

2009-ASL
UE
SECTION B

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 2009

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. Your school has voted a celebrity artist or athlete 'Person of the Year' for 2008. You are a reporter for the school magazine. You have interviewed the winner. Write an article for your school magazine showing how his or her experience of failure before finally succeeding might inspire the personal development of students. Give your article an appropriate heading.
2. Some people have criticised movie stars for staging extravagant weddings which cost far more than most couples would spend. Critics believe that such weddings could be just as beautiful and memorable if some of the millions of dollars spent were donated to charity instead. Write a letter to the editor of the *Hong Kong Post* stating your views on this issue and giving reasons for them.
3. Students and parents from your school have raised a large sum of money for China's development. The school Principal is now asking students for their opinions as to which one of the following two initiatives in China should receive the money: (i) further space exploration; or (ii) basic healthcare and education in rural areas. Write a letter to the Principal, saying which initiative should receive the donation and why it should *not* be given to the other.
4. A large number of candidates from different schools recently entered the 'Ten Model Students' competition organised by a local newspaper. However, there were only six winners, all of whom were female students. The criteria on which the candidates were judged included academic performance, leadership skills, use of language to express themselves, and knowledge of the world. To what extent would you agree that male students in Hong Kong generally lack the qualities that would fit them for the title of 'model student'? Write an essay justifying your views and give it a suitable title.

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?