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INTRODUCTION

To enhance understanding of the standards of the HKDSE Examination, authentic samples of candidates' scripts in the 2017 examination are selected to form this set of exemplars which serve to illustrate the typical performance standards at different levels.

There are four papers in this subject. This set of exemplars is selected from candidates' scripts of Paper 2 to illustrate the typical performance standards at different levels.

It is advisable to read this set of exemplars together with the question papers and the marking schemes in order to understand the requirements of the questions and the marking criteria. The question papers and the marking schemes are published in the *2017 HKDSE Question Papers (with marking schemes and comments on candidates' performance)*.

Level 5 exemplar 1

Part A

Dear Ms. Lee,

In the morning assembly last week, the school expressed its hopes to build closer linkage to the surrounding community. Knowing about this goal, and as the chairperson of the Social Service Club, I would like to propose a new community project that students can take part in in the Sunshine Elderly Home, and hope that it could be considered by the school.

10

The community project would allow students to participate in social services and caring for the old. One activity that can be carried out at Sunshine Elderly Home is a performance session, with volunteers from our school providing entertainment to the elderly. From solo singing to violin, from drama to musical, and from jokes to story-telling, the show could definitely capture the eyes and hearts of the tenants. Students, with their musical and aesthetic talents, could create a joyous scene of entertainment at the elderly home.

20

With enjoyable activities like the one above, the

Level 5 exemplar 1

Part A

benefits of them for the elderly home are manifold.
25 First of all, the VISITS would lighten up the atmosphere
of Sunshine Elderly Home. Unlike its name, the building
which is situated at a street across our school in
no way brings smiles on its residents' faces. In our
VISIT last week to formulate the plan of the project,
30 all we could see was blank faces and hopeless eyes
staring at the room's white wall. We believe that our
performances could make the elderly feel different about
the boring place they dread, and to bring warmth to
them by extending our loving hands. After the project,
35 it is our earnest hopes that the grumbles we hear
would become hummings along the music.

Alongside providing joy, the project could also
help the elderly home by providing more manpower
40 to serve the residents. At present, the Sunshine
Elderly Home's nurses and workers were continuously
strained and worked round the clock due to manpower
shortage. They could only provide quick care for each
elderly in the home. However, the situation might be
45 different once we start the project. The volunteers
could take care of every resident in an in-depth manner,

Level 5 exemplar 1

Part A

from helping them dress up to chatting with them.
This ensures quality care in the elderly home, as
what senior citizens need is not only physical attention,
50 but also mental support and communication. With more
visitors, quality of elderly care would be substantially
raised, with labour shortage alleviated.

We hope that the new community project could
65 be accepted, for it reaps great benefits to Sunshine
Elderly Home, and could also nurture students
to become community-minded persons who contribute
by reaching^{out} for the ones in need in the society. With
the contribution of all parties in the school, we would
60 definitely achieve the mission to foster closer linkage
with the community. We ^{would also sincerely} thank you for your support
to our club throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wong

Chris Wong

Chairperson of Social Service Club

END OF PART A

Level 5 exemplar 1

Part B Question 5

Dear Editor,

I am ~~not~~ writing to express my ~~own~~ views on the Hong Kong government's recent selection ~~on~~ of intangible cultural heritage items that the city should protect. Hong Kong is a diverse city, we have a mixture of Chinese and Western culture ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~attracting~~ ~~groups~~ ~~and~~ ~~groups~~ ~~of~~ ~~tourists~~ ~~to~~ ~~visit~~ ~~Hong~~ ~~Kong~~ and it certainly is not a bad thing. People around the world are fascinated by ~~our~~ ~~own~~ city and come to have a look for themselves. This unique characteristic of Hong Kong makes it one of the most visited cities in the ~~the~~ world. However, as more and more Western culture develops in Hong Kong, our native culture ^{is} ~~is~~ ~~being~~ overshadowed and ^{losing} slowly popularity. To help protect ~~the~~ Hong Kong culture, I am highly supportive of the ~~the~~ government's action, ~~the~~ particularly on ~~its~~ choice of traditional egg tart and Mahjong. I believe that they are both worth protecting ^{protecting} ~~as~~ they can represent Hong Kong.

What is so special about the egg tarts that we can see every day? The ^{fact} is that egg tarts originated in Hong Kong and they are not common in other countries. A long time ago, ~~was~~ a Hong Kong baker invented ~~the~~ egg tart. ~~Today~~ Today, egg tarts are ~~still~~ still very popular among Hong Kong people. In one of the survey about Hong Kong street food, egg tart was voted as one of the ~~best~~ best street food found in Hong Kong. When ~~we~~ ^{we} walk around ^{on} the street, ~~we~~ we can smell the egg tarts from miles away. ~~The~~ The appetizing look and sweet ~~but~~ taste of egg tarts have certainly captured a lot of Hong Kong people's heart. We all have many shared memories of the egg tarts. It ~~is~~ would be a shame to see egg tarts slowly disappearing in Hong

Level 5 exemplar 1

Part B Question 5

Hong and ~~are~~ are replaced by other food. For these reasons, I am supportive
25 of protecting our signature street food — egg tart.

Most people have heard of ~~the~~ ~~Maljiong~~ ^{Maljiong} or seen people play it, but
~~Although~~ ~~although~~ most people are not familiar with it. Despite
this, I still believe ~~it~~ ~~the~~ Maljiong is worth protecting. Maljiong is a ~~pop~~
popular ^{leisure} activity. During festivals, especially in Chinese New Year, ~~family~~
30 families ~~go to~~ ~~are~~ ~~with~~ are visited by relatives and friends. They
usually stay in-door for the whole day. Besides talking and eating, what
is ~~the most~~ ^{another} common activity ~~that they do~~ for them to do? It is playing
Maljiong. Families come together ^{for} games of Maljiong. They enjoy
playing it not only because they can win money, but also because it is
35 a rare chance for them to talk with their relatives and friends face-to-
face. This is why Maljiong is regarded as a relationship-bonding activity
and should be protected as it is a local culture.

~~The~~ ~~are~~ In order to protect these cultural heritage items, the
government should take action immediately. ~~A~~ ~~problem~~ ~~many~~
40 egg tart shop owners are facing is the price of their ~~shops~~ ~~shops~~.
They have to pay expensive ~~the~~ leases ~~to~~ to keep ~~opening~~ ~~opening~~
their business open. Moreover, their leases are increasing ~~steadily~~ steadily
while their earnings are not high enough to compensate. This costs the
bakers to lose money and eventually have to ~~close~~ close their shops.
45 If the government can provide them financial support, ~~to~~ lower the
leases of egg tart shops ~~so~~ so that it is more affordable to the shop

Level 5 exemplar 1

Part B Question 5

owners. I believe ~~that these can be~~ egg tart businesses can be profitable again and the owners can continue to a baking egg tarts for a living. In regards to ~~the~~ Mahjong, some people often say that it is a gambling activity and should not be promoted. However, I think that the gambling problem of ~~the~~ Mahjong ~~is~~ mainly comes ~~for~~ from the illegal Mahjong ~~is~~ ~~to~~ businesses. These businesses host sites for Mahjong illegally and many people go there to gamble. The government should seize operation of such illegal businesses and promote the message that Mahjong is not a ~~an~~ activity ~~focused~~ focused on gambling. ~~In addition, the government should~~ ~~do~~ By doing this, Mahjong will become a more welcomed leisure activity in the public's eyes. More people will ~~be~~ play the game ~~without the~~ ~~fear of~~ ~~being~~ ~~losing~~ the culture ~~can~~ will be preserved.

It is high time ~~for~~ the government took action to protect our treasured local culture ~~so~~ that they will not be lost as part of history.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong

Level 5 exemplar 1

Comments

Part A

Content

This is a very well-written letter which would fulfill the aim of the task if this situation were to happen in real life. The content is believable and the suggested activities are practical and well explained. The candidate begins with a reference to a realistic context, i.e. a principal's recent discussion of the social service project in an assembly. There is a clear statement of the purpose for writing at the end of the first paragraph and a well-expressed, polite final paragraph emphasises how the project meets the school's needs. In the body of the letter, the proposed activities, the need for them and their benefits are clearly described, and the reference to the irony of the home being called 'Sunshine' is a creative touch. The awareness of audience is high and the reader is engaged throughout. The only area of weakness is that it is not made clear how/whether the performance and the manpower issue are related.

Language

There is a very wide range of accurate and appropriate sentence structures, all of which are appropriately complex and largely error-free. Vocabulary is wide and phrasing expresses subtleties of meaning. Collocations are natural (e.g. 'blank faces' line 30; 'manpower shortages' lines 42-43; 'take care of' line 46). Since this is a proposal we would expect modal auxiliaries to figure prominently, and they do: 'I would like to propose a new community project' (lines 6-7); 'volunteers could take care of every resident' (lines 45-46). Register, tone and style are entirely appropriate to the genre and text type, although there are occasional examples of language which might be considered too formal (e.g. 'manifold' line 24). There is evidence of high-level ability to use language creatively and in a sophisticated manner e.g. the repetition in 'From solo singing to violin, from drama to musical[s], and from jokes to storytelling' (lines 16-17), which invokes a rhetorical structure used in many persuasive texts. There is a strong personal voice.

Organisation

The text is very well organised and ideas are logically developed in a manner which is appropriate to the genre. There is an effective opening, which references the original reason for writing, and a polite close which specifies what action the reader wants to be taken. The writing is coherent but connectives are not overused or intrusive. One weakness is the link to the suggestion about relieving the manpower shortage, which could have been better contextualised by specifying whether 'the project' (line 45) was the same as the one previously described.

Part B

Content

The letter fulfills the requirements of the question, that is, to explain why and how egg tarts and mahjong should be protected. The writer states the purpose of the letter and his stance clearly in the introduction. In explaining why egg tarts and mahjong should be protected, sound reasons are given, which include 'egg tarts originated in Hong Kong... are not common in other countries' (lines 15-16), '(egg tarts) are still very popular among Hong Kong people' (line 17), and 'shared memories to Hong Kong people' (lines 22-23). Mahjong is a 'relationship-bonding activity'. To reinforce credibility, the writer uses a survey result to support his views on why egg tarts are popular. Suggestions on how to protect egg tarts and mahjong are given, but some are not strong. While the analysis of why egg tarts are disappearing is appropriate, the suggestion that the government 'lower the leases of egg tart shops' may not be realistic. The roles of other parties could have been mentioned to bolster the discussion.

Language

Overall, accuracy is high. A range of sentences structures is used appropriately and accurately (e.g. adverb clause of purpose in line 10 and line 38, concession in lines 27-28). There is a range of well-selected lexis throughout the letter e.g. 'a diverse city', 'a mixture of Chinese and Western culture(s)' (line 4) 'our native culture is overshadowed and is slowly losing popularity' (lines 9-10). There are some mistakes in punctuation, spelling and modality (e.g. 'they will not be lost' line 60), among other things, but they do not impede overall communication. Tone and style are appropriate to the text type.

Organisation

The letter is well structured, with an introduction and conclusion, and there is clear signposting throughout the text. The use of a question at the beginning of paragraph 2 (in line 14) is effective in introducing the theme of the second paragraph. The overall flow of ideas is coherent. The writer uses appropriate strategies to signal what readers might expect in each paragraph. The use of 'it is high time the government took action to protect ...' (line 59) to end the letter.

Level 5 exemplar 2

Part A

Dear Ms. Lee,

I am the chairperson of the Social Service Club. I am writing to you as I heard our school would like to develop closer links with the community. Therefore, I came up with a potential project the school can carry out with a home for the elderly in our district. Hopefully to seek your approval for this exciting project.

The project is called "The Art of Love". Just like the name, the objective is to express love to the elderly so as the district through art. Students can learn and love more through doing simple arts and interact with elderly, also it may raise awareness of caring for the elderly and our beloved district.

To provide you more specific and graphic ideas of this project, I would like to introduce one of the activities in the project, folding origami with the elderly. It can be carried out in a day at the elderly home next to our school. The activity could include two classes at the same time, where the students will be responsible starting from planning and running the activity.

Level 5 exemplar 2

Part A

This activity is a simple and direct way to allow students
25 to exercise their creativity and social skills. To start with,
students need to design and find an origami and will teach
the elderly to fold it. It may seem to be an easy task,
but there are a lot of factors students required to consider in
the whole activity. For instance, the origami needs to be not too
30 hard as elderly only have short period of time to learn
the steps within the activity. Due to the limitation, students
need to be more considerate, perhaps come up with a PowerPoint
that let participants to follow the steps or even fold together
with them. As you can see, it is an activity that
35 involve communication skills and plan changing abilities.
To the students, they can have higher willingness to interact
with elderly aside from their grandparents, also learn to
understand them. Just like art, it requires appreciation and learning.

40 Another point to consider is what elderly home get from
the activities. Through this project, elderly home will
have a more positive atmosphere and get to promote
awareness to loving elderly. Most elderly living in these
homes are due to the families unable to take care of
45 them ~~to~~ because of various reasons. The elderly might
felt bored or lonely to live in an unfamiliar environment,

Level 5 exemplar 2

Part A

the homes are not really the 'home' because there is no 'love'. Thus the project aims to spread to love to the elderly homes where with our kind loving students' visits and different
50 interesting art activities or games, the elderly home will be more lively with laughter and warmth.

Besides, the project helps to promote awareness to helping elderly for the elderly home. It is known that elderly homes hope to give
55 elderly a place like home to rest, but it is hard to spread this message beyond the facility. Through our students, we could help spread this message and love, educate the youngsters to be more loving to our elderly.

To sum up, although it is a simple project, it upholds what our school values: have closer links to the community. Visiting the
60 elderly homes with games and love is a great way to both help our students' moral learning and to serve our community. May this project can be done with love in the future. Look forward to your kind reply.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Wong.

END OF PART A

Report on Hong Kong's NEETs

1. Introduction

It is claimed that the number of NEETs — young people who are not in education, employment or training is rising and that several reasons ^{has} contributed to the problem. The following will discuss the reasons of the phenomenon and suggestions to cope with the problem.

2. Reasons causing the increase in number of NEETs

2.1 Lack of Job Opportunities

It is believed that lacking sufficient job vacancies intensifies the problem. After finishing their studies in universities or secondary schools, young people start to find suitable jobs. When it comes to tertiary education, Hong Kong's institutions are second to none. Hence, youngsters tend to think that they are highly educated and thus refuse to work for physically-demanding jobs, namely mining, digging and logging. However, companies tend to employ workers who are experienced which adds fuel to the problem. ^{The majority of} NEETs are nothing but fresh graduates and that they can hardly seek desirable jobs.

2.2. Lack subsidies provided for further studies.

25 It is revealed that 60% of NEETs could not
find a job due to the insufficient subsidy
provided by the authorities. According to Mr
Smith, the professor of the faculty of social
30 science in the University of Hong Kong, 30%
of the companies or organisations require job applicants
to have professional knowledge in the field. Yet, the
government provided too few resources for the
young people, NEETs to complete the courses
required. Undoubtedly, NEETs who lack income
35 could hardly pay for the institution fees.
With no resources provided and lack job
opportunities, NEETs tend to sit at home,
play video games and seek self esteem
through victory in the games and eventually
40 become addicted to the Internet.

3. Suggestions to the problem

The rising number of NEETs is devastating and solutions
is needed to rectify the situation with no delay.

3.1 Cooperations between the government and companies

45 The acute problem of lacking job opportunities
stressed the need for cooperation between the

authorities and companies in order to create a youngster-friendly workplace environment. In a metropolis like Hong Kong, it is of paramount importance that companies ~~carry out~~ ^{carry out} social responsibilities. It is suggested that the government carry out schemes to praise companies which establish friendly working environment and provide more job opportunities with higher salary for the young people. The young generation seriously needs chance for them to unearth potential and hone their skills. Not only do the plan ease the plight of the young people — especially of the NEETs, but the companies can also gain reputation from the scheme and improve their images. It is ^{firmly} believed that this would bring out a 'win-win' situation and the grave problem could as well be remedied.

3.2. Providing more subsidies for tertiary or professional education

It is high time the government allocate more resources to support NEETs' education and ensure that their qualifications are conducive to seeking desirable jobs. The authorities ought to provide more subsidies to meet the demand so that more NEETs can chase after their goals and bail out their financial burden. It is also

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imperative to establish a harmonious atmosphere here in Hong Kong by promoting recreational activities for the NETTs may not have found hobbies rather than spending time on the Internet. By doing so, the problem of NETTs could be ameliorated one day.

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4. Conclusion

It goes without saying that the situation of NETTs have a pressing need to be rectified. It is hoped that the aforementioned could be carried out in order to

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help our youngsters realize aspirations. It is also hoped that the NETTs seize opportunities for the sake of contributing to the society.

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END OF PAPER

Level 5 exemplar 2

Comments

Part A

Content

The content entirely fulfills the requirements of the question and the ideas are well developed in accordance with the demands of the task. The project (nicely titled 'The Art of Love') is probably appropriate for the target audience. The speaker mentions the benefits to students and to the elderly home. The project and its benefits are described in (perhaps too much) detail and presented persuasively, and the candidate is careful to link them with the school's values.

Language

There is a very wide range of accurate and appropriate sentence structures, including more complex structures. Grammar is mainly accurate, and collocations natural (e.g. 'raise awareness' line 13; 'exercise... creativity' line 25; 'promote awareness' lines 42-43). There are a few inaccuracies (e.g. verb forms) but these do not affect clarity. The vocabulary, register, tone and style are suited to the genre and text type. The descriptions of origami are persuasive and convey the impression that the candidate can handle advanced reasoning and express complex ideas (e.g. 'it is hard to spread this message beyond the facility' lines 55-56). The persona is maintained throughout and supported with the appropriate language.

Organisation

The text is very well organised and ideas are logically developed in a manner appropriate to the letter genre. The phrasing is connected in varied and sophisticated ways which keep the audience in mind (e.g. 'Just like the name' lines 9-10; 'As you can see' line 34). The opening and closing are engaging and appropriate for a letter.

Part B

Content

The report addresses the task requirements well by giving two reasons and two suggestions. The two reasons given include the 'lack of job opportunities' and 'lack (of) subsidies provided for further studies', which are sufficiently elaborated. The two suggestions put forward are 'providing more subsidies for tertiary or professional education' and cooperation between government and the private sector. While most ideas are relevant, the examples of 'physically-demanding jobs in Hong Kong like mining, digging and logging' in section 2.1 are not. Some ideas are well developed and there is good use of factual data to support ideas, e.g. in section 2.2, 'According to Mr Smith, the professor of faculty of social science'.

Language

The writer uses a range of sentence structures accurately with some attempts to use more complex sentences, (e.g. participle phrases, 'After finishing their studies in universities or secondary schools, young people start to find suitable jobs' (lines 11-14) and relative clauses, 'companies tend to employ workers who are experienced which adds fuel to the problem' lines 19-21). Register, tone and style are mostly appropriate to the genre. The use of an impersonal tone in the report is appropriate for the text type, e.g. 'It is claimed that ...' (line 3), 'It is believed that ...' (line 10). Vocabulary is moderately wide (e.g. phenomenon, intensifies, rectify, acute, hone) and used appropriately. Grammatical errors occur in more complex structures but overall clarity is not affected (e.g. 'Not only do the plan erase the plight of the young people' line 55).

Organisation

The text is organised effectively by the use of headings and subheadings. A range of strategies is used to link the ideas and there is no overuse of discourse markers. There is clear cohesion in most parts of the text by using e.g. 'undoubtedly', 'also' and 'by doing so'. However, in lines 69-73, the idea about establishing a harmonious atmosphere by promoting recreational activities is a little bit off-track.

Level 4 exemplar 1

Part A

Dear Ms Lee,

I am writing to propose a new community project that the school can carry out in order
5 to develop closer links with the community.

As the chairperson of the "Social Service Club" of our school, I suggest organizing a
'Old Buddy' project with a home for the elderly
10 in this district. Every Saturday, the volunteers
from our school will visit the elderly home. The volunteers are responsible to design
different kinds of activities for the elderly, such
as stretching exercises, playing boardgame, making
15 food etc. It will be a long-term service,
but the volunteers can be selected every month.
A friendly relationship can be built between the
elderly and our students.

20 Improving the health of the elderly is the
major benefits that this community project can
achieve. Due to ageing population, the elderly becomes
the important group of people that need more care

Level 4 exemplar 1

Part A

and love from the society. They are suffering from
25 long-term loneliness and pain caused from their
health problems. The 'Old Buddy' project can improve
the social and mental health of the elderly
although their physical health cannot be easily
improved. The elderly will become more energetic
30 and optimistic as they have more interaction
with our volunteer through this community
project.

On the other hand, it can help the
35 elderly home to attract more potential workers or
volunteers. The awareness of caring and respecting
the elderly increase through the 'Old Buddy'
project since the prejudice on elderly is
reduced. Students may consider to join more
40 volunteer service organized by the elderly home or
even become the staff in the elderly home.
This may alleviate the workload of the
staff in the elderly home to take care
of the elderly.

45 Not only can the 'Old Buddy' project

Level 4 exemplar 1

Part A

help our school to develop closer links with
the community, but it also benefit the elderly
home. I hope you will consider my suggestion
50 and the Social Service Club will try our
best to contribute more to the society

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wong

55 Chris Wong

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65

END OF PART A

Level 4 exemplar 1

Part B Question 4

Even if the sun refuse to shine, even if the ocean
left the sea, I still love you. Do you believe this is true?
Is anyone going to love you unconditionally no matter
what happens around? For me, the answer is definitely not,
5 I use to be obsessed with romantic love stories, but then I
finally realized that it is unnecessary in ~~or even~~ real life,
to build up a happy marriage.

Romantic love is something that will not last forever,
but marriage does. In the drama of Romeo and Juliet, they
10 felt in love with each other in a blink of an eye, but this
strong feeling could fade away within a ^{short period of time} ~~1~~; they might
be attracted by each other's appearance or even a
smile. But this feeling will not last forever, as they
don't know each other at all, they don't get to know each
15 other's personalities or habits, cause their love is based on
a sense of feeling. When it comes to reality, such a romantic
love can cause a lot of conflicts, as they don't really
get to know each other. In marriage, a pair of couple
have to face a lot of difficulties in daily lives, while a
20 relationship based on romantic love is not necessary or help
building up a happy marriage.

Marriage is based on getting to know your partner
and you find your partner is suitable to spend the rest of

Level 4 exemplar 1

Part B Question 4

Your life with, but not by a sense of ^{romantic} feeling. In
25 marriage, couple will face different problems, for example,
money, parents opposing their marriage. Couple might fall
in love at the first sight, you might think this is a
start of a romantic love story. In fact, when they
really get married, they might get to know
30 more about each other and find out the bad habits of
each other. As this stage, fantasy will be ruined, the
romantic feeling just simply fade away, you will be
blinded to see your lover's beauty but his other bad
habits. It can clearly show that romantic love is
35 not necessary in happy marriage.

Have you ever heard of Titanic? A ^{famous} romantic love
story of love at first sight. In the story, Jack
sacrificed his life in order to save his lover, Rose.
I used to find this story romantic, but try to imagine
40 that what if Jack didn't die and they get married,
they might face many struggles like difference of social
status, as they are two worlds apart, Rose's father might oppose
their marriage, they might face different problems, which
might easily separate them. Who you had a romantic
45 relationship with might not be the one suits you the
most in a happy marriage.

Level 4 exemplar 1

Part B Question 4

Just like in the story of Romeo and Juliet, what if they didn't die and get married, when they get older, beauty of Juliet would not last forever, would
50 Romeo still love Juliet the same without her attractive appearance? In marriage, a pair of couple will encounter different problems, in which romantic love just make no use at all, that's why romantic love is not necessary in happy marriage.

55 In Chinese traditional culture, the bride might not know who she is getting married with. This is clearly not a romantic love story, but it doesn't mean that they won't have a happy marriage. In fact, many of them are enjoying their marriage.
60 So why there is the point that romantic love is necessary for happy marriage.

For me, I don't need romantic love, but I need to ensure that the one that I get married with is
loyal and ^{and respecting me,} take care of me no matter illness or in vain.

65 Everyone loves romantic love story, but love is something ordinary, it doesn't have to be romantic or passionate, but to be ever-lasting. Getting with someone who I feel comfortable to talk with, just like a friend. As the time turns the page, this friend will always stay

Level 4 exemplar 1

Part B Question 4

70 by my side, to support me. Happy marriage doesn't
need to be built up on romantic love, but a simple one :-

(712 words).

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END OF PAPER

Level 4 exemplar 1

Comments

Part A

Content

This letter addresses the content requirements well. There are well-developed supporting points which illustrate the benefits of the 'Old Buddy' project, especially for promoting the idea of volunteering to students. The writer displays an awareness of the problems faced by the elderly and is realistic about what the project can achieve (e.g. 'although their physical health cannot easily be improved' lines 28-29).

Language

The language is mostly accurate and there is some complexity of phrasing, although attempts to express complex ideas sometimes lead to errors (e.g. throughout the fourth paragraph). The opening paragraph is based on the question prompt but there is enough rephrasing (e.g. the addition of 'in order to' lines 4-5) to make this acceptable. Vocabulary is wide and suited to the task (e.g. 'optimistic' line 30; 'alleviate' line 42). Collocations are quite natural (e.g. 'long-term loneliness' line 25; 'mental health' line 27; 'alleviate the workload' line 42). Register, tone and style are suited to the task. Some expressions are misused, however (e.g. 'On the other hand' line 34).

Organisation

The text is mostly organised effectively, with a clear structure and well-developed ideas. The letter flows well; cohesive devices are not too obvious or overused, and coherence is achieved by the juxtaposition of ideas as well by articles, pronouns and synonymy (e.g. in paragraph 2, 'volunteers' and 'students' are the same). This is not always successful, however (e.g. the beginning of paragraph four, where the reader is not sure what 'it' refers to). The construction 'Not only can the Old Buddy project help our school to..., but it also...' (lines 46-49) is rather long-winded for such a short text, but is just about acceptable. The opening and closing are typical of a letter, although it would have been better to end at 'I hope you will consider my suggestion' (line 49).

Part B

Content

Content sufficiently addresses the requirements of the question. The candidate states the stance clearly in the introduction, that is, romantic love is not necessary for a happy marriage. The candidate then uses the information from different texts including *Romeo and Juliet* and *Titanic* to support his views. An example from China – blind marriage – is cited to support his opinion.

Language

Most simple sentences are accurately constructed and there are attempts to use more complex sentence structures. There are occasional mistakes (e.g. 'the sun refuse' line 1; 'the ocean left the sea' lines 1-2), which do not often impeded communication. The lexical items used are mostly appropriately and moderately wide.

Organisation

The overall structure is coherent and appropriate to the genre and text type. Paragraphing is mostly effective. However, paragraphs 4 and 5 seem redundant as they repeat the points which have been mentioned in paragraph 3, i.e. 'facing problem together'.

Dear Ms Lee,

Proposal of new community project.

I would like to propose one activity, to be carried out in the community project. It is about teaching elderly on using electronic devices. In the following, I will briefly talk about the program and the benefits for the elderly home.

Firstly, our program is called 'Follow the trend'. It is beyond doubt that our students will teach the elderly on using different media in order to follow the latest trend in society. Students can teach them to use computers, smartphones or iPad to let elderly know ^{more about} the advancement of technology. On one hand, it can express students' strength and foster the thought of filial piety. On the other hand, elderly will also be beneficial. They can cultivate closer relationship with the young generation. Therefore, it is a 'win-win' situation. Meanwhile, activity can be held in summer holiday and our students can go directly to the elderly home to participate. The electronic devices can be provided by our school as there are a lot of notebooks and iPads in our school. In order to make the activities

Level 4 exemplar 2

Part A

safely, teacher will be assigned to in-charge the activities.
25 As a result, I would like to propose a activities about
teaching elderly use electronic devices.

Then, this activities can benefit the elderly home a
lot. First and foremost, it can lessen the heavy
30 pressure of the staff. They always take care the
elderly by themselves and there is not much leisure
time for them. If we hold this activities, they can take
a break during the program in order to release their
stress. In addition, the elderly home can enjoy wider
35 source of resources. They obtain more support from
our school and build up a close linkage with us.
Our school always participate in community services so there
is more social works held there. Lastly, the elderly
home will be well known in the district. If they
40 participate in the project, whenever our school has
carried out social work and post posters outside the
school, their name will be printed too. Plenty of the
residents will know their name. Hence, they become
renowned.

45
Lastly, I sincerely hope that you can take my

Level 4 exemplar 2

Part A

activities into serious consideration. Our club really want
to provide a helping hand to community. If you have
further questions about the activities, please feel
50 free to contact me. Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Chns

Chns Wong

55 Chairman of Social Service Club

60

65

END OF PART A

Level 4 exemplar 2

Part B Question 3

5

The Baby Lion

It was a hot and sunny day in Africa, as we would take a jeep to show us around the safari. The safari was
10 beautiful and all animals that I've only seen on television were at the sight of my very own eyes, it felt like I was dreaming. Then as we stop to eat lunch we heard a loud cry of an animal, it wasn't a furious cry, it was more a cry in pain. The guide and my parents decided
15 to look into that mysterious cry.

As we drove more and more closer to the sound, we were able to spot a wounded female lion and next to it was a dead male lion. The guide decided to take a closer look at
20 the wounded female lion, but it was aggressive. Although it could not stand it was still growling furiously at the guide, it was almost as if it was trying to protect something. The guide decided to take action by using a tranquilizer to put

Level 4 exemplar 2

Part B Question 3

the female lion to sleep, as the guide shot the female
25 lion it did nothing but slowly fell asleep, the female lion
could not do anything due to its injury. As the female
lion fell asleep the guide approached the female lion, a
small figure had appeared, the small figure turned out to
be a baby lion. As it turned out the female lion had
30 a battle against the male lion. The baby lion and the
female lion was taken to the clinic of the safari.

We'd assisted the guide in bringing the female lion and its
baby to the clinic. The female lion was taken to the operation
35 room for surgery, and the baby lion was taken into a isolated
glass room for inspection. I've decided to visit the baby lion
at the isolated glass room. To my surprise the baby lion
was sitting there and started to stare at me. The lion
looked so cute and adorable. But suddenly a bad news
40 was announced, the female lion has passed away due to its
injury and bloodloss. I could see the sadness of the baby
lion as if he was able to tell his mother has passed away.
I'd asked the guide what will happen to the baby lion
and she answered that the baby lion would be taken
45 to the clinic and raised in the safari park. I felt very
unhappy and sympathetic towards the baby lion and promised

Level 4 exemplar 2

Part B Question 3

myself that I would come back to Africa and volunteer at raising the baby lion.

50 A month has passed and. I joined a voluntary group that the same incident was located. I felt anxious and scared that the baby lion had forgotten who I was and that something happened to him. The moment the voluntary work has started I saw the same guide
55 that we went with in the safari, I asked her what had happened to the lion a month ago, luckily she was able to recognise who I was and assigned me to the same lion.

60 He was named leo, leo was a lot bigger than the first time I saw him, he was located with abundant lions whose parents that have died. As I enter the room leo had recognised me and leap into me, I felt very relief that he was able to recognise who I was.

65 As we spend most of the time together, our friendship and bond grew stronger. He became a part of a family, I've decided to work full time at this safari, so that I could spend more time with leo.

Level 4 exemplar 2

Part B Question 3

70 As time flew by, Leo and I grew old together but unfortunately Leo was diagnosed with cancer. My heart broke into thousand pieces, as Leo passed away, I was given a good news, upon dying Leo has mated with a female lion and gave birth to one healthy baby
75 lion.

After Leo's birth, Leo's son was diagnosed with a testicular cancer and would not be able to mate. The safari decided that I take full responsibility of
80 the ^{baby} lion. I named him Neo, due to Neo's condition he was labelled difunctional and was decided to be put down.

I felt responsible for Neo, so I've asked the safari if
85 I could take him instead, and they have agreed that I should take full responsibility of Neo, I've brought Neo back in my hometown in Hawaii, my house was located in an isolated island and only my family members were living there. There Neo grew to be as
90 big as his father Leo, and there we grew old together.

END OF PAPER

Level 4 exemplar 2

Comments

Part A

Content

The content is mostly relevant and fulfills the requirements of the task. The 'Follow the trend' project is described in enough detail and the benefits to the students, the elderly and the home are stated. There is an awareness of the practical issues such as the provision of devices and safety, and the benefits to the institution seem to have been well thought out (staffing, resources, reputation).

Language

There is a range of accurate sentence structures, with the simple ones being mostly accurate and errors occurring when more complex structures are attempted. Vocabulary is appropriate for the genre (e.g. 'devices' line 5; 'trend' line 12). Collocations are mostly accurate (e.g. 'cultivate [a] closer relationship' line 17; 'advancement of technology' line 14) or nearly so (e.g. 'take my activities into serious consideration' lines 46-47). Register, tone and style are quite well handled and consistent throughout.

Organisation

The writing is well organised, in general. The opening and closing are suitable to the letter genre. The opening is clear ('I will briefly talk about' line 6) but probably better-suited to a speech. Logical connectives such as 'therefore' (line 18) and conditional 'if' (e.g. line 39) are used appropriately. In general, however, there is an overreliance on cohesive devices, particularly in the second paragraph: numbering ('Firstly' line 10), 'also' (line 16), 'Meanwhile' (line 19) and 'As a result' (line 25) all occur in this paragraph, most at the beginnings of sentences. 'On one hand... on the other hand' (lines 13-15) in the same paragraph is wrongly used. Far from helping the reader to follow the line of argument, such overkill and misuse may lead to confusion. The second half of the letter is better organised.

Part B

Content

Content addresses the requirement of the questions adequately. The story is set in a hot sunny day in Africa when the protagonist and his family hear 'mysterious cry' during a trip. The writer tells the story of a wounded female lion which left behind her baby lion, Leo, who then also fell ill and left the protagonist a playmate Neo. The kitchen scene is not explicitly told until the paragraph starting on line 60, a reunion when the protagonist decided to return to the African safari to be a volunteer.

Language

Run-on sentences are commonly found in almost every paragraph, reflecting the inability of the writer to use punctuation marks. The candidate also mixes up contractions with possessive pronouns, e.g. 'it's and its'. The use of verb tense is sometimes erratic. The lexical items used are moderately wide and they are used appropriately.

Organisation

Events leading up to the kitchen scene are there but are rather mundane. The cohesive devices are used in some parts of the text to link ideas, but overall coherence is fair.

Level 3 exemplar 1

Part A

Dear Ms Lee,

I am writing to propose a new community project that our school can carry out with a home for the elderly in our district. In recent years, our society has a lot of cases about
5 abusing elderly by teenagers. It is a serious problem. And our school has own responsibility to teach the classmates. Here is an activity that could be carried out.

I suggest that our school can have an elderly home
10 visit. According to the survey conducted by our social service club, the result shows that more about 80% of interviewees do not have a well relationship with elderly at home. More about 60% of them want to abuse elderly. From the result, it is clearly that our
15 schoolmates do not have much communication with elderly and they do not have much knowledge about elderly. So, they ignore or even abuse the elderly.

The reason why I suggest our school can have an elderly home
visit, because by visiting elderly, adolescents can have more
20 knowledge about elderly. During the elderly home visit, our social service club will have some communication and games-playing sections for our schoolmates to interact with elderly. By doing so, it can let our students to know more

Level 3 exemplar 1

Part A

about what elderly need and think in daily life to break down the
25 discrimination. Therefore, it can help students to establish a
peer-to-peer relationship.

Apart from that, school is a place to provide an all-round
education. Nowadays, our society promote moral, intellectual, physical,
30 social and aesthetic of student. Since visiting elderly home is more
beneficial than teaching them in lessons. By communicating with
elderly, it can correct the students' view that they may think
elderly is useless, is a kind of afford, to promote their
moral learning.

35 It is clearly to see that elderly home visit is good for our
students. Besides that, this activity also bring a lot of benefits
for elderly home.

40 There are a lot of benefits for elderly home. First and foremost,
it should be noted that it will bring a lot of happiness to the elderly
home. As we known, no much people visit the elderly home every
day because of the jam-packed schedule. The elderly in elderly
home may lack of caring and love. So, if we have the elderly
45 home visit, and have some communication, games-playing
sessions with the elderly, elderly may feel the love and caring

Level 3 exemplar 1

Part A

from the youth. By doing so, it can bring the happiness to elderly home and elderly.

50 Besides that, it can help elderly home to promote the message: 'Caring the elderly more!'. Since the elderly lack of love and caring. And they warrant our love and caring. If having elderly home visit, it can correct the teens' views and the relationship between teens and elderly, which can promote the teens care the elderly nearby more and reduce the abusing elderly cases in society to have a friendly society.

Since abusing elderly by teenagers is a serious problem. And having elderly home visit can beneficial to our schoolmates and elderly home.

60 I hope you can consider this activity.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wong

65 the chairperson of
the Social Service
club

END OF PART A

Level 3 exemplar 1

Part B Question 2

Recently, I've heard a song about opportunities. Well, to put it bluntly, while I was listening to the song, I wonder if this song is write for me because it literally describe the situation I've been through. Have you guys ever missed an opportunity or took an opportunity. If you did, strongly recommend this song for you, it's amazing.

Well, for me of course I did and I guess I'm not the only one, right? So I would like to share with you guys about me feeling about opportunities and the opportunities that I missed and the one I took. You know, because those experience imprinted in my mind.

Let's talk about the one I missed first. Even though it has been awhile, but still I'm so regret about that. I love painting so much, so one day when I was using Facebook. I saw a post about a painting competition and it mention that the winner could get a set of painting materials. At that moment do you know what I was thinking? Bingo, I told myself I'm going to win the competition. I really spare no pain to finish my work because I desire for that kind of painting materials. On that day when I finished my painting, and ready to send it out. I click the page to see how to send it out, at that page you can see

Level 3 exemplar 1

Part B Question 2

lots of paintings and I found that the participants only
25 need to upload on the internet. But you would have
never guessed what have I done. Well, I didn't upload
my painting because: when I saw those paintings on the
page, I just thought it was impossible for me to
win the prize, so I gave up and I missed the chance.
30 After that, I was extremely regret, I kept asking
myself why didn't just give it a try? But there's
no use cry over spilt milk. You must think that I'm
such an idiot, right? If you were me, you would do the
same things as I did when you saw the paintings. But I've
35 learnt the lesson. No matter what, I should give it
a try first. Therefore, I took the opportunity this
time.

After few weeks later, the page ^{has} posted another competition
about writing short story and of course, this time also
40 has an attractive prizes, I'm ~~so~~ kind of interested in
writing so I decided to join it! But this time, I
didn't hesitated I just click 'send', I kept telling myself
why not just give it a try? There's no hard feeling
~~at all~~ ^{at all}. Guess what? Few days later I got an email
45 said I won the prizes! Unbelievable, right? I'm
glad that I have send it out. If no I would not

Level 3 exemplar 1

Part B Question 2

have win the prizes!

What I'm trying to tell you guys is that actually
50 there are numerous of chances for us to grasp in every
single day, but the point is do we capture it or just let it
all slip away? Once you miss the opportunity, you may
regret, you may blame yourself for the stupid decision
you have made. But the most important thing is did you
55 learn from it? If no, then you know what? the rest
of your life you would only regret but not even try
to take a chance.

Nothing comes easy, once you got the opportunities,
60 you need to hold it tight and don't let it slip
away! Hope you guys enjoy this and I highly recommend
this song; See you next time, Bye!

65

?

Level 3 exemplar 1

Comments

Part A

Content

The content is relevant in that it relates to an 'elderly home visit' but the proposed activities could also take place with old people in their own homes: not until line 38 do we learn that the visit is indeed aimed at a home for the elderly. The candidate's reference to a survey in paragraph two is good, but it is not believable that 'about 60% of them want to abuse elderly' (lines 12-13). Also, it is unlikely that a school club would be able to undertake this kind of survey and (fictional) academic research should have been cited instead. The text mostly stays on topic, but does get sidetracked with a list of the characteristics of an all-round education (lines 28-30). There is some awareness of audience e.g. in the use of the language of persuasion.

Language

Simple sentences are generally accurate and there are attempts to use more complex sentences, but these are not always successful e.g. the sentence beginning 'Since' (line 30) is incomplete without its main clause, and this has implications for coherence. The vocabulary is simple but appropriate. There are basic errors (e.g. 'as we known' line 42; 'lack of caring' line 44), combined with examples of good (if sometimes misspelled) collocations (e.g. 'first and foremost' line 40; 'jam-packed scheldue' line 43). Understandability is not seriously affected by the errors, though e.g. we know what the candidate means when they call the relationship 'peer-to-peer' (line 26) even though this is obviously a misnomer. The tone and style are mostly appropriate.

Organisation

The text is quite easy to follow and the connections between ideas are usually made, if not always logical. The letter flows quite well, although there are some awkward parts (e.g. 'And' used at the beginning of a sentence, line 5). 'By doing so' is good for introducing benefits (line 23), but in general these benefits are vague and only loosely connected with the proposed activities. Some parts of the text are incoherent, e.g. the beginning of par. 4 'Apart from that, school is a place to provide an all-round education': it is not clear what 'that' refers to (the idea of the visit? The peer-to-peer relationship?). The use of a transitional paragraph (par. 5) is helpful, but the candidate repeats this with the first sentence of the following paragraph, meaning that lines 37-40 say the same thing twice.

Part B

Content

The content just satisfies the requirements of the question. Some ideas are not well developed and the candidate does not give much elaboration on the grasped opportunity. He states that he applied for the contest and won the prize but details are not covered. The candidate has demonstrated a certain level of awareness of audience, for example in his use of 'you guys' throughout the blog, and some questions are used to interact with the reader.

Language

Some simple sentences are accurately constructed but there are sentence-based errors in many complex sentences, for example, the wrong use of verb form in 'if this song is write for me because it literally describe the situation...' (para. 1); agreement in 'I didn't hesitated ...' (para. 4.)

Organisation

Overall structure is mostly coherent and appropriate to the genre of the text; for example, some short sentences are used, which is in line with the text type. The cohesive ties are used to establish a link between paragraphs but they are not used in a very sophisticated way.

Level 3 exemplar 2

Part A

Dear Ms Lee,

I am writing to propose a new community project for the elderly home.

The project is called 'Let's Cook' project and should be held in summer as our student will be free and at the 'Happy Elderly Home' near our school.

During the project, student and elderly will form groups and learn how to cook in the class. The reason for the theme — 'cooking' is because student nowadays seldom have chance to cook as there is no cooking class in our school anymore. For the older generation, almost everyone know how to cook so that the elderly can give the skill of cooking to our student and they can interact with each other. We could also invite some good great chefs who are * professional in cooking to hold the class in order to improve the intelligent of cooking for the classmates too. It is believed that the project can really bring actual benefits to the elderly.

More over, elderly can ~~but~~ get advantage from the ~~project~~ lesson. ~~Elderly~~ ~~with~~ ~~see~~ Currently, some elderly are treated badly which we can always find the related news in the newspaper. 'We are useless'

Level 3 exemplar 2

Part A

~~seems to~~ seems to be in the mind of ^{the} a lot of elderly.

25 Our project can change this image because they can still teach the next generation what they are talented. During the ~~prof~~ class, elderly and ~~te~~ teenager can have a face-to-face communication and interaction. ~~The~~ The elderly may talk about the history of ~~the~~ Hong Kong and living
30 standard in the past and teens may ask them some questions. ~~At~~ After the lesson, they ~~may~~ could be friend so the elderly may live more positive than ever and build up a cheerful personality. Furthermore, inviting elderly to the project may bring out the idea loud
35 and clear that 'Society never ignored the need of the elderly!'

In conclusion, The above is my ~~ex~~ suggestion on the new community project. I hope ~~they~~ it is useful. Moreover, developing a closer link with the community is ~~my~~ my duty as
40 a chairperson of the ~~the~~ Social Service Club. I will keep trying to do my best for the community.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Wong

Chairperson of the Social Service Club.

45

Level 3 exemplar 2

Part B Question 9

7th April, 2017

Dear Editor,

I am writing to talk about my opinion towards the working attitude of the Hong Kong fresh university graduates. Nowadays, many people unsatisfied with the working performance of these fresh university graduates as they were ^{given hope} to take responsibility, and ~~can~~ contribute to the society. However, they cannot do so. Most of the unsatisfied people complain that it is because of their working attitude. They are less hard working and less willing to face challenges. But I strongly disagree with their opinion.

In recent years, there is a term called 'Millennial Generation'. It refers to people born in 80s and 90s. The characteristic of ^{this} generation is to have a better living environment than the previous generations. The nowadays Hong Kong fresh university graduates are also belong to 'Millennial Generation'. People state that the well living environment is the major reason to cause the less willing to face challenge of these fresh graduates. I do not think it is a great stands. Although these fresh university graduates may have a great living environment and wealth, they still have to face challenges since they were young. As academic result is ^{more than the past} being the first priority of parents, student have to keep their result well. They are dealing with pressure all the time, including ^{in recent years} pressure from parents, teachers and examination. It helps turning them ability to face challenges. According to a research, there are only 18% of students can achieve university. Besides of ability, there must to face the challenge of examination is also strong. Therefore, I think these fresh university graduates are willing to face challenges ~~instead of~~ ~~it~~ instead of escaping from it.

Since Hong Kong has turned into a knowledge-based economy, it becomes a developed city. The living cost has increased sharply. In order to afford for such a high cost,

Level 3 exemplar 2

Part B Question 9

- those ~~the~~ fresh university graduates will work hard to gain as much as possible.
- 25 Besides of living cost, Hong Kong has ranked the highest price of housing in global. Therefore, many fresh graduates will set to buy a flat as a goal. This goal is also a motivation for them to work hard. There is a case happened ~~a~~ few months ago. ~~There~~ There is a fresh university graduate, who started working as a property agent. He aims to buy a flat within a ~~1~~ year. And he has done it ~~to~~ before the deadline because he
- 30 work hard to gain ~~the~~ for more commission. It shows that the large daily expense and a place to live will motivate these fresh graduates to keep working hard. I can't think of any reason to let them ~~to~~ less working-hard. As the daily cost would only be higher than the past, these fresh graduates will have to work harder and harder to maintain a normal life. They should not be less working-hard than the past graduates.
- 35 As ~~the~~ the HKSAR Government set up several programmes to attract foreign talents, especially from mainland, there is a more keen competition for a job position than the past. The unemployment rate has raised to around 5%. The job position is becoming more valuable. Therefore, the local ~~1~~ fresh university graduates has to be hardworking to ~~the~~ ~~is~~ give a great image to the manager and avoid from being fired. The
- 40 competition is even becoming more serious in financial industry as it is usually a better well-paid job. Just in last week, there is a Hong Kong citizen who won a reward of the top 1% sales in the world. And he is just 26 years-old. He mentioned that he wanted to work ~~a~~ for a insurance company ~~since~~ since he was young. He succeed immediately after he had graduated from university. He also mentioned the day of interview, there were
- 45 hundreds of people fighting for less than 10 places. The huge competition ~~is~~ makes him to do whatever it takes to keep the job. He always works until 4am and never give up

Level 3 exemplar 2

Part B Question 9

even to feel humiliated by people. As you can see the keen competition for a job position motivate people to work hard. As mentioned, the competition becomes more huge in recent years, the local fresh university graduates have to work hard to keep their job. They will only work harder than the past graduates.

50 These are reasons for me to disagree the opinion of fresh graduates becoming less hard-working and less willing to face challenges. I think the nowadays environment will only force them to turn into a more hard-working person. Hope you can watch and agree with my points.

55 Yours sincerely,
Chris Wong

60

65

Level 3 exemplar 2

Comments

Part A

Content

The idea of having a cooking-related project is probably sensible, and the twist is that the elderly will teach the students rather than the other way round. As is common in candidate work, the likely benefits of the project are somewhat exaggerated, but at least there is evidence that the details of the project have been thought out, and a sensible rationale is given (demonstrating that old people are not 'useless' line 23). The idea of inviting great chefs is something of an afterthought, and not developed, and should probably have been omitted, however.

Language

The letter contains many complex sentences, but this complexity is a source of error (e.g. relative clause lines 22-23). There are also errors of more basic kinds (e.g. part of speech). Vocabulary is suited to the task (e.g. 'interact' line 13) and collocation is generally accurate (e.g. 'form groups' lines 7-8; 'face-to-face communication' line 28; 'living standard' lines 29-30) although there are some incorrect examples (e.g. 'get advantage' line 20; 'give the skill of cooking' lines 12-13). 'It is believed' line 17 is grammatically correct but using the passive voice here is unexpected. Apart from this, tone is maintained throughout and the modality is mostly correct.

Organisation

The letter is easy to follow, in general but the end of the first paragraph in particular suffers from coherence problems. The fourth paragraph has a chronological structure and clearly explains what will happen during the class and after it. 'In conclusion' (line 37) is perhaps more suited to an essay than a letter. The rest of the final paragraph is messy because of the unnecessary reference to the writer's duty as the chair of the social service club, which lend an unnecessarily personal note.

Part B

Content

Content just satisfies the requirements of the question. Ideas are mostly about 'the hardworking issue', showing a partial fulfillment of the task requirement.

Language

Occasional attempts are made to use more complex sentences, e.g. 'It shows that the large daily expense and a place to live will motivate these fresh graduates to keep working hard' (line 30); 'As the daily cost would only be higher than the past, those graduates will have to work harder and harder to maintain a normal life' (line 32). There are quite a number of grammatical errors.

Organisation

Organisation is basically clear. Overall structure is mostly coherent and appropriate to the genre and text type.

Level 2 exemplar 1

Part A

Dear Principal Lee,

I am Chris Wong, and I am going to write a letter to you to propose a new community project that the school
5 can carry out with a home for the elderly cause our school would like to develop closer links with the community.

Firstly, I would like to describing one activity that could be carried out, is that we can hold a activity to
10 let our students cook a dinner for elderly. I have a idea of the activity's name, it call "Cook With Love".

We can train F.4-5 ^{around 20} students who want to join this activity. For example, train them how to communicate with
15 elderly, teach them should be patient, politely. Also tell them some elderly may have high pressure, or other healthy problem, so they should not cook too sweet, too salty or too oily. And the most important thing is because the students will cook at elderly's home, so we have to set up a
20 group to support, so that in case we can help them.

Secondly, "Cook with Love" can let the elderly feel warm, because maybe some of them are live without their son or

Level 2 exemplar 1

Part A

daughter, so when our member of students talk with them, they
25 will feel more happy. Also when the activity are over, they can
still contact each other, it can let our students can
know more about elderly, and know how to take care
about them. So that the elderly ~~it~~ will not feel boring
when they at home, also can encourage ~~them~~ them to join
30 more community activity.

I ~~I~~ hope you can consider to accept my project, I
really want my project can become a activity to help
our community ~~ed~~ elderly. Please let me know if I need
35 to improve my project better.

Yours Sincerely,
Chris Wong
Chairperson of the Social Service Club.

40

45

Level 2 exemplar 1

Part B Question 6

Good morning everyone ,

I'm Chris Wong , the captain of the debate team . Today I am going to talk about 'Watching TV Makes US Smarter'. What do you think about TV ? Do you think watching TV is meaningful? Some people think that watching TV is meaningful since it will waste us times. However, I think that watching TV is useful for us. There are three reasons to explain why I think about that.

First, we can get a lot of information during we ^{are} watching TV. Taking the news report as an example, we can get some news or information about the world and our country. We can get the news clearly, fastly and easily. We don't need to do some research when we watch TV. It can make us know about the world and it can make us more smart. as we can get a lot of information.

Second, we can learn from the TV drama. Nowadays, there are a lot of TV drama is very meaningful such as the educational drama. In addition, there are some background message in the TV drama. For example, the background message tell us should not drug addict. Moreover, the TV drama teach us how to say no with the drug. Furthermore, some characters can be the role model. We can learn from the role model in the TV drama. Therefore, we can learn a lot of

Level 2 exemplar 1

Part B Question 6

in the TV drama to make us be the smarter.

25

Undoubtedly, some people may think that we cannot learn the useful skills in the TV Drama. Nowadays, the TV drama only talk about loves. They can't learn some useful skills when they are watching TV. However, we can learn the life skills in the real TV show. Taking the cooking show as an example, there are teaching us how to cook the foods, I think it is useful for us. After we watch the cooking show, we can learn the cooking skills. Moreover, there are some travel shows, we can learn how to plan our trips. In the travel show, it will give some idea to you. As a result, we can be smarter as we can learn some skills of daily life.

Finally, thanks for your listen. I hope that my views can give you some information about TV. In my view, watching TV not only we can get more information, but we also can be the smarter.

Thank you.

45

Level 2 exemplar 1

Comments

Part A

Content

The letter includes a description of the proposed activity and a rationale but omits the benefits to the elderly home. The activity (cooking) seems to be a sensible one for the target audience but there are few details of how it might work. Instead the letter tells the principal that the project will involve telling 20 students to be patient and polite, not cooking things that are too sweet or salty, and setting up a group support system. While all of these ideas are sensible in themselves, the first two seem to be minor details which would be better left to the programme itself to take care of, while the third is left undescribed. The fourth paragraph also has some good ideas, but there are too many of them and they are different in nature and detail e.g. 'let the elderly feel warm' (line 21) seems to be metaphorical, and contrasts with 'without their son or daughter' (lines 23-24), which is unnecessarily specific, and 'they will feel more happy' (line 25), which is simplistic as well as ungrammatical. The benefits are thus overstated, and how these benefits are related to the proposed activity is not clear e.g. 'Also when the activity are over, they can still contact each other, it can let our students can know more about elderly, and know how to take care about them' (lines 25-28).

Language

There are errors of different kinds here and they occur in all sentences. Much of the first paragraph and other key lexis come from the question prompt. Although there is some attempt to paraphrase, it is not very successful. Modality is restricted to 'can', which occurs several times and is used correctly, and one occurrence of 'have to' (line 19), which is inappropriately forthright for the context. None of the longer multi-clause sentences are correct and the candidate does not seem to be able to use connectives such as 'also', 'and', 'so' and 'because' (e.g. the sentence in lines 18-20, which is not connected well to the previous sentence or internally). The overuse of 'I' and the repeated references to 'my project' (lines 32, 33, 35) at the end of the letter give rise to an inappropriately personal tone.

Organisation

There has been an attempt to structure the writing with numbering, but this is unhelpful to the reader, and not in keeping with letter conventions. 'Firstly' (line 8) seems to mean only 'the first point I think I need to write about', the name of the proposed activity, and there is then an unnumbered paragraph containing three 'examples' before 'Secondly' (line 21), which links to a paragraph on benefits, also containing several points. The overall impression is therefore one of disorganisation. Coherence is not helped by the redundancy (e.g. 'I am going to write a letter' line 3; 'I would like to describing one activity that could be carried out' lines 8-9), which serves only to remind the reader that this is an exam answer rather than a real letter. The end of the letter is appropriate in that it looks to future action, but the final sentence asks the reader to do the wrong thing.

Part B

Content

There are some relevant ideas about learning information and useful skills (e.g. cooking and travel tips) but the second argument about what exactly can be learned from TV drama is unclear. The text would have oriented readers to the topic more effectively if the candidate had been able to illustrate how the messages could help develop critical thinking and make the right decisions (e.g. 'say no with the drugs').

Language

Short simple sentences are generally accurate but grammatical errors appear in longer and more complex sentences, e.g. 'In my view, watching TV not only we can get more information, but we can being the smarter.' Other examples of errors include the following: 'We can get the news clearly, fastly,' (lines 12-13); 'the background message tell us should not drug addict.' (line 20); 'Undoubtunly, Some people...' (line 26); 'Finally, thanks for your listen.' (line 38)

Organisation

Parts of the text are generally defined. The focus of the second argument is unclear, affecting overall flow of ideas. Some cohesive devices are used to link ideas: 'In addition', 'As a result', etc. Coherence is sometimes affected by inappropriate use of pronouns. For example, in 'Nowadays, the TV drama only talk about loves. They can't learn some useful skills' (lines 27-28), what the pronoun 'They' refers to is unclear. Instead of summarising his views on 'watching TV makes us smarter', the candidate ends his speech with 'I hope that my views can give you some information about TV' (lines 38-39). This is confusing and the conclusion should have been made about 'watching TV', not about 'TV'.

Level 2 exemplar 2

Part A

Dear Ms Lee,

I am Chris Wong, the chairperson of the Social Service Club. I am proposing about a new community project to develop closer links with the community.

First, I suggest we can describing a activity about singing. The aim of the activity is that helping the elderly have more connect with our society.

10 Nowadays the elderly always think the society do not need them and they do not have any skills are useful. This activity can help them join into the society and give a chance to them to show off their talent. Also this activity not only need

15 them singing to communicate with others to met friends, also it can give the people of society know more elderly problems, such as lonely live elderly and some healthy problems.

20 Other that, I think the benefits for the elderly home, when we go to visit them, we can help the elderly to know more their daily life and what does the elderly need to learned, for example

Level 2 exemplar 2

Part A

25 some elderly home are dangerous, so we need to
teach them how to use their home products
right, to reduce some dangerous things. So I think
the benefit for the elderly home have a lot.

30 This propose is our Club idea, ^{we apologize} when I
have some mistake,

Chris Wong

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Level 2 exemplar 2

Part B Question 2

Is that opportunity knocks on the door once true? Is that dream
can't be success? No, everything will be fine, will be all right!

5 In society, Everyone those have a chance to have their
own opportunity, become a superstar, become a love writer
or even become CEO. ^{However} The problem is that do you care about
10 your opportunity? In this moment, would you capture it or
just let it slip?

15 I'm a lucky person as I think. Another I missed my
opportunity before, I got one more opportunity to wait for
me.

20 Two year ago, I'm the captin of my school basketball
team. To win the competition, we spent a lot of time to training

Level 2 exemplar 2

Part B Question 2

day to night, day to night. No matter how hard, no matter
25
how tired. We never give up our dream - became the number 1.

However everything was over, just because of
wake up late didn't have enough member to fight, therefore
30 me. In the final competition we lost. That mean our
dream was end by myself, because of my lazy, because of my
waked up late. It disqualified me, disqualified my team to win the
35
Competition. Therefore I missed my opportunity, can't lead my
team to victory and got fired after the competition.

40 However, we need to know opportunity not only
need some
need hard-working but also lucky. After losted the competition
I also losted my spirit to play with basketball. It made me
45
scared, made me want to escape. Based on this situation,

Level 2 exemplar 2

Part B Question 2

My best friend Peter bring me to see the social worker.
After their analyse, their support. I try to give up basketball
50 and getting interest by guitar. Try to relax myself when
I am enjoying music. Yes It success. I like to enjoy the guitar
55 It seem he dancing with me which make me love this.
Now. I get my opportunity because I set up a band
with Peter. To make everyone enjoy music. To share music. That
60 are my opportunity. Use my life to make music become
blight.
65 Well. I took my opportunity now. What about You?
Although we face failed, face many difference problem
make us feel upsad, want to give up. However remember

Level 2 exemplar 2

Part B Question 2

70 that we still have hope. To give us power. Opportunity are not
common and simple. Therefore we need to improve ourself. Become
more perfect, increase the percent to catch your own opportunity.

75 In this society. Everyone can have ample opportunity, but the
main point is that don't give up. It must be very hard to success.
always remember

80 Therefore keep the heart to improve yourself. Work hard play
hard. Final you will get you opportunity and start your
new life.

85

90

END OF PAPER

Level 2 exemplar 2

Comments

Part A

Content

The letter proposes a realistic activity, singing, but it does not give any details and overstates the benefits to the elderly and to the 'home'. Several benefits are mentioned (e.g. 'more connect with our society' line 9) but these are vague and the candidate does not say how they relate to singing. There is a possibility that the topic was misinterpreted since 'home products' are mentioned (line 25) and the benefits to the home are in fact personal ones (e.g. 'reduce some dangerous things' line 27).

Language

There are grammatical errors of different types in all sentences and the vocabulary is limited in range. There are some correct and appropriate phrases (e.g. 'can help them' line 12) but collocations are nearly always incorrect e.g. 'join into the society' (line 12), which uses the wrong verb (and has a redundant article).

Organisation

The opening is appropriate to a letter and reads quite well. There are some discourse structuring devices but these are not used very effectively. There is a 'First' (line 7) but no 'second' or subsequent points. 'Other that' (line 20) is unclear. The final apology is polite enough but not really suited to the purpose of writing. While this looks like a letter, and can be followed, the overall impression is one of incoherence.

Part B

Content

Content just fulfills the requirements of the question. The candidate mentions one opportunity he missed (his basketball team being disqualified from competition because of his laziness) and the opportunity he grasped (learning how to play the guitar and forming a band with Peter). However there is not much elaboration on the opportunities.

Language

Some short simple sentences are accurately constructed but grammatical mistakes appear in almost every sentence, which often hinders communication. Spelling is a problem throughout and there are problems with punctuation and capitalisation.

Organisation

Parts of the text reflect some attempt to organise. There are attempts to use discourse markers to link sentences but cohesion is sometimes fuzzy.

Level 1 exemplar 1

Part A

Dear Ms Lee,

I am writing to propose a new Community project. It can promote ~~the~~ student communication skill. It can change their ~~was~~ relationship. The school promote student mark only, but they ~~forget~~ do not focus on the community. I suggest Sport Day can carry out with a home for the elderly.

10

First, It promote the communication skill. Sport Day have different exercise. Student can join the competition to make new friend. Because many student always focus on learning. They no time to make new friend. Sport Day can give space and time to student. Also, It give chance to student promote skill.

Second, Sport Day can change the relationship. The students do not develop the elderly people benefit. The elderly people can show own ability though the sport competition. It is opportunity for the elderly to make new friends. Also, If the

Level 1 exemplar 1

Part A

elderly do not join Sport Day, they may 'lose
25 a chance to make new friend.

Third, Students have time to exercise. Students
have a lot of homework so they no time
to exercise. It product the pressure of for
30 student. They do not go to school. Only want
to stay home. Sport Day has ~~spe~~ space to
exercise. It can solve the pressure.

Best Regards
35 Chris Wong

40

45

Level 1 exemplar 1

Part B Question 8

Dancers Are Not Athletes?

Some people know sport can make them health. Sport some benefits are not only make them health and it can keep fit to make appearance condifance. Look like swimmer or basketball players, they are athletes. But why dancers is not athetes. I am a member of the school's dance team. I have some point to support the dancers as athletes.

The same as other sport

Dance can physical strength and skills is the same as other sport. It need jump and run, maybe together to being. This move can make us stronger muscles, keep fit and have beautiful appearance too. Dance is exerices too. It can make us health. And Dance is skill, it is need to learn. So Dancers is athletes too.

Dancers need training

Dance is skill. If you need to become a dancers is need to learn skill. It is need dancer coach to teach dance skill. So it is the same as other sport, it need self-discipline and training.

Level 1 exemplar 1

Part B Question 8

About health: Dance is exercise

- 25 A lack of exercise is lead some health problems such as :
diabetse , high blood pressure and heaht disease. Dance
can conductive for the health. It can get rid of
negative emotions and make us happy. No wonder why it
can also release our pressure. Other sport is exercise too.
30 So dancer is athletes too.

Dance is team work sport

- Dance can do with other people. It can make
team work up and with dance team firendship up. It look
35 like basketball.

Dance need pay attention for sately

- Dance is a sport , It need skill to do . So If
dancer do not pay attention for sately , he will easy
40 injuck . So dance is neet coach to tell our how to
safely to dance.

- In conclude , Dancer is athletes the same as other
sporter . For example : swimmers or basketball players. Swimmers
45 and basketball are athletes. Why dancer is not
Eraditionally thought of as athletes? Because dance is

Level 1 exemplar 1

Part B Question 8

50 sport too. It can make our health too. It can physical
strenght and skills. It need self-discipline and
training too. So I support dancers as athletes.

55 I hope you can post for your school
magazine.

60

65

Level 1 exemplar 1

Comments

Part A

Content

The suggestion of having a sports-based event for this target audience shows a lack of consideration of the target participants. Some of the content is relevant but the benefits for the home itself are not addressed and other benefits are mentioned only in very vague terms. Awareness of the audience seems to be very limited.

Language

The sentences are short, especially at the end of the letter, and the grammar and vocabulary are simple, with numerous errors (e.g. articles, incomplete sentences). There is lots of repetition (e.g. 'It can promote/change/carry out' par. 1). There is some evidence that the candidate is able to use 'can' as a modal auxiliary e.g. 'Sport Day can change the relationship' (line 19), but the usage is not consistently correct – the simple present tense is often used – and this is the only evidence of persuasive language.

Organisation

Numbers are used as the macro-structuring device and 'it' is used to link ideas; 'also' recurs (lines 16, 23). Other than this and the paragraphing, there is little sense that the text has been consciously organised.

Part B

Content

Content shows very limited attempts to fulfill the requirements of the question. Instead of using the headings given, the candidate uses his own headings e.g. 'The same as other sport' (line 10) and 'Dancers need training' (line 18). There are some relevant ideas but most are not developed. The ending paragraph encouraging readers to 'post for your school magazine' is inappropriate for the context, indicating the candidate is not entirely clear about the task requirements.

Language

Grammatical errors frequently impede meaning. Few sentences are accurately constructed. There are a lot of spelling errors, e.g. 'condifance' (confidence) in line 5.

Organisation

Attempts to organise ideas in paragraphs under somewhat inappropriate headings make the discussion fuzzy. Some use of cohesive devices to link ideas, e.g. so, and, if, for example, 'In conclude'.

Level 1 exemplar 2

Part A

Dear Ms Lee,

I am the chairperson of the Social Service Club in our school. The school would like to develop closer links with the community. So I am going to write a letter to you. In letter, I have some idea is about describing one activity could be carried out and identifying the benefits the elderly home.

First, I think we can describe a volunteer of this activity, it is visit elderly home. In this activity can improve student and elderly relationship. In the activity, students can touch different elderly. They can know elderly's needs and they can learn how to community with people. I think this opportunity can change their thinking. Make them know in this city have lot many people or elderly want our help.

Then, in this activity's benefits are not elderly go out, it our students will go the elderly home to help them. We will bring some life's things such as a bottle watch or rice. Because some elderly are independent, they have not energy to bring this things, it so have.

Finally, our Social Service Club hope principal can say 'Yes' to develop this activity. Thank You for your watching.

Level 1 exemplar 2

Part A

Your faithfully,

25 Chris Wong

Chris Wong

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Dear Editor,

We can see graduates graduating from different university in Hong Kong every year. They then find suitable job. But they are not usually less hard working and less willing to face challenges compared to those in the past, let's me give some my advisable views.

A majority of fresh graduates work hardly in order to make a living. They may have a lot of job in workplace, making feel hard. But they still keep hard-ward, they would like to get more money. Some graduates' parent may be elderly, who not work in workplace now. For they would like to give more money their parents, they also need to spend money in their life. They willing work in workplace for long time. Thus, this is hard-working behaviors.

You know, graduates is very hard-working to make a living. Also graduates usually hard-working have another reason. The reason is delay their projects. When they work in company for few months, they cannot

do very high position. They need to
25 work in junior level position. In order that
they can work in high level position,
they would like to more hard-working.
They hope ~~to~~ show achievement to their
boss. This is their dream in the future.

30 Thus, they are very hard-working.
Besides hard-working, they are willing
to face challenges compared to those in
the past. When they join each workplace,
they have consider their ability in the
35 workplace. Hong kong have different type
job to graduates to choose. They are adults,
so they have modern thinking. Any job
have challenges, they know this fact. I
think they have ^{too} considered what challenges
40 happenies in the workplaces. So they are
willing to face challenges compared to those
in the the past.

I have written above three reason
about Hong kong fresh graduates in the
45 workplaces. They all are favorable talents
~~for company~~, and their behaviour is positive

Level 1 exemplar 2

Part B Question 9

for company. I have though above three
reason, making know more my opinion.

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Level 1 exemplar 2

Comments

Part A

Content

The limitations of the language make understanding the content difficult in places but there is evidence that the candidate has at least thought about the question, and given an answer which is relevant to the task. The activity is simply visiting an elderly home, and no further details are given, apart from 'touch different elderly' (line 11) and 'bring life's things' there (line 18), which are unclear. The opening is largely taken from the question prompt. Some benefits are stated but these are not convincing.

Language

The vocabulary is very simple and/or taken from the question prompt, with the odd exception (e.g. 'relationship' line 10). Most sentences have errors which cause confusion. There is hardly an accurate chunk of language above the phrase level, and most key words are incorrectly spelled. The formulaic close is incorrect ('Thank you for your watching' lines 22-23).

Organisation

The letter is recognisable as such and contains distinct paragraphs. A (chronological?) macro-structure is suggested by the use of 'First' (line 8), 'Then' (line 16) and 'Finally' (line 21) to open each paragraph but this does not fit the content. 'The/this activity' is used to connect ideas, which is fine, but the overall impression is of incoherence and there is little sense that the writer has really understood the requirements of the task or has any sense of how ideas should be structured.

Part B

Content

Content shows very limited attempts to fulfill the question requirements. Ideas are repetitive (e.g. the idea 'a majority of fresh graduate work hard to make a living' is mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3) and only intermittently relevant. Content selection suggests very limited awareness of audience.

Language

There are mistakes in almost every sentence. Grammatical errors frequently obscure meaning (e.g. 'work hardly', 'making feel hard', 'so they have medarn thinking'). Spelling is also problematic. The use of 'You know' (line 19) is inappropriate for a letter to the editor, indicating that the candidate is not aware of the conventions for this text type.

Organisation

Parts of the text reflect some attempt to organise topics. There are attempts to introduce, and then have paragraphs of content and then a conclusion. Some use of cohesive devices such as conjunctions 'but', discourse markers such as 'thus' and a phrase 'in order that'. These are not always used appropriately, however.