

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, Ming, Wai Yee, Mr Lee, Ms Chan, 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. Students often access Internet blogs and social network sites so that they can share their views in a public forum. However, there are dangers in giving too many personal details. Write an essay to be published on your school website about this dilemma with reference to one experience you had when using the Internet. Discuss what should be made public and what should remain private, making clear your views on how the freedom to say what you want can be balanced with protecting your own and other people's privacy. Give your essay a title.
2. Your school has invited three professionals – an architect, a film director and an environmental consultant – to speak at an assembly on the topic 'Shaping Hong Kong'. Justin Lee, the teacher organising the assembly, has asked students to prepare some questions for discussion after they have finished speaking. Write a letter suggesting TWO questions, stating which professional each question is for. Explain why you think the issues raised would be of interest to the audience. Sign your name 'Chris Wong'.
3. A youth magazine recently carried out a survey of 4,000 students at 25 different schools in Hong Kong. The survey was designed to assess students' self-esteem: how they see themselves in terms of intellectual ability, happiness, anxiety and popularity. The survey found that Hong Kong students are below international norms for self-esteem. Write an article for your school magazine commenting on how the results compare with your own perceptions of schoolmates. Give your article a title.
4. The average weight of a Form 3 student's school bag is now 5 kg. Your school has organised a campaign to lighten school bags by encouraging students not to bring unnecessary items to school. However, you feel that students are not the only ones responsible for the weight problem. Write a letter to the editor of the *Hong Kong Post* saying what you think should be done by textbook publishers, schools and/or students to improve the situation. 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?