98-ASL UE SECTION E Q/ANS BK

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 1998

# USE OF ENGLISH AS-LEVEL SECTION E PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR WORK AND STUDY Question-Answer Book

1.30 pm-3.15 pm (13 hours) (28% of the subject mark)

Q.P. Code: 5015

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Write your Candidate Number, Centre Number and Seat Number in the spaces provided.
- 2. Answer ALL questions.
- 3. Write your answers in the spaces provided in this Question-Answer Book.
- 4. The rough-work sheets provided are for you to take notes. They will be collected separately and will not be marked.

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#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

When you complete the following tasks, remember that all your comments must be based on information in the Data File. Your comments must be understood by readers who do not have copies of the Data File to refer to.

#### Situation and Role

You are Chris Wong, a student at the Central Government Secondary School. You are the leader of a small team preparing a project on advertising for your Social Studies teacher, Mr C. Mak. You are going to (a) write an article about three posters on road safety, (b) make a series of recommendations on proposed advertisements for children and justify your recommendations, and (c) complete a worksheet about techniques used by advertisers.

# Task 1 (43 marks)

Write an article titled 'A critical review of three posters on road safety'. The three posters were designed by a fellow Sixth Form student to promote road safety awareness among young people. Your team collected information about and reactions to the posters from the artist, two teachers, and some students at your school. Use information from pages 1-6 in your Data File.

#### Task 2 (28 marks)

Make recommendations about the suitability of several proposed advertisements which are aimed at children. You must give the exact code number for your recommendation and an explanation for your recommendation. Use information from page 7 of the Data File.

#### Task 3 (17 marks)

Complete a worksheet about the techniques used in advertising. Use information from pages 8-10 of the Data File.

Total Marks: 88

# Task 1: Article (43 marks)

Write an article titled 'A critical review of three posters on road safety'. Read the two memos from C. Mak on pages 1 and 6 of the Data File. In writing the article, you must follow the outline provided by C. Mak on page 6 of the Data File. Remember that all your information must come from pages 1-6 of the Data File.

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# Task 2: Recommendations on advertisements aimed at children (28 marks)

Each of the following items contains a description of an advertisement aimed at children. Read each description and then look at the Hong Kong Advertisers' Code on page 7 of the Data File to decide whether the proposed advertisement is 'acceptable' or 'not acceptable' according to the Code. In the space provided, write the exact code number of the most relevant section. Circle 'Yes, it's acceptable' or 'No, it's not acceptable' as your recommendation for the advertisement. Then write one or two sentences to explain why the advertisement is either 'acceptable' or 'not acceptable'. Your reason should include two specific things: 1) what is in the advertisement which makes it 'acceptable' or 'not acceptable', and 2) what is in the Code that explains why the advertisement is 'acceptable' or 'not acceptable'. The first one has been done for you as an example.

| Exa         | mple                      |  | Second<br>Marker's<br>Use Only         |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|--|
|             | Proposed<br>advertisement | Picture: A boy and girl playing in a park.  Words: 'Boys and Girls! If you've got a headache, take fast-acting Aspinol tablets and you'll soon feel like playing again.' |  |
|             | Code Number               | 3.1  |  |
|             | Recommendation            | Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   |  |
|             | Reason                    | It says Aspinol will make you feel like playing again, but advertisers   |  |
|             | · produce                 | are not allowed to say that a drug makes children feel better.   |  |
| 1.          | Proposed<br>advertisement | Picture: A girl and boy each wearing a Space Age watch.  Words: 'Kids! Now buy a Space Age watch at the low, low, low price of \$99!'                                    |  |
| Code        | Code Number               |  | 38 C                                   |
| Rec         | Recommendation            | Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   | 39 R                                   |
| Reas        | Reason                    |  | 40 R                                   |
|             |                           |  |  |
| 2.          | Proposed<br>advertisement | Picture: A hand puppet (Peppy) eating from a selection of fresh fruit.  Words: 'Peppy says, "Eat fresh fruit every day, like I do, boys and girls!" '                    |  |
| Code        | Code Number               |  | 42 Co                                  |
| Rec         | Recommendation            | Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   | 43 Re                                  |
| Reas        | Reason                    |  | 44 Re                                  |
|             |                           |  | •••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• |
| 3.          | Proposed                  | Picture: A young girl looking sad.   |  |
| Code<br>Rec | advertisement             | Words: 'Oh dear! Rita failed her examination! Too bad she didn't buy a Good Fortune Bracelet! (By the way, do YOU have an examination soon?)'                            |  |
| Reas        | Code Number               |  | 46 Co                                  |
|             | Recommendation            | Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   | 47 Re                                  |
|             |                           | ,  | 48 Re                                  |

| Second<br>Marker's<br>Use Only |   | First<br>Marker's<br>Use Only |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                                | 4. Proposed Picture: A boy and girl each wearing a Sunburst tracksuit.  Words: 'Talk to your Dad, ask your Mum, plead with your uncle, argue with your auntie! Tell them you want a Sunburst tracksuit!'          |                               |
| 50 Code                        | Code Number   | 50 Code                       |
| Rec                            |   | 51 Rec                        |
| 52 Reas                        | Recommendation Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   | 52 Reas                       |
| 53                             | Reason  | 53                            |
|                                |   |                               |
|                                |   |                               |
| 4.                             | 5. Proposed Picture: A cartoon character (Dinky Duck) eating a bar of chocolate.  |                               |
|                                | Words: 'Dinky Duck eats Many Munchies chocolate bars – do you, kiddies?'  |                               |
| 54 Code                        | Code Number   | 54 Code                       |
| 55 Rec                         | Recommendation Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   | 55 Rec                        |
| 56 Reas                        |   | 56 Reas                       |
| 57                             | Reason  | 57                            |
|                                |   |                               |
|                                |   | 1                             |
| 58 Code                        | 6. Proposed Picture 1: A little boy and little girl striking matches. Picture 2: The same little boy and girl bandaged up. Words: 'Don't play with fire!'   | ·                             |
| 59 Rec                         | Code Number   | 58 Code                       |
| 60 Reas                        | Recommendation Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   | 59 Rec                        |
| 61                             |   | 60 Reas                       |
| •                              | Reason  | 61                            |
|                                |   |                               |
|                                |   | J                             |
|                                | 7. Proposed  advertisement  Words: A young boy playing with a remote-controlled model jeep.  Words: 'Have lots of fun with your own Spartan Jeep model!  It's authentic-looking and remote-controlled. Sorry, but | ,                             |
| *                              | batteries are not included.'  |                               |
| 62 Code                        | Code Number   | 62 Code                       |
| 63 Rec                         | Recommendation Yes, it's acceptable No, it's not acceptable   | 63 Rec                        |
| 64 Reas                        |   | 64 Reas                       |
| 65                             | Reason  | , os                          |
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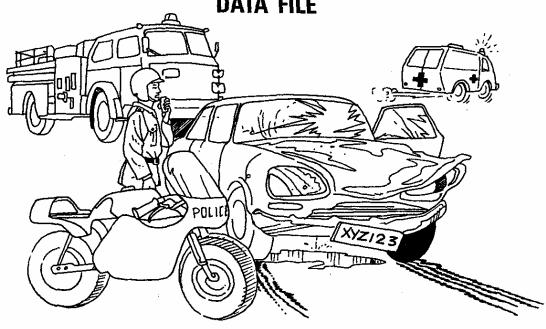
Task 3 Worksheet on techniques used in advertising (17 marks)

The following worksheet presents information about techniques used in advertising, why the techniques are used and the names of products which are advertised using these techniques. You should complete the worksheet by filling in the relevant information and then writing one or two sentences of advice to consumers. Some of the blanks have already been filled in for you. Use pages 8 - 10 of the Data File.

| Second<br>Marker's<br>Use Only | Worksheet o   | eet on techniques used in advertising | rtising                                | First Marker's Use Only |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
|                                | Technique   | Reason for using the technique        | Name of product advertised in this way |                         |
|                                | 1. Music / songs  |                                       |  |                         |
| 029 099                        | a. use of catchy tunes  |                                       |  | □ 29 □ 99               |
| □ 69 □ 89                      | ъ.  |                                       | Silkskin beauty soap                   | □ 69 □ 89               |
| 00 21 21                       | c. repetition of words  |                                       |  | 0.7   0.0               |
|                                | 2. Language   |                                       |  |                         |
|                                | a. use of imperative verbs  | force' people to buy product          | Washrite washing machines              | -                       |
|                                | 3. Psychological strategies   |                                       |  |                         |
| 72 0 73 0                      | a. making people think they must have product   |                                       |  | 2 2 2                   |
| 74 🗆 75                        | <b>b</b> .  |                                       | AMCO credit cards                      | 74 75                   |
| 76 🗆 77                        | c. use of actors and actresses  |                                       | -                                      | □ 72 □ 92               |
| 78 🗆 79                        | d.  | appeal to authority                   |  | 06. 08.                 |
| 80 🗆 81 🗆                      | <b>ů</b>  |                                       | Jade Dream perfume                     | □ 18 □ 08               |
|                                | Advice to consumers on how to avoid being influenced by the use of techniques like these: | by the use of techniques like these:  |  |                         |
| 82                             |   |                                       |  | 82                      |
|                                |   |                                       |  |                         |
|                                |   |                                       |  |                         |
|                                | Total for   |                                       | Total for                              |                         |
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HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 1998

# USE OF ENGLISH AS-LEVEL SECTION E DATA FILE



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# Central Government Secondary School

#### Memo

From: C. Mak, Social Studies teacher

To: Chris Wong

Re: Project on advertising

Date: 5 March 1998

1. For your part of the project on advertising, you will

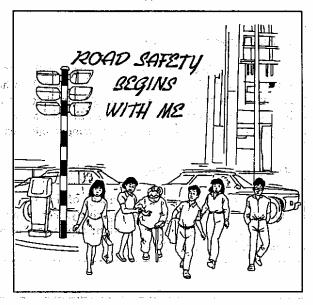
- (a) write an article titled, 'A critical review of three posters on road safety',
- (b) make recommendations concerning the acceptability of some proposed advertisements with reference to the Advertisers' Code, and
- (c) complete a worksheet on techniques used in advertising.
- 2. Here are some suggestions for gathering data for your article. Ask the artist, Robin Lam (Form 6A), to tell you about each poster. Also, invite the Careers teacher (Ms So) and your English teacher (Mr Fung) to give their opinions. Distribute a written questionnaire among all junior and senior students to find out if they like the posters or not. You can also interview a smaller number of students to get their detailed comments on each poster.

#### Poster 1



Artist's comment: 'I drew a boy and a girl (Peter and Kathy) because I wanted both boys <u>and</u> girls to pay attention to my message. I drew Peter behaving dangerously and Kathy wearing unsuitable clothes. The caption tells everyone not to copy them.'

#### Poster 2



Artist's comment: 'I wanted this poster to stress the need for all young people to be actively involved with road safety. The picture shows a young person helping an old person to cross a busy road, which sets a good example for us all to follow.'

#### Poster 3



Artist's comment: 'In this poster, I show young people not paying attention to some good advice. The point is that everyone should learn about the importance of road safety.'

# Comments on the three posters by Careers teacher, Ms So Wing Kar, and by English teacher, Mr Thomas Fung

#### Poster 1 - 'Peter and Kathy say'



#### Careers teacher, Ms So:

I'm sure the 'Peter and Kathy say' poster will catch young people's attention. The problem, however, is that some boys and girls might want to copy what Peter and Kathy are doing. They're wearing fashionable clothes and what they're doing looks exciting. But of course it's dangerous, so the artist needs to redraw it. It's okay to like fashionable clothes, but it seems that the artist is suggesting that dangerous behaviour is smart or trendy. Maybe he could redraw the poster to remove this idea.

#### English teacher, Mr Fung:

I think I would criticise the language of the poster titled 'Peter and Kathy say'. Commands can be hard to understand if they are phrased negatively. For example, 'Don't dress improperly!' is quite complex. It's clearer if we say, 'Dress properly!'. And the caption of this poster is just too long: there are 14 words! I think the artist should rethink the wording.

#### Poster 2 — 'Road safety begins with me'



#### Careers teacher, Ms So:

I liked 'Road safety begins with me' better than the other two posters. It draws attention to the difficulty that many old people have when trying to cross a busy road. I understand the artist's message, but why must the helpful teenager be a girl? Are boys unhelpful? Maybe the poster could be redrawn in the light of this problem.

#### English teacher, Mr Fung:

I'm not sure who is supposed to be speaking in this poster. Who is saying 'Road safety begins with me'? The old woman? The girl? The boys? I think road safety is everyone's business! The caption should be rewritten, I think. If that were done, this poster's broad appeal would make it the best of the three.

# Poster 3 — 'Pay attention, girls!'



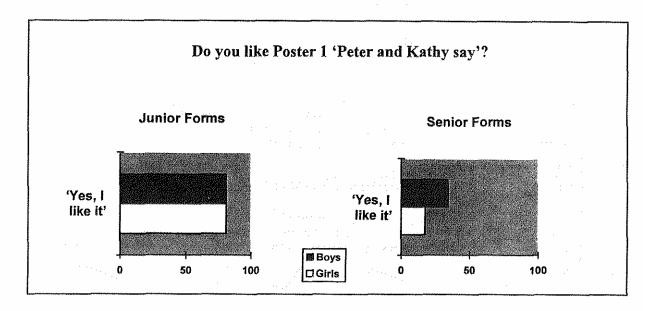
#### Careers teacher, Ms So:

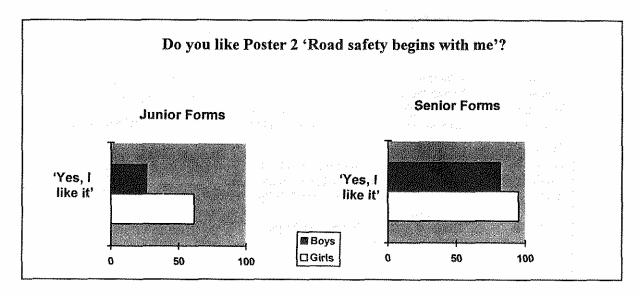
The poster 'Pay attention, girls!' shows a male teacher talking to a group of teenage boys and girls about road safety. The poster shows some boys and girls not paying attention, but the teacher is scolding only the girls! Is that fair?

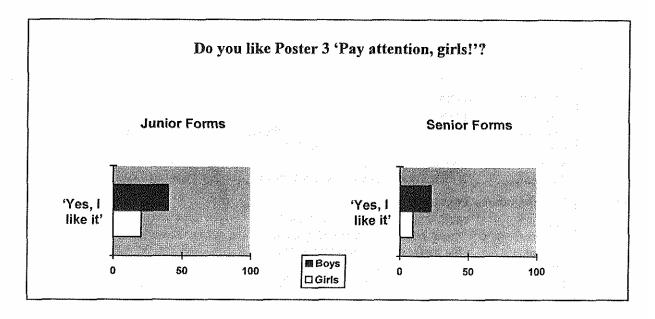
# English teacher, Mr Fung:

The poster 'Pay attention, girls!' should make it clear that it's a road safety lesson. Also, the caption suggests that only the girls are not paying attention so the wording actually detracts from the intended message.

# Results of student questionnaire about the three posters







#### Notes of comments made by students during interviews about their opinion of the three posters

Poster 1 — 'Peter and Kathy say' Junior students' comments 'I find the words confusing.' Student A: 'I'd like to try that trick at the traffic lights that Peter is doing.' Student B: Student C: 'I like the picture but I don't quite understand the words.' Student D: 'I'm going to save up for a motorcycle jacket, just like Kathy's.' Student E: 'I'd like to have long hair like Kathy's!' Senior students' comments 'If the poster means that we should all dress like Peter and Kathy, I think that's a Student F: bad idea. 'Young people may copy Peter and Kathy because of the way they're dressed.' Student G: 'I don't feel that Peter and Kathy set a good example for junior students.' Student H: Student I: 'I thought the posters were supposed to encourage road safety!'

Poster 2 - 'Road safety begins with mel' Junior students' comments: 'It's about crossing the road but I don't understand the words.' Student A: 'I don't think the artist was right in showing that boys aren't helpful.' Student B: 'I think the old lady asked the girl to help her to cross the road.' Student C: Student D: 'It means girls are helpful and boys are not.' 'This shows that boys don't help people when crossing roads, which isn't true.' Student E: Senior students' comments 'It shows that boys don't like to help elderly people. That's not fair!' Student F: Student G: I don't think it's true that boys wouldn't help.' 'Is the poster aimed only at girls? Why does road safety begin with girls Student H: but not with boys?' 'The message shouldn't be just for girls. It should be for everyone.' Student I:

| Junior students' comments   |
|---|
| Student A: 'It's boring. It's just a picture of a classroom.' Student B: 'Is it about learning in a class when the teacher's angry with the girls?' Student C: 'What's the lesson about, actually?' Student D: 'The teacher's not fair.' Student E: 'It means that boys work harder than girls, but that's not true.' |
|   |
| Senior students' comments   |
| Student F: 'What's the lesson about, anyhow?'   |
| Student G: 'There are some inattentive boys, too.'  |
| Student H: 'The poster shows a bias against females.'   |
| Student I: 'Girls might be annoyed by this.'  |
| Student J: 'Is the point of the poster <u>road safety</u> or <u>paying attention in class</u> – which?'   |

# Central Government Secondary School

#### Memo

From: C. M.

C. Mak, Social Studies teacher

To:

Chris Wong

Re: Date: Project on advertising: 'A critical review of three posters on road safety'

20 March 1998

1. I am pleased to see you have made such good progress in gathering your data.

2. Now write your article. Follow the outline that I've written and attached to this memo.

Outline for the article, 'A critical review of three posters on road safety' attached to memo from C. Mak dated 20 March 1998

# A critical review of three posters on road safety

#### 1. Introduction

Briefly explain that you are going to review three posters on road safety. Describe how and where you obtained your information.

#### 2. Information

Under each of the following headings summarise the data on each poster from the artist, teachers and students. The headings you should use are given in this outline. Poster 1 is given as the example below, but remember to write about <u>all three posters</u>.

#### Poster 1

- (a) Artist's aim
- (b) Teachers' reactions
- (c) Student questionnaire results

Compare the results 1) according to sex (boys v. girls) and 2) according to age group (juniors v. seniors).

(d) Junior and senior students' comments during interviews

Summarise the views of juniors and of seniors.

# (e) The drawing

Explain specifically how the picture on each poster should be redesigned to improve it (but don't talk about the actual artistic ability as demonstrated in the drawing. This is not an art project!).

#### 3. Conclusion

State which poster would be the best if it was improved in the ways suggested in your article. Base your conclusion on the opinions you got while gathering your data.

# Hong Kong Advertisers' Code Advertising to Children

Commercial advertisements that are directed specifically at children under 13 must follow the directives below before they can be accepted for publication or broadcast.

1.0 Superstitions and fears - Advertisements will not be accepted if they try to exploit superstitious people, or use fear of bad luck to mislead the consumer into buying the advertised commodity or service.

#### 2.0 Factual presentation

- 2.1 Written, sound, and visual presentations must not exaggerate service, products or features as to speed, size, colour, durability, etc.
- 2.2 Advertisements must clearly show the relative size of a product by including something from the child's actual world - e.g. a child, coins, pencils.
- 2.3 When advertising shows results from a drawing set or construction kit, an average child should be able to attain these results.

### 3.0 Product prohibitions

- 3.1 Drugs, medicines, and vitamins in liquid, powdered or tablet form must not be advertised to children to show that they will feel better physically.
- 3.2 Products that are not intended for use by children must not be advertised to children, either directly or through promotions that are mainly child-oriented.

# 4.0 Avoiding undue pressure upon relatives Commercials must not encourage children to put pressure on their parents or other relatives to make enquiries or purchases.

#### 5.0 Promotion by well-known characters

- 5.1 Personalities and live characters featured on children's programmes must not be used to promote products, premiums or services.
- 5.2 Cartoon characters and puppets must not be used to promote products, premiums or services. This prohibition does not extend to public service announcements or to factual statements about nutritional or educational benefits.

#### 6. 0 Price and purchase terms

- 6.1 Price and purchase terms, when used, must be clear and complete. When parts or accessories, which a child might think are included in the purchase price, are available only at extra cost, this must be made clear.
- 6.2 The cost must not be minimised as by the use of words such as 'only', 'just', etc. .
- 6.3 Demonstrations and descriptions must clearly show how much assembly, if any, is required.

#### 7. 0 Safety

- 7.1 Advertisements, except specific safety messages, must not show adults or children doing dangerous things, e.g. playing inside a refrigerator, ignoring traffic regulations, handling dangerous substances, etc.
- 7.2 Advertisements, except specific messages, must not show products being used in an unsafe or dangerous way. For example, they must not show anyone transferring dangerous products from their original containers into other containers which children regard as safe or related to food or drink, e.g. pouring a dangerous product into cups, glasses or soft drink bottles.

#### 8. 0 Social values

- 8.1 Advertising must not encourage dishonest, immoral attitudes or behaviour.
- 8.2 Advertising must not suggest that possession or use of a product makes the owner superior, or that without it the child will be open to ridicule or contempt. This prohibition does not apply to true statements regarding educational or health benefits.

#### 9.0 Substantiation required

and the second second second second

Where claims are made regarding specific product qualities - performance, safety, speed, size, colour, durability, etc. - the advertiser must be able to provide evidence for these claims.

# Use of jingles

The use of advertising jingles began on commercial radio stations in America. The first known jingle was for Carver's liver pills, a popular 'all-purpose' medicine in the 1920s. It seemed that all of America could hum and sing the Carver's jingle. Perhaps the most common technique used in jingles is the repetition of selected words or lines together with repetition of the same musical phrase.

The repetition of the musical phrase is important, because most people can't remember a complicated tune. Sometimes the musical phrase is repeated without words to make the listener recall the missing words.

Repetition of key words, usually including the name of the product, drives home the message and makes it easy to remember. In one well-known television commercial for Comet Cola, the name was repeated twenty times in fifteen seconds! If the words in an advert rhyme, so much the better, because people tend to notice and remember rhymes. For example, in a popular advert for Silkskin beauty soap, the words 'love' and 'dove' are used very effectively.

(Adapted from R. B. Heath, The Persuaders, Nelson, London, 1975.)

# The language of advertising

In most cases it is the visual content and design of an ad that makes the initial impact and causes us to take note of it. But in order to get people to identify the product, remember its name, and persuade them that it is worth buying, ads rely heavily on the use of language.

In public service advertisements, the language is usually clear, concise, and simple enough for most people to understand. In commercial advertisements, the language is usually positive, lively and somewhat exaggerated. Metaphors are common (e.g. smiling colour [Hairglo shampoo]), and grammatical constructions are vague (e.g. Super Jix gets clothes cleaner [than what?], Many people say [who?], Panadax tablets treat aches and pains [all of them?]).

Aggressive ads often use a series of imperative verbs, apparently in an attempt to almost 'force' us to buy. For example, Buy now! Don't delay! Hurry down to your nearest store! read the advertisement which appeared in a hugely-successful 1983 British advertising campaign for Washrite washing machines.

(Adapted from The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language, Cambridge University Press, 1987.)

# The psychology of advertising

Let us examine some of the ways in which advertisers make use of language and psychology in order to persuade us to buy their products.

#### (a) The desire for security

Advertisers long ago realised that one extremely effective way to sell something is to make everyone feel that they must have the product, that they will not be 'secure' without it. Advertisers found that this desire to feel secure – by being like other people, dressing as they dress, doing as they do – is a basic human characteristic. No one wants to feel 'left out'. A successful American advertisement for Sunray sunglasses simply said: 'Be part of the in-group.' Those few words convinced thousands of people to buy Sunrays!

#### (b) The appeal to authority

Some advertisements make direct references to people in positions of respect. This is an appeal to authority. 'Doctors recommend Superman vitamin capsules...', 'Scientists have shown that drinking Happytime apple juice actually helps prevent colds...'. Other adverts use well-known sportsmen and sportswomen to promote their product.

#### (c) The desire for ease and comfort

'Miracle' or 'magic' cleaners (e.g. Foamy toilet bowl cleaner), food that one simply 'heats and eats' (e.g. Eatatreat frozen dinners), these and other similar slogans target our emotions, not our reason. They suggest that there are easy solutions to at least some of our problems! But notice the unclear words used in such advertisements. How can a chemical be described as 'magic' or 'miraculous'?

# (d) The appeal to a particular age group

Most advertisements use characters of the same age group as those targeted for buying the product. So, television commercials for certain health products (e.g. Sunset iron capsules) often show old people; similarly, ads for exotic travel (e.g. Daring Tours, Ltd) usually show well-to-do young couples in romantic settings.

(Freely adapted from K. Watson and F. Christie, <u>Our Language in Use</u>, Reed Education, Sydney, Wellington and London, 1972.)

### Radio Interview with Ms P. K. Tsui, Editor of Consumer Journal Interviewer: Ms Grace Ng RTHK 4, 5 July 1997

Interviewer:

Good afternoon listeners. Today, we are very pleased to welcome Ms P. K. Tsui, Editor of the Consumer

Journal, who's going to talk with us about advertising from the consumer's point of view.

Ms Tsui:

Thank you, Grace, it's a pleasure to be here.

Interviewer:

Now, we know advertising is important, not only to businesses but to all of us in our daily lives. But we also

know that not all advertising is fair and honest.

Ms Tsui:

Yes. Well, advertisements have become so complex and sophisticated that it's difficult to know which claims are true so that you won't be fooled by false statements. It's important to read adverts or watch television

commercials carefully and try to decide for yourself if what they say is possible or likely to be true.

Interviewer:

Yes, too many advertisements claim to work miracles and promise to make life easy for us.

Ms Tsui:

Correct. Household cleaners, car polishes, spot and stain removers often fall into this category.

Interviewer:

Right. The ones that say 'just rub on and then rub off' or 'Instant Shine detergent wax cleans your car in

seconds'.

Ms Tsui:

When we think carefully, we know that most products cannot work magic so we need to be sensible and not

believe these claims.

Interviewer:

Now, in television commercials, there are frequently songs or rhyming jingles that 'go with' the products so that

you will remember the brand name and buy them, aren't there?

Ms Tsui:

Yes, people associate the song with the product. Viewers are influenced by the catchy tune of a song and buy that brand. Sometimes a tune may be irritating, but you still remember it. Many years ago there was a song for

Zippy orange drink that drove me crazy. But, today, I still remember the tune and the product.

Interviewer:

Yes, it's difficult not to be affected by what we see and hear on TV. Now another thing that always bothers me is the fact that we see these ads or commercials and they have cowboys or wealthy businesswomen using the product or talking about how good the product is. But, actually the pictures are just of actors and actresses

dressed up to look like the people they're supposed to be.

Ms Tsui:

That's correct. Take for example, the adverts of a cowboy smoking Marlboro cigarettes. Of course, the Marlboro man is not a cowboy at all; he's an actor being paid to pose for pictures or say what he says. Companies use professional actors and actresses because, frankly, their acting skills or good looks make them much more persuasive than 'real' people.

Interviewer:

Ms Tsui:

Now, another thing advertisers do is use scenes showing people with lots of expensive possessions. You know, adverts for something like the AMCO credit card showing people with fabulous jewellery, driving luxurious cars, and so on. This appeals to people's desire to be seen as successful.

Interviewer:

Of course. The idea is that if you have this popular credit card you'll be able to have all those things. And that would show that you are successful.

Ms Tsui:

Yes. Correct. But actually having the card won't automatically make you successful..... Now the names chosen for products can also be misleading. Some products - perfumes, for example - are given attractivesounding names which the company thinks will encourage the public to think positively about the product. There are perfumes called Heavenly Summer and Jade Dream and Magic Moment - it doesn't really matter which, because the name has nothing to do with the actual perfume in the bottle.

Interviewer:

Yes, I guess we are often tricked into thinking that the fancy name is important. So, what would you say to all

of us who watch these adverts on TV or see them in the print media. What can we do?

Ms Tsui:

Well, I suppose the best thing is if you can just always try to be aware of the fact that advertisers are using these techniques. You'll probably still be influenced by them, but maybe not so much.

THIS IS THE LAST PAGE OF THE DATA FILE.