

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.

Plan disabled by residents

The building of unpopular facilities in local neighbourhoods can often result in conflict between the desires of residents living in the area and the wider needs of the community. One such conflict has been caused by plans to build a new toilet for the disabled at the Wong Fong Street wet market in Kwai Fong.

The original plan was for the toilet to be built in 2007 but local residents rejected that plan. They argued that the toilet would have produced a bad smell and people queuing up to use it would potentially block access to the market. 'Residents want to live in a nice environment and a toilet is a place we don't want to live close to,' said Kwai Tsing district councillor Ng Kim-sing.

Officials from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department have met residents many times to try to persuade them to change their minds. 'The

residents said the toilets would affect them psychologically. We offered to change the direction of the toilet entrance but they still said it would cause them stress. It's a pity we can't build a toilet for the disabled; they have the right to a toilet in the market,' said one official.

Other people living in the area agree that the disabled should have a toilet provided for their needs. 'Nobody wants to face a toilet every day, but since the market doesn't have one for the disabled, it is obviously necessary. It would be unfair not to cater to their needs,' said one shopkeeper. Rehabilitation Alliance chairman Cheung Kin-fai thought the opponents to the plan were selfish. 'Why are the residents so inconsiderate? I can't believe these narrow-minded people still exist nowadays. Don't they know they are discriminating against the disabled?' he asked.

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

You are members of the school's English Conversation Club. The topic for today's discussion is the government's decision to locate unpopular facilities in residential areas.

You should think about what kinds of facilities are unpopular and why many people in the community oppose them. You should also consider why it is necessary to build such facilities and where they could be located. You could also think about ways to persuade residents to accept unpopular facilities in their neighbourhoods.

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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Sound waves

Recent plans to build unpopular community facilities in local neighbourhoods have met with strong opposition from residents in a number of districts. The plan to relocate a rubbish collection centre in Yau Ma Tei is one such example.

The reason why the collection centre needs to be moved is because the government is converting two historical buildings, the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and the Red Brick Building, into an activity centre promoting Cantonese opera. The centre will have a 300-seat concert hall for performances. The existing rubbish collection point needs to make way for a new block where rehearsal rooms will be built. The government has proposed two new sites to relocate the facility but has met with opposition to both suggestions.

At the first site, nearby primary schools have complained that the rubbish collection point would not only be a health risk but would also negatively affect the

schools' ability to recruit new students. The other location is a place where there is currently a sitting-out area. Local residents say they do not want to lose the recreation area. 'The rubbish would be bad for our health. That's not good for old people like us,' said one elderly man. A local shopkeeper also opposes the plan. 'Who would want to face a rubbish dump all the time? Not me,' he said. However, an official from the Environmental Hygiene Department claims that the rubbish collection point would be out of public view and advanced technology would be used to stop it from smelling.

The completion of the activity centre will be delayed by at least two years, as the district where the rubbish collection centre will be relocated is opposed to the plan. In addition, any new location will need to be approved by a number of government departments, so it appears more time will be lost and taxpayers' money will also be wasted.

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.

Resident evil

Land is in limited supply in Hong Kong so instead of burying someone who has died, cremation has long been preferred. The burnt remains of the dead people are stored in a place known as a columbarium. However, the city is now running out of space. Calls for new columbaria to be built have been met with angry protests from local residents who do not want such facilities in their districts.

Last year, the government proposed building a columbarium near the Shek Mun housing estate, and this upset local people. Some people complained that traffic congestion would result, while others were worried that burning paper offerings would lead to air pollution. However, their greatest fear was that it would bring misfortune to the area. 'This is against Chinese culture. The living should not be forced to live beside the dead because it will bring bad luck to the neighbourhood,' said one local resident.

Chief Executive Donald Tsang was angry that local communities did not support the government regarding the location of unpopular but necessary facilities. He accused local people of being selfish and said, 'Recently, there has been a need to build unpopular facilities such as columbaria. Though these facilities are necessary for society, it seems like everyone has the attitude that they only need to clear the snow from the front of their own doorways. My goal is that there should be a columbarium in each of the 18 districts to meet the demand,' said Tsang.

Many people feel that local communities should take greater responsibility for their own problems and not expect other districts to find solutions. 'It is unreasonable when you refuse to have the things that you need but dislike in your district and insist on putting them in another area,' argued Tsang.

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

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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.

Not in my back yard

In 2007, it was proposed to move a drug rehabilitation centre for youngsters from Chi Ma Wan to the disused Heung Yee Kuk Southern District Secondary School site in Mui Wo on Lantau Island. However, opposition from local residents prevented the relocation from happening.

The centre said it needed to move because existing facilities were overcrowded as it had double the number of students that it could accommodate. A government survey revealed that 90 percent of residents opposed the plan. Some locals even expressed anger at these students and organised a protest march of 800 people. 'The government understands how local residents feel, but the centre makes a positive contribution to re-educating young drug abusers,' said Security Secretary Ambrose Lee.

One of the main reasons residents objected to the centre was they felt the site should be used for a much-needed local secondary school instead, as the district

lacked this facility. They explained that their own children needed to travel two to three hours a day to get to their schools and therefore they could not understand why this need had been ignored. Another objection from residents was that they were not consulted about the relocation of the drug rehabilitation centre. They also feared the effect young people with drug problems would have on their community.

However, The Standard newspaper described the residents' attitude as just another case of the common 'not in my back yard' mentality. In response to residents' objections, the government claimed that there were not enough students to fulfil the requirement for a secondary school. Chief Executive Donald Tsang said he hoped that local communities could help young drug abusers re-integrate into society. 'Young people do sometimes make mistakes. I hope Hong Kong society in general, and the Mui Wo community in particular, can give them a second chance,' said Tsang.

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

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Speaking in tongues

Learning a foreign language can be a difficult and frustrating experience for many but one of the best ways is to make friends with a native speaker. This could be through having a pen friend online or by having a boyfriend or girlfriend from another country.

In today's internet society there are countless opportunities for us to communicate with people in other parts of the world. Email, Facebook and various networking sites allow users to develop relationships with people globally. 'I started writing emails to a friend of the family who was English and this really helped my writing, even though the things we wrote about weren't at all academic,' says university student Lawrence Mo.

Taking things a step further is Cathy Lo. Cathy spent a few weeks in the United States visiting family and, to her amazement within that brief time, developed a relationship with a local student she had met. 'Of

course, I didn't start the relationship because I wanted to improve my English. I was aware that cultural problems and the distance between us would be problematic, but my language skills have definitely benefitted from having an American boyfriend,' she says.

Cathy thinks that her fluency has really improved as she realised she was at a linguistic disadvantage when she and her boyfriend had disagreements. 'At first, I just didn't have the vocabulary or the confidence to express myself clearly and would always lose any arguments we had. This made me want to learn how to express my ideas better in a foreign language. Although it took some time, I now have the pleasure of occasionally winning some of our arguments,' she says. This confidence has certainly helped her in finding a good job as she now works in a multinational company.

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

You and your classmates run the school magazine and have been asked to write an article suggesting the best way for students to improve their English language ability, especially before they begin studying at university.

You are meeting to discuss what content you should include in the article. You should think about the different methods people use to develop their English and which ones would be most suitable for students. You may also include any personal examples of methods you, or people you know, have used as learners of English and whether they were successful.

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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.

Cultural immersion

Trying to improve your English skills can be a long and, at times, boring process, but one way to develop your language ability and have an interesting experience is to study overseas.

Many English-speaking countries have language schools that learners can attend. The schools often have classes in the morning and then social activities in the afternoon. These may include visiting local historical sites, entertainment, attending sporting events and going on shopping trips. 'The social activities were a good way to help us make friends and bond as a group. We played tennis, badminton and squash at a sports centre twice a week and this was fun. It was also good to see some heritage sites like castles, churches and large country houses,' says Alex Tse.

One great advantage of such schools is that classes are comprised of students from many different

countries. This means that English becomes the mode of communication between these speakers of different languages. 'In my class there were students from all over Europe, one from the Middle East, another from Brazil and two from Japan. We all had so much to say to each other but could only say it in English. This was very challenging but at the same time incredibly rewarding, as you could see and hear the improvement almost day by day,' says Erica Chan.

Another benefit is that learners are often housed with local families. This not only means that they must communicate with their hosts in English but also that they get to sample traditional food and culture. Some host families even take the visiting students out for excursions at the weekend. 'I had a great time with my host family as there were family members of my own age. We had similar interests and even now, many years later, we still keep in contact,' explains Joe Lui.

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

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Candidate C

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

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

English is everywhere

If you want to improve your English, you do not have to spend lots of money on language schools or overseas travel to English-speaking countries. The reason for this is that English is already everywhere in Hong Kong.

First of all, the territory has two English language television channels along with cable and satellite television showing English language programmes. Since the local channels have Chinese subtitles, there is an obvious opportunity for creative students to improve their listening skills. The radio provides another opportunity for listening to English.

Secondly, there are English newspapers and magazines available in the city. The South China Morning Post even has a section for young people where the English level is accessible for non-native speakers. But it is not just in the newspaper that you will find English. It can be found in lifts, on public

transport and in government literature – you just need to be aware of it. ‘I always read everything in English instead of in Chinese as I know it can help me improve my language skills. If I don’t understand something, only then do I look at the Chinese version,’ says student Jennifer Lee.

Finally, if you want to practise your spoken English, why not just telephone a company and ask them some questions in English? ‘When I was learning how to book an airline ticket in English in my university English class, the teacher gave us all a phone number and told us to ring it, and ask for information about flights to England. It was the perfect practice, although initially I felt a little strange as I knew the person on the other end was a Cantonese speaker like me,’ explains Victor Ho. Of course, any adventurous student could take this experience to the next level and go shopping in English.

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

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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.

A web of words

The internet has changed the way we live our lives, especially in the way that we can easily access learning tools. In fact, nowadays you could just learn a language while sitting in front of your computer.

A quick search on the internet will bring up a long list of sites that can help you learn English. One such example is www.ello.org which has a collection of thousands of short interviews all with tape scripts and multiple-choice questions. 'I really enjoy using this site as I can easily find topics that interest me and I can also listen to speakers of English who have different accents. I found this extremely useful when I knew that I had to meet a client from India. I listened to lots of Indian English speakers and so became very familiar with the way they pronounce the language. This helped me a lot later on during negotiations,' says businessman James Fung.

However, it is not just purely practical activities that can be found online. There are also many websites that explain useful strategies about anything from developing listening skills to writing an academic essay or a business letter. 'I never went to university and all of my English language development has come from studying online. When I talk to my friends who are at university, I have found that I have been learning the same stuff as them – for free,' laughs office worker Jason Wong.

Of course, so much of the information online is in English that a student could learn the language from almost any website. 'I'm interested in world affairs, so I go to the BBC's website where I can practise reading and listening, or contribute my own opinions. They even have a special section to help second language learners,' says Janet Xu.

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

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Candidate A

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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.

Beetle mania

Many Hong Kong people keep pets such as dogs and cats, but some prefer the rather unusual choice of keeping insects.

In Japan, the keeping of insects as pets has long been a hobby for people of all ages. With many hundreds of thousands of different species to collect, people who keep insects are never bored. 'There are so many colours, shapes and sizes that collecting insects always surprises me. For example, there are more than 350,000 species of beetle alone,' says insect lover Ito Moro, who has been collecting the creatures for the last 10 years. This passion appears to be growing in Hong Kong where small flats make keeping a small pet more practical.

Electrical engineer Wong Ka-fai claims there are many other advantages to keeping insects such as beetles. First of all, he can feel fully involved by

following the complete life cycle of the insect. 'I raise the beetles from eggs and wait months for them to hatch and then watch them grow into adults, so I see and learn about their development.' This learning is not only for adults like Wong. 'I have bought beetles for children because it's an interesting way to teach kids about respecting living creatures and about how nature works,' he says.

One such child is 14-year-old Chia Chin-yan, who keeps several pairs of beetles which her mother and friends do not like. 'They say the beetles are disgusting, but I find them really cute. I often take them out of their glass tank and play with them,' she says. However, her father sees the educational benefits. 'These insects have given our daughter an interest in the natural world and have helped her develop an understanding of biology,' he says.

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

You are members of your school's Conservation Society. You are going to give a talk about keeping exotic animals as pets at the school's *Open Day*.

You are meeting to discuss what to include in the talk. You should consider the advantages and disadvantages of keeping strange and unusual pets. You should also think about what kind of exotic pets are most suitable for Hong Kong and think of an interesting way to introduce these creatures to your audience.

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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.

Caught in the net

In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for strange and unusual pets in Hong Kong and the number of shops selling such creatures has grown accordingly. Many shop owners also believe that the internet has given people a better understanding of exotic pets.

Jiminey Li has four shops and also a breeding centre in the New Territories, but he claims his business has only grown because of the world wide web. Li created a website that gives detailed information about the insects he sells. The 2,000 members share information about raising various kinds of insects and post photographs of their most prized pets online. 'The more customers understand about insects, the more money they are willing to spend on them,' says Li.

Vincent Cheung, who runs a shop selling reptiles, also thinks that social networking sites on the internet have helped his business. 'Owners like to talk

about their pets. Unlike dogs and cats, there is more to talk about when discussing exotic pets, such as their origins, living environment and unique behaviour. People, especially the younger generation, enjoy talking about their experiences on internet forums and in chat rooms,' says Cheung.

Also, because the internet contains so much information, it is easier for collectors to learn more about their exotic pets. 'This allows owners to discover much more than they ever could have done in the past and encourages people to become even more interested in their pets' lives,' says Li. Sam Hardy agrees. 'I have been keeping some very special cockroaches for a few years and have been able to use the internet to discover how complex cockroach communities are. Research has shown me that these creatures make group-based decisions regarding the distribution of available resources, which is pretty amazing,' he says.

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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.

Natural habitats

Although the trade in strange and unusual pets is booming in Hong Kong, many people who buy these exotic pets when the animals are young find it difficult to keep them when they grow to their adult size. Furthermore, some just simply get bored looking after their unusual pets. Consequently, when owners release their unwanted pets into the wild, some of them cannot adapt to the local environment and die. Others however, may affect the local environment.

An example of this can be found in some of the ponds located in public parks. A species of fish from North and Central America called the alligator gar, is sold when young and small, but can grow up to three metres long and weigh over 90kg. Too big for the owner's aquarium, they are frequently released into ponds. While they are not a threat to people, they can destroy the local ecosystem.

Exotic species released into the wild can threaten the local environment as they either eat other plants

and animals that previously had no natural enemies, or they compete with an existing species for food and habitat. For instance, the North American mosquito fish is largely responsible for the declining numbers of the endangered Romer's tree frog because they eat the eggs, reducing the number that can reach maturity.

Another potential threat to the local environment is the red-eared terrapin. This turtle-like creature has managed to adapt to local conditions and can breed rapidly, and there is a risk that it will replace native turtles. Anthony Yeung, an expert on reptiles, is very concerned that Hong Kong's local environment is being threatened by foreign species. He advises people to think carefully before buying an exotic pet. 'These days, pet shops offer all sorts of creatures that we never imagined existed. But you should really think twice before taking them home,' he says.

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

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Candidate D

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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.

Wildlife conservation

Exotic pets have become big business in Hong Kong in recent years. However, concerns over the conservation of endangered species and the dangers of keeping such strange and unusual pets have many people worried.

In the past few years, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has prevented over 1,000 imported exotic reptiles from reaching the Hong Kong pet market. Because they are usually small creatures they are difficult to detect, and so many more get through without being discovered. Although trading in endangered species carries a maximum fine of HK\$5 million and a two-year prison sentence, the soaring prices for exotic pets mean importing such creatures is a risk many are prepared to take. Furthermore, when people are caught breaking the law, they are often given the minimum punishment, which does little to stop the smugglers.

One problem that this illegal trade causes is that it threatens the survival of the species in the wild, as

such animals often cannot reproduce in captivity. As a result, pet traders take these creatures directly from the natural environment to satisfy the demand. 'Animal lovers should ask where these exotic pets come from, since not all species can be bred in captivity. Creating demand for endangered species means that you are helping to make them extinct,' says Senior Conservation Officer at the World Wide Fund for Nature Dr Alan Leung.

Keeping exotic pets can also sometimes be a problem once the animal has reached adulthood. Reptiles such as crocodiles are obviously dangerous when they get to a certain size, while snakes and spiders can bite and potentially kill. 'Often exotic pets are bought when they are babies, but most owners have no idea what the consequences will be once the pet matures. The situation can become even worse if it escapes or is released into a park,' says animal rights activist Patty Green.

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

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Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Don't rock the boat

The government has passed a new law that sets the minimum wage at HK\$28 per hour. Many employers have been against the idea of a minimum wage as they think it could have a negative effect on the economy. However, the government, unions and even some employers in the city argue that it is good for social stability to minimise the wealth gap.

By pushing through the new law, the government has shown that it recognises the difficulties those workers who are the lowest wage earners are suffering. 'Tensions are developing in society because the economic recovery has not benefitted all levels of the community. Some people feel that they are being cheated,' said Chief Executive Donald Tsang.

Hong Kong's wealth gap has been getting bigger in recent years due to a number of financial downturns. The Hong Kong government has realised that low-paid

workers are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Their inability to feed their families is causing growing anger. If such anger increases significantly, society may no longer be peaceful. Union Legislator Lee Cheuk-yan says, 'I think the reason why the government has now decided to set a minimum wage is because it feels the anger of the working people.'

Some employers are also in favour of the minimum wage. Hung Lap-kwan owns the Full Points Restaurant in Causeway Bay. Hung already pays staff HK\$30 an hour even though the new business is losing money. 'I believe a worker should be able to earn more than people on social welfare – otherwise, why would they work?' he asks. It is also argued that by paying people more money, there will be a positive effect on the economy because these wage earners will spend their extra cash on consumer goods.

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

The government has passed a law guaranteeing a minimum wage of HK\$28 per hour. Your group will take part in a debate on the motion *Adopting a minimum wage is a good idea*.

You are meeting to prepare for the debate. At this stage you do not know which side of the motion your team will support and so you should prepare arguments both for and against the motion. You should think about the effect of the law on workers, employers and the wider society.

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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.

Free market blues

Many people in the business sector fear that the new minimum wage of HK\$28 per hour will lead to more unemployment and weaken Hong Kong's ability to compete.

In general, the business community thinks that employers need the flexibility to determine how much workers should be paid. 'If sales decrease, we should be allowed to cut our costs, including wages, in order to stay in business. If there is a minimum wage, we lose that flexibility,' says Andrew Chan, a local business leader. Tommy Cheung from the catering industry agrees that the government should not have interfered with the free market economy, which he says has been good for Hong Kong in the past. 'We worry that if we have to pay more wages, our profits will fall and therefore many restaurants may have to close down,' remarks Cheung.

There is also concern that if employers find it difficult to pay the higher salaries demanded by the new

minimum wage law, workers will be replaced by cheaper alternatives. For example, watchmen may be replaced by closed-circuit television. Similarly, restaurants will employ fewer cleaning workers and use dish-washing machines instead. 'If that happens, the people who we want to protect will, unfortunately, lose their jobs. The minimum wage will affect the catering, retail, tourism and logistics sectors most. If operating costs increase, businesses most likely will raise prices and it is ultimately consumers who will pay the bill,' says business leader Chan.

Chan also thinks that the law should have exempted young people because of their lack of work experience. Since first-time workers are covered by the new law, he worries that employers will be reluctant to hire youngsters who are looking for their first job. This again may lead to higher levels of unemployment.

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

The government has passed a law guaranteeing a minimum wage of HK\$28 per hour. Your group will take part in a debate on the motion *Adopting a minimum wage is a good idea*.

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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.

Tough times

The Hong Kong government has set the minimum wage at HK\$28 per hour. This means that about 314,000 employees who earn less than the minimum wage will get a pay rise. But is this figure really enough to fulfil the basic needs of such workers?

Fung Yee washes dishes at the Happy Eater Restaurant in Causeway Bay. Although she earns more than the minimum wage, she still finds it hard to survive. 'After paying for meals and rent I only have money left to pay for transportation, so I don't think the minimum wage will make much difference to people who earn even less than me,' she says. However, dish washers who were only receiving HK\$18 per hour for their labour will clearly see some improvement in their lives if their employer is prepared to meet the new rate.

Security guard Chung Hon-ying will get HK\$400 a month more, now that the minimum wage

has been set at HK\$28 an hour. However, Chung says he will still need to use his savings to cover daily living expenses. He now earns about HK\$5,800 per month but after paying HK\$3,500 for rent, he only has enough money left for food. 'I don't spend a dollar on entertainment. To save money, I shop at wet markets when stalls are about to close. I cook for myself but if I really must eat out, I buy lunchboxes at supermarkets,' says Chung.

Surprisingly, Chung says he would not have supported a rate of HK\$33 per hour, the minimum wage that unions actually wanted. 'If the rate was \$33, a younger person may want my job and I'm sure my boss would prefer to hire this person. He may think a younger employee would work harder than me. As the hourly wage is only increasing by a couple of dollars, I think the company will continue to hire me,' says Chung.

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.

Pay rise for all

The government has set the minimum wage at HK\$28 per hour. Trade unions wanted an even higher hourly rate of HK\$33, but many employers argue that they will find it difficult to pay even the new lower sum.

Coffee shop owner Tso Tak-suet says that the minimum wage will not only increase the amount she pays her lowest-paid staff, but will also mean she has to raise the salaries of other staff. 'If I am paying the dish washer HK\$28 an hour, my more experienced staff will ask for more – a pay rise for all of them will probably boost my monthly expenses by some 8 percent. Eventually, I might just have to transfer some of the costs to customers,' she says.

The minimum wage may also make it harder for businesses to stay open in a market where costs for everything are getting higher, especially in industries where profit margins are already quite tight. Tso's

coffee shop makes a net profit of between HK\$20,000–30,000 a month but she worries that with rising costs, it will be difficult for her to make a decent profit that will allow her to survive. 'Business has been tough. Prices of raw materials continue to rise, rent surges every two years, and now that there's a minimum wage, that will increase my labour costs as well. I still need to maintain a reasonable profit margin if I want to stay in business,' she says.

After the introduction of the minimum wage, some employers have tried to cut other staff benefits in order to maintain profits. 'Most restaurants hire workers on a monthly basis but wages are calculated at an hourly rate under the minimum wage law. Companies in our industry now have to decide whether meal breaks will count as work hours,' says lawmaker Tommy Cheung, who represents the catering sector.

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 world-class city?

If you wandered around the streets of London, Sydney, Paris or many other world cities, you would notice the sound of music in the streets or see entertainers performing in an outside environment. These performers are called buskers and they only ask that passersby give them some spare cash for their efforts.

However, while busking is valued as a form of artistic expression in the West, many Hong Kong people think that buskers are no more than beggars. 'Chinese people still have the impression that busking is nothing more than begging. They feel it is a loss of face. Even professors and lecturers in art schools look down upon buskers. They never realise it is often a stepping stone for future stars,' says one street entertainer.

Indeed, many buskers are hoping to become professional musicians but in the meantime need to busk

to supplement their income. In addition, it is a good opportunity for them to practise under the pressure of the public gaze. 'All musicians spend a great deal of their time rehearsing, and busking is a great way to practise in public without too much pressure. The money also comes in useful, as it is difficult to have a full-time job as well as have sufficient time to practise and perform,' states classical guitarist Martin Hendrix.

In Western cities, busking is often encouraged in order to create a more vibrant street life. For example, in the Australian city of Melbourne, the pedestrian areas next to the river have many different performing groups who entertain large crowds. 'There are fire breathers and fire jugglers alongside performing arts groups and musicians. I really don't understand why Hong Kong does not encourage this as it's free and really very entertaining,' says Hong Kong overseas student Jennifer Chow.

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

The government has launched a campaign to promote the arts in order to advance Hong Kong's reputation as a world-class city. Your group is meeting to discuss the campaign.

You should first consider whether you think Hong Kong people would enjoy having more performers on the streets. You should then think about which street performers should be allowed to perform, how they should be chosen and where they could do this. You could also consider other restrictions that you think should be applied.

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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.

Clowning around

Street performers, otherwise known as buskers, often have a hard time performing on the streets of Hong Kong. This is because their activities are either considered illegal or they are accused of blocking entrances to shops and walkways.

Street performer Andrew So Chun-chau is a clown who entertains the public by juggling plates and doing mime on the busy streets of Mongkok and Causeway Bay. He was prosecuted by the police for performing on the city's streets in 2006. However, an off-duty policeman later approached him and said, 'You know, I personally love watching your performances.' This made So think that even though the authorities have a poor opinion of busking, many members of the public actually support street entertainment.

So has also been threatened by shopkeepers. On one occasion, five well-built staff from an electronics

shop told So to leave otherwise they would remove him themselves. 'The boss was complaining that I blocked his entrance, I felt threatened and called the police. But even before the police arrived, the audience had already helped me by telling the staff to leave me alone,' says So. Another busker, violinist David May, says he is frequently told to move by MTR staff when he is performing at MTR exits. 'I have several spots where there is plenty of room for me to play. I do not cause an obstruction but after a while I usually get told to move,' says May.

Andrew So says he busks because he loves bringing happiness to the public. 'Clowns make people happy,' he explains. He also believes that as a world-class city, Hong Kong needs to develop the arts. 'An international metropolis needs some artistic street life. Busking is free entertainment, which adds variety to our highly materialistic society,' So asserts.

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.

Class acts only

The government seems to be finally rethinking its attitude towards street performers, or buskers as they are otherwise known. It is drafting a plan to make open spaces, such as the plaza outside the Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, special areas for street performances. This pilot scheme will be called *Open Stage* and the aim is to cultivate public interest in the performing arts.

However, there are some conditions attached. The government does not just want any entertainer to perform but rather wants to choose entertainers by having them evaluated first. A panel of arts experts and government officials will select acts they think are appropriate. 'This is a good idea. The public are only interested in seeing good performers and so the selection process can guarantee this,' says citizen Victor Ho.

But many people are worried that such government interference will result in an environment

that is too controlled. 'Rather than allowing performers the freedom to use public space, this plan sounds like the authorities will impose control over all aspects of street entertainment. This takes away the opportunity for the public to decide for themselves what they like,' says art student Vicky Wong. 'I worry that these so-called artistic experts and government officials will choose rather traditional and unexciting acts and not the kind of thing I would like to see,' says expatriate Stephen Taylor.

Another concern is that buskers may not be interested in the new zones set aside for their use. 'You have to give a reason to attract artists to perform in such government-approved areas. These spaces are open spaces, which are quite different from the street. The nature of performing there would not be the same as performing in an actual street, where you can really interact with passersby,' says Banky Yeung Ping-kei, artistic director of FM Theatre Power.

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.

Traditional entertainer

Many people think of street performers as young people who are looking for a bit of extra cash to help them fund their musical ambitions. However, if you take a look around, you will find that many such street entertainers, or buskers as they are also known, are in fact quite elderly people.

Take Lo Chee-wah as an example. Previously a member of a Chinese opera group, the 68-year-old musician supplements his government pension by playing his erhu on the overpass connecting the IFC mall to the outlying island ferry piers. 'I come here a few times a week with my small amplifier and play for an hour or two. I can usually make a couple of hundred dollars,' says Lo. This is crucial in allowing Lo to make ends meet. 'Without this extra income I would struggle to survive,' he claims.

Lo thinks that where he plays is important as there are lots of foreigners passing by who are familiar

with and appreciate street performers. 'I get the impression that a lot of the foreigners who live on the outlying islands like my performances, as many of them regularly give me money and encouragement,' Lo says. Lo also thinks that in a small way he is promoting traditional Chinese music to the young. 'Young people need more exposure to traditional Chinese instruments and music being played live,' he says.

However, it would seem that not everyone is happy with the number of people who are busking in the same area. 'Although some of the buskers are very good, there are a lot of beggars who can only play a couple of notes on a mouth organ and block the way for commuters. The government should only give licences to those performers who have some talent and get rid of the rest,' says businesswoman Nancy Lee.

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.

An emergency situation

What is the difference between the MTR in Hong Kong and the metro system in Shanghai? For many people the one thing they notice is that, while you can visit the station toilet in Shanghai, this is not an option in Hong Kong's MTR stations. Some people think that this leaves tourists with a bad impression.

Take a look at many travel agents' websites and one can see the advice given to visitors to Hong Kong. 'There are no toilets in the MTR stations. McDonald's is everywhere and has clean toilets, so go before entering the station,' reads one such entry. However, many think that asking people to follow this advice is unacceptable. 'Given that Hong Kong claims to be an international city, it has little excuse for not providing toilet facilities for subway commuters,' says concerned citizen Andy Cheng.

Since some MTR journeys can last for over an hour, many people think that it is not fair to ask tourists

to search for toilet facilities on Hong Kong's busy streets. 'I spent 20 minutes trying to locate a toilet for my elderly mother as there was no toilet in the MTR station. It was very inconvenient,' states Korean visitor Ivy Kim.

In fact, there actually are toilets in the MTR but for staff use only. According to the MTR, 'when passengers ask for the use of toilet facilities, station staff will direct them to the nearby public toilets or extend the use of staff toilets in MTR stations to those with urgent needs.' However, this is not a good solution for two reasons. If MTR staff were dealing with every passenger who wanted to use the toilet, they would be unable to do their jobs properly. Moreover, passengers would not always be able to find staff to help them in time.

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

The MTR is asking members of the public for their views on the installation of toilets and other improvements at stations. They have organised a public forum for participants to share their views.

Your group is representing your school at this event and is meeting to prepare your ideas. You should first consider the proposal to install toilets at stations and discuss its advantages and disadvantages. You may also consider any other improvements that the MTR could introduce.

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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.

Getting a handle on crime

Few people would disagree that Hong Kong's MTR system is one of the most modern and efficient subway systems in the world. However, what surprises many people when they first use the transportation system, is that no toilet facilities are provided.

The MTR says that it has good reasons for this. The organisation worries that such facilities would be used for drug-taking and for criminal acts, such as rape, mugging and assault. 'If the MTR had toilets, I would not use them for fear of being a victim of crime. When I have used toilet facilities at some European train stations, I have often felt threatened as there were many dangerous-looking characters hanging around and this could easily happen in Hong Kong,' says commuter Vincent Lee.

However, many disagree with this view, saying that the old KCR railway system had toilets inside its

paid areas and crime did not appear to be a problem there. There also seems to be very little crime reported in other public toilet facilities. 'If such places really are black spots for crime, how about public toilets in shopping malls, in parks and on the street? Surely we should then close all public toilets if they are such nests of crime,' comments MTR user Nina Cheung.

As for the possibility of drug-taking in MTR toilets, many argue that the drug-taking scene has changed dramatically since the MTR started services in 1978. Back then, heroin was a big problem, with users visiting public toilets in order to inject the drug. Today most drugs are in tablet form and the use of heroin has been greatly reduced, so this argument appears to have become an outdated one. In addition, the police regularly patrol MTR stations and they act as a deterrent to drug-taking activities.

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.

What a relief

Although the MTR system in Hong Kong is considered by many to be one of the best transport systems in the world, the corporation has resisted calls for toilets to be provided for public use at stations. One of the reasons why it has done this is because of concerns about health.

Some members of the public worry that if the MTR provided toilets, poor hygiene would result. 'There is a risk of germs spreading through poor hygiene. I can't help thinking that the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak would have been so much worse if the MTR network had had public toilets. And then there's bird flu and swine flu. Surely, having so many members of the public all using the same toilet facilities would spread these diseases,' says housewife Sung Nee.

However, others disagree with her argument. They believe that all that is needed is for the MTR to

professionally manage such facilities to maintain a high standard of hygiene. 'Regarding the claim about germs being spread, surely that is not a problem if toilets are kept in a hygienic condition,' says commuter Andy Cheng.

Others say that if the MTR is so concerned about health, then it should have toilet facilities at all stations. 'If you feel unwell, you may desperately need to use the toilet. If you feel travel sick or just ill, then where can you go? I know you can ask staff to help but sometimes it's difficult to control when you are going to vomit,' says student Vicky Li. As for elderly commuters and young children, the need for toilet facilities is often paramount. 'Such people need greater access to toilets on transport networks as it is often more difficult for them to control their need to use the toilet,' claims doctor Edwin Ho.

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.

MTR not flush with cash

The MTR system in Hong Kong has never provided toilet facilities for the public in its stations. One of the reasons for this could be the high cost of building and maintaining such facilities.

As the MTR Corporation is a Hong Kong listed company, profitability is an obvious concern for shareholders. 'Although there are existing toilets for staff, the MTR would need to build more toilets to satisfy the needs of commuters if the company decided to provide toilets for passengers at its stations. This would not only cause disruption to users but would also cost quite a lot of money,' says engineer Darren Clark. These extra costs would probably need to be passed on to the consumer, resulting in higher fares.

Cleaning the toilets would be another expense because the MTR would have to either employ their own staff to do this job or hire a professional cleaning company. However, those who support the installation

of toilets say that the cost could be offset by charging commuters to use the facilities. 'In many railway stations in Europe, passengers have to pay to use the toilets and this means the railway companies can earn an income from this,' argues citizen Liz Barnes.

Others say that since the MTR is such a rich company, it could easily afford to provide toilet facilities without having to either charge customers or increase fares. 'The MTR is one of the largest landowners in Hong Kong as well as the primary transport company. I can't believe that from the massive profits they make, they cannot provide such a basic service to their customers,' says property agent Nigel Tang. Since there are already existing toilet facilities for MTR staff, expanding these should not pose too many problems. This would allow the public to use the toilets when they need to.

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

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Your group is representing your school at this event and is meeting to prepare your ideas. You should first consider the proposal to install toilets at stations and discuss its advantages and disadvantages. You may also consider any other improvements that the MTR could introduce.

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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.

Domestic drawbacks

Over the last decade, it has become more common for Hong Kong professionals to work on the Mainland. But if these people are married with families, how does such separation affect their family life?

Social workers report that long distance separations can lead to domestic problems. This situation can often cause conflicts between the husband's mother and his wife, especially if they live in the same home. 'My wife's relationship with my mother got much worse while I was living in Shanghai. When I was still in Hong Kong, I could ease tensions between them but after I left, they would argue a lot and this had a bad effect on my two young daughters,' says graphic designer Victor Ho.

Another negative consequence is that families can feel disconnected and that their lives are out of control. 'The person who's working on the Mainland

lacks emotional support from the family. He or she regrets missing important family events because of work on the Mainland, for example, when a husband can't come back when his wife gives birth. At the same time, the ones left in Hong Kong feel lonely and helpless,' says Angel Lin, a social worker with the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society.

The one who is working away from home may also suffer feelings of guilt. This is because they feel responsible for splitting up the family even though the family benefits financially. 'They want to be there for the family but can only come home once a week or even after longer periods. This may deepen their sense of guilt and frustration,' says Chinese University social work Professor Lau Yuk-king. The separation can also lead to couples growing apart as they experience less direct contact and share fewer intimate moments with their partner.

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

Your school is holding a series of presentations about family issues for the annual school *Open Day*. You are doing a group project about the effects that living apart can have on the family.

Your group is meeting to discuss what to include in the project. You should first think about the reasons why couples live apart and what effects this can have on family relationships. You should also consider what methods family members can use to cope with this situation.

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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.

Marriage of the future

In 2006, the Census Bureau reported that 3.6 million married Americans, not including separated couples, were living apart from their spouses.

Many people think that this situation is occurring due to a challenging world economy. Financial needs force more couples into commuter marriages, where couples live apart, in order to earn more money. 'Families today are undergoing all sorts of pressures that didn't exist before and are simply having to adjust to make things work,' says co-director of the *National Marriage Project* at Rutgers University, David Popenoe. Lecturer in psychology Reginald C. Richardson agrees, 'I think we are going to see more and more commuter marriages in the future, given the global economy and the fact that our technology now makes this more possible.'

Emma Child, who works for a financial services and corporate search firm, said that recently she had

noticed a significant increase in the willingness of couples to live in different places. 'Eighteen months ago, anyone searching for a new job would ask to be placed in their current location. Now many come in and say "I am prepared to move", even, if necessary, without the family. We send a lot of people to emerging markets right now. But honestly, who wants to move their family to an underdeveloped country? And if the spouse is working, who wants to give up the second income?' says Child.

So, how do families cope with being separated? For many, new technology helps families keep in contact. 'I use Skype to keep in touch. It's just like using the telephone but we can see each other at the same time thanks to the camera on the computer. Also, we can talk for as long as we like because once you have an internet connection the service is free,' says live-away father Chris O'Connor.

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.

Family fortunes

The number of Hong Kong people working on the Mainland has greatly increased since the handover. Statistics reveal that 218,200 Hong Kong citizens were working in China in 2008. Although separation from family can be hard, people who are familiar with this issue say that it can lead to improved family relationships.

Many who have been working on the Mainland agree with the old saying that 'absence makes the heart grow fonder'. Professor of social work at Chinese University Lau Yuk-king has studied the issue and believes that for many couples, being apart actually strengthens their relationship. 'For some families, once they get used to the separation, it becomes routine. But they cherish the time spent together even more,' says Lau.

Some people feel that, although the time spent with family members is much shorter than before, it is much more valued. 'Before I left Hong Kong, we met

at least once a week for dinner. Now that I live in Beijing we meet less frequently, but communicate better. I don't think it's a matter of how much time we spend together but the quality of those gatherings,' says Marco Yuen who works at a property agency in the Chinese capital. This view is echoed by away-from-home businessman Dennis Lo. 'Living in another city has made me appreciate my family members even more and we all treasure the limited time we spend together. Therefore, we make a special effort to have a good time,' says Lo.

But why do people feel the need to move away to find jobs? 'There are so many more opportunities in today's global economy and if you want to be successful and provide security for your family, you have to go where the money is. For many Hong Kong people, the opportunities that are present in China are too good to miss,' explains property developer Jason Lui.

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.

Divided we stand

Many families in today's world are living apart because of the location of the workplace. But why do families not move and live together when one of them finds a new job abroad?

Gemma Smith lives in the family home in New York with her two children, aged 17 and 15, while her husband Justin works in Brazil as an asset manager for a property management company. Smith only sees her husband once every six weeks when he flies home. But why did the rest of the family not join him? 'It was the perfect timing professionally for him, but the worst timing personally for our family,' says Smith. She thinks it would have been disruptive to move her daughter, who was in her final year of high school, and that moving to Brazil would also have been tough on her and her youngest son. 'We don't speak Portuguese, and we would both have had to make a new set of friends,' states Smith.

Of course, raising children as a single parent has its share of challenges, some of which are similar to those divorced parents face. 'I have all the responsibility now for the children and have had to become the serious disciplinarian. When my husband comes home he gets to be "Mr. Fun". Sometimes this causes arguments because his experience of being with the children is a positive one, while I always seem to be dealing with the difficulties of bringing up children, such as scolding them and making them finish their homework. This has had a bad effect on my relationship with them,' explains Smith.

So, is the money that Justin Smith earns worth all of this hardship? 'Of course, the money will provide us with some financial stability in the future. However, without such an incentive I don't know why anyone would break up their family,' Smith says.

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

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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.

Be punctual

A secondary school in the United Kingdom aims to reduce the number of students skipping school by introducing a reward scheme. Students can use reward points for treats including driving lessons or a game of snooker during break.

John O’Callaghan took over as head teacher at the school in Manchester with the task of improving performance, attendance and punctuality rates. In 2003, although the school’s attendance and punctuality rates were more than three times worse than the national average, now they are actually improving. In contrast, the rate remains the same in the rest of the country.

O’Callaghan says he took three measures to solve the problem. The first was to make the school a worthwhile and enjoyable place to come to. ‘If they’re coming to lessons that are boring or irrelevant, then they’re less likely to come to school,’ he explains. The curriculum was adapted so that it better suited the

students’ needs. The second measure was to reduce low attendance rates by holding both children and parents responsible. ‘There are a whole set of penalties for students if they don’t attend school. Also, we have clearly stated to parents that we will take them to court if they don’t follow the rules,’ remarks O’Callaghan.

O’Callaghan also realised that, in addition to the negative consequences, he needed something positive to offer students if he was to succeed. Therefore, the third measure introduced was a reward system for better attendance and behaviour. ‘Every day that you come in on time, you get a number of credits and they build up. It’s just recognising the good work the vast majority of students do,’ he says. They also receive a raffle ticket for every credit they achieve and a lucky draw is held each term with cash prizes. Consequently, the school’s academic performance has improved.

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

You are members of the School Council and have been asked to give your suggestions on how levels of classroom discipline, punctuality and academic performance can be improved.

You are meeting to discuss your ideas. You should think about what measures can be introduced to encourage good behaviour as well as what actions should be taken to penalise students who behave badly. You may also like to think about how such measures can help students when they leave school and get a job.

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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.

Star quality

A school in Ma On Shan has taken a big step forward in improving the academic performance of its students. The school offers movie-making classes for students, but only for those who have improved academic results and are well-behaved.

The school has already selected the first group of students to take part in the scheme. 'We recruited 100 students for a year-long movie-making venture. At the end, a 90-minute film will be screened in local cinemas. But if they don't behave, they can't make movies,' says the principal. The project has also attracted comedy director Lee Lik-chee, who has worked extensively with comedian Stephen Chow. Lee was so impressed by the school's commitment that he agreed to become a member of the school's management committee and teach students for nothing.

The school invested HK\$2.2 million from its own funds to establish a movie-making studio on one

floor of the campus. The studio comes complete with editing rooms and soundproof recording booths. 'Many schools have campus TV or radio stations which can train students' presentation or oral skills. But not one has a film studio with professional facilities. I told other schools that there must be a professional studio on campus if you are serious about making movies. You can't take a bunch of students outside for filming for safety reasons. But no one took my advice until now,' says Lee.

So, how will the project help students in the real world beyond school? 'Local secondary students are afraid of looking people in the eye. They speak in a shy and embarrassed manner in public. The main aim is to boost their self-confidence. All the practical skills like lighting or photography techniques will also give them an advantage over others when they go out to look for jobs,' says Lee.

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

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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.

Strict discipline

An American method of maintaining discipline in schools, known as assertive discipline, is being adopted by some schools in the United Kingdom. The results are transforming such schools.

The system is based on an inflexible set of rules, penalties and rewards. Six rules are displayed in each classroom along with the penalties for breaking them and the rewards for keeping them. Students must be punctual for classes and enter the classroom quietly, stay seated until asked to move, be properly equipped, listen to and follow instructions the first time they are given, put up their hands before speaking and finally, treat others with respect.

Students who have obeyed the rules are rewarded at the end of the class. The prizes range from bronze, silver or gold awards and certificates, to pens or even bars of chocolate. If the rules are broken, then a series of punishments are introduced. The student's name is

written on the board for the first offence. After that they may be given detention, removed from class or their parents may be told of the problem. Being expelled from school is the final consequence.

Bebington High School in Liverpool was one of the first to introduce this system. More than a year later, head teacher Rob Burns claims the scheme has completely changed the attitudes of the students of the school and has improved examination results. In one year, the number of students achieving five A to C GCSE grades has risen from 11 to 23 percent. At A-level, students have performed even better. 'With A-levels we received more grade As than any other grade. This school has never had results like that so pupils' self-esteem is now very high. They know what is expected of them,' says Burns. Now the school even holds seminars and in-service training for teachers from other schools.

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

Kick starting success

A secondary school in Ma On Shan has introduced a very interesting reward system for good behaviour, good academic performance and punctuality – the students can play soccer all afternoon and are trained by a coach from Spanish soccer giants Barcelona.

The school has come to an agreement with local soccer club Kitchee, which gives the school HK\$3.5 million a year to train the students. Kitchee chief executive Ken Ng regularly checks students' report cards to make sure they are maintaining their grades. 'I have seen far too many kids who play very good soccer but fail all their subjects. Some kids told me they had not done any homework for four years. Many schools are indulgent towards them as they bring glory to the school by winning competitions. They can get away with anything but the students are the ones who suffer in the end,' says Ng.

Now the school's programme is so popular it has had to turn many applicants away. 'No other school allows us so much time to play soccer. I can play it every day for the whole afternoon. I came here only because of the soccer programme,' says Form Four student Tsang Kin-fong.

However, students are also aware that if their school performance falls behind, they will be unable to continue. 'If they fail to do what their class teachers say, they know they can't play,' says coach Josep Ferre. Two students were recently thrown out for bad behaviour. 'They begged me to let them back. But they can only apply again next summer. Anyone who breaks school rules is banned from joining competitions or is kicked out. A 10-day trip to Spain with expenses paid by Kitchee will be organised for Easter, but only those who perform well in class can join,' says the school principal.

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

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Candidate A

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Home sweet home

In the United States, tough economic times have led to an increase in the number of adults moving back into their parents' home. According to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, 13 percent of parents with grown-up children say at least one of their adult sons or daughters has moved back home in the last year.

Adults most likely to return home are those who have just finished university, those who have lost their job and those recently divorced. For university graduates, it makes good economic sense to move back in with their parents because life is comfortable and rent is either low or free. 'I moved back to live with my folks because I have just finished my studies and need to repay educational loans,' says former student Amanda Jones.

Another advantage of living at home is the emotional support that parents can give. 'When I split

up from my wife after a year of marriage, it was important for me to have someone close to talk to and someone that I could trust. My mum and dad were great and helped me to move on and regain my confidence after my divorce. I guess I really needed to feel loved at that time,' says Gary Lock.

Parents can also provide financial support to those who are in debt, short of cash or in low-paid employment. 'As well as not paying any rent I get free food, my laundry done, the use of a car to get around and all the comforts of home. Fortunately, I get on really well with my parents so we enjoy the time we spend together and they are happy to help out. Of course, when I get a better job with more money I will think about getting my own place,' says factory worker Leon Santa Cruz.

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

Your liberal studies teacher has asked you to perform a drama at school on the topic of adult children living at home. You are meeting to brainstorm ideas for the performance.

Your group should first consider the reasons why more adults are living with their parents. You should then discuss the benefits and drawbacks of having adult children living at home from the perspective of both the children and their parents. Finally you should think about how your drama can reflect these issues.

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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.

Parental concern

In the United Kingdom, the high cost of buying property and high rents have resulted in many young adults returning to live with their parents. For many parents, spending time with their adult children can be a pleasure. However for others, having their grown-up children at home can be difficult, especially when the children have returned after living on their own. Problems encountered include family tension, issues of respect and money.

It can be difficult for parents to readapt to living with their grown-up children. As adults, their offspring no longer expect to be treated like children but many parents still see them as kids and this can cause problems in their relationship. 'I still treat my children as kids even though they are fully grown. I know this annoys them but I worry that if they cook a meal themselves, they might burn down the kitchen or, if they go out without wearing enough clothes, they might catch a cold,' says mother Martha Clark.

Another problem is agreeing on a set of rules that should be followed to maintain family harmony. 'I used to have terrible arguments with my son when he came to live with us after finishing university. I felt that he no longer respected the rules of the house now that he was an adult. Both my wife and I found it very difficult to accept him bringing girlfriends home to stay overnight. He never asked if this was okay with us and if he stayed out late we would never know what time he might return,' states father James Dillon.

Moving back into the family home can also become an economic burden that can affect parents' financial future. This can be especially true if they are approaching retirement. Having to pay for an extra person's living expenses or paying off their child's debts can be financially devastating.

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 family unit

Unlike in most Western countries, it is quite common to see adults in Asia living at home with their parents. In a big city such as Hong Kong, it may be argued that financial reasons contribute to this phenomenon, but cultural factors also play a significant role.

Although the number of adult children living at home is rising in the West, Asian families are far more accustomed to having many generations living under the same roof. 'Different cultures have different values. I know plenty of people who are between 23 and 28 years old that still live with their parents. They have well-paid jobs but our culture doesn't expect you to be on your own after 18 like in the West,' says live-at-home businessman Antony Wong.

Asian families are generally a lot more dependent on one another. This means, for example, that young adults are expected to look after siblings or

grandparents and to help out around the house. 'Most Asian families like to be together. Most of them move into the same city or even the same house just so they can be with their family. I think most Asians get together for family dinners much more regularly than Westerners. Spending time with one another is important for us as a family,' says Thai mother Songtip Pattaporn.

Another characteristic of Asian families is that they are usually more conservative. This means that younger members of the family have a responsibility to follow the decisions made by the head of the family without argument. It also means that female family members are expected to live with their parents until they get married. Once this has happened, they may then be expected to live with their husband's family. 'Although I'm very independent, I feel safe living at home knowing that my family cares about everything I do,' says secretary Alice Tang.

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

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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.

Family friction

With the economy in America showing little sign of improvement and unemployment rates continuing to remain high, many young people are choosing to live at home. But how do their parents feel about this?

Adam Jefferson's 25-year-old son finished university and now has a low-paid job while living in the family home. Is Adam happy about this? 'I'm actually very frustrated! My son lacks social skills, has no friends and just hangs around the house all the time. His mum does everything for him – cleans up after him, makes his dinners, does his laundry and puts it all away. Yesterday, she even washed his car for him while he sat on the sofa watching sport on TV,' he says.

So, how does Jefferson's wife feel about this? 'My wife is happy to do everything for him as she thinks it's nice to have him around and it makes her feel

useful. I understand the need for parents to be supportive, to a degree, but to wait hand and foot on a perfectly able adult just doesn't make sense. The most disturbing thing is that he'll need to live at home for another five years before he can pay off his debts,' says Jefferson.

Jefferson is worried that the comfort of home will mean his son will be living with them forever. 'He needs to go out and experience the real world. Living at home is too comfortable and doesn't motivate him to find a job and make his own way in the world. I hate to say this about my own flesh and blood but he needs to see how hard life can be. He needs to realise that many people at his age are working two jobs to pay off their student loans and these people have to cover their own rent too,' he concludes.

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

Your liberal studies teacher has asked you to perform a drama at school on the topic of adult children living at home. You are meeting to brainstorm ideas for the performance.

Your group should first consider the reasons why more adults are living with their parents. You should then discuss the benefits and drawbacks of having adult children living at home from the perspective of both the children and their parents. Finally you should think about how your drama can reflect these issues.

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 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.

Public protection

There are many sites in Hong Kong where private land next to country parks is at risk from unapproved development. The reason these areas of private land did not become part of the country parks is that they were originally villages where the land was actively farmed. As the farmland has been abandoned for a long time, some landowners are eager to develop such sites. However, public pressure is forcing the government to take action to preserve these areas.

One such area at risk is Sai Wan, located along the scenic coastline of Tai Long Wan in Sai Kung Country Park and regularly visited by hikers such as Law Kwok-keung. One morning while walking along the coast, Law discovered a boat carrying two digging machines landing on the beach. Law, who is also a district councillor, initially thought it was government work so he did not pay much attention. He later found out that the diggers had been sent there by a businessman who wanted to build a private home.

Law was so outraged he set up a hikers' network which exchanges information about suspicious development in the countryside and reports it to the authorities. With 20 to 30 core members, the group regularly investigates protected areas and rural villages that could be threatened by developers. 'We want to do what we can to protect these green areas and save them, so that our future generations can still treasure them,' says the group's unofficial leader, Chan Kwok-ming.

Law now keeps his eyes open in order to spot any environmental abuses. 'I always look out for any places where vegetation has been removed or areas where there is possible illegal development,' he says. As for Sai Wan, public pressure has made the government impose a temporary protection order that will hopefully stop all future development in the area.

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

You belong to a student organisation that is worried about the destruction of green areas in the New Territories. You want to inform other students about this issue by producing a booklet.

You are meeting to discuss the content of the booklet. You should identify the problem and then consider what members of the public, government departments and green groups are doing to stop illegal development and dumping of construction waste. You should then think about effective solutions to address the problem. You should also discuss the design of the booklet.

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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.

Facebook fury

Tens of thousands of Facebook users opposed to the development of the unspoilt Tai Long Wan coastline have forced the government to consider classifying it as a coastal protection area.

Within a few days of discovering that a beach was being destroyed by a local businessman, a Facebook group was set up to protest against the destruction of the area. The group attracted more than 35,000 members and was soon growing at more than 1,000 an hour. Former journalist Wayne Yim said he established the group to share his frustration about how the land had been damaged. 'I didn't realise how the public felt about it until I set up the group. I visit Sai Wan with my friends a few times every year and it is a place of great beauty,' says Yim. He also arranged a protest against the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department through the social networking site.

But it is not just one group that has been set up. Another Facebook group is also planning a protest at Tai Long Wan. 'We may camp there in order to stop any further development,' says Damon Wong. Wong hiked to the area with 16 Facebook users he had met online and filmed the destruction that had already taken place there. 'Personally, I have had enough of developers destroying our beautiful environment for their own selfish gain,' he says.

Local businessmen and green groups have also joined the fight. Paul Zimmerman, convenor of Designing Hong Kong says, 'It's a wake-up call. The Development Bureau should also be held accountable, as it has failed to prevent development of the site.' Alan Leung, conservation manager of World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong) said the group would urge the government to take control of the land in order to conserve the natural environment.

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.

Whose job is it anyway?

Several areas in the New Territories have recently been at risk from illegal development and environmental damage. The public has become increasingly aware of this problem and many groups have been formed to report cases of abuse. However, it is actually the job of several different government departments to monitor such areas.

The Lands Department has about 200 officers who investigate all suspected cases where either land use laws have been broken or land has been illegally occupied. In addition, the Planning Department has about 40 people who check that developments in the New Territories are following the agreed plan. Within Hong Kong's 24 country parks, there are also 164 rangers responsible for patrolling these areas to ensure that there is no illegal development of the land. However, it is unclear how many officers patrol these areas on a regular basis or how they conduct their duties, since none of these departments has been willing to allow journalists to accompany their officers at work.

The number of cases of environmental abuse that the public has reported is greater than that exposed by these government departments. According to the Planning Department, public complaints last year accounted for 60 percent of all instances of illegal development and 90 percent of illegal dumping cases, which was the fastest-growing offence. Also, 93 percent of the cases involving illegal occupation of government land that the Lands Department investigated were in response to public complaints.

Looking at these statistics, it would appear that the public is doing the government's job. 'I believe the public feels that the relevant government departments do not bother to monitor sensitive areas to make sure no illegal activity is going on. In addition, when they find instances of such unauthorised work, the government seems unable to do anything about it,' says environmental economist Stephen Lau.

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

You belong to a student organisation that is worried about the destruction of green areas in the New Territories. You want to inform other students about this issue by producing a booklet.

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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.

Manpower deficit

Two years ago, villagers in So Lo Pun, a village near the border, reported finding their farmland covered in construction waste. Hikers and green groups also complained about the removal of vegetation and the occupation of government land in the area. Many members of the public who have protested against unauthorised, environmentally-destructive development explain that the reason why they are active is because the relevant government departments are understaffed.

As a result of the lack of manpower, inspectors are overburdened with work. Under-staffing makes it difficult for the departments to monitor areas and enforce the law. 'Our inspectors make eight or nine site visits a day and are responsible for a wide range of duties, including following up complaints, posting notices on sites, conducting land surveys and updating land records. They conduct inspections of both private and government land. They work in bad weather, encounter hostile landowners and walk on difficult paths. It's never easy,' says one planning official who did not want to be named.

Green groups also doubt that the government has enough manpower to monitor the land in the New Territories, especially areas which are of ecological importance. 'I believe that it might be asking too much of enforcement officers to detect offences in remote areas. However, weak policing might encourage more people to destroy the environment,' says conservation manager of World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong), Alan Leung.

Although public monitoring has been shown to be an effective way of keeping a check on unauthorised land development, many environmental activists believe the government should increase manpower to enforce the law in the New Territories. It should also use technology where appropriate. 'This could include placing surveillance cameras at known black spots or installing GPS satellite tracking devices on trucks carrying construction waste,' says a member of the environmental group Greenpeace.

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

You belong to a student organisation that is worried about the destruction of green areas in the New Territories. You want to inform other students about this issue by producing a booklet.

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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.

Too expensive

While the government wants to reduce the number of classes schools operate, the Professional Teachers Union (PTU) would like the same number of classes but fewer students per class. This would allow for the idea of small class teaching to become a reality, a measure the government opposes for financial reasons.

Supporters of small class teaching say that, with student numbers falling, now is the perfect time to implement smaller class sizes. Statistics released by the Education Bureau show that by 2016, the number of Form One students will drop by nearly 24 percent. They also point to the successful introduction of small class teaching to the primary sector in 2009. Out of a total of 463 primary schools, 318 now have classes of 25 students.

The Education Bureau claims that the introduction of small class teaching to secondary schools would cost too much money. 'If schools were

to reduce the number of students in each class, the cost of educating a secondary student would double. The government spent HK\$52 billion on education last year. Of this figure, the secondary sector took up 40 percent. If the cost per student is doubled, it will take up 80 percent,' says Secretary for Education Michael Suen.

However, Fung Wai-wah, the president of the PTU argued that due to the decreasing number of students, it would be cost effective to adopt small class teaching. 'The steep decline in population has led to extra resources. The cost of educating a secondary school student per year is HK\$41,000. The reduction of 22,000 pupils over seven years will amount to savings of HK\$4 billion for the government. Why not make use of the extra resources to improve education quality through small class teaching?' he asks.

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

Your head teacher has asked students to research the issue of small class teaching and decide whether reducing the size of classes in schools is beneficial to society or not.

Your group is meeting to discuss your opinions about the issue. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of small class teaching and decide whether such a move benefits society or not, giving reasons to support your decision. You may also like to think about how you will let the public know your opinions.

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

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Candidate A

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.

A golden opportunity

Hong Kong's Secretary for Education Michael Suen has recently said that small class teaching will not be adopted anytime soon, even though many educationalists see the present as the perfect time to reduce the number of students in each class.

One of the arguments the government makes for not introducing smaller class sizes in secondary schools is that they believe there is little benefit gained by students. They point out that overseas research has shown that although it was beneficial for primary school students when their class sizes were reduced, these advantages did not continue when children started studying at secondary school. 'The research has shown that the benefits gained from small class teaching decrease the older a student becomes. Therefore, it is questionable whether, by the time a student gets to senior school, there is any benefit at all,' says American academic Martin Johnson.

This argument has been challenged by some educationalists. They say that too little research has

actually been carried out for the government to make such claims. 'While much research has been carried out on small class teaching in primary schools, not much research has been done in the secondary field. Michael Suen should base his arguments on evidence,' says Institute of Education professor Lai Kwok-chan.

Several educators think that there are many benefits to small class teaching regardless of how old students are. 'Irrespective of age, the smaller a class, the more intense the interaction between students and the teacher. Teachers can give more feedback and they can spend more time on students' learning differences. If it's just lecture-style teaching, it won't make any difference if you have 10 or 60 people in a class. But if a class involves interaction and group activity, students in smaller groups can enjoy more personal attention from teachers,' says Institute of Education English professor David Li.

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

Your head teacher has asked students to research the issue of small class teaching and decide whether reducing the size of classes in schools is beneficial to society or not.

Your group is meeting to discuss your opinions about the issue. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of small class teaching and decide whether such a move benefits society or not, giving reasons to support your decision. You may also like to think about how you will let the public know your opinions.

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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.

Facilitating change

The government is resisting a move towards smaller class sizes in secondary schools, as it claims that research has shown that there is little advantage to students at this level. Teaching unions think differently, suggesting that now is the time for action to reduce class sizes. However, there are concerns that a switch to smaller classes would test both teachers and school facilities.

One potential problem is that teachers will need extra training to deal with the kind of teaching methodology required when teaching smaller numbers of students. 'The classes should become less teacher-centred and more focused on the individual students. Teachers will need to learn to provide more interactive learning opportunities and so their teaching style will need to change accordingly,' says educationalist Sarah Bright.

A further problem could also be that the schools themselves will not be suitable for small class teaching.

'Most of the school buildings were designed for large classes and so you are going to have classrooms that are too large for the smaller class size. It is important that the classrooms are suitable for smaller classes and this means they should really be smaller rooms with furniture that can be moved for different classroom activities. This is especially important for small group work situations,' says school principal Mark Lee.

However, some people think that the best solution is a balance between large and small class teaching, making the most efficient use of available resources. 'It is possible to have very large classes and still help students to pass exams, but other aspects of education such as critical thinking skills and creativity are not developed. At university, there is a balance of lectures, seminars and tutorials so why not in secondary schools? Some aspects of education can be taught effectively in a large class; some cannot,' argues academic David Jameson.

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

Your head teacher has asked students to research the issue of small class teaching and decide whether reducing the size of classes in schools is beneficial to society or not.

Your group is meeting to discuss your opinions about the issue. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of small class teaching and decide whether such a move benefits society or not, giving reasons to support your decision. You may also like to think about how you will let the public know your opinions.

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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.

A challenge to teach

Many parents and teachers want to see classes with fewer students. Although small class teaching in many other countries means teaching fewer than 10 students, here in Hong Kong a small class would be considered to be around 24 students. But what changes in teaching styles are necessary for small class teaching to be a success?

Small class teaching allows students more time to communicate. Students generally feel more comfortable asking questions and voicing opinions in small classes. However, shy pupils who have been able to avoid attention in large classes may find it difficult to participate. 'At first, you really have to be careful that you don't put too much pressure on these students. At the same time, you need to slowly help them gain in confidence,' says teacher Pat Given.

In addition, teachers of small classes need to design plenty of activities for students. This is because

there are more opportunities for pair and group work in the class and the teacher often needs to have other follow-up tasks for groups who have finished their work before the others. 'The teacher needs to be very well prepared for class, with a range of different tasks to keep some students busy while other students are finishing the activity. On the plus side, students are constantly being engaged with a variety of learning opportunities,' says educationalist Simon Perks.

Smaller class teaching also means the teacher needs to have good organisational skills. Group sizes should be varied, as should the members who make up each group. This allows students to work with different people and develop their social skills. 'Classroom organisation is a key factor. Teachers need to be able to divide up students in different ways. Some activities demand that students should be of a similar level while others require a mix of abilities or genders,' states teacher Sue Lee.

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

Your head teacher has asked students to research the issue of small class teaching and decide whether reducing the size of classes in schools is beneficial to society or not.

Your group is meeting to discuss your opinions about the issue. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of small class teaching and decide whether such a move benefits society or not, giving reasons to support your decision. You may also like to think about how you will let the public know your opinions.

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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.

Drink-driving: a bad business

Driving in mainland China can be a deadly experience. In 2009, the Ministry of Public Security reported 67,759 deaths from road traffic accidents. Of this number, more than 17,000 people died due to accidents caused by drink-driving. Because of this, the authorities are going to introduce a new law that will make drink-driving a criminal offence, whether or not any accident has taken place. However, to reduce the number of drink-driving cases, social drinking traditions must change.

Drinking at meals, banquets and other social events is an important part of Chinese culture. In government circles, an estimated HK\$571 million of public money is spent every year on eating and drinking. This is four times more than the amount of money spent on health care. And this does not even take into account the amount private businesses spend on entertainment.

One reason for this excessive consumption is to develop special relationships that help one's business connections. In these situations, people consume a lot of alcohol within a short time. 'Every day, I have to drink lots of alcohol for the sake of my business. If I do not drink, my friends and customers think I do it on purpose to hurt their feelings. But when the law takes effect, people will know it's not an excuse. I will need to drive so I won't be able to drink,' states real estate company director Zhang Jun.

So, it would appear that one of the ways to reduce the number of drink-drivers is to change the perception that it is acceptable to consume alcohol and then drive. 'The new law will allow people to avoid drinking because they will be committing a crime. At present, a crime only takes place if you actually have an accident,' says lawyer Jiang Yu.

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

You work for a mainland advertising company which has been hired to produce an anti drink-driving advertisement for television that will be released to coincide with the launch of the new drink-driving law.

You are meeting to discuss the content of the advertisement. You should think about how people need to change their behaviour in order to reduce instances of drink-driving, and how the law will be enforced. You should also consider how to make your message as powerful as possible.

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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.

Driving away a new generation

Drink-driving on the Mainland is to be outlawed when a new law is introduced. The government has decided to take action because accidents involving drunk drivers have been on the increase in recent years. But it would seem that education at a young age will need to occur if drink-driving is to be seriously reduced.

Many young people have grown up thinking that drinking and driving is all right. 'It has always seemed acceptable to drink and drive so we never thought about the consequences. I think we should teach our children that drink-driving is dangerous, so that society can avoid suffering the consequences,' says Wang Hui, who lost her daughter and husband in an accident caused by a young drunk driver.

Because drink-driving is tolerated in society, when young people grow up and can drive themselves, they still think that drinking and driving is acceptable.

Young and inexperienced drivers are considered dangerous and if they are drunk, it only makes matters worse. 'Drink-driving is quite serious in China. Beijing had more than 4 million vehicles on the road last year. Can you imagine how many new drivers with not much experience are on the road every day? And since some of them surely drink alcohol, how many innocent people's lives are put at risk by them?' questions Wang.

Many people think the best way to change young minds is to have a vigorous anti drink-driving campaign in schools and on television. 'If we can reach out to children and teach them the dangers of drink-driving, this message will also get passed on to their parents. Parents need to consider why they would endanger their children's lives by drinking alcohol and driving when their children are so precious,' says school principal Gu Wei.

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

You work for a mainland advertising company which has been hired to produce an anti drink-driving advertisement for television that will be released to coincide with the launch of the new drink-driving law.

You are meeting to discuss the content of the advertisement. You should think about how people need to change their behaviour in order to reduce instances of drink-driving, and how the law will be enforced. You should also consider how to make your message as powerful as possible.

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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 tougher approach

With 75 million vehicles on its roads, the Chinese government has finally decided to make drink-driving a crime. The new law states that anyone who drives after drinking alcohol can be arrested and fined.

At present, the law says that a criminal offence only takes place if someone who is drink-driving is involved in an accident. This means it is lawful to drink and drive so long as you do not have an accident. However, many people think that this does nothing to deter people from drink-driving. 'Current laws do little to make drivers realise the serious damage that drink-driving could cause,' says lawyer Chen Hui.

Therefore, it is hoped that by changing the law for drink-driving, the problem can be addressed. 'If people who drink and drive are punished by law, it will make them realise that drink-driving is indeed a criminal offence. Then, I believe people won't do it

anymore,' says Wang Hui, whose husband and young daughter were killed by a drunk driver. She also thinks it is important that those who drink and drive recognise the consequences for their own lives. 'For me, it destroyed my family; for the drunk driver who did this, the rest of his life will be affected as well. He was only 30 years old and had just got married,' says Wang.

However, many people think that changing the law will only be effective if the law is properly enforced. 'We have so many laws already but many people still abuse them because they know there is little chance of getting caught,' says human rights advocate Li Dan. So, will the police be able to enforce the new law? 'Of course, we can't be everywhere but we will have nationwide campaigns to catch people who break the new law. The message will spread that if you drink and drive, you risk being caught and punished,' says police chief Zhu Dawai.

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

You work for a mainland advertising company which has been hired to produce an anti drink-driving advertisement for television that will be released to coincide with the launch of the new drink-driving law.

You are meeting to discuss the content of the advertisement. You should think about how people need to change their behaviour in order to reduce instances of drink-driving, and how the law will be enforced. You should also consider how to make your message as powerful as possible.

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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.

Driven to drink

In a recent clampdown on drinking and driving, mainland authorities warned more than 28,000 drivers who had drunk alcohol before getting behind the wheel. Now the law regarding drink-driving will be changed so that anybody caught driving after drinking will be punished. With an established drinking culture to overcome, some companies are providing services to help people deal with the new law.

Drive-home services employ people to drive drinkers home in their own cars. 'My company carried home more than 110 customers every day in the weeks when the anti-drink-driving campaign was in force. This is a twentyfold increase from five years ago when I first established this service,' says He Jin, chief executive of the Beijing Benaonda Drive-back Company. The company charges RMB80 for each journey. Now about seven or eight companies in Beijing are providing similar services.

It would seem sensible practice for drinkers to just call a taxi. However, He Jin disagrees. 'Although taking a cab is a cheaper way for drinkers to get back home, many taxi drivers are rather reluctant to do it,' he says. Beijing taxi driver Zhang Changyun explains why. 'Drinkers always vomit in my cab. It's disgusting. I can't use my cab for the whole day so I refuse to carry those who have been drinking heavily,' he says.

So, what is the advantage of calling a drive-back company? Because the company's drivers drive the clients' cars, car owners do not have to go back to the restaurants to pick up their cars the next day. This is something they would have to do if they took a taxi. Also, because they are going home in their own cars, if they are sick, it is their own problem and not the driver's. 'This service is going to become more popular if people still want to drink socially but don't want to break the law,' says lawyer Zhou Zhuzhu.

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

You work for a mainland advertising company which has been hired to produce an anti drink-driving advertisement for television that will be released to coincide with the launch of the new drink-driving law.

You are meeting to discuss the content of the advertisement. You should think about how people need to change their behaviour in order to reduce instances of drink-driving, and how the law will be enforced. You should also consider how to make your message as powerful as possible.

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.

Spy in the sky

Since December 2008, there have been a number of attacks in Hong Kong where acid has been thrown from rooftops causing injury to pedestrians, much to the concern of district councillors and the police. Local councillors believe installing closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in public areas will prevent more acid attacks.

'We propose installing "eye in the sky" CCTV cameras in the area, though there may be concerns about privacy. But in light of the recent attacks, it is an option,' said Central and Western District Council Chairman Chan Tak-chor. These cameras would be able to cover rooftops in places where the police suspect the acid attacks might happen.

However, some councillors questioned whether the introduction of sophisticated 'eye in the sky' spy cameras was worthwhile. This was because at HK\$1.7 million, the cameras would not only be expensive to

install, but would also only provide poor quality video. 'I had a look at the quality but actually I could not identify anybody from the footage,' said councillor Chan Wai-keung, who suggested that ordinary cameras be installed at building entrances instead. 'Each ordinary CCTV camera only costs a few thousand dollars and can record exactly who goes in and out of a building,' said Chan.

Another concern regarding the effectiveness of 'eye in the sky' CCTVs is that due to the uneven height of buildings and the existence of shop signs, there would be a lot of blind spots. Although Superintendent of Kowloon West regional headquarters Joseph Yeung accepted this criticism, he put forward the idea that the cameras would act as a deterrent even though the picture quality was poor. Additionally, he thought that the introduction of these cameras would assist the police in organising their manpower strategically to prevent such attacks.

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

Spy cameras, such as CCTV and speed cameras which record information, are believed to be useful in maintaining security and safety in society. Your group is working on a project entitled *A Safer Society* and has decided to talk about the use of spy cameras.

You should first think about ways these cameras can help to make society safer. You should then discuss where you think they should be installed and give reasons to support your decisions. You should also consider issues of privacy and whether, in certain situations, it should be illegal to install spy cameras.

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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.

Safer streets?

The United Kingdom (UK) has more closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras than any other country in the world. In fact, it is estimated that there is one camera for every 14 citizens. The government claims the reason why it has allowed so many cameras to be installed is to deter crime. But how successful have they been in keeping society safe?

According to statistics from a report published by the Liberal Democratic Party, the surveillance cameras have not led to a decrease in crime. 'Police are no more likely to catch offenders in areas with hundreds of cameras than in those with hardly any,' states the report. Another report, written in 2008 by UK police chiefs, found that only 3 percent of crimes were solved by CCTV.

CCTV cameras have also been used by police to deal with anti-social behaviour caused by drinking too much alcohol in city centres and on housing estates.

Police say that this has been the greatest benefit of having cameras in the centres of towns and cities. 'There has been a big problem with young people getting drunk and causing trouble, such as vandalising property and fighting. We can now see where the problem is taking place and take prompt action to stop such troublemakers,' says police chief Matthew Taylor.

But it is not just the police who view CCTV images. In 2009, a website called Internet Eyes was established that would pay members of the public to watch CCTV and report any criminal activities they witnessed to the police. However, many civil rights groups oppose this scheme as they believe it invades people's privacy. 'This is clearly labelling all citizens as potential law-breakers. Asking the public to spy on their fellow citizens is offensive. Furthermore, this could lead to a society where citizens increasingly do not trust one another,' says civil liberties campaigner Dick Turpin.

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.

Home alone

Many people believe that having closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in our cities can deter crime. However, should we be spying on people such as domestic helpers in our own homes, and is it actually legal to do so?

In Hong Kong it is legal to install a CCTV camera in your home as long as it is not in the bathroom or in the room in which a domestic helper sleeps. However, the cameras cannot be secretly installed and therefore you must inform the maid that the cameras are present. 'My employer informed me that for security reasons there are cameras around the house. I am fine with this as I know the cameras are there and do not feel that they have been installed to spy on me in particular. In fact, as far as I know, my employers would only check the video if they thought something had been stolen,' says helper Gloria Santos.

One local resident is thinking about installing a CCTV camera in his home because he suspects his family's helper has been going through his personal documents. 'Our maid has been looking through our papers. When confronted, she denied it but later admitted that she was afraid we were trying to interview another maid. We have no privacy when domestic helpers listen to all our conversations and are bold enough to look through our personal documents. So much for trying to trust them,' he says.

However, another citizen thinks installing a CCTV camera is not the answer. 'If you don't trust your helper and are thinking about getting a camera installed, then I suggest that you just get a new helper. How can you go out of the house if you are always wondering what's happening while you are away?' asks resident Eddy Chan.

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.

Speed kills

If you ask a British motorist to tell you what they hate most, they will usually say speed cameras. Since 1992, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of speed cameras installed on Britain's roads. However, the government is now being forced to make financial cutbacks and so the cameras may go.

Traffic safety campaigners say that the speed cameras have made the roads safer. 'I am shocked that local governments are threatening to remove speed cameras. They are a proven and cost-effective way of reducing deaths and injuries on the roads by controlling speed,' says road safety representative Julie Townsend. In fact, a 2004 study by University College London monitored 4,000 speed cameras over a three-year period and reported a 42 percent reduction in deaths and serious injuries at sites where speed cameras were located.

But many motorists do not feel that the cameras create a safer driving environment. First of all, because

the cameras have to be identified by a sign at the side of the road, local people know where they are and so they slow down only when they know they will be passing a camera. Secondly, when driving on unfamiliar roads, it can be distracting having to stay below speed limits. 'I find myself constantly looking at the speedometer to make sure that I do not exceed the speed limit. This means I'm not paying as much attention to the road ahead,' says driver Max Wilson.

Other people think that the installation of speed cameras is just a way for the government and the police to monitor their movements. 'I should be free to drive wherever I like without there being cameras recording my car registration number. I think this is a fundamental right. Using such cameras is an invasion of my privacy,' says motorist Peter Toddington.

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.

An unknown number

The number of babies born in Hong Kong to mainland parents grew from 2,070 in 2003 to 29,766 in 2009. The Census and Statistics Department conducted a survey of mainland parents between 2007 and 2009. It was found that the majority of their children, who were taken back to the Mainland after birth, would return to Hong Kong between the ages of three and eleven. This could cause huge problems for the school system if it had to provide education for an increasing number of students, especially as such numbers remain largely unknown.

Secretary for Education Michael Suen says that, since it is difficult to gather information about such children once they leave the city, it is not easy to determine their educational needs. However, Hong Kong University professor Yip Siu-fai accuses the government of poor planning. 'The government's strategy now is to act only when these children turn up in front of them. The lack of early planning can lead to severe educational and social problems,' he says.

Although most of the children born to mainland parents in Hong Kong have not yet reached primary school age, they are an increasing presence in kindergartens. One kindergarten in Sheung Shui recently had applications from 1,000 mainland parents for 240 places. This was a 25 percent rise from the previous year. Clearly, there is trouble ahead if such numbers are repeated elsewhere.

Many people think the government should do more to keep track of Hong Kong-born children living on the Mainland. Yip suggests that the relevant government institution send a yearly birthday card to parents of such children. In this way, useful information about the school system could be passed on to them and they could be asked what plans the parents have for their child's education. This would allow the government to plan a better strategy for the future.

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

Your teacher has asked you to work on a project about the future of education in Hong Kong. Your group has decided to focus on the topic of *The education of children born in Hong Kong to mainland parents*.

You are meeting to discuss the topic. You should think about the problems that mainland parents have to consider when choosing a school in Hong Kong. You should also consider the difficulties such children face when they attend schools here and think of possible solutions. You may also discuss how schools here will benefit by having students from the Mainland.

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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.

A relative problem

In Hong Kong, the number of babies being born to mainland parents has been rising dramatically over the last few years. Surprisingly, today 45.5 percent of all births in the city involve mainland mothers. Although many mainland parents want their children to study in Hong Kong schools, it is often only the children and not their parents who have the right to live in Hong Kong. This causes family problems.

Quite often, the responsibility of looking after such children falls to relatives who live in Hong Kong. Those parents who have no relatives are rejected when applying for kindergarten places for their children. 'Our kindergarten turns away mainland parents who don't have any relatives here and can't produce a local address. For children so young to study in Hong Kong, they must have relatives here. Otherwise, there will be a lot of problems bringing them up,' says the principal of May Nga Kindergarten Lo Sui-yin.

Businesswoman Zhang Yue said that she had tried to make an arrangement with three other mainland families who had Hong Kong-born children. She suggested renting an apartment together so that the children could attend school in the city. 'The mothers could have taken turns staying in Hong Kong to look after them but later I found the idea was too simplistic and hard to carry out,' says Zhang.

Zhang and many other parents think the government should establish primary schools that offer student accommodation in Hong Kong. Although such primary schools would be expensive, parents would be willing to pay. Education for their children on the Mainland would not be cheap because, as Hong Kong-born children, they do not get any educational benefits there. If they stayed there, they would have to go to very expensive private or international schools anyway. This would make Hong Kong schools a cheaper option.

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

Your teacher has asked you to work on a project about the future of education in Hong Kong. Your group has decided to focus on the topic of *The education of children born in Hong Kong to mainland parents*.

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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.

Adapting to change

More mainland mothers are choosing to give birth in Hong Kong. This entitles their children not only to a passport but also to social welfare and education benefits here. However, there are many problems that must be overcome when parents choose to send their children to be educated in Hong Kong.

One problem that mainland parents face is a lack of information about how the local education system actually works. Parents living in Shenzhen have looked for help from social service centres because they have no idea about the Hong Kong schooling procedures. 'Some parents missed the application period for primary schools and have had to delay their children's study for a year, as they didn't know they had to submit an application a year in advance,' says Cheung Yuk-ching of the Shenzhen-based International Social Service.

Another problem is that children who have been educated on the Mainland may have difficulty adapting

to the Hong Kong education system. 'Hong Kong-born students who come from mainland schools are usually quite well-educated because their parents need to send them to private fee-paying schools as they get no support from the state. However, their English skills are often quite poor and in this respect they are far behind local youngsters,' says educationalist Frankie Yeung.

It is also often difficult for families to adapt to the new environment. According to a recent study, the relationship between mainland parents and their children became more problematic after they came to Hong Kong. These parents reported difficulties in adapting to the new living environment and experienced a lack of social support. Many people suggest that when mainland families arrive in Hong Kong, they should receive greater support in adapting to their new home. 'Social services and even schools have a responsibility to help these people settle in,' states educational psychologist Mary Kay.

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.

Population problem

In 2001, the Court of Final Appeal gave babies born in Hong Kong to mainland parents the right to live here. Now many of these children have reached school age. Rather than see this as a difficulty, many think that this situation could be the answer to the population problem that is forcing many schools to close.

Without doubt, there are thousands of children who have the right to be educated in the territory and the number is so large that many online support groups have been formed. 'In our group alone, we have nearly 3,000 Hong Kong-born babies. If these children return to Hong Kong for education, that would create about 100 new classes for primary schools. If just a few of these children were enrolled in schools here, there would be no need to shut down schools or cut back classes. It would be a win-win situation,' says William Zhou, organiser of one such mainland cyber community.

However, since it is difficult for many mainland parents to come to Hong Kong with their children,

accommodation for these students would also have to be provided. Unfortunately, the government seems to be uninterested in supporting the development of such facilities. 'Local schools will have to finance the development and operation of boarding facilities themselves because local students don't need such facilities,' says a spokesperson for the Education Bureau.

Many have criticised the Bureau for its lack of planning. 'The government's school closure policy is conducted at the expense of such children's needs. These children could play a crucial role in solving the school closure problem. There are now more than 20,000 babies born in Hong Kong to mainland parents every year. The numbers could result in 600 classes of around 30 students. Policies related to population need long-term planning,' says Yip Sui-fan, a professor of population studies at the University of Hong Kong.

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.

What a waste

In 2009, Hong Kong produced more rubbish than any other place on earth, with each citizen generating 921kg of solid waste, a figure that does not include construction waste. On average, each Hong Kong person was responsible for double the amount of rubbish produced by citizens in other Asian countries.

Last year, the city produced 6.45 million tonnes of rubbish. Half of this rubbish was dumped in landfills and the other half was recycled. Secretary for the Environment Edward Yau claimed the large amount was the result of more economic activity, a rise in tourist numbers and population growth. Despite this shocking figure, the amount of waste deposited in landfills actually decreased by 1.3 percent. 'It seems that more Hong Kong people are recycling their rubbish these days,' says environmentalist Philip Cheung.

The reduction would seem to suggest that the government is solving the problem of waste. However,

when compared to other countries in the region, the government's efforts appear limited. Last year, each Hong Kong citizen disposed of 1.28kg of waste per day compared with 0.52kg in Taiwan and 0.44kg in South Korea. This shows that Hong Kong people can do a lot more to reduce the amount of waste they produce and so decrease the amount of rubbish going to the landfills.

One of the solutions put forward by the government to reduce the waste in landfills is to use incinerators to burn the waste. Technological advances have made the incineration process much cleaner and the incinerators can even be used to generate electricity. A recent report by Baptist University recommends the building of five incinerators in each district. 'This would not only ease the pressure on landfills, but also minimise pollution brought about by transporting the waste across districts, thus saving costs and boosting efficiency.'

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

Your group is working for a green organisation that wants to educate the public about the waste problem in Hong Kong. You have been asked to produce a brochure outlining waste disposal solutions for citizens and businesses.

You should first think about what information to include and why Hong Kong people and businesses waste so much compared to other countries. You should also provide solutions to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfills. You may also like to think about how the brochure should be designed.

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

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Candidate A

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Candidate B

Preparation Time (Total time: 10 minutes)

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

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

Food fight

Hong Kong has been recognised as the world's most wasteful society. One of the reasons for this is that the amount of food wasted has been increasing. In fact, food waste produced by the catering industry in Hong Kong has tripled over the last eight years. Of all the waste deposited in landfills, food is responsible for 40 percent.

Green groups blame the increase in the number of restaurants for the rise in waste. There are now 14,000 restaurants in the city, nearly double the 2003 figure. According to these green groups, the number of restaurants is growing because of the increase in tourists visiting the city.

However, some in the restaurant business think it is unfair to blame the rise in tourist numbers for the problem. 'We can't put all the blame on tourists. Hong

Kong businesses and the public have a low level of awareness when it comes to wasting food,' says Simon Wong, the president of the Federation of Restaurants. In order to raise awareness, waste specialist with Friends of the Earth Michelle Au says that the government should think about introducing a waste disposal fee to discourage restaurants from producing so much waste. 'Charging restaurants for the excess food they produce is a fair way to reduce waste,' says Au.

Some food businesses are already trying to reduce the amount of food they waste. Danny Catering serves food to 25,000 students daily and now employs a company to collect the uneaten food and send it to a collection point in Shek Kip Mei at the end of each day. Some of this food is donated to the elderly and any food waste that cannot be consumed is then turned into pig and fish food.

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.

Waste not, want not

Every day, 3,280 tonnes of food waste are dumped in landfills in Hong Kong. Although much of this waste comes from the restaurant business, citizens are also to blame. The situation is now so bad that the government is considering expanding existing landfill sites. So what can be done to cut down on the production of domestic food waste?

In Hong Kong, more families are trying to reduce the amount of food they cook so that they can cut down on waste. 'We've already tried to control the size of the portions we cook. But there is always going to be food waste that has to be disposed of,' says housewife Tsoi Chau-leung. Another way to reduce food wastage is to put leftovers in the refrigerator or freezer and eat them at a later date. 'We always freeze leftover food instead of throwing it away. Later, this can be reheated and eaten as a quick meal,' says mother Sarah Peters.

Another method of reducing waste is to collect food waste and then turn it into fertiliser that can be used to grow plants. The addition of bacteria to the leftovers makes the food decompose without producing bad smells. 'This is a great method. It is simple but it can cut a third of the waste,' says green group representative Billy Yip.

Yip also feels that it is important to educate people about food waste. For many years, green groups have been promoting the reduction of food waste and the use of leftovers from meals. They have said that wasting food costs the average family with children about HK\$6,000 a year and has serious environmental implications too. 'If we all stopped wasting food that could have been eaten, the carbon dioxide impact would be the same as taking one in four cars off the road,' claims the green group Love Food Hate Waste.

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

Your group is working for a green organisation that wants to educate the public about the waste problem in Hong Kong. You have been asked to produce a brochure outlining waste disposal solutions for citizens and businesses.

You should first think about what information to include and why Hong Kong people and businesses waste so much compared to other countries. You should also provide solutions to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfills. You may also like to think about how the brochure should be designed.

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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

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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.

International innovation

Hong Kong produces more rubbish per person than any other country on earth. So, are there waste prevention methods that can be learnt from other countries?

In parts of the United Kingdom, rubbish collectors only pick up household rubbish once every two weeks. They will only empty one rubbish bin per home. If families produce more rubbish, they have to take it to the rubbish collection points themselves. 'This makes me reduce the amount of garbage I throw away every day,' says housewife Catherine Cook.

Extra charges help to reduce waste in Europe. At many outdoor events such as festivals, food and drink is served in non-disposable containers. At a recent street festival, beer and wine were served in glasses. People paid a deposit that was the equivalent of HK\$20, which was fully refunded if the glasses were returned. People who bought drinks in bottles also paid

a deposit, which stall owners had to give back when the empty bottles were returned. 'Imagine if you had to pay a HK\$5 deposit every time you bought a drink in a plastic bottle in Hong Kong. Would we then see so many of these discarded bottles at beaches or country parks?' asks one citizen in a letter to the South China Morning Post.

The Japanese recycle their rubbish by separating it into different types. Any materials that are recyclable are taken to a processing plant. This reduces the amount of waste heading for the landfill. Education has been important in getting citizens to cooperate. 'It is important to change attitudes by educating the public about the need to be a more environmentally-friendly society. In Hong Kong, many people remain uneducated about recycling waste. Although there are three different-coloured recycling bins, people will often just throw all their rubbish into one,' says resident Alan So.

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

Your group is working for a green organisation that wants to educate the public about the waste problem in Hong Kong. You have been asked to produce a brochure outlining waste disposal solutions for citizens and businesses.

You should first think about what information to include and why Hong Kong people and businesses waste so much compared to other countries. You should also provide solutions to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfills. You may also like to think about how the brochure should be designed.

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

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Candidate 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.

Facing the future

Facebook is a worldwide phenomenon and so it is not surprising to know that in Hong Kong 39 percent of the population have Facebook accounts. So why is this social networking site so popular?

One of the most attractive aspects about Facebook is the ability to reconnect with people who you have lost contact with. These may be old school friends or ex-boyfriends or girlfriends. As long as you know their name and they are on Facebook, you can find them. 'I managed to find my best friend from university on Facebook and this allowed us to catch up on our lives online. Soon we are going to meet up in the real world even though we now live in different countries,' says internet user Steven Jones.

Of course, Facebook is also an ideal way to keep in contact with your friends and family members. With Facebook there is no need to send emails to everyone

you know. 'I post updates on what's happening in my life on Facebook and then select which of my friends or family members can see them. Obviously, there are some things that I don't want my parents to know about so I just don't allow them access to those posts. Likewise, some information is just for family to view,' says student Sally Ma.

Another advantage is that, unlike email or other methods of communication, you do not have to send or share anything on an individual basis. 'How many times has somebody said to you, "Oh send me your email" and you have forgotten to do so, thus leaving you with a missed networking or friendship opportunity. With Facebook, this doesn't happen! You can provide whatever information you feel comfortable sharing, and it can be viewed without you having to send anything,' says another Facebook fan.

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

Facebook is asking for feedback from users in order to make improvements to its networking site. You and a group of school friends have decided to respond.

Your group is meeting to discuss what things you like about Facebook, as well as what aspects you dislike or are concerned about. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of social networking sites. You should also make some recommendations about how to improve the Facebook experience.

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

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Candidate A

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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.

Loss of face

Although Facebook is the number one social networking site, some people have decided to quit using the popular communication tool. This is due to too many people wanting to contact you, or spam, which is basically junk mail.

One problem that many Facebook users encounter is that people you hardly know, or indeed have never met, want to be your friend. Of course, people have different interpretations as to what the word 'friend' actually means. To most it means someone that you have met before, someone whose company you have enjoyed and someone who you want to stay in contact with. 'With Facebook everybody thinks they're your friend. I have had people who I went to college with, who I barely spoke to, wanting to have access to what is happening in my life,' reflects disillusioned Facebook user Victoria Keys.

Another aspect that some people object to is the excessive amount of information that they have to suffer. Users are constantly being updated with the smallest details of their friends' lives. 'I really don't care whether my friend Jeff has just had the best coffee ever or if Jane was late for work. This information is just too much and is purely for those people who have nothing better to do with their lives,' says ex-Facebook fan Jason Rooney.

Many people also complain that there is too much spam on their Facebook pages and it is beginning to fill up people's sites. 'I probably get about 20 invitations a day to participate in Facebook activities. Although some of them are fun, it is just too time-consuming to sort through. Even if you do block all the activities you get invited to, there will be more by the end of the week,' says student Emma Vong.

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

Facebook is asking for feedback from users in order to make improvements to its networking site. You and a group of school friends have decided to respond.

Your group is meeting to discuss what things you like about Facebook, as well as what aspects you dislike or are concerned about. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of social networking sites. You should also make some recommendations about how to improve the Facebook experience.

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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.

Facebook fraud

Millions of people who have a Facebook account could become victims of crime. Information technology security experts warn that the personal information posted on Facebook sites can be invaluable for those who want to steal a user's identity or commit other crimes.

Facebook accounts contain a lot of private information such as birth dates, addresses and phone numbers, along with other seemingly innocent information like a pet's name or your favourite food. When this information is shared, it can be used by criminals to steal a person's identity or give them clues to passwords that give access to bank accounts or valuable documents. 'Everyone should be careful about things like this on their Facebook profile. Possession of the sorts of data that you use to identify yourself – date of birth, name of first school, home telephone number, favourite football team and so on – will be a big help to anyone who is trying to pretend to be you,' says journalist Nic Brisbourne.

One of the most common uses of this information is to use someone's identity to set up new bank accounts. Criminals can then use the account to borrow large sums of money or can apply for a credit card and then use it to accumulate huge bills. Other uses include applying for social benefits, for passports or even committing terrorist acts.

There is also a lot of other information that we share on Facebook that can be used by criminals. For example, telling people when you are going to be on holiday also informs people when you will be away from your home. This information could be valuable if someone already knows your address and wants to rob your property. Also, remember that even if you do not voluntarily share information on Facebook, there are hackers who can break into your Facebook account and steal your personal details too.

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

Facebook is asking for feedback from users in order to make improvements to its networking site. You and a group of school friends have decided to respond.

Your group is meeting to discuss what things you like about Facebook, as well as what aspects you dislike or are concerned about. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of social networking sites. You should also make some recommendations about how to improve the Facebook experience.

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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.

User-friendly Facebook

Over 500 million people use Facebook and the number just keeps on growing. For many people it is simply a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However, there are so many other advantages of using this social networking site.

First of all, Facebook is really easy to use. All you have to do is point and click, and you have access to whatever you need. 'Whether you are trying to organise your groups, or just feel like cleaning up your page, you can just click one button and an application or old group page is gone, just like that. There is no need to spend time with applications that you do not want, and everything that you do want is easy to get to. I find it so user-friendly,' explains social networker Chris Sanchez.

Another advantage that Facebook gives to individual users is the ability to join groups that match

their likes or dislikes. This allows people to discuss topics of interest with others who share similar interests. Usually, users would have to access a search engine to find forums that match their interests. However, Facebook automatically connects people who have common interests and allows them to share information and ideas easily.

Facebook is also a great way to keep up-to-date on news, current events and interesting world events. 'Barack Obama uses Facebook to get his messages out to everyone who might be using Facebook. I have learned a lot about healthcare and other issues that Obama wants to push during his time as President. Having links to press conferences and being allowed to add comments on these issues make for an easy way to communicate with even the President,' says Facebook user Jennifer Price.

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

Facebook is asking for feedback from users in order to make improvements to its networking site. You and a group of school friends have decided to respond.

Your group is meeting to discuss what things you like about Facebook, as well as what aspects you dislike or are concerned about. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of social networking sites. You should also make some recommendations about how to improve the Facebook experience.

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Candidate D