

HKDSE English Language Paper 4 (Speaking) (Sample Paper)

Instructions to Examiners

Part A Group Discussion

Greeting the candidates	Good afternoon / good evening. Please sit according to the colour of your labels.
Instructions before starting the timer	You have 8 minutes for your discussion (<i>6 minutes for a group of three candidates</i>). You can look at the question paper and your notecard but please do not make notes during the discussion. Turn over the question paper. You may start now. (<i>Start the timer.</i>)
Reminding candidates about the time left	<i>Display the 'one minute left' sign on the table.</i>
Ending the discussion	Time is up. Stop your discussion now. (<i>Stop the timer.</i>)

Part B Individual Response

Starting Part B	Let's move on to Part B.
Asking the question(s) and starting the timer	Candidate ____, you have up to one minute to answer the following question. (<i>Ask a question and then start the timer.</i>)
Ending Part B	That's fine. Thank you.

End of Examination

Collecting the notecards after all the candidates have completed Part B	That's the end of the examination. Please give me your notecards. You may leave now. (<i>Check that the question paper has not been taken away.</i>)
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DO NOT TAKE AWAY

Sample 1

Part A Group Discussion (Preparation: 10 minutes; discussion: 8 minutes per group of four candidates)

The article below appeared in yesterday's newspaper:

A question of privacy?

Members of the media often complain that the government limits their freedom of expression, though many members of the public feel there is nothing wrong with this. Some years ago, photographs of Twins singer Gillian Chung Yan-tung were published by a local magazine, Easy Finder, and they caused a real storm. The photographs were taken with a hidden camera as she was changing costumes backstage. Many people were upset by this and demanded that press freedom be restricted. The Hong Kong Performing Artists Guild condemned the incident, and insisted the government amend the law and punish the magazine's owners.

'Some people thought that the whole episode had been exaggerated, but people buy these magazines for exactly this kind of shocking content so it's the market itself that demands such pictures,' explained retired editor John Peters.

Mike Chau

Your group wants to write a letter to the editor of the newspaper responding to the points made by Mike Chau.

Discuss with your group what to include in your letter in response to this article. You may want to talk about:

- whether the media have too much freedom
- whether famous people should have their privacy protected
- why people like to read magazines for their shocking content and gossip
- anything else you think is important

Part B Individual Response (one minute per candidate)

1. Why do some people not want to be famous?
2. Why is it sometimes difficult being famous?
3. What are some of the advantages of being famous?
4. Why is personal privacy so important to some people?
5. Can famous people expect to keep their private lives secret?
6. How are family members of famous people affected by their fame?
7. Why do some people dislike the gossip magazines in Hong Kong?
8. Do the public have the right to know about the private lives of famous people?
9. Why is freedom of expression important for the media?
10. Are there any types of stories which gossip magazines should not publish?

DO NOT TAKE AWAY

Sample 2

Part A Group Discussion (Preparation: 10 minutes; discussion: 8 minutes per group of four candidates)

Below is an extract from a report on youth culture in Hong Kong:

Body art expresses individuality

More and more teenagers are turning to different forms of body art, such as tattooing and nose piercing, to establish their personal identity and look different. One of the main reasons young people decide to modify their bodies is to look cool. Teenagers want to express their individuality and have a strong desire to stand out from the crowd. This gives them a sense of uniqueness that makes them different from everyone else.

19-year-old James Keen is a typical example. He is one of the first in Hong Kong to have had the tip of his tongue split into two. 'When I first saw it in some teen magazines, I thought tongue-splitting was the most beautiful thing I'd seen in my life,' says James. Most of his friends do not know that he has had his tongue split unless he shows it to them. When asked how he felt about the splitting process, James said it did cause some pain for about a week, especially when he ate, but he believed it was worthwhile. 'Piercing of the ears, nose and lips is just too common. I wanted something different.'

Your group wants to write an article for your school magazine about the advantages and disadvantages of body modification. Discuss with your group what to include in your article. You may want to talk about:

- why some teenagers like body art such as tattooing and nose piercing
- the medical dangers of body art
- how Hong Kong society views people with tattoos and their bodies pierced
- anything else you think is important

Part B Individual Response (one minute per candidate)

1. What do you think of teenagers who have tattoos and body piercing?
2. Why do teenagers think body art is 'cool'?
3. Do any of your friends have tattoos and body piercing?
4. Have you ever thought about having a tattoo or body piercing?
5. Why is it important for teenagers to express their individuality?
6. How do adults and parents feel about teenagers who have body modifications?
7. Do teenagers go too far with body modifications these days?
8. What do you think are the long term problems of having a tattoo?
9. What other ways do young people try to 'stand out' from the crowd?
10. What advice would you give to a friend who wanted a tattoo or some kind of body-piercing?

DO NOT TAKE AWAY

Sample 3

Part A Group Discussion (Preparation: 10 minutes; discussion: 8 minutes per group of four candidates)

The extract below appeared in a report on health and safety at work:

The Respectable Addiction

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

Addiction to work is not the same as working hard or putting in long hours. Hard-working people generally have some balance in their lives. They spend a lot of time at work, but also set aside time for their hobbies, such as playing sport. However, work addicts think about work even when they are playing sport. The obsession with work is total. It prevents them from maintaining healthy relationships and outside interests. Work addicts neglect their health and ignore their friends and family. They avoid going on holiday so they don't have to miss work, and even if they do go on holiday, they still think about work.

Often, work addicts only realize they have a problem when something terrible happens, for example, when their health completely fails or they start having family problems.

You want to prepare a presentation on work addiction for a group of young people who will soon be starting their first job. Discuss with your group what you will include in the presentation. You may want to talk about:

- why Hong Kong people tend to work long hours
- the health and social problems that can be caused by long working hours
- things that people can do to avoid work addiction
- anything else you think is important

Part B Individual Response (one minute per candidate)

1. Do you have any friends or family members who work too hard?
2. What are some of the disadvantages of working on Saturday and Sunday?
3. Do you think young people now work harder than their parents did in the past?
4. How do you think children are affected by parents who work long hours?
5. How can children in Hong Kong help parents who have to work long hours?
6. How much do you believe success depends on hard work?
7. How might a workplace be disadvantaged by having workaholics on its staff?
8. Why do you think work addiction is known as the 'respectable addiction' in the USA?
9. Why do you think some people enjoy working so much?
10. Some people live to work and others work to live. Can you tell us which kind of person you think you are and why?

DO NOT TAKE AWAY