use coupons
- any potential disadvantages of couponing
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you use coupons?
2. Where can you get coupons from?
3. What other ways can you save money apart from using coupons?
4. Do you think couponing is a good hobby?
5. Would you be willing to spend your time on couponing?
6. Do you think coupons help make a company more popular?
7. Do you think some people could become addicted to couponing?
8. Does the culture of couponing affect people’s shopping behaviour?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an online article about superheroes:

Superheroes – there’s just something fascinating about imagining how life would be different if we had extraordinary powers to protect the world from evil. Below are the profiles of three superheroes.

Batman

Batman is the secret identity of Bruce Wayne. When Bruce was a child, his parents were attacked by robbers and killed. After he witnessed the death of his parents, he dedicated his life to being a crime fighter. Unlike most superheroes, Batman does not possess any superpowers. He makes use of his intellect, detective skills, science and technology, wealth and martial arts to fight against crime.

Sailor Moon

Sailor Moon is a typical 14-year old who likes sleeping late and playing video games. Bunny (or Usagi in Japanese), like many superheroes before her, one day discovers she has great magical powers. Wearing a distinctive costume, she races off to save the world from various bad guys, discovering inner strength she never knew she had and...saving the day!

Monkey King

If you think Superman or Spiderman has been around for a long time, think about Monkey King. He has been China’s favourite superhero for at least five centuries. He’s amazingly strong, he can fly, and he has a few tricks those other superheroes have never heard of. And he’s always ready to do battle with demons, dragons and sometimes even the gods.

As members of your school’s newly-formed Superheroes Society, your group now has to decide how to get started. You may want to talk about:

- which of the three superheroes would best represent the society
- how to attract new members to join
- what activities the society could organize
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you have a favourite superhero?
2. Do you enjoy movies about superheroes?
3. What superpower would you like to have?
4. Do superheroes appeal more to boys or girls?
5. Would your school allow you to organize a Superhero Society?
6. Are superheroes good role models?
7. Why do superheroes continue to be popular?
8. If you had a superpower, would you let other people know about it?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below are plot summaries of three movies:

Departure Gate is a 2006 Canadian romantic drama film. The movie takes place one summer night in Paris and follows Hunter Pang, a young Canadian, and Sung Wing Yee, a young Chinese woman, who meet the evening before they are both to return to their own countries. Since they believe they will never see one another again, both end up revealing more about themselves than they normally would. The film ends the next day at the airport, where the two agree to meet at the same place in six months' time.

Language: *English and Cantonese*

The Hunted is a 1999 Japanese adventure film set in 19th century Macau. A Japanese diplomat is sent to Macau to negotiate trade with the Portuguese. When he is accused of killing a Portuguese woman, he becomes part of a cruel game. He is given a brief head start, then hunted by Portuguese soldiers. With a combination of luck and intelligence, he manages to avoid being killed and eventually gets back to his boat to escape.

Language: *Japanese with English subtitles*

Language Matters is a 1978 Indian comedy-drama film. A fifty-five year old housewife, Gita Kapoor, is preparing for her daughter's wedding but is made fun of by her daughter for her lack of English skills. She decides to secretly enrol in an English-speaking course and surprises her family by giving a speech in English at her daughter's wedding and in doing so shows how much she has grown through her efforts to learn English.

Language: *Hindi with English subtitles*

As members of the school's Movie Club, your group wants to organize an International Film Day. You may want to talk about:

- whether or not international films will appeal to students
- the benefits of holding an International Film Day
- which of the three movies to choose for the opening film
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you watch movies alone or with friends?
2. What kind of films do you like to watch?
3. Do you usually read film reviews?
4. Do young people prefer watching films in the cinema or at home?
5. Would you prefer to see a local film or a foreign film?
6. What problems could you face if you had to organize a film festival at school?
7. Do you think there are enough films made for your age group?
8. What makes a film popular?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article about a 'dinosaur hunter':

China's dinosaur hunter

Xu Xing is the go-to man in China for anything people want to know about dinosaurs. He has an extraordinary track record and has named 60 species so far – more than any other researcher in his field. And he is only 43 years old.

Xu didn't set out to be a dinosaur hunter; in fact, he had no idea what a dinosaur was until he entered university. Initially, Xu wanted to study economics, but in those days, students were not allowed to choose their degree. For reasons that are unclear to him, he was assigned 'Palaeontology', the study of fossils.

While he was working on his master's degree, the small number of dinosaur species which were being discovered in China grew rapidly. Funding was increasing; farmers started recognising the value of the fossils they found; and construction meant that new fossils were being unearthed more frequently.

Fossils are now a thriving business as well as a science in China. Dinosaur hunters often have to have good relationships with farmers, museum directors and the tourism bureau to gain access to fossil sites. One of Xu's concerns is the fossil 'grey market', where people try and sell fake bones or buy real ones and keep them in their private collection.

Xu says, 'When I started my career, I never expected that I would have made so many discoveries. It's a job that requires a lot of hard work and luck.'

Dr. Xu Xing is visiting your school to talk about his work on dinosaurs. Your group is preparing for his visit. You may want to talk about:

- aspects of his life and career people would be interested in
- questions to ask Dr. Xu
- any other activities that can be included in Dr. Xu's visit
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Are you interested in dinosaurs?
2. Do you think dinosaurs are scary?
3. Would you go to a dinosaur exhibition?
4. What would your friends and family say if you wanted to become a dinosaur hunter?
5. Would you be interested in going on a field trip to look for fossils?
6. What is the attraction of studying dinosaurs?
7. Is the study of dinosaurs important?
8. If dinosaurs could be cloned, would you support it?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an online article about health ‘mistakes’:

Common health ‘mistakes’

Every day, we make common health ‘mistakes’ that may affect our health in general. Making a few simple changes to your daily routine may save your life. Below are some examples of health ‘mistakes’.

1. Showering every day A daily hot shower using harsh, dry soaps can be bad for your skin. “Using hot water combined with harsh soaps can remove the skin’s oils and moisture, resulting in dryness, cracking and even infection of the skin,” said a doctor.
2. Sleeping too little Getting less than 6-8 hours of sleep a day greatly affects your health, no matter how much you exercise. Scientists have discovered that those who skipped sleep increased their risk of stroke and heart disease by 400%.
3. Carrying a heavy bag Carrying a heavy schoolbag or handbag around can really hurt your health by causing back pains, neck problems and poor posture, according to experts.
4. Over-exercising It’s wrong to think that the more time we spend exercising, the better our health. Working your body too hard can lead to a weaker immune system, muscle damage, and knee, foot, or back problems.
5. Skipping breakfast Skipping breakfast not only makes you feel tired and less active, it is also linked with a higher risk of diabetes and can lead to obesity as your body stores up more fat to use as energy throughout the rest of the day.

Your group wants to organize a workshop about common health ‘mistakes’. Discuss with your group what to include in the workshop. You may want to talk about:

- how common these health ‘mistakes’ are in Hong Kong
- the top three ‘mistakes’ to choose for the workshop
- how to make the workshop interesting
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you eat breakfast every day?
2. Do you sleep more than six hours a day?
3. Do you agree that breakfast is important?
4. What can schools do to solve the problem of heavy schoolbags?
5. Which health ‘mistake’ is most surprising to you?
6. Which is worse – over-exercising or under-exercising?
7. Should we trust health information found on the Internet?
8. Do attitudes towards health habits change over time?

DO NOT TAKE AWAY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a magazine article about team sports:

Team sports

Sports can be expensive for some families. Not only that, the training can be very tough, requiring long hours of practice. Additionally, in individual sports (like tennis, squash, etc.), it can be quite lonely sometimes without having teammates to train with. It might also be difficult to handle failure in competitions too. Is it worth pursuing sports then? Most definitely yes, especially playing in team sports (like football, volleyball, etc.).

There are certainly many well-known benefits of physical activity and sports in general. However, playing team sports provides extra benefits. Being part of a team demands commitment, punctuality, encouraging your teammates, and team-work. Team sports also mean that young people can make friends outside of school and learn how to work towards achieving a common goal.

According to a research study in *ScienceDaily* last year, a Youth Risk Behaviour survey was conducted on 1,820 high school students in America. Researchers found that playing team sports could reduce bullying and violence in everyday life. The findings indicated that boys who played team sports were less bullied than boys in individual sports. Boys who did not participate in any sport experienced the most bullying. Girls who played either individual or team sports were less likely to get into fights, compared to girls who did not play any sports at all.

As members of your school's Sports Club, your group is to give a presentation to your schoolmates about team sports. Discuss with your group what to include in the presentation. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of playing team sports compared to individual sports
- the disadvantages of playing team sports compared to individual sports
- how team sports can be promoted in Hong Kong
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you play team sports?
2. Would you prefer to play in team sports or individual sports?
3. Do you prefer watching team sports or individual sports?
4. Would your parents allow you to become a professional sportsperson?
5. Why is it sometimes difficult to encourage people to play sports?
6. Should more money be invested in developing facilities for team sports in Hong Kong?
7. Do you agree that playing team sports reduces violence?
8. Is it more difficult to handle failure in individual or team sports?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an advertisement from an e-textbook seller:

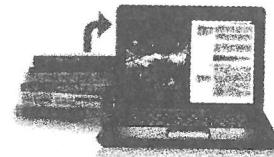
E-textbooks – Instant access to thousands of textbooks

E-textbooks are digital versions of print textbooks enhanced with features such as high-speed search and electronic note-taking. These e-textbooks contain the same content as print textbooks. Go paperless and save big on our huge selection of cheap e-textbooks.

You can subscribe and access our e-textbooks for up to 360 days. We carry over 100,000 electronic textbooks and electronic book titles. If an e-textbook is available, it will appear as a purchase option for a particular textbook. Once you purchase an e-textbook from our website, you will receive an email with a link which you can click on to access your e-textbook.

E-textbook Features

- Pages identical to print textbook with same pagination
- Easy navigation with linked Table of Contents
- Take notes and highlight text
- Copy and paste text
- Search for specific topics
- Print pages
- Send information to classmates
- Read on mobile devices with a browser
- Read on Android devices, iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch with CourseSmart Apps



Save up to 60% with e-textbooks.
Save more with subscription packs.

Your group is discussing whether schools should replace traditional textbooks with e-textbooks. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of e-textbooks
- the benefits of traditional textbooks
- how e-textbooks could change the way people learn
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you prefer e-textbooks or traditional textbooks?
2. Do you think that textbooks are too expensive?
3. Do you think the use of e-textbooks will become more popular in Hong Kong?
4. Do you think e-textbooks will one day replace traditional textbooks?
5. Do you like the idea of reading an e-textbook on your iPhone?
6. How would you feel if your school did not use e-textbooks?
7. Should the government provide subsidies for e-textbooks?
8. Do you think students who use e-textbooks will perform better than students who do not?

DO NOT TAKE AWAY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article:

Struggling with debt

Hong Kong university students and those enrolled in other forms of tertiary institutions are having a hard time struggling with huge debts, a recent survey suggests. University students borrow, on average, HK\$109,000 in government loans, while students taking sub-degree and private degree courses borrow HK\$192,000.

The survey involving 727 students who have unpaid loans was carried out from late August to mid-September by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG). About 65 percent of students have taken up at least one part-time job over the past year, working for an average of 33.8 hours per week. Just about 10 percent of students said they were confident about paying off their debt on time, while most expect they would still be repaying well into their 30s.

The most expensive fees are for private degrees, which can cost as much as HK\$90,000 a year. Student loans have an annual interest rate of 1.4 percent, which must be repaid within 15 years after the student graduates. Asked whether they thought they faced financial pressure, students gave an average rating of 7.31 out of a scale of 10, with 10 being "intense pressure".

Amy Fung Dun-mi, Vice-President of HKFYG, suggests the government should get rid of interest rates and subsidise more degree places, while private institutions should offer more scholarships.

You are going to write a letter to a local newspaper to express your concerns regarding the financial problems tertiary students face. You may want to talk about:

- expenses tertiary students face
- the problems of having a loan
- whether getting a degree is worth the cost
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you lend money to your friends?
2. Would you work part time if you were studying at university?
3. Would you consider applying for loans to further your studies?
4. Should students work and save money before going to university?
5. Should parents pay for their children's post-secondary education?
6. Is it better to study a part-time course if you don't have enough money?
7. Should university education be free?
8. Does cost affect your choice of subject to study?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article about classes for Mainland students:

Compulsory courtesy classes

China's education ministry has ordered all primary and middle schools to teach students the basics of good manners, both with formal classes and by holding after-class activities.

Courtesy and good manners classes will be conducted for students of different age groups. Primary school students will learn to speak politely, respect the elderly and the customs of ethnic minority groups, observe traffic rules and proper table manners and wear clean clothes.

Middle school students will be taught to hold polite conversations with both Chinese people and foreigners, dress properly and observe etiquette (courtesy rules) on the telephone, in emails, text-messaging and in exchanges of letters, as well as in public venues.

In addition, high school students will master the principles and the art of holding conversation and dressing properly for different occasions, along with etiquette for delivering speeches and debates. They will also learn how to keep the proper distance from other people when they are queuing or using lifts.

The ministry encouraged teachers to diversify and find innovative ways to conduct courtesy education to make it more attractive and effective.

Your group is participating in a discussion on the topic "Should compulsory courtesy classes be introduced in Hong Kong secondary schools?" You may want to talk about:

- whether courtesy classes should be compulsory or not
- what can be taught in courtesy classes
- which age group of students would benefit the most
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Are you polite to everyone?
2. Do people on the MTR show good manners?
3. What do you consider to be rude behaviour?
4. Which is the better place to learn good manners – home or school?
5. How can schools make courtesy classes attractive to students?
6. What would you do if someone was rude to you?
7. Why do we need good manners?
8. Does being courteous mean that you are a good person?

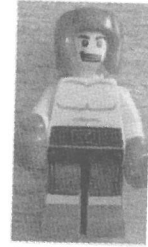
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a blog entry about LEGO:

Are LEGO figures getting angrier?

Nevermind increasingly violent video games or the ever-present danger of an uncensored internet, a far more important and unexpected change is happening that could be affecting children's emotional development. Researchers have discovered that the faces on LEGO Minifigures are becoming increasingly angry and less happy. Combined with a trend towards more war-related LEGO themes, a team led by Christoph Bartneck at the University of Canterbury said, "We cannot help but wonder how this impacts how children play."



The influence of LEGO is huge. The product is sold in more than 130 countries and the company produced more than 36 billion lego bricks in 2010 alone. On average each person on earth owns approximately 75 lego bricks. The vast majority of LEGO figures have happy faces (324), but the next most common is anger (192), followed by sadness (49), disgust (28), surprise (23) and fear (11). And the trend is for an increasing proportion of angry faces, with a reduction in happy faces.

Bartneck's team also observed that LEGO has a considerable range of weapon systems in their products and that the company is moving towards more war-based play themes. Together with the rising numbers of angry faces, the researchers warned that LEGO might not be able to hold onto its highly positive reputation. The children that grow up with LEGO today will remember not only smileys, but also anger and fear in the Minifigures' faces.

Your teacher wants you to do a project about the impact of LEGO on young people. You may want to talk about:

- whether LEGO is popular among young people
- reasons for its popularity compared to other toys
- pros and cons of playing with LEGO figures with different faces
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What toys did you play with when you were small?
2. Do you think playing with LEGO is fun?
3. Would you like to play with war-based LEGO?
4. Do you think LEGO is more popular with boys than girls?
5. Why does LEGO appeal to adults as well as children?
6. Should schools use LEGO in class?
7. Should there be an age restriction for war-based LEGO figures?
8. What challenges do you think LEGO is facing?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a website:

Is there truth in advertising?

The average consumer is overwhelmed with somewhere between 500 and 1300 advertising messages per day. When we get up in the morning and turn on the television or the radio, there will be anywhere from 15 to 25 commercials. As we travel to school or work, we will be exposed to billboards, signage, business logos, advertisements on other vehicles, etc. which will add another 10 to 20 ads.

Unfortunately, a lot of the messages that we are being exposed to may be less than honest. A good example of this comes in the form of weight loss supplements. They proclaim, "Take these pills and you will lose weight 30 percent faster without diet or exercise." Others say, "These pills work uniquely with a woman's body to increase the amount of weight loss." Unfortunately about 95 percent of all of the diet programs are not as effective as advertised.

The success of a product does not rely only on its advertising but also on its quality. Many advertising campaigns fail because the product doesn't deliver on the promises made in the advertisements. Companies are well advised not to exaggerate or over-promise, since advertising can only make people buy the product the first time. Once customers discover the product is not good, they will not buy it again.

Your group has to prepare for a debate with the motion "Advertising does more good than harm to society". Discuss with your group what to include in this debate. You may want to talk about:

- positive effects of advertising on society
- negative effects of advertising on society
- what products should not be advertised
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What kinds of advertisements do you like?
2. Do you think there are too many advertisements on TV?
3. Do you find advertisements entertaining?
4. Do you think it is effective to advertise products on buses and the MTR?
5. Are there any negative effects that advertising may have on young children?
6. Would you like to live in an advertisement-free society?
7. Which attracts more customers – a quality product or a good advertisement?
8. What makes a TV advertisement effective?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article about meals in Japan:

Super-sized Japanese Food

If you thought that only the Americans had super-sized food portions, then think again. After generations of staying slim on small portions of rice, noodles and vegetables, there is a growing trend in Japan of copying western-style big meals – known as *ohmori* (oh-mo-ri) or “large serving”. *Ohmori* meals are increasingly popular, with delighted customers photographing their food and posting it online.



One of Japan’s largest web forums has encouraged users to upload their favourite images of ‘mega *ohmori*’ or mega large meals. Amongst the favourites is a sushi roll (picture 1) stuffed with large chunks of noodles is.

Many restaurants are now cashing in on the craze, using particularly huge stacks of food as publicity stunts to attract customers. However, such enthusiasm for stomach-bursting meals may be risky, especially since it is considered extremely rude in Japan not to finish everything on your plate or to waste food. It would certainly be most challenging trying to eat everything!

Your group has a stall at your school’s fun fair. You are considering selling super-sized food. You may want to talk about:

- whether super-sized meals are becoming popular in Hong Kong
- the pros and cons of using super-sized meals to attract customers
- what food your group could super-size in order to attract customers to your stall
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you eat a super-sized meal by yourself?
2. Would you order a super-sized meal if local restaurants offered it?
3. Would you order a super-sized meal if you knew you could not finish it?
4. Would you take unfinished food home from a restaurant?
5. Which is more important to you – the quality or quantity of food?
6. Do you think it’s rude not to finish everything on your plate?
7. Do people eat more now than in the past?
8. Should restaurants use super-sized meals to attract customers?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article about a Hong Kong teenager:

From Hong Kong to Hollywood!

When 16-year-old Jeremy Lin started writing a comedy based on his own personal experiences in school in Hong Kong, he did not expect Hollywood to pick up his script and turn it into a 90-minute film. "I'm just some kid who wrote something and then they wanted to make it into a movie," said the Year 11 pupil studying at an international school.

Jeremy first submitted a proposal for a movie to a Los Angeles-based screenwriter and investor, Ms. Fabienne Wen, at a film workshop in 2012. After Ms. Wen read the proposal, she encouraged him to write a full-length script, which he finished in 2013. Impressed, Ms. Wen brought the script to Hollywood's attention. This then started a price war among movie executives wanting to produce the film. Studio Best Medicine Production won. Angel Gracia, who directed the 2011 romantic comedy *From Prada to Nada*, will be the director for the film.

The movie, called *Senior Project*, is aimed at teenagers and set in America. The plot revolves around five high-school students, including a teenager who lies about his sexuality and a student who tries to keep up the appearance of being rich. Jeremy is now one of the world's youngest screenwriters and a local teenager who dared to dream big.

As members of the school's Film Society, your group is organizing a workshop and has invited Jeremy Lin to take part. You may want to talk about:

- activities to do in the workshop
- questions to ask Jeremy Lin
- what students could learn from Jeremy Lin
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like watching movies about teenagers?
2. Do you prefer watching foreign movies or local movies?
3. Do you want to work in the movie industry?
4. How would you feel if your movie proposal was selected to become a Hollywood movie?
5. What kind of Hong Kong movies would appeal to an international audience?
6. Would life at your school make an interesting film?
7. What can students do to turn their dreams into reality?
8. Do teenagers all over the world face the same kind of issues?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an online article about technology:

Warning signs you are addicted to technology

Today, it is virtually impossible to live without the aid of some form of technology (like smartphones, the internet, computers etc.). This makes it extremely difficult to escape from technology. As work, school and play can all involve computers and the internet, normal computer usage levels become more intense each year. In 2013, the average student in America aged 8-18 spent more than 7.5 hours a day involved with non-school-related technology!

Below are some signs that might indicate that you are addicted to technology:

1. Increasing your time spent daily on computer and internet activities that are not related to work or school.
2. Feeling very anxious or distressed when separated from technology (e.g. not being able to check emails, surf the internet, send mobile text messages etc.).
3. Multi-tasking by using multiple forms of technology at one time (e.g. playing computer games while watching TV and listening to music etc.), which could lead to a lack of concentration.
4. Losing confidence and interest in the real world while choosing the comfort of a virtual world, thus sacrificing time spent with friends and family, or even skipping school.

We certainly can't live without technology today. The key is finding the balance between our constant need to engage with technology without becoming digital slaves.

Your group wants to give a class presentation about addiction to technology. Discuss with your group what to include in your presentation. You may want to talk about:

- why some Hong Kong teenagers are addicted to technology
- possible signs of being addicted to technology
- any tips or advice for overcoming technology addiction
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What do you use the computer for?
2. Should parents control the amount of time children spend on the computer?
3. What would you do if you could not use the computer for a week?
4. Which is worse – having no computer or no mobile phone?
5. If you could only use the computer for one hour a day, what would you do?
6. Is spending seven and a half hours a day on the computer unhealthy?
7. In your opinion, is being addicted to technology a serious problem?
8. Who is to blame for the addiction to technology?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an advertisement for the Hong Kong Police Force:

Hong Kong Police Force
Post-Secondary School Summer Internship Programme

Have you always wanted to be a police officer? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be part of the Hong Kong Police Force? Apply for the Police Force's Summer Internship Programme for a genuine experience in a real-life police work setting.

Police Public Relations Summer Intern

Entry requirements:

Applicants should

- be permanent residents of Hong Kong SAR
- be full-time students of post-secondary institutions from disciplines of Hospitality & Tourism, Marketing, Business, Public & Social Administration, Public Relations, Computer Sciences & IT, Languages, Graphic Design, Sports Sciences, Journalism & Media, and Mass Communications
- possess good knowledge in computer applications
- speak fluent Cantonese & English

Duration: July to August 2014

Job duties:


(1) **Youth activities**

- To review & update the Junior Police Call (JPC) website and Facebook page
- To assist in organizing & executing JPC activities & training

(2) **TV & films production**

- To co-ordinate filming applications made by film/media industry
- To assist in the preparation of the weekly production of *Police Magazine*
- To assist in the maintenance of the video library

Allowance: \$7,700 per month



You are looking at an advertisement for a summer internship for the Hong Kong Police Force. Your group is thinking about whether to apply. You may want to talk about:

- why some teenagers would be keen to join the Hong Kong Police Force
- which job duties in the Public Relations internship your group would prefer to do
- benefits of the Public Relations internship compared to other jobs
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to join the Police Force in the future?
2. Do you think that being a police officer is a dangerous job?
3. What would your parents say if you wanted to become a police officer?
4. Do you think the Police Summer Internship Programme is a good scheme?
5. Should speaking English be a necessary job requirement for joining the Police Force?
6. How can the Police Force encourage more women to apply?
7. Do you respect someone who is a police officer?
8. Why is it important for the Police Force to communicate with the public?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

The following is an extract from a blog:

What Ever Happened to World Class Customer Service?

Hong Kong risks losing its competitive edge if the quality of its customer service continues to decline. "The customer is king" means providing quality service to customers so that they get the best experience. However, cases of bad customer service are becoming more frequent.

There was the case of the waiter who angrily said again and again, "THERE ARE NO MORE SEATS" when I wanted to book a table. "What about the waiting list?" I asked. He said that there was no room on the waiting list. Then there was the case when I called a company and had to go through their automated phone system and it took forever to get my question answered. It was only after a very long wait that I was able to finally speak with an actual person. When I finally got someone on the phone, they acted as though they were doing me a favor by answering my inquiry.

To improve customer service, the major focus has to be placed on the employees to make sure they are treated equally and that they work in an environment that is motivating, inspiring and encouraging. Employees should be given a word of praise whenever possible. Every attempt possible should be made to motivate employees by rewarding them for a difficult job done well. With these measures in place, we should see world class customer service return to Hong Kong once again.

Your group wants to collect opinions from your schoolmates for a group project about customer service in Hong Kong. You may want to talk about:

- why good customer service is important
- whether or not customer service in Hong Kong is getting worse
- how customer service can be improved
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to work in a restaurant?
2. Is good customer service more important in a restaurant or a clothes shop?
3. Would you complain if you experienced bad customer service?
4. How can shop assistants give a good impression to tourists in Hong Kong?
5. Would you recommend a restaurant despite bad customer service?
6. Do you think you could deal with rude customers if you worked in a shop?
7. Should service industry employees be given more respect?
8. How can employees be motivated to improve the way they treat customers?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an online article about Study Time:

Study Time to keep kids off the streets

At 7pm every weeknight, Mr Dadang walks through a small village in Indonesia, and sounds his loudspeaker's sirens. Children armed with backpacks come out of their homes and go to the village community hall, where they are watched by village headmen. They take out schoolbooks and pencils with one mission – to *study*. "This is a call to my beloved children, that from 7–9pm, Study Time is in effect. May you become clever children, disciplined and focused," he yells alongside parent volunteers on study patrol.

This unique scheme – to get children (aged 7 to 18) to stay indoors and study – began in September 2013. The move was to stop a growing number of student fights and prevent children from aimlessly hanging around in groups on the streets at night. Children can choose to study in a common space or at home. Those caught not studying have to pay a 2,000 rupiah (HK\$2) fine, a heavy amount for some families. So far, no fines have been collected because parents are very keen on this scheme.

Volunteers help the children with a variety of subjects, like English, making them write words in Bahasa Indonesia and then translate them into English. Older children help the younger children too.

With its success, the study curfew has spread to other provinces across Indonesia, where residents have embraced this community effort.

Your group is participating in a forum on the topic "Study Time should be introduced in Hong Kong". Discuss with your group what to include in the forum. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of having Study Time in Hong Kong
- the negative effects of having Study Time
- whether Study Time could be implemented in Hong Kong
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What is your favourite time to study?
2. Do you prefer to study alone or in a group?
3. Is studying every night from 7 to 9pm a good thing?
4. Would having to pay a fine of HK\$100 motivate you to study?
5. Do you study better if your parent is monitoring you while you study?
6. Apart from a fine, in what other ways can students be motivated to study?
7. Would Study Time be more beneficial for weaker or stronger students?
8. Does imposing study rules demotivate students?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article about children in Sweden:

Do children have too much power in Sweden?

Sweden was the first country in 1979 to ban the use of physical punishment to discipline children. However, some argue that its child-centred approach has gone too far and children now rule the family instead of parents. A psychiatrist who wrote the book "How Children Took Power" says parents should listen to their children but Swedish children now tend to decide everything in families: when to go to bed, what to eat, where to go on vacation, even what to watch on TV.

He adds that not disciplining Swedish children or setting boundaries from a young age has led them to have expectations that are too high, and they think that life is too hard for them. This has resulted in a sharp increase of anxiety problems, self-harming and children being unprepared for adulthood. Teachers have complained that students have become bad mannered and uncontrollable, frequently using foul language and not caring about schoolwork. Another expert feels because of Sweden's emphasis on democracy and equality, Swedish parents try to be *too* democratic. Parents should act like parents and not act like friends. They should make decisions, take control, and not try to be popular all the time.

Nonetheless, some people feel that the Swedish parenting style is successful. Swedish children are very outspoken and can express their opinions well. On the whole, Swedish youths still top international rankings of well-being.

During a class on Critical Thinking, your group is given the discussion topic "Do you agree that children will have too much power if they are not disciplined?" You may want to talk about:

- whether Hong Kong children have too much power
- the positive effects of disciplining children
- the negative effects of disciplining children
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do your parents listen to you?
2. Do your parents allow you to decide what time to come home?
3. What type of punishment is worse for you – no TV or no phone?
4. Are Hong Kong children over-protected?
5. What decisions should children be allowed to make?
6. Do you feel you had enough freedom when you were growing up?
7. Should parents act like friends to their children?
8. Should a family be run as a democracy?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a magazine interview with a teenager:

Why I dance
by Sugar Chan

I have been dancing since secondary school.

The first dance group I ever belonged to was the Hong Kong Youth Dance Group, which provided me – and still provides its members – with regular training in dance techniques. It also gave me a chance to perform different types of dance such as Hip Hop, Jazz, Funk and Modern Dance.

I was in the dance group for three years and it was truly a unique experience. I didn't just learn dance steps and techniques, I also made friends and became myself. For this, I have to give credit to my dance teachers who also became my life teachers. I learnt so much from them, both about dance and self-awareness. Apart from teaching me about performing on stage, they also kept asking me, 'What are you doing here? Who are you? Why do you perform? Is it just for yourself or are you trying to attract attention?'

Those questions meant a lot to me as I was growing up and I have asked myself the same questions many times. As a teenager, dance was transformative and helped me to find myself. I now understand that I dance not to please the audience. I dance for myself. I dance because I am.

As members of the Hong Kong Youth Dance Group, your group is giving a presentation during assembly to encourage fellow classmates to join the group. You may want to talk about:

- whether Hong Kong teenagers like dancing
- what teens can learn from dance
- what activities can be organized to promote the group
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you enjoy watching dancing?
2. Would you like to dance on stage?
3. What would your parents say if you wanted to join a dance group?
4. Would you recommend that your school includes dance as a learning activity?
5. Would you prefer to dance solo or in a group?
6. What can be learned from performing on stage?
7. Do people dance to attract attention?
8. Is traditional dance losing its appeal?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

The following information appeared on a website:

Subscribe to Magazines at a Low Price!

Gadgets Magazine features more than just electronic equipment and high-tech trends. *Gadgets Magazine* gives you all the latest news and updates on mobile phones, laptops, cameras. You can also get the prices of all the latest products of leading companies like Nokia, Samsung, Motorola, BlackBerry, Lenovo, Acer, HCL and much more.

~~HK\$500.00~~ HK\$300.00

Global Traveler is a monthly travel magazine. The magazine is aimed towards American executives who travel internationally and domestically in first- and business-class. It features news, articles, city guides, travel deals, travel blogs, hotels, golf courses, restaurants and airline reviews.

~~HK\$350.00~~ HK\$200.00

Cosmopolitan is an international magazine for women. It was first published in 1886 and was later transformed into a women's magazine in the late 1960s. Also known as *Cosmo*, its content includes articles on women's issues, relationships, health, careers, self-improvement, celebrities, fashion and beauty.

~~HK\$400~~ HK\$250.00

National Geographic Magazine is the official magazine of the National Geographic Society. It has been published continuously since its first issue in 1888, nine months after the Society itself was founded. It primarily contains articles about geography, history and world culture. The magazine is published monthly, and additional map supplements are also included with subscriptions.

~~HK\$450~~ HK\$360.00

Your school library is going to subscribe to a new magazine and your group wants to discuss which one is most suitable for students to read. You may want to talk about:

- the pros and cons of choosing each magazine
- the magazine to be chosen
- other types of magazine the library should subscribe to
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like reading magazines?
2. What makes a magazine popular with teenagers?
3. Do you prefer buying magazines or reading online magazines?
4. Do your parents support you in buying teen magazines?
5. Why do teachers recommend students to read newspapers more than magazines?
6. Are teen magazines good value for money?
7. How do teen magazines affect teen fashion?
8. Should a magazine educate or entertain?