2016-DSE ENG LANG

PAPER 4

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2016

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

Life on HK\$4 a day an eye-opener for Hong Kong students

Cebu in the Philippines is best known to Hongkongers as a paradise for holidaymakers. But not far from the resorts that line the beach, hundreds of families live in hopeless poverty; their "real world" means trying to live on HK\$4 a day.

An international school in Hong Kong took a group of 65 students to Cebu on a one week trip to work with disadvantaged people in the Philippines. The high school students, accompanied by 20 adults, each paid HK\$5000 for the trip, which included flight, accommodation, transport and meals.

The first three days were spent sightseeing, snorkelling and other beach activities. The next four days were spent supporting local teachers in the classroom teaching English, maths and science. The students also helped in sustainable projects such as building houses, painting a school and serving nutritious food to children in slum communities.

After the experience, one of the students said, "I had a really great time in Cebu but it was sad to see people living in poverty. We were only there for a short time and I think we were helpful. But, I wonder if we really make a difference in the long term."

One of the teachers says visiting these communities in the Philippines enables Hong Kong students to see that they live very privileged lives. They also see that the children in the Philippines are similar to them, even though their circumstances are different.

Your group is discussing the kinds of charity work your school could be involved in. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of students doing charity work outside Hong Kong
- the concerns of doing charity work outside Hong Kong
- whether charity work outside Hong Kong should be a requirement at secondary school
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Have you done any charity work?
- 2. Would you prefer to do charity work locally or outside Hong Kong?
- 3. Do you think it's important to give money to charity?
- 4. Which is more important: to give money or your time?
- 5. Do you think it is necessary to leave Hong Kong to do charity work?
- 6. Should students have to pay to do charity work outside Hong Kong?
- 7. Do you think charity work can make a difference?
- 8. Who benefits more from charity work outside Hong Kong: the volunteers or the locals?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an article taken from the business section of a Hong Kong newspaper:

Space-saving gesture

Hong Kong apartments are well-known for being tiny – the average is only 450 square feet. Frustrated at the lack of space, brothers Stuart and Lewis Cerne, came up with the idea of Spacebox – an available and ready-to-use storage solution. It works very much like calling up your favourite tune on your smartphone.

"My wife and I have been living in a 400-square foot apartment for some time," Lewis said. "With space very tight and moving home not a feasible option, we realised that homes in Hong Kong are not at all equipped to cater for the amount of belongings people own. With my brother, we conceived the idea of creating an on-demand storage solutions business to take the stress out of decluttering the home with an easy web application."





With the click of a button, storage crates can be delivered at any location at a time convenient to you. The boxes can store anything from clothes to memorabilia and household items, and when you have finished packing, the Spacebox team will collect them and store them safely. All the items are recorded on an inventory manager, available on mobile phones. If you need anything back, you can access Spacebox anytime and they can deliver it either on the day itself or the next day at the latest. The service starts from HK\$49 per month and each box is insured for up to HK\$2,000.

As members of an extra-curricular course called 'Starting your own Business', your group has been asked to decide whether it would be worthwhile starting a similar business to Spacebox. You may want to talk about:

- whether Spacebox is a good business idea
- ways the business idea could be improved
- · different ways to advertise your business
- anything else you think is important

- 1. What items would you put inside your Spacebox?
- 2. What do you do with belongings you no longer need?
- 3. Do you think you keep too many things you no longer need?
- 4. What problems are caused by a lack of space in Hong Kong?
- 5. How do you try to create more space in your home?
- 6. How could flats in Hong Kong be designed to have more storage space?
- 7. What space-saving tips would you give to a person moving to a flat in Hong Kong?
- 8. Is having fewer possessions the way to a happier life?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a local English language newspaper:

The Magic of Outdoor Play

In Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, teacher Danie Smith and a few children use the slippery face of a large river rock as a slide. Just a few metres away, another group of children carefully build, branch by branch, pebble by pebble, a riverbank shelter.

Welcome to Hong Kong Forest Kindergarten. It's among several nature-based schools that have emerged in the city, operating without classrooms or uniforms. While most kindergartens in Hong Kong adopt an academic approach, a few educators are promoting the power of outdoor play, exploration and nature during this critical period in a child's development. Smith's playschool explores countryside destinations from Tai Tong Eco Park in Yuen Long to Lions Nature Education Centre in Sai Kung.

"The children love it when they enter the forest. I am astonished every day at how creative and comfortable they are in nature. I call it the magic of play," says Smith, who supports unstructured play, which allows children to improvise and to learn how to interact with each other.

"The children might return from their outing, clothes dirty and tired out from the running around, but they'll be more confident and independent than they were in the morning," he says. "At school, children are expected to follow rules, sit still and listen to teachers. They would be punished for running or shouting. There aren't enough ways to channel their natural energy and creativity. At our forest school, we let children be children."

Your group is planning to write an essay in class about whether learning through play should be a regular part of education in Hong Kong schools. You may want to talk about:

- games that you played when you were younger
- the advantages and disadvantages of allowing children to play at school
- whether learning through play should be a regular part of a child's education
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you do any outdoor activities?
- 2. Do you think Hong Kong children can find places to play easily?
- 3. What toys did you like to play with when you were very young?
- 4. Do you like to go outdoors and explore nature?
- 5. Do you think it's fun to get dirty when playing?
- 6. Should the Government provide more indoor playrooms for children?
- 7. If you were in charge of a kindergarten class, where would you take the children for the day?
- 8. Do you think playing video games is as educational as playing outdoors?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is a newspaper article about phone scams in Hong Kong:

Easy Money for Phone Scammers

The risk of being cheated by strangers calling your mobile phone has very quickly overtaken the typical internet fraud where dishonest characters send emergency help messages to friends of hacked e-mail account owners, claiming financial hardship while travelling and asking for cash deposits.

"Every day, at least someone tries to scam me, usually more than once a day." This quote from an American businessman and best-selling author is likely to reflect the feelings of many in Hong Kong these days.

Even with crime-prevention posters displayed clearly in lift lobbies and high-profile press conferences warning the public against giving their personal data to strangers pretending to be postmen, bank tellers, or public security officials, people continue to be fooled by such common scams. Tricksters make more than HK\$85 million from these types of calls alone.

The widespread use of mobile devices for payment and harmful computer programs and phone apps account for the high success of such crimes. The tricksters will continue to apply the latest technology and invent new scenarios to exploit the victims' psychological weaknesses.

To guard against these traps, avoid clicking on any link that claims to carry bizarre information, such as pictures of former classmates or offers of a free iPhone. Do not trust anyone. Do not agree to any caller's instruction before you have established his/her identity. Hang up and call the respective organization to double-check.

Your group is going to give a presentation to your school about how to avoid different kinds of scams. Discuss with your group what to include in your talk. You may want to talk about:

- the different types of scams
- possible victims of scams
- how to avoid being a victim of scams
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Is it safe to store personal information on a phone?
- 2. Have you ever received an unwanted phone call?
- 3. Have you or someone you know ever been tricked?
- 4. Do you think scamming is a very serious crime?
- 5. Do you think there is an increasing trend of people being scammed in Hong Kong?
- 6. Do you think enough has been done to educate the public about the dangers of scams?
- 7. If a friend emailed you to ask for help and money, what would you do?
- 8. Do you think people who lie always do it to harm others?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

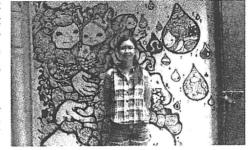
Below is an extract from a newspaper about a popular Hong Kong street artist:

Hong Kong's New Street Artist

In 2015 self-taught street artist Bao Ho won the Hong Kong Secret Walls art competition and is now making a living from her art – not bad for someone who has only been in the business a year. Polite and

softly spoken, the 27-year-old Hongkonger is modest about her win and says she has got much to learn. But beneath the playful smile – like the ones she gives her "Bao" characters – she has a fiery determination. She didn't prepare for the final of Secret Walls – in front of a live audience – preferring to freestyle.

"I was really angry that day - I was annoyed by something one of my clients said which was rude - so I made use of that emotion," says Ho.



Fortunately, most of the time Ho is a happy soul and her amusing paintings occupy some key wall space in Aberdeen, Central and Sheung Wan. One restaurant owner loved her work so much that he invited Ho to paint a mural outside his new cafe in Sheung Wan.

Ho has a very individual style. Her black and white murals are a striking graphic mix of human bodies, animals, flowers and patterns with the addition of perhaps one colour. Depending on the size, she charges HK\$10,000 to HK\$15,000 for one mural.

"A blank wall in a shop is so boring. A cool artwork is a talking point. It changes the feel of the space and makes it more relaxed and friendly," says Ho.

It is the 50th anniversary of the founding of your school and Bao Ho has been invited to paint a mural for the school. You are discussing plans for the Open Day celebration. You may want to talk about:

- images Bao Ho should include in her painting
- an appropriate location for the painting
- how Bao Ho might help the school celebrate the Open Day
- · anything else you think is important

- 1. Can you draw well?
- 2. Do you think you are creative?
- 3. Do you think art should be a compulsory subject at secondary school?
- 4. Would your parents encourage you to be an artist?
- 5. Do you think street art is popular in Hong Kong?
- 6. Do you think Bao Ho's success will be short-lived?
- 7. Why are artistic skills often seen as less important compared to academic skills?
- 8. Do you think art in the East is very different from art in the West?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This text appeared in the opinions section of a Hong Kong newspaper:

Should young adults still live with their parents?

Miss Hong Kong was very honest in an interview when she said, "If you don't even have your own space, how can you talk about dreams and aspirations?" She was making reference to the fact that she can't afford to move out of her parents' home, thanks to the city's expensive property prices.

Miss Hong Kong is voicing out what typical 20-something Hong Kong young adults feel about living with their parents. I know how she feels. I thought people are supposed to become independent in their 20s, but living at home largely prevents you from doing so.

My friends in the same situation often talk about how much they want independence, to be away from the watchful eyes of their families. It's not that we aren't allowed to do as we please, it's just that we can never feel completely comfortable. From small things, like being asked what time you'll be home, to what a friend describes as "invisible powers dictating what you can and can't do". At the end of the day, it all comes down to being careful of what I do out of respect for my elders.

I wish I could make my family understand that staying out all night, not having meals at home and turning my room into a private sanctuary are not signs of disrespect to them. They are actions born out of a longing for my own space.

Zac, 24 yrs old

Your group is discussing the idea of living at home with your parents when you are in your 20s. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of living at home with your parents
- the disadvantages of living at home with your parents
- other ways young adults can be independent while living with their parents
- anything else you think is important

- 1. When you start working, do you want to live with your parents?
- 2. If you moved out, would you prefer to live alone or with friends?
- 3. How would you feel if you moved out?
- 4. At what age do you think a person should live on their own?
- 5. Are girls more likely to live with their parents than boys?
- 6. Do you think parents want their children to live with them?
- 7. Why do more young adults want to live on their own?
- 8. Is living with parents a tradition in Hong Kong?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in an American education magazine:

Must-Have Apps for Successful High School Students

The following are four educational computer software applications:

1. Maths Formulae

Can't remember maths formulae? This app is your maths saviour. It stores frequently used formulae for easy access and lets you bookmark the apps you reference the most. It even delves into calculus, geometry and probability, and displays images so you can put the formulae into perspective. It only costs HK\$8.00.

2. Language Essentials

Learning a foreign language is a core part of the high school curriculum. Whether you've enrolled in French, English, Korean or Chinese, this app will be your study guide. It provides flashcards for learning vocab and audio quizzes to help your speech and pronunciation. Plus, it's free.

3. Studious

Instead of organising your daily class schedule and homework assignments in a planner, turn to Studious to keep you on track. The app lets you set due dates for assignments and will remind you when big exams are approaching. Forget to silence your phone before class? The app will silence your phone during times you've scheduled on your calendar. It's available for free in the Google Play Store.

4. Mice Dissection

Slicing open a mouse in biology class is fun for some, but for others, it can be messy and uncomfortable. This app will show you the ins and outs of an animal's anatomy without getting your hands dirty. Vivid 3D imaging also lets you study detailed internal organs. It's HK\$32.00, but worth it if you prefer to stay animal-friendly.

You are members of the Computer Club and your group is discussing apps to buy for the school's computer tablets. You may want to talk about:

- which of the four apps above is the most useful for students
- what other kinds of educational apps Hong Kong students may need
- whether there are any disadvantages of using apps for schoolwork
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you use any apps to help you study?
- 2. Does your teacher use apps in the classroom?
- 3. Do you think educational apps should be free to students?
- 4. Would you like to design an educational app?
- 5. Do you think educational apps will be more or less popular in the future?
- 6. Which subjects most benefit from the use of apps?
- 7. Why would some students not want to use apps for learning?
- 8. Do students who use educational apps at school have an unfair advantage?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is a newspaper article:

Surge in Complaints against Hong Kong Taxi Drivers

New official figures reveal a dramatic rise in passenger complaints against drivers of the city's 18,000-strong traditional taxis. Among the top complaints were taxi drivers refusing a hire, overcharging and not taking the most direct route. The traditional taxi industry has admitted it is failing to serve customers properly, as dissatisfied customers turn to alternative private car services such as Uber.

Since 2003 when the Transport Complaints Unit started compiling figures on taxi services, the total number of complaints has topped 93,728. The true complaint figures are likely to be far higher. In 2014, complaints topped 10,060, accounting for almost 50 per cent of the unit's complaints across public transport services.

"Taxi driver misconduct has spread into many areas, which is why there is public demand for online hire-car services like Uber," said Michael Tien, Legco's Transport panel chairman. "If you think about what Uber is offering, it is directly focusing on these complaint areas."

Referring to the increasingly bad reputation of taxi drivers, Eddie Wong Chung-keung, former chairman of the Hong Kong Taxi and Public Light Bus Association, said: "It's a reality. We even complain about the taxi drivers ourselves."

As part of a unit on Hong Kong tourism in your English Language class, your group has been asked to discuss the image of Hong Kong taxi drivers and to suggest ways to improve this image. You may want to talk about:

- reasons for the dramatic rise in complaints
- possible steps to improve the behaviour of taxi drivers
- ways to promote Hong Kong taxis to tourists
- anything else you think is important

- 1. How often do you take a taxi in Hong Kong?
- 2. What is your favourite type of public transport?
- 3. Have you or your family ever had a bad experience in a taxi?
- 4. What would you do if a taxi driver charged you too much?
- 5. Would you ever use Uber in Hong Kong?
- 6. What do you think should be done to penalise taxi drivers who receive complaints?
- 7. Do you think Uber means the end for traditional Hong Kong taxis?
- 8. Do you think online hire-car services should be allowed in Hong Kong?

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is a text about wild boars in Hong Kong:

Shoot or Protect?

Living in the steep hills that rise from Hong Kong's densely populated neighborhoods are hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of wild boars. As the city gets bigger and the boar population increases, these creatures appear to be spending more time out of the woods and causing panic on the streets.

On a Sunday in May, a wild boar got into the Paradise Mall in the city's Chai Wan district, walked into a children's clothing store and scared off the two shop assistants. The small female boar climbed up into, and then crashed through, the store's ceiling. Earlier in the day on the other side of town, another wild boar was captured in a public park after taking a swim in a lake.



Two opposing solutions have emerged about how to deal with this problem. The Sai Kung Wild Pig Hunting Club proposes, simply, to shoot the animals. "They are wild animals and not pets", says Chan Kang, the 72-year-old factory owner who leads the hunting club. "Boars are fierce. They can weigh up to 200 kilos and can give birth up to three times a year." The Hong Kong Wild Boar Concern Group, meanwhile, argues that the creatures are cute. Its members hand out pamphlets that feature drawings of adorable, furry boars and they urge residents to keep calm when they meet a wild boar, not to call the police and to enjoy the 'special encounter'.

Your group has to prepare a debate with the motion "Wild animals should be protected and not shot". You may want to talk about:

- arguments for the motion
- arguments against the motion
- which side would be easier to argue
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you think wild boars are ugly or cute?
- 2. Would you like a wild boar as a pet?
- 3. What other wild animals cause problems in Hong Kong?
- 4. If a wild boar approached you, what would you do?
- 5. Do you think it is cruel to shoot wild animals?
- 6. In your opinion, should wild boars be protected in Hong Kong?
- 7. Is the advice not to call the police when you meet a wild boar sensible?
- 8. Why do you think hunting is a popular sport?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in Australia:

Schools replace History and Geography with Computer Programming

The Australian Federal Government recently decided to replace history and geography as compulsory subjects in secondary school and bring in computer programming classes instead. This will see students from as young as Primary 5 learning about how a computer works and how to write their own computer programs. Computer classes in school used to be about learning how to use MS Word and Excel — now it's looking at the world like an engineer — developing logical thinking and creativity.

The move makes sense given how much technology is in our lives and practically every job requires you to demonstrate some kind of computer skills. Equipping children with advanced computer skills early on in life could help them secure a bright future in a world which is becoming more high tech. This is something that other countries like the US and UK are already doing.

However, some people think that teaching children history and geography is equally important. Studying history teaches children to learn from the mistakes people made in the past, which will help them to develop sound decision-making and judgement skills. Likewise, studying geography helps us to understand the connectivity between people and places and to appreciate the Earth as the home that we all share. It can teach us how to better manage the planet's resources and to become a better global citizen.

You are members of the student council and are having a discussion on whether your school should change its curriculum. You may want to talk about:

- whether students should learn history and geography at school
- whether computer programming should be taught at primary school
- other subjects that can help students develop logical thinking and creativity
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Would you like to learn computer programming?
- 2. Do you like learning history and geography?
- 3. What would you rather study: arts or science?
- 4. What is the most important skill you learnt at school?
- 5. Why do you think some students might not want to learn computer programming?
- 6. Do you think all your subjects help you develop logical thinking and creativity?
- 7. Do you think schools should help students get a job or develop life skills?
- 8. Do you think there are other subjects that should be dropped from the Hong Kong curriculum?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a magazine article about places where students can go after school:

After-School Hangouts

Rosie Jean's Café

Hong Kong's first family-oriented restaurant has a terrace and outdoor playground where children can play after 4:45pm for only \$20. You'll also find a menu of breakfast fare, pastries, desserts, healthy smoothies, coffee, free wi-fi, phone-charging stations, colouring mats, books, comics and a great range of toys.

With its unique egg-dome structure, the 8,611-square foot Space Museum is one of Hong Kong's most recognized landmarks. Learn all about astronomy and space technology through its regular exhibits. Watch out for one-off carnivals, lab sessions, competitions and lectures. The large planetarium also features daily Omnimax (very large theatre screen) shows in its iconic dome. Free admission on Wednesdays.

Hong Kong Park

Embark on an educational excursion in one of Hong Kong's largest parks. With a pathway set up within the tree canopy, taking a walk through Hong Kong's aviary is like being in a rainforest, where you can learn about more than 80 species of birds. The butterflies, dragonflies, and an array of exotic plants at Forsgate Conservatory are also worth seeing.

The Mixing Bowl

This shop has all kinds of creative baking and cooking courses, including a traditional Hong Kong treats class where you can learn to make egg tarts, pineapple buns, and SAR-style sausage rolls. The team emphasizes a hands-on approach so expect to get a little messy. Special discount for students.

You are members of the Peer Counselling team and are giving a presentation to the school on places where students can socialise after school. You may want to talk about:

- the importance of socialising after school
- which of the suggested places would be most popular with Hong Kong students
- other places where students can socialise
- anything else you think is important

- What do you usually do after school? 1.
- After school, do you prefer to study or have fun? 2.
- Are your after-school activities the same every day? 3.
- Do you have time to socialise with friends? 4.
- Do your parents mind what you do after school? 5.
- After school, do you prefer to spend time alone or with a group of friends? 6.
- What makes an interesting after-school hangout? 7.
- Why do some people think negatively of teenagers socialising after school? 8.

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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a food magazine:

The Secret World of Hong Kong's Private Kitchens

Hui's Kitchen is a one-bedroom apartment that the owners have turned into a brightly lit open kitchen-cum-dining room. Every evening around 7pm, a small group of diners who have booked their tables in advance can taste some of 40-year-old chef Paul Hui's signature dishes, such as drunken chicken.

Hui's Kitchen is not an ordinary restaurant. Indeed, technically it's not a restaurant at all. It's a private kitchen, a type of eatery that has a long history in Hong Kong and is an important part of the local dining scene. They're typically small, serving between 10 and 30 diners at one set time, and located in residential buildings in less-expensive parts of town. Diners can enjoy the experience of a tailor-made menu or leave it up to the chef and be surprised.

Private kitchens, however, are not licensed restaurants. They are more like private clubs and so the licensing requirements are not as strict as for regular restaurants. So, many private kitchens just cater to their own members and not the general public. Guests usually need to book well in advance and owners can't display menus in the window or promote themselves as public dining establishments. By operating a private kitchen instead of a restaurant, "you don't have to go through all the food and safety requirements," Hui says. "What you do inside is up to you and the members."

You and your group are working on a project on dining experiences in Hong Kong. You may want to talk about:

- the advantages of private kitchens
- the disadvantages of private kitchens
- the impact private kitchens may have on the restaurant industry
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Which is your favourite restaurant?
- 2. Would you like to eat in a private kitchen?
- 3. Do you like to try something different every time you eat out?
- 4. Why have private kitchens become popular in Hong Kong?
- 5. What would make you decide not to go back to a restaurant?
- 6. Does good food have to be expensive?
- 7. Should a meal in a private kitchen be cheaper than in licensed restaurants?
- 8. Is the reputation of a restaurant important to you?

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PART A Group Interaction

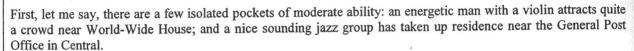
Below is a letter to the editor about street musicians in Hong Kong:

Hong Kong's buskers: the good, the bad and the dreadful

Buskers, or street musicians, are welcomed with open arms in other parts of the world

There are few experiences more pleasing than walking through the streets of the world's most beautiful cities and hearing concert violinists on their day off, or gifted music students practising for their next exam.

In Hong Kong, though, it's a rather different experience.



On the whole, though, most of our buskers are an embarrassment. A quality-control crackdown is well overdue.

Few people would deny that people in need of food and a roof over their heads have the right to beg, but this should not extend into awful, never-ending karaoke. The stark truth is that you are much more likely to hear a busker destroying a classic pop song in Hong Kong than to hear something that might actually make your day any better. Such buskers should be fined on the spot.

One solution would be a public competition. Local celebrities could judge the musical talent and make jokes about the less talented buskers for our amusement. Winners, selected by viewers, could then be given a permit for the best 'musical' locations in the city, and harmony would be restored.

Your group has decided to reply to the letter to the editor. You may want to talk about:

- whether you agree or disagree with the writer's point of view
- how to improve the quality of busking in Hong Kong
- how the government can encourage busking
- anything else you think is important

- 1. What kind of music do you like?
- 2. Are you a good singer?
- 3. Would you like to be a busker?
- 4. Do you often see buskers in Hong Kong?
- 5. Why do you think some people are against buskers?
- 6. Do you think people should give money to buskers?
- 7. Do you think buskers are like beggars?
- 8. Why do you think music is so important to people and cultures all over the world?



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PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an internet news article:

Living in the Past

Michelle Barnet, 35, from England, is so in love with the 1940s era that she has modelled her entire life around it. She's spent thousands of pounds redecorating her home with authentic furniture and decor from the '40s. Each morning she does her hair in perfect curls and carefully dresses herself in 1940s outfits. "I love everything about the 1940s – the fashion, the music, the decor – I find it totally captivating," she says.

But the highlight came at a 1940s convention when she met Richard, a fellow history enthusiast. "Our mutual love for the 1940s definitely brought us together," Michelle insists. They married three years ago in a 1940s style ceremony with Richard dressed in an original World War II British Navy uniform. The couple now lives in a small '40s style country cottage and they're coaching their two-month-old daughter Betsy-Rose to become a 1940s baby with her own collection of vintage clothes and toys. "This is our lifestyle," Richard says. "I come home from work and retreat into our '40s time zone."

Michelle claims that although she loves the material stuff, she also admires the spirit of the people who lived in the '40s. "It was a time of great hardship, but the entertainers and actors of the time created escapism that lifted everyone's spirits. This is what I want to achieve and bring alive. My whole life is a flashback to the '40s and I prefer it to the gloomy modern world."

As part of your school's upcoming history week you have been asked to organise an Events Day that focuses on one particular period in history. In your group discuss what your school could do to celebrate the period you choose. You may want to talk about:

- which period you would choose
- important features of that period
- what events you would organise in the school
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you like history?
- 2. Do you like to watch TV programmes about history?
- 3. Did you learn much about the history of Hong Kong at school?
- 4. Do you like visiting historical places?
- 5. Which historical figure do you admire?
- 6. Would you like to live in the past?
- 7. Why is it important to learn about history?
- 8. Do you think history often repeats itself?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in the United States:

Are young people losing the ability to read emotions?

Children's social skills may be declining as they have less time for face-to-face interaction due to their increased use of digital media, according to a study. Scientists conducted a study on American sixth-graders, aged 13-14 years old. These students reported that they text, watch television, and play video games for an average of four-and-a-half hours on a typical school day.

At the beginning of the study, students were evaluated for their ability to recognize other people's emotions in photos and videos. The students were shown 48 pictures of faces that were happy, sad, angry or scared, and asked to identify their feelings. They were divided into two groups and then, one group of students was sent to a camp for five days where they weren't allowed to use electronic devices.

After five days, all students were asked to look at another set of photos. The children who had been at the camp improved significantly in their ability to read facial emotions and other nonverbal cues to emotion, compared with the students who continued to use their media devices.

"This research shows a model of what more face-to-face interaction can do," the researcher said. "Empathy is our ability to identify what someone else is thinking or feeling, and to respond to their thoughts and feelings with an appropriate emotion. When children grow up without the ability to empathize, they won't trust others or develop creativity."

You are members of the Student Union and are concerned about students' use of electronic devices. You may want to talk about:

- the negative effects of electronic devices on young people
- why developing social skills is important
- whether young people should be encouraged to have more face-to-face interaction
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Which electronic devices do you spend most time on?
- 2. How do you usually communicate with your friends?
- 3. Could you live without electronic devices?
- 4. Can electronic devices affect people's ability to make new friends?
- 5. Do you think students should spend more or less time using electronic devices?
- 6. How do electronic devices affect people's social life?
- 7. In your opinion, should parents control children's use of electronic devices?
- 8. Is the overuse of electronic devices a problem in Hong Kong?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a Hong Kong magazine:

Walking in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's streets are like no other place in the world, and walking through the city's streets is part of what shapes us into such a unique community. Unlike the inhabitants of car-reliant North America, walking is a daily activity for us all. With one of the world's best public transport systems, we walk from home to the station or bus stop; we use our feet to shop, eat or simply wander, taking in the vibrant street life that surrounds us. We city-dwellers love it, and why not? It's carbon-neutral and it keeps us fit.

Increasingly, however, street-level crossings are being wiped out, and pedestrians are being directed to a succession of footbridges and underground tunnels. While Hong Kong is dense and some layering is necessary, these aerial networks keep us away from our own streets, and our own sense of community.

Landscape architect Gavin Coates says, "Since the 1950s everything has been completely car-oriented. The result today is an extremely unfriendly environment for pedestrians. London, New York, and Paris have all moved on... there has been a dramatic shift in terms of their thinking while Hong Kong seems stuck in the 1960s. Our city is for people, not for cars. The vehicles-first mentality seems absurd in Hong Kong where only about 6.67 percent of the population own a car. If the majority of the population doesn't own a car, why are drivers given such importance?"

Your group is designing a campaign leaflet to make Hong Kong a more walkable city. You are brainstorming ideas for the leaflet. You may want to talk about:

- the challenges people face when walking through the streets of Hong Kong
- suggestions for improving the street conditions for pedestrians
- content and organisation of the leaflet
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you prefer to walk or to take the bus?
- 2. How much walking do you do every day?
- 3. What's the furthest you have ever walked in one day?
- 4. What useful things could you do while walking?
- 5. Do you think walking is the best way to keep fit?
- 6. Do you prefer walking on the beach, in the countryside or in the city?
- 7. How would the area where you live change if no vehicles were allowed?
- 8. Which part of Hong Kong do you think could be pedestrianised?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from an article about some of Singapore's laws:

Be thankful, Hong Kong: five other ways Singapore is stricter

In defence of the MTR's recent crackdown on passengers breaking its rules by taking "oversized" luggage on trains, the Hong Kong government reasoned that Singapore has far stricter laws.

- 1. The next time you and your friends take a group pic inside an MTR train, know that you've just enjoyed one of Hong Kong's wonderful liberties, because Singapore prohibits snapping photos on all trains.
- 2. Forgot your towel after you've finished showering? You can make that trek across the living room naked if you choose. But in Singapore you would be breaking the law if in public view and could be fined up to \$\$2,000 (HK\$11,245) and thrown in jail for three months.
- 3. If you forget to flush a public toilet in Hong Kong, the worst punishment you'd get is a scolding. Over in Singapore, you'd be committing a crime and could be fined S\$150.
- 4. Littering is no excuse, but sometimes we can be forgetful with our rubbish. In Singapore, the first offence could be an instant fine of up to S\$2,000, and with a third offence you may have to clean the streets while wearing a sign that says, "I am a litterer".
- 5. Suffering from bad breath? Here, we can buy gum at any 7-11 for a quick fix. But in Singapore, you wouldn't be able to find any because selling gum is strictly forbidden.

Imagine the Hong Kong Government is proposing to introduce the five laws above in line with Singapore. In your group discuss this proposal. You may want to talk about:

- some reasons why the Government would like to implement these laws
- possible consequences of implementing these laws
- the fairness of the punishments mentioned in the article
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Should chewing gum be banned in schools?
- 2. Do you think you should be allowed to eat or drink on the MTR?
- 3. Do you think littering is a serious problem in Hong Kong?
- 4. What rules did your parents make you follow when you were younger?
- 5. Do you think Hong Kong should have similar punishments to Singapore for littering?
- 6. If you had the power to make a new rule in your school, what would it be?
- 7. Which of the laws in the article would annoy you most?
- 8. Do you think harsher punishments reduce crime?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract taken from a Hong Kong newspaper:

Teddy bear-themed coffee shops to open in China

From Japan's Hello Kitty to America's Charlie Brown, themed coffee shops are increasing in mainland cities, where most coffee drinkers still tend to focus more on the café experience than the coffee itself.

Adding to that list is the Great British Teddy Bear, a new company that aims to open 100 coffee shops in 12 mainland cities. There is a growing interest in British culture on the mainland, where British-style school uniforms and British TV dramas have remained popular.

Besides coffee, desserts and traditional British afternoon tea, the cafés will feature famous character bears including Sherlock Holmes, The Queen, the British policeman and Shakespeare.

Customers can drink tea and eat cucumber sandwiches from old-style British cups and plates. Police helmets will be used as lampshades in the coffee shops, with bowler hats as wall lights, while illuminated windows will reveal famous British views including Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.



Teddy bear-themed coffee shops are not new to major Chinese cities, but company founder Paul Jessup believes there is still a place in the market for an authentic British brand. "More Chinese are learning to appreciate Western culture as they seek greater quality in their life. We find the time has arrived to offer the public something truly British."

As part of an extra-curricular Business Studies course, your group is going to present ideas for a Hong Kong-themed coffee shop in Shanghai. You may want to talk about:

- what items you could sell in the coffee shop
- what you would like to promote about Hong Kong
- how you would decorate the coffee shop
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you go to coffee shops?
- 2. Would you like to go to a teddy bear coffee shop?
- 3. Do you think there are too many western-style coffee shops in Hong Kong?
- 4. Why do you think western-style coffee shops are so popular in Hong Kong?
- 5. Do you think a Hong Kong-themed coffee shop would be popular in China?
- 6. Do you think a teddy bear coffee shop would be popular in Hong Kong?
- 7. What theme would be popular in a coffee shop in Hong Kong?
- 8. How important is the atmosphere of a coffee shop?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper article:

All Kids are Winners in American Schools

Recently, I got a phone call from my son's football coach. My son's team didn't win the tournament, but the coach called to ask whether I'd like to order a trophy for my son anyway. I didn't know what to say. Sure, I'd heard of participation prizes, but I was expecting little pencils and erasers, not trophies that looked exactly like the ones the real winners got.

These days, even the term "winner" can get you into trouble. Today, it's all about every child at their own pace and how we're all "winners".

When I was a kid, I wasn't very good at sports and although it was painful to always be the last person to be picked for the team, I did learn something really valuable – how to lose. Losing builds character and toughness in a way that nothing else can.

Yet, fewer and fewer kids these days are learning this important lesson. According to a recent study by the Chance to Shine charity, most schoolchildren would be "relieved or not bothered" if competitive games were disallowed. Some schools in Singapore, for example, have started to ban some playground games, because they put too much pressure on some kids.

I understand that losing is discouraging and that kids sometimes need to experience the excitement of winning in order to gain confidence, but I worry that, in our rush to protect our kids, we could be doing more harm than good.

In preparation for writing an essay, your group is discussing whether Hong Kong schools should treat all children as winners. You may want to talk about:

- the pros and cons of giving trophies to losing teams
- whether learning how to lose is an important lesson to learn
- whether certain competitive games should be discouraged at school
- anything else you think is important

- 1. What competition would you like to win?
- 2. How do you feel when you lose?
- 3. Are you very competitive?
- 4. Do you feel any pressure to win at school?
- 5. How important do you think trophies are?
- 6. In sport is winning the only important thing?
- 7. Do you think coming second is equal to losing?
- 8. Do you think the pressure to win in sport encourages cheating?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in an online newspaper.

Oxford Dictionary Word of the Year



Oxford Dictionary 2015 word of the year is difficult to pronounce because it has no letters. It is a cartoon yellow face, shedding two giant tears. They are not tears of sadness but tears of joy. The image shows the "playfulness and intimacy" of emoji or emoticon culture.

Every year, Oxford Dictionary chooses a word that captures the year's biggest trends or changes in the English language. The tiny illustrations that appear on social media and text conversations have seen a surge in popularity in recent years. "You can see how traditional alphabet scripts have been struggling to meet the visually focused demands of 21st century communication," said Oxford Dictionary's president. "It's not surprising that a pictographic script like emoticons has stepped in to fill those gaps." The Oxford University Press's selection of a pictograph reflects the huge power behind these simple images as people, especially smartphone users, increasingly choose emoticons over words in electronic conversation.

Others, however, believe that this may lead to a dumbing down of civilization. For example, "we're out of toilet paper" can be expressed as:

The idea of a picture-based language that can be read by everyone is charming, but remember that a person can say only so much with pictures. Without written words, how do people evaluate, debate and advance new ideas? However, language is always changing and now language is evolving again in the digital era.

Your group are members of an English club and are discussing ways people communicate in the 21st century. You may want to talk about:

- the advantages of using emoticons to communicate
- whether an emoticon is a good choice for Word of the Year
- whether picture-based language will grow more or less popular in the future
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you use emoticons when you send text messages?
- 2. Which emoticons do you like most?
- 3. Do you communicate with your parents using emoticons?
- 4. How do you feel when you receive a text message in emoticons?
- 5. What problems may occur if messages only contain emoticons?
- 6. Do you think people will forget how to write properly if they keep using emoticons?
- 7. Do people interpret emoticons in different ways?
- 8. Does the choice of an emoticon as Word of the Year signal a dumbing down of civilization?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a newspaper about practising meditation exercises at school in the U.S.:

Meditation in school

Linda Ryden, a teacher at Lafayette Primary School in Washington, leads about 500 of the school's students in weekly courses on meditation. Meditation is a practice aimed at enhancing self-awareness and reducing anxiety by focusing, without judgment, on the present moment. "Close your eyes and take three deep breaths," she instructs her students, who fall into a familiar rhythm of silently counting their breaths.

With research linking meditation to improved focus, mood and behavior, the movement has ballooned, spreading from health-care institutions to well-known companies, the military and athletics. Now, it's increasingly being used at schools and with children.

With high-stakes tests beginning in elementary school, increasingly overscheduled afternoons and pressure to do more demanding extracurricular activities at ever-younger ages, kids are feeling overwhelmed. Supporters of meditation hope the practice can help them cope with the demands.

The idea of getting restless kids to sit still or anxious teens to meditate might seem unrealistic. But kids often enjoy it, readily turning to the practice as a way to self-soothe, and taking the techniques home with them.

"When I'm mad, and I get into a fight with my brother or anyone in my family, I go up to my room, and I start meditation, and it calms me down so things get back to normal," says Jacopo Cascone, one of Ryden's fourth-grade students. "I thought it was weird at first," he says, "but now I realise it totally helps with everything in my life."

The Education Bureau is considering whether meditation training should be introduced into secondary schools in Hong Kong. Your group is discussing whether this is a good idea. You may want to talk about:

- why it might be necessary to teach students meditation
- ways it could be introduced into schools
- possible problems faced by schools
- anything else you think is important

- 1. What do you do to help yourself relax?
- 2. Do you think you would enjoy taking a meditation class?
- 3. What makes you feel calm?
- 4. Did you feel under a lot of pressure at your primary school?
- 5. Are you good at controlling your emotions?
- 6. What things frustrate you in life?
- 7. Do you think meditation is a useful way for a person to spend their time?
- 8. How could meditation training help the army or athletes?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an article taken from a local English newspaper:

Twin-credible! Secondary school with 20 sets of twins

De Aston School, a secondary school in Lincolnshire, England, has a record-breaking number of twins in attendance. Among the 907 pupils enrolled at the school, there are 20 pairs of twins, 12 of whom are identical. Most incredibly, the school welcomed six sets of identical twins this past September, all of whom started grade seven.

Stunned teachers at the school say they have never seen anything like it and believe there must have been "something in the water" in the local area.

Since the school requires students to dress in identical blue and white uniforms, it's proven difficult for the teachers to tell the siblings apart. Most of the twins have also found it confusing, with their classmates and teachers having trouble telling them apart. Kieron and Calvin Chow, 14, both say they are often mistaken for one another, even by their teachers, and Charlotte and Stephanie Rae, 14, say they would like to be treated more as individuals in day-to-day life.

Whether it's 15-year-old Nicole and Macy Yuen, who say they answer the same questions with the same answers at the same time, or 11-year-old Charlotte Kaur, who came down with a headache after her identical twin Emily banged her head, there really is a touch of twin magic in De Aston's classrooms.

Ellenor Beighton, De Aston School's headteacher, said: "All of our twins are delightful young people who we treat as individuals and we're very happy to have them here."

Your group is doing a school project on the subject of twins. This is your first meeting and you are brainstorming ideas. You may want to talk about:

- possible content for the project
- how you are going to get the information you need
- how you could present your project
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you know any twins?
- 2. Would you like to be a twin?
- 3. What difficulties might the parents of twins have?
- 4. Do you think identical twins should be put in separate classes?
- 5. In the future would you be happy to be a parent of twins?
- 6. What do you think are the benefits of being a twin?
- 7. If you were an identical twin, do you think you would dress the same?
- 8. What do you find interesting about twins?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in the United Kingdom:

Young people are drinking less so they don't look bad on Facebook

A new study in the UK has found that people aged 16-24 are drinking significantly less alcohol, with 27% giving up alcohol, almost a 10% increase from 10 years ago. At the same time, young people binge-drinking (drinking a lot at once) has fallen to 18%. Interestingly, the changes in young people's drinking don't seem to be because of health reasons. A concern much more important than liver damage? Facebook embarrassment.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), young people are scared of being shamed on social media with drunk photos and Twitter evidence of their embarrassing behaviour. The ONS says 'Young people who spend a lot of time online are quite happy to tag photos of their friends who are drunk and passed out on the floor, but are more concerned about being tagged themselves. This might curb their behaviour.'

The convenience of sharing photos with friends (and non-friends) through social networking sites and blogs is undeniable. People forget however that anything posted on Facebook or anywhere else on social media can come back to haunt them in the future. Even if a person deletes a photo, it will continue to live on if another person has shared it. In addition, tagging, or identifying people on social media pictures, poses dangers such as revealing a person's name, what they look like, and their location when the picture was uploaded.

You are members of the Peer Counselling team concerned about students' behaviour on social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WeChat, Weibo). You may want to talk about:

- whether it is important to present a good image on social media
- what is acceptable behaviour on social media
- other problems young people have using social media
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you post photos on social media?
- 2. What kinds of photos do you post on social media?
- 3. Do you like looking at other people's photos?
- 4. What kinds of photos would you not share with friends on social media?
- 5. Do you mind if people tag you without your permission?
- 6. Do young people feel pressure when using social media?
- 7. Do you think the use of social media should be monitored?
- 8. Do you judge people based on what you see on social media?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a technology and design webpage:

4 Cool Biking Gadgets for the Keen Cyclist

In this technology-dominated day and age, your cycling experience can be made safer and more enjoyable with these four modern gadgets.

Wireless Bicycle Turn Signal

This under-seat turn signal unit is battery-powered, has ultra-bright LED lights and will emit a loud beeping sound when you make a turn. The signals are activated wirelessly using a push-button controller attached to your bicycle's handlebar. [HK\$560]

Boom Bottle

The Boom Bottle is a wireless Bluetooth speaker designed for outdoor activity. It fits perfectly in a bicycle water bottle cage, and is waterproof. The Boom Bottle also has a built-in microphone, so it can work as a speakerphone. The rechargeable battery offers 10 hours of use and the Boom Bottle comes in pink, grey, blue, yellow and green. [HK\$1120]

Revolights

Revolights are rings of LED lights mounted onto your wheels ensuring that you are visible from the front, back and side. [HK\$1120 per wheel]

Hovding

Hovding is an inflatable helmet, worn around your neck. It uses sensors to detect when a crash occurs, and immediately inflates itself to protect your head. It can only be used once, but it does have an external shell that can be changed to match the colour of your outfit. [HK\$4400]

You are all members of your school's Bicycle Club. You are going to give a talk about bicycle safety in Hong Kong and recommend two of the gadgets above to your club. You may want to talk about:

- how to be safe when cycling in Hong Kong
- the advantages and disadvantages of the gadgets advertised
- · which two you would recommend
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you ride a bicycle?
- 2. Do you think it is safe to ride a bicycle in Hong Kong?
- 3. Why do you think few people ride bicycles in Hong Kong?
- 4. Do you think cycling is becoming more popular in Hong Kong?
- 5. Do you think there should be more cycle paths in Hong Kong?
- 6. Do you think all cyclists should wear a helmet?
- 7. Do you think cyclists should be allowed to take their bikes on the MTR?
- 8. What can the Government do to encourage more people to cycle in Hong Kong?

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a social media site:

French city gets 'short story vending machine' in public areas

Technology has truly invaded our lives; from tablets to smartphones, there is no time which could be called a 'no screen time'. Grenoble in France wants to help people utilise their monotonous waiting time by reading short stories which are 'dispensed' from a machine. It's an interesting experimental project that aims to help people do something better than fiddling with their mini gadgets while they are waiting. It also hopes to bring back the culture of reading literature that is lost in a technological world.



The short story vending machines deliver good quality popular literature to people waiting in public spaces, just like the way soft drinks are dispensed. The original stories have been written by established authors from the community and also by new authors who want to publish their work. However, the best part about these vending machines is they are free to use. In all, there will be eight machines spread across the town: at the town hall, the tourist office, libraries and in social centres.

Users have the option to choose the length of the literature depending on the time they have to kill. The 'three minute' format, for example, takes the form of a piece of paper that's 8 X 60 cm in size, while the 'five minute' version could be double the size.

So the next time you have to wait for your friend to arrive, you will have enough stories to tell when you meet.

Your group is part of a reading club and you are discussing ways to encourage the reading of literature. You may want to talk about:

- whether fewer people are interested in reading literature than before
- whether short story vending machines will encourage people to read more literature
- other ways to promote the reading of literature
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you like to read stories?
- 2. What do you like to read?
- 3. Do you think you would use a short story vending machine?
- 4. What do you usually do while you're waiting?
- 5. Should readers have to pay for stories from vending machines?
- 6. Will short story vending machines replace electronic reading devices?
- 7. Would short story vending machines be popular in Hong Kong?
- 8. What are the benefits of reading literature?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below is an extract from a recent news website:

Should Hong Kong schools be doing more for left-handed children?

In Hong Kong more than one in 10 children are left-handed and face problems using right-handed implements and equipment that can leave some feeling clumsy and uncoordinated.

"My son is left-handed and left-footed," says Mrs Chan. "There doesn't seem to be much consideration given to left-handers at his school. He is good at sport, and they are playing hockey this term in Year Six, but with right-handed sticks. The violins and recorders sent home for practice are also for right-handers. His handwriting is illegible and he hasn't been taught to hold his pencil properly." Handwriting is certainly more challenging for left-handers as their writing is often blocked from view and easily rubbed and messed up by their writing hand.

Despite the increase in equipment such as non-smudge pens, specially designed scissors, and a wider range of musical instruments such as left-handed guitars, left-handed children still have to overcome the frustrations of living in a right-handed world. They have to struggle with everyday tasks such as manipulating zips and buttons when dressing.

But it is not all gloom for left-handers. Researchers are unsure why, but left-handers have a greater chance of having a higher IQ. Also, it can be an advantage to be left-handed in certain sports such as tennis, and being a left-footer is often sought after in soccer teams. Look on the Internet and find the famous inventors, scientists, entrepreneurs and sports people who are left-handed.

Today is International Left-Handers Day. Your group is organising activities for the day at your school. You may want to talk about:

- some of the frustrations that left-handed people experience
- how these difficulties can be overcome
- activities you may organise for the event
- anything else you think is important

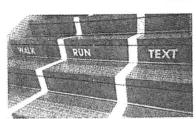
- 1. Do you know any left-handed people?
- 2. How well can you use your left hand?
- 3. Can you use both hands and both feet equally well?
- 4. Do you think it would be a good idea to celebrate an International Left-Handers Day?
- 5. Do you think left-handers have an advantage in sports?
- 6. Do you think left-handers are more creative than right-handers?
- 7. Do you think left-handed children should be forced to become right-handed?
- 8. Do you think all children should be taught to use both hands well at an early age?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in the United States:

Text Walking Lanes for Smartphone Addicts



There's a "culture of walking and texting" on the Utah Valley University (UVU) campus but that's not the main reason UVU came up with an idea to paint a "texting lane" on a staircase. It was first and foremost a design project, inspired by the massive number of kids walking around with their faces buried in their iPhones.

"You have 18-24 year olds walking down the hall with smartphones,

you're almost bound to run into someone somewhere; it's something we're dealing with in this day and age," the Principal said. "Preventing accidents isn't the reason we did it—we did it to engage the students. It's meant to be there for people to look at and enjoy."

National Geographic Museum drew similar lanes along a stretch of street in Washington D.C. It was an experiment for a TV series on behavioural science called "Mind over Masses." However, this caused confusion in the city because some people followed the lanes while others just ignored them.



Will these walking lanes have much of an impact? Considering that those who text and walk probably don't pay much attention to their surroundings in the first place, it's likely they won't even notice the change. Regardless, these texting lanes have sparked conversation about distracted walking, and that's always a good start in pointing out a major societal problem.

Your group is part of the Student Union and you are discussing ways to raise awareness about texting while walking. You may want to talk about:

- the problems caused by using smartphones while walking
- whether texting lanes can help to solve these problems
- other ways of making people aware of the dangers of texting while walking
- anything else you think is important

- 1. Do you use your smartphone while you are walking?
- 2. Would you walk in a texting lane?
- 3. Why do people use their smartphones while they are walking?
- 4. Are you aware of your surroundings when you use your smartphone?
- 5. Do you think texting lanes should be created in Hong Kong?
- 6. Should people be punished if they do not use the texting lanes?
- 7. Do you think the problem of texting while walking will get worse?
- 8. How would your phone habits be different if it was illegal to use smartphones while walking?