

Paper 2 Question 3

Exemplars

2(a)

Exemplar 1

(a) Yes, From the information given, ~~the~~ light pollution can really bring us a lot of health problems. Scientists believe that women who are seriously affected by light pollution have a greater chance of acquiring breast cancer and the sleeplessness can also induce cancer.

On top of that, the legislation of ~~regulating~~ "regulating" ~~the~~ external lighting is ~~needed~~ needed. For me, I think that external lighting has no actual use. They can only bring us pollution and the over ~~consumption~~ consumption of electricity. If we regulate external lighting through legislation, external lighting will be greatly reduce, and it will improve the quality of life of the people.

Mark: 1

Comment:

- The candidate briefly pointed out some negative impacts of light pollution.
- However, the inadequate supporting arguments and the absence of discussion on the impact of "regulation" revealed the lack of understanding of the issue and the question.

Exemplar 2

(a) I think that the government should regulate external lighting through legislation.

Although external lights are beautiful, and more stable and can attract tourists, they are not good to our health and environment.

External lighting would cause light pollution. Although light pollution do not have suspended particles or smog, it still causes great impact on our health. The lights would be blinding and shine through our curtains at night. In this way, our room would be very bright and we cannot sleep. If we cannot sleep, we would not have enough rest and it would affect the functioning of our organs. Also, we would perform poorly in class and we could not get into good schools or get good jobs. The economy of the society would collapse because of unskilled unemployed citizens.

Furthermore, if people cannot get enough sleep, their working performance would be poor. If the police force did not have enough sleep, they could not combat crime and crime rate would increase and the security of the city would ~~be~~ deteriorate and foreign investments would retreat and the economy would face a meltdown.

Also, putting up external lightings are a very selfish and inconsiderate idea because companies only care about the advertisement effectiveness but not the health condition of the general public.

These irresponsible companies should face prosecutions.

Also, it would be very easy to spot the external lightings on the street and the police could easily prosecute the external lightings.

Looking at other countries' example, there are many successful cases as shown in ~~many~~ ^{the} sources. Thus, I think that legislation is the best way to solve these problems.

Mark: 4

Comment:

- A consistent argument was put forth.
- The candidate tried to explain his/her stance with the source. However, sweeping arguments and over-exaggerated effects of light pollution could be found.
- He/she tried to explain the need for legislation with respect to law enforcement but the discussion was rather shallow.

Exemplar 3

(a) Hong Kong urban areas have been seriously affected by unnatural lighting. Up to now, laws have not been enacted to regulate this kind of problem. Therefore, I suggest that there is a need for legislation to control light pollution.

To begin with, citizens' health under serious light pollution is in high risk. Under strong lighting at night, not only does the emotion or psychological health are affected, but also, physical health problems can be observed. For example, from the news extract, women's hormonal levels are being disrupted by light pollution for a long time. Research states that the chance of getting breast cancer is higher than normal people because of the great reduction of the secretion of the cancer-inhibiting melatonin. From these, we know that health can be seriously affected by light pollution and legislation to regulate the problem is necessary.

In addition, although we have beautiful night scenery in Hong Kong, the light has been too bright that we cannot observe dimmer stars in Milky Way at night. Especially in highly developed urban areas like Central and Mong Hong, advertisement lightings dominated the city. However, the lights have been so strong that it prevent lights originated from the stars entering the city, because their lights are covered. So, apart from main star series and the moon, we can hardly see any stars at night if we live in urban areas.

More, the habits of the animals living in Hong Kong will be changed and the ecosystem in Hong Kong may break down. Due to strong lighting, wild animals or birds may think that the daytime has not ended yet.

Indeed, their 'daytime' is never going to end in areas. This caused the loss of natural ability of sun and develop mutational behaviours, which is a problem that we should take note of.

Someone may say that the legislation process is going to be difficult since companies and organizations may have great opposition on the issue because of the vested interests, like the effectiveness of advertisements and the good-looking of the buildings. However, if we don't legislate and enact laws to regulate light pollution in Hong Kong, the problem is going to be more and more serious due to urban expansion and the increasing future development. At last, residents are going to suffer. Which is more important, the short-term well-being of these companies or the long-term health crisis of people?

All in all, due to health problem and the disruption of ecosystem, the Hong Kong government should try their best to regulate external lighting through legislation, so that companies are going to have guidelines to follow to reduce unwanted lights. We have already passed laws in air, water, noise and different kinds of pollution, why can't we have one for light pollution in order to protect Hong Kong citizens?

Mark: 7

Comment:

- The candidate demonstrated his/her ability to analyse and explain the problems brought about by light pollution from different perspectives and in a systematic manner.
- Furthermore, he/she was able to put forth sound, and clearly supported arguments.
- Counter-arguments were mentioned in the discussion of the necessity and feasibility of legislation, again providing evidence of multiple-perspective thinking.
- Nevertheless, there was too much emphasis on the impact of pollution. In order to fully address the question, the importance and effectiveness of legislation should have been further elaborated.

2(b)

Exemplar 1

(b) Apart from ^{the} legislation by the government, all the people who are suffering from the light pollution should hold a demonstration to recall the ^{gov} governmentness of this problem. ~~They~~ Through the demonstration, people can ^{public} tell others not to buy things in the building that give out light pollution. Once the business in the shops ~~is~~ affected, the light will be turned off. Also, when there is ~~one~~ building give up of ~~the~~ using ^{external} external light, ~~besides, all the buildings should be encourage to stop the external light.~~

~~And newspaper can report that to the~~

Besides, government ~~to~~ ^{should} rise the ~~external~~ prices of external light. If the building's owner feel that the price is too high, they will definitely give up the external light.

Mark: 1

Comment:

- The candidate was only able to point out that demonstration and boycott by the public would help alleviate the problem.
- However, not much effort is evident in the explanation of the measures. The feasibility of the measures was also neglected when making the suggestions.

Exemplar 2

(b) Apart from the legislation of the government, there are several ways that could alleviate the problem of light pollution.

Firstly, the government could film different advertisements to promote switching off lights at nights to the owners of the building. ^{external} The content of the advertisement can be interviews of the residents who are adversely affected by light pollution, it can be followed by scientific reports on how light pollution can lead to different health problems, such as sleeplessness or cancer. Other than advertisements shown on TV, it is also possible to have large posters on KMB buses to promote this idea.

Secondly, the residents affected by the light pollution can try wearing eye masks at night, or during their sleep. Since eye mask can completely block the external light, so even when the external light is shining brightly into the house at night, they wouldn't feel it during their sleep, it reduces the possibility that non-natural light at night would affect women's hormones level.

Thirdly, another possible way is to increase the electricity bill after 12 midnight. Usually, the average sleeping time of adult is 12 midnight, so those buildings which still light their external wall brightly at those hours could be regarded as light pollution and can be causing health problems to the residents. According to law of demand, an increase in price would lead to a decrease in the quantity demanded. When the price of electricity increases after midnight, in order to save the expenses, they may choose not to switch on the lights after 12 midnight. It is thus a possible measure to alleviate the problem of light pollution.

Fourthly, the government could impose the scheme that any building who refuse to switch off the external lighting of their high-rise building would have to pay two times management fee to the management office of the building. The management office could then give 50% of it to the government. In this way, the owners of the building would feel ~~worried~~ to have to pay ^{much} more just because of switching on lights at night and therefore agree to dim it down or completely switch it off.

The above measures are feasible measures that could alleviate the problem of light pollution.

Mark: 5

Comment:

- The candidate suggested several types of measures and tried to explain the possible benefits after adopting them.
- However, some of the suggestions were just some passive ways of evading the problem and the feasibility of some

Exemplar 3

(b) Apart from government's legislation on the effects brought by light pollution, there are indeed other ways to alleviate the problem.

Firstly, the poor shielding of street lightings cause light trespass to the surrounding areas and affects the biological clock of residents as well as other biological species. Therefore, I think the government can also improve the design of the street lightings to reduce the amount of light trespass and alleviate the problem. As the investment put into such improvement is huge, I believe the government should take small and careful steps in improving the problem to prevent the nuisance and waste of money.

Secondly, there are lights switching on round the clock every day in commercial areas in Hong Kong. A shopping mall in West Kowloon even leave its lights (over 600) on over the night for the use of a convenient store. This is shocking but I am not exaggerating. I do think that this is a matter Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the businessmen as well as the firm since the government can do nothing to force the commercial centres and shopping malls to turn off all or just most of the lights as it is indeed the firm who is paying for the electricity bill.

However, I do think that the government can encourage the two electric companies in Hong Kong to increase the electricity bill of commercial electricity consumption. This can increase the cost of the firm which indicates a lower revenue. It can urge the firm to reduce its cost by conserving electricity which I believe they would turn off most lights at nights as they are unnecessary.

Moreover, at night, there are skyscrapers along the Victoria Harbour to shoot light onto the sky, making it looks like a starry stage and attracts more tourists to admire the artificial

light performance. This is obviously a factor which contribute to pollution as they reflect light up high to the sky, increase the night brightness and decrease the number of stary nights.

I know such performance is astonishing and even myself enjoy it much. Therefore, I suggest the government reduce the nights of using skyscrapers rather having it every night, for instance, make it twice a week. This can maintain the honour of Pearl of the Orient as well as alleviate the problems caused by light pollution.

I believe the above three measures are effective in alleviating the problems caused by light pollution and with the effort of government legislation, I believe the problems can be alleviated much.

Mark: 7

Comment:

- The candidate discussed quite clearly various types of measures which might help alleviate the problem, demonstrating good analytical skills and an understanding of the demand of the question.
- The candidate was also able to identify that the private sector, besides the government, constitutes the key stakeholders in alleviating the problem.
- Nevertheless, some measures could have been further explained, for instance, the adjustment to the light shows.