

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

Young Hongkongers head north to Shenzhen for job opportunities

Can't find your dream job in Hong Kong? Shenzhen's Qianhai economic zone may be the solution but you'd better be prepared to live without Facebook or Twitter.

Herman Leung Ka-hin, who is from Hong Kong, is now working for a finance company in Shenzhen. Leung graduated this year and made the decision to work on the Mainland during his final year of study.

"I believe in the prospect of mainland China economic growth," he said. "It would be better for me to start my career in the Mainland."

Unlike jobs in Hong Kong with well-established career paths, Leung said his boss told him to expect uncertainty in his job because there were new policies and new developments all the time.

Leung said that would give him more opportunities to try something new.

"Before I came here, I worried about working with mainland colleagues as there might be cultural differences," he said. "But after working here, I found that I had been over-worrying and I work with my mainland colleagues well."

Leung said pay levels in Qianhai were similar to Hong Kong but the cost of living was much lower.

One thing he would like to see improve is the traffic. He lives in an apartment in northern Shenzhen provided by his employer and has to spend more than an hour travelling to or from Qianhai due to traffic jams.

Hongkongers working in Qianhai also miss out on some popular social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter, which are banned on the Mainland along with some overseas websites.

Your group has been asked to discuss whether Hongkongers could benefit from working in Shenzhen. You may want to talk about:

- advantages and disadvantages of working in Shenzhen
- whether this will become a popular trend
- advice for people who would like to work in Shenzhen
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Have you ever been to Shenzhen?
2. Would you like to work in Shenzhen?
3. Would you like to live outside Hong Kong?
4. What would you miss if you left Hong Kong?
5. What would be the best thing about working in Shenzhen?
6. What would you find difficult about working in mainland China?
7. Is it more common for Hongkongers to work outside Hong Kong than in the past?
8. Does Hong Kong lose or benefit from young people working in Shenzhen?

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PART A Group Interaction

This blog entry appeared on a website:

Giving money to parents?

I give money to my parents and parents-in-law. I have no problem with it, even though we have a young family just starting out, with all the expenses that go along with that stage in life and having a baby.

I do understand why we do it. It's a respect thing. It's a way to show honour to parents, and with my husband's parents it isn't really about the money or even the amount, it's about the act itself. This is an important way that Chinese parents can express or accept love from their children and it also seems to be an easy way for Chinese families to show and accept love.

Thankfully my parents-in-law are not demanding in their attitude, but we like to give them some money anyway. We give it with a cheerful heart and see it as a blessing to show our love to them in this way. Also, this sort of thing is connected indirectly with the traditions of showing respect for elders, and remembering dead relatives and ancestor worship.

However, I do know people who are in the same position as me, but don't have much money and find it very difficult to give money to older family members. They want to buy a flat or save money, but need to give money to their parents and parents-in-law. Sometimes their parents really need the money, so they have to give up their own hopes to help their family.

It's difficult.

As part of your English class, your group has been asked to write a reply to this blog entry. You may want to talk about:

- reasons people give money to their parents
- whether this tradition should continue in Hong Kong today
- other ways people can show respect to their parents
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What gifts do parents like to get?
2. Other than giving money, how can children help their parents?
3. Would you give money to your parents?
4. Should children discuss money with their parents?
5. Do you think young people today respect their elders?
6. Do parents today still expect money from their children?
7. If you were a parent, would you expect your children to give you money?
8. Should children give money to their parents if their parents are rich?

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PART A Group Interaction

This press report appeared on a webpage:

Book fair fighting fit with martial arts theme

This year's Hong Kong Book Fair will for the first time in 27 years carry a theme – “Chinese Martial Arts Literature”. The theme will focus on the works of various Hong Kong novelists in the genre and help promote Kung Fu themed books and stories.

The fair, which last year attracted more than a million people, runs from July 20 to 26 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai.

Benjamin Chau Kai-leung, from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, noted that the fair has previously paid tribute to one author, but this year they have decided on a special theme for a change.

As part of the theme, a Chinese martial arts literature exhibition will feature in the art gallery with works from martial arts novelists topped by Louis Cha Leung-yung, better known as Jin Yong and eight other authors.

Prized exhibits such as handwritten clips, first editions, screenplay adaptations and comic books from the novelists will also feature.

Chau pointed out that the work of these writers is becoming more popular around the world. “The martial arts world portrayed in these novels embodies the essence of Chinese culture and is an important way of sharing and promoting Chinese culture. People all round the world are interested in Chinese Kung Fu,” he said. “Having a theme makes the fair distinct from previous years, builds excitement, increases awareness of our event and makes this year’s fair feel fresher.”

Tickets are HK\$25 for adults and HK\$10 for children and are available online and at convenience stores.

Your group has been asked to discuss the idea of a theme for a future Hong Kong Book Fair. You may want to talk about:

- why the Hong Kong Book Fair is popular
- whether Chinese martial arts literature was a suitable theme
- a possible theme for the future
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to go to the Hong Kong Book Fair?
2. Do you enjoy reading Kung Fu books?
3. Is the Hong Kong Book Fair a good place to buy books?
4. Do you think the Hong Kong Book Fair will continue to be popular in the future?
5. Who likes the Hong Kong Book Fair more: younger or older people?
6. Would a good theme encourage you to go to the Hong Kong Book Fair?
7. Is the Hong Kong Book Fair a good way to encourage young people to read more?
8. Does Kung Fu adequately represent Hong Kong culture?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a local magazine:

Can you understand Hong Kong if you don't speak Cantonese?

People who live and work in Hong Kong often struggle if they cannot speak Cantonese. It can be simple everyday problems like speaking to a taxi driver or getting served in a restaurant. As a result, recently more and more people are studying Cantonese. Total enrollment for Cantonese programmes grew by about 30% from 1,508 in 2010 to 1,918 last year at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Other institutions also report this trend.

Typical of the increasing number of people studying Cantonese is Jonathan Ma, a 33-year-old English teacher, who was born in Hong Kong but moved to the United Kingdom when he was a child so he never learnt Cantonese. Ma recently began learning Cantonese intensively and he now realises how important it is not just for day-to-day living but also for understanding Hong Kong culture.

While Hong Kong is a city where many people speak English or Putonghua, Cantonese dominates the local language scene and those who are not proficient in Cantonese can feel isolated from local culture, and find it difficult to establish relationships with the many locals who cannot speak the language that they do.

Not having Cantonese limits not only their social circle but also their ability to understand issues that are important to Hongkongers and to integrate themselves into local communities.

You are doing a project on the importance of Cantonese in everyday life in Hong Kong. You may want to talk about:

- problems non-Cantonese speaking people may have if they live in Hong Kong
- advantages if they learn Cantonese
- ways to help people who do not speak Cantonese feel more connected to Hong Kong
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you think it is easy to learn Chinese?
2. Do you know someone who can't speak Cantonese?
3. What can you do to help someone learn Cantonese?
4. Can you tell me a job where speaking Cantonese is a must?
5. Do you think it is more important to read or to speak Chinese?
6. Are adults too old to learn how to speak Cantonese?
7. Do you think Cantonese will become less important in the future?
8. Should more be done to promote the use of Cantonese to non-Cantonese speakers?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in an online newspaper:

Ice Bucket Challenge

Chances are if you've spent any time on social media in the past couple of years, you will have seen people throw a bucket of ice water over their heads to raise awareness for people who suffer from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). If you have, you've taken part in a viral online campaign for a good cause.

Here's how the Ice Bucket Challenge works: someone who wants to participate (or has been "challenged" via social media by a friend) films themselves dumping a bucket of ice water on their head. This person then challenges a friend to do the same in the name of ALS, within 24 hours, and/or donate money to the cause.

"People want to do something for the world. They want to contribute, but they want it to be easy," said Christine Outram, a charity representative. "It's great because you have something that makes you feel good but isn't too hard to accomplish."

The viral challenge actually started when Pete Frates, a 29-year-old American resident diagnosed with ALS, had a bucket of water thrown over his head and he started posting pictures of the challenge on social media with his father's help. The pictures quickly went viral and spread across the internet.

"It is certainly amazing to see how far and wide the campaign continues to spread, increasing both awareness and funds," said Christine. "Since the start of the challenge, there have been more than 307,600 posts on Twitter and public Facebook pages."

Your school is raising money for Hong Kong charities. Your group has been asked to consider if online activities such as the Ice Bucket Challenge would be suitable. You may want to talk about:

- why the Ice Bucket Challenge was so successful
- other online activities you could hold to raise money for charity
- whether your suggestions would be popular
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Have you ever raised money for charity?
2. Would you take part in an activity such as the Ice Bucket Challenge?
3. Who would you invite to do the Ice Bucket Challenge?
4. Apart from raising money, how else could you help charities?
5. Why should students help charities?
6. Should private companies support charities?
7. Is social media the best way for young people to get involved in charity?
8. Which is more important for charities: raising awareness or raising money?

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

Too many signals?

The Hong Kong Observatory was founded in 1883. Back then, it had a number of roles but the most important was providing accurate weather observations and a typhoon warning service. For shipping, which played a central role in the city's development, these warnings were vital.

In the more than a century since its establishment, the agency has evolved due to the changing expectations in the city and so has the number of weather warnings. There are now 21 weather warning signals. During the summer months it is common for warnings to be issued every day of the month and sometimes multiple warnings are issued at the same time.

However, referring to the number of signals now used, Marco Wong Tse-yan, a senior manager for a local fast-food chain, said: "The signals are confusing and not appropriate for modern international businesses; many shops don't even close now for some typhoon signal number eights because the weather might not be too bad." As Hong Kong has become more developed, the effect of the weather on daily life has reduced and not only are businesses questioning the use of signals but some schools also feel they are closing unnecessarily.

An Observatory spokeswoman, answering complaints about the effect warnings have on economic activities, said they make decisions purely on the basis of scientific data, rather than taking into account the impact a No.8 signal would have on businesses.

You are doing a project about the Hong Kong Observatory and you have been asked to discuss how suitable the current signals in Hong Kong are. You may want to talk about:

- the advantages of the current warning signals
- possible problems caused for families, schools and businesses by the current signals
- possible improvements to the current system
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. How do you feel when a typhoon is coming to Hong Kong?
2. What do you do when there is no school because of a bad weather warning?
3. What do most people do during typhoons?
4. How do you feel when the red rain signal is raised?
5. What companies suffer the most from typhoons in modern day Hong Kong?
6. Have you ever been frightened in a typhoon?
7. What should the police do about people going to the beach during Typhoon Number 8?
8. Do you think it is fair for taxis to charge double the fare during a typhoon?

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a health magazine:

EQ or IQ?

What is the difference between Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Emotional Quotient (EQ)?

IQ is a measure of people's intelligence.

EQ is a measure of the ability of people to understand their own or other people's emotions and feelings.

Why is EQ important?

Emotional intelligence is claimed to be more important than traditional measures of intelligence such as IQ. Research shows that 85 percent of your financial success is due to EQ skills, your personality and ability to communicate, discuss, and lead. Surprisingly, only 15 percent is due to subject knowledge.

Why is low EQ a problem?

Many kids today are "emotionally unprepared" to compete in the work environment because of low EQ. Low EQ is linked to violence, drinking alcohol, drug use, obesity and unhappiness.

A survey found that more than half of American students experienced feelings of worry and anxiety, and about a third felt deep depression during the academic year. People with low EQ find it difficult to learn if they do not have the skills to handle their emotions and they don't feel safe and supported enough to talk to people around them.

Why might EQ be falling?

Children develop social and emotional skills through strong family and community links, as well as through free play with other children. But just as parents have become more protective and family size has fallen, then children's free time and face-to-face contact with others have also decreased.

You have been asked to give a presentation on developing younger students' EQ for the school's study support scheme. You are meeting to discuss the topic. You may want to talk about:

- what problems students face which affect their emotions
- why EQ is important
- ways your school can help students to develop emotional intelligence
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Who can you talk to when you have problems?
2. Do your friends discuss their problems with you?
3. Do you like to work in groups?
4. Do you agree that having a high IQ is important?
5. Which is more important: IQ or EQ?
6. How does a large family help develop EQ?
7. Do Hong Kong schools prepare students to have a high EQ?
8. Do you think all successful people have a high EQ?

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a magazine in Hong Kong:

Smartphones blamed as Hongkongers lose interest in the city's libraries

Hongkongers have been borrowing fewer books from public libraries over the past five years, from over 60 million books in 2012 to 55 million this year — with smartphones being blamed for the fall.

The city's education system was also criticised for not developing a love of reading among students. And one cultural commentator said many of the readers visiting libraries were there for the air conditioning or to kill time.

Jimmy Pang Chi-ming, head of publishing house Subculture, said the reading culture in Hong Kong had been bad for years. "Nowadays, Hong Kong people just surf the internet with their phones or tablets whenever they're free," Pang said. "Fewer people read books so there are also fewer new books being published. It's a vicious circle."

That seems to be borne out by the statistics, which showed that the most borrowed English-language adult non-fiction book last year was an old English exam question paper. It was borrowed 9,124 times.

In contrast, according to the department's statistics, the number of times the public libraries' seven e-book collections were used rose from about 142,000 in 2012 to 194,000 times last year.

Most borrowed books 2015	Number of times taken out
The Legend of the Condor (Chinese fiction)	11,094
HKDSE Reading Examination Question Papers (Adult English non-fiction)	9,124
The Five People You Meet In Heaven (English fiction)	1,849

Your group has been asked to provide suggestions on how modern libraries could be made more attractive to teenagers. You may want to talk about:

- what young people currently like about libraries
- reasons many young people don't use libraries
- new activities that might attract more people to use libraries
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. When was the first time you visited a library?
2. Who uses libraries more: adults or young people?
3. What types of books do you borrow from the library?
4. Why are libraries important?
5. How is your school library different from a public library?
6. Do we still need libraries now that we have the internet?
7. How do you think libraries will change in the future?
8. How would the closing of libraries affect the local community?

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

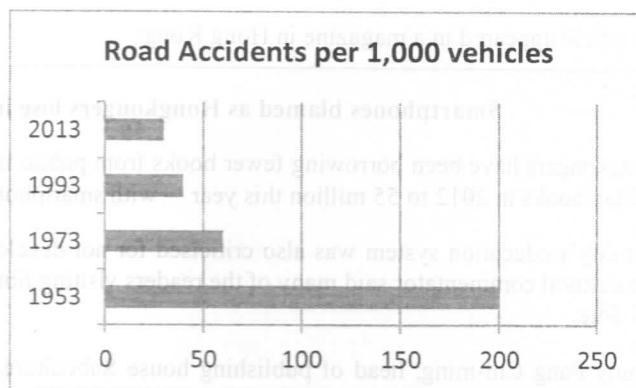
Road accidents and car safety

Cars have become safer as new technology, improvements to roads and better driving have reduced the number of accidents in nearly all developed countries.

Car companies and governments have been making advances in vehicle safety.

Air-bags, cameras, radar, seat-belts, new construction materials, better road design and driver education have all been important reasons for the fall in the number of road accidents.

However, a leading road safety campaigner points out, "As car technology continues to evolve, roads are safer but we still have the problems caused by the people behind the wheel: not using seat-belts, drink-driving, driving while texting — these are problems that the best designers can't solve."



The chart shows the number of road accidents has fallen rapidly in Hong Kong since 1953.

Other problems include pedestrians not following rules, poor lighting and animals running onto roads.

The Transport Police are visiting your school. Your group has been asked to discuss road safety in Hong Kong. You may want to talk about:

- why the number of accidents has fallen in Hong Kong
- some common causes of road accidents
- what people should do to make sure they are safe while using the road
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you think Hong Kong roads are safe?
2. Should schools teach more about road safety?
3. Should bicycles be allowed to use the same roads as cars?
4. What dangerous things do pedestrians do?
5. What can be done to help the elderly be safer when crossing roads?
6. How should we stop people crossing the road illegally?
7. Do you think most Hong Kongers follow road safety rules?
8. Would reducing the number of cars in Hong Kong make roads safer?

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

Music unplugged

Following the death of a 72-year-old man on Sunday during a fight between Leisure and Culture Services Department (LCSD) officials and performers, the Tuen Mun District Council held a meeting to look for more venues for the elderly to enjoy outdoor music performances.

Large crowds of retired people gather at Tuen Mun Park for free musical performances, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. The crowds enjoy singing and dancing to the music. Some performers use electronic music and amplifiers in the park, which is against regulations.

The LCSD received 400 noise complaints from last November to February. The number of complaints dropped to five from February to May after the department strictly enforced the ban on electronic music and amplifiers. However, enforcing the ban has caused trouble between performers and officials. Singing groups complained that singing without amplification was similar to “cooking without salt”.

Tuen Mun district councillor Chan Wan-sang said the department planned to install a HK\$50 million soundproof system in the park's theatre, and allow the use of amplifiers in one area, with noise not exceeding 70 decibels.

Mr Chan urged the department to open up more venues for the elderly people to perform music, saying one area will not be enough. Chan said unused squash courts and community centres should be provided for the elderly free-of-charge to ease the problem.

You are doing a social studies project on “Keeping the Elderly Active”. You are meeting to discuss this issue. You may want to talk about:

- why the elderly enjoy singing in parks
- problems with having outdoor music performances
- ways to overcome these problems
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do older people in your family enjoy singing?
2. What do elderly people enjoy doing in their free time?
3. What is the difference between the songs the elderly enjoy and those the young enjoy?
4. Have you ever seen groups of elderly people singing in the park?
5. Are there activities that are not suitable for the elderly?
6. Why is it important for the elderly to keep busy?
7. Why do some old people prefer to stay at home?
8. Should retirement be something to look forward to or to worry about?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

Tattoo you?	And did you know the legal age for all these?	
<p>It is currently illegal for those under 18 to get tattooed unless the tattoo is performed “for medical reasons by a registered medical practitioner”. This means that even with your parents’ permission, a tattoo artist cannot mark a person under 18. Still, this rule hasn’t stopped some teenagers from getting tattoos in illegal shops.</p> <p>The trend for tattoos amongst youngsters has encouraged many teenagers to seek tattoos by non-legal means before they reach 18. Anushka Purohit, 15, says: “Tattoos make you look cooler, not scary, all my classmates want one.”</p> <p>However, a representative of a Hong Kong school says that students “lack the maturity” to make these kinds of decisions, not to mention that it is against the law.</p> <p>Ross Turpin, a tattoo artist, urges youngsters not to get inked at such a young age. “Most ideas and fads that become internet sensations will fade in time and clients might later regret getting those tattoos.”</p>	Activity	Legal age
	Working age	13
	Marriage	16 (with parents’ agreement)
	Category III film / Driving / Smoking / Tattoo	18
	Working in factories	15
	Being at home alone	16
	Election candidates / Driving large trucks	21

Your class has been asked to discuss whether the various legal ages are suitable. You may want to talk about:

- why the government has age limits for people getting tattoos
- why the age limits differ for different activities
- whether any age limits should be changed
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like tattoos?
2. Why is it dangerous for young people to be home alone?
3. When do you think is the best age to get married?
4. What type of tattoo do you think people will regret the most?
5. What do you think is worse: underage smoking or underage driving?
6. Do you think most people obey the legal ages in Hong Kong?
7. Do you think the government should give more responsibility to teenagers?
8. What age do you think people become adults?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a New York newspaper:

Students withdrawing from society

For nearly three years, Damo Miyawaki didn't talk to his family and friends. He seldom left his bedroom, sleeping during the day and staying up all night, surfing the web and reading Japanese comics. The only time he ever went outside was to eat, something he would do in the middle of the night to avoid any contact with other people.

Damo, now 18, was suffering from a serious health and social condition that is facing many young people in many countries. It causes young people to stay indoors, sometimes for years, watching TV, surfing the internet and reading, avoiding all social contact and often cutting off ties with family and friends. In Japan, around one million people, mostly men between the ages of 15 and 20, are said to suffer from the condition.

This problem is very painful and serious for families, who are unable to communicate with sufferers and face daily problems arising from the condition. Some children refuse to speak to their parents and just wait for food to be placed outside their bedroom door.

It can also affect the economy, with those suffering not working or earning money.

A specialist in this illness, Dr Kato states that, "Much work and social life is now carried out remotely, using technology, and this causes problems but there are also cultural reasons such as a sense of embarrassment and an emotional dependence on the mothers. Often sufferers just feel that there are too many social pressures on them and they decide to withdraw from society."

Your Liberal Studies class is discussing some of the social problems faced by young people today. You may want to talk about:

- why some young people avoid social contact
- why this is a problem for them and their families
- how to overcome these problems
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you prefer to stay at home or go out to meet friends?
2. How much time do you spend alone?
3. Why is it important to talk to family and friends?
4. Why is it difficult for some young people to talk to their families?
5. How can parents better communicate with their children?
6. Does the internet make the problem of withdrawing from society worse?
7. Will withdrawing from society become worse in the future?
8. What are the benefits of spending time alone?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a parenting column of a newspaper in Hong Kong:

Why spoilt kids need a stay in boot camp to toughen up

Here's my prediction for the next growth industry: boot camps for children.

They are very popular with Korean parents, who send their kids off to these army-style boot camps where youngsters are shouted at, made to do difficult exercise, clean toilets, and sleep in basic conditions that shock many of the kids sent there. Parents send them because they are worried that the modern generation is too soft and spoiled.

Research has found that over-protective parenting occurs more frequently in educated and professional households, and that richer children complain more and are less self-sufficient. The recent story of maids going to university halls to clean rooms for Hong Kong students speaks for itself and would seem to corroborate the claim that many Hong Kong students are overprotected and lack independence.

Boot camp forces children to face a difficult and challenging environment on their own in the hope that it will build those skills that the modern generation are often lacking. After two weeks cleaning toilets, eating basic food and running up mountains, parents hope their kids will better deal with managing disappointment.

I've been threatening my daughter with a Korean style boot camp for years, ever since the time we stayed in the Peninsula Hotel, and she argued that the Venetian Macau was preferable. She knows this threat is empty, but honestly, if there were boot camps in Hong Kong, I'd be the first customer.

Your Liberal Studies class is doing a project on the problems faced by children who are spoilt and over-protected by their parents. You have been asked to discuss whether boot camps would be suitable for Hong Kong. You may want to talk about:

- what children might learn in a boot camp
- whether boot camp would be popular with Hong Kong parents
- other methods to encourage students to be more independent
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to go to a boot camp?
2. How would you feel if you were sent to boot camp?
3. Where would be a suitable location for a boot camp in Hong Kong?
4. Are there some children who should not be sent to boot camp?
5. What would be the best age to send children to a boot camp?
6. Why do you think parents spoil children?
7. What problems do spoilt children face when they become adults?
8. Why is the number of over-protected children on the increase?

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a health and lifestyle magazine:

<u>Foods to Enhance Your Mood</u>	<u>Foods to Avoid</u>
<p>✓ DARK CHOCOLATE ♦ People get a nice mood boost whenever they eat a bar of low sugar dark chocolate because of the chemicals in chocolate.</p> <p>✓ PROTEIN ♦ Protein – like eggs, a piece of cheese or a handful of nuts – helps to keep your blood sugar levels steady for enhanced energy and mood.</p> <p>✓ BANANAS ♦ Bananas contain a chemical that makes you feel happy.</p> <p>✓ COFFEE ♦ Drinking a morning cup improves your general sense of wellbeing.</p> <p>✓ BERRIES ♦ Berries which have a deep colour, like blueberries and blackberries, improve coordination, memory function and your mood.</p> <p>✓ FISH ♦ Salmon and other fish reduce worry and depression.</p>	<p>Just as foods can lift your mood, they can also quickly bring it down. Here are the top three foods that can trigger a poor mood.</p> <p>* SUGAR Sugars in junk food, candy and soda can make you feel tired by changing your blood sugar levels.</p> <p>* WHITE BREAD, WHITE RICE AND WHEAT White bread and white rice may negatively impact mood and brain health. Wheat in particular has also been linked to mental health problems in some cases.</p> <p>* PROCESSED FOODS The list of ingredients in processed foods, including instant noodles, fish balls and ham, is a long one. They contain bad fats, artificial colours, monosodium glutamate (MSG), artificial sweeteners and other ingredients linked to bad temper, irritability and poor mood.</p>

Your group is researching ideas for foods that improve the way students feel. You are discussing whether any of the items mentioned in the magazine would be suitable. You may want to talk about:

- foods in schools which are good or bad for your mood
- whether school menus should only offer healthy food
- the benefits of having mood-enhancing foods
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What healthy foods do you eat?
2. Do you think about the health benefits of the food you eat?
3. Are there any foods you don't eat because they are bad for you?
4. Do you worry about eating unhealthy food?
5. Are people today more aware of the importance of healthy food?
6. Apart from food, what else can change your mood?
7. How can you make sure you eat food that is good for your mood?
8. Why are so many foods that are bad for your mood popular with young people?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This blog entry appeared on an education website:

Great teacher = great results?

The great teacher myth is often presented as a simple equation: great teaching gets great results. Many people support it but it is completely wrong.

The great teacher myth sounds plausible. After all, children spend a lot of time at school and we spend a great deal of money on education. By the time they are 16, children have been at school for 10,000 hours, which is often said to be the minimum needed to master a skill. Surely teachers must be the biggest factor in ensuring that all this effort is worthwhile?

The key problem with this idea is when it comes to exams and learning, children are the ones who actually have to do the hard work. Unfortunately, much to the frustration of every teacher – and parent – in the city, children don't always do what they are told, or learn what we attempt to teach them. What's more, some children find school and learning easy and some don't.

Trying to teach anyone anything is difficult unless they actually want to learn, and can do so. Learning is hard work; it requires effort, repetition, practice, mental and physical exertion.

Does that mean that teachers don't matter? Of course it doesn't. They help and provide excellent support, but we should understand they are not the most important factor in educational success.

Your group has to prepare for a debate with the motion: "Good teachers are the most important factor in educational success." 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

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to be a teacher?
2. Do you think being a teacher is a good job?
3. What kind of students do teachers like?
4. What is the most important skill for a teacher to have?
5. Do teachers get enough respect?
6. What characteristics make a good teacher?
7. Does learning require hard work?
8. Have you ever been inspired by a teacher?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper in the UK:

Falling out of love with iPhones?

Apple may be the leading provider of smartphones in China but they announced that they sold 16% fewer iPhones in April 2016 than in April 2015 and made 18% less money from them.

The company said most of the fall was because the Chinese economy was not growing as fast as in the past. China is the second-largest market in the world for Apple products behind the US, and profits in China fell 30%.

In addition to the weak economy, demand for iPhones was also hit by changing fashions. The iPhone is no longer seen as a must have for fashionable young people in China. Asian rivals, which are often cheaper, are now given more equal status.

Researcher Annette Zimmerman wrote last month that the problem was not Apple's alone; pointing out that the price of smartphones in China was still the main problem, even for very inexpensive devices. The majority of Chinese people still cannot afford the price of a smartphone. "Sellers were not able to reduce the price of a 'good enough to use' smartphone lower than US\$50," she said.

Despite the sales decrease, Tim Cook, Apple CEO said "the future of Apple in China is very bright" and promised that the company has some "amazing innovations" for the future.

Your class is doing a project on the topic of "The importance of smartphones in China". You are meeting to discuss the topic. You may want to talk about:

- how smartphones benefit people
- why sales of iPhones did not grow in China in 2016
- whether iPhones will continue to be successful in China
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like Apple iPhones?
2. Are iPhones more popular with young people or older people?
3. Why are people willing to pay a higher price for Apple products?
4. Why do people line up to buy Apple products?
5. Why do you think Apple is so successful?
6. What problems do smartphones cause?
7. Why do people in China like buying American products like the iPhone?
8. How do you think smartphones will change in the future?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

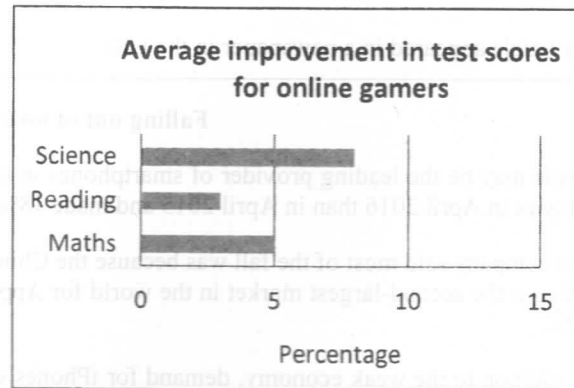
This article appeared in a newspaper in Australia:

Teens who play online games perform better in school

Teenagers who play online games every day are more likely to get higher grades in school, a new Australian study based on the results of 12,000 students has found.

The goal of the study – published in the International Journal of Communication – was to investigate the effect playing online games had on teenagers and whether it affected their education.

Chief researcher, Dr Posso, stated, “Although there may be some problems with students spending too long playing games, it is possible that a number of skills learnt from online gaming help improve knowledge and skills in some important school subjects.”



The reasoning is that online games generally ask players to solve puzzles, which require skills in maths, reading and science. “When you play online games, you’re solving puzzles to move to the next level and that involves using some of the general knowledge and skills that you’ve been taught in the classroom,” Dr Posso added.

The Student Union wants to introduce an Online Games Day at school. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of playing online games
- possible activities for the Online Games Day
- problems you may face setting up an Online Games Day
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you play online games?
2. Would you like your school to use more games during lessons?
3. Do older people worry too much about teenagers playing online games?
4. Do you think online games help your reading and maths skills?
5. What other activities help improve reading and maths skills?
6. Do you agree that students benefit from playing online games?
7. Do you think all online games are beneficial?
8. Will online games become a bigger part of school life in the future?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

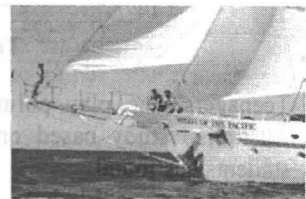
This job advertisement appeared in a newspaper in Australia:

Top working holiday jobs for 18-26 year olds in Australia

Ordinary. Standard. Normal. Is that what you want from your working holiday jobs? We thought not! Which is why we offer some of the most exciting working holiday jobs in the country. Australia Working Holidays are a great introduction to the real culture of Australia. You will learn new skills, meet amazing people, and earn while you do it to fund your travels across the country! Not only are these some of the best jobs in Australia, most of them are a way to an international qualification and will help you to attract job offers for years to come.

Work on a sailing boat in the Whitsundays

"Sail away with us, honey, put your heart in our hands." Work on a boat as you travel to 74 beautiful islands of the Whitsundays. This is a life-changer.



Farm Hand

There are few things more Australian than working on a farm where you'll work hard until sun down, and learn to saddle and ride a horse, work the farm, and even shear the wool off a sheep's back.

Fruit Picking

Picking fruit is a sweet way to make money. Few people realise it, but you can extend your visa by a full 12 months if you pick for a minimum of three months. It's win-win!



Call us on 0333 321 7841 to find out more.

You have been asked to give a presentation on working holidays. You are meeting to discuss the topic. You may want to talk about:

- the advantages of going on a working holiday
- whether the type of jobs in the advertisement are suitable for Hong Kong students
- other types of jobs that are suitable for students
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to go on a working holiday?
2. Would your parents allow you to go on a working holiday?
3. Would you enjoy working on a farm?
4. Is eighteen too young for students to go on a working holiday?
5. Is it a good idea to work in a Chinese restaurant during a working holiday?
6. What skills do you think students should have to enjoy a successful working holiday?
7. What problems might students face working on a remote farm?
8. What are the advantages for countries that employ people on working holidays?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in the student newspaper:

Hong Kong needs more blood donors

Hong Kong needs more people to give blood; and finding new blood donors is a central aim of the Hong Kong Red Cross.

The Hong Kong Red Cross supplies blood to all Hong Kong hospitals and these supplies of blood are vital for the effectiveness of Hong Kong's health services.

The Red Cross is always looking for new donors, but finding enough people to give blood is difficult.

Fortunately, schools and young people are willing to give blood, with over 70% of new blood donors coming from secondary school students. Currently, students over the age of 16 can give blood, with their parents' permission.

Chan Kin-hei, a representative of the Red Cross, said, "We are happy to go to schools at any time, but the schools should make sure that students have enough time to give blood, encourage them to take part by advertising our visit, and arrange for helpers to support our staff."

Chan stated that an important benefit of encouraging students to give blood is that once they give blood, many will continue to do so into their adult life. So not only is it important for the present needs of hospitals, but it is also good for long-term blood supplies.

He added that there were also health benefits for those who give blood: "It's good for the heart, reduces the risk of cancer, and also students get a free blood test to check if they have any health problems."

Your school would like to invite the Red Cross to collect blood from students and staff. You are a member of the Students' Union and the principal has asked you to help organise the event. You may want to talk about:

- why giving blood is important
- how to encourage students to take part in the event
- suitable times and places for the event
- anything else you think is important

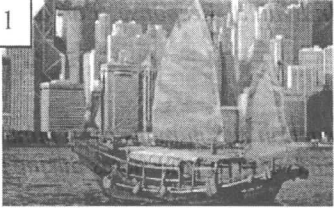
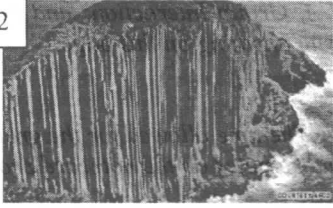
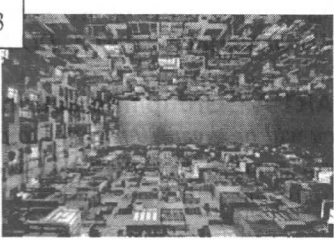


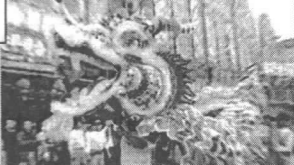
PART B Individual Response

1. Would you give blood?
2. Why do some people like to give blood?
3. How could more adults be encouraged to give blood?
4. Why are some people afraid of giving blood?
5. How can the Red Cross help donors to relax when giving blood?
6. What do students learn from giving blood?
7. Should people be paid to give blood?
8. Should giving blood be made compulsory?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

Below are some photographs of Hong Kong:

<p>1</p>  <p>Victoria Harbour, one of the world's most renowned deep-water harbours, and where the British first colonized Hong Kong.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Hong Kong's Geopark, a UNESCO-listed wonder of volcanic rocks, cliffs and caves. One of Hong Kong's greatest natural attractions, yet hardly known to tourists or even locals.</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>This mind-boggling image captures the soaring apartment blocks in one of the world's most densely populated areas, Hong Kong.</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>One of Hong Kong's heritage attractions, the Chi Lin Nunnery, is a large temple complex of elegant wooden architecture and soul-soothing lotus ponds.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Po Lin Monastery, Lantau Island, Hong Kong. The colossal statue of the Great Buddha sits high on a hill, looking down upon countless visitors from around the world.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Always in motion, Hong Kong offers a diverse and exciting travel experience, featuring Chinese traditions, arts and culture.</p>

Your group has been invited to select one of the above photographs to represent Hong Kong on the cover of a travel book. You may want to talk about:

- what attracts tourists to Hong Kong
- what each picture represents about Hong Kong
- which photograph should be chosen for the cover of the travel book
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Which places do tourists often visit in Hong Kong?
2. Are there places in Hong Kong you would like to visit?
3. What can be done to attract more tourists to Hong Kong?
4. What makes Hong Kong special?
5. Are you proud to live in Hong Kong?
6. Do you agree that Hong Kong is an international city?
7. What do tourists find interesting about Hong Kong culture?
8. What do tourists think about when they hear the name Hong Kong?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

These two Letters to the Editor appeared in a local newspaper:

Too Few Bus Lanes	More Congestion and Pollution
<p>I am writing to ask why there are so few bus lanes in Hong Kong.</p> <p>There is only 22 km of road reserved for buses, yet nearly 40% of people travel to work and school by bus.</p> <p>The heavy traffic means that bus travel is slow, which increases the amount of pollution at our roadsides. Many people avoid using buses because they are so slow.</p> <p>I believe the government should urgently create bus priority lanes. They should also consider introducing extra bus lanes during peak hours.</p> <p>Alternatively they could ask private car owners to pay tolls or apply for a permit to use certain roads.</p> <p>Something needs to be done to decrease bus journey times and make bus travel more convenient.</p> <p>John Wong, Kwun Tong</p>	<p>Hong Kong is a small city and there are limits to the number of roads and lanes we have.</p> <p>If we introduced bus lanes, it would lead to even worse pollution. There would be less space for cars so there would be more traffic jams than now.</p> <p>This would be unfair to people who drive private cars. Many people have to drive private cars for their work. They would have a lot of inconvenience. Taxis, lorries and other road users would also suffer.</p> <p>Hong Kong is just not a place where you can introduce more bus lanes.</p> <p>Peter Li, Wan Chai</p>

Your class is going to debate the motion: 'More bus lanes are needed in Hong Kong.' Your group is preparing for the debate. You may want to talk about:

- whether buses are a convenient form of travel
- whether bus lanes are a suitable solution to traffic congestion
- other solutions to the traffic congestion problems
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like taking the bus?
2. What don't you like about buses?
3. Do you prefer the bus or the MTR?
4. How do you spend the time when you are on the bus?
5. Do you think Hong Kong has a good bus service?
6. Do you think road congestion is bad in Hong Kong?
7. What kinds of improvements can be made to bus services?
8. Are buses the cause or solution to the traffic congestion in Hong Kong?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This Letter to the Editor appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

It is important to fight age discrimination

In a recent report, the incoming head of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), Hong Kong's anti-discrimination office, Alfred Chan Cheung-ming, is quoted as saying that one of his priorities will be to battle against age discrimination.

I hope this will happen as although in the past the EOC has been active in other anti-discriminatory fields, I feel it has not done enough about the problem of discrimination faced by older people.

I wish Mr Chan success in his fight to stop unequal treatment of the elderly, which is one of the most serious forms of discrimination that exists in Hong Kong. I say this because I think it may affect more people in a more truly negative way than any other form of discrimination.

The fact that so many people are forced to leave their employment only because of their age is a terrible aspect of Hong Kong life. In many countries this is no longer the case and there is no reason why Hong Kong should be behind other countries in this area.

Mr Chan's objective to increase work opportunities for senior citizens is an excellent one.

I hope he can pressure the government to pass laws so that people of 60 and above, and sometimes even less than that, can continue in jobs that they are perfectly capable of doing, as well as more easily find jobs related to their expertise and experience. I wish him luck.

Chris Tsui, Discovery Bay

Your class is doing a project on different forms of discrimination in Hong Kong. Your group has been asked to discuss discrimination against older people. You may want to talk about:

- advantages of allowing older people to work
- advantages of not allowing older people to work
- what can be done to reduce discrimination against older people
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to work when you are over 60?
2. How can older people spend their time if they are not working?
3. Why do some employers not want older workers?
4. What age do you think people should retire at?
5. What advantages can older workers bring to a company?
6. Do you think people will retire at a later age in the future?
7. Why do you think people want to continue working after 60?
8. Do young people also suffer age discrimination?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article and Letter to the Editor appeared in a newspaper in Hong Kong:

Fair fine?

A 71-year-old Hong Kong cleaning employee, working at Southorn Playground, was fined HK\$1,500 for throwing waste water on a street on Monday by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

However, after a number of newspaper and TV reports about her fine for littering, her employer Baguio Cleaning Services Company has decided to pay the fine for her.

“I was scared I would have to pay it by myself,” Zhou said, adding it would be very expensive as she only earns HK\$8,300 a month.

Equal penalties for those who break the rules

I cannot accept the actions of an elderly cleaner dumping waste water in a street in Wan Chai or her employer paying the fine for her.

Just because someone is underprivileged does not mean they should not be punished if they have done something wrong, in this case emptying waste water in the street. If she broke regulations then she should have accepted the punishment. If she was struggling to pay the fine, then she could have been given more time to pay it.

We all have to be responsible for our actions and recognise the importance of cracking down on pollution on our streets.

We have to recognise that all stakeholders have to play their part in ensuring society is orderly and that we all stick to the necessary rules.

Kris Lam, Sham Shui Po

You have been asked to discuss whether fines and penalties are an effective way to keep Hong Kong streets clean. You may want to talk about:

- whether the elderly cleaner should have been fined
- whether fines and penalties stop people littering
- any problems that fines and penalties cause
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you think there is a lot of litter in Hong Kong?
2. What do you do if there is no bin for your rubbish?
3. Why do you think that people litter?
4. Are there other ways to stop people littering?
5. Do you agree that throwing water on the street is littering?
6. Are fines a suitable way to stop anti-social behaviour?
7. Does government advertising stop people littering?
8. Should rich people pay the same fines as poor people?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a blogger's webpage:

Hiking and camping at Sunset Peak, Lantau Island

I did it! I DID IT!!!!!! First time night hiking and camping at Sunset Peak. An amazing and enjoyable experience! Thank you John for taking me there and making sure I had the torch charged, for letting us know the weather information and for finding the route. The best thing you did was go first and check there were no spiders on the path! Thank you!!

4 hours' hike with a big backpack, I was tired!! We arrived around 3am, put up the tent and said goodnight at around 4.30. But we didn't manage to see sunrise because we didn't get up until 8!!! Then we started our super relaxing morning, first came a cup of hot coffee, followed by hot noodles with a can of spicy pork.....mmmm...yummy and feeling contented!!!

We then packed and started heading down at around midday. Omg, going down is far more challenging than going up, my legs were shaking during the last 20 minutes of the hike and immediately sat down on a bench when I saw one!

Feeling tired today but it's all worth it. Only problem is there is no photo taking at night!!! LOL I was a bit nervous before the hike, thinking I am too slow and will drag the group down. John had assured me that I could walk at a slow pace. But I needn't have worried. We all helped each other.

I slept for 14 hours after the hike!! Really a great night and day!!!

Your class is thinking about organising a night hike and camp on a mountain to celebrate graduation from school. You are meeting to discuss the preparation for the trip. You may want to talk about:

- why night hiking has become popular with students
- what you should or should not take on the trip
- any problems you may face on the trip
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Why do people like camping?
2. Is it better to hike in a group or alone?
3. Who prefers hiking more: young people or the elderly?
4. What memorable things do people see when they go hiking?
5. How can hikers protect the environment?
6. Should mountain bikes be allowed to use hiking paths?
7. Do you think hiking will become more popular in the future?
8. How does hiking affect the environment?