

USE OF ENGLISH AS-LEVEL

SECTION B

WRITING

8.30 am – 9.45 am (1¼ hours)

1. You have 1¼ hours for this paper (which is allocated 18% of the total subject mark).
2. It is suggested that you spend some of the time on planning and proofreading.
3. Write legibly and make neat corrections wherever necessary.
4. **DO NOT USE YOUR REAL NAME IN ANSWERING ANY OF THE QUESTIONS.** If names are provided in the question, you must use those names. If no name is provided and you still wish to use a name to identify yourself, then use 'Chris Wong'. If you need to use names for other characters in the composition, you should use names such as Mary, Peter, Wai Yee, Mr Smith, Ms Young, etc. You may lose marks if you do not follow these instructions.
5. Write about 500 words on ONE of the topics.

Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.

Not to be taken away before the
end of the examination session

1. You suspect that your neighbours are treating their pets badly. Write a letter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) showing your concern and give details of any incidents of abuse you are aware of. Suggest what could be done to ensure the welfare of the pets and say why these measures are urgent. Sign your name 'Chris Wong'.

2. Last year, you took part in an overseas cultural exchange programme. One objective of the programme was to introduce some characteristics of your own culture to students from other countries. Another objective was to learn how practices in other cultures differ significantly from yours. You found this experience rewarding and you want to share what you learned with your fellow students.

Write an article for your school magazine describing one or two features of your culture that you focused on and explain why. Also describe how the feature(s) you chose differ(s) from what happens in other cultures.

3. 'When teen idols get married they often become less popular with their fans.' Is there any truth in this view? Based on your knowledge and observations of the entertainment industry over recent years, write a magazine article stating whether you agree or disagree with this comment. Give at least three reasons for your position and supply supporting examples. You can refer to local or international idols. Give your article a title.

4. In your housing estate, a gang of criminals has been tricking old people into giving them money. On behalf of the Owners' Association of the estate, write to the *Hong Kong Post* about an incident that took place recently. Describe how the old person was tricked, what the victim lost, and explain some of the measures your association has taken to protect people from being tricked in future. Sign your name 'Chris Wong'.

END OF PAPER

Section B Guidelines for Assessment

The piece of writing is assessed independently by two markers on a nine-point scale:

+ <i>Above Average</i> –	+ <i>Average</i> –	+ <i>Below Average</i> –
(9) 8 7	6 5 4	3 2 (1)

When awarding a grade, the marker gives equal weighting to content and language accuracy. The following six areas are considered:

1. Does the candidate communicate **relevant content** which fully answers the question?
2. Is the content **logically organised** and in a **format** appropriate to the question?
3. What degree of skill does the candidate show in constructing **paragraphs**?
4. Is the **vocabulary**, including its variety and level of formality, appropriate to the question?
5. What degree of skill does the candidate show in constructing a variety of **sentence types**?
6. How accurate is the candidate’s **grammar**, idiomatic usage, punctuation and spelling?

In short:

Content	Language accuracy
Relevant content?	Appropriate vocabulary?
Logical organisation?	Variety of sentence types?
Well-constructed paragraphs?	Accurate grammar and mechanics?