

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

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.

Put off by the press

A new word, 'paparazzi', came into common English usage about 15 years ago. This refers to newspaper photographers who follow celebrities around to get pictures, often of a personal or revealing nature. While the paparazzi defend what they do by arguing that they are providing what the public want to see, many celebrities complain about the invasion of their privacy.

In the opinion of most stars, when they are not performing as actors or singers or sports personalities, their private lives should be just that – private. However, editors know that stories about the lives of famous people help to increase sales of their publications. Many celebrity magazines are dedicated to coverage of personal aspects of celebrity lives: their marriages, divorces, love affairs, children, holidays, homes, health and, often, addictions.

The media argue that some celebrities have double standards on this issue and actually welcome

the coverage as it keeps them in the public eye. It could be especially useful when an actor's new film is about to be released, or when the performer's popularity is declining. Princess Diana was accused of using the press in this way: she liked to be photographed doing her charity work or looking beautiful at a gala event, yet resented the presence of the press at other times.

However, many famous people are obviously genuinely upset by their loss of privacy. Canto-pop singer Gillian Chung was hugely embarrassed when she was secretly photographed in her underwear in her dressing room. Other celebrities, such as Hollywood superstar Bruce Willis, have reacted angrily to media harassment. Willis threw water at photographers who had followed him and his girlfriend all day long as they were shopping. And the ultimate price of such media attention? Diana's death in a high-speed car chase is a tragic example of the dangers resulting from paparazzi behaviour.

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

You are entering an inter-school debate intended to develop young people's interest in civic matters. The motion is *The law in Hong Kong should make it harder for paparazzi to take and publish their photographs*. You are a member of a team that has been chosen to enter the debate. At this moment, you do not know whether you are for or against stricter legislation.

You are now meeting to discuss both sides of the argument. You should decide whether to demand legal restrictions against the paparazzi or not, and justify your standpoint with relevant examples.

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The long arm of the law, not the lens

In recent years, the conflict between famous people and press photographers, known as 'paparazzi', has become common knowledge. The stars find it unacceptable that photographers employ illegal means, such as assuming false identities to enter private places, to take their photographs. Many use deceitful methods, for instance, using hidden mini-cameras and hiding in bushes with powerful, long-lens cameras. Others create dangerous, even life-threatening situations like car chases.

Some celebrities are now looking to the law to protect their right to privacy. The results vary from country to country, with Europe possibly offering the most protection. According to British law, every person has the right to protect his private and family life, his home and his correspondence. Newspapers and magazines follow a set of rules called the Code of Conduct. Under this code, 'The use of long-lens photography to take pictures of people in private places without their consent is unacceptable.'

Some people feel that in the USA, laws limiting paparazzi behaviour are not strict enough. One leading New York public relations consultant, who represents Hollywood superstars, is demanding action. 'The paparazzi obsession with these superstars has got to stop. Somebody's going to get seriously injured or killed unless something is done.' At a meeting of civic leaders in Los Angeles, several solutions were put forward, but the city's police chief rejected them as being impractical.

Hong Kong's press is fairly aggressive and in 2006 many local stars, including Jackie Chan, Tony Leung and Alan Tam, held a meeting to discuss ways to better protect their privacy. Afterwards, they released a statement demanding stricter laws regulating the photographing of individuals in their homes. They stressed that they believe in freedom of the press but argued that the media should behave responsibly and decide whether what they say is in the interest of the public or simply what the public is interested in knowing.

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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.

Fame for fame's sake

Celebrities often criticise the paparazzi – photographers who follow them around aggressively just to capture news. However, the paparazzi defend themselves by saying that celebrities enjoy being famous and that even ordinary people want their 15 minutes of fame. This is surprising but true. Behaviour experts say that many people, especially the youth, want to become famous and will do anything to achieve this aim. Quite often, they choose role models such as soccer star David Beckham or superstar Jackie Chan.

How easy is it to become famous? Well, it appears that in these days of reality TV, it is not such a complicated process. Reality shows such as Big Brother feature ordinary people placed in some kind of competitive situation. These people agree to be filmed carrying out their given task in return for a valuable prize. Often, part of the prize is the media exposure they have received and the 'celebrity' status that follows. In fact, some lucky ones really end up becoming famous film and TV stars!

Another type of fame is achieved by certain people for being 'socialites'. This describes people such as the wives or children of very rich people who lead extravagant lifestyles. Photographs of socialites attending parties and other social events are regularly featured in magazines. Examples include Paris Hilton and Princess Diana's late partner, Dodi Fayed.

So strong is the desire among some ordinary people to appear famous that they are willing to pay to be treated as celebrities. In the US, companies such as Celeb-4-A-Day offer people the experience of being pursued by paparazzi. It offers a range of red-carpet services, such as aggressive photographers, a limousine and bodyguards. The client then chooses pictures which are printed on the cover of a fake gossip magazine. Surely all this proves that most people would love to be famous. Perhaps celebrities should just enjoy their fame and not complain.

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News or just indecent curiosity?

The argument over whether newspaper photographers, known as ‘paparazzi’, behave reasonably or not in their pursuit of the rich and famous is an ongoing one. Many object to the underhand methods they employ but others say that no harm is done in the long run. They also argue that media interest should be expected if you are famous. But what if similarly aggressive means are used to obtain photographs that are in bad taste and may only satisfy people’s indecent curiosity?

Some members of the Hong Kong press seem to have an unhealthy interest in details of a tragic or unpleasant nature, and are sometimes criticised for taking pictures of people bloodied and hurt at accident sites. Also, the pushing and shoving to get close to stretchers and ambulances is a disrespectful way to treat the injured, who have no say in whether their pictures are published. It has even been said that some Hong Kong journalists have bribed morgue workers to

allow them to take pictures of dead bodies.

People’s misery during tragic events also tends to receive a great deal of attention from Hong Kong news cameras. In a recent incident, a woman’s house was burnt down, killing most of the 40 cats and dogs she owned trapped inside the building. TV coverage on a Chinese channel showed lengthy footage of the woman crying, in great distress.

One of the clauses contained in the Hong Kong Journalists’ Association’s Code of Ethics states that journalists should respect the privacy of disaster or accident victims. They should only publicise details about the situation itself and not focus on the victims’ personal grief and distress. Sadly, this regulation is often ignored. Paparazzi should behave appropriately and treat accident victims with respect as a matter of common decency.

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

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Dancing to their own tune

In our public parks, users are forbidden to play ball games, use skateboards, fly kites, play with remote controlled vehicles, cycle or walk their dogs. Even dancing is not allowed. When Kathy Cheng and her friends were practising a few steps in a small park in Sheung Wan, they were stopped by security guards. 'We were told dancing would disturb other users, even though the park was deserted at the time and we hadn't turned on any music,' she complains.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) is responsible for managing the 1,470 parks, gardens and sitting-out areas that are available for residents to use in Hong Kong. Under the regulations, people are allowed to do what they like as long as they do not cause danger to others, obstruct park users or damage the facilities. Although these rules seem logical enough, many complain that they are too limiting and that the authorities are too strict.

Is the LCSD overreacting? Some believe the LCSD is responding to individual complaints by introducing more restrictions. 'Now we have a situation where there are so many restrictions you can't do anything,' argues Kathy. Nevertheless, the LCSD defends its position by arguing that citizens have the right to use the park without being disturbed by singing or loud music. 'If we didn't have the rules, then we would have a potentially disruptive environment. If people can't relax in peace, we will have to deal with all the complaints,' an LCSD spokesperson claims.

In response to enquiries from the public, the LCSD explains that many of the grassy areas in parks are not for recreational use as the grass will be damaged, and says that it will provide more open space for the public to use when it designs future parks. However, this response does not address the present issue of what citizens are allowed to do on the grass.

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

Many people in Hong Kong complain that they are unable to do certain activities in public parks. You are a member of a group campaigning for a reduction in rules and regulations for urban parks and gardens.

You are now meeting to plan your campaign. You should think about what kinds of activities should be allowed or banned and give reasons to support your views. You should also brainstorm ideas for a questionnaire so that you can gather feedback on the kind of park design people would prefer.

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Having a ball

When David Biddlecombe came to Hong Kong 12 years ago, he was amazed by the number of restrictions that governed the use of the city's public parks. He saw that, rather than being places of activity and enjoyment, they were under-used and dull. In an attempt to challenge the authorities' regulations he has come up with an original idea – the Freedom Ball campaign.

Biddlecombe ordered large inflatable red balls and put them in parks in Wanchai and Quarry Bay. He wanted to provide park-goers with the balls and encourage them to break the rules forbidding ball games. The balls are so light they are completely harmless. Each ball is printed with the slogan, 'Say no to no fun'. 'I want to question whether government rules relating to the use of parks are in the interest of the public,' he says.

Many parents agree that the rules are too strict. Mother Nancy Leung says, 'By playing with the balls,

I can entertain my young son and show the authorities that I disagree with these ridiculous laws.' Another parent, Anita Chan, complains, 'When my daughter and I were playing with the Freedom Balls, guards came and told us to stop. They complained that the balls were too big and dangerous, and that the children would hurt themselves.'

Biddlecombe says the answer is to design parks and have regulations that reflect what the public desire and not what the authorities want. He sees more Freedom Ball events as vital in promoting discussions on how our parks should be freed from too many rules. 'Space in Hong Kong is so scarce. Most of us don't have big flats or a garden. We live our lives in public spaces so it's important to have park designs that meet the needs of the people. The authorities must consider revising their regulations,' he remarks.

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Parks for the people

If you go to any park in Hong Kong, the first thing you will see is a sign telling users what they are not allowed to do. The list is extensive, prompting many to argue that there are, in fact, too many regulations governing the use of our public spaces and that these rules do not really benefit the public for whom the parks are designed.

Forty years ago, park designs were simple. Victoria Park was just a large open space where people could relax and enjoy themselves. From the 1980s onwards, recreational features such as trails, Chinese pavilions and ponds have been added. Along with these new additions, the government appears to have progressively increased the number of rules banning certain activities. Although this has resulted in parks that are easy to manage, it has also created an environment that is not user-friendly and limits users' activities.

Researcher Michael Shiu says, 'It's not always a good idea to provide more facilities. Often, all we need is some open space for people to relax in.' He thinks that children need spaces where they can use their imagination to create their own games and activities. 'When a park is designed, decisions are made about how it should be used and then rules are created to support this. This is okay, but designers should also think about how people may use the park to suit their own needs,' he says.

For Shiu, greater flexibility is the solution. He believes different parks, or even areas within parks, should be set aside for a diverse range of activities. He wants city planners and the government to consider the needs of the people living in the neighbourhood when planning new parks. 'If there are many elderly residents there, then the park should be designed to suit their needs,' explains Shiu.

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Changing the rules

Hong Kong is a crowded city with few places to relax. Although there are parks and gardens across the city, many residents feel that there are too many restrictions regarding their use, limiting what visitors can do there.

Community group Happy Action is attempting to change the rules. Happy Action organiser Cally Yu thinks that, over the years, the restrictions have been getting tougher. 'In the past, there were only signs reminding people not to throw rubbish or spit. But now there are bans on activities such as cycling,' she says. In fact, the organisation is so disturbed by the number of restrictions that they have established a Facebook account for people to write about their negative experiences in public parks.

Many of the contributors have told stories of park officials who have completely overreacted. One

mother reports, 'My toddler was riding his little bicycle. Of course, he was neither a danger to other people nor causing a disturbance, but park officials came and told us to stop. Have these people got nothing better to do?' In another incident, a park user was told that the police would be called if he did not stop playing with a large inflatable ball.

Park officials say that if children want to play, their parents should book an activity room elsewhere for them. Opponents of this idea argue that bookings usually require a long wait of up to a month and that family outings and activities are often spontaneous. 'When I take my child out to the park I really don't know what we are going to do until we get there. It really depends on what kind of mood she's in. I certainly wouldn't want to play inside a room when there are so many outdoor spaces,' states parent David King.

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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.

Modern mahjong

The game of mahjong is a traditional feature of local life in Hong Kong. It is a common sight to see a group of elderly villagers sitting around a square table under a shady tree playing the game. Sometimes hearing a game going on in a nearby flat is an annoying sound for residents, as the tiles are slammed down noisily on the table.

Unfortunately, mahjong is also strongly connected with gambling here and triad-run mahjong parlours have given the game a bad name. Mahjong-related gambling debts can lead to involvement with loan sharks and youngsters are advised to keep away from these parlours. However, several new-style mahjong clubs have sprung up and they are cleaning up the game's image. These clubs treat mahjong as a game only – no gambling – and are smart, comfortable places with dining facilities, TVs, and perhaps a few snooker tables.

These new clubs attract a younger crowd. Sun Yi-ho, a twenty-year-old retailer, explained, 'It's like a karaoke bar but instead of singing, we play mahjong.' One club manager said, 'Business is very good. These young adults have seen the harm that gambling at mahjong can do, and they're not interested. They just want to have a good time with their pals in pleasant surroundings, and have something nice to eat and drink.' His only complaint is that the club is legally restricted to the over-18s.

Local academic Denny Ho supports the manager's view. 'In Canada, the game is played purely as a form of recreation. In fact, it is a good game to play as a family. Hong Kong's mahjong clubs should abolish the over-18 rule.' He added that mahjong is not only good, clean fun, but also mentally demanding. 'You need a good memory and concentration, and it can develop your powers of calculation and reasoning.'

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

Your school is going to hold a fair to celebrate its 40th anniversary. There will be several different activities and stalls set out in the hall and the playground. You are a member of the team in charge of the games booth.

You are now meeting to discuss your booth. You should decide which games to include, and justify your choices with adequate reasons. You may also wish to discuss any problems you might encounter in running the booth and suggest ways to overcome them.

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Chess – only a game?

Local teenagers all know the game of Xiangqi, or Chinese chess but may be less familiar with Western chess. Like Xiangqi, chess is a very old game, has pieces named after high-ranking officials (for example King, Queen and Bishop) and is a game of strategic skill that takes time to develop. Otherwise, the games are different.

Chess tends to be thought of as an ‘intellectual’ game and it certainly requires a lot of thought and concentration. It is often promoted in schools in Western countries to help students develop long-term planning and problem-solving skills. Jenny Baker, an eleven-year-old from England, plays regularly in her school club. ‘The game has benefited me in many ways. Since I’ve been playing chess, I have learnt not to give up so easily when I have a problem,’ she says. ‘I’ve also learnt to be patient, as chess definitely isn’t a quick game.’

Chess is highly competitive and there are leagues and tournaments throughout the world, with the ultimate tournament being the prestigious, highly-publicised World Championship. As players advance through tournaments, they improve their ranking status, the highest rank being ‘Grandmaster’. Bobby Fischer, an American, is considered by many to be the greatest chess player of all time. He learned to play chess at the age of six and became quite a fanatic. He once said, ‘All I want to do, ever, is play chess.’ Although he did become a World Champion at 29, some would regard this level of dedication as an unhealthy addiction.

When asked how dedicated she was, Jenny laughed. ‘I do compete locally but usually get knocked out in the second round. You have to play for hours and hours to get really good and I don’t have that much time. Besides, there are other things I’d like to do when I have time!’

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Learning English – your turn

For many years, English language teaching centres have been using the communicative method of teaching English. Teachers involve students in activities in which they use English as much as possible. 'It seems obvious to me that language has to be actively used by the learner; it's not something to study by just doing exercises in a book. One way to get younger people to use English is to play games in English,' says British Council teacher Linda Roper.

A good example is Scrabble, the spelling board game. One reason for its popularity may be that it can be played at various levels. If you are a beginner, you can make up basic words but as you progress you can play using more advanced vocabulary. Another spelling game is Hangman, where you have to keep guessing the letters of a word or you are hanged (only on paper!). Crossword puzzles can be great for learning vocabulary as you need to match words and their meanings.

However, some students still find such language-learning games a bit too much like work and study. Another option is to play any game, for example Monopoly, by communicating with the other participants in English. As well as learning the language for board games, students can learn how to socialise and joke with friends in English. This will help build their confidence when mixing with international students at university, or if they go overseas to study.

Hong Kong schools have been criticised in the past for their rote-learning methods, but many teachers now use more interactive methods in their language lessons. Roper is pleased about this progress. 'It's not just about having fun. Academic research has shown that the learning experience must be a positive one for the students or they may not really learn at all,' she explains.

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My friend, PC

Decades ago, when the first computers were invented, IT specialists saw the potential for developing them to play games. This dream has long since come true, of course, and now many classic board games have on-line versions: chess, mahjong, Go and dominoes.

There are several advantages of playing these games on a computer. Perhaps the most obvious is that it provides you with a partner. In fact, as well as playing against the computer, you can now use the Internet to pair up with other players, even as far away as Australia or Scotland. Although this brings variety, it can be frustrating as the other player's level of talent may turn out to be incompatible with yours. Some players also complain of waiting days for their opponents to make the next move.

Besides the adaptation of classic board games, there is a whole new industry of computer games, using

animated characters whose movements are controlled by the player in order to score points. Recent research has found that around 80% of adolescents in Hong Kong play these computer and video games regularly. However, their popularity has raised concerns about their effect on young people. Some evidence suggests that these youngsters' social skills are poor as they spend less time interacting with real friends, and a few even get addicted. 'My son Terence spends almost six hours a day playing these games,' says one concerned mother. 'Because of that, he neglects his homework and hardly ever plays with his little sister any more.'

Many academics argue, however, that video games improve spatial skills, that is, being able to understand the relationship between two and three-dimensional shapes and spaces. We use these skills all the time, for example when crossing the road and judging the speed of an oncoming vehicle, so they are essential.

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

Your school is going to hold a fair to celebrate its 40th anniversary. There will be several different activities and stalls set out in the hall and the playground. You are a member of the team in charge of the games booth.

You are now meeting to discuss your booth. You should decide which games to include, and justify your choices with adequate reasons. You may also wish to discuss any problems you might encounter in running the booth and suggest ways to overcome them.

You do not need to come to a final decision or reach a conclusion in 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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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate D

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

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 law unto themselves

Air quality in Hong Kong is getting worse, even though the government has taken some measures to address this serious environmental problem. The government has proposed legislation that is expected to greatly reduce the level of air pollution, with fines for motorists who keep their engines switched on when their vehicle is not moving. The proposed laws would not, however, apply to ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

One proposed law would even require taxis and minibuses to switch off their engines when queuing, unless they are at the front of the queue or have passengers getting on or off. The ban would be enforced by traffic wardens, with drivers breaking the law being fined HK\$320.

Taxi and minibus drivers have started demanding exemptions from the proposed law. They argue that they have to keep their engines on while

queuing for passengers as they need to move up the queue. Taxi driver Lai Ming-hung says, 'Because of the new rules we will just drive around the block instead of waiting at the taxi stand. Obeying the law would mean that I'd have to keep switching the engine on and off as I move up the queue. It wastes more fuel, causes more pollution and also affects traffic flow.'

Friends of the Earth director Edwin Lau argues that creating exemptions will make the legislation ineffective. 'If it does not include all vehicles, then other motorists will question why one person has to follow the rules while another does not.' Many citizens think that although there should be no exemption from the new law, it is important that common sense is used when implementing the ban. 'I am concerned that traffic wardens' time will be taken up by issuing fines for minor offences like idling engines, while more serious traffic violations may go unnoticed,' explains one resident.

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

You are members of your school's Green Council and plan to write a letter to the government urging it to introduce more legislation to reduce pollution.

Your group is meeting to discuss what laws the government should introduce to control air, light, noise and waste pollution. You should talk about which aspects of pollution affect Hong Kong and how residents' lives are impacted. You should also decide which aspects should be prioritised when new laws are introduced.

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Candidate A

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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.

Lighting up calls for legislation

According to green groups and many residents, Hong Kong has a light pollution problem. A survey of 1,500 people by Friends of the Earth found that most respondents thought lighting was too bright. In addition, 8% of those surveyed claimed they had been affected by light pollution.

Since there are no laws to regulate the location and size of outdoor spotlights and neon signs, many feel that the lighting problem is now seriously out of control. One elderly woman in Mongkok had to move out of her bedroom and sleep in the dining room because a flashing neon sign, illegally installed on the side of her building, was so bright. Resident Martin Jones says, 'Light pollution is very disruptive and can affect a person's ability to sleep well or even to concentrate on work or study. Some people have even moved house to avoid bright lights that stay on all night. I believe that large neon signs near residential blocks should be banned.'

Bright neon signs have another negative impact: they waste a lot of energy. Professor of architecture Edward Ng thinks that the brightness of such signs should be limited. 'Signs advertising the shops below are often left on even late at night when there are no shoppers around. I believe they should be dimmed because they can still be seen at night even after their level of brightness has been reduced,' he suggests.

Shopkeeper Mei Ling does not object to turning down the brightness of her shop signs but believes she has the right to advertise 24 hours a day. Nevertheless, green groups want the government to legislate against the light polluters. Friends of the Earth member Susan Chiu states, 'There are absolutely no rules governing the use of lighting. This is a problem we cannot afford to ignore.'

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Shhh ... hush the bus

Noise affects different people in different ways. However, when noise reaches a certain level it can have serious mental and physical consequences. Noise can create stress and, in extreme cases, a loss of hearing. Although we usually think of construction activities or traffic as the main sources of noise, not enough attention is given to the level of noise produced on board public transport.

Two of the largest bus companies in Hong Kong provide TV broadcasting on their buses, as do some rail lines. The programmes consist of commercials, music videos and promotional material for TV channels. Advertisers reach an audience of around 2 million passengers and the transport companies involved benefit financially.

The bus companies claim that the volume levels for the broadcasts are set to a comfortable level. However, many passengers are angry about the degree of noise produced. Commuter Iris Chan says, 'Because

the sound needs to be louder than the engine, the noise can be particularly bad when the bus is stationary.' Passenger Barry James goes further, 'People's idea of a comfortable volume is highly subjective. I'm comfortable when there's total silence. For the operators, however, I strongly suspect that 'comfortable' means loud enough to be impossible to ignore, but not so loud that it causes permanent hearing damage.'

Protesters campaigning against the noise have formed a pressure group called 'Hush the Bus' and aim to ensure a quieter environment for passengers. Group leader Catherine Ng complains that over the years appeals to the authorities to protect passengers from unwanted noise have got nowhere. 'The Transport Department has failed to properly regulate transport operators by allowing them to annoy passengers with incessant, repetitive and loud TV noise. Passengers cannot switch off the TVs, turn down the volume or change channels. Many have no alternative means of transport either,' she argues.

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

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Candidate C

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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.

What a waste

Hong Kong has always had a small army of recyclers – elderly people who collect newspapers and tin cans. Now the government has joined in by introducing a voluntary recycling programme and, to date, almost 800 apartment buildings, representing about 45% of the population, have enrolled. In buildings where there are recycling bins in common areas, the programme has been popular with residents. The authorities have also provided recycling bins at strategic points on the city's streets. But with Hong Kong's rubbish dumps almost filled to capacity, is enough being done?

At present, the Environmental Protection Department recycles 10-14% of all domestic waste. It aims to boost this figure to 26% by 2012. A spokesperson says, 'Some housing estates have already reached this target. They have also earned additional income – for example, Heng Fa Chuen Estate made more than \$100,000 from selling recyclable materials which was then used to subsidise the estate's management expenses.'

However, some citizens think that all residents should recycle. They want laws to be introduced requiring all housing estates to provide recycling bins and suggest those who fail to separate waste appropriately should be fined. Greenpeace worker Josh Evans agrees. 'In many European countries, residents must separate their waste into glass, plastics, paper, metal and organic bins or pay a fine.' However, housewife Irene Lam disagrees. 'Who has the space in their flats or the time to sort out all this trash?' she asks.

Nevertheless, there are some who think there is a desperate need for recycling bins at street level. Joyce Lau, who is environmentally concerned, just wanted to responsibly throw away an empty Coke can. 'I walked around the streets but could find nothing. I then went on-line and found the nearest recycling collection point. After all that effort, I couldn't use it as it was inside the MTR station!'

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

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Candidate D

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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.

Basic education for all

The United Nations Children's Fund, or UNICEF as it is commonly known, recently celebrated 60 years of work to improve the well-being of children around the world. One major area of concern for the organisation is education. A generation ago, fewer than half of the world's children attended school. Nowadays, the figure is 85%. Although this may sound encouraging, there are still many places where education is simply not available.

UNICEF believes that 'education enhances lives', and that it ends cycles of poverty and disease that hinder a society's development. As part of its mission statement it calls for 'a fundamental, non-negotiable goal: quality education for all'. There has been great improvement in the percentage of children attending school worldwide. However, it is shocking that approximately 100 million children do not get any education. Over half of them are girls living in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

In Togo, West Africa, for example, girls do not normally go to a regular school to learn reading, writing and other basic skills. Instead, they are sent to a special school for training only in a local ancient religion known as 'voodoo'. After this training, they are rarely given the chance to continue their education. However, as a result of a recent project in which UNICEF has provided funding and support to the Togolese government and local organisations, these girls are now receiving a general education.

Youngsters in Hong Kong may find it difficult to imagine life without school. All of them have at least nine years of free, compulsory education, with many going on to tertiary studies. Despite all these opportunities, many students do not value their education. A secondary school teacher, Ms Chan, comments, 'I wish our students realised how lucky they are. They should think about those who are less fortunate instead of complaining about going to school.'

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

In order to help you value your own education, your teacher has asked you to study different types of problems connected with education in Hong Kong and around the world. As the final stage of the project, you have to make a group presentation to the class.

Your group is now meeting to plan your presentation. You should start with a discussion of the problems relating to education that you are aware of. You should also think about what is being done to assist others who need education, whether you think enough is being done, and what else can be done to help.

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Candidate A

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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.

Teaching adults to read

If we talk of learning to read and write, most people may think of young children in their first years at school. But it should not be forgotten that some adults are illiterate. In fact, the United Nations (UN) estimates that the figure is one-fifth of the world's adult population! Not surprisingly perhaps, this is a problem that mainly affects poor, developing countries.

Although poverty and illiteracy go hand in hand, lack of resources is not always the cause. Many of the Arab countries are very wealthy. However, according to one official educational organisation in the region, nearly one in three people in the Arab world is illiterate, including nearly half of all women in the region. 'Illiteracy in the Arab world is a disgrace,' declared the head of the organisation.

The reasons for the lack of educational opportunities can be quite complex and very often are

connected with culture or religion. In the poorer Arab countries, some officials appear to be unaware of the importance of fighting illiteracy. The UN has been working with these officials for a long time, but with limited success so far. It is still urging Arab countries to focus on adult education. 'Basic education would cost only \$6 billion a year. This is much less than what is spent on the military, advertising and the tobacco industry here,' commented a UN representative.

Less than 10% of Hong Kong's adult population is illiterate, and most of those are over 60 years old. Thankfully, since the territory now has free, compulsory education, this problem should not occur in future generations. Adult illiteracy is a serious issue because it not only limits the individual's personal progress, but also the development of their society. One UN spokesman put it like this, 'Literacy is the fertiliser needed for the development of an advanced society.'

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Educating ethnic minorities

In terms of the quality of teaching and the resources available, education in the more remote rural areas of China is not as good as education in the more developed regions. In an attempt to improve this situation, the central government promised to subsidise basic education in rural areas of central and western China. It also set a policy that all Chinese children should learn Putonghua.

Since China is such a large country, there are many groups of people with their own customs and languages. The smaller groups are known as ethnic minorities and often come from the under-developed rural regions. Because of the government's policy, children of these ethnic groups now have to have a bilingual education, that is, study using both their native language and Putonghua.

Ethnic communities generally live in the remote mountainous regions and rural areas of the country. Such communities are small and are scattered all over

the region, making it difficult to set up schools. With these difficulties in mind, the government set up boarding schools and hired teachers who move around between these schools. Such measures have brought education to minority populations but at a heavy cost: children have to stay apart from their families.

Setting up schools for minority groups is one problem; finding professionals to work in these schools is another. There are very few trained teachers who can teach using minority languages and teaching resources for these schools are minimal. As minority children have to learn using their own ethnic language and Putonghua, finding bilingual textbooks has become a challenge. In an attempt to find solutions to these problems, the government has had to invest heavily in providing professional training for teachers from minority groups. It has also funded research projects and worked with experts in bilingual education from other contexts such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

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

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Candidate C

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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.

Making a difference

In some countries, children do not go to school for the very basic reason that there is no school for them to go to! This situation usually occurs in developing countries where the education policy has not yet been consistently implemented across the country. India is an example of this, with world-class educational facilities in some cities contrasting with few or even no opportunities for education in rural areas. The government and large charities, such as UNICEF and Oxfam, do what they can to improve this imbalance but sometimes help comes from a much smaller, more direct and more personal source.

Individuals who are financially secure themselves, and who feel compelled to help those less fortunate, sometimes make dramatic life changes to meet this objective. Hong Kong expatriates Philip and Freda Belton are perfect examples. They wanted to be personally involved in a small, disadvantaged community where they could make a real difference to the lives of the locals.

After much serious thought and planning, they left Hong Kong and moved to a small village near Calcutta in India. There they rented a large, run-down house which now serves not only as their home, but also as a part-time school and general play area for the local children. Since the Beltons are education professionals, they were able to set up their little school fairly quickly and engage a local teacher on a small salary.

When asked if they have any regrets, both reply enthusiastically, 'None at all!' They admit that life is tough at times, but overall the success of their project gives them great satisfaction. 'If I start to miss my life in Hong Kong, all I have to do is look at the children's faces,' says Freda. 'Their joy and excitement at being given the opportunity to learn is one of the best rewards anyone could wish for.'

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

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Candidate D

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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.

Where there's a will, there's a way

When Craig Kielburger was only 12 years old, he founded his own charity to raise money to build schools in developing countries. What motivated him to do this? Craig enjoyed voluntary work but soon realised that opportunities for children who wanted to participate in voluntary work were limited. At a school fund-raising event in Hong Kong recently, he said, 'It's so easy for business leaders and parents to get involved. Youths are passionate and they would like to help, but it isn't as easy for them.' He is right about youngsters being willing, and, with a little help from adults, some Hong Kong students have done great work.

Many local international schools require their graduating students to do community service. With their teachers' help, a group of final-year students found an interesting way to fulfil this: they built some much-needed homes in a rural village in Guangdong. Village chief Mr Wu said, 'I was very touched by how hard the students worked. Life will be a lot cleaner

and more comfortable for residents in their new homes.'

There are projects on which younger children can work as volunteers too. Starfish Bay near Ma On Shan became so polluted during the 1980s that its starfish population perished. After the water quality there had improved, some school children aged between 7 and 11 collected about 3,000 starfish from the sea in Long Harbour and moved them to Starfish Bay.

Voluntary work benefits the volunteers too. Leadership skills and self-esteem are two common gains. A Starfish Project leader commented, 'The children have a lot of fun but they also learn that even they can help shape the environment.' After becoming volunteers, teenagers often learn to appreciate what they have. One volunteer on the Guangdong project said, 'I now know how lucky I am to live in a city like Hong Kong.'

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

Your school is hosting an inter-school forum on opportunities for local students to fully develop their potential. You are a member of the group chosen to represent your school and your group is now meeting to prepare for the event.

You should discuss whether there are enough activities or programmes available in Hong Kong for young people to become well-rounded individuals and consider how students benefit from them. You could also consider ways in which schools, government departments, private companies and charities could do more to fund and lead such activities.

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Candidate A

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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.

Anything you can do, I can do better!

Hong Kong's youngsters are sometimes accused of being lazy, spending all their time in front of the TV or computer. Also, because they are not particularly fond of sport, compared to their peers in other countries, some say they are not competitive. Yet, these are unfair generalisations because these youngsters do, in fact, enjoy entering competitions. Local schools, universities and companies organise many competitions for which students work hard in their spare time, and success stories are common.

One such competition is the Mathematics Olympiad. Hong Kong's own version has been running for 24 years. Its aim is to promote interest in maths and to foster inter-school cooperation, but the participants have fun too. As winning team member John Cheng comments, 'It was really tough in the final stages but we were driven on by a strong sense of competitiveness. It was brilliant to finally win!' The original Mathematics Olympiad is an international affair, and Hong Kong has been entering teams for 20 years. In 2002, they finally won their first gold

medal, plus two silvers and two bronzes in different categories.

A much more local affair is the recently-introduced inter-school Scrabble competition. This year, over 700 students took part in the event in which participants had to demonstrate that they had more than just a sizeable vocabulary. Form Five competitor Jonathan Sin explains, 'You also need to think strategically about the scoring, and how to maximise team members' strengths.'

Surveys show that in addition to doing well in competitions, Hong Kong students often do well in other areas compared with those from other countries. In a recent study of Primary Four reading skills, Hong Kong ranked second highest out of 45 countries, a dramatic improvement over earlier results. This result can be attributed to the success of primary school programmes that encourage reading for pleasure. So, perhaps Hong Kong students need not be criticised after all!

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Science is fun

Britain's Professor Jeffries, who discovered the method of identifying criminals using DNA, said at the University of Hong Kong recently that children should be given greater freedom to experiment with science. Many school students may think that science is boring and that if they take subjects like biology, physics and chemistry at school, they will not be very well-equipped for many jobs. Yet those who have given it a try know this is not true.

Every year, senior secondary students have the opportunity to attend the Science and Engineering Fun Days held at the City University of Hong Kong (CityU). These summer workshops show students the practical applications of science in everyday equipment and structures, such as remote controls and bridges. They also have the chance to do challenging things such as making a 3D film. Even visiting CityU's laboratory is an exciting experience. According to one Form Six student, 'The facilities are state-of-the-art, and the environment is very energetic.'

CityU also encourages students' creativity. In 2007, it organised the Underwater Robot Challenge in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Yuen Yuen 2, the winning underwater robot in the secondary school category, successfully completed three tasks at the bottom of CityU's swimming pool. Although this may seem like a bit of fun, the idea has a practical application. In freezing polar regions, marine scientists have to operate underwater equipment remotely and such inventions can be very useful.

Not all inventions need to be so complex. The invention that took the champion's trophy at the 41st Joint School Science Exhibition was much closer to students' lives: a bicycle safety device. The schoolboy inventors had adapted the brakes of an ordinary bicycle so that they came on automatically when it reached a certain speed. Many students would surely agree with Professor Jeffries when he says, 'Go for it! Science is terrific fun.'

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

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Candidate C

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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.

Extra degree of involvement at university

A degree is certainly very important to many Hong Kong youngsters. We hear a lot about how busy and stressful university students' lives are. One would think, therefore, that university students have no time for extra-curricular activities and competitions. Yet, amazingly, some tertiary students do find the time for other achievements beyond studying for their degree.

One example is the revival of the Interschool Games, a mini-Olympics between six competing Asian universities. The Games, which started in 1949, were held once every three years. However, no Games have been held in the last decade, as funding for the event was affected by the Asian financial crisis. In 2004, some University of Hong Kong (HKU) students decided to start holding them again, because they felt it would be a very worthwhile experience and would make their university life especially memorable.

Reviving the Games was a long-term project and the first problem students encountered was one of

sponsorship. Eventually, the event took place in 2007 with partial sponsorship from Macau billionaire Stanley Ho. Students learnt a great deal about the logistics of organising a large-scale event, including how to look after participants from different cultures. For example, Muslim students from Malaysia wanted a compass to find out the direction to face for prayer. Despite initial difficulties, the Games were a great success.

Many final year projects offer similar self-development opportunities. Business students at one local university had to organise a public event to put into practice their knowledge of the business world, and one group decided to run an inter-university photo competition. Again, finding a sponsor was tough initially, and the students had to improve their communication skills. 'Companies are busy, so we learnt we had to keep our words short and to the point. Completing a project like this gave us an immense sense of achievement and we enjoyed it very much,' explained one student.

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

Your school is hosting an inter-school forum on opportunities for local students to fully develop their potential. You are a member of the group chosen to represent your school and your group is now meeting to prepare for the event.

You should discuss whether there are enough activities or programmes available in Hong Kong for young people to become well-rounded individuals and consider how students benefit from them. You could also consider ways in which schools, government departments, private companies and charities could do more to fund and lead such activities.

You do not need to come to a final decision or reach a conclusion in 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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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate D

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

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.

Above the law?

Following a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, Hong Kong introduced legislation against drinking and driving in the 1990s. This law was tightened this year and, in fact, is strictly enforced. However, other laws to ensure safe driving or to minimise the negative effects of cars do not always appear to be so strongly implemented.

Take the use of mobile phones, for example. Hong Kong has outlawed the use of mobiles while driving, although the use of hands-free telephones remains legal. Yet, it is still very common to see a driver holding a mobile phone with one hand and the steering wheel with the other; but one very rarely hears about anyone being convicted of this crime.

Another unlawful act that some drivers get away with is illegal parking. This offence often seems to be committed by rich people who leave their expensive

cars outside fancy restaurants. Perhaps they are so rich that they do not care about paying repeated fines, but why do the police not take stronger action? These people could be under the impression that these are minor offences when compared to the seriousness of people possibly being killed by a drunk driver. However, a law is a law.

Although it is not yet a law, a programme has been in place for many years to discourage drivers from running the engine in order to use the air-conditioning when the car is stationary. This selfish habit means that the driver in the stationary car is comfortable, but passers-by are exposed to exhaust fumes. It also worsens the pollution generated by the large number of cars already on the road. Lack of enforcement of these laws and programmes can make it seem that the car driver is sometimes above the law, thus giving a bad impression to the public.

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

The South China Morning Post (SCMP) is planning to publish a special issue on road safety and would like to hear from young people who will be the next generation of drivers. The paper would like students to write in with suggestions on how Hong Kong's roads could be made safer for everyone.

You are a member of the group at your school that has been chosen to write to the SCMP. Your group is meeting to brainstorm the content of your letter. You should discuss which three aspects of road use you feel need improving most urgently. You can consider action to be taken by the government, road users or both parties.

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Candidate A

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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.

Four wheels good, two wheels bad?

Generally speaking, one does not see many cyclists on the roads in Hong Kong, compared to Western countries. Since the government has been promoting cycling as a good physical exercise for youngsters, and green groups recommend it as an alternative means of transport wherever possible, the number of cyclists may increase. Yet cycling on busy city roads can be very dangerous.

Tragically, accidents often result in the death of the cyclist, as was the case when a seven-year-old boy, surnamed Kim, was hit at a roundabout near his home in Tseung Kwan O last year. Only one month earlier, a thirteen-year-old boy had been hit by a truck at the same roundabout, although thankfully he survived. Since Tseung Kwan O is a relatively new town, it does have bicycle paths that were planned as part of the original town design. These paths are meant to ensure that cyclists can use the roads safely, so what went wrong?

One problem is that, at several points, the paths cross roads carrying cars. This means that cyclists have to share the road with other vehicles as they cross from one section of the bicycle path to the next. Cyclists are supposed to get off the bicycles and push them across the road at such intersections. However, many continue riding and this often results in accidents. There is no point having a bicycle path if cyclists have to, by law, get off their bikes when they cross a road – it is bad design.

Of course, some people blame cyclists for accidents, saying they ignore red traffic lights and weave dangerously in and out of traffic. It is true that some cyclists do not obey the rules of the road, but can vehicle drivers, who are in charge of a more dangerous machine, really blame cyclists? Ask Kim's grandmother what she thinks.

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

The South China Morning Post (SCMP) is planning to publish a special issue on road safety and would like to hear from young people who will be the next generation of drivers. The paper would like students to write in with suggestions on how Hong Kong's roads could be made safer for everyone.

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Candidate B

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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.

Watch your step

According to Transport Department (TD) statistics, over 4000 pedestrians were involved in traffic accidents in Hong Kong in 2007. Of those, 91 were killed, approximately seven per month. Hong Kong is generally regarded as a safe city because of its low incidence of violent crime. This makes the apparent violence on our roads seem even more of a tragedy.

One particularly shocking aspect of these figures is that the majority of pedestrians involved in these traffic accidents were on footpaths or road crossings at the time! This strongly points the finger of blame at the vehicle driver, of course. A police chief superintendent confirmed, 'Drivers have the legal and moral responsibility to avoid accidents with pedestrians by taking proper care at all times.'

Yet, some drivers insist that pedestrians are to blame since they often walk on Hong Kong's busy roads when the pavement is crowded and cross roads

without obeying traffic lights. Sometimes they even use mobile phones or listen to music instead of paying attention to traffic. The TD's statistics also show that the biggest age group for pedestrian casualties is 70 or older, which suggests these senior citizens' slowness or lack of concentration has contributed to their accidents.

Although the behaviour of some pedestrians could be called selfish or careless, most people are likely to agree that the drivers, rather than the pedestrians, should primarily bear the responsibility. This is because a driver can more easily kill or injure a pedestrian, than the other way around. A recent government report showed that although the overall picture of road safety is improving, the number of accidents caused by speeding is up by 60%. One newspaper editorial commented that the government 'seems to put more effort into campaigns against careless pedestrians and cyclists than speeding drivers.' This imbalance needs addressing, and fast.

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

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Candidate C

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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.

Safer roads for all

Although the government commits a great deal of time, effort and resources to improving road safety in Hong Kong, the number of traffic accidents still remains alarmingly high. It is generally believed that 90% of all such accidents are caused by careless road users – drivers and pedestrians alike.

Drivers of commercial vehicles, such as two-wheeler delivery vehicles and larger vans, frequently cause chaos as they tend to stop anywhere with little regard for others' safety. They unload their goods on pavements or even in the middle of traffic at times. They speed in order to complete their delivery schedules on time and sometimes cause accidents. Reckless minibus drivers are equally to blame. 'Riding on a minibus – especially the red ones – is like being on the roller coaster at Ocean Park. The drivers barely wait for you to board before they speed away and they change lanes carelessly, endangering their passengers and other road users,' complains one regular minibus user.

What about hawkers? They may provide cheap and tasty food and a variety of inexpensive items, but they frequently obstruct pedestrians and force them off the pavement. School children, who are their biggest customers, are particularly at risk. 'After school, they crowd around the hawkers and often there's so little space they end up on the road. They could be splashed by hot oil or boiling water, or even worse, be knocked down,' says one concerned pedestrian.

Pedestrians appear to be vulnerable, but their own habits often put them at risk. Many fail to observe traffic signals, cross within a few feet of footbridges or pedestrian subways instead of using them, or jump over roadside barriers onto busy roads. Government spokesperson Janice Cheung believes its efforts alone cannot reduce traffic accidents. 'Every road user needs to behave responsibly and contribute towards making our roads safe for everyone,' she advises.

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

The South China Morning Post (SCMP) is planning to publish a special issue on road safety and would like to hear from young people who will be the next generation of drivers. The paper would like students to write in with suggestions on how Hong Kong's roads could be made safer for everyone.

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Candidate D

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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.

All's fair in business?

Hong Kong has long been promoted to tourists as a shopping paradise. However, for many years now, the sale of fake luxury brand goods made in China has been an issue. Fakes are sold in two ways: in one, the buyer is fully aware that their 'Louis Vuitton handbag' is really just a copy of the design; in the other, the shopkeeper pretends to the customer that the handbag is the real thing. The latter case is called a scam.

Since many people knowingly buy fake goods, one opinion is that the public are partially responsible for the continued manufacture of pirated goods. Others argue that it is wholly the retailer's responsibility. Indeed, Hong Kong has been embarrassed by its dishonest traders as an increasing number of tourists have complained about scams. The government and the Consumer Council have been monitoring the situation to improve consumer protection. Yet the cheating goes on, and not only by greedy shopkeepers.

Technology has made it easier for some dishonest individuals to run online scams. The IELTS English language test is so popular in China that the test centres cannot meet demand, so scammers book all the places online and only sell the booking to students if they pay up to 300 yuan. Sometimes, even normally law-abiding individuals take advantage of market demand and limited supply. They buy tickets for major sporting events like the Olympics and then sell them on to others at a higher price, a practice known as scalping.

Some call for stronger measures against these illegal, or at least unethical, types of behaviour, while others argue that it is just business, and no councils or government campaigns will ever stop mankind from wanting to trade and make a profit. They believe in the traditional approach to trading: 'Let the buyer beware', meaning that the consumer is solely responsible for his purchase.

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

As part of the moral education syllabus, your class has been learning about morality in different aspects of life. One aspect is business and your class has identified several dishonest business practices in Hong Kong. Students have been asked to give presentations in groups on how to deal with such problems.

You are a member of the group that has to give a presentation on this issue. Your group is now meeting to plan your presentation. You should discuss what kinds of unethical business practices there are and what can be done to overcome them. You might wish to consider what the government or companies can do, and also what consumers can do to avoid being cheated.

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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.

Poisoned profit

The tainted milk scandal that hit China in mid-2008 is one of the most serious incidents to date concerning food additives. Dishonest manufacturers in China added melamine, an industrial chemical, to their milk powder and products because it gave a higher protein reading in quality control tests. However, the chemical caused kidney stones in babies and infants. By September 2008, 94,000 children in the country had been affected and four babies had died.

Public response was particularly strong when this cheating was exposed because the majority of sufferers were young children, mostly of less well-off parents. Shenzhen mother Liu Qing said, 'Migrant workers and their babies are victims of this contaminated milk powder because they cannot afford more trustworthy products.' As well as parents being frightened, other people were angry and disgusted that anyone could behave in such a cruel and irresponsible way in order to ensure they made a profit.

One of the saddest aspects of this story is the guilt that some innocent parents have felt. An-Mei Zhao, mother of a ten-month-old son in a Beijing hospital, cried as she said, 'I feel so bad for having fed my baby toxic milk. The greedy businessmen are shameless. How can they be so unethical as to put children's health at risk just to make money?'

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that manufacturers in China have been involved in this dishonest practice. In 2007, after thousands of dogs and cats died, investigations revealed that pet foods exported to the US contained melamine. At first, Beijing denied any connection with these poisonings, but as evidence emerged, this was no longer possible. China has now been called on by the world to take effective measures to stamp out these illegal practices in the food industry and ensure higher standards of food safety.

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Beautiful lies

Women have used makeup to make themselves more beautiful for over 6000 years. Ancient Egyptians, for example, used eye paints in black and green made from lead and copper respectively. This early interest in beauty products has not only survived throughout the ages but has become, in our modern world, a multi-billion dollar industry.

Advertisements promise youthful looks through face creams that smooth and prevent wrinkles, and laser technology that treats skin discolouration. Cosmetics are not just limited to the face, of course. There is shampoo that reduces hair loss, toothpaste that whitens our teeth, and ultrasound stimulation that removes fat cells. But do they work? Not in the majority of cases. Although manufacturers describe their products in a scientific, medical way, most claims are exaggerated, or are downright untrue.

Despite laws requiring truthfulness in advertising, the beauty industry seems to get away with

these lies. Surely it is time to put a stop to the unethical behaviour of these powerful companies. Yet, is it fair to blame the manufacturers? Many women who try these products and find that they do not deliver the promised beauty improvement, still continue to buy them. Mandy Simpson admits, 'I always buy expensive face cream in a beautiful package rather than a cheap one. It makes me feel good to use it, even though I know it won't make me look younger, now that I'm forty.'

Manufacturers sometimes have to withdraw their products, such as some slimming pills which had been found to be harmful to health, but the untrue claims for most beauty products go unchallenged. A recent article in a beauty magazine revealed that snail mucus, shark egg white and even bird droppings had been used in some skin products! In fact, it would appear that women's desire to be beautiful leads them to buy beauty products, however strange they may be.

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

As part of the moral education syllabus, your class has been learning about morality in different aspects of life. One aspect is business and your class has identified several dishonest business practices in Hong Kong. Students have been asked to give presentations in groups on how to deal with such problems.

You are a member of the group that has to give a presentation on this issue. Your group is now meeting to plan your presentation. You should discuss what kinds of unethical business practices there are and what can be done to overcome them. You might wish to consider what the government or companies can do, and also what consumers can do to avoid being cheated.

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Candidate C

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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.

Been there, done that

Since mainland China recently allowed its citizens to travel independently, the Hong Kong tour business has boomed. Yet the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) has been receiving many complaints because the mainlanders claim that some tour operators are running scams, that is, intentionally cheating them in some way.

One scam concerns tour packages that include a day's sightseeing on a coach. After visiting one or two sights, holiday-makers are taken to stores, especially jewellery shops selling jade or gold watches. Even if the tourists object, the tour guides try to force them to buy something. In one extreme case when visitors refused, the tour guide did not take them back to their hotel. As this was their first trip to Hong Kong, they did not know how to return on their own and found the entire experience very upsetting.

Many tour companies argue that taking tourists to shops is a common practice all over the world and

that they are promoting Hong Kong's goods, and encouraging consumer spending in the territory. However, it is commonly known that tour guides' income is not very high and some of them feel they need to top up their salary with the commission they are offered from shops participating in these scams.

Another common complaint concerns accommodation. Many tours are offered at extremely low prices to attract mainland visitors. However, on arrival, they often find that their 'luxury' hotel is in fact just a basic room situated on an outlying island, such as Cheung Chau. Not only is the room of a low standard, the location is not convenient. Some accommodation is even dormitory style. 'How can Hong Kong promote itself as Asia's World City when it conducts its tour business in this way? This "make a quick buck", short-term view will surely harm our city in the long term, as visitors will not want to return,' comments one HKTB official.

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

As part of the moral education syllabus, your class has been learning about morality in different aspects of life. One aspect is business and your class has identified several dishonest business practices in Hong Kong. Students have been asked to give presentations in groups on how to deal with such problems.

You are a member of the group that has to give a presentation on this issue. Your group is now meeting to plan your presentation. You should discuss what kinds of unethical business practices there are and what can be done to overcome them. You might wish to consider what the government or companies can do, and also what consumers can do to avoid being cheated.

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Candidate D

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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.

Holidays are good for you

India has many things to offer as a holiday destination: vibrant Southern Asian culture, colourful Hindu temples and Muslim mosques, exotic spicy food, British colonial history, sunny beaches – the list goes on. It may therefore come as a surprise that one of its more recent selling points to attract visitors is healthcare. Yet there is a rising trend in what is known as 'medical tourism'.

Although medical care may be inadequate, unavailable or unaffordable in India's poorer regions, the situation is quite different in the larger cities, such as Mumbai or New Delhi. They have modern hospitals with state-of-the-art equipment, and highly-trained doctors and nurses to staff them. In many Western countries, and in Hong Kong, waiting lists for certain operations can be very long, or, if one can afford private medicine, very expensive. India's hospitals solve both of these problems, since they can offer immediate service at a sixth of the price compared to the UK or the USA.

The type of medical care available ranges from serious health issues, such as knee replacement surgery and cancer treatment, to more cosmetic concerns, such as dentistry that guarantees you a stunning white smile. Internet sites and holiday brochures list all the options and advertise these holidays in the same commercial way as other vacations, using expressions like 'Combine your holiday with a medical package' and 'Budget accommodation available for your family right next to the hospital'.

The combination of fixing a health problem cheaply and recovering in an interesting foreign destination sounds appealing. But not every 'medical tourist' can take advantage of all the things India has to offer because they often leave before they are fit enough to go sightseeing. The lucky ones who recover quickly have double benefits: they save money on medical expenses and have a memorable holiday.

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

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) is holding a competition to design a 'special purpose' holiday. You and your classmates have decided to enter the competition.

You are now meeting to discuss which destination would be ideal and which activity you would like to combine with a holiday. You should also discuss how your suggested holiday would be more meaningful than an ordinary one and justify your choice of activity and destination.

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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.

Helping holidays

Since the terrible civil war ended, Cambodia has become a popular destination for holidaymakers interested in ancient cultural buildings, most famously Angkor Wat. Yet Cambodia still has a long way to go to recover fully from its war years, particularly because many villages are poor and lack basic medical and educational facilities. Charities are working there, of course, but help also comes from an unusual source – holiday volunteer workers.

Voluntary organisations advertise ‘the opportunity to go beyond regular sightseeing options as you work, live and play among the local communities’. They offer all the usual benefits of volunteer work, such as doing something meaningful, gaining an insight into the suffering of others, and ending up with a greater appreciation of life. The projects include soft options, such as teaching English at orphanages, and tougher ones, such as constructing schools or homes for the locals.

In one example, a group of holiday volunteers from England worked alongside villagers building a community centre. As they struggled to mix cement in the heat of the day, they were encouraged by the young village representative. ‘We are very excited about the new centre. Before, we had nowhere to meet and in the rainy season we always got wet. Now we will have a place to teach pre-school children, hold health checks and conduct training workshops,’ he said.

No special skills are required for these holidays, although this English group were lucky enough to have among them a bricklayer from Manchester, who gave them some tips on how to lay the bricks straight. Digging foundations to lay floors is another tough job, but the thought of a sightseeing trip to the Angkor temples motivates the workers. Despite the hard work, tourists return home feeling refreshed and recharged. As one English woman said of her experience, ‘Hard work – but what a great holiday!’

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Fit for a holiday

As well as beautiful beaches and temples, Thailand offers many excellent golf courses for tourists who enjoy golf holidays. This combination of golf plus relaxation in a beautiful setting is common now, and other sports holidays, such as cycling in Europe or scuba diving in the Philippines, are also popular. Not so widely known is that holidays can be combined with practically any sport, for example, running.

Whether you are a runner who enters long-distance marathon races, or one who prefers shorter runs, you should be able to find a holiday on offer to suit your individual taste. As well as running, these packages generally include coaching sessions, fitness activities such as 'aqua-jogging' in a swimming pool, health-related activities such as heart rate testing, and social gatherings. This means that you can not only practise your favourite sport, but can also have fun at the same time.

Running holidays are arranged in beautiful locations all over the world. You could enjoy the sights of London or New York if you were to enter the marathons there, or run through the streets of Madrid, Paris or Tokyo. The popularity of off-road or trail running has been growing over the last couple of years and many travel agencies offer this option. Running on sandy trails has different challenges for the runner. The volcanic Spanish island of Lanzarote would be a good location to sample that experience.

So, as well as enjoying your usual pastime in an unusual and attractive location, you can try a new challenge, such as running in a different climate or on a different type of ground. It is a good holiday for single people as they often make friends with co-runners from all around the world. Combine this with picnics and relaxation on the beach after runs, and it sounds perfect. Ready to go?

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

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) is holding a competition to design a 'special purpose' holiday. You and your classmates have decided to enter the competition.

You are now meeting to discuss which destination would be ideal and which activity you would like to combine with a holiday. You should also discuss how your suggested holiday would be more meaningful than an ordinary one and justify your choice of activity and destination.

You do not need to come to a final decision or reach a conclusion in 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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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate C

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

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.

Need a holiday? It's all in the mind

Bali has always been marketed as an exotic location for a holiday, especially in the West, where Eastern cultures, traditions, even clothing, are regarded by many as interesting, mystical and beautiful. Backed by the island's considerable natural beauty, Bali has developed the 'mystical East' idea to become one of the leading centres for holidays based on yoga, meditation and spa treatments. These holidays claim to be spiritual in nature and to improve 'wellness'.

It is certainly true that you can have an extremely peaceful, relaxing holiday in Bali if you can afford to stay at one of the luxurious spa resorts. These hotels are architecturally very beautiful, in the traditional Balinese style, and always cleverly utilise the natural outdoor beauty. Since they are up-market, the staff are very well-trained and guests feel not only well looked after, but pampered. Yoga classes of all levels are usually available, as is a wide variety of

massage treatments. In fact, yoga, meditation and massage are available for people on all budgets in Bali, but the quality depends on the price you pay.

Some tourists, however, feel that the description of the holidays is overstated. One holiday package called itself a 'unique meditation tour through the ancient temples of Bali' but turned out to be simply a guided tour led by someone who looked like a monk. Others claim that the spa treatments do not really do any good. In fact, some of them, for example, having hot stones placed on your back or hot oil poured on your forehead, can be extremely painful.

Even those who enjoy the spas in Bali often admit that they soon feel stressed again after returning home. The truth is, perhaps, that inner peace is only to be found inside oneself, and that escaping to Bali is only a short-term answer to the search for 'wellness'.

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

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) is holding a competition to design a 'special purpose' holiday. You and your classmates have decided to enter the competition.

You are now meeting to discuss which destination would be ideal and which activity you would like to combine with a holiday. You should also discuss how your suggested holiday would be more meaningful than an ordinary one and justify your choice of activity and destination.

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Candidate D

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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.

An age of discrimination

Of all the different kinds of discrimination that exist in Hong Kong, age discrimination is the most common. In a recent survey by Kelly Services, a global recruitment agency, almost 29% of workers aged 45 or older felt they had been discriminated against because of their age. The survey also found that women experience greater age discrimination than men.

Despite these findings, the government refuses to introduce legislation to deal with age discrimination in the workplace and continues to rely on public education. Many complain that such measures are ineffective in dealing with this problem. Economics professor Edmund Lo thinks that as new laws have been passed to outlaw other forms of discrimination, it is now time to legislate against this inequality.

According to the survey, up to a quarter of job advertisements had specific age restrictions. This was

most likely to be found in advertisements for clerical positions, service industry appointments and sales jobs. Liz Ng, who is 50, used to work as a saleswoman but was laid off due to the economic crisis. She says, 'It will be very hard for me to get another job in sales because employers who are hiring staff want young, attractive girls. Even if I retrain for another kind of job, I fear I will be too old to be employed.'

Those who are arguing for age discrimination to be outlawed state that it is a real waste for companies not to value the experience and lifelong skills that older workers possess. Trade union representative Joe Wong says, 'Older workers should be the most important asset a company has. They know how the company operates and have formed essential relationships, both with other staff and with customers. It can take many years to reach this level of experience and it is such a waste to throw it all away.'

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

Your school is doing a project on recent changes in society. Your group is evaluating how far Hong Kong society has come in dealing with discrimination against different groups.

Your group is now meeting to plan the project. You should discuss different forms of discrimination that exist in Hong Kong and the difficulties people who are discriminated against face. You should then consider what else could be done to stop discrimination.

You do not need to come to a final decision or reach a conclusion in 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 A

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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.

Gender bias

A worldwide survey has found that more than a third of respondents in Hong Kong say they have experienced some kind of discrimination when applying for a job. Of this figure, 10% said that they had experienced gender-based discrimination when applying for work. However, gender bias not only exists when jobs are advertised, but also in the workplace itself.

In 1995, the Sexual Discrimination Ordinance was passed. The law states that it is illegal to discriminate against workers based on sex, marital status or pregnancy. The legislation also makes it unlawful to sexually harass a colleague at work. Men and women should have equal access to opportunities in the workplace and should not be victims of sexual abuse. What all this means is that gender discrimination should be a thing of the past. The reality, however, is that gender discrimination and sexual harassment still exist.

Female workers in the city are discriminated against when it comes to salary packages. Statistics from 2004 show that women working in the same industry and occupation group consistently earn less than men. For example, a female worker in the manufacturing sector earned an average daily wage of HK\$285, or 30% less than the wages of a man doing the same job. A female in the catering services sector earned an average monthly salary of HK\$5,783 which was 13% less than her male co-worker's salary. The pattern is similar in other job sectors.

It is also true that the female workforce is largely employed in low-wage jobs and positions, while men dominate the highest paid occupations such as managers and administrators. This results in an inequality of earnings. 'Although things are gradually improving, there is still a glass ceiling or an invisible barrier that women find it difficult to break through,' comments successful businesswoman Eva Chen.

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

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Candidate B

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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.

An issue of race

In July 2008, the Race Discrimination Bill was passed into law. The bill had widespread support and finally gave protection to the hundreds of thousands of Indians, Nepalese, Filipinos and other ethnic groups who have lived in Hong Kong for generations. Before this bill, the ethnic minorities that make up 5% of the city's population could be refused work or fired for no reason. They were sometimes also discriminated against when looking for accommodation.

The new legislation states that decisions concerning the hiring of staff or access to services and private clubs can no longer be made on the basis of race. Explaining the law, a senior government official, Stephen Lam, says, 'It marks a major step forward for the community of Hong Kong in our efforts to safeguard human rights and eliminate racial discrimination.'

However, there are so many exceptions to the law and this has caused some dissatisfaction. One

exception is that companies can choose a locally-born Hong Kong Chinese person rather than an applicant of another race, even if their skills and experience are the same. Critics feel that this limits the effectiveness of the new law. There is also some doubt regarding the extent to which the new race law protects mainland Chinese residents in Hong Kong from discrimination.

Another controversial exception is the so-called 'expat exemption'. This means that employers may offer more favourable terms to employees if a job needs special skills or knowledge that are not readily available in Hong Kong. They can then recruit employees from outside Hong Kong, pay them higher salaries and offer better benefits compared with locally-hired staff. Although many people disagree with the new law, there is one thing that everyone agrees with: employers can no longer discriminate against employees without facing legal consequences.

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

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Candidate C

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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.

Disabling discrimination

The Disability Discrimination Ordinance was passed in 1995 and aims to prohibit discrimination and harassment on the grounds of physical or mental disability. The law was enacted in response to protests from residents who did not want centres for the mentally disabled to be established in their neighbourhood. Since the passage of the law, life for the disabled should have become easier. However, there are some problems.

One point in the law that some people do not agree with is that employers who do not wish to hire people with disabilities can claim that doing so would cause their company hardship. This means that if the employer needs to provide extra facilities or services for the disabled member of staff, they can claim that this would cost too much money and not employ them. Therefore, in hearing such discrimination cases, the courts will have to balance the needs of the disabled person against those of the employer.

Most people with disabilities claim that it is now easier to get around the city and that new buildings are designed to consider their needs. However, Peter Chung, who is wheelchair-bound, thinks that society appears to abide by the law but that in reality, discrimination still exists. 'Legislation enforces behavioural changes but these are only skin deep. People won't be openly discriminatory but you can feel that deep down they still view you as being different,' he concludes.

Furthermore, some members of the public still think there is a long way to go before the disabled gain real equality. Student Kitty Yeung says, 'There are insufficient facilities for them. In supermarkets it is still difficult for them to buy things without help. There are no Braille signs.' As well as more facilities, public education and acceptance of the disabled are vital.

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

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Candidate D

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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.

Time for change

Times Square is undoubtedly one of Hong Kong's most popular shopping malls. However, the use of the area outside this shopping centre has become very controversial. This is because public expectations over the use of this space have not been met. There is now pressure on the government and Times Square to rewrite the conditions of use for the open space and allow the public a greater say in how it is used.

The original agreement between the developers and the government stated that the ground floor space should be set aside for public access, pedestrian passage and passive recreation. The deal also said that the company has the right to organise exhibitions there and charge fees. It is also allowed to regulate the way the public can use the area. A spokesperson for Times Square says, 'Since the plaza is privately owned, we have the right to manage and maintain it.'

However, members of the public have been angered by restrictions enforced by the developer to limit public use of the open space. They complain that people have been banned from eating and drinking, and conducting other social activities. 'On the one hand, the agreement gives the public the right to use this area, but on the other, it allows the owner to interpret and enforce how it can be used. This is very confusing,' says local resident Gordon Chang.

A group called Local Action has held protests at the plaza to draw attention to the problem. Local Action group member Chu Hoi-dick says that Times Square management should talk with the public and agree to change the deed conditions. University professor Eric Cheung thinks that this would be the perfect solution and explains, 'A deed is a form of contract and the conditions can be changed as long as they are agreed to by both parties.'

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

Your group will take part in a debate on the motion *People living in Hong Kong should have the right to use open urban space however they wish.*

You are now meeting to prepare for the debate. At this stage you do not know which side of the motion your team will support and so are preparing arguments both for and against the motion. You should consider open urban space to include areas such as parks and other public spaces.

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Candidate A

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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.

An issue of space

How many times have you noticed a security guard in a shopping mall tell visitors that they cannot sit down, or demand that they move on? The fact that these people are in a public area and are causing no disturbance is often forgotten. It is a situation that many Hong Kong people have faced at one time or another.

However, this issue has received a lot of media attention following complaints that private security guards at various shopping malls had attempted to stop people from sitting or waiting in the public areas. A spokesperson for one building management company apologised and explained that the security guards may have overstepped their authority. 'We know that people often meet in the open spaces at the centre of shopping malls where there are fountains, ornamental clocks or other features. Therefore, security guards should be sensitive to this and should not prevent people from waiting in the area,' he said.

Since these incidents, there has been a vocal campaign to re-examine rules governing public open space that were originally agreed to by developers and the government. Director of Lands Annie Tam Kam-lan said her department was making a list of 150 areas that had been set aside for public recreation and open space in private developments since 1997. She also said that the government would investigate the situation to determine whether owners of such private developments were actually allowing the public to use these areas as intended under the original agreements.

Legco member Alan Leong thinks that the access and use of some of Hong Kong's public open spaces should be improved. 'I hope that a Legco review will result in a more transparent and predictable system for the use of outdoor space,' he says. For the public, it appears that they will have to continue to fight for the use of open spaces in private developments.

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Sunday space

On Sundays and public holidays, visitors to Hong Kong's Central District can see thousands of domestic helpers crowding the streets and enjoying their day off with their friends. As they are not allowed to gather inside many of the district's high-end shopping malls, they are forced to use the open spaces outside. An alternative is to hang out in the fast-food outlets, but they do not like to do this because they have to spend their hard-earned cash there and leave soon after eating.

However, the use of these public open spaces in Central is now under threat. The open space in Central District is to be sold to allow the construction of Hong Kong's biggest shopping mall. Other public spaces up for sale under the government's Central Reclamation Project are City Hall, the Chater Road pedestrian tunnel, Edinburgh Place and the General Post Office. These are all areas where many Filipino domestic helpers, among others, gather on Sundays.

Filipino workers are fighting to save these spaces. They are being helped by Local Action, a group which launched well-publicised protests to save the historic Star Ferry and Queen's Piers from being demolished. Group leader Yun-chung Chen says, 'Actually, we learned the whole idea of protecting our public space from Filipino helpers. Since the 1980s, domestic helpers have been struggling to use public space in Central. They were kicked out many times, but they insisted and so the government backed down,' he says.

Although the government promises that there will be plenty of open spaces after Central District has been redeveloped, many domestic helpers are unconvinced. 'The reclamation is an excuse to sell the free space to developers. How can we be sure that open space will not be privatised? Developers only want to make more money,' says helper Maria Ramos.

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

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Candidate C

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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.

Street theatre

Sai Yeung Choi Street in Mongkok is famous for being a pedestrian-only street. Many different groups, from telecommunications companies seeking new customers to political parties soliciting donations, have used this public space. However, one group of street performance artists is causing great controversy. Known as FM Theatre Power, the group has been so disruptive that there is now a Hong Kong Internet campaign to ban them from this location for being a public nuisance.

The group has put on many different kinds of performances in order to provide theatre for all. As mime artist Cathy Wong says, 'FM Theatre Power believes that any place can be a stage and all people should have the right to experience and to enjoy theatre.' Theatre turned into reality when opponents of the group were asked to attend a forum in the street to express their opinions. Indeed, the group was very happy that a discussion on the use of public space took place in such a public location.

Those who opposed the group wore black clothes and voiced various concerns about the problems caused by the performers. They said that the group had offended passers-by, frightened elderly citizens and blocked access for shoppers. Although they did not want to expel the group from the street, they had little choice as the group had not responded positively to their concerns. One shop owner said, 'I've put up with the same show for five years – I can't stand it anymore.'

Although some protesters said that the performance should not be taking place in the middle of the street, performance artist Banky Yeung said, 'The art is performed in streets not for lack of other venues, but because the performers want to interact with citizens, learn from their experience, and bring attention to certain issues. We have just as much right to use this space as anyone else.'

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

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Candidate D

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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.

A broken promise or a promising future?

When Beijing was awarded the 2008 Summer Olympics, media organisations were concerned that government controls on press freedom would affect their coverage of the Games. However, the Chinese government promised that it would relax some of the rules, giving foreign reporters greater freedom. So what changes did the new arrangements bring about?

Visiting journalists were able to operate in a less restricted environment. They could travel around the country without obtaining advance permission from the government. Reporters could also conduct interviews and contact state organisations directly, instead of waiting for government-organised media-briefing sessions. In Beijing, state-of-the-art media centres and Internet lounges with unrestricted access were also set up for the international press. These developments were very much welcomed by foreign journalists.

Nevertheless, foreign journalists experienced some difficulties. It was not easy to contact officials

directly for interviews and journalists also found that very little had changed in other provinces. 'I didn't experience any problems in Beijing but it was different elsewhere. Some officials in rural provinces were unaware of the changes to the rules. In Xinjiang, I was followed and the officials even threatened people I was interviewing. I was detained and only freed after I asked to speak to Foreign Ministry officials,' explained one reporter.

International press coverage did bring some benefits to China. In the first place, outdoor sporting events, such as the marathon, showed the beauty of the capital city. Viewers could also see images of a modern and progressive country. The most significant impact was that after the Games, the government announced that the temporary freedoms for visiting journalists would become standard practice. This recognition of the value of a more open approach is surely a step in the right direction for the future of press freedom in the country.

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

Your school is taking part in an inter-school forum entitled *What have we learned from the last Olympics?* Your group will represent your school at the event.

You are now meeting to plan your contribution to the forum. You should first evaluate the recent Olympics, considering both positive and negative aspects of the Games. You should then discuss whether companies should be allowed to sponsor sporting events or not. You could also consider whether political issues should be kept out of sporting events.

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Candidate A

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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.

Burnt fingers – the torch relay

The Olympic torch is a symbol of the ability of sport to bring together people from all over the world. In fact, China labelled the torch relay the 'journey of harmony', and hoped the event would bring peace and unity. Despite China's best intentions, the relay, which passed through 20 countries, caused debate and division.

Mainland security officials who accompanied the torch on its journey were very strict and kept eager spectators at a distance, making it very difficult for people to see it. People who had waited for hours felt angry that they could not experience the joy of witnessing the relay. In addition, some countries felt strongly about mainland personnel taking control of torch security on their soil. For example, when the torch toured Australia, local officials took over security arrangements and kept the Chinese personnel in the background.

Demonstrators who wanted to use the high-profile event to speak out against China tried hard to

disrupt the passage of the Olympic torch through their city. While some peacefully expressed their dissatisfaction, others were more aggressive. In Paris, pro-Tibetan protesters violently attacked a torch bearer, a disabled girl in a wheelchair. However, in other countries, such as Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia and Vietnam, the relay was completed without incident and in true Olympic spirit.

Not everyone supported the protestors. Many people felt angry that politics had been brought into sport. They complained that protestors were using the Games as a world stage for publicising their political views. 'It's not right! Athletes only have one chance every four years to compete in the Olympics. Any disruption to the Games will only hurt them,' said British swimmer Sharon Davies, a silver medal recipient at the 1980 Olympics. Unfortunately, such disruptions to the torch relay have made Olympic organisers reconsider the international nature of the relay for future Games.

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

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Candidate B

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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.

A marketing exercise

The Beijing Olympics was not only an opportunity for the world to see the best athletes perform on the greatest sporting stage, but also for sponsors to build brand awareness, both globally and in the host nation. International companies, including such giants as McDonald's, Coca Cola and Visa, poured millions of dollars into a massive advertising campaign.

Although many sponsors considered such advertising to be money well spent, some were cautious, as they were concerned that consumers who supported the pro-Tibet and human rights protests would boycott their products. 'If there were protests at the Games, sponsors wouldn't want posters advertising their products in the background of pictures showing policemen cracking down on protesters. It would only create a negative impression – both about the company and its products – among their customers around the world,' explained advertising analyst Rick Adamson.

Many people also questioned the moral values of such sponsorship. They felt it was an attempt by greedy corporations to attract China's middle class, especially after slower economic growth in the West. One critic explained, 'Let me be honest. This is not a global sports festival. It is more a rush by corporations into the world's number one growth market. The original aim of the Games was to highlight the importance of amateur competition, but now it is just about sponsors making lots of money, and not really about sport.'

So, did the sponsors get a good return on their investment? Marketing researchers found that their campaigns seemed to have had little impact. Several consumers either did not care who the official sponsors were, or had other reasons for buying a product. Shopper Mei Zhang explains, 'I'm not influenced by Olympic advertising. Instead, I care more about the price, quality and safety of a product.'

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

Your school is taking part in an inter-school forum entitled *What have we learned from the last Olympics?* Your group will represent your school at the event.

You are now meeting to plan your contribution to the forum. You should first evaluate the recent Olympics, considering both positive and negative aspects of the Games. You should then discuss whether companies should be allowed to sponsor sporting events or not. You could also consider whether political issues should be kept out of sporting events.

You do not need to come to a final decision or reach a conclusion in 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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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate C

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

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.

Mistaken identity

The opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics was an impressive mix of fireworks, lasers and synchronised group performances. The ceremony lasted four hours, entertaining an audience of nearly 100,000 in the spectacular Bird's Nest Stadium and millions more watching on television. However, days after the ceremony, certain details cast a shadow over the occasion's success.

The first criticism was that the little girl who sang 'Praise to the Motherland' during the ceremony was actually not singing at all, but miming the words to the music. The reality was that she had been chosen to perform during the ceremony because a senior government leader thought that the girl who had actually sung the song was not pretty enough. Chen Qigang, the musical director of the event, said, 'It was about presenting the nation's music and its cultural image. The girl shown on television had to have the most perfect voice and be perfect-looking too.'

Reaction in mainland Internet chat rooms was mixed. Many thought that this sent a bad message

that outward appearance was more important than inner beauty or genuine talent. One Internet user asked, 'It is clearly harmful to both girls. Why do we have to compromise honesty for these so-called national interests?' However, supporters of the organisers referred to the Sydney Olympics, and said that the Sydney Symphony Orchestra had mimed its entire performance at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Games, as the organisers 'wanted to leave nothing to chance'.

The opening ceremony also came in for criticism after it was learned that one section of the spectacular fireworks display, which had been broadcast live on both television and on screens inside the stadium, had been largely computer generated and was not a live performance. Despite these shortcomings, the opening ceremony will still be remembered as one of the most spectacular and memorable Olympic events in history.

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

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Candidate D

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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.

A public reaction

The human cost of the Sichuan earthquake that struck on 12th May 2008 was immeasurable. More than 70,000 people lost their lives and 37,500 were left injured. Another 4.8 million people became homeless overnight. The public response to this tragic event around China was remarkable. Donations immediately began flooding in, with approximately US\$1.5 billion raised in just two days.

Collection points were set up in banks, around gas stations and at schools. Although many Internet users were angry that the top ten richest people in China donated less than US\$5 million, ordinary citizens from all walks of life, from factory workers to schoolchildren, gave money. Even beggars contributed. In addition to donating cash and clothing, people also gave blood, with long queues forming outside hospitals.

Donated money was used to buy tents and bedding for the homeless and to provide other forms of

aid that the quake victims urgently needed. This brought immediate relief for those whose lives had been destroyed by the tragedy. Red Cross worker Wang Haoshui felt that the rapid financial response made a big difference. 'The donations allowed us to provide food, shelter and medical supplies to a large number of people in a short space of time,' he explained.

Journalist Li Datong claimed that the public's response marks an important turning point. 'The Chinese people have shown their ability to organise themselves and thus have displayed a considerable sense of responsibility,' he said. Clubs and societies across the country transformed themselves into voluntary organisations and this type of reaction to a natural disaster was a first for China. Li added, 'Such actions show that a unified and civic-conscious society is beginning to emerge. With support from national institutions, the country will move towards becoming a unified society, instead of adopting an every-man-for-himself attitude.'

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

May 2009 marks the first anniversary of the Sichuan earthquake. A commemorative assembly will be held to remember those who lost their lives in the tragedy. Your principal would like your group to make a speech focusing on the positive developments that followed from the tragic event. You are now meeting to plan the speech.

You should consider the ways in which the government, the army, non-governmental organisations and members of the public cooperated to provide assistance in the days following the disaster. You could also discuss how China's youth and Hong Kong people responded to the tragedy and think about other activities that could make the assembly a memorable event.

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Candidate A

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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.

A new generation

The Sichuan earthquake produced a wave of national grief. Some people were so affected by the images of destruction shown on television that they immediately volunteered to go to the quake area to help the survivors. Some even quit their jobs to assist with relief efforts. Many volunteers risked their lives trying to rescue victims in dangerous conditions.

The 150,000 volunteers did all kinds of work. Some trekked into the mountains to help in isolated villages, while others went to refugee camps to offer assistance to the victims and to organise relief efforts. Twenty-one-year-old Tang Quyi left her elite university in Beijing to go to one of the camps. She explains, 'I was deeply moved by the poor children who had lost their parents and thought that it was my responsibility as a Chinese citizen to help out.' Quyi cared for orphaned infants at a newly-erected children's centre.

Zhang Dan, another volunteer who actually left his job to join the relief effort, worked in a camp distributing aid to the victims. He said, 'The earthquake has changed my perspective on life. I used to look at events and only thought how they affected me. Now I consider their impact on others and my country.' This increased patriotism is in stark contrast to the get-rich-quick philosophy of the past 20 years.

It seems the generation labelled the 'little emperors', selfish children who were products of the one-child policy, have now learned to consider others. Parents who lived through hard times themselves are now extremely proud of their children. Tang's father exemplifies this. 'I didn't want Quyi to volunteer for the Olympics because I wanted her to concentrate on her studies, but when she said she wanted to volunteer in the quake zone I just told her to take care. I am so proud of her.'

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Nothing to fear from NGOs

In the past, the Chinese authorities were always suspicious of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), fearing that they were unpatriotic groups. After the Sichuan earthquake, this relationship seems to have changed for the better, as many NGOs contributed to the relief and redevelopment efforts.

The China Social Entrepreneur Foundation, an NGO set up in 2007 with government approval, set up a centre providing space for up to 500 children immediately after the quake, so that they could continue their education. The NGO has so far raised 30 million yuan in donations for the earthquake relief operation. The centre manager, Wang Xiang, says the earthquake has changed the authorities' opinion of groups such as his. 'Before, they thought of us as a disruptive influence. That has started to change in recent years, but the earthquake was a real breakthrough. The government now realises how useful NGOs can be, so it cooperates better with us,' he said.

International NGOs also developed better working relationships with the government. Lui Lei, who works for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), arrived at the disaster area immediately after the quake. Working with the army, his group assessed what victims needed most, using their experience in disaster management to help organise the relief effort.

These NGOs shared information with one another and with the government to make the most of resources. As Lui states, 'We had a meeting with delegates from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the local government, and exchanged information on providing medical aid to disaster areas.' Such cooperative efforts yielded prompt benefits. For example, input from the NGOs helped the central government realise there was a shortage of tents. It then ordered all tent-making factories to operate at full capacity and deliver them immediately to the disaster zone.

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

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Candidate C

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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.

The right response

The Chinese government's response to the devastating earthquake that ripped apart large areas of Sichuan Province was one positive development from an otherwise horrific disaster. Comparisons were made between China's speedy and efficient reaction, and the response from the US government after the killer hurricane, Katrina, hit New Orleans in 2005.

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao won support for the quick and caring way he responded to the needs of victims. He flew to the scene of the disaster just 90 minutes after the earthquake and assured the people that the government was in complete control, cooperating with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and coordinating a massive army response. The government also held a period of national mourning, the first of its kind to honour ordinary citizens rather than state leaders.

Although many refugees blamed local governments for poor construction practices that led to

many young lives being lost under the rubble of collapsed schools, the central government was praised by the majority of survivors. Refugee Ma Shihao agreed that the authorities had done a good job with relief work. 'The government has organised medical supplies, food, tents and blankets for us. I was even told that from tomorrow, children will be restarting school in one of the larger tents.'

The army also played an essential role in getting to isolated villages and digging survivors out of the collapsed buildings. Over 50,000 soldiers and police took part in the rescue effort. At first, 20 helicopters were used to assist in rescue operations but this quickly rose to over 100 once the extent of the disaster was realised. 'It was a remarkable response from our men and women in uniform,' said Sichuan native He Hiao Peng, who was carried 20km to safety, after being dug out of the rubble of his mountain home.

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

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Candidate D

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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.

A trade of ignorance or greed?

Shark fin soup is a popular delicacy in Hong Kong, in China, and also in some South-East Asian countries. However, marine conservationists are extremely worried that this expanding trade is driving the shark population to extinction.

Hong Kong is the global centre for the trade in shark fins. It is estimated that the majority of the world's shark fin imports go through the city. The profits for traders are huge. Although the cost depends on the species of shark, prices can be as high as US\$500 per kg.

The cost is one reason why shark fin is on the menu at wedding receptions and extravagant dinner events. Many feel that it is the prestige associated with offering expensive dishes on such occasions that increases the demand for shark fin. Friends of the Earth member Ivan Ho says, 'It is a real shame that this

magnificent creature could become history just because people want to show off their wealth or feel the need to impress their friends. The soup is actually made of chicken stock and the fin itself doesn't have any taste.'

However, surprisingly, the dried seafood sellers in the Sai Ying Pun district of the city are largely unaware of the serious impact of their business on the shark population. Marine biologist Peter Lock reports that when asked about the need for shark conservation, most shopkeepers said that they had no idea that the species was under threat. When told that they would be out of business in as little as ten years' time, they were shocked. Nevertheless, shark fin importers are well aware of campaigns to reduce the trade. As Lock says, 'Unfortunately, they either do not believe the data that clearly show that sharks are on the verge of extinction, or are so driven by money that they simply do not care.'

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

Your school is taking part in a campaign *Save the shark* organised by a conservation group. As Hong Kong is the centre of the world's shark fin trade, the campaign is aimed at educating citizens, restaurant owners and shark fin retailers about the unsustainable nature of this trade.

You are now meeting to plan your contribution to the campaign. You should first think about the arguments shark fin consumers might put forward, and then consider appropriate methods to convince these people to reduce or stop their consumption of shark fin.

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Candidate A

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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.

The road to extinction

Sharks have been around for 450 million years and even survived the disastrous event that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs. They are among the world's top predators, but are now under threat due to financial greed. Unsustainable fishing practices, or methods which result in sharks being killed faster than they can reproduce, are also responsible. Experts estimate that 100 million sharks are killed annually and predict that, very soon, most species of shark will be extinct.

Sharks are almost exclusively hunted for their fins. Shark finning is the process by which the fins are removed and the shark is thrown back into the sea. It is still alive at this point but cannot swim and therefore, sinks to the bottom of the ocean where it is eaten by other sea creatures. Finning is completed on the fishing boats because the value of the shark meat is so low that it is not worth the cost of transporting the bodies back to the market.

Sharks are fanned regardless of age, size or species. They are normally caught on 'longlines' that stretch for many kilometres and have baited hooks every few metres to attract a shark or other large fish. Fisheries expert Mark Smith says, 'Shark finning is widespread, largely unmanaged and unmonitored. This is rapidly leading to a sharp reduction in shark numbers.'

It is not only the rising demand for shark fin that has led to this critical situation. Improved fishing technology and market economics have contributed to the reduction in shark numbers. Finning boat captain Carlos Torres says, 'Today we can track shark populations by sonar and by plane. Once we have them in our sights there is no escape. There are fewer sharks now but the demand for shark fin still exists. Shark fishing will therefore continue to be an extremely profitable business.'

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Top of the chain

Vast numbers of sharks are disappearing from our oceans with their fins being sold for huge profits. The dried fins are used to make soup and are also used in traditional Chinese medicine. But what impact does this multi-million-dollar trade have on the marine ecosystem and local communities?

At present, the number of sharks caught is unsustainable. This means that we are killing sharks faster than they can reproduce. Marine biologist John Evans explains the consequences. 'If you eliminate this creature, which is at the top of the food chain, it will affect the entire marine ecosystem. Sharks are also the refuse collectors of the ocean. If they disappear, other species will be affected and the marine ecosystem will suffer.'

Shark finning has a negative impact on the fishing industry in developing nations. Industrial fishing vessels from developed communities sail into their coastal waters to hunt sharks. Shark meat hardly

has any value, so these fishermen would rather save the space for the fins which bring large profits. Therefore, they keep the fins and throw the rest of the shark overboard. They also discard any other fish they catch because these fish have no commercial worth. Their practices affect the livelihood of the local fishermen; in the first place, there are fewer fish left for them and secondly, the community loses a valuable protein resource – the shark meat – that it could otherwise have utilised.

Fisheries expert David Jones offers another important explanation. 'Because so much shark fishing is done illegally, it is difficult to collect accurate data that are essential for monitoring the number of sharks caught. Without this information, it is difficult for the international community to introduce acceptable shark-fishing quotas and to implement, and manage sustainable shark-fishing practices. It will also become harder to establish protected areas that will help to save the shark.'

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

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Candidate C

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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.

An image problem

Sharks are in trouble. Many other creatures that have been endangered in the past decades, such as the panda and elephant, have been saved. The shark, however, suffers from an image problem that may lead to its extinction.

Many people are afraid of sharks. However, this is rather illogical thinking since the number of human deaths resulting from shark attacks is very small. Our fear of this creature is largely the result of movies such as *Jaws*. This fear is also not helped by comments from people like shark hunter Vic Hislop, who said, 'The only good shark is a dead shark.' Consequently, many people are not motivated to stop the killing.

When sharks do attack people, research shows that in almost all cases it is a case of mistaken identity. Swimmers on the surface resemble a large shark's

favourite meal – seals. To the shark, the action of swimming with lots of splashing around suggests an animal in distress and just the kind of easy meal a shark is looking for. However, after taking a bite out of a person, sharks almost always swim away.

So what can be done to save the shark? At present, the common practice is for fishermen to cut off the shark's fins and then throw the body into the sea. For many conservationists, legislation is the answer. They believe a law requiring boats to bring the whole shark into port, instead of just bringing in the fins, would make a big difference. This approach would allow the authorities to enforce the law more easily as any boat that only had fins on it would be breaking the law. As conservationist Susan James explains, 'The cost of transporting the whole body would reduce profits significantly, as boats would be full of a few large sharks rather than countless small fins.'

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

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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.

Switching on to switching off

If you live in a typical home, your appliances and home electronics are responsible for about 20% of your energy bills. These appliances and electronic devices include such items as washing machines, home entertainment equipment, computers, refrigerators and hot water heaters. So what can you do to reduce the amount of electricity you consume at home?

If you are going to buy a new washing machine or fridge, check to make sure that it is the most energy-efficient choice. These days such appliances come with a label providing this information. It is a guarantee that these products have met strict criteria on energy efficiency and will cost less to operate. They also help reduce electricity consumption and, hence, carbon emissions.

Another obvious method of reducing energy use is to switch off appliances when they are not in use.

For example, you could turn off the monitor if you do not intend to use your computer for more than 20 minutes. If you are not going to use it for more than two hours, then switch off the main unit as well. Energy saving tips state that even putting the computer into sleep mode will save 70% of the power usually required.

Home efficiency adviser Justin Tibbs goes further. 'Our computer monitors, printers and other accessories are usually connected to an extender cord which is plugged into a power outlet. When you don't plan to use these devices for long periods of time, turn off the main switch on the outlet, otherwise the appliances will still draw some power, even though they have been switched off individually,' he reasons. Of course, this logic extends to all kinds of similar equipment like DVD players and televisions. By taking these simple steps we can reduce both the energy we use and our electricity bills.

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

The Student Council at your school is very concerned about the amount of energy that is being wasted at school and at home. It has decided to produce an informative pamphlet that encourages staff, other employees and students to reduce their energy use within school buildings and at home.

You are members of the Council and are meeting to plan the pamphlet. You should discuss specific information you would like to include and how it should be organised to convey the information effectively. You should also think of an interesting design to make the pamphlet appealing to readers.

You do not need to come to a final decision or reach a conclusion in 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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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.

Lighting up the future

Using energy-efficient light bulbs can considerably reduce the amount of electricity needed to illuminate your home. These bulbs use about 70% less power than conventional bulbs and last up to ten times longer.

Energy analyst John Cole states, 'Although energy-efficient bulbs are more expensive to buy, they save about US\$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime.' One consideration, however, is that to make such savings the bulb needs to be switched on for at least 15 minutes at a time. If the bulb is put in a place where it is switched on and off frequently, it will only perform as efficiently as a normal bulb. Therefore, they are most suitable for the living room, bedroom and to provide outside lighting, but are much less effective in a toilet or shower room.

Efforts have been made to get the public to replace their old light bulbs with the new efficient ones.

Some local governments and power companies around the world have subsidised the cost of energy-efficient bulbs or have provided them free to customers. Others have even banned the production and sale of conventional bulbs, leaving the consumer with no choice but to replace their old bulbs with the more efficient variety.

In Hong Kong, the government has continued to let consumers make their own choices. Greenpeace representative Kenneth Lau believes this approach is rather short-sighted. 'The government has taken no action to phase out the use of inefficient light bulbs so it is up to organisations like ours to educate the public. It's high time that some pressure was applied on the government to change this situation and ban the sale of these bulbs.' A recent survey by Greenpeace showed that 42% of the interviewees continue to use conventional light bulbs at home, costing millions in electricity bills that could otherwise be saved.

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

The Student Council at your school is very concerned about the amount of energy that is being wasted at school and at home. It has decided to produce an informative pamphlet that encourages staff, other employees and students to reduce their energy use within school buildings and at home.

You are members of the Council and are meeting to plan the pamphlet. You should discuss specific information you would like to include and how it should be organised to convey the information effectively. You should also think of an interesting design to make the pamphlet appealing to readers.

You do not need to come to a final decision or reach a conclusion in 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. This will be an acceptable part of your group discussion, and will be assessed.

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate B

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

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.

University challenge

There can be little doubt that we should all take responsibility for saving energy in our homes, but what about large institutions like businesses and schools? Many universities in Hong Kong are taking steps to reduce the amount of energy they consume and City University of Hong Kong (CityU) is one of them.

The first measure it is taking is to set the temperature of air-conditioning systems to 25°C throughout the campus. This will not only save money but also reduce global warming. At the University, the heat produced by the air-conditioning system is used to heat the water in the swimming pool changing rooms.

Another measure is that the existing lighting system has been changed to a more energy-efficient type. Exit signs are being replaced with Liquid Electronic Diode (LED) versions that save power. Staff and students are encouraged to switch off lights

when they are not using rooms and offices. Students think this is a real development towards creating a more responsible approach to global warming. Undergraduate Sally Ho from the Faculty of Business says, 'Our generation really cares about the environment and so any efforts that are made to cut down on energy wastage will be supported by students.'

So how much energy do they think they can save? The Facilities Management Officer at CityU is optimistic. 'We aim to save about 7% of the energy we use over five years. Although this might not seem like much, it will actually save the university a lot of money in energy bills. We are also implementing other measures to conserve energy and we are on target to save even more. However, what is more important is the message we send to students and staff that we can all do more to cut down on our wasteful ways,' he says.

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

The Student Council at your school is very concerned about the amount of energy that is being wasted at school and at home. It has decided to produce an informative pamphlet that encourages staff, other employees and students to reduce their energy use within school buildings and at home.

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Candidate C

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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.

An education in energy

When you think of all the wealthy developers in Hong Kong and the need for buildings to reduce their reliance on energy produced from fossil fuels, it may seem strange that examples of alternative energy use can more readily be found among the city's schools.

Situated in Stanley, the Sea School looks just like any other school in Hong Kong except for one thing – it uses wind power to generate electricity for its own use. Small turbines, which work in low wind speeds, have been fixed on the roof and these produce energy. School principal William Hutchinson says, 'If we get a breeze of around 18km/h, which is an average speed, we can power about 90% of this building. Apart from the energy saved, the cost of the new mini-turbines is only 10-20% of conventional windmills and this means the turbines will pay for themselves within two years. The mini-windmills are fixed on large displays, which spell out the Sea School's name, promoting its green approach.'

Ma Wan Primary School is another educational institution that is making use of alternative energy. Solar panels have been installed not only on the roofs of the school's buildings, but also on the windows. The panels use sunlight to generate power and can provide each classroom with up to 14% of its energy needs. The system also distributes electricity to other parts of the school where it is needed, reducing power bills. The project has resulted in a lot of good publicity for the school.

Schemes such as these not only produce non-polluting energy, but are also educational. Ma Wan teacher John Tien is very proud of the scheme. 'Numerous educational activities on alternative energy sources have been developed as a result of this project. The potential educational benefits of this system have been acknowledged by teachers, students and the local community.'

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

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Candidate D

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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.

Animal magic

During the summer holidays, student Lucy Holmes was not only looking to do something to occupy her time, but also to do something that would contribute towards society. Lamma Island has a lot of abandoned animals because people from the city, who no longer want their pets, sometimes go there to abandon them. So, as an animal lover and island resident, she decided to offer her services to Lamma Animal Protection (LAP), a registered Hong Kong charity run by volunteers.

LAP coordinates and provides foster homes for animals until they are adopted into loving, permanent homes. During this time, they receive appropriate healthcare and house-training so that they will become healthy and happy pets. The organisation also promotes the de-sexing of stray cats and rescues abandoned, neglected and abused animals. The biggest job is looking after the dogs before a new family can be found to take care of them. They need walking,

feeding, grooming and training, so that they become healthy animals that can easily fit into a new home.

Along with her regular duties, Lucy has been involved in adoption and education programmes. Volunteers take some of the puppies into the village on Lamma Island and try to encourage members of the public to take on these animals as pets. 'I've also been a part of the school education programme. I went to a local kindergarten where I gave a presentation to the children about responsible animal care,' she says.

The charity itself does not receive any funding. 'As it relies solely on donations and volunteers like myself, I am very happy to be involved. I enjoy the work that I do with them very much and have learnt so much about cooperating with other people. Working with animals is always a magical experience,' she explains.

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

You are a member of the Junior Executive Committee of your school. You have been asked to give a presentation on voluntary work during the school's Orientation Week.

You are now meeting to prepare for the presentation. You should first start by discussing the different types of voluntary work students can do. You should then consider not only the benefits that voluntary work can bring, but also focus on possible difficulties that young volunteers may experience.

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Candidate A

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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.

Enabling the disabled

Riding is widely accepted as being one of the most beneficial forms of therapy disabled people can receive. Riders with disabilities include people who have Down's syndrome, are blind, or are autistic. The Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), is a non-profit-making organisation in Hong Kong which aims to teach disabled children to ride horses to whatever level they can achieve.

Jockey Club riding schools in Pokfulam, Tuen Mun and Sheung Shui offer weekly horse-riding lessons for these children and provide the perfect opportunity for young people to volunteer for a worthwhile cause. Of course, riding experience or knowledge of horses is an advantage, but it is not essential, as training can be given. Since demand for lessons is far greater than the supply of trainers, the RDA welcomes volunteers of any age.

One such volunteer is Form Six student Nancy Sung, who has been helping out at the Pokfulam Centre

for the past year. 'Riding helps disabled children develop self-confidence, and improves their concentration, coordination and self-discipline. At the same time, it provides recreation and sport for children who may otherwise be ignored,' she says. Riding also offers a sense of freedom, which they find difficult or even impossible to achieve in their daily lives. Volunteer Suzie Baker says, 'You can see their enjoyment – for many children it is the first time in their lives that they feel liberated from their disabilities.'

But this joyful experience is not just restricted to the disabled riders. 'I feel so good after spending time with them. It is the most rewarding thing I have done in my life and I have learnt so much about both the disabled and myself,' comments Nancy. Undoubtedly, this kind of experience is character building for young volunteers who not only want to help others, but also help themselves become more capable members of society.

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

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Candidate B

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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.

Giving back to the elderly

Over recent years, it has become common for young people to get involved in voluntary work. Many spend several hours a week participating in such work. These youngsters are usually motivated by a desire to help people in need, but it may be surprising to know that most volunteers choose to help one particular group – the elderly.

There are various youth volunteer teams that help the aged. Some offer their services as tour guides, whilst others help senior citizens maintain a safe environment in their homes. Sammy Chung works at an old people's home and helps organise events to celebrate important Chinese festivals. 'Last year we had a big dinner party to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. Since many of the residents do not have any family members to come and share the event with them, we become their family. It is very rewarding to see so many happy faces,' he says.

Nowadays, the Chinese tradition of showing respect to the elderly has been undermined. All too often, the stereotype of the older person is a dependent, fragile and boring individual. However, working with elderly people can help youngsters to see this group in a different light. Volunteers frequently say how much of a learning experience this has been. Volunteer Sally Ma says, 'I have had many conversations with elderly people who have taught me to have a positive attitude when life gets hard. Their wisdom has also made me examine what I want to do with my own life.'

It seems certain that as more youngsters work with the aged, they will start to appreciate their own elderly family members. 'It is important that we maintain respect for our senior citizens and assume responsibility for looking after them. Isn't it terrible that the more developed our society becomes, the less we care about the generation that built it?' says Ma.

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

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Candidate C

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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.

Lessons for the future

The number of young people doing volunteer work is on the rise. To fulfil the mission of providing students with an all-round education, doing voluntary work is now part of the school curriculum. Many tertiary programmes now require students to have some experience of voluntary work.

Government organisations and other groups working with young people believe that volunteering helps youngsters take positive steps that will help their future. A Volunteer Referral Programme helps those who wish to donate some of their free time to match their skills and abilities with a particular kind of volunteer work they are interested in. 'I want to be a nurse, so looking after the elderly was a real insight into the kind of health issues they face,' states schoolgirl Vicky Wong.

Data from studies conducted in North America show that when people experience volunteer work at a young age, they are much more likely to participate

in further voluntary work than if they only started it as adults. They also make a more sincere effort and tend to become very closely involved with the cause they are supporting. Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups spokesperson Wu Pui-wah says, 'These findings suggest that early volunteering experience helps to foster a volunteering culture.'

Of course, it is important that youngsters are sufficiently trained so that they can become competent young workers in the field. Both basic and more advanced levels of training, such as leadership training schemes, are offered to develop the potential of students. This includes learning about management skills, promoting team spirit and providing mutual support to other team leaders. Scout leader Andy Leung explains, 'The workshops and initial supervisory support I received really helped develop my confidence in working with others. These are invaluable skills I can use in my future education and working life.'

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

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Candidate D

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 Interaction 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 make 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 the 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.