

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A high price to pay

Although the cost of organic food is significantly higher, there is a growing trend for consumers to buy organically produced food. So how much more does organic food cost and is the additional cost justified?

In a recent survey, organic food was found to be a lot more expensive than conventional food. For instance, organic carrots bought from Wellcome cost HK\$16.50 while for the same quantity, conventionally grown carrots were only HK\$4.10. In another shop, organic broccoli cost five times more than conventional broccoli. 'I think the price difference is too big,' said housewife Maggie Chan.

Sylvia Lam, the chairperson of the Hong Kong Dietitians' Association, thinks that the extra cost might not really be worth it. 'When we look at the nutrient content of organic food, the difference is not significant enough to justify the price. What matters is the nutritional value and overall balance of the diet as a

whole,' she says. She thinks that a varied and balanced diet that includes plenty of fruit, vegetables and starchy foods should provide all the nutrients that a healthy individual needs. She does not believe it matters whether the food is produced by organic or conventional methods.

Comparatively speaking, organic food is more expensive because it is mostly imported. So, is it less expensive to produce organic food locally? Although not as expensive as imported organic food, locally grown organic food is still more expensive than conventionally grown food. However, organic-agriculture consultant Bruce Derrick says that organic food should not cost more than conventional food. 'If it's organic, it should cost the same or preferably less. Organic food farmers do not use expensive pesticides and fertilisers so there's a big saving there. Organic food has certainly become more popular among the well-off and this is why prices are so high,' claims Derrick.

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

There has been a great deal of confusion over whether organic food is a healthier choice than conventional food and worth the extra cost for consumers. Your class is preparing a pamphlet for a science project that addresses the issue.

The pamphlet should compare organic and non-organic foods in terms of price, benefits to health and guarantees of quality. You may also like to think about how you would obtain information for the pamphlet and how this information would be presented.

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Candidate B

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

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

The benefits of an organic diet

Many health conscious people eat organically grown produce because they believe it is more nutritious. So, what are the benefits of eating organic food? Recent tests produced some interesting results.

The South China Morning Post tested the vitamin levels of organic products sold at a variety of high-end supermarkets and compared them with non-organic samples from other supermarket chains and wet markets. Organic food was generally found to be more nutritious. For example, organic carrots from city'super had five times more potassium than conventional carrots purchased from Wellcome. They also contained twice as much beta-carotene. A study by German researchers has shown that organic food has higher levels of minerals such as potassium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus and Vitamin C than non-organic food.

So, from the test results it would appear that organic food is healthier. Nutritionist Heather Keep is

convinced that organic food is better than conventionally produced food. 'You are what you eat. Organic food has more nutrients so you get more benefit from eating less. This is important because we generally eat too much and this puts unnecessary strain on the body,' she argues.

Organic food may be more nutritious but many people say that they buy it because it tastes much better. 'If you've ever tasted something that is 100 percent organic, whatever it is – whether it's meat from an animal that's fed organically or whether it's a vegetable or fruit – the taste is much better than something that has been raised on or grown using chemicals,' organic-agriculture consultant Bruce Derrick says. Derrick's view has been confirmed by studies conducted in the United Kingdom which tested participants' responses to a variety of foods. The research showed that subjects overwhelmingly preferred the taste of organic foods.

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Candidate C

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

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

Is organic food safer?

It is often argued that organic food is safer than conventional food because it is grown without the use of chemicals. It is also supposed to be free from human and industrial waste contamination. So, is organic food safer to eat than conventional produce?

In recent tests conducted by the South China Morning Post, it was generally found that conventional food samples were free from pesticides and heavy metals. However, C.Y. Ma, professor of biological sciences at The University of Hong Kong was surprised by the results as he believes that pesticides are present in conventionally produced fruit and vegetables, a fact that has been shown through the University's own tests for supermarkets. Many agriculture experts think that more widespread testing would show some form of contamination since farmers have traditionally used lots of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

On the other hand, some sources suggest that conventional food is safe to eat. The Centre for Food

Safety says that although organic and conventional food are grown differently, when tested, conventional food is as safe to eat as its organic counterpart. 'Overseas studies and international bodies show that foods grown organically do not have any significant benefits in terms of food safety,' a spokesperson for the Centre says.

When it comes to animals that have been fed a diet of hormones and antibiotics in factory conditions, there are dangers. 'These hormones make the animals grow faster and weigh more, but have a negative impact on human health. Antibiotics are frequently added to animal feed to prevent outbreaks of disease. If we continue to consume such meat, over time, the bacteria in our bodies get used to them and become so resistant that drugs prescribed for an illness will not be effective. Therefore, I would consider organically reared animals a better source of meat,' explains public health expert Dr Gary Samson.

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

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

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

A question of trust

Organic food is becoming ever more popular in Hong Kong and there are now lots of small shops selling organic produce. But does a label saying that the food is organically produced mean that it is totally organic? For organic food to become popular, it would seem that we need to trust that the food is really organically produced.

Ng Kim-ching is the owner of an organic vegetable shop in Tin Hau called GrEEens. Ng thinks that it can be difficult to sell organic produce in Hong Kong because customers do not know how to check whether the food he sells is genuinely organic. 'We have to take many steps to ensure the food we buy to sell is real organic food. It is not enough just to look at the certificate issued by the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre Certificate Ltd,' he says.

In fact, Ng has had to develop a close relationship with the farms which supply organic produce and visits them three times a month to ensure

the products are of an acceptable standard. 'It is important to make sure they don't grow organic vegetables the same way they grew conventional vegetables. I also have to know whether they are supporters of environmental protection,' he explains.

Alan Leung, who runs the organic vegetable shop Oh My Farm, thinks that there needs to be more chemical testing and that organic food should be checked on a random basis. 'The certificate is not one hundred percent reliable as there's nothing to stop producers labelling their food "organic" when in reality it is not,' he explains. Chui Hoi-wah's family prefer organic food and hope that in future a recognised institution like the Consumer Council will get involved. 'At present it is a matter of trust. Are we being cheated? We just don't know,' says Chui.

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

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

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

Bad language sets a bad example

Most people would consider the lawmakers that they elect to be role models for the rest of the community they represent. However, in recent times, the use of bad language in the Legco chamber by some politicians has been cause for concern.

In one instance, Finance Committee Chairperson Emily Lau ordered legislator Albert Chan to leave the Legco session after he refused to stop using abusive language. Chief Secretary Henry Tang subsequently sent two letters to Lau reminding her to control lawmakers' use of abusive language. Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen had earlier stated that using bad language in Legco would show a lack of respect for the post, family values and the public, and would damage Hong Kong's image abroad.

In another incident, an emotionally-charged senior civil servant, Bernadette Linn, scolded legislator 'Long Hair' Leung Kwok-hung when she felt he used foul language. 'As a parent, no one would teach their

children to write or speak such words,' she said. One Cantonese phrase used by Leung Kwok-hung, which angered legislators, literally translates as 'fall in the street' and is roughly equal in meaning to the English expression 'drop dead'.

But is this foul language and what exactly is the definition of foul language? Legislative Council President Jasper Tsang said it was important that time should not be wasted discussing a definition of foul language when there were far more important issues to deal with, and that Legco's Rules of Procedure Committee had to decide whether the rules governing legislators' conduct should be changed. This was in response to a number of incidents involving the use of inappropriate language by three lawmakers from the League of Social Democrats. Tsang said legislators who used abusive and vulgar language would give the impression to the younger generation that bad language is necessary when debating with officials.

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

Your principal is worried about the negative effect that famous or powerful people who behave badly are having on young people. Your group is taking part in a project on role models that will be exhibited as part of the school's Open Day events. You are meeting to plan the project.

You should first consider the kinds of jobs in which people should have high moral standards. You should then think about the characteristics of a good role model and choose some examples from society where people did not live up to the public's expectations.

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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.

Crashing down

Hong Kong society expects its celebrities to be role models for young people who are so easily influenced by their idols. However, it seems as if many stars have great difficulty living up to the standards expected of them. One such idol is television actress Angela Tong.

In 2009, Tong received a 160-hour community service order, a 12-month driving ban and a HK\$1,500 fine. Her crime – she hit a motorcyclist when she was driving with four times the legal limit of alcohol in her body. Two people were injured in the accident and both required hospital treatment. She avoided a jail sentence because the judge thought that Tong was unlikely to commit the same crime again.

Tong said she felt she had made a big mistake and apologised for her actions. She claimed that she had overestimated her capacity to tolerate alcohol and

that she was also unaware of the legal consequences of drink-driving. 'I know I have made a serious mistake this time and I will bear responsibility and do something for society. I will also tell my friends and family not to drink and drive,' Tong said.

A motorcyclists' concern group said it was disappointed with the judge's decision. 'Drink-driving is a serious offence. With such a high-profile case, the authorities had the opportunity to discourage drink-drivers. Instead, by deciding not to impose a jail term, it is sending the message that drink-driving is not a serious crime and that, if you are rich and famous, you can escape a severe punishment,' says a member of the group. 'Tong said she didn't realise that it was unlawful to drink and drive. I find this difficult to believe so I have lost all the respect I previously had for her,' adds past admirer Dennis Kwok.

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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.

Bad news for banking

Du Jun was a rising star in the world of investment and, as managing director of investment bank Morgan Stanley Asia, he should have been a role model for the community. However, after being investigated by the Securities and Futures Commission, he was found guilty of insider trading and jailed for seven years.

Insider trading has been a crime in Hong Kong since 2003. As lawyer Joseph Lai explains, 'People commit insider trading if they use confidential information that the public does not yet know to buy or sell shares in a listed company, in order to earn a profit or avoid losses.' This means they are using their position illegally to make money for themselves.

Du actually lost his job with Morgan Stanley in 2007 when the company discovered he had sold shares

that he was not allowed to have bought. Du left Hong Kong and went to live in Beijing. He was caught by the authorities when he returned to Hong Kong to pick up some artwork he had left in his office. 'This just shows the arrogance of some people. He knew he had done the wrong thing because he was sacked from his job. Yet he thought he could get away without punishment because he didn't expect that charges had been prepared against him during his absence,' says Lai.

The fact that Du earned a salary of HK\$19 million a year makes many people question why he would risk everything to gain even more wealth. 'He is clearly a very greedy individual who has set a bad example to others in society. We need to be able to trust such senior staff to be honest, especially when Hong Kong's economy is so dependent on the financial sector,' says office worker Dick Chan.

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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.

Songbird released from cage

Like many other people in Hong Kong's music industry, singer Jill Vidal was considered a role model. However, on a trip to Japan, the good-girl image came crashing down when she was caught in possession of drugs – marijuana and heroin – that she claimed she had brought into the country from Hong Kong.

Fortunately for Vidal, the more serious charge of drug smuggling was dropped and she was convicted of the lesser charge of drug possession. Although she could have been jailed for up to two years, this sentence was suspended for three years and she is now free and back in Hong Kong. However, if she does anything criminal during this period, she will be sent to jail to complete her sentence. 'She was a very lucky girl. There are many foreigners in Japanese prisons who have committed similar drug offences. Her celebrity status obviously helped her avoid a prison term. There's no doubt that she got off very lightly

indeed,' says lawyer Harry Duke.

Ironically, before her arrest in Tokyo, Vidal took part in anti-drug campaigns in Hong Kong aimed at stopping youngsters from using drugs. This has angered many parents. 'This is definitely a case of double standards. How could a serious drug user have been chosen to be an anti-drug ambassador? I am shocked and outraged,' says mother Amy Tam.

Fans were also disappointed in Vidal's behaviour, which was the latest in a string of scandals involving pop stars. 'Jill's image is so bad that her career in Hong Kong is finished. It's stupid how she has abused herself and, of course, it sends completely the wrong message to her fans. It is so much worse than the Edison Chen sex photo scandal because she was using drugs,' says fan Calvin Wong.

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

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

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

Gender neutral nursing

With a current global shortage of qualified nursing staff and growing demand, the health care industry is hiring nurses, and it is not just hiring women. These days, the number of male nurses in hospitals is on the rise and there are good reasons for this. Gender-based barriers have broken down and equal opportunities are now available for men and women in the health care industry.

According to the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses, roughly 5.4 percent of nurses in the United States are men. However, this figure is set to rise in the future as more men see nursing as a career that is open to all. In addition, stereotypical images of nursing being a women-only field are being addressed with more training brochures featuring male caregivers.

The benefits of becoming a nurse are many. There are several opportunities for career development

and specialisation in fields such as psychiatric nursing. The job is challenging and offers the chance to use state-of-the-art technology. Working hours are in shifts so it suits those who do not want a nine-to-five job and allows for more time to be spent with family. 'I love this job. I get to interact with people and help them get better. I also know that I have been an important factor in their recovery,' reflects Andy Leung, a nurse working in Hong Kong.

Nurses are trusted members of the health care industry and patients look to them for medical guidance. 'Increasingly, doctors and nurses have been viewing each other as peers in the field. Gone are the days when most doctors were male and nursing was a female-only profession. Nurses, male or female, are respected members of the medical profession and make a valuable contribution to the health care industry,' says male nurse Henry Price.

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

You and your classmates are organising a careers fair for Form Six students. Your aim is to change existing perceptions by promoting jobs that have in the past been viewed as gender specific.

Your group needs to select a number of jobs that are usually gender specific and then develop convincing reasons to show that these jobs are suitable for both men and women. You could also think of creative ways to promote these jobs at the careers fair.

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

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

Engineering change

Engineering has been generally viewed as a male-dominated field. According to the American National Science Foundation, at present, 11 percent of engineers are women, and less than 20 percent of doctoral degree holders in the field are female. However, with more women joining the profession, things are set to change.

In the past, girls at high school thought they were not good at mathematics and science. Therefore, they did not pursue careers in engineering. But this attitude is changing. 'It's a lot better now than it was in the 1970s but still I personally feel I've always had to prove myself. There are now more women in the engineering world that girls can look up to. These women are good role models simply because they have learnt to compete in a man's world,' says Katie Wilson, professor of electrical engineering at Rice University.

Those who have broken into the field feel that the work is highly rewarding. Building engineer Sally

Wilkins loves her job. 'It's all about problem-solving and teamwork, which suits me perfectly as maths and science were always my favourite subjects,' she says. Many people associate engineering with heavy manual work and that scares away many females. 'I see my job as having more to do with creative design, so maybe we need to change the notion of what exactly engineering is,' Wilkins suggests.

One reason why women today consider an engineering career is that women are more capable of taking on men on equal terms. 'Society has changed and women are now much better represented in all kinds of jobs previously dominated by men. For example, medicine and law used to be male-dominated but now the sexes are almost equally represented. Therefore, I'm optimistic that engineering will appeal to more women in the future,' says Wilson.

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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.

Motherly men

Teaching has always been a popular career for both men and women but teaching at primary school and kindergarten has always failed to attract enough male teachers. In fact, according to the United States Department of Labor, in 2006, male teachers accounted for only 2.3 percent of teachers working with preschool and kindergarten students.

It is important that more male teachers are recruited at this level. A lack of male teachers in early education is not good for a child's development. This is because it is essential that young boys, especially youngsters who come from single-parent homes where there is an absence of a father figure, have male role models. 'We need to appeal to more men to get involved with educating young children. To do this we need to get over the preconception that teaching at this level is women's work,' says Harry Wong, a teacher at one of Hong Kong's top elementary schools.

Abandoning the notion that only women are responsive to a young child's needs is crucial in getting more men into the classroom. Kindergarten teacher Monica Womack rejects the idea that men are not capable of nurturing in the classroom. 'Most people feel that elementary teachers have to have a mothering quality because they are working with younger children and when people think of mothering, they think of a woman. Men can do the job equally well,' Womack says.

So, what do male teachers have to say about working at this level? Josh Knight has worked in a kindergarten for five years and thinks it is as rewarding as any other job in teaching. 'I provide a positive male influence and also show that I'm a caring teacher. It's great to see the wonder and amazement that young learners have and the hardest day of teaching is better than the best day I've had in any other job,' says Knight enthusiastically.

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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.

Taking the heat

In 1993, when restrictions on women joining the fire department were lifted, Anne Wu was the first female to apply. Since then, eight other women have been accepted and most have risen through the ranks to senior positions.

Director of Fire Services Joe Kwok explains that senior posts, such as station officer, require a person with a calm character who shows leadership qualities. A station officer is responsible for assessing the situation and deciding on a suitable response, and is the first to enter a fire or rescue scenario. 'It's more to do with a person's risk management and leadership than his or her gender,' he says.

With no height or weight restrictions, the only asset that fire fighters must have is perfect eyesight, so women are treated no differently than their male counterparts. 'We receive the same training as men

and carry out the same duties as our male colleagues,' says Wu. That includes lifting heavy objects and demanding physical workouts wearing heavy equipment. They enter burning buildings and risk their lives on a daily basis. 'There's no big deal about women fire officers doing men's jobs. I've been mistaken for a man a few times when I'm in protective gear,' continues Wu.

If female fire fighters become pregnant, they are assigned office work but must regain full fitness if they are to return to frontline duty. Senior station officer Theresa Lam says, 'It is a lot of hard work to regain fitness after being behind a desk for ten months and people recognise this.' Probably the greatest show of respect female fire fighters receive is that although their number is small and they get a lot of attention, they are so effective that they have never been criticised. 'Word would spread quickly if we didn't do well,' concludes Wu.

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Your group needs to select a number of jobs that are usually gender specific and then develop convincing reasons to show that these jobs are suitable for both men and women. You could also think of creative ways to promote these jobs at the careers fair.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate D

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Plastic bag issue is rubbish

Consumers are now being charged a small fee for plastic bags when they go shopping. This move is in response to warnings that, in the near future, our landfills will be full and that plastic bags are environmentally unfriendly. However, some people argue that actually reusing plastic bags is the best solution.

'Supermarket bags are not the cause of our environmental problems,' says concerned citizen Alex Chu. He thinks that reusing supermarket bags in a variety of ways before finally using them as rubbish bags makes the best environmental sense. In fact, he argues that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) should encourage this practice instead of introducing a levy. 'People think they are being environmentally friendly when they bring their own bag, but they are so wrong. Actually, it is these so-called environmental bags that are the waste items that will end up in our landfills,' Chu adds.

This argument is further advanced by housewife Samantha Richards. 'Although bringing your own bag can help reduce the number of plastic bags given away, such a benefit will disappear when people have to buy plastic bags to throw away their rubbish,' she reasons. Since plastic garbage-bin liners are much larger and thicker than plastic shopping bags, she seems to have a good point. In addition, in a humid environment like Hong Kong, garbage is disposed of regularly and so, these large bin liners are usually only half-full when they are discarded.

According to some people, reusing and recycling are actually the most environmentally friendly options. Carrier bag manufacturers' representative Peter Woodall says, 'Scientifically speaking, the best environmental choice is plastic. Life-cycle analysis shows that if you use a conventional plastic bag several times, then recycle it back into plastic beads which can then be turned into other plastic items, it is better than using a cotton bag.'

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

The British Council has organised a debating competition for secondary school students on the motion *The plastic bag levy will fail*. Your group has been selected to represent your school and is preparing for this debate.

At this stage, you do not know which side of the debate your team will be on so you are preparing arguments both FOR and AGAINST the motion. You should first consider what information you are going to use for the debate and then decide how you will organise and present your arguments.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate A

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Difficult to change a bag habit

Billions of plastic bags are used in Hong Kong every year. Environmentalists say it is time to stop using them so much. To combat the problem, the government has recently introduced laws that require supermarkets to charge customers for every bag they use. But will this lead to a reduction in the number of bags used?

Shopper Elsie Leung thinks that although some people will bring their own bag when they go shopping, many people will just pay the bag levy and continue with their old habits. 'As the bag levy is only 50 cents, I don't think this makes people use fewer bags. I do know that in many countries where the reduction of plastic bag use has been successful, it is due to the levy being considerably higher. Also, some shoppers find it troublesome to carry several bags with them on the off-chance that they might do some shopping. Therefore, they just ask for them and end up paying,' she explains.

Some people also argue that the bag levy should not just be for large supermarkets but for smaller stores too. 'If people shop at their local store or wet markets, then they will continue to accumulate a lot of these plastic bags which will eventually end up in landfills. Also, if smaller shops charge for their plastic bags, then why shouldn't all shops do so regardless of whether they are selling food or clothes or other items?' asks environmentalist Nancy Chew.

Joseph Cheung, who runs a small local store, thinks that if he has to charge customers for the plastic bags they use, he will lose business. 'It is very difficult for me to tell regular customers that they have to pay for the bags to carry their purchases. Many would just go to other shops that give free bags,' he says.

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

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Candidate B

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Polluter pays

The voluntary *Every Day No Plastic Bag Day* campaign helped to raise general awareness about the need to use fewer plastic bags. However, this campaign did not have the desired effect. Many think the HK\$0.50 levy, which came into effect in July 2009, is the best way to reduce the indiscriminate use of plastic bags as polluters have to pay for every plastic bag they use. The levy is seen as another step on the road to creating greater environmental awareness among the public.

Some people compare the levy with other controversial legislation that has been successfully introduced. 'I believe the mandatory levy, just like the smoking ban, can help change people's habits. You no longer see people smoking in indoor public places, which shows this kind of legislation works,' says consumer Kwok Hon-lam. Many supporters of the levy also point to the success of the campaign in other countries such as Taiwan and Ireland.

Others who believe the levy is a good idea suggest that the legislation will make citizens think more deeply about the waste they create. 'The government's action will also help raise awareness that waste is a bad thing and should be avoided. Hopefully, it will make it easier for the public to support less packaging for all our goods,' says householder Keith McNab.

Many people hope that, one day, consumers may even think twice about buying products that they really do not need. 'People buy so many unnecessary items and these also eventually get thrown away and dumped in landfills,' says Joe Bright of the environmental group Friends of the Earth. 'If we could send the message that people should only buy what they need and reuse those items that are still functional, instead of always buying the latest version or the most fashionable colour, then we would be making even more progress,' he adds.

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A price to pay

According to a survey conducted by the Environmental Protection Department, 23 million plastic bags a day are dumped in landfills around Hong Kong. Therefore, there is a clear need to reduce the number of plastic bags we use and throw away. But will charging 50 cents for each plastic bag work?

Many countries around the world have either banned the use of plastic bags or have policies discouraging their use. In Ireland, a range of strategies were employed to change plastic bag usage. Firstly, as in Hong Kong, the government there introduced a tax on bags, and secondly, there was an effective advertising campaign that created strong public support. The result was that plastic bag usage reportedly dropped 94 percent in a matter of weeks. Taiwan has also been successful in introducing a levy that has led to a reduction in plastic bag use.

But can such legislation change the habits of a population addicted to plastic bags? Some have great confidence in Hong Kong's ability to address this problem. 'I think people here have become much more aware of the threats to our environment over the past few years. They have realised that plastic bags are a danger to our seas and rivers, and they don't want to live in an environment littered with them. The levy is a small but important step towards a reduction in plastic bags,' says a spokesperson for the environmental group Friends of the Earth.

Another argument that may help the scheme work is to make people realise that plastic bags have a value. 'When people have to pay for something that was previously free, then people become aware that it has a cost. I think this will make Hong Kong citizens change their ways,' says Greenpeace member Stephen Hams.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Madness in the mall

When asked what hobbies Hong Kong people have, a common reply is shopping. Recent research has shown that many in the city believe that shopping can lead to increased happiness. However, overspending can have quite the opposite effect. The study revealed that 77.5 percent of men and 65 percent of women who were compulsive shoppers were in danger of developing mental disorders as a result of their passion for overspending.

Pinky Yung works for a hospital-sponsored centre that helps compulsive shoppers. Yung thinks that compulsive shopping can start out as a simple problem of loneliness and then develop into a more troubling disorder. 'Some people spend so much on buying certain things because they are bored with their jobs and their social circle is small. I have some clients who are so obsessed about athletic shoes that they spend a lot of time talking about them in online discussion forums,' she says.

Mental disorders develop when people become addicted to shopping, because – just like with other addictions such as drugs – the brain releases hormones of pleasure resulting in satisfaction. This then leads to them spending money they cannot afford, and feelings of guilt or depression follow. 'They go shopping without considering their financial situation and slowly become addicted. When they run out of cash, they turn to their credit cards,' says Yung.

An important piece of advice for compulsive shoppers to help them overcome their addiction is to prepare a weekly or monthly budget. They should set aside a small amount for purchases to treat themselves but, other than this money, they should not spend anything that is not in their budget. 'Compulsive shoppers should also keep an account of everything they buy in a week. This will make them more aware of how they spend their money, which in turn helps them control their spending,' says psychologist Amy Jones.

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

Your principal wants to teach students about the problems associated with compulsive shopping. She has asked your group to organise some activities and events that can show the dangers of overspending and how the problem can be solved.

You are meeting to discuss your ideas. You need to think about helping students identify when shopping becomes a disorder and how friends, family members and students themselves can recognise this problem. You should also consider advice to give students on ways to overcome compulsive shopping.

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Candidate A

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate B****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Women only?

Traditionally, it has been assumed that women are more likely to develop a compulsive shopping disorder. However, it may come as a surprise to learn that many men also suffer from it. In a recent poll by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and The University of Hong Kong, it was discovered that out of a total of 6.7 percent of the population who had this disorder, 40 percent were males.

Where men and women differ is their openness in talking about their uncontrolled shopping behaviour. Family-debt counsellor from the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Heman Leung says, 'Men are reluctant to discuss their compulsive behaviour, perhaps because they see it as a women's issue and see admitting their problem as a weakness. Therefore, because men find it difficult to discuss this problem, they should seek professional help from a qualified psychologist or contact a shopaholics' hotline for advice.'

So what do male compulsive shoppers spend their money on? Anything from cameras to fishing equipment seems to be the answer. 'One man in his 20s keeps on buying different film equipment, which has resulted in debts of over HK\$120,000. He cannot afford to repay what he owes as he doesn't have a stable income. Another has so much fishing equipment he has no more room to store it. They should think twice before wasting money like this,' says Leung.

It may be thought that a mature person with a responsible job would be able to recognise their problem and deal with their lack of control. Leung rejects the idea. 'Take Michael Lee as an example. He is a 40-year-old university lecturer with a passion for classical CDs. He had to declare bankruptcy last month because he had spent his savings on CDs. How could he have been so irresponsible?'

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

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Depressed by debt

Films such as the local movie *The Shopaholics* tend to promote the message that happiness is related to spending. Undoubtedly, shopping in brand-conscious Hong Kong is encouraged and may indeed give pleasure to millions. However, in cases where shoppers cannot control their spending, problems inevitably develop.

At first, Tiffany Chan was excited at the thought of having so many credit cards. 'Ten years ago, I had just finished my studies and I applied for lots of credit cards because they gave away free gifts,' says Chan. Of course, the gifts were not free as she needed to spend a minimum amount before she could receive them. 'I had 14 credit cards in the end, lots of appliances that I hardly ever used and massive debts,' she says.

Did it make her happy? 'Not really,' she says. After her family helped her pay off HK\$130,000, she was still left with a HK\$50,000 debt so she got a loan

from a private loan company. This meant that she had to pay higher interest rates than those charged by credit card companies. She now spends almost all of her salary repaying her debts to loan sharks and her time reflecting on her stupidity and irresponsible behaviour. The situation has also affected her relationships with people she was close to. 'My family thought I was an irresponsible spender and I had frequent arguments with them. Some of my friends started to stay away from me when they realised I needed money,' she regrets.

Chan now thinks that she should have been warned when she was a student at university. 'The university allowed these firms to promote their products to students, but did nothing to warn us about the hidden dangers. This is essential knowledge in today's consumer-driven society and learning to manage your money is a valuable life skill,' she explains.

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Damage control

Shopaholics shop because of compulsion. They do not shop because they need the goods: they shop when they have debts, they shop when they feel depressed, they shop because they have to. Quite simply, they are out of control.

Take Mabel Lee as an example. She went on a spending spree over a number of years. Although a saleswoman with a salary of only HK\$6,000 per month, Lee spent money she could not afford on Gucci and Louis Vuitton bags. 'I feel happy when I shop, as life is sometimes boring and there are so many shops all over Hong Kong,' she says. Today, she sits at home under a mountain of debt and can no longer shop as she is now bankrupt.

How do you know if you are a compulsive shopper? Well, there are several online tests you can take that could help you find out if you have a problem.

Questions such as, 'Do you have closets full of clothes that you have never worn, and countless gadgets that you have never used?' and, 'Do you lie to your friends and family about how much money you spend?' are typical of these tests. Other questions ask about levels of debt, effects on personal relationships and changes in mood and feelings. Recognising the compulsion to shop is the first step towards taking control.

So, what can people like Lee do to take control of their spending habits? Initially, they should get rid of their credit cards, cheque books and ATM cards and only pay for their purchases with cash. The second step is to never buy an item straight away. They should leave the shop, go home and decide if they really need the item. If they do, they can always return and purchase it the next day. By exercising self-control and being a disciplined shopper, they can slowly overcome their addiction.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A well-oiled operation

Police statistics reveal that in 2007, there were 497 complaints about illegal road racing. Although numbers are falling, road racing is still a big problem in Hong Kong. In order to avoid being caught by the police, race organisers have to be very well-prepared.

The first step is to send out scouts who check the route for speed cameras and any police activity. These participants usually have walkie-talkies or mobile phones that they can use to report any problems to drivers and race organisers. However, they are careful not to use their real names. Some drivers even have radios that are tuned in to police channels so that if authorities learn about a race, it can either be abandoned or the route changed.

If a car crashes during one of the races, then everyone leaves the scene as quickly as possible. Former street racer Ah Chung says, 'Whenever there's

an accident, the drivers get away immediately. They may take the number plates and, if they've got time, they might remove the key and force a screwdriver into the keyhole to make it look like the car has been stolen.' If the racers are rich, then they can afford to have a tow truck waiting to clear away the damaged vehicle before the police arrive.

In order to stop illegal racing, the police have to rely on information from the public that a race is either taking place or is about to start. In a recent incident, the police used civilian vehicles and trucks to block off a road in Kwun Tong. This caused a few of the racing drivers to crash and they were then arrested for illegal racing. 'We try our best to catch these racers because they are an obvious danger to other road users,' explains traffic police inspector Barry Law.

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

There is growing concern about the dangers of illegal road racing in Hong Kong. You and your group are on the editorial board of the school magazine and have decided to write an article on this dangerous practice. You are meeting to plan the article.

You should first think about why people take part in illegal road racing. You then need to propose some solutions to control or limit this activity. You should also consider how you could collect information for the article and how it could be organised to make it interesting for readers.

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DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate B****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Highways to hell

Illegal road racing has been going on for years. There are actually different kinds of races and these require drivers to demonstrate a variety of high speed driving skills.

Every night of the week, up to 40 cars may be involved in these dangerous races. Common areas for road racing are around Luk Keng, the highways that lead into Tuen Mun and Fanling, and the winding mountain roads around Tai Mo Shan and Shek O. Races on mountain routes involve one car chasing another as these roads are narrow. When they reach a predetermined end point, the winning car is decided by the space between the two vehicles. If the chasing car has closed the gap or overtaken the lead car, then it is the winner.

At large meetings, there are rules to follow as to which vehicles race first. One racer describes the scene.

‘There are different races, one for each category of vehicle. The smaller motorbikes set off first, then the proper racing bikes – followed by the fast cars and finally the ones that have been modified to go even faster.’ Although gambling sometimes occurs, most races are just for the thrill of winning.

But why do these drivers risk heavy fines and possible imprisonment? Road racers say that if the government provided a track, then most illegal racing would stop. Professional racer Simon Yam says, ‘Many young drivers enter the support races for the Macau Grand Prix but they do not have the resources here in Hong Kong to improve their driving skills. They use the roads illegally to train.’ Another driver Marchy Lee says, ‘If Hong Kong had a track, I doubt there would be any illegal street racing. There was an idea to develop a circuit on Lantau a few years ago but nothing was done!’

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

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

The power and the glory

Illegal racing on Hong Kong roads sees cars reach speeds of 220 km/h in areas where the speed limit is 110 km/h. This is clearly a dangerous hobby so what drives racers to take the risks?

According to psychologists, there is a specific personality type which is addicted to speed. Such people get a thrill out of pushing their limits. Professor of psychology at Chinese University, Leung Yui-kin says, 'The fear level of thrill-seeking personalities is much lower than that of most people. They need more stimulation to enjoy life. They are often attracted to extreme sports because they like the challenge. If they go diving, they dive deeper than most, if they go mountaineering they climb the Himalayas, if they love speed, they race cars.'

Driving at high speeds can be very demanding. 'With racing, drivers not only have to be cooler and calmer, but they also have to develop better hand-eye

co-ordination and depth perception,' says Leung. The danger is if these thrill-seekers have anti-social tendencies, they are more likely to take part in illegal road racing.

Today, racing is more aggressive and the winners are those who take the biggest risks. 'Speed racing is all about risking your life. The most important thing for those kinds of racers is guts and glory,' says racer Simon Yam. Improved technology means that cars have become faster and therefore more dangerous. Illegal racing is also glamourised in films and computer games and so attracts more participants and even spectators. 'Movies like *Initial D* and games such as *Grand Theft Auto* can easily tempt young people to imitate the drivers' actions. Perhaps one alternative solution is to provide legal racing tracks so that racers stay away from public roads, protecting both drivers and the public,' says Professor Leung.

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Car crazy

There are many people in Hong Kong who love cars. Some even add additional parts to make their cars look sporty or to increase the top speed and performance of the vehicle. Then there are others who modify their cars for more dangerous purposes, such as illegal road racing.

These racers make changes to the engine that can improve a car's top speed by up to 20 percent. Many garages also make modifications to the cars involved in illegal road racing, but the changes often make the car less safe to drive. For example, the brakes may not have the power to stop the car when the speed of the car has been increased. Most drivers find it too expensive to make safe modifications. 'Cars that take part in legal races outside Hong Kong use a specific modification package for safety reasons. This can cost up to HK\$1 million,' says workshop owner and racer Simon Yam.

So, what are the authorities doing to stop dangerous vehicles using the roads as race tracks? Police often target cars that have been illegally modified. The law allows officers to stop any vehicle they have reason to believe is not road-worthy or which does not meet vehicle-emissions standards. This covers everything from noisy exhausts to turbo-charged engines. This means that the authorities can fine suspected illegal road racers and possibly seize their cars before they even get to the starting line.

In reaction to this strategy, road racers have decided to take a back seat for now. However, as veteran road racer Johnny Fung boasts, 'Now all modified-car enthusiasts are being targeted by the police but, of this group, only a small number are actually road racers. Racers have suspended activities for a while but they'll be back. They can't stop us. It's way too cool.'

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

There is growing concern about the dangers of illegal road racing in Hong Kong. You and your group are on the editorial board of the school magazine and have decided to write an article on this dangerous practice. You are meeting to plan the article.

You should first think about why people take part in illegal road racing. You then need to propose some solutions to control or limit this activity. You should also consider how you could collect information for the article and how it could be organised to make it interesting for 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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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate D

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A net profit?

One of the highlights of President Barack Obama's visit to China last year was his town-hall meeting with students in Shanghai. The President talked about how allowing free access to the internet strengthened society, but ironically, most mainland citizens were not allowed access to his speech.

At the meeting, Obama answered questions on internet censorship but only those who had access to a local Shanghai TV channel could listen to the entire speech. Those outside the area received delayed broadcasts that had been edited. A live uncensored version of the speech could be viewed on the official White House website but the transmission was unstable and slow. This was in contrast to past Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush, who both had their speeches broadcast live on state-run television.

Although he was clearly speaking to a small audience, Obama outlined the advantages of having

free access to the internet. 'In the US, the fact that we have unrestricted internet access is a source of strength. I am a big believer in technology and a big believer in openness when it comes to the free flow of information. I think that the more freely information flows, the stronger society becomes,' he said.

However, some Chinese users of the internet believe that it is irresponsible to allow citizens to browse whatever they like, as this can actually affect social stability. 'A lot of the information on the internet is inaccurate and there have been times when false rumours have been spread online. This has caused social unrest. The riots in Xinjiang last year were a result of such rumours,' says one internet enthusiast. This was in reference to the inaccurate reporting on one website of a fight in a Guangzhou factory between Han and Uighur workers. The misleading news report resulted in riots and inter-ethnic violence between these communities in Xinjiang province and many lives were lost.

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

Your group are members of the Debating Society at your school. You are going to debate the motion *All people should have unrestricted access to the internet and social networking services*. You do not know whether you will be for or against the motion, so your group is meeting to plan arguments for both sides.

You should consider the advantages and disadvantages of free access to the internet and social networking services, and think of examples to support these views. You may also like to consider how you would organise your ideas.

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Candidate A

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Freedom to Twitter

When United States President Barack Obama addressed a group of students in a question and answer session in Shanghai last year, many Chinese people were prevented from hearing the full speech. However, some knowledgeable internet users logged on to Twitter to catch everything the President said. Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as 'tweets'.

In order to allow for a greater audience, the US Consulate in Guangzhou established a Twitter account that provided a live blog of the President's speech translated into Chinese. However, since Twitter is blocked by the Chinese government, only those who knew how to get around the restrictions could access the speech.

Even so, this was enough to lead to a discussion of Obama's views on internet censorship. His opinion was expressed after a question on the subject was asked

by US Ambassador Jon Huntsman. Twitter user Mo Zhixu thought that this approach was necessary because the questions that the students asked had either been censored or prepared for them by the government. 'Obama has followed the traditions of the Chinese by having Ambassador Huntsman ask him a pre-prepared question. Only in this way did he manage to answer a question he wanted to answer,' Mo said.

Although some say that Twitter has become a powerful tool for providing information when reporters are banned from covering public unrest and political demonstrations, there are those who criticise its use. 'Twitter is just a forum for gossip. Messaging is immediate so there is no time to check whether the information is true or not. Also, like SMS messaging, tweets contain a limited number of letters with no punctuation, so there is a huge potential for miscommunication,' says Professor of media studies Valerie Smith.

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

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Candidate B

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

The good, the bad and the ugly

Last year, US President Barack Obama held a meeting with students in Shanghai where he talked about the benefits that the free flow of information – on the internet or networking services – could provide.

Obama said that American values were not unique to the United States. He stated that all men and women were equal, no matter where in the world they lived, and had certain basic rights. 'These freedoms of expression, worship, of access to information and political participation we believe are universal rights. They should be available to all people including religious and ethnic minorities – whether they be in America, China or any other nation,' Obama said.

The President also thought that by allowing information to be unrestricted, governments could become more responsive to their citizens' needs. 'Citizens around the world can hold their governments

accountable. They can begin to think freely and this benefits creativity,' he said. Although Obama did admit that he occasionally thought about trying to limit criticism, he also felt that it did not really benefit society to do so. 'I have a lot of critics in the US who can say all kinds of things about me, but I believe that this freedom makes our democracy stronger. It makes me hear opinions that I don't want to hear and forces me to examine what I am doing on a daily basis,' he said.

However, many people worry about the negative effects free internet access can have, especially with regard to organised crime. Criminals use the internet to trick people into giving them their personal information in order to get access to their bank accounts. 'There is a price you pay for openness. There is no denying that. But I think the good outweighs the bad,' Obama said.

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Tightening the net

In a speech that US President Barack Obama made to students in Shanghai last year, he talked about how the internet benefitted the world. But is this assessment true and should internet users have completely unrestricted access to all information?

There is no doubt that with greater numbers of people going online, the world has become a much smaller place. This is something Obama thinks is good for the global community. 'I'm a big supporter of not restricting internet use. The more open we are, the more we can communicate and it draws the world together,' the President said. Obama also argued that a free internet helped ordinary people who could expand not only their knowledge, but also their businesses.

However, there are others who think that the internet has exactly the opposite effect. 'Look at how messages of racial and religious hatred can be spread around the world. Terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda

would find it much more difficult to recruit members were it not for the internet. Suicide bombers have caused destruction in many countries, and they were local people who were recruited on the internet to carry out the attacks,' says Kevin Phillips, who has written a book on the subject. Investigators of such attacks also find evidence that terrorists have used the internet to communicate with one another and planned the attacks online.

Others believe that certain information and content is too easily available online. Information on how to make bombs is freely available to anyone who wants to commit mass murder. Concerns about pornography worry parents around the world. Young people frustrated with life form online suicide groups. Cyber bullying is on the rise. The list is endless. 'Am I the only one who thinks that allowing the whole world into my living room is dangerous?' asks concerned citizen and parent Amy Johnson.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Charity begins – in the pub

Around the world, charities depend on donations to keep their operations running and many individuals frequently donate what they can spare. However, by thinking in imaginative ways, a lot more money can be raised. One such activity is to run a pub quiz.

The pub quiz originated in Britain and is held in a pub or bar. A number of teams take part and answer various questions that have been organised into different categories, called rounds. Typical rounds include such subjects as geography, history, literature, nature, sport, music and general knowledge, but the possibilities are limitless. Usually, there are six rounds, with each round comprising around ten questions and prizes are awarded to the winning team. 'It is good because you can often get companies to contribute exciting prizes like a holiday, free meals or free airline tickets,' says pub manager Ricky Brown.

But how can the quiz generate money? One common approach is to charge participating teams a fee. Another is to give each team a 'joker' that they can play in one of the rounds. When the team plays their joker, it doubles their score. However, in order to play their joker the team must first pay an agreed sum, for example \$100. A collection box can also be passed around. 'For big events like *Operation Santa Claus*, I use all three methods. It's amazing how much people donate, especially when they've had a bit to drink,' laughs quizmaster John Wilkinson.

However, finding a pub in which to hold the event may not be easy. An alternative is to find a school or community centre. 'If you have multimedia facilities available, you can even have visual quiz rounds such as showing pictures of famous paintings and getting the teams to guess who the artist is,' says teacher and pub quiz contestant Simon Shipman.

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

Your principal wants students to become involved in social work and supporting the community. He has asked the Student Council to raise money for some local charities. Your group are members of the Student Council and are meeting to discuss how this objective can be achieved.

You should first decide what target amount you hope to collect and consider possible activities you can organise to achieve your target. You should also take into account the difficulties you may encounter and think about how you can overcome them.

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Candidate A

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate B****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Treasure for charity

Organising special events is a good way to get people to donate money to charity. One interesting event that takes place on Lamma Island is the annual treasure hunt, in which participating teams follow instructions in order to complete a series of tasks along a specified route.

Although organising this activity involves a lot of work, the money collected makes all the effort worthwhile. You have to start by planning the route. After that, you need to give instructions so that contestants can correctly find their way around. You must also make up questions that participants can answer along the way. Answering these questions often involves searching around for a while. 'We spent ten minutes looking for a real animal before we realised that what we were looking for was a statue of a cat that was sitting in someone's garden,' says treasure hunter Max Hill.

This activity is suitable for families and groups of up to six people but individuals can also join in. Each team needs to pay an entrance fee, which varies but is usually a couple of hundred dollars, depending on the number of participants. Prizes are awarded to the teams with the most correct answers but the time taken to finish the course is also important. 'It's a great family day out and thousands of dollars are collected,' says participant Frank Paul.

One potential drawback is the weather. Therefore, it is best to hold a treasure hunt during the driest season. This is not to say that people cannot take part in the event if it is raining; they just need to wear suitable clothing. 'Even though it rained when we did a treasure hunt in the UK last year, we had a great time. In fact, managing to finish the course in the wet weather made the whole day really memorable,' says treasure hunt enthusiast Kevin Terrill.

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

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY**Candidate B**

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A challenge to sponsor

One of the best ways to collect large amounts of money for charity is to think of a challenging goal that you can achieve, and then get friends and family members to sponsor you.

Jennifer Lamb decided to take part in the *Hong Kong Trailwalker* because she wanted to raise money for the charity Oxfam. She asked people she knew to sponsor a certain amount for every kilometre she completed. 'In the end I surprised myself and actually completed the whole 100 km course. Some people sponsored me HK\$1 per kilometre, whilst others promised more. In total, I raised HK\$3,560,' Lamb says.

People have run in marathons, climbed famous mountains or cleared rubbish from beaches. 'The advantage of this approach is that you are showing commitment to a cause. People are far more willing to give when they can see the effort that you are putting into something,' says Kevin Lee. Lee has just returned

from a trip where he climbed the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest. Others have gained sponsorship for less demanding challenges. Suzie Tsang got sponsorship to clean a local beach. Officials from the environmental group Friends of the Earth weighed the rubbish and she raised money for the group for every kilogramme of trash she managed to collect.

Although you can raise large sums, it can sometimes be difficult and time-consuming collecting all the money, especially if your sponsors are not people you know particularly well. Another potential drawback is getting proof that you have successfully completed the task you set out to do. 'Before deciding on a challenge, check whether there is some kind of documentation available that shows you have done the task,' says Karen Chow. Chow received a letter of certification after she conquered her fear of heights by skydiving with an instructor.

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Rat race

It can be difficult to think up good ideas for generating money for charity but the organisers of the *Rat Race* event held in Central are very innovative. Participants have to deal with a number of obstacles, just like they would in the workplace, and this entertains spectators. Last year, 500 people took part in the fourth annual event and raised a total of HK\$1.3 million for a worthwhile cause.

Managers and staff from some of the city's top companies competed with district councillors and civil servants to raise money for the charity Mindset, an organisation that helps people deal with mental health problems. Parts of Central were transformed into an obstacle course stretching for 2.5 km. Many members of the 55 teams that took part wore fancy dress, making it a colourful event. Various awards were given out, including the Rat Race Cup for the fastest team and the Big Rat Cup for the quickest senior executive.

In the first stage of the race, teams had to overcome obstacles representing bankruptcy, getting demoted, looking for a job and other work-related difficulties. Towards the end, teams were required to pick up pieces of plastic cheese and then rush across the finish line carrying inflatable aeroplanes. 'It's a fun event and attracts many spectators. The companies taking part are very generous so it's not difficult to raise a lot of cash,' says executive Gavin Dickens.

Of course, organising an event such as this requires a lot of coordination. Planning can take many months. 'For an event like this, it is important to get the local authorities involved so that roads can be closed. In addition, we obviously need the support of local businesses, any shops on the route and, last but not least, the assistance of the police,' says one of the race organisers.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

The bear facts

Every weekend, crowds of visitors scream with excitement as they witness the show at Shenzhen Safari Park. The stars of the show perform acrobatics, ride bicycles, wrestle with staff and do balancing acts on a high wire. But what is strange is that the unwilling participants are not circus performers, but bears.

According to some, the bears are under-weight and suffer abusive methods of training from their handlers. 'One of the moon bears is very thin for a juvenile bear, with the scars and terrified eyes of an animal trained using violence. These bears are clearly victims of training using negative reinforcement – constant beating and lack of food – until they get the trick right,' says Jill Robinson of Animals Asia. However, the manager of Shenzhen Safari Park, Huang Xianda, has a different view about the bears' diet. 'The bears are normally quite active but become slow and clumsy if they eat too much. This is not ideal because

the bears cannot perform well. Thin-looking bears are better,' he says.

The bears can do little to protest against such treatment. To make sure the bears do not pose a threat to their trainers, they have their teeth and claws filed down. 'Sharp teeth have been deliberately cut back exposing gums and nerves. This must be incredibly painful,' says Robinson.

However, Huang believes the show is educational. 'The children love it. We show children and visitors that animals can learn and are smart. If they love animals first, then they can become aware of the need to protect them,' he claims. Robinson completely disagrees. 'This so-called entertainment teaches nothing about the status of moon bears. It is a terrible shame that the next generation, who should be fighting to protect these animals, are taught to disrespect them,' she asserts.

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

Some mainland safari parks and zoos have a poor record in the treatment of their animals. Your group are members of an animal rights organisation and you are meeting to draft a letter to the South China Morning Post on the issue.

You should think of what changes should be made to protect the interests of the animals kept in these institutions and give reasons to support your views. You should also think about how education could be used to promote the safety of visitors and also make them more aware of the need to respect animals.

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Candidate A

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate B****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Hard to swallow

Safari parks around the Mainland often struggle to attract visitors. However, one spectacle proves effective in improving visitor numbers – the feeding of live animals to lions and tigers.

Many of the parks have menus that list the live food that can be bought and fed to the big cats. Ducks and chickens cost around 30 yuan whilst larger animals such as goats and cows cost between 600 and 1,600 yuan. The Xionsen Tiger Park in Guilin has live feeding every afternoon, which features a tiger attacking a cow. The cow is rarely killed straight away so park workers finish off the unfortunate animal after the event.

But many people question the damage that can be done to young minds which witness such brutality. 'One minute the child is stroking and petting the goat, the next minute their father has picked it up by its legs

and hurled it into the lions' cage to be ripped to pieces,' says shocked visitor Clive Cole. Carol McKenna of animal welfare group One Voice thinks it is important that we consider the harm such scenes do to people, especially children. 'Making children watch animal abuse is a form of child abuse,' she warns.

In response to such criticism, the park's manager justifies the shows. 'We can't stop it because the public love it. It also prepares the big cats for their release into the wild. The income from these shows is also essential for keeping the park open,' he says. Many believe that efforts to stop such acts of violence are difficult in a country where some people are still struggling to survive and there is little tradition of respecting animal rights. 'We are still fighting very hard for animal rights. The country is more focused on economic growth, and other issues are a long way behind,' says a spokesperson for the Beijing Animal Rescue Group.

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

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY**Candidate B**

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Animal crackers

In the past, Kunming Safari Park responded to growing international opposition to the feeding of live animals, such as chickens and goats, to the park's big cats by stopping the practice. However, what has replaced it may be just another form of animal abuse.

Now, pieces of beef and chicken legs are dangled on fishing lines so that park visitors can 'fish for tigers' from elevated walkways. The tigers are teased continuously as they walk back and forth. One boy explains why he enjoys this activity so much. 'They are smart and fast and it's fun to trick them. I can test myself to see if I am smarter and stronger than them,' he says.

Carol McKenna of animal welfare group One Voice says that the tigers are clearly suffering from mental distress. This can be seen from the frequent shaking of their heads. 'The aim of a safari park should

be to see animals in an environment where they are able to behave as naturally as possible. The visitors should not be encouraged to have any contact with the animals. It shows a complete and utter lack of respect for the animals,' she says.

Many argue that the abuse of animals is not just confined to the big cats. Even China's national animal is treated with little respect. At Shenzhen Safari Park, pandas are repeatedly subjected to bright lights from flash photography whilst children bang their fists on the glass wall of the enclosure. In another instance, visitors threw sweets and snacks into a panda's cage and poured milk all over her body. 'Feeding snacks to the animals allows visitors to bond with them,' claimed park manager Huang Xianda. In response, one animal rights activist retorted, 'It is clear that the people who manage these parks have absolutely no idea how wild animals should be treated.'

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Not so cuddly

Having a photograph taken with a wild animal has long been a favourite pastime for visitors to the many safari parks and zoos located on the Mainland. However, supporters of animal rights claim that this practice not only abuses the animals involved but is also potentially dangerous.

At the Xishuangbanna Safari Park, keepers appeal to visitors to have their photograph taken with juvenile tigers, who are taken out of small cages for the purpose. The tigers are often drugged to keep them under control. This allows some visitors to sit on a tiger's back and ride the drugged animal. 'Acts like this disconnect us from the animal world. We should not expose children to this since it removes them from the reality that tigers are powerful, majestic carnivores,' says Animals Asia's Jill Robinson.

When animals are treated badly, there can be horrific consequences. At Kunming Zoo, a six-year-old

girl who was posing with a young tiger was attacked and killed. Her death brought the number of recorded deaths at zoos and safari parks to 21 over a five-year period. Many of these deaths occurred because visitors were allowed to come into close contact with wild animals. Many more have been injured.

Even the cuddly panda can react violently. A Hong Kong tourist was attacked by several juvenile pandas during a photo session at the Wolong Giant Panda Breeding Centre and had to be rescued. Others have lost fingers while trying to feed them. Kati Loeffler of the International Fund for Animal Welfare says that making pandas pose for pictures is very stressful for these animals and does not teach people to respect animals. At other parks, the pandas are starved so they will be more obedient when being photographed. 'This shows such a complete disregard for the animal's well-being that it is beyond comprehension,' says animal rights activist Jason Lau.

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

Some mainland safari parks and zoos have a poor record in the treatment of their animals. Your group are members of an animal rights organisation and you are meeting to draft a letter to the South China Morning Post on the issue.

You should think of what changes should be made to protect the interests of the animals kept in these institutions and give reasons to support your views. You should also think about how education could be used to promote the safety of visitors and also make them more aware of the need to respect animals.

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**Candidate A****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Autograph hunter

Len Brady has a highly unusual job. He collects and sells famous people's signatures. He has managed to collect thousands of autographs, from stars in the sporting world to famous actors.

Brady started collecting autographs after he lost his job in 2002. With nothing to do and no savings, he realised he had to find a way to support his family and make some money. 'My father had worked in the entertainment industry for many years and he had managed to get a few famous signatures, and when he died, they were given to me. I realised that they were actually worth some cash while surfing the internet one afternoon, so I thought that maybe I could collect some more autographs and sell them online,' says Brady.

Brady soon discovered that if he went to awards ceremonies and sports stadiums and waited outside

the venue, he could get quite a few celebrity autographs. 'Of course, you need a lot of patience because you may have to wait around for long periods of time. You also need to make an impression so I wear crazy, colourful clothes to get people's attention,' he explains. Through hard work, his autograph business has grown and now it is a full-time job.

Brady has a website on which he sells the autographs he has collected. Often, he gets requests from fans to get a particular celebrity's signature. They also give their name so that he can get autographs which are personally addressed to a fan. 'This is where I make the most money and I have some clients who keep me very busy. If it weren't for the internet, I wouldn't be able to run my business. I've obviously picked up a lot of useful web skills in the process,' he says.

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

It is becoming increasingly difficult for young people around the world to find a job. As members of the school's Careers Team, you want to give a presentation to school-leavers about unusual jobs. Your group is meeting to discuss what to include in the presentation.

You should discuss what kinds of jobs you consider to be unusual and give reasons to support your views. You may also want to talk about some possible jobs in this category and consider the kinds of skills people taking them up could gain.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY**Candidate A**

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate B****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Clowning around

Young people sometimes have to take up unusual jobs in order to make a living after leaving school or university, but few manage to make a career out of making people laugh. Tired of working in bars and restaurants in Hong Kong, Englishman Stephen Davis decided a change of jobs would be fun, so he became a clown.

Davis came to the city in the early 1990s and never looked back. 'I arrived in Hong Kong when it was still a British colony, so I could work legally. Since I didn't have any qualifications, I couldn't really get any jobs in teaching, business or other professions popular with expatriates. However, I had a good sense of humour and could do a few simple magic tricks,' he says. This developed into the idea that dressing up as a clown would provide the laughter and fun that Hong Kong seemed to lack.

At first, Davis got jobs entertaining kids at children's parties. 'You have to learn to sell yourself to potential clients and you need to practise before a performance so that things go well. You also have to adapt to unexpected happenings as kids are unpredictable,' laughs Davis. He then moved on to street performances and promoting food and drink. Although he struggled to make a living for many years, he thinks that this was all valuable experience which he put to good use later in his career.

Now Davis has a business promoting events in Hong Kong. 'I learnt an awful lot from my years as a clown. In many ways, events promotion is a similar job to being a clown because, for things to run smoothly, organisation and preparation are important,' says Davis, who has promoted everything from music festivals to events for large corporations.

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

It is becoming increasingly difficult for young people around the world to find a job. As members of the school's Careers Team, you want to give a presentation to school-leavers about unusual jobs. Your group is meeting to discuss what to include in the presentation.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY**Candidate B**

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Odd jobs

On the Mainland, there is a growing trend of people offering 'instead-man' services through the internet. Such people are paid to perform certain tasks by others who are too busy or too lazy to do them themselves.

Chen Xiao used to run a clothes shop but she went out of business during the recent economic recession. Chen, who lives in Beijing, now makes a living charging 100 yuan an hour to do odd jobs for other people. These jobs have included picking up laundry, buying railway tickets, distributing hot lunches to poor people and taking pictures of tourists visiting the Great Wall. One of the most unusual services she carried out was to deliver a donated laptop computer to a rural school in Henan. 'I hope my time can make a difference to those who need help,' says Chen modestly.

Countless mainland internet users visit Chen's website and are greeted with the message, 'It's your right to arrange Chen Xiao's life and it's my obligation to serve you.' She has done more than 300 odd jobs since she started her business in late 2008. She sells her time by advertising on a retail website, Taobao, which now has over 100 'instead-men and women' offering their services.

Chen is convinced that her unusual job has made her life better. 'I've experienced things that I would never have expected. My life has become more meaningful. It's not just delivery or mere legwork that I do. I have to put my heart into some of the jobs,' she says. Chen also adds that whatever she does next in her life, she will always look back on her days as an 'instead woman' with gratitude, as she has learnt such a variety of skills from the different missions she has had to fulfil.

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Paradise won

What is the best job in the world? According to the tourist authority of the Australian state of Queensland, it is being the caretaker of a tropical island on the Great Barrier Reef. Many people agree that looking after a paradise island is a great job.

When the position was advertised on the web, it attracted 34,000 applications, including 500 from Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Mainland. They all submitted videos of themselves doing crazy things in order to show their suitability. In the end, 16 finalists were chosen. They were flown to the island, where they took part in a final selection process, which was a combination of job interview and reality TV show. The winner, Englishman Ben Southall, had previously been a charity fund-raiser and a tour guide. 'To be honest, I really didn't think I had a chance. There were some great people there, and I was surprised when my name was called out at the end,' said Southall.

Southall will spend the next six months swimming, snorkelling, diving and sailing around the island and will be paid HK\$863,000 for doing so. However, he must write a blog every day detailing his activities. His girlfriend will join him in his luxury beach-front residence. They will be able to enjoy lounging by the resort pool and taking walks in the tropical forest on the 5 km² paradise island.

Tourism Queensland said it was happy that the competition had resulted in an estimated US\$110 million in free publicity. This was the intended outcome, as Queensland had suffered a decline in tourist numbers due to the recent global recession. Southall realises that he has a great responsibility to promote the area to visitors. 'Ultimately, it is about promoting the island to attract as many people as I can to these great areas of Queensland,' he explains.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Straighten up!

With children, teens and adults spending so much time sitting in front of the computer or watching TV, poor posture, or the way people sit or stand, is becoming an ever-increasing problem. In response to this, the Hong Kong Chiropractors' Association (HKCA) has launched the *Straighten Up Hong Kong* campaign.

Borrowed from the USA, the programme aims to make people more aware of the rise in spinal or back problems caused by the internet age. 'Many people work and play in cramped and uncomfortable positions. The resulting back pain affects the quality of our lives. Every year, back pain results in tremendous costs related to health care fees and reduced individual income and productivity,' says a member of the HKCA.

The problems start among school children and therefore the campaign seeks to introduce training at schools, so that students adopt good posture habits.

Exercises can also be useful in promoting beneficial body posture. 'The *Straighten Up Hong Kong* initiative improves spinal health by offering simple, three-minute exercises. These are good for children because they strengthen their spines and thus improve their posture,' remarks chiropractor Dennis Wong.

But research suggests that it is also important not to bully your child into adopting a good posture, as it often has the reverse effect. As David Newbound of the Children's Seating Centre in Britain notes, 'We are fooling ourselves if we think that barking commands at our children, like "sit up straight", "stop slumping" and "walk properly", is going to help.' Newbound believes that we naturally have good posture and that ordering children to sit in a particular way can lead to an over-control of muscles. This can result in bad posture for life. He thinks the answer is to encourage swimming, dance, gymnastics and simple stretching exercises in and outside school.

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

Your school is planning an event to promote good posture among students. You and your group are members of the Student Council and are meeting to decide how to organise the event.

You can start the discussion by identifying the reasons why bad posture has become such a problem among young people. Then you can discuss what the consequences may be if bad posture continues in adult life and suggest ways of promoting good posture. Finally, you can think of possible ways to present the information to visitors in an interesting manner.

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Candidate A

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Back to school

Back pain is on the rise in Hong Kong. A decade ago, the middle-aged and the elderly complained about back problems but now it is also the young who are suffering. Around the world, this is causing great concern to chiropractors, or doctors who deal with back and spinal problems.

According to specialists, this phenomenon is due to a lack of physical activity and increased periods of time spent in front of the computer or playing video games. Heavy school bags stuffed full of books do not help the situation. Chiropractor Jeffrey Shurr says, 'There's a lack of emphasis on physical education in schools these days, and look what they're carrying – reference books in their backpacks, musical instruments and laptops. It's just too much for their growing bodies to support.'

One solution seems to be doing short exercises on a regular basis to stretch the spine. 'We spend three

minutes a day brushing our teeth and we all have better teeth. In the same way, if children spend three minutes stretching every day, their spinal health will improve,' argues Shurr. Therefore, the discomfort and pain from back problems in later life can be avoided by addressing the problem at an early age.

But exercise to promote spinal health is not the only solution. Parents can select furniture that is the correct height and provides an ideal back support for their child. This means the chair should be just the right height for the desk or table that the child is sitting at. Seating needs to provide back support and should be comfortable when the child is seated upright, otherwise it will encourage them to slouch. 'Considering the importance of seating in providing good back support, more care should be taken by schools when choosing appropriate classroom tables and chairs,' says Shurr.

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

Your school is planning an event to promote good posture among students. You and your group are members of the Student Council and are meeting to decide how to organise the event.

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Candidate B

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Growing bones

Children all over the world are suffering from problems caused by poor posture, or the way they sit or stand. Whether it is rounded shoulders or walking improperly, the posture that children adopt often stays with them for the rest of their lives. In order to tackle the problem, an understanding of how young bodies develop is essential.

It is not until we are 20 or 21 years old that our spines are fully developed. Stretching specialist Chris Watts says, 'Children's bones are soft and will mould very easily to the function of their daily lives.' This means that if children adopt poor posture when sitting or standing, their bones will adapt to this shape. Once this bad posture becomes a habit, it becomes much more difficult to change.

Another important consideration is that when children are growing quickly, their bones are developing much more rapidly than their muscles.

This is a critical time according to Watts. 'As parents, at these times, we should be checking how our children sit and stand as well as their general posture. This is because poor posture will affect normal growth patterns and so one side of their body will dominate the other, leading to serious spinal health issues in later life.'

In order to deal with this problem, it is suggested that there should be more activities that involve movement around the classroom. Children spend a lot of time sitting at their desks. Because the tables and chairs are not designed with the individual child in mind, bad posture is often the result. Therefore, it is important to get children to stretch or get up and move about every 30 minutes. So, by introducing activities that make students stand up and move around, we are actually helping them avoid bad posture.

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

Your school is planning an event to promote good posture among students. You and your group are members of the Student Council and are meeting to decide how to organise the event.

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Knocked back

Having back and spinal pain in later life may be an uncomfortable consequence of sitting or standing improperly in youth. However, what is less widely known is that this poor posture can result in more serious problems when the body experiences minor knocks and injuries in adult life.

With the number of cases of postural problems increasing among the young, many professionals feel that the number of people suffering from serious back pain and other associated health problems will increase rapidly in the future. Physiotherapist Fanny Leung reports that she regularly sees children as young as nine or ten suffering from neck and back pain. 'This is extremely worrying, as it means that their bodies will not have the ability to deal with the physical damage that they might encounter when they do sports. Therefore, a small sporting injury might develop into a major health problem,' Leung says.

'For many children, poor posture and muscle weakness cause them to develop abnormally curved spines. When an infant learns to sit up, they naturally have perfect posture but as they develop and they start to sit improperly, their spine begins to curve. This shows that we should pay more attention to developing good posture,' advises Leung.

Pilates exercises and yoga are two activities that are recommended to help improve poor posture and lack of muscle strength among the young. In Pilates exercises, children are taught which postural muscles they are using when they move their bodies. Pure Yoga instructor Samantha Chan thinks yoga is a great way to get children to exercise more. 'Yoga is a whole body exercise and it gets them stretching and really lengthening their backs, and at the same time strengthening their inner muscles. It also reminds children to sit straight as it's about body awareness,' she explains.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Will MyCar be your car?

A new car has been developed in Hong Kong – the two-seater, battery-powered MyCar. The vehicle is classified as a micro car and, excluding the battery, weighs less than 400 kg. It can reach speeds of up to 45 km/h and is perfect for getting around urban areas. The Hong Kong government has allowed it to be used in the city, but only on roads with a speed limit of 50 km/h.

Originally, the MyCar could not be registered for local use because micro cars were not a recognised form of transport. However, it has now been granted a specific vehicle category by the Transport Department, which means it can be driven on Hong Kong roads. Professor of electrical engineering at Polytechnic University, Eric Cheng is happy about the new classification. 'We should be encouraging the use of emission-free vehicles. It is not fair to expect cars built for environmental reasons to have to meet all the existing safety standards for conventional cars,' he says.

Under the old categorisation, the car did not meet existing seatbelt and structural requirements. In addition, there were doubts whether the MyCar would pass crash tests. Although safety may still be of concern, many argue that the micro car should not be judged by safety standards which are applicable to regular cars. They claim that motorcyclists are equally exposed to danger and, if motorcycles are allowed on roads, the micro car should be as well.

Some road users think that the introduction of MyCar could prove dangerous to both its driver and other road users. 'What happens if the driver loses his way and ends up on a road with a higher speed limit? Traffic there moves extremely fast and an accident can easily occur. In that unfortunate situation, MyCar's light-weight structure would offer little protection for its driver,' argues motorist Kelvin Choi.

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

As part of its efforts to reduce air pollution, the government has agreed to the introduction of electric vehicles. You are part of a focus group that needs to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the introduction of such vehicles.

You should think about the facilities that would have to be provided to support the introduction of these new vehicles and discuss how electric vehicles could affect the environment. You should also consider what government incentives might be needed to encourage people to buy these cars.

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Candidate A

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Think electric

With fewer than 100 electric cars among the 400,000 cars on Hong Kong's roads, it is not only important that the government takes the initiative in encouraging the development of this market, it also needs to change the way drivers think.

The government has made deals with Japanese car manufacturers Nissan and Mitsubishi to introduce electric cars to the city. It is hoped that with Hong Kong's compact size, the experiment will be a great success. However, Professor Chan Ching-chuen of The University of Hong Kong thinks that changing the mindset of drivers is just as important as having a choice of vehicles, if this success is to be realised. 'When it comes to electric cars, Hong Kong is a different story from other cities, as nearly half of the journeys people make are less than 50 km. If you look at this data, you will be very optimistic, but the psychology of drivers is another matter,' Chan says.

The cost of electric vehicles is likely to be high and so the wealthy will be the first owners of such vehicles. However, it is essential that these people find the new cars convenient and fun to drive if this technology is to become cheaper and more widely available. 'They really need to like driving these cars and much of that pleasure will come from how easy it is to use and power them,' says Mike Park, author of a book on electric cars.

So, what can be done to achieve this? The government could offer tax discounts and cash subsidies to those who buy electric cars, and could introduce free parking schemes. In addition, garages, car parks and property developments need to offer battery-recharging facilities. These charging points could even be free to use. Without such incentives, very few car owners would consider going green.

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

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Candidate B

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A battery of problems

Pollution levels from vehicles are still on the rise in Hong Kong. Therefore, the introduction of electric cars has become part of the government's initiative to clean the air. But are electric vehicles really the solution to the pollution and global warming problems we face?

Japanese car manufacturers are set to introduce electric cars to Hong Kong's roads and there is a belief that this will reduce the number of oil-fuelled vehicles and so help clear our air. Andy Palmer, senior vice president at Nissan says, 'Zero emissions mobility is now a reality.' Although it appears that electric cars will improve our living environment, will they actually lower the level of pollution?

Electric cars still require energy to power their batteries and this energy has to come from somewhere. 'The power stations that supply energy for electric cars

to recharge are of course causing pollution. The manufacture of the batteries that power the vehicles also creates a lot of pollution,' says environmentalist Ian Skeggs. Therefore, it seems that although we may be clearing road-side pollution, we may just be shifting the pollution problem elsewhere.

There is also a problem with the lithium-ion batteries these vehicles use. A report produced by Meridian International Research claims that the mass production of lithium-ion batteries is not environmentally sound, as it will cause lasting damage to ecosystems. Disposal of the used batteries is also problematic. It is both risky and costly to dispose of or recycle them. Therefore, we may want to question exactly how green this new range of vehicles actually is. However, supporters believe that since they use less energy than conventional vehicles, they should still have a future.

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

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You should think about the facilities that would have to be provided to support the introduction of these new vehicles and discuss how electric vehicles could affect the environment. You should also consider what government incentives might be needed to encourage people to buy these cars.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate C

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate D****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Electrically charged

In the 2009 Budget, Financial Secretary John Tsang introduced a series of measures to encourage the use of electric vehicles to reduce pollution in Hong Kong. This was in response to public criticism that the government's efforts to promote environmentally-friendly vehicles have been far from satisfactory. So what exactly is the government doing to help this green revolution?

First of all, recently purchased government vehicles have been more environmentally-friendly hybrid models. These cars have both a petrol engine and an electric power source. 'The government has bought ten i MiEV hybrid cars from Mitsubishi to use in its departments. The car being used by the Chief Executive is a hybrid car. As a major buyer of environmentally-friendly vehicles, the government is therefore ahead of the private sector,' says Secretary for the Environment Edward Yau.

According to many environmentalists, this is a move in the right direction. 'This is an important step because the private sector and bus and taxi companies need to be persuaded that this is the way to go. If the government takes the lead and shows them the benefits, then they will follow,' says Greenpeace spokesperson Amy Chan.

Another initiative is the promotion of all-electric vehicles. Although the price of electric cars may remain high, buyers will not pay any registration tax for the next five years. However, this tax concession alone is not enough. The government also needs to set up battery charging stations all over the city. 'With more electric cars on our roads, better infrastructure will be needed to support their use. The two need to go together. If the number of charging stations does not keep pace with the number of electric cars, then this will be a major drawback,' says one road user.

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

As part of its efforts to reduce air pollution, the government has agreed to the introduction of electric vehicles. You are part of a focus group that needs to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the introduction of such vehicles.

You should think about the facilities that would have to be provided to support the introduction of these new vehicles and discuss how electric vehicles could affect the environment. You should also consider what government incentives might be needed to encourage people to buy these cars.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY**Candidate D**

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Fashionably good looking

Tutorial classes are very popular in exam-conscious Hong Kong. However, at times, it seems that the fashion styles and physical appearance of their teaching staff are more of an attraction than the learning experience itself.

Some students unfairly blame the way their school teachers dress for their own lack of motivation at school. 'Teachers don't really pay much attention to how they dress. If they dressed better, I would be more attentive in class,' says Form Five student Ken Su. The major tuition centres stress that their tutors must wear stylish clothes and have fashionable haircuts. So, it would seem that this is a large part of their marketing strategy.

Having good-looking tutors is apparently also an important factor contributing to their popularity. Antonia Cheng is an English tutor at Modern Education, earning a six-figure salary. 'She's pretty and her brightly-coloured clothes are refreshing, unlike

the plain outfits my teacher wears,' says 16-year-old Yeung Chun-fai. Some tutors even think that a teacher's appearance can have an impact on pupils' ability to study. 'People love beauty. If a teenager warms to his teacher, he will pay attention. Their liking for a teacher's appearance can be converted into a love for knowledge in this way,' says tutor Richard Eng.

But surely appearance itself cannot be considered a learning tool. 'This could only happen in a fashion-conscious society like Hong Kong. It also suggests that teaching in local schools cannot compete with the glamour of teaching at tutorial schools,' says educationalist Robert Jones. Cheng, who has a master's degree in translation from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, says that her teaching style is what helps students learn, although she does admit that having a trendy image helps students concentrate. 'Perhaps what keeps students' attention is really their tutor's appearance and that can't be good,' comments Jones.

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

There has been a lot of debate recently about whether tutorial schools are effective educational institutions. Your teacher has asked you to prepare a class presentation on the topic. Your group is meeting to discuss your ideas.

You should think about the reasons for the popularity of such schools, the methods they use to attract students and motivate them to learn, and whether you think these methods are effective. You could also consider how you would present this information in an interesting and organised manner.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate A

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate B****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Cult status

In a bid to get better exam results, many Hong Kong students attend tutorial classes after school. This phenomenon has led to the rise of the 'star tutor', who can attract thousands of students and demand high fees.

Karson Otto Fan Karno, otherwise known as K-Oten, is one such tutor. His lecture notes include trendy expressions, making him extremely popular with his pupils. 'K-Oten is humorous, cool and so handsome. Some of my classmates even worship him as an idol,' says Wai-tung, one of 1,237 fans who are on Oten's Facebook group.

Such teachers are so popular that sometimes students pay thousands of dollars for courses even though they only get to see videos of their favourite tutors. While privileged students get to sit in on the real lecture, others are in nearby classrooms watching the 'live' performance. This means that these schools

do not have to limit the number of students in a class to 45. Student Kelvin Tam took the course but never attended a class with a real teacher. 'The lectures had been videotaped two years before. I didn't mind this at all because the syllabus had not changed and I was taught by a famous tutor,' he says.

But do such classes actually work? Wong Kai-long took some tutorial classes before taking his Chinese language exam and found them useful. 'They offered effective notes and analysed different types of questions and this helped me cope with the exam,' he explains. However, many believe it is Hong Kong's obsession with rote-learning that has given rise to star tutors. 'If the latest education reforms are successful, if they make learning more innovative and society more dynamic, tutorial schools will face a major challenge to their existence,' says Professor Gerard Postiglione of The University of Hong Kong.

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

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY**Candidate B**

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Publicity pays

In the competitive world of tutorial schools, promotion is everything. Such schools have found that selling the image of their teachers has encouraged students to join their classes and have spared no efforts to attract large numbers of students. This approach has proved to be quite successful.

The advertising budgets for these schools can be extensive. One tutorial school spent HK\$10 million last year alone using pictures of attractive-looking tutors on buses and billboards, in MTR stations and in TV commercials. The advertisements encouraged pupils to join a whole range of classes that claimed to guarantee exam success. 'Tutors also have to get involved in promotion. At the beginning, I wasn't comfortable with the publicity work, as I'm not someone who pays much attention to appearance,' says star tutor at Modern Education, Antonia Cheng. Cheng now accepts that this is just part of the job.

Ken Ng, chief executive of Modern English, says that although it is important for their tutors to generate publicity, it is not their most important priority. 'The quality of teaching staff, venues and facilities is more important,' explains Ng. These claims seem to have an element of truth as students say they are better prepared for exams after attending the tutorial classes.

Within the industry, there are those who criticise the way some companies operate. 'Some tutorial centres are more like show business companies now, with young tutors having dyed hair and heavy make up. To get students' attention, teachers often use slang and rude language. I have even seen some tutors devote the best part of their lessons to telling jokes just to make their students happy. Such people give the industry a bad name,' says Richard Eng, the founder of Beacon College.

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

There has been a lot of debate recently about whether tutorial schools are effective educational institutions. Your teacher has asked you to prepare a class presentation on the topic. Your group is meeting to discuss your ideas.

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Motivational speakers

Tutorial schools are becoming increasingly popular with students hoping to improve their exam results. So, what are they doing that attracts and motivates so many students to join them?

Star tutor Antonia Cheng thinks that bonding with students is an important motivating force when it comes to creating an interest in learning. To do this, she provides a direct line of communication. 'I give my mobile number to several hundred of my Form Five students and some call about career advice or other issues,' says Cheng. She also has a website where she provides exam tips and personal information. This has attracted a lot of interest from students, who respond with feedback and greetings.

The tutorial schools seem to succeed in motivating students with current topics presented in the language that the students use themselves. 'Most students who sign up for tutorial classes appear to be

learners who always find lessons boring. They hate reading anything filled with text. That's why I use comic strips with colloquial expressions,' says founder of Beacon College, Richard Eng. This obviously appeals to students. 'I can easily understand what the tutors say because they talk like us and use trendy words when explaining things. The teacher at my school doesn't do that,' says 16-year-old Yeung Chun-fai.

Another asset these tutorial schools claim to have is their ability to predict the kinds of questions students will face and thus focus students' revision on certain topics. 'They summarise key information in a way that makes it easier to remember. I would find it difficult to do that myself,' says student Yau Ho-ning. Tutors also claim that they present material in an interesting way. 'Teachers are performers. You have to dramatise teaching with body language and lively delivery,' says popular tutor Joseph Li.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Money down the drain

Unlike other places in the region, Hong Kong has failed to increase the cost of water. Water charges have not been increased since 1995 and many think this policy needs to change.

In Singapore, residents pay HK\$9 per unit, which includes a water conservation tax to discourage users from wasting water. Users also have to pay more money if their consumption exceeds the prescribed limit. In Beijing, a four-fold increase in water charges has led to a flat unit cost of HK\$5.04. Again, the aim has been to lower demand. However, in Hong Kong, the first 12 cubic metres are free, the next 31 cubic metres cost HK\$4.16, and the charge is HK\$6.45 for the next 19 cubic metres.

When compared with other developed countries, Hong Kong's water is very cheap. This low cost of water results in many Hong Kong residents wasting a

lot of water when taking showers or washing up. 'The water is so cheap that people don't bother to save it. With better use, the city should be able to cut its use by one third,' says Professor Frederick Lee of the geography department of The University of Hong Kong. In both Singapore and China, there are already targets for future reductions in use by as much as 20 percent.

Neighbouring Guangdong province and six other southern provinces have been suffering from a severe drought. This has meant that 2.5 million people there have been without their usual supplies of fresh water. 'When the area is suffering from a lack of water, it is still supplying Hong Kong and this is not right. Residents here care little for conserving this natural resource,' says citizen Tim Nelson. Indeed, the times when the city has an abundant supply of water from Guangdong may be coming to an end as climate change affects weather patterns worldwide and water supplies are reduced.

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

Water is becoming a more valuable commodity and yet a lot is wasted in Hong Kong. Your principal has invited the Environmental Committee to talk about water conservation at the school's recently introduced *Green Day*. Your group are members of this committee and are meeting to discuss what to include in your talk.

You should consider various measures that could be taken by either the government or the public to reduce the amount of water that is wasted. You also should think about arguments that can be used to persuade people to pay more for their water.

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Candidate A

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

What a waste

Every time a Hong Kong resident flushes the toilet, several litres of water are used. This is because very few toilets designed to save water have been installed in public places or private homes.

A recent survey conducted by Friends of the Earth (FOE), found that 92 percent of toilets did not have a long and short flushing option. Although sea water is used in 80 percent of the city's toilets, it costs the government extra money for this water to be treated in sewage treatment plants, and is a waste of energy. The other 20 percent of toilets still use fresh water, which obviously creates an even greater wastage of resources.

The survey not only covered public toilets maintained by the government, but also those in shopping malls and restaurants. Only two out of 140 public toilets had a water saving function and not one

of the 54 restaurant toilets checked had this facility. 'When people flush some older toilets, 15 litres of water are used,' Chairperson of the FOE's China Committee Mei Ng said. In toilets equipped with the long and short flush option, only three litres of water are used for the short flush and six litres for the long flush, greatly reducing the amount of water wasted. The survey also found that half of all wash basins were not fitted with water-saving tap sensors.

The solution some suggest is for the government to start setting a good example by installing new water-saving toilets in all public restrooms. They also think that the area in the northern New Territories which still uses fresh water for flushing should be connected to the rest of the system so that sea water can be used instead. 'In a rich city like Hong Kong, this should be easily achieved,' says environmentalist Bill Knight.

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

Water is becoming a more valuable commodity and yet a lot is wasted in Hong Kong. Your principal has invited the Environmental Committee to talk about water conservation at the school's recently introduced *Green Day*. Your group are members of this committee and are meeting to discuss what to include in your talk.

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Candidate B

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Recovering the cost

Due to pressure from the public to keep the price of water low, the Hong Kong government has resisted calls to increase the price of this precious commodity. But why is water in the city so much cheaper than elsewhere?

The reason is that consumers only pay 46 percent of what it costs the government to buy the water from Guangdong province. This includes the cost of storing, treating and transporting the water to the end user. When compared with governments in developed countries like France and Austria that recover 90 percent of the cost of supplying water, Hong Kong falls behind. This situation has many arguing that because people are not paying the full cost they are doing little to conserve water.

A rise in water charges would not hurt most people financially. Water accounts for only 0.3 percent of an average family's monthly expenditure, with 46 percent of households paying less than HK\$25 per

month. This has led to the Water Supplies Department losing HK\$300 million over the last two years. 'A rich city like Hong Kong should aim for full cost recovery from users, as long as mechanisms are in place to ensure that the water bill does not become unaffordable for the poorest segments of the population,' says Roberto Martin Hurtado of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Many academics also believe that, in a highly developed society like Hong Kong, the government should recover water costs in full. 'This requires a government with strong leadership,' says Professor Frederick Lee of The University of Hong Kong. Lee thinks that the government should set goals for reducing water use and introduce a campaign to inform people how they can achieve this. He also suggests basic changes in behaviour, such as switching to more efficient water-using appliances like dishwashers and washing machines.

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

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Candidate C

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Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Water pressure

People in Hong Kong can be quite wasteful when it comes to water, and many seem to just leave the tap running. However, the lack of regard for this precious resource may be about to change.

Over the past five years, Hong Kong's water consumption has risen from 212.7 litres per person per day to 221.7 litres. In many developed countries, people use far less water. For example, last year in Germany the figure was only 120 litres per person per day. Some academics think that if water saving measures are introduced, the city could reduce its daily consumption rate to 140 litres per person without inconveniencing residents.

So what can be done to reduce water consumption? Water management expert Damien Ku thinks the government should provide developers with incentives to introduce water-saving features in its new

residential estates. Under this scheme, the government would reduce the cost of the land it sells to developers. In return for this, developers would install water collection systems on roofs which could provide enough water for gardens and, if filtered, could also be used for washing machines or flush toilets. 'We should plan for possible water shortages in the future,' says Ku.

Ku also thinks it is necessary for the government to change the present system of water charges. 'The existing system is unfair as people who waste water are not asked to pay the full cost. The government is subsidising this waste with public money – the money of Hong Kong people,' Ku says. However, the last time the government was advised to increase the cost of water the advice was ignored. 'I'm not surprised, as it is hard to gain support for the issue from politicians,' says Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies, Professor Ho Kin-chung.

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

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Candidate D

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Testing times for parents

The issue of drug testing in schools has caused heated debate. Whilst many parents are strongly in favour of the new initiative, others have serious reservations about the drug testing programme.

The scheme is part of the government's anti-drugs campaign. Supporters claim that it is an easy way to identify the small number of students taking drugs and then help them quit the habit. They also think that it will act as a way to discourage other students who are thinking about trying drugs. As mother Eunice Leung says, 'Peer pressure can be a very effective strategy. Being isolated from fellow classmates is every student's worst nightmare.'

However, some parents are concerned about views such as this. They think that the scheme should not unfairly label those caught. Parent Joyce Lam says, 'I certainly like the idea of checking to see if students have a drug problem but kids found to have taken drugs

may be labelled as the bad guys at school.' This could affect their relationships with other students, their teachers and parents, as well as have an impact on their school grades. It could even affect their mental well-being. 'This process should be about educating youngsters about the dangers of drugs and not about punishing them,' says teacher Edwin Lai.

Another fear is that parents will not know how to deal with children whose drug-taking habits are revealed through a positive test. 'Parents are ignorant about drugs. They may overreact in an unhelpful way and they don't know how to help drug abusers who are undergoing or have completed anti-drug therapy,' says Chairperson of the Tai Po Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations, Daniel Yuen. Some parents of children who had received treatment for drug abuse even suspected them of taking drugs again. 'If they are unable to deal with the issue in a supportive way, their children will certainly go back to using drugs,' warns Yuen.

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

Your principal is considering whether drug testing should be introduced in your school and wants to collect students' opinions on this matter. Your group are members of the Student Association at your school and are meeting to discuss this.

First of all, you need to discuss why drug taking among students is increasing. You should then consider if students would support drug testing and if so, how it should be done. You should also decide on action to be taken once a student has been found to have taken drugs.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Protecting privacy

With Hong Kong introducing drug testing in schools, many citizens have asked whether forcing students to participate in drug tests may be against laws protecting privacy. They argue that personal information must be given voluntarily even if those involved are not adults.

These changes occurred when lawyers and the privacy commissioner criticised the original scheme. At first, only a parent's permission was required before students could be tested. The next proposal was that students over 16 years of age would need to sign a consent form before tests could be carried out. However, the latest proposal requires the consent of all students. Furthermore, students who refuse to take the test will no longer be required to have counselling.

Nevertheless, there are those who dismiss the privacy issue. 'Those people who say that the tests are an invasion of privacy should talk to those heartbroken

parents whose children became seriously ill because of drug abuse,' says father Michael Leung. Other people who support the drug tests now think that the whole campaign will be a waste of time. 'If a youngster who takes drugs refuses to have a test and no further action is taken, then the whole process is pointless,' argues parent Jim Lui.

On the other hand, President of the Tai Po Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations Ho Chu-ping is happy with the changes. 'The scheme will have a beneficial effect. Social workers tell us that many Tai Po students have been asking for help with their drug problems,' Ho says. This suggests that students who have drug problems will take the tests so that they can then receive help. 'Some pupils who have drug issues just need an opportunity to seek help. If the testing process is confidential, students can feel secure knowing that this information will not be given to the police,' says teacher Sally Tang.

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

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Candidate B

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Police powers arrested

Drug testing in schools will not now involve the police if students test positive for drug abuse. In the original scheme, the police would have followed up cases where students had been found to have taken drugs. However, many people thought that such measures would lead to the young people being treated as criminals.

A government official says that the aim of the programme is to help students avoid drugs rather than prosecute them. However, the students might be forced to give evidence against others in order to help the police in their criminal investigations. This could result in their peers suspecting them of providing information to the police, possibly creating an environment of mistrust and possible danger to those thought to have provided information about drug dealers.

Protests against police involvement were widespread with social workers, teachers and parents

opposing the proposal. The Law Society agrees that the police should play no part in the testing scheme. 'In the war against drugs, we think education is of greater importance. We should not make students look like criminals,' Society president Wong Kwai-huen says. But some parents think excluding the police from the process is a mistake. 'How are we going to catch the drug dealers if the police cannot investigate the case? Surely getting rid of these evil drug pushers is one of the aims of the scheme,' argues mother Maggie Chung.

Kwok Wing-keung, the chairperson of the Tai Po District Association of Secondary School Heads, thinks that the police should not be told about test results. He has guaranteed that information gathered from students will be confidential. However, Kwok warns that this does not rule out police involvement. 'If necessary, we may need to ask for police intervention to investigate and deal with drug problems at school,' he says.

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

Your principal is considering whether drug testing should be introduced in your school and wants to collect students' opinions on this matter. Your group are members of the Student Association at your school and are meeting to discuss this.

First of all, you need to discuss why drug taking among students is increasing. You should then consider if students would support drug testing and if so, how it should be done. You should also decide on action to be taken once a student has been found to have taken drugs.

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 C

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A testing process

Drug testing could become a regular practice in Hong Kong schools over the next few years. The aim of the scheme is to reduce drug use among students by taking urine samples in order to identify those who have been abusing drugs. Although the issue has provoked intense debate among members of society, many question whether the actual tests will be reliable.

Doubts have been raised about whether students will be able to cheat when providing urine samples. Under-secretary for Education Kenneth Chen admitted there was no way that cheating could be prevented. 'Students will not be monitored when they give the urine sample,' he admitted. However, he said that the government was improving the scheme to guarantee that it would be effective and since testing would be random and unannounced, students who wanted to cheat would have little time to prepare.

A variety of measures will be used to help detect cheats. One idea is to add dye to the flush water in toilets so that students could not dilute their samples. Another suggestion is to ban students from taking big bags or wearing bulky clothing when they go to the toilet. This would prevent students from substituting another person's urine for their own.

Many members of the public think that such restrictions will cause a lot of ill feeling amongst students. 'We seem to be treating every student as if they are a potential suspect. Are students going to be searched before giving their samples? This really seems to be an invasion of privacy,' says father Joseph Lee. Another concerned citizen, Emma Kam, thinks that the whole scheme is misguided. 'It appears that if the authorities cannot guarantee that the tests are valid, then the whole procedure is just a waste of time,' she says.

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

Your principal is considering whether drug testing should be introduced in your school and wants to collect students' opinions on this matter. Your group are members of the Student Association at your school and are meeting to discuss this.

First of all, you need to discuss why drug taking among students is increasing. You should then consider if students would support drug testing and if so, how it should be done. You should also decide on action to be taken once a student has been found to have taken drugs.

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

Candidate D

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE**Candidate A****Preparation Time** (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Vooks

Publishers Simon and Schuster have collaborated with a multimedia company to create a new kind of reading experience which combines electronic text with video clips. The conventional book is being replaced by the 'vook'.

Vooks can be accessed either online or via an iPhone. In one of the new fitness vooks, readers are able to see videos that show them what to do to keep fit. In a beauty vook, videos show the reader how to mix different ingredients to make facial treatments. Other vooks tell stories that have 60 to 90 second video clips that either add to the original story or actually replace the original written text. For instance, in a thriller, a section of the original text is replaced by a video newscast revealing that a kidnapping has happened.

Publishers believe that vooks offer features that are essential in attracting a modern readership. 'There

is no question that these new media are going to be superb at engaging and interesting the reader,' says Professor of child development Maryanne Wolf. This view is shared by educationalist Liz Pattel. 'If we want to get children reading, we need to move the book into their world which, like it or not, is now in cyberspace.'

However, some experts think that the new format will lessen enjoyment and make the traditional reading of books less attractive. They also think that people will no longer have the patience to read full-length paperback books if multimedia books become more popular. 'I think people will become easily bored if they get used to videos appearing every few pages. Our ability to use our imagination will also be affected if visual images show us what the characters and the worlds they inhabit look like. This may have an impact on our creative abilities,' says Professor of literature Henry Porterhouse.

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

Your school library has received a donation to improve its resources. Your group are members of the Book Club at school. You are meeting to evaluate new technologies for books so that you can make recommendations on what resources should be added to your library.

You should talk about the pros and cons of multimedia books and whether you think this new technology will change students' reading habits. You could also consider what practical problems may result if e-books are used in the library.

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 A**

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

When readers are writers

Publishers claim the way books are written may soon be transformed by technology. Social networking technologies will allow readers to hold conversations with one another. It is thought that this could have a far-reaching impact on how books are written.

Publisher Harper Collins has recently created a mystery series for young adults called *The Amanda Project*. But this is a book with a difference. Readers can now talk about clues and characters on a website. As the series progresses, the writer uses their ideas to further develop the characters and the plot of the story. Those in the industry see a major shift away from traditional writing. 'There is going to be a popular kind of literature where the author is seen as the leader of a large group and will pick and choose from readers' ideas and suggestions,' predicts publisher of children's books Susan Katz. Katz believes this will make publishing more exciting.

However, some readers think that there will always be a demand for conventional forms of literature. 'The reason why good writers write good books is because they have the necessary talent to create a great piece of literature. Having the general public take part in this process might increase interest in reading but I'm not sure it will produce better stories. We should perhaps leave that to the storyteller,' says book reviewer John Kennedy.

Writers themselves also question whether the move towards a more multimedia format is the way to go. Many think that reading, like social interaction, improves our ability to think critically. 'As a novelist, I would never ever allow videos to substitute for prose. I believe our thinking skills actually go backwards when we're watching TV or doing stuff on computers. We have to analyse and think in different ways and books offer this opportunity,' says writer Walter Mosley.

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

Your school library has received a donation to improve its resources. Your group are members of the Book Club at school. You are meeting to evaluate new technologies for books so that you can make recommendations on what resources should be added to your library.

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Candidate B

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Candidate C

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

A sensible approach

Publishers are always looking for new ways to market their books. With online books becoming more popular, there has been a move towards providing more of a multimedia experience. Some even think that new books should be able to appeal to all the senses.

Jude Deveraux writes romantic novels. She has included short video clips to enhance her latest book, but plans to include smells and music in her future publications. 'I want to excite all the senses by using fragrances such as perfume or the scent of flowers,' she says. Some writers think that new technologies can improve their work. The Director of the Harvard University Library, Robert Darnton, has written a book about 18th century French street songs. He says his online version will include links to recordings of the actual music, making it an interesting sensory experience for readers.

This feature could even be extended so that when readers get to a certain part of the online book, they can hear different sounds. These could be music added to create tension when accompanying a murder mystery or sound effects that reflect what is happening, such as the sound of footsteps. 'I don't see any difference between having music create a certain atmosphere in a movie and using it to do the same thing for the reader of an online book,' says musician Martin Broad.

But some readers doubt that this will improve their reading experience. 'If I were to hear music playing at certain points in a novel, I would find that distracting. I certainly like to be in a quiet environment when I read so that I can concentrate. As for smells, I think they would be terribly artificial and if they were not pleasant, I think that would make me want to stop reading,' says bookworm Joyce Tam.

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

Your school library has received a donation to improve its resources. Your group are members of the Book Club at school. You are meeting to evaluate new technologies for books so that you can make recommendations on what resources should be added to your library.

You should talk about the pros and cons of multimedia books and whether you think this new technology will change students' reading habits. You could also consider what practical problems may result if e-books are used in the library.

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

Candidate D

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)**Part One – Individual Presentations** (1½–2 minutes each)

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

Book burning

Kindle has finally arrived in Hong Kong. The new electronic book-reading device will allow readers to download a book in less than a minute and can hold up to 1,500 novels. But is this the end of the humble book?

Many people, such as cultural critic and TV host Leung Man-to, think paper books will die out. 'E-books are cheaper, environmentally friendly and more convenient. Like old-fashioned musical recordings, paper books will disappear or become collectable items, and only real book lovers will buy them,' he says.

Although all e-books available for download are in English, online retailer Amazon says that it will soon have versions in other languages. It is also believed that the market on the Mainland will soon be introduced to the new format. 'Many people on the Mainland are used to getting music, movies and books

online illegally, as this is free and many books which are banned by the government can only be accessed online. They have already moved away from paper texts and do not feel it is a problem to read from a digital device, like Kindle. All they are waiting for is a device that is designed to suit their needs,' says Leung.

However, some people say they will never make the change. Ivan Choy, book lover and political scientist at Hong Kong University, buys 20 books every month but claims he will never go digital even though all his bookshelves are full. 'Reading is an enjoyment to me and I can only have it by flicking through the pages. I love the feeling of being surrounded by piles of books,' he remarks. Others think that although Kindle will take reading to a new level, it will be unaffordable for many people. 'Kindle will only attract a specialised market and remain a trendy toy for the rich,' says electronics salesman Tony Lai.

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

Your school library has received a donation to improve its resources. Your group are members of the Book Club at school. You are meeting to evaluate new technologies for books so that you can make recommendations on what resources should be added to your library.

You should talk about the pros and cons of multimedia books and whether you think this new technology will change students' reading habits. You could also consider what practical problems may result if e-books are used in the library.

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

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 descriptor 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 and attach the candidate's note card to their scoresheet.
- 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.