

Section D Guidelines for Assessment

1. A candidate's performance will be assessed on a SEVEN point scale for Part 1 Individual Presentation and Part 2 Group Discussion.
2. Examiners will use an impression-mark scheme and will mark to a pattern of mark distribution. Separate marks will be awarded to each candidate for Part 1 and Part 2. The marks will range from 7 (the best) to 1 (the weakest). The marking scheme is norm-referenced, which means that examiners will not have a detailed verbal description for the level of marks awarded (i.e. 1 to 7) but instead, each day, the examiners will compare and then rank the performance of the candidates, one with another.
3. A score of '0' will be given ONLY in the following circumstances: for Part 1 if a candidate does not speak at all or if a candidate has copied out the reading passage in full and just reads out the passage; for Part 2 if a candidate does not speak at all, even after being prompted by the examiner.
4. Examiners will use the checklist below which is printed on the candidate's scoresheet when assessing the candidate's performance.

Checklist boxes for examiners

Checklist						
Part 1 Presentation			Part 2 Group Discussion			Remarks
Intelligibility	Audibility		Effective Communication and Interactive Skills	Range of vocabulary and structures		
	Clarity of speech					
Accuracy	Pronunciation			Fluency		
	Grammar					
Fluency	Ease of language production			Intelligibility		
Technical aspects of presentation	Eye contact			Participation and meaningful contribution		
	Manner of delivery					

NOTE:

- If the candidate has been awarded a penalty for either the Individual Presentation or the Group Discussion, you should write an explanatory note in the 'Remarks' column.
- Only the computer-read marks in the 'Mark Given' column will be considered.

5. The candidate will be awarded one global impression mark independently by each examiner for the Individual Presentation and another for the Group Discussion. The presentation is not designed to test candidates' summarising skills, so as long as candidates speak on the specific topic covered in the reading passages they will be awarded marks. The factual accuracy or completeness of their presentation is not considered in the assessment of their performance. In Part B, Group Discussion, completion of the discussion task is not considered in the assessment.

Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Food for thought

Do parents really think that a glass of milk, a piece of fresh fish or a pill will make their children smarter? A survey of almost 300 parents revealed that the majority of parents read the labels in the supermarket and choose food which claims to enhance their children's brain development.

Many of the parents who admitted to buying food which makes these claims did not really know if they were true, but they thought that it could not really do any harm. Jenny Baker, a mother of three children, strongly believes that diet plays an important role in maintaining a healthy body and mind. She says, 'I give my children a balanced diet, which includes fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, nuts and grains. I also try to avoid refined and processed foods, such as crisps and sweets.' She gives her children supplements every day as she believes that certain vitamins and fatty acids help with brain development. 'Vitamin B4 can help the brain to store

and recall information and omega-fatty acids promote brain development,' says Jenny.

So, will Jenny's three children be top of the class? Well yes, according to research. A study at Duke University in the USA showed that mice, given vitamin B4 during pregnancy, gave birth to babies which had a better memory than pups whose mothers had not been given the supplement. What is more, an Oxford University study concluded that children who were given a fish oil supplement showed improved learning abilities.

Matthew Chan, a father of two boys, does not agree. He says, 'All of the claims are just a marketing trick to make us buy the products. When I was young, our mothers just fed us the food they could afford. We didn't need special pills and things like that to make our brains work.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

RTHK is holding a special series of programmes entitled *Hong Kong youngsters: the road to success*. You and your friends have been invited to take part in a panel discussion on one of the programmes to represent the views of teenagers in Hong Kong.

You are meeting to plan your ideas. You need to discuss the qualities and skills you think are important for children to become successful individuals and what you think parents can do to help their children succeed. You may also want to think about the demands some parents place on their children and the effect this may have.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

The examiners cannot answer any questions about the instructions or the task you have to discuss. If you have any questions, you may discuss them among yourselves and that will be an acceptable part of your group discussion, and will be assessed.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Can we buy higher IQs?

A recent study of 278 parents of primary-school students found that many parents are deeply concerned about their children's IQ development. In fact, most admitted that IQ enhancement is an important factor when choosing books, toys, television programmes, educational materials and even extra-curricular activities for their children.

Brain development is such a big concern for parents that marketing departments all over the world are making bold claims that their products 'increase IQ' and 'boost brain development'. Mark Johnson, who works for a leading toy company, says, 'The toy industry is a massive business worldwide. Our best selling products are educational toys, ones that boost intelligence rather than just provide fun. Selling genius in a box is definitely good for sales.'

So, is it wrong for parents to try to buy intelligence for their children? Alison Yau, a mother of

two, states, 'I prefer to believe in myself and my children. I would rather let them see and try more new things and think more. Even playing cards and mahjong can help.' However, many believe that wanting clever children, like wanting more money, is not a bad thing. Another parent, Jack Poon, says, 'I just want the best for my children. Choosing products which are supposed to be good for the brain is normal. It's just like trying to get your child into a good school.'

However, problems start to arise when parents put too much emphasis on intellectual development. Children who are not able to live up to their parents' expectations may have low self-esteem. Educationalist Simon Pang says, 'Too much focus on intellectual development may result in neglect of other non-intellectual aspects, such as leadership, emotional awareness and health.' He adds, 'The key point is maximising a child's potential, but it is important to realise that different people have different potentials.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

RTHK is holding a special series of programmes entitled *Hong Kong youngsters: the road to success*. You and your friends have been invited to take part in a panel discussion on one of the programmes to represent the views of teenagers in Hong Kong.

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

More money, more intelligence?

Many people believe that money can buy happiness and some are starting to think that money can also buy intelligence. But is this really the case?

While rich parents are happy to spend lots of money on their children's school fees in order to ensure that they get a good education, there are now many other ways that parents can buy intelligence for their children. At least, there are if we believe everything the marketing people are telling us. Apparently certain foods, drinks, books, toys, music and television programmes can also lead to increased intelligence.

Educationalist John Taylor believes that these products are popular in Hong Kong as most parents realise that the education system is exam-oriented and children need all the help they can get. However, he thinks that intelligence has been misinterpreted in our commercial society. 'Hong Kong parents want quick success so they define intelligence by the rules of the

commercial world. This means they think they can buy brains for their children and they think the more money they have, the more intelligence they can purchase.' John adds, 'Parents are so focused on having clever children that they ignore other qualities, such as commitment, responsibility and values.'

Childcare experts also point out that intelligence is only part of the equation. Emily Wu says, 'Children need to be balanced and this means they should be healthy, emotionally stable, polite, happy, sociable, honest, self-confident, creative, loving and kind. Money certainly cannot buy these qualities.' John agrees with Emily. He believes that children in the past were better balanced than children today. 'My parents were very poor. My siblings and I had very few toys or books, which meant that we had to use our imagination to create our own games and find ways of amusing ourselves. It was good training for us.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

No time to play

Ada Tse is a Primary Four student. Every day she goes to school in Shatin and every evening after school her mother arranges a special activity or class for her. On Mondays she has an extra English lesson. On Tuesdays she goes to a swimming class. On Wednesdays and Thursdays she plays the piano and on Fridays she goes to a maths club. Despite this busy schedule, Ada still has to find time to do her homework and read the English comics which her father buys for her. This is a common scenario for children in Hong Kong.

Why do parents nowadays keep their children so busy? Ada's dad says, 'Children need to excel in many different areas. There is a lot of competition these days. Children need to face entrance exams to get into a good school and they need to be clever in order to get a good job in the future.'

One downside of this situation is that providing too many structured activities makes parents forget that

learning and development can be achieved in an unstructured environment, like simply playing with friends at home. Sally Tsang, a professor of child development, says, 'Children love just being at home with mum and dad and simply watching and taking part in normal day-to-day activities, such as cooking, cleaning and shopping. They don't always have to be doing something structured. Learning takes place in various ways and people learn differently. The best toys for children are their parents.'

Sally goes on to say, 'There are plenty of kids in the world who never have a single extra class or extra-curricular activity, but still manage to get into good schools and get good jobs. The important thing is to encourage a child's individual interests rather than overburden them with a busy timetable. Children need to discover their own special skills.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

A taste of the sea

Most people would not really be that interested in visiting a museum about the sea. However, visitors to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum always leave feeling very impressed. The museum is a great hands-on experience and provides a fascinating look at 2,000 years of Hong Kong's rich seafaring history.

The location of the museum could not be better. It is on the ground floor of Murray House, a 152-year-old building in picturesque Stanley. It is Hong Kong's fourth private museum and it contains some wonderful exhibits, for example, models of junks and ships, paintings, maps and interactive displays of modern ships and ports. Visitors to the museum even have the chance to take over the controls of a modern container ship and guide her into the port of Hong Kong.

The museum has two galleries – ancient and modern. The ancient gallery shows the history of

Chinese shipping and how Asian countries and their western trading partners shaped the maritime history of the region. It includes a 2,000-year-old boat made of pottery from the Han dynasty. The modern gallery explores the reasons behind Hong Kong's maritime success and how tankers and container ships have changed the face of the shipping industry.

Anthony Hardy is the mastermind behind the project. He used to be the chairman of a shipping company and has been living in Hong Kong for 23 years. He says, 'Hong Kong definitely deserves its own maritime museum because it's such a prominent shipping port. When you look at the origin and history of Hong Kong, it always revolves around the sea.' Stephen Davies, the museum director, says, 'Our museum is about the sea being our friend. It gives you a taste of the sea which many people may have never felt before and makes them aware of how important it is to their lives.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

The Hong Kong Tourism Board is holding a competition for teenagers to draw up a proposal for a TV commercial promoting tourist attractions in Hong Kong. Your group is taking part in this competition and you are now meeting to discuss your proposal.

You should first consider which tourist attractions to include and who they might appeal to. You must then think about the ways in which you could present the information to make the commercial interesting and appealing to viewers.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Take a walk on the wild side

Bored with Hong Kong? Looking for something interesting to do at the weekend? Then why not head for our city's new wetland park in Tin Shui Wai?

The Hong Kong International Wetland Park opened to the public on 20th May 2006. The area used to be occupied by fish ponds and most of the residents were fishermen. However, the majority of the fish ponds were abandoned when the Government started reclaiming land to develop the area into a new town 20 years ago. At that time, the Government agreed to preserve some of the wetlands.

The area is now a 61-hectare, world-class conservation, education and tourism facility. Many recycled materials were used in its construction and the park offers visitors both artificial indoor experiences and real outdoor ones. For example, visitors can learn about the wetlands by wandering through the different galleries and playing interactive games. They can also stroll along

a boardwalk through mangroves and mudflats and see birds, insects and other creatures. Charlie Wong is a big fan of the park. He has bought an annual pass so his family can make frequent visits. 'My son loves the live bird displays and the tree playground, while my daughter really enjoys watching the crocodiles.' Charlie adds, 'The park is a wonderful attraction for local residents and overseas visitors. Most people have never taken time to explore Hong Kong's lovely wetlands and this is an opportunity to do just that.'

A representative from the park has reported that the attraction has been very popular with Hong Kong residents. He hopes people will learn about the diversity of Hong Kong's wetland ecosystem and the need to conserve it. 'We want people to be aware that Hong Kong is not just a cramped city of skyscrapers. There are many wetland reserves which are brimming with natural vegetation and wildlife.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The journey of enlightenment

Despite the ongoing problems which delayed the opening of Ngong Ping 360, anybody who has travelled in the new cable car on Lantau Island is sure to admit that it is very impressive. This new tourism experience combines a spectacular 5.7km cable car journey with a visit to a culturally-themed village and provides easy access to the Big Buddha statue.

The Ngong Ping Skyrail is a visually stunning journey between Tung Chung and Ngong Ping. Visitors travel in 17-person cabins, enjoying panoramic views of Hong Kong International Airport, the South China Sea, North Lantau Country Park and the Big Buddha. Katy Smith, a Lantau resident for 30 years, was originally opposed to the construction of Ngong Ping 360 as she was worried about the environmental impact. However, she has recently had first-hand experience of the attraction and she admits that she is extremely impressed. 'The views are absolutely fantastic. Visitors will be amazed at Hong Kong's natural beauty. Most people

think Hong Kong is just a mass of skyscrapers.'

Katy was also impressed when she learnt that the construction of the cable car was completed with as little damage as possible to the environment. 'I was really surprised to learn that rare and protected species of plants had been relocated so that they would not be affected. This included moving over 200 rare Chinese flowers and several orchids. I was also pleased to learn that donkeys and helicopters were used to transport the construction materials so that temporary roads would not have to be built.'

Kenny Tse works at Ngong Ping 360 and he thinks it is a truly unique experience for people of all ages. 'For local residents, it is an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and for visitors, it is a must-do attraction providing breathtaking views and an amazing, enlightening experience.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

The Hong Kong Tourism Board is holding a competition for teenagers to draw up a proposal for a TV commercial promoting tourist attractions in Hong Kong. Your group is taking part in this competition and you are now meeting to discuss your proposal.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Well worth a visit

Most Hong Kong people are probably unaware that Hong Kong has its very own police museum. The Hong Kong Police Museum is located up the Peak on the site of the former Wanchai Gap Police Station, and it is definitely worth a visit. The museum showcases the history of the Hong Kong Police Force from its start in 1844 to today. Visitors to the museum never leave feeling disappointed as the museum has some really interesting exhibits on display.

The museum is divided into four galleries and each one offers something very different. The Orientation Gallery describes the history of the Hong Kong Police Force through historical photographs, documents, uniforms and equipment. There are some unique exhibits including the head of the 'Sheung Shui Tiger', which was shot after it killed a policeman in 1915. Lucy Jones recently visited the museum with her children and she said, 'My son loved the story of the tiger and I was fascinated to learn about the contribution made by ethnic minorities, such as Indian and Nepalese people,

to law and order in Hong Kong.

The Narcotics Gallery highlights the drug problem in Hong Kong through the display of drugs as well as drug-smoking equipment and also shows various trafficking methods. The Triad Societies Gallery features the history and origins of local triads. It includes information and materials relating to their activities and their beliefs and rituals. The final gallery is the Current Exhibition Gallery and the displays here change from time to time. Past displays have been on the themes of the Marine Police, the Traffic Police and Police Stations.

Mr Chau works at the museum and he says, 'I would recommend that all Hong Kong people visit it. It is very interesting to learn about the police force. Parents should definitely take their children. They'd really love seeing the tiger's head and learning more about the triads.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

It's a dog's life

The saying, 'It's a dog's life', used when someone is depressed and has reached their lowest point, sadly rings true for millions of dogs and cats across Asia. The living standard of Hong Kong people keeps improving and, as a result of this, more people have pets. Some owners treat their pets as family members, while others fail to provide them with necessities, such as adequate water and food. Worse still, some owners are cruel and abuse their pets.

There are constant news reports about animal abuse. In one case last year, a 10-week-old puppy was stabbed several times and left to die in a stream. Fortunately, the tortured puppy was saved by a man who accidentally found it and took it to an animal clinic. In yet another shocking incident, a 27-year-old man was found guilty of killing his two dogs. He had gone on holiday and left them on the balcony in the scorching summer sun with no food or water. He was jailed for a month and fined \$1,000.

The number of animals being abandoned in our city is also on the rise. Four kittens were found in a dustbin on a housing estate recently. An animal activist in Hong Kong says, 'Since the news that some cats had died of the H5N1 virus was released, there have been instances of people dumping their cats. Perhaps the owners were worried their pets may have caught the virus.'

Tim Wu, an employee of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), believes, 'Animal abusers are dealt with too lightly. The penalty for killing a dog is just a fine or a maximum of three months' imprisonment. It is not enough. A dog's life is important too. Education about animal welfare is inadequate, especially when compared to other developed societies, such as the UK and Australia.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school is hosting a *Pet Week* to raise money for animal welfare charities in Hong Kong and to increase awareness of animal welfare among students and their families. Students who have pets will have the chance to bring their animals to school for the fund-raising event.

Your principal has asked your group to think of activities and events to be hosted in your school during *Pet Week*. The activities should be designed to raise funds and also to educate people about how to look after animals.

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Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Doctor Dog

A horrific example of animal cruelty came to light last year with the discovery of a large dog whose legs had been cut off when it was a puppy. This sickening news shocked the world.

The 18-month-old dog was found in a Yuen Long rubbish dump. When vets examined the poor creature, they confirmed that his legs had been chopped off when he was young. A spokesperson for Love Pet Action (LPA), an animal welfare organisation which took the puppy in, said, 'This is a very severe case of animal abuse. The owner had abandoned the dog even though everyone knows a dog without legs cannot survive on its own.'

The dog, named Pan Pan by his carers at LPA, has now become a celebrity. Love Pet Action received donations from all over the world and numerous magazines approached the organisation about publishing

Pan Pan's story. Dora Tse, an LPA employee, says, 'Initially so many people were coming to visit Pan Pan that we had to limit it to twenty visits a day and people had to make appointments. Before long, we observed that Pan Pan had an incredible ability to bond with strangers who came to visit. He enjoys playing with people and allows strangers to hug and kiss him. These qualities endear him to people.'

Pan Pan is now enjoying a career as a doctor dog. He visits patients in hospitals and other people in need of love and affection. This is known as animal therapy. While it is a fairly new concept in Hong Kong, animals have long been used to cheer up patients in UK hospitals. Jill Robinson, the brains behind the Doctor Dog programme, hopes it can show how much dogs can help us and enrich our lives. 'Using dogs to assist in therapy could help restore respect for animals in Asia,' she said.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

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Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Hong Kong's pet passion

Hong Kong's recent passion for pets has seen a rise in the demand for pet services. Our city now has about 30 pet cafés, numerous pet hotels, a shopping centre for pets and even clinics where pets can be treated with traditional Chinese medicine.

Dog One Life, in Causeway Bay, opened a couple of years ago. The four-storey pet palace does not sell animals, but caters to the needs of pets and their owners. The first floor is devoted to dog clothing and furniture, with wardrobes and sofas all adjusted to dog size. The second level is a hairdressing salon where stylists charge \$700 for a cut. The third floor is a café serving homemade pet food, such as beef cookies and chicken muffins. There is a roof-top area for barbecues and the store also offers boat trips, birthday parties and even weddings for dogs.

The success of businesses such as this is a sign of people's greater awareness of animal welfare. Howard Cheung, the director of the store, says, 'The philosophy behind the store is to improve the living standard of pets. The idea is that pets are companions for life. They are just like another member of the family.' Mandy Choi works in the pet café. She says, 'The dogs are dressed in gowns at our weddings. We give them a wedding certificate with paw prints as signatures. We play formal wedding music and the guests treat the ceremony very seriously. The Japanese culture of treating pets like humans has finally come to Hong Kong.'

Critics say that pets should be treated as animals, not people. 'It's crazy to treat your pet like a human,' says psychologist Simon Yau. 'It shows an inability to deal with the complications of modern relationships and a fear of commitment. It is a result of lonely city life.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The good life

Dogs and cats in Hong Kong have never had it so good. They now have their own playgrounds, pet cafés, shopping centres and spas. Business is booming!

Pet World in Yuen Long is one of the new facilities catering to spoilt pets. It is similar to other prestigious clubs in Hong Kong, such as the Football Club or the Cricket Club, but it is for animals. It charges a \$150 monthly membership fee and facilities include two swimming pools, a pet restaurant and function rooms for pet parties, for example, birthdays and weddings. Andy takes his three-year-old dog, Mui Mui, to the club every weekend. 'She absolutely loves it. As soon as we arrive, she jumps straight into the pool and she is so happy splashing around in the cool water, especially in summer when she gets so hot outside.'

The growing demand for pet services is a sign of changing social values. Many people feel that having

children is too much of a responsibility, but keeping a pet is more suited to their lifestyle. Mr Chan, the owner of Pet World, says, 'Today many owners treat their pets like their children and they even refer to themselves as mummy and daddy.' In the past, they were shown off as expensive toys or status symbols, but now pets occupy a very elevated place in their owners' hearts. Sometimes they even become companions or substitute children.

Andy says, 'I will never have children. Raising a kid is more expensive and less satisfying than having a pet. My dog is always there for me and I don't need to worry about her education.' However, a sociologist from City University thinks this trend is worrying. He believes that it is another indicator of the growing tendency to move away from the traditional pattern of people marrying and having children.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school is hosting a *Pet Week* to raise money for animal welfare charities in Hong Kong and to increase awareness of animal welfare among students and their families. Students who have pets will have the chance to bring their animals to school for the fund-raising event.

Your principal has asked your group to think of activities and events to be hosted in your school during *Pet Week*. The activities should be designed to raise funds and also to educate people about how to look after animals.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Buying your children

It is quite common nowadays for both parents in a family to work full-time. Dual-income families have an improved standard of living and more disposable cash, but how does this situation affect their children's attitude to money?

Dr Wan, a professor of early childhood education, notes that parents who spend a lot of time away from their children often over-compensate by giving their children money and gifts. However, he warns that children are very aware and they may see this not as a caring act, but as a reward for not complaining about the lack of parental presence. Mr and Mrs Clark, who have three children, are both lawyers and have to work very long hours. They admit to feeling guilty about being away from their children so much, but they try to make it up to them at the weekend. 'Normally we do something special at the weekend, such as going to Disneyland, Ocean Park or a toy shop,' says Mr Clark.

This is just the kind of behaviour Dr Wan thinks is very damaging. 'Children whose parents are away all week, but who get spoilt at the weekend, will get mixed messages and not really learn to value money. They will learn to expect treats and gifts whenever they see their parents and will feel disappointed, or even unloved, if they are not given something special. How can these children learn to manage their own financial affairs in the future?'

Dr Wan goes on to explain that absent parents also tend to give rewards for exceptional school performance. 'This is dangerous as it could mean that children who previously enjoyed their studies no longer see the learning process as fun, but just as a way to earn extra money. The key is to give children your time, not your money.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school is planning to hold a *Financial Awareness Week* to teach students how to manage their personal finances now and in the future. You are part of the organising committee.

You are now meeting to plan a schedule of events and activities for the week. You should start by outlining the reasons why students get into debt and the ways this can be avoided. You could also discuss activities and events you plan to hold during the week to teach students to manage money better.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Cash cards for kids

A seven-year-old child with his own cash card is an idea which would shock most parents. However, three years ago, HSBC launched a Junior Pack Scheme that allows the children of customers with Premier accounts to have their own bank accounts and cash cards that can be used all over the world.

Janice Ong, a spokesperson for HSBC, says the scheme is a sure way of equipping children with wealth-management skills. 'It's an educational tool for parents to teach their children the value of money and good financial management. It's never too early to start learning.'

Susan Pang, who writes a business column, thinks the Junior Pack Scheme is a great idea. 'Finance is not necessarily a skill that is passed on from parents to children. I started giving my son an allowance when he was six and it was a disaster. He couldn't spend it fast

enough and it caused lots of arguments. If he had had a bank account, he might have learnt to save rather than spend.' However, other parents are less optimistic. 'It's okay to let your children have bank accounts, but not cash cards. I used to give my children their allowances in the bank lobby and then ask them how much they were depositing. They learnt to value their savings and took pride in managing their money,' says Doris Yau.

HSBC insists that the new account will help parents educate their children to be responsible. The Hang Seng Bank has a similar scheme for young people between 11 and 18 and the Bank of East Asia gives cash cards to teenagers over 16. Fred Choi, a professor of social studies, does not believe young people can learn to manage their budgets through cash cards. 'Young people will learn to spend more because they can get money out of ATMs.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The cost of money

Pocket money is an issue that often concerns parents. The questions of when, how much and whether children should get pocket money depend to a large extent on family values, practices and finances. Research conducted in Hong Kong shows that parents, educators and child-welfare experts agree that there are no fixed rules on giving children pocket money.

Mark Johnson, a financial planner, says, 'Pocket money is the best and most hands-on way to teach children how to spend and save. By using their own funds, they become responsible and learn to value money. The key is to start early. I have been giving my daughters a weekly allowance since they were four.' However, some parents have a different approach. June Yip, a mother of two, says, 'I choose to give material rewards to my children, such as books or a trip to the cinema. I don't think they should expect money every week. They should only get it when they deserve it.' Other parents save money on their children's behalf so

that it can be used to buy expensive items.

Whether children work for their pocket money, for example, by helping with household chores, is another area where families apply different rules. Dr Chan, a child psychologist, comments, 'Children should understand that doing chores is part of family membership. It is their duty and they should not be paid for it.' Withholding pocket money for bad behaviour or providing extra money for good exam results are other topics on which opinions vary widely.

One area on which all adults agree is that it is not a good idea to establish a benchmark by asking your children how much pocket money their friends get. Mark Johnson says, 'Ask children how much pocket money their friends receive and they are bound to reply that every child in the world gets more than they do!'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Managing your money

A survey of 800 university students in Hong Kong found that the majority do not really know how to manage their personal finances. However, there is help at hand.

Even though almost half of the interviewees have two or more credit cards, 85% said they always pay the bills on time. However, the survey suggested that students lacked knowledge about the terms and conditions of their loans and credit cards. Only 9% of the respondents said they understood the conditions of credit well and even fewer said they had enough knowledge about good financial management. This may be why some students get into debt.

Iris Cheung, a third year student at the University of Hong Kong, said she had three credit cards, but usually managed to pay her bills on time. 'Once I was rather late in paying a bill of just under \$1,000. The credit card company didn't charge me interest, but I had

to pay \$200 in fees and penalties. I can see how easy it is for students to get into lots of debt.' Carrie Chu, a welfare advisor at City University, has suggested that universities need to help students learn about financial management. 'Before we allow credit card companies to sell their products on campus, we should make sure that the terms and conditions are very clear to students.'

The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals has a Life Enriching Programme for university students, which organises financial seminars and offers free consultations. It also provides information and tips through websites and brochures. Louis Leung, the scheme's ambassador, says, 'If they are in financial trouble, we will advise them not to do anything foolish, and to talk to their family and friends about it. If they have multiple debts, we can help them prioritise which ones to repay first and help them to negotiate with creditors.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

East versus West: which is best?

Why is it that in an average school in the UK or Australia, or even in an international school here, most teachers would turn a blind eye to a teenage girl with multiple earrings, a very short mini-skirt or bright hair colour? However, a student in a local school would be seen as a rule-breaker and marched to the discipline teacher.

This is one obvious example of the cultural divide between the two types of school. In the western education system, whole-person development is a clear part of the curriculum. However, it is not really given as much emphasis in the Hong Kong curriculum. Joan Barker, a teacher in the UK, says, 'We encourage students to express themselves and we help them to fulfill their potential as an individual. How a child lives outside the classroom is not really a teacher's business.' In contrast, local schools have much higher expectations of how their students should behave and conform to cultural norms. Students are all encouraged to be the same rather than to be different.

Many people are quick to criticise the local system for its lack of focus on students as individuals. They point out that local teaching methods, such as rote learning and memorisation, are out-dated and force students to behave in the same way. Nevertheless, research has shown that Hong Kong students perform better than their western peers in international university tests, especially in maths and science. A professor from the University of London says, 'Hong Kong students are generally easier to teach as they ask fewer questions and just accept what the teacher says. They also have excellent memories.'

So, at the end of the day, which system is better for learners? Well, that all depends on whether we want independent creative thinkers or model students who will score very well in tests.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

The principal of your school plans to reform teaching methods and practices in the school as he is concerned that some of them are out-dated and do not encourage independent and critical thinking. He wants to collect feedback from students on the current system and how it can be improved.

Your group is meeting to collect ideas to give to the principal. You should discuss the positive and negative aspects of the current system, ways the system can be changed and also ways teachers can encourage creative thinking in lessons.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Good and bad

Many local students know nothing about life in America apart from what they see in movies and on television. However, more and more of them are getting the chance to experience life in the USA, as many Hong Kong parents, who are unhappy with the local education system, are sending their children overseas to study.

Linda Kwok recently returned to Hong Kong after four years at an American university. Her parents wanted her to experience the western education system as they were concerned that local teaching methods do not encourage independent thinking and creativity. However, Linda admits that she really did not enjoy her stay in the USA. 'My problems started when I first arrived. My English wasn't good enough to make friends so I lacked social contact and support. I also found the lectures a bit scary, as students are expected to ask and answer questions and interact with the professors. I am used to sitting quietly and listening. When I asked my tutor for help, she told me that asking questions is a good

way to learn. She said that's how very young children learn.'

Kelvin Koo also studied at an American university. He mentions both good and bad aspects. 'In Hong Kong, people study for their career but in America, people study for their interest. This is what I like about their learning culture. Another advantage is the diversity of nationalities on campus. This has a very positive effect when students have to do group work as they are exposed to different learning styles, opinions and ways of thinking.'

Kelvin thinks that one drawback of the US system is its Americanism. 'Students do not really learn about other countries. Some Americans are very ignorant about what is happening in the world.' Kelvin was very shocked when a classmate asked him, 'Where in Japan is Hong Kong?'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Speak up

Tracey Chu was extremely surprised by what she heard during her first day of orientation at Cornell University in the United States. Her professor told the first year students, 'You are not here to memorise books or get an A in every single class. You are here to learn to think for yourselves, think critically, challenge everything and have your own opinions.' Tracey knew from that moment on, her university education in America was going to be very different from her past learning experience in Hong Kong.

One of the fundamental differences between the two styles of education is that Asian students really look up to their professors and do not challenge them. However, American students always interrupt their professors to ask questions and challenge their points. Tracey was really shocked in her first lecture when a student stood up and disagreed with the lecturer. 'I wondered how anybody could disagree with a teacher.

I thought teachers were always right.'

Dr Holden, a professor at Cornell, admits that it can be hard for Asian students to adapt to the new style of learning. 'Our philosophy about learning is that students do not sit back with their book in their hands and just listen. Students have to get used to active learning. My students are encouraged to challenge everything and to be independent. They have to give presentations and share ideas with the class. Sometimes I just sit there and listen to them. This is hard for Asian students who are used to being passive and to just absorbing what the teacher says.'

Tracey is now in her fourth year of study and she says she has successfully adopted the American way of learning. 'It's fun and more interesting to ask questions and be involved in the lesson. I wouldn't like to go back to the Asian way of just sitting there quietly.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Tired and tested

It is very well-known that the Hong Kong education system is exam-oriented. From a young age local students are forced to sit tests which determine their future. As a result, Hong Kong parents are renowned for putting extreme pressure on their children to succeed academically.

How do youngsters cope with this exam pressure? Candy Chu is a high-flying student. She got four A grades in her A-Level examinations and she is now studying at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. She says, 'The Hong Kong system is good as it forces students to work hard. Without the constant threat of tests and exams, many students would not do any work. Plus, it means that once students leave high school and go to university, they will not have to struggle as they are used to hard work.' She thinks the Chinese students at her university do better than the European ones because they have been conditioned to put in a lot of effort and always try their best.

Samuel Kwok, an educational psychologist, disagrees with Candy. 'There is too much focus on exam results in Hong Kong. Many students fall apart under the pressure. The system is good for bright students, the ones who will succeed anyway, but it is not suitable for students who are not academically minded. These students need support and encouragement rather than tests and exams. They just feel like failures.'

Simpson Tong admits, 'I was one of the failures.' He was good at sports but failed his HKCEE. This made his parents angry. However, he is now a professional rugby player and earns over HK\$5 million a year. He says, 'My children will go to high school in America rather than in Hong Kong as people there appreciate that participating in sports is also important and exam results are not everything.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Gift of life

It is a sad fact that the vast majority of Hong Kong people refuse to carry an organ donor card. This means that after they die, they do not want their organs to be used to save the sick.

There are many reasons why people do not want their organs to be used after their death, but the main problem is a lack of education. A recent survey asked Hong Kong people why they do not carry a donor card. One person said, 'I'm worried that once I have signed the organ donation card, I will not be cared for. If I have an accident, the doctors might want me to die so they can take away my organs.' Another lady said, 'I'm worried that the removal of an organ will affect the appearance of my body at my funeral.'

All of these responses are misunderstandings and it is the job of the Department of Health to educate

citizens to carry a donor card. In 1997, the Department of Health launched the Donormobile, a mobile education centre, which visits housing estates, schools and shopping centres to promote the benefits of organ donation. It includes interactive computer games and audio-visual displays, as well as human models and a small library.

Maggie Wu works in the Donormobile and she said, 'Although there are more than 2,000 people waiting for a transplant in Hong Kong, organs are wasted every day when people who don't carry a donor card die. Our organs have no value to us when we reach the end of our lives, yet they are valuable spare parts for sick people. A transplanted organ is a gift of new life and a true show of love. Organ donation is a way in which people can change the world for the better.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school is holding a *Gift of Life Week* to educate students about organ donation and persuade students and their families to carry donor cards.

You are on the organising committee. You should decide what information you want to give students and also the best way to present this information. You should also discuss activities to hold during the week to raise awareness and encourage people to carry donor cards.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Take from the guilty to help the sick

News reports of Chinese authorities removing organs, such as kidneys, livers and hearts, from executed prisoners in China are not new. The Hong Kong and London media carried these stories in the mid-1980s. However, the practice still continues today and the number of transplants performed is growing every year.

Is it wrong to take organs from executed prisoners in order to prolong another person's life? Dr Hayward is a top surgeon at a London hospital and he says, 'I consider taking organs from executed prisoners, without permission from family members, to be an abuse of human rights. It violates international human rights law and international medical standards.'

Professor Chen, a Chinese surgeon who has performed hundreds of transplants in both China and Europe, was very shocked when he first travelled overseas and heard western people criticising China for

using prisoners' organs. 'Most Chinese people believe prisoners are criminals and so using their organs in academic research and to help the sick is a way for them to compensate for their crimes.' He adds, 'Organs are always in short supply; it's a global phenomenon. It makes perfect sense to take organs from dead prisoners so others can live.'

In the past, the majority of patients receiving transplants in China only came from other parts of Asia, but more recently Westerners have also been travelling to China for transplants. Mark Anderson had been waiting three years for a kidney transplant in England, when he heard he could get one in China. 'I did a search on Google and found a whole list of hospitals in China offering the service. I was amazed. I didn't realise it was so easy to get a kidney. I would have done it sooner if I had known. Instead, I wasted three long years on a waiting list, suffering needlessly.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Success story

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world are suffering from diseases of the heart, liver, kidney, skin and bone and are on a waiting list for a new organ. While many of these will die before they get a new organ, others may be lucky enough to receive a donated organ and lead a healthy life again.

For some people, the wait for a new organ is a race against time as their health deteriorates. This is especially painful for parents who have to wait for the donation of an organ for a sick child. Kwok Yin-ting, an eight-year-old girl, was seriously ill with heart disease last year. She could only walk three steps without collapsing and she could not breathe without an oxygen mask. The only hope for her was that she would receive a donated heart.

Doctors had told her parents that she only had

about two weeks left to live. Her mother says, 'It was awful. We couldn't do anything for her.' However, after four days, the doctors came with good news. A donor heart had been found for her. The heart came from a 15-year-old boy who had been killed in a car crash. 'We were so sorry for the boy and his family, but delighted that our daughter was given a chance. I believe in miracles now.' Yin-ting is now back at school and leading a normal life.

Medical technology has improved over the years, as have doctors' knowledge and skills. This means that the success rate of transplants is very high. The public now need to cooperate and carry donor cards so that seriously ill people like Ying-ting can be saved. 'It is heartbreaking that healthy organs are wasted every day because people are either too ignorant or selfish to carry a donor card,' said Ying-ting's father.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school is holding a *Gift of Life Week* to educate students about organ donation and persuade students and their families to carry donor cards.

You are on the organising committee. You should decide what information you want to give students and also the best way to present this information. You should also discuss activities to hold during the week to raise awareness and encourage people to carry donor cards.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The trip to China

Over the past ten years, mainland China has become a hub for transplant operations. Many foreigners make the trip there for a kidney, liver or heart transplant rather than wait in their own countries until an organ becomes available.

Chris White recently travelled to China for a kidney transplant. He said, 'When my kidneys failed, the doctors in the UK told me that I would be on a waiting list for a new kidney. I asked them how long I would have to wait and they said it could be anything from one month to five years.' Chris did not like this uncertainty. He was very ill and wanted to recover as quickly as possible. This is why he decided to go to China. 'The doctors in the UK do not advise their patients to travel to China for a transplant,' said Chris. 'They are worried about hygiene standards and that some organs come from executed prisoners. However, I was not prepared to wait. I'm very glad I went to China and would recommend it to others who need a new kidney.'

Mainland surgeons transplanted 4,000 livers, 8,000 kidneys and 80 hearts last year. All top-level hospitals in major cities have a transplant centre. Many have been set up in the past few years and are advertising their services overseas as there is a lot of money to be made from people coming to China for transplants. 'More and more patients, who would otherwise have to wait years to get a replacement organ in their own countries, are travelling to China for operations,' said a surgeon in Beijing.

Although the patients themselves are happy that they can travel to China and get a quick transplant, this phenomenon has attracted criticism from the World Health Organisation. A spokesperson said, 'The trade in executed prisoners' body parts must stop. It is unethical.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school is holding a *Gift of Life Week* to educate students about organ donation and persuade students and their families to carry donor cards.

You are on the organising committee. You should decide what information you want to give students and also the best way to present this information. You should also discuss activities to hold during the week to raise awareness and encourage people to carry donor cards.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Half a million march

In recent years, it has become increasingly common for Hong Kong people to voice their opinions on issues that concern them. They have been taking part in public protests and demonstrations, petitions and campaigns. On 1st July 2003, many people in Hong Kong joined together in a massive rally against the Government's proposed national security legislation, also known as Article 23.

On that day, half a million people marched through the streets to show their dissatisfaction. The size of the protest surprised everyone. Debbie Chan, one of the event organisers, said, 'We only anticipated about 250,000 marchers, which would already have been a very large number. It was Hong Kong's largest demonstration since the rallies around 4th June 1989, and shows that the public care about our city and believe in the power of groups to bring about change. The protesters were peaceful, polite and good-humoured and many even brought their children.'

Terry Tse, a student at the University of Hong Kong, joined the march. He said, 'There are many reasons why the turnout was so big that day. Many people wanted to express their dissatisfaction with how the Government had handled the SARS outbreak. Others felt they had to march to express their concerns because their views were not adequately represented by anyone, including Hong Kong's political parties. In fact, one thing the marchers had in common was that they were unhappy with government performance overall and the majority wanted the Chief Executive to resign.'

The Chief Executive was stunned that so many people had marched. He was quiet for three days, but then finally agreed to make some changes to the national security bill. Debbie said, 'This demonstrated to the public that civic participation is an effective and practical way for them to take part in local politics and that group action can possibly enhance the common good.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

The Student Union at your school has set up a group to collect information about different social issues that students are not happy with. The name of the group is *Students Have a Say*.

As Student Union members, you are now meeting to discuss the work of this group. You should first think about the social issues students are concerned about and then consider how you would collect other students' opinions. Finally, you need to decide on the most effective ways to bring your concerns to the public's attention.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Demolition of Star Ferry forces change

Last year, the Government was forced to strengthen its heritage conservation policies after protests about the demolition of the former Star Ferry Pier and its clock tower, and the proposed reclamation of the adjoining Queen's Pier. The call from the Hong Kong public was loud and clear: too much of our city's history has been destroyed and this must not happen again.

Tim Siu, a professor of cultural studies, says, 'In the past, long-standing landmarks have been torn down to make way for high-rises, shopping malls and roads. Examples include the Walled City in Kowloon and the Tiger Balm Gardens in Tai Hang. The general attitude towards these places was that they were old and the land could be put to a more worthwhile use.'

However, the people of our city finally decided that they would not tolerate the demolition of Hong Kong's cultural and historical landmarks anymore. In December last year, angry protesters occupied the site of

the Star Ferry Pier for more than two days in an effort to stop the demolition. The police finally forced the demonstrators away, but the Government heard their cry and promised that places of importance would be saved. The Government's plans include expanding the advisory board on historical buildings and sites and setting up public consultation forums to better gather public opinion on heritage conservation.

Tim says, 'The outbursts of emotion at the Star Ferry Pier were a milestone for the success of local civic activism. They finally convinced the Government to do something to preserve our cultural heritage. Hopefully, the steps taken by the Government will move our city in the right direction so that the few historical sites which remain will be saved. Quality of life is not just about having fancy modern structures and amenities, but also about appreciating the past and understanding how we have arrived at where we are now.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

The Student Union at your school has set up a group to collect information about different social issues that students are not happy with. The name of the group is *Students Have a Say*.

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

People power

Recent public protests show that Hong Kong citizens are learning to defend their rights and are determined to make their voices heard. Hong Kong now has an active civic culture as people realise that they have a responsibility to participate in the affairs of the city.

Over the past few years, the number of pressure groups fighting for Hong Kong's welfare has rapidly increased. It seems that the success of one group gives confidence to others to take action. There are numerous examples. The Society for Protection of the Harbour was successful in taking the Town Planning Board to court for its excessive reclamation plans. In addition, Save our Shorelines effectively forced the authorities to abandon two large road projects.

Groups of people from all walks of life are joining this surge of civic power. In December 2005, tens of thousands of people protested for democracy and demanded the right for voters to directly elect the Chief

Executive. The Civil Human Rights Front, which organised the protest, reported that at least 250,000 people took part. In January last year, over 10,000 teachers protested following the suicides of two colleagues. The demonstrators called for a cut in working hours at schools and the slowing down of the education reforms. Benny Cheung, a primary school teacher in Yuen Long, said, 'The facts are obvious. Teachers are under a lot of stress because of the extreme pressure at work. Most teachers in my school have been working 70 hours a week since the education reforms came into effect. Something needs to be done.'

Margaret Kam, a pro-democracy activist, said, 'Diversity of thought and opinion is the defining characteristic of our vibrant city. It's normal for Hong Kong people to express their opinions and to make an effort to influence public policy. Peaceful and civilised expressions of dissatisfaction are healthy.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

SARS spirit

Although the SARS outbreak in early 2003 was a tragic time for Hong Kong, one of the positive outcomes of the crisis was that it restored Hong Kong people's sense of community and revived their love of their city.

During SARS, Hong Kong people learnt the power of community spirit in their efforts to help fellow citizens and to change government thinking. People referred to this as the SARS spirit. Many people thought the Government was slow to react to the crisis and they felt that they themselves had to create initiatives to compensate for the lack of leadership. A huge surge of civic energy emerged. People began to examine social responsibilities, such as promoting proper hygiene and caring for the environment. In addition, there were numerous civic activities including fund-raising to buy protective medical gear and programmes promoting Hong Kong to the international community.

Terence Tsang, a computer programmer, says, 'The SARS epidemic was terrible for Hong Kong. It was a very frightening time, but people from all walks of life came together to help others. There was a real sense of a community working together for the common good. I was involved in a fund-raising event to raise money and create foundations for SARS victims and their families. I felt that I was doing something worthwhile, something that really mattered.'

Many other Hong Kong citizens, just like Terence, admit they felt more empowered as a result of SARS as they realised that they could make a difference and bring about change in the city. Terence adds, 'As tourism and business dropped to record lows, Hong Kong people were forced to slow down and they had a chance to think about what was important in their lives apart from materialistic concerns. This was a lesson for a lot of people.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

The Student Union at your school has set up a group to collect information about different social issues that students are not happy with. The name of the group is *Students Have a Say*.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Where in the world?

How can visitors see the sights and taste the food of Barcelona, Amsterdam, Shanghai, Miami, Cape Town and Venice, not to mention other exotic places, without having to jump on an aeroplane and travel to the four corners of the world? The Fisherman's Wharf in Macau is the answer.

The Fisherman's Wharf is the first theme park in Macau. It is located right on the coast of the Macau Peninsula, very close to the Hong Kong-Macau ferry pier. The construction of this diverse theme park cost HK\$1.9 billion and took over five years to complete. It was opened on 31st December 2005 by the Chief Executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

The complex includes various shops and restaurants in buildings constructed in the styles of different world seaports, such as Lisbon and Venice. There are various fairground rides, a slot machine hall, a luxury hotel and a casino. It also has a marina where the

wealthy can keep their private boats. The complex also includes a huge conference and exhibition centre. The most eye-catching landmark in the complex is a 40m high volcano, which erupts every night after dark. The inside of the volcano hosts a roller coaster called Dragon Quest and a water ride called River of Fire. Rita Shum, an employee at the theme park, says, 'It's really impressive to see the volcano erupt. Everyone loves it.'

Another stunning attraction is the Roman Amphitheatre. It is located in the East-meets-West area of the Wharf and has been designed as a world-class performance venue. It features a multi-purpose stage and is well equipped with hi-tech audio and visual technology, as well as a professional lighting system. A local Macau actor says, 'It is an ideal venue for all kinds of outdoor performances and variety shows. It can hold an audience of over 2,000. Our city is very lucky to have such a wonderful facility.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your geography teacher has asked you to do a project on how Chinese cities have evolved over the years. Your group has chosen to focus on Macau. You are planning a visit there to collect information.

You are now meeting to discuss the details of your project and trip. You should first think about how Macau has changed over the years and what it has to offer tourists and locals these days. You may also want to consider how you would collect information for your project while you are in Macau.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The Las Vegas of Asia

Everyone is talking about Macau these days. The once sleepy Portuguese colony is now a bustling hub of enterprise and is undergoing rapid development and construction like never before in its history. In fact, with the impending opening of so many new casinos and hotels, Macau is set to become the leading gaming capital of the world.

Gambling has been a significant part of Macau's economy since the Portuguese Government legalised the activity in the 1850s. Hong Kong people have been travelling there to visit the casinos for years. However, it is only since 2002, when the gambling industry was liberalised, that the number of casinos has rocketed. Stanley Ho, nicknamed 'The King of Gambling', held a monopoly over the Macau casino world for over 30 years. His Casino Lisboa, which opened in the late 1960s, had no rivals until recently. The Lisboa is credited with turning Macau into a gambling centre.

People call Macau the Asian Las Vegas. Sands, the largest casino in the world, opened there in 2004 and seven more casinos will open in the next couple of years. Gambling revenues from Macau's casinos are already greater than those of Las Vegas. For Macau residents, this means more job opportunities, more money to spend and more weekend recreational facilities. In addition, the Government has become more generous in its spending on education and social welfare.

However, some residents are not so happy with living in a boomtown. Rico Ribero says, 'Macau has become a more viable place to live, but it is at the expense of the village-type lifestyle. My family has always lived a simple, tranquil lifestyle, but that is changing.' He adds, 'Property prices are rising so many people can't afford to buy a flat and teenagers are dropping out of school to go to work in casinos.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The Historic Centre of Macau

In July 2005, the World Heritage Committee added The Historic Centre of Macau to the World Heritage List. A World Heritage site is a place that is of outstanding universal value to humanity and, as such, should be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Macau was the oldest European colony in China. It was administered by Portugal from the 16th century until 1999, when it became a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Those who have visited Macau cannot deny that the Portuguese definitely left their mark on the city. The centre of Macau includes the oldest examples of European architecture on Chinese soil today. Judy Li works for the Macau Tourist Authority. She says, 'It is wonderful that Macau has been classified as a World Heritage site as in the past, people thought Macau was only a place for gambling. They didn't realise that it had some of the finest and oldest colonial architecture in Asia. Now people can appreciate Macau for what it really is.'

A stroll through The Historic Centre of Macau is definitely a must. It is a true product of East-West cultural exchange, with examples of beautiful old colonial architecture standing beside ancient Chinese landmarks. There are numerous European-style churches, monuments and government buildings as well as a fortress, old city walls and a light house. There are also a number of Chinese temples and a couple of typical Chinese courtyard houses, such as the Lou Kau Mansion.

Brian Jones is a professor of history and he says, 'The Historic Centre of Macau constitutes a unique blend of cultural heritage existing in China today. It is a complete social infrastructure that has sustained the lives and traditions of different cultures.' He adds, 'I truly hope the recent boom in the construction of new casinos will not spoil the city.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your geography teacher has asked you to do a project on how Chinese cities have evolved over the years. Your group has chosen to focus on Macau. You are planning a visit there to collect information.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The sky is the limit

On a visit to Auckland, New Zealand, Macau casino billionaire Stanley Ho Hung-sun was so impressed by the Sky Tower in the city that he commissioned a similar one to be built in Macau. The Macau Sky Tower officially opened to the public in 2001. The attraction boasts new and exciting activities for people of all ages.

At 338m, the tower is the tenth tallest free-standing tower in the world. A high-speed glass-fronted lift takes visitors up to the 223m-high observation deck, which offers stunning panoramic views of the Pearl River delta and the city. Vanessa Poon, an employee, says, 'Visitors are always impressed, especially if they dine in the 360° Café. It is a revolving restaurant and on a clear day, it is possible to see 55km away.'

For the extremely daring, there are many exciting activities to do at the top of the tower. Skywalk X is a

stroll around the outer rim. The walkway is only 1.8m wide and there is no handrail. Sky Jump is a 20-second bungee jump. At 233m, it is the highest adventure of its kind in the world. Those who want something even more exciting can do the Mast Climb. It is a two-hour climb to the very top of the tower. Danny Ma recently completed the climb. 'It's awesome. I felt like I was standing on top of the world.'

Those who are not so fond of heights can stroll by the waterfront, explore a life-size replica of a ship, catch a movie in the state-of-the-art theatre and browse around the shopping malls. Children can play in the fairground, bounce on the Bungy Trampoline and fly through the air on the Flying Fox cable ride. Vanessa says, 'Macau has everything: world-class casinos, historical buildings, great food and also one of the highest towers in the world.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your geography teacher has asked you to do a project on how Chinese cities have evolved over the years. Your group has chosen to focus on Macau. You are planning a visit there to collect information.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Cool place!

Heilongjiang, which literally means Black Dragon River, is China's northernmost province and is known for its sub-arctic climate. In January, temperatures drop to -30 degrees Celsius and the Siberian wind howls.

Believe it or not, this freezing cold month is also the busiest tourist season. Many curious visitors, especially Hong Kong and Taiwanese people, flock to the province to fulfil their childhood dream of seeing snow. Invariably, some visitors are so overcome by the cold that they never set foot that far north again!

Harbin, the capital city of Heilongjiang province, is best known for its annual Ice Lantern Festival. The festival usually starts on 5th January and lasts a month. Competitors from all over the world come to carve sculptures out of huge blocks of ice. Some people carve animals or plants, while others carve replica versions of famous buildings. Sculptures featured in the past have

included a miniature Great Wall of China and a scaled-down Forbidden City. Mandy Lam went to the festival last year. 'The scale of the sculptures is overwhelming. Some of them are massive and they are on display all over the city: in parks, by the side of the roads, on buildings and even on frozen lakes.' At night, some of the sculptures are illuminated from the inside with coloured lights, turning the place into a temporary fantasy world. Mandy adds, 'There is even an ice maze, and during the festival people can try ice-sliding, skiing and riding on a horse-drawn sleigh.'

Visitors to Harbin are rewarded with other treasures apart from the ice and snow. There are a number of architectural gems from the Russian era, such as the Church of St. Sophia, and there are also some Russian neighbourhoods, which are very interesting to wander around. Mandy says, 'I tried Russian sausages for the first time. They were yummy!'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

A group of exchange students from the UK is visiting your school. You have been asked to accompany them on a two-week cultural tour of China. You are now meeting to discuss the details of the trip.

You should decide which places in China are worth visiting and why, what you will do there and how long you will stay in each place. You then need to think about which aspects of Chinese life, culture and history you would like to introduce to the exchange students.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Paris of the East

Shanghai is often referred to as the Paris of the East and anyone who takes a trip there will see why. Originally a sleepy fishing town, Shanghai became China's most important city in the 20th century. The name, Shanghai, literally means 'by the sea' as the city is on the banks of the Yangtze River delta. It was an ideal trading port for the British and, later, the French. Both cultures left their mark there.

A stroll along the Bund at the side of the Huangpu River is a must for visitors who want to see European architecture. This street has dozens of historical buildings that once housed the headquarters of major banks, as well as various consulates and prestigious clubs. The backstreets of the former French Concession are also worth a visit. Here, visitors can see mansions and villas with pretty balconies and doorways, buy antique furniture and browse in French shops.

Shanghai is evolving at a pace unmatched by any other Chinese city. Jing Bai is 80 years old and has lived in Shanghai all her life. She says, 'This city is changing so quickly. The street where I grew up has gone. It is now full of tall office buildings. Some people like the changes, while others struggle to come to terms with them. I feel this is true of other Chinese cities as well.'

Shanghai is, without doubt, a symbol of the huge disparities of modern China. Expensive department stores line the streets, while child beggars and prostitutes stand around. The city is also a unique blend of old and new. It is a place where ultra-modern skyscrapers stand beside ancient Buddhist temples and where Starbucks coffee shops are located next to traditional teahouses. For some, the rapid pace of development brings new hopes and dreams, but for others life remains unchanged.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Home of kung fu

If you are striving to be the next Jackie Chan, you should take a trip to Shaolin in Henan province and enrol in one of the many martial arts schools. Shaolin is the home of kung fu, China's most famous martial arts tradition.

The exact origins of kung fu are unclear, but legend has it that it was developed by Buddhist monks at the Shaolin Temple in the 5th century. Apparently, for relief between long periods of meditation, the monks would imitate the movements of the birds and animals around them. Over the centuries, these exercises developed into a physical and spiritual martial art.

For the super fit, the Shaolin Temple Wushu Training Centre offers classes. Only the bravest students dare to train with the locals as their day, which starts with a run at 5:30am, goes on until long after dark. For those

who are happy with being spectators, the temple holds kung fu shows. The performers are the best students from the school and their ability is outstanding. Ivy Ping visited the temple and said, 'The kung fu display was fantastic. The most amazing stunt was when a young boy put a needle through a sheet of glass and burst a balloon. I don't know how he did it.'

Shaolin is in a valley surrounded by the Songshan mountains and the scenery is spectacular. In summer, the valley is lush and green; in autumn, the area is awash with golden leaves; and in winter, the land is covered in snow. It is easy to see why the monks chose this tranquil area for their place of worship. Ivy recommends going for a walk in the hills. 'It only takes an hour to climb up the mountains around the city and the views are really rewarding. It's a great way to appreciate the natural beauty of the place.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

A group of exchange students from the UK is visiting your school. You have been asked to accompany them on a two-week cultural tour of China. You are now meeting to discuss the details of the trip.

You should decide which places in China are worth visiting and why, what you will do there and how long you will stay in each place. You then need to think about which aspects of Chinese life, culture and history you would like to introduce to the exchange students.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Terracotta Warriors

The Terracotta Warriors, alongside the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, rank as one of China's top historical sights. The army of warriors can be found just outside the city of Xian in Shanxi province and the city itself is definitely a great place to spend a few days.

The warriors are one of the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th century. Emperor Qin Shi Huang had the clay warriors built more than 2,000 years ago to protect himself in the afterlife. Many of the life-sized soldiers hold real weapons and they are all arranged in classic battle formations. In 1974, a group of local farmers discovered the warriors and so far, more than 8,000 figures of soldiers and horses, as well as other items, such as chariots and weapons, have been unearthed.

The warriors are not the only amazing historical sight in Xian. It is one of the few cities left in China with

an original city wall. The wall stands 12m high and has watch towers at the corners. Fiona Lui visited Xian recently. 'I climbed the steps to the top of the wall and walked all around it. It was about 16km long. The views of the city were stunning. The Xian Marathon is held on the wall each November and I would like to go back for that as I love running.'

The Muslim quarter of the city is also a really interesting place to stroll around and explore. 'It's not like being in China. The narrow back streets are lined with old mud-brick houses and there are mosques and Muslim restaurants. I sat down in a café to have a drink and was surprised that I was the only lady there. The other customers were all Muslim men wearing white skullcaps. I felt like I was somewhere in the Middle East,' said Fiona.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

A group of exchange students from the UK is visiting your school. You have been asked to accompany them on a two-week cultural tour of China. You are now meeting to discuss the details of the trip.

You should decide which places in China are worth visiting and why, what you will do there and how long you will stay in each place. You then need to think about which aspects of Chinese life, culture and history you would like to introduce to the exchange students.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Blogging

Most of us have heard of blogs and blogging, but what actually are blogs and what is their purpose?

The word blog is the short form of web log. A log is a kind of record or diary where people jot down important information. Scuba divers, for example, use a log book to keep a record of all of their dives. A blog is just an extension of this idea. In other words, it is an online log book or a type of website where entries are made, such as in a journal or diary.

Blogs became trendy a few years ago and their popularity is growing all the time. As more and more people make their own blogs, the purpose and function of blogs are also expanding. For example, in the past, most blogs were personal online diaries, especially for people who were travelling and wanted to share their experiences with others. In contrast, many blogs now

provide commentary or news on a particular subject, such as food, politics or world events. A typical blog combines text, images and links to other blogs or web pages. Most blogs include text although some focus on photographs (photoblog), videos (vlog), or audio (podcasting).

Eva Chan, an English teacher in a local secondary school, uses blogs as a teaching aid. 'My students all set up a blog in our first lesson. They post all of their work on their blogs and some of them add photos, music and video clips. It is their own personal space where they can express themselves and really be who they want to be. It encourages students to use English more as all of their blog entries are in English and they love reading their classmates' blogs. At the end of the year, we have a best blog competition.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your IT teacher is compiling a booklet called *Making the most of the World Wide Web*. The aim of the booklet is to recommend useful websites to students and their families. He has asked your group to contribute ideas for the booklet.

You are now meeting to discuss what kind of websites should be recommended and why. You may also want to discuss advice or tips for Internet users that should be included in the booklet. If time allows, consider how you could design the booklet to attract readers.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Stargazing

People interested in stargazing will soon be able to do it from the comfort of their armchairs. In a couple of years, Hong Kong people will be able to look beyond the solar system by using a new telescope they can control via the Internet.

The \$850,000 telescope is housed in a new Interactive Astronomical Observatory, which is opening in Sai Kung. The new observatory is an effort to expand and revitalise the Space Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui as it is already over 25 years old. One of the organisers said, 'People will be able to log on to a website and book a time to use the telescope. The images will then appear on the person's screen. Anyone can view the images through the website, but only people who book a time will be able to control the telescope.'

The telescope is part of a teaching programme run

by the Space Museum. The programme began in 2001 and trains school teachers to bring astronomy into the classroom. Over 300 teachers have enrolled so far. Ben Locke, a science teacher on the programme, is very excited. 'I can't wait to use the new website in my classes. The telescope is so powerful that it will be able to see further than the solar system. The naked eye can only see objects up to a magnitude of six, but the telescope will enable people to see stars of magnitude 15. It will also be able to take photos. My students will absolutely love it.'

Sam Chow, the curator of the Space Museum, mentioned that priority for booking the telescope during the first two years would be given to teachers. The general public will be able to book a time to use the interactive observatory after two years, but the booking system for that has not been finalised yet.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Virtual gym

Gym membership in Hong Kong is expensive. Members need to pay around \$300 a month at gyms, such as California or Fitness First, which means that many people who would like to do more exercise cannot afford it.

However, sports science expert Stanley Hui has come up with a solution. He has set up a virtual gym with eight personal trainers and the membership fee is only \$10 a month. When people join the virtual gym, they have a fitness assessment. This involves entering information about their health, fitness, weight and measurements, as well as their sleeping and eating habits. Next, they choose an online trainer, who will assess whether they need to lose weight and, if so, how much. The member and personal trainer negotiate an exercise and eating plan, which includes the type of exercise, the frequency of exercise and how many calories they should consume each day. The computer finally announces the exact date at which the target weight should be reached.

Kristy Wu is a member of the gym. 'It's a great service. My personal trainer advised me to lose 4kg in five weeks. I log on to the gym after each meal and the computer tells me how many calories I have eaten. For example, I had a pineapple bun earlier and it contained 360 calories. Another thing I like is that my personal trainer sends me text messages and emails to keep me motivated. All this helps me to achieve my aim.'

Dr Wong, a professor at Chinese University, says, 'Hong Kong people are very busy and gyms and personal trainers are too expensive. Even if they get a trainer, many people don't feel comfortable telling their trainer all their personal information. So the virtual gym is the answer for people who are busy, who would rather talk to a virtual trainer than a real one, or who don't want to pay \$500 a month.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Webcam watchers

Many people are suspicious of webcam sites and their users. However, webcams are now pointing at everything from city streets to remote volcanoes and this means that there are endless choices for people who want to watch distant places and events. What is more, webcams have been shown to have some very useful and interesting functions.

When Bev, the owner of Hilltop Stables in the USA, found herself badly injured and unable to move, webcam watchers saved her life. Bev was helping a horse give birth when it kicked her, shattering her right leg. Fortunately, a number of webcam voyeurs had seen the accident on the stable's webcam and alerted the rescue services. 'We had calls from as far away as England and Australia informing us of Bev's accident,' said a local policeman.

There are thousands of webcam sites where users can watch the world, but many people still wonder why

they actually want to. Chris Jenkins, a webmaster at CamVista, a live webcam site, says, 'The most common reasons are practical. For example, people use webcams as a travel resource as they like to see the places they are thinking of visiting, especially famous landmarks, such as Big Ben in London. Other users like helicopter pilots use webcams to plot the weather.'

According to Martin Lloyd, another webmaster, homesickness plays a large part in motivating webcam viewers. 'It's not usually the locals who watch, but people who have moved away and are looking for a glimpse of home.' Martin also adds, 'Webcam audiences do not just surf for individual pleasure. Many people form communities around special interests.' For example, the Oklahoma City Ghosts Club has set up webcams in an old hospital which they believe to be haunted. 'The members watch for ghosts. Some of them, for twenty hours a day,' says Martin.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Place your bets

Gambling is a popular pastime for many Hong Kong citizens. Some people frequently travel to Macau to visit the casinos. Others go to Happy Valley or Shatin to bet on the horses. Gambling is now getting easier as online betting services allow people to place bets without even leaving their homes.

Ah Cheung, a 50-year-old taxi driver, used to be addicted to gambling. He owned five taxi licences worth about \$1 million each in 1989, but lost them all to gambling. 'I used to go to Macau after driving for a few hours. I gambled with the cash I earned that day. I always thought I could make up for the loss if I worked harder the next day.' Ah Cheung now describes the 31 years he spent addicted to gambling as a time when he had 'lost his mind'. In 2004, when he had lost all of his money, he considered suicide. Fortunately, his brother helped him to settle the debt and called the Gamblers' Hotline for him. After two years of counselling, Ah Cheung eventually overcame his addiction.

Joe Tang, who works at the Caritas Addicted Gamblers' Counselling Centre, says, 'Many people gamble in order to relieve their boredom and boost self-esteem. They feel their lives are boring and aimless. They perceive themselves as slaves, having to work or study such long hours. Gambling gives them a bit of excitement and winning makes them feel confident.'

Social worker Karen Cheung feels that gambling is a very serious addiction. 'The big problem nowadays is that younger people are getting addicted to it because of online betting websites. Parents need to monitor what their children spend money on.' Ah Cheung hopes his experience can teach others not to start gambling. 'I hope I can help other addicts too. I have big advertisements for the Gamblers' Hotline all over my taxi.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your principal has asked you to prepare a talk for lower form students about common addictions in society. The purpose of your talk is to educate them about the negative effects of these addictions.

You are now meeting to plan your talk. You should first identify which addictions to include in the talk and decide what to tell the students about each addiction. You then need to think of ways to discourage them from taking up these bad habits. You could also think about the most effective ways to present your information.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Virtual addiction

In recent years, there has been a growing concern about excessive Internet use. In fact Internet abuse, or virtual addiction, as it is known, is now treated as a genuine addictive illness just like smoking, drinking or gambling.

The Internet clearly has a role to play in today's information age and it cannot be denied that it has become important in all areas of people's lives. However, it is very easy to become addicted to the Internet. Internet addicts tend to have counterproductive, isolating and even offensive behaviour. Terry Zhang, a Form Six student, used to be an Internet addict. He learnt to control his addiction with the help of his parents and a counsellor. Terry says, 'The Net could completely alter my mood. When I wasn't online, I felt angry and frustrated. I didn't want to see my friends and family, go to school, or do anything at all. Being online meant everything to me.'

Much research has been done on Internet abuse and experts are outlining both causes and symptoms. Studies suggest that the Internet may have psychological properties that are capable of altering people's moods and behaviour, often without them even being aware of the changes. Patricia Chow, a mental health doctor, says, 'The Internet is a highly powerful technology. If abused, it can have a serious impact on all areas of life, such as relationships, work, marriage and even energy levels. Addicts can start behaving in a very irrational way.'

Terry believes that Net addicts need help and support from family and friends. 'If parents suspect that their child is an addict, they should go to a website called netaddiction.com and ask their child to take the online Internet addiction test. Diagnosis is very important. If it is left untreated, Net addiction can make people's lives really miserable and with time, the effects become extremely serious.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Smokers start younger

Hong Kong has one of the world's lowest smoking rates. Research shows only about 13% of the population are smokers. However, one worrying fact is that people are taking up the habit at a younger age. In fact, over 60% of smokers in Hong Kong started smoking before the age of 19.

The reasons why teenagers start smoking are many: peer pressure, curiosity, the desire to take a risk, imitation of a celebrity, or rebellion against parents. In addition, teenagers may take up the habit because of certain misconceptions. For example, they wrongly believe that smoking is quite common, or they think that it can make them look more mature and feel more confident. Other misconceptions are the belief that they can quit any time and that smoking can help them to lose weight.

In this day and age, when there is so much publicity portraying smoking in a very negative light, it is

ironic that so many well-educated teenagers are starting to smoke. As one teacher, Sammy Fung, explains, 'Ten years ago, very few pupils from our school smoked. Now, I know that a lot of the Form Four students and even more of the older ones smoke every day. I can smell it on their clothes and on their breath.' He adds, 'Parents need to make their children aware of the risks of smoking and persuade them not to start.'

Rebecca Loo, a social worker, says, 'The facts are very simple. Smoking is expensive and it kills. Around 5,700 people in Hong Kong die from smoking-related illnesses every year. In addition, cigarettes are \$34 a pack which means that if you smoke one pack per day, you will spend \$12,410 each year and \$124,100 in ten years.' Rebecca recommends the Youth Quitline, which is a new hotline that gives encouragement and support to young people who want to kick the habit.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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You are now meeting to plan your talk. You should first identify which addictions to include in the talk and decide what to tell the students about each addiction. You then need to think of ways to discourage them from taking up these bad habits. You could also think about the most effective ways to present your information.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The 'respectable' addiction

People in Hong Kong are renowned for working long hours. However, it is now recognised that obsession with work, or workaholism, is an addiction. In Japan, it is called death by overwork and it is estimated to cause 1,000 deaths per year. In the USA, it is known as the 'respectable' addiction.

Dr John Robinson says, 'Workaholism is an addiction and it's not the same as working hard or putting in long hours.' Hard-working people generally have some balance in their lives. They spend a lot of time at work, but also set aside time for their hobbies, such as playing golf. However, workaholics think about work even when they are on the golf course. He adds, 'The obsession with work is all-consuming. It prevents workaholics from maintaining healthy relationships and outside interests. Workaholics neglect their health and ignore their friends and family. They avoid going on holiday so they don't have to miss work, and even if they do go on holiday, their minds are still on work.'

As with any other addiction, there is often a lack of understanding as to how their addiction to work affects them and others. Often, workaholics only realise they have a problem when something catastrophic happens, for example, their health completely fails or their marriages break down. Such was the case with Maggie, a 52-year-old nurse in the USA. 'I realised I was a workaholic when my husband left me. I have since attended Workaholics Anonymous meetings once a week.'

What can be done for workaholics in Hong Kong? Counselling is recommended, as are support groups, where workaholics can talk to psychiatrists and other people with the same addiction. 'It comes down to recognising a need for balance in your life,' says Dr Robinson. 'Working hard is great, but you need to be able to enjoy other aspects of your life – friends, family and free time.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Girls in a man's world

Football, or soccer, as it is known in the United States, is popular the world over. However, is it only males who should be playing and watching the game? Two films, *Bend It Like Beckham* and *Offside* show the struggle some girls have just to pursue their passion.

Bend It Like Beckham is a comedy about bending the rules to reach your goal. The film follows two 18-year-olds in London with their hearts set on a future in professional football. Juliette, an English girl, is encouraged by her family, while Jessie, the daughter of a strict Indian family, has to keep her hobby a secret. Her parents are uncomfortable with their daughter running around in shorts and chasing a ball instead of wearing a traditional Indian dress and learning to cook Indian food. Jessie eventually rebels against her parents' traditionalism by running off to Germany with her football team.

Offside is an Iranian comedy about female football fans. Under Islamic law, girls in Iran are not

allowed to attend football matches. In the movie, a group of girls who are crazy about football and brave enough to break the law, disguise themselves as boys in an attempt to sneak into the stadium to watch a game. The girls are caught by the police and taken away to a special enclosed zone. They can hear the crowd cheering and shouting, but cannot see the game. The film, however, ends on a more positive note. As Iran wins the game, everybody cheers. Male and female, guards and captives merge into a single crowd and celebrate in the streets.

In most Asian countries, however, there are women's football teams which compete in the Asian Women's Football Championship. In fact, there is a Hong Kong Ladies Football Association and there are at least seven women's football teams in our city. Fortunately, girls in Hong Kong do not have any obstacles and are free to pursue their passion.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

In 1977, the United Nations designated 8th March as *International Women's Day*. Your principal would like to hold some special events in your school on that day. She has asked your group to be part of the organising committee.

You are now meeting to discuss your ideas. You should first think about the status of women today and how this has changed over the years. Then, think about the best way to display this information and inform other students. Finally, consider how you would plan events and activities that could be held to celebrate *International Women's Day*.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Empress of waste

Chairman Mao once claimed that women hold up half the sky. However, he could never have predicted that a woman would be top of the list of the mainland's richest people. Aged only 49, self-made billionaire Cheung Yan is worth a massive US\$3.4 billion. Her fortune is greater than that of American chat show queen Oprah Winfrey or Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling. But how did Cheung Yan make so much money?

Her riches were actually built from a pile of old rubbish. Or, to be more specific, Ms Cheung is the founder of Nine Dragons Paper, a company which buys waste paper from the United States for recycling on the mainland. As people become more environmentally aware, the market for recycled products is growing rapidly. As a result, shares in Nine Dragons tripled in less than a year.

Cheung Yan's story is a classic tale of rags to riches. She was the eldest child of a military family in

northeastern Heilongjiang province. She moved to Hong Kong in 1985 and set up a business with only US\$3,700. She later moved to the States and then returned to China in 1996 to set up recycling plants in Dongguan. Her factories recycle waste paper into containerboard, which is used for packaging. Customers include multinationals such as Coca-Cola, Nike and Sony.

The mainland is getting richer at a very rapid pace. The number of billionaires in the booming country has doubled since last year. However, there are only 35 women on the list of the 500 richest people. Rupert Hoogewerf has been compiling rich lists for years and he says, 'Ms Cheung is the wealthiest self-made woman in the world.' When asked about the secret of her success, she says that her down-to-earth personality has been a big factor. But she also admits that luck has played a part too!

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

In 1977, the United Nations designated 8th March as *International Women's Day*. Your principal would like to hold some special events in your school on that day. She has asked your group to be part of the organising committee.

You are now meeting to discuss your ideas. You should first think about the status of women today and how this has changed over the years. Then, think about the best way to display this information and inform other students. Finally, consider how you would plan events and activities that could be held to celebrate *International Women's Day*.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

The examiners cannot answer any questions about the instructions or the task you have to discuss. If you have any questions, you may discuss them among yourselves and that will be an acceptable part of your group discussion, and will be assessed.

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Women can do it too

Did you know that Hong Kong women have been playing cricket for more than five years and that Hong Kong actually has its own Cricket Association Women's League? Most people think that cricket is a man's sport and that women do not have the physical power for batting, bowling or fielding.

However, the female cricketers in Hong Kong are proving these people wrong. The Women's League was formed in 2004 and now includes six teams. The first team, which is made up of females of six different nationalities, has been travelling overseas recently for international matches. Last year, they played a three-match series against the Pakistan National Women's Cricket Team in Lahore, Pakistan, for a place in the 2009 Women's World Cup.

Although the team lost to Pakistan and failed to secure a place in the World Cup, players enjoyed the

international exposure and thought it was a worthwhile experience. The trip was a real eye-opener for 14-year-old Godiva Li, one of the four local Chinese in the squad, who played two matches in the series. 'Now I realise how strong other teams, such as Pakistan, are. I learned a lot from playing against them. They trained almost every day for months before the event and were so well-prepared.' Betty Chan, another player, said she felt very lucky to have the chance as there are very few Chinese girls playing cricket.

17-year-old Natasha Miles, renowned for her bowling speed, is also on the team. She attracted a lot of attention last season when she was nominated 'best bowler' on a predominantly male team. The manager of the Hong Kong Cricket Club women's team is confident about her team's future. She said, 'Since going to Pakistan, we have a far better idea of the standard to aim for.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

In 1977, the United Nations designated 8th March as *International Women's Day*. Your principal would like to hold some special events in your school on that day. She has asked your group to be part of the organising committee.

You are now meeting to discuss your ideas. You should first think about the status of women today and how this has changed over the years. Then, think about the best way to display this information and inform other students. Finally, consider how you would plan events and activities that could be held to celebrate *International Women's Day*.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Giant leap for womankind

Is it really true that there are certain jobs which only men can do? Well, according to 43-year-old Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, the answer to that question is a definite no. Last year, the female astronaut took part in a 12-day mission to upgrade the International Space Station, Atlantis. To date, only seven women have taken part in the 277 Russian and American space walks.

Ms Piper said one reason for the lack of female space walkers is the spacesuit, which is not designed for average-sized women. Ms Piper is 178cm tall and she says, 'I fit in the suit better. If you fit in a suit then it is easier to work.' Ms Piper has always excelled in traditionally male-dominated areas. Although she studied at an all-girls school, she later received both a Bachelor and a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Soon after, she trained as a diving and salvage officer in the Navy. This involved rescuing and repairing submarines and ships. She also qualified as a

surface warfare officer on board an American warship.

Ms Piper was selected as a trainee astronaut by NASA in April 1996. She completed two years of training and finally flew her first mission on STS-115 in September 2006. During the mission she completed two space walks, which means she spent slightly over 13 hours in space. This makes her the second most experienced female space walker. The work done by Ms Piper and her colleagues on Atlantis has been described as the most complex assembly work ever done in space.

As an astronaut, Ms Piper has been actively involved in programmes encouraging young women to pursue science and maths-related careers. Along with educators, she has inspired the next generation of young women by reinforcing the message that girls can excel in these careers and reach for the stars.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

In 1977, the United Nations designated 8th March as *International Women's Day*. Your principal would like to hold some special events in your school on that day. She has asked your group to be part of the organising committee.

You are now meeting to discuss your ideas. You should first think about the status of women today and how this has changed over the years. Then, think about the best way to display this information and inform other students. Finally, consider how you would plan events and activities that could be held to celebrate *International Women's Day*.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Sporting salvation

Hong Kong people usually follow their local teams when they compete abroad, but one such team was not idolised, supported or followed by fans. This group of soccer players, based in Hong Kong, is unique. They have no special skills or equipment and have had very little training - only four months. However, social worker Ng Wai-tung takes great pride in his team, which competed in the Homeless World Cup last year.

All the team members are homeless, or have been in the past, and many felt abandoned and lonely. After working with the homeless for six years, Ng decided to use soccer to give back hope and make a positive impact on their lives. One team member, Joe, agrees that the team has changed his life. 'It made me realise if I could be successful playing soccer, I could rebuild my life. I now have a job again and keep in touch with my old team-mates for support,' he said.

Sport has also played a vital role in bringing health and happiness to many disabled people in Hong Kong. The Sports Association for the Physically Disabled encourages people with disabilities to take part in sport as part of their rehabilitation and therapy. As a result, many have gone on to compete at the highest level in the Paralympics, a competition that is sadly often overlooked.

Many people know Lee Lai-shan, the famous windsurfer, who won a gold medal in the 1996 Olympics. Yet, very few have heard of Yu Chui-yee, the most successful Hong Kong Chinese sportswoman who only has one leg. Yu won four gold medals in the Athens Paralympics in 2004. 'Sports show that the disabled can succeed,' she said. Another member of the Hong Kong Paralympic team agrees. 'The Games give us a chance to prove our worth; without this, people would just ignore us.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your group has been chosen to represent your school in a video competition organised by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The competition topic is *Sport: the good, the bad and the unusual*.

You will need to discuss the benefits and disadvantages of taking part in sport, the different types of sport available to students and decide on the content of your video. You might also like to discuss any messages that you would like to convey to your audience through your video.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Gambling with childhood

Most children in Hong Kong have a lot to think about. They have schoolwork and examinations to study for, as well as family commitments to attend to. Many enjoy playing or watching sport to reduce stress and keep healthy. However, a new and frightening trend has arisen – some children are gambling on sporting events.

A survey commissioned by the Watsons Athletic Club was carried out just before the 2006 Soccer World Cup. 780 local students were interviewed and the results were alarming. Even though many students had examinations to prepare for during the World Cup, over 43% said that they would watch the games anyway. The survey also showed that children as young as nine years old were planning to place bets on World Cup matches.

Anti-gambling organisations have attributed the rise in the problem among young people to the legalisation of soccer gambling in 2002. 'It's no longer a

deterrent. They're not afraid of criminal prosecution and so they think it's okay to gamble,' a representative claimed. Some young people said that it was fun to bet with family members and their parents would even place bets for them. 'Children are easily tempted to bet because soccer is such a popular sport in Hong Kong. Parents should set a good example for their children and refuse to take bets from them!' commented Dr Louie, a professor of physical education at Baptist University.

Despite these concerns, the new Hong Kong Jockey Club Chairman, John Chan Cho-chak, has suggested that a family area be created at the Shatin racecourse. He confronted the anti-gambling lobby and recommended that children should be allowed to share in the excitement of the racecourse. 'Many racehorse owners want to bring their children to the races. To have a winning racehorse is a memorable experience, and one which the whole family should be able to enjoy!'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your group has been chosen to represent your school in a video competition organised by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The competition topic is *Sport: the good, the bad and the unusual*.

You will need to discuss the benefits and disadvantages of taking part in sport, the different types of sport available to students and decide on the content of your video. You might also like to discuss any messages that you would like to convey to your audience through your video.

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Dangerous games

A healthy lifestyle must include exercise and health professionals constantly advise us to play a sport or become involved in some form of physical activity. However, some people take part in sport for different reasons. It could be because they enjoy the competition, the danger or winning prizes.

The motorcycle races in Macau are fraught with danger and there are often accidents. In spite of this, every year motorcycle racing attracts many riders who are willing to risk their lives. Racing on a street circuit, like the circuit in Macau, is the most dangerous. The riders must find their way around sharp bends in the road at very fast speeds. 'You need courage to even get on a bike at first,' says one competitor, 'sometimes, even the fans can get in the way and it makes riding very difficult.'

Another popular sport in Hong Kong is also one

of the most dangerous. Yet many young hopefuls dream of becoming an apprentice jockey at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Academy. Apprentices have to prove that they are dedicated and can think quickly in dangerous situations. Young jockeys must be strong, as racehorses can accelerate to 40kmph in less than three seconds, faster than a sports car.

Alex Lai Hoi-wing is a champion apprentice jockey. He loves horse racing, but agrees that it is not a career for those who are easily frightened. 'You have to accept that it is a dangerous sport. Despite safety regulations, people do get badly hurt.' Alex has been fortunate and has never been seriously injured, but Hong Kong jockey Sunny Ho was not so lucky. He suffered a serious brain injury after falling from his horse during a race in the USA, and may never recover.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your group has been chosen to represent your school in a video competition organised by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The competition topic is *Sport: the good, the bad and the unusual*.

You will need to discuss the benefits and disadvantages of taking part in sport, the different types of sport available to students and decide on the content of your video. You might also like to discuss any messages that you would like to convey to your audience through your video.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Extraordinary exercise

A recent study by the Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion at the Chinese University found that only 50% of students do any kind of regular exercise. Many people hate to exercise because they complain that going to the gym is boring and they do not have time to play any team sports. Anna Chan, a Form Seven student, understands the problems. 'There's just no time to practise for team competitions, and I hate walking on a treadmill in the gym. It's so tedious!'

In response to the growing demand for more interesting ways to exercise, gym owners and managers have been promoting Fusion Fitness classes. These classes combine two or more traditional forms of exercise to create a new fun approach to keeping fit. For example, sports such as swimming and gymnastics can be combined with anything from martial arts to belly dancing.

Yoga has been a popular way to keep both mind

and body fit, but it has become so common that gym members are demanding something more unusual. Now you can attend the new disco yoga or cardio yoga classes. These combine aerobic workouts, traditional yoga positions and breathing techniques, all set against a background of disco music. Even golfers are attending special yoga classes to help them improve their game by working on their balance and strength.

Dancing is another new way to get fit. 'It's great!' says dance instructor Mae Li. 'It's a great way to socialise and meet new people as well as lose weight and forget your everyday worries.' She goes on to explain that since Latin and ballroom dancing have been recognised as official sports by the International Olympic Committee, many more people are signing up for dance classes. 'Exercising is now a lot of fun and keeps you healthy. Just sign up and learn something new!' she says.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your group has been chosen to represent your school in a video competition organised by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The competition topic is *Sport: the good, the bad and the unusual*.

You will need to discuss the benefits and disadvantages of taking part in sport, the different types of sport available to students and decide on the content of your video. You might also like to discuss any messages that you would like to convey to your audience through your video.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

No chemicals allowed

It is thought that a healthy diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables will help us to live longer, but many dieticians now believe that even if we follow these guidelines, we may still be harming our bodies.

Chemicals used to kill off pests and insects, such as artificial fertilisers and pesticides, are widely used on farms worldwide. Organic food, however, is grown without the use of these substances, which means people need not worry about taking in harmful chemicals through their food. This may be reassuring to consumers, but there are some drawbacks. Only about 1% of farms in Hong Kong use organic methods, which means that organic food is twice as expensive as non-organic produce. One shopper comments, 'I am worried about pollutants and chemicals in our food, but organic food is expensive and difficult to find.' Many also complain about its appearance. A stallholder adds, 'All I know about organic food is that it has more worm bites and looks unhealthy so people won't buy it.'

What is even more worrying is that many products claiming to be organic are not genuine. The director of the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) is concerned that a lack of clear guidelines about labelling organic food results in consumers being cheated. He suggests, 'Because the products lack correct labelling, people are often misled into believing they're buying organic products.'

Despite the drawbacks, organic food does have its supporters. Nutritionists agree that an organic diet is essential and organic farmers believe this method of farming has a positive impact on the environment. Mr Chan, an organic farmer, explains, 'We prevent chemicals from entering our water.' He also adds, 'The belief that an organic diet is expensive is misplaced. If we don't eat organic food, the toxin levels in our bodies are much higher and we will spend a lot more on visits to doctors.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school principal believes that diet could be affecting the students' work and behaviour. He is therefore concerned about the kind of food students eat in the school cafeteria. He has asked your group to organise and present a healthy food campaign at school entitled *You are what you eat*.

You should first discuss the types of food available at school. Then, consider what students usually like to eat and discuss alternative food choices and lifestyles that students could be made aware of during the campaign.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Food made to order

What did you eat today? You might have thought that your breakfast cereal was something quite simple and your rice at lunchtime was ... just rice. Maybe not! You could have been eating rice that had extra vitamins added to it or cereal that was part soy bean because the genetic structure of the plants had been changed.

The use of genetically modified (GM) food is controversial. Biologists and agricultural experts believe that it is the only way we can make sure that enough food is grown for our future populations. Professor Sun at the Chinese University of Hong Kong states that, 'Malnutrition causes about five million deaths among children below the age of five each year. Rice feeds half the world's population, but its lack of some vitamins can cause malnutrition.' The Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation has donated US\$450 million to research on varieties of GM rice which are nutritious, produce higher yields and are easier to grow.

GM scientists alter the structure of the plants so that they can grow more quickly with less water, become resistant to disease, and produce food which is rich in vitamins and tastes better. Unfortunately, these experts are unable to tell us whether GM food could be harmful if it is consumed over a long period of time. Critics say that scientists are tampering with nature and warn that, one day, we may all suffer the consequences.

The labelling of GM food in Hong Kong is also a cause for concern. Most western countries now require companies which use GM ingredients to mark this clearly on their product labels. Yet, in Hong Kong, no such laws are in place and labelling is voluntary. Greenpeace activists are concerned that food companies will not want to label products and that, therefore, people will only become aware of what they are eating when it is too late.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school principal believes that diet could be affecting the students' work and behaviour. He is therefore concerned about the kind of food students eat in the school cafeteria. He has asked your group to organise and present a healthy food campaign at school entitled *You are what you eat*.

You should first discuss the types of food available at school. Then, consider what students usually like to eat and discuss alternative food choices and lifestyles that students could be made aware of during the campaign.

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

No meat, thank you!

After hearing about bird flu and that the H5N1 virus might be passed on to humans through contact with chickens, Julie Li became extremely concerned. She decided to look into giving up eating meat altogether and becoming a vegetarian. She attended a seminar at the Vegetarian Society of Hong Kong (VSHK). She said she cried when the talk made her realise she was eating living creatures. 'My family were shocked when I stopped eating meat. My mother was very upset and said I would fall ill as I could not get enough nutrition from vegetables.' Contrary to her mother's fears, Julie says she feels much healthier.

A vegetarian does not eat any meat, poultry or fish. However, it can sometimes be difficult to avoid animal ingredients. Even cakes, ice-cream, jam and confectionary may contain animal products. Nutritionists now believe that a diet of nuts, grains, pulses, fruit and vegetables provides all the nutrients our body needs. Vegetarians tend to eat less fat and more dietary fibre

than meat-eaters, which boosts their immune systems and helps to protect the body against diseases.

Many people say that it is very difficult to follow a vegetarian diet, but vegetarianism is not new to Hong Kong. In China, the vegetarian diet was first developed by Buddhists who believed that eating animals was wrong. There are, in fact, over 100 vegetarian restaurants in Hong Kong. Even many mainstream fast-food restaurants are now offering a vegetarian option.

Simon Chau, chairman of the VSHK, explains that more people are making enquiries about vegetarianism. 'People are becoming more aware of what they are eating and some have even decided to give up eating meat. Attendance at our cooking demonstrations has more than doubled.' Julie says she will never eat meat again. 'I feel great, I have more energy and I have lost weight too. It's the best thing I've ever done!'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school principal believes that diet could be affecting the students' work and behaviour. He is therefore concerned about the kind of food students eat in the school cafeteria. He has asked your group to organise and present a healthy food campaign at school entitled *You are what you eat*.

You should first discuss the types of food available at school. Then, consider what students usually like to eat and discuss alternative food choices and lifestyles that students could be made aware of during the campaign.

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Healthy options

According to a recent survey conducted by the Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, more than 50% of children between the ages of two and seven do not eat enough fresh fruit and vegetables. A professor at the university says, 'Adults fail to provide a good role model for children as they also do not eat these foods.' Not only do children eat too much fast food, they also lack exercise, watch television for hours every day and do not drink enough water. All these contribute to poor health.

Nutritionists warn against fast food, but the temptation for such food is always growing. There are innumerable fast food restaurants in Hong Kong, yet many people are excited about the latest addition to the local fast food scene. Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, an American confectionary company, has just opened in Hong Kong.

However, health food shops are also gaining in popularity and many sell organic products and healthier

alternatives to traditional food, such as brown and red rice. Andy Chung, a restaurant owner, recently included unpolished rice on the menu. He believes that when given the choice, the younger generation will often choose healthier options. He adds, 'However, the older generation still resist, saying that people only ate unpolished rice during wartime!' Even though unpolished rice is more time-consuming to cook, help is at hand as a local food manufacturer soon plans to introduce microwave packs of steamed red and brown rice.

To try and persuade people to eat more healthily, Chef Felix Schoener is promoting the latest new health trend called 'raw food', which uses fruit and vegetables that are only lightly cooked or not cooked at all. He explains, 'We use different methods to cook food so that the vitamins and nutrients aren't destroyed in the cooking process. I call it *spa cuisine* because it's healthy and delicious!'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school principal believes that diet could be affecting the students' work and behaviour. He is therefore concerned about the kind of food students eat in the school cafeteria. He has asked your group to organise and present a healthy food campaign at school entitled *You are what you eat*.

You should first discuss the types of food available at school. Then, consider what students usually like to eat and discuss alternative food choices and lifestyles that students could be made aware of during the campaign.

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Action Blue Sky

The Hong Kong Government's environmental campaign entitled *Action Blue Sky* is a welcome attempt to clean up air pollution in the city. The Chief Executive, Donald Tsang, officially launched the campaign on 25th July 2006. Its Chinese slogan is *All of the City Participate to Fight for a Blue Sky* while the English slogan is *Clean Air for a Cool Hong Kong!*

The campaign hopes to win support from the public as well as the business community, including businesses investing in the Pearl River delta region. The initiative relies on encouraging the public to save energy, for example, by setting air conditioner thermostats higher. Many activities are planned to push the environmental goals of the campaign. For example, exhibitions with quiz booths have been set up in 18 districts to educate the public about air pollution. The Environmental Campaign Committee has also been giving out Eco-business Awards to encourage the business community to take an active role in improving

air quality. There are also a number of initiatives involving schools, such as the Green School Awards.

Ben Lui, an environmentalist, is critical of the campaign. He says, 'The Government needs to target the power companies and transport sector if we are to have any hope of turning our grey skies blue again. Power plants contribute 92% of the sulphur dioxide in our atmosphere and diesel-burning buses and trucks are the largest contributors to roadside pollution. Targeting small businesses and the general public is not enough.'

Former US Vice-President Al Gore, who is an environmentalist, visited Hong Kong last year. He said that more efficient ways had to be found to sustain economic growth without causing more pollution. He urged Donald Tsang to be more forceful in the *Action Blue Sky* initiative and to consider linking it to a global *Action Blue Sky* campaign as the pollution problem facing the world is borderless.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

You are entering an inter-school debating competition, which will be held at your school. The motion is *Clean air is more important than the economy*. You are a member of a team that has been chosen to enter the competition, but at this moment, you do not know whether you will be asked to argue FOR or AGAINST the motion. Your team will therefore have to prepare arguments for both sides.

You are now meeting to discuss your ideas. You should decide on the three strongest arguments for each side.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Children's cry for clean air

Last year, school children from some Hong Kong schools took part in a letter-writing campaign urging the Chief Executive, Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, to take immediate action to clean the city's polluted air.

The campaign was started by pupils aged between five and eleven from Beacon Hill School in Kowloon Tong. One of the teachers explained, 'Every child at the school wrote a letter addressed to Mr Tsang. They ranged from lengthy essays to drawings of smoke pouring out of factory chimneys and car exhausts.' Jasper Wong, a six-year-old, wrote, 'Dear Mr Tsang, please help me change the air and make the dirty air clean. Can you do it?' Another pupil thought that the recent spell of blue skies was the result of action taken by Mr Tsang and so she wrote a thank-you letter to him.

Heather Quinn, a teacher at Beacon Hill School, said that the reason the letters had been written was because the view across the harbour from the roof of the

school building had been completely obscured by the pollution. A group of 15 pupils took the letters to Government House. They were hoping a member of the Chief Executive's Office would meet them, but unfortunately they were greeted by a group of police officers. A spokeswoman for Mr Tsang refused to say whether he personally would read the letters or not, but she did say it was pleasing to see that Hong Kong children were concerned about the environment.

When other schools around Hong Kong heard about the initiative at Beacon Hill School, they decided to join in. It is thought that, in total, around 10,000 letters were written to the Chief Executive. Heather said, 'It's very positive. Everybody's interested and the children believe they can make a difference.' Although Beacon Hill School received a letter acknowledging receipt of the letters, it had not been personally written by the Chief Executive.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

You are entering an inter-school debating competition, which will be held at your school. The motion is *Clean air is more important than the economy*. You are a member of a team that has been chosen to enter the competition, but at this moment, you do not know whether you will be asked to argue FOR or AGAINST the motion. Your team will therefore have to prepare arguments for both sides.

You are now meeting to discuss your ideas. You should decide on the three strongest arguments for each side.

You do not need to come to a final decision or to reach a conclusion to your discussion. You should try to discuss both the content and procedures involved in your discussion task. You cannot take notes or write during the discussion.

The examiners cannot answer any questions about the instructions or the task you have to discuss. If you have any questions, you may discuss them among yourselves and that will be an acceptable part of your group discussion, and will be assessed.

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Dark day for Hong Kong

The *Lights Out Hong Kong* campaign in August 2006 should have been a huge success but, in reality, few residents and companies could be bothered to switch their lights off for three minutes to show their support.

Frankie Chan, one of the organisers of the campaign, said, 'People in our city are constantly complaining about pollution, yet when they are given a chance to do something to help, they fail to do so. The campaign was our chance to send a strong message to the power companies, the Government, the major air polluters and the mainland that Hong Kong citizens will not put up with this any longer. But we did not succeed.'

The Chief Executive, Donald Tsang, chose not to get involved in the campaign as he said it might hurt the public image of Hong Kong overseas. Margaret Chandler, a resident of Hong Kong for twenty years, said, 'I feel disappointed that our Chief Executive did not

support the campaign and also that the HSBC and the Bank of China buildings, the two most famous skyscrapers in our city, did not participate. If all of the major buildings had switched off their lights so that Victoria Harbour had gone dark, it would have shown the world that our citizens cared about pollution and were united in wanting to do something about it. Instead the message we sent is that businesses and the Government do not care about pollution or issues that matter to residents.'

Many people admitted that they did not even notice any difference at the scheduled blackout time of 8:00pm on 8th August. Frankie said, 'I was disappointed. I was in Central and all the buildings had their lights on.' He added, 'The cumulative effect of such efforts to increase public awareness should not be dismissed. Unless there is strong public pressure, governments do not take action.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Pollution solutions

Last year, during the mainland's Golden Week holiday, Hong Kong experienced something very rare: beautiful clear blue skies. This was strong evidence that Hong Kong people only get the chance to breathe fresh air when the factories in the neighbouring region shut down. Our Government even admitted that the Guangdong factor is crucial and that something must be done.

Other cities have been where we are now and have managed to clean up. 'In the 1970s and 1980s, the pollution was so bad in Los Angeles that your eyes burned when you were walking along the street,' says Mark Ramsey, an LA resident. 'Therefore the Government decided to spend US\$10,000 per person on clean-up measures and pollution control equipment. It introduced strict regulations on factory and vehicle emissions and even on barbecues and restaurants. Those who didn't comply were fined heavily.' Other cities, such as Chicago, Mexico City and Bogota were also polluted, but successfully managed to clean up their act.

However, the Hong Kong Government seems helpless. Despite the Hong Kong-Guangdong agreement on emissions of chemicals, officials here admit that there is little they can do if local governments on the mainland fail to implement the action plan. The latest government initiative is to offer loans to Hong Kong owners of mainland factories to help them to reduce pollution. The scheme targets power plants, cement and brick factories, textile manufacturers and even property developers.

Despite schemes like this, there is no sign that there will be any significant improvement in air quality in the near future. For many, time is running out. Simon Barnes, a Lantau resident, says, 'In the past, we thought we would never leave Hong Kong. Now, we are not so sure. All of our friends are moving away. Many are going to Singapore. They worry that their kids can't breathe here.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Traditional religions

Traditional Chinese religions such as Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism are being practised less and less by the younger generation in Hong Kong. Many religious leaders are concerned about the spiritual welfare of teenagers who do not follow any particular faith. Some of them believe that the way religious education is taught in Hong Kong could be the reason. They suggest that rather than studying different religions, students should focus on practising traditional Chinese religions.

Teachers such as May Li disagree and feel that religious education should be taught using an open-minded approach to include all faiths. 'Freedom of religious thought is important in Hong Kong. Not believing in God is also a form of belief,' she said. 'My students enjoy learning about different religions and this surely promotes tolerance among people.'

Religious leaders are also concerned about the negative influences of current popular music. The Texan

rock band *Die Young*, who recently visited Hong Kong, challenges religion in their music. 'Our group attacks religion in nearly every song we play,' said the lead singer. 'We question the role of faith in our societies and cultures.' Many teenagers agree with these feelings and are beginning to question why they should follow any religion at all.

Yet the benefits of being a follower of a traditional Chinese religion are numerous: followers have a sense of belonging to a religious community and traditional Chinese religions have proven powers of healing. Buddhism, which came to China during the Tang dynasty, promotes harmony and healing in its teachings. Meditation, which is central to Buddhism, is well known for its calming powers. Even traditional practices, such as prayer and reading religious texts, are being used as tools to cope with social problems and life in a fast-changing society. Perhaps this is why these religions have become popular in western countries.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

Your school principal is concerned that young people are failing to appreciate the traditions of China and would like to encourage students to learn more about them. He has asked your group for ideas on how this can be achieved in school.

You should first discuss what traditions, art forms or religious practices students at your school would like to learn about. You should then consider suitable activities to arouse their interest in these traditions and when they could be held.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The power of the brush

Two young students work for hours with a brush, ink and paper. They have to remain calm and focused as they know that they are carrying on a wonderful school tradition as well as honouring China. The students are competing in the Pan-Macau Student Calligraphy Contest. Many students from the Kao Yip School regularly compete in traditional Chinese writing competitions and they are so talented that they have won more than half the prizes in this year's contest.

One student, Wai-yin, practises for more than two hours every day. He loves this traditional art form. 'It gives me a sense of achievement to write a nice piece and it helps me to concentrate on other schoolwork. It also enables me to think creatively,' he claims. Calligraphy is known to require patience and considerable skill. The writer must plan each stroke carefully because once on paper, it is permanent. Calligraphy has also played an important role in Chinese history. It is believed that a writer's calligraphy style reveals aspects of the writer's personality. In fact, in ancient China, the king would ask

to see samples of their calligraphy before he appointed new ministers to the Imperial Court.

There are many styles of calligraphy. Differences in the thickness and flexibility of the brush and in the absorbency of the paper produce different styles. The brushes are made from the hair of different animals bound onto a bamboo reed. Rabbit hair is best for fine work, while sheep hair is good for thicker strokes. Unfortunately, the specialist art of brush-making is dying out as the popularity of calligraphy among the younger generation is decreasing.

Despite its historical and treasured place in Chinese culture, students who practise calligraphy are among a minority in Hong Kong. This cherished tradition is taking second place to speech festivals and English writing competitions as many students compete for places in English-speaking universities both in Hong Kong and abroad.

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Opera for the elderly

Italy is well known as the birthplace of western opera and performances sell out in only a few hours. In Hong Kong, Cantonese opera is struggling to attract audiences and, sadly, even performers are looking for other jobs. The two main problems are that there are very few young artists joining the profession and that the audiences are mainly from the older generation.

Yip Shui-tak, one of only three Cantonese opera scriptwriters left in Hong Kong, is so worried about the art form dying out that he has decided to give young people lessons. 'The last thing I want to see is that I am taking the art to my grave. I want to pass on my skills to students in order to keep Cantonese opera alive,' he said. The Cantonese Opera Development Fund has been set up with the help of public donations and is being used to provide a one-year course for a few special students in this rapidly disappearing art form.

To become a Cantonese opera performer requires many talents. Students need to understand Chinese history and culture and to know how to sing, dance and put on special make-up. For those who make it through, the rewards can be enormous. Ms Tang, a Cantonese opera singer, said, 'The life is hard, there are many hours of training, but if you are good, a principal performer can earn up to \$35,000 per performance!'

Realistically, however, not many young people in Hong Kong are interested in becoming opera scriptwriters or performers. They are more interested in television and film. There used to be many opera theatres, but now the only one remaining is the Sunbeam Theatre in North Point so even talented singers may have to wait months to perform. They may even have to pay out of their own pockets to put on a performance!

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

Part One – Individual Presentations (1½–2 minutes each)

Read the following passage. You may make notes to use as the basis for your presentation, but should make the presentation in your own words. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

Musical history

Guo Yue is a famous chef, but he is as passionate about his music as he is about his cooking. He plays a Chinese flute called the dizi and has helped write the music for well-known films, such as *The Last Emperor*. His father encouraged him to play an instrument to keep him out of trouble. As a young boy, he loved his bamboo flute. 'I practised every day,' he said. 'When I put it away, I felt like I was putting it to sleep; it was like a part of me.' However, Guo is worried that few others share the same feeling.

Music is still a very popular subject in Hong Kong schools and many students learn the flute. So why is Guo so worried? The reason is that most students learn western instruments. He visited China recently so that he could hear some traditional music, but he was disappointed. 'I travelled to many areas, but other than concert performers, I didn't hear any musicians playing traditional instruments. I really don't think they can make

a living nowadays,' he remarked.

These days it is difficult to hear traditional music and finding teachers of these less popular instruments is either impossible or very expensive. One student, Joseph Chan, wanted to play the dizi. He explained, 'Because I am left-handed, the dizi is much easier to play than the western flute. I enjoy traditional music, but I couldn't find anyone who could teach me how to play it!'

Western music and Asian pop music are by far the most popular genres of music among the younger generation. However, what are the consequences of this trend? Guo believes that a part of Chinese culture will be lost. 'China is losing its traditional music. It's become harder to find a traditional music concert in Beijing. When people stop playing traditional instruments, without doubt, something will be lost forever.'

Part Two – Group Discussion (Total time: 2 minutes preparation, 10 minutes discussion)

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