

# HKDSE

## English Language

### Paper 2 Writing

10 Most Common Text Types  
+ Model Essays  
(with selected past paper questions)



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# Article – 2018 DSE Q.6

‘Athleisure’ is currently one of the biggest trends in the fashion industry. This is a term for clothes that can be worn both for exercise and as everyday wear.



Write an article for the local newspaper explaining possible reasons for the rise in popularity of athleisure.

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing an article to suggest reasons for the rise of popularity of athleisure
Role	Student (analyzing this trend)
Point of View	People who embrace / are indifferent to / or dislike this trend
Text Type	Article
Audience	The general public (people interested in this fashion trend)
Tense	Past and Present Tenses
Tone and Style	Journalistic and semi-formal (to inform and entertain)

## Tips to Follow

### 1. Begin with *a precise introduction*

- ➔ Present the big picture
- ➔ Describe the trend in general
- ➔ **Be concise but not ignorant** about other fashion trends

### 2. Conceive your structure

- ➔ Present the arguments in a logical and comprehensible flow
- ➔ **Categorise arguments** into different aspects  
e.g. economically, culturally, socially, health-wise
- ➔ Other possible explanations include comfort, style, change in lifestyle, convenience, affordability, celebrity endorsement effect, etc.
- ➔ Examples of out of scope ideas include the future of this trend and in depth analysis of the pros of living a healthy life



### 3. Use PEE structure

- ➔ **Point** – generalize your argument clearly in the topic sentence
- ➔ **Evidence** – give examples to support your point
- ➔ **Explanation** – state clearly the reasons and consequences (why your point is correct)

## 2018 DSE Q.6 Sample Essay

Athleisure – The New Fad	
Introduction	
<p>Fashion trends are changing all the time, and sometimes it can be hard to keep up. The ① <b>latest craze</b> in the industry is ‘Athleisure’, but ② <u>what exactly is this new style of clothing and why has it been rising in popularity recently?</u></p>	<p>① <b>Outline the trend</b> of athleisure (you can also explain the name – athletic + leisure).</p> <p>② Show the theme of the article by <b>posing a question</b>.</p>
Body Paragraph 1 – Definition and historical change of perception	
<p>③ <u>‘Athleisure’ refers to clothes which can be worn both for exercise and as everyday wear. Sneakers are a classic example of this, but now the trend is spreading much further to include tights, shorts and other clothes made using breathable fabrics.</u> ④ <u>In the past, people would have thought it was improper to wear these kinds of clothes in public. Yet, the modern world is becoming less and less formal, and teens today do not care about looking smart all the time. All have allowed athleisure to flourish. In fact,</u> ⑤ <u>many celebrities such as Beyoncé and Rihanna have been photographed wearing athleisure, further boosting the popularity of these fashionable yet informal exercise clothes.</u></p>	<p>③ <b>Defining</b> athleisure <b>with examples</b> (Though not required by the topic, giving definition can be useful for your following explanation and can make your article more informative and comprehensive).</p> <p>④ Provide the first reason – historical change of perception.</p> <p>⑤ <b>Give examples with explanations</b>.</p>
Body Paragraph 2 - Health	
<p>⑥ <u>Another factor is that the world is also becoming much more conscious of health and fitness. Thanks to advances in science, we are more aware than ever of the importance of a balanced diet and plenty of exercise.</u> ⑦ <b>This is reflected</b> in the increased popularity of health foods, gym memberships, and of course sports clothing. There is simply more demand for exercise wear because more and more people are exercising. However, in a fashion-conscious world, many consumers still want to look good when doing their workout, hence the rise of athleisure. ⑧ <u>After all, there is <b>no reason why</b> a sports garment cannot look beautiful, and if an item of clothing looks good then people will want to wear it everywhere.</u></p>	<p>⑥ State <b>a clear topic sentence</b> – health consciousness is what you want to focus on here.</p> <p>⑦ Compare the rise of athleisure with other health-related trends, i.e. supplements and sports memberships) – <b>reinforces your point</b> about athleisure.</p> <p>⑧ Briefly sum up the paragraph.</p>

Body Paragraph 3 – Economic concerns

Unsurprisingly, ⑨ there are also economic factors involved. From the public’s point of view, it makes sense to buy a garment which is multifunctional. If they can use an item of clothing both for exercise and as fashionable everyday wear, it is like getting two items for the price of one. As the world continues to recover from the financial crisis, little ways to save money like this are more important than ever.

⑨ Suggest an argument from another perspective to **show your perspective-taking ability** – Economic concerns are always important as human and financial crises keep coming up in our lifetime, e.g. COVID-19 in 2020).

Body Paragraph 4 – Business incentives

⑩ In addition, businesses have a strong economic incentive to provide athleisure wear. ⑪ On the one hand, sports clothing companies have a way to get into the fashion market, while on the other hand, fashion brands have an opportunity to capitalise on the popularity of the fitness market. Therefore, different sectors within the clothing industry have good reasons to celebrate the rise of athleisure because it offers the opportunity for expansion, and ultimately for increased profits.

⑩ Explain the economic standpoint from businesses and provide concrete examples and explanation to support both facets of sportswear marketing.

⑪ Examples and explanation (cross-sector incentives of marketing athleisure).

Conclusion

Fashions **come and go**. ⑫ It is hard to say whether athleisure will still be a big business in ten years, but for now its popularity continues to rise. ⑬ This not only reflects our modern age, in which fitness, fashion and informality are seen as priorities, but it also allows consumers to save money and businesses to grow.

⑫ The future is uncertain, so this is out of the question scope.

⑬ **Summarize** all the arguments in **concise wording**.

Word count: 477

Useful vocabulary and phrases

craze (n.)	潮流	thanks to (phr.)	由於
conscious of (phr. v.)	在意	capitalize (v.)	利用
informality (n.)	非正式		

## Mock Question and Answer

Write an article on whether social networking would cause bullying.

### Does Social Networking Cause Bullying?

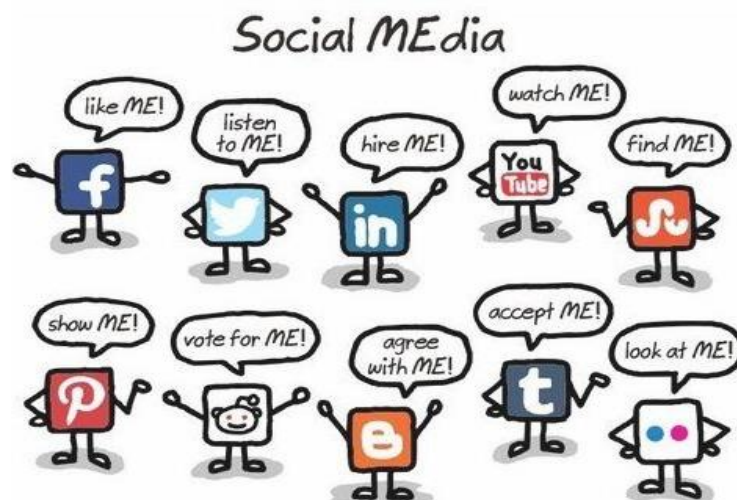
Ever since **the rise of** social networking sites as one of the main ways for people of all ages to interact, they have been used for bad as well as good ends. Social networking sites have been used to bring people from all over the world together, allowing them to stay in contact when they are physically distant. On the other hand, they have been used to **ridicule** and make fun of people online, in an arena where authority figures like teachers and parents are unable to stop bullying. So, to what extent does social networking bring about bullying?

There is **a strong case** for this argument that social networking is a vehicle for bullying, especially in young people. Cyber-bullying means that children who are bullied cannot feel safe or happy even when they are at home. Online forums like Facebook mean that people may still feel nervous and worried about other people making mean comments online. Furthermore, having an online profile makes people nervous about their social groups. It forces you to be worried if your friends list is not long enough or does not have the right people in it. Online profiles also make people self-conscious, as they have to constantly maintain their image and worry about their online presence in order to keep up with cool trends or remain friends with the right people. What social networking sites produce is another place where people can feel left out or unpopular.

**Conversely**, these negative aspects in the use of social networking sites are not really caused by social networking itself. Bullies do indeed find a place to carry out their evil in these sites, but social networking only provides a convenient place in which to do it. The existence of bullying must be **attributed** to other factors, and it is born in the classroom and the playground. Schools frequently record incidents where students get bullied because they are unpopular with the “cool kids”, and bullies often get their arrogance through peer encouragement. If already we could foster better relationships between young people with mutual respect and care when they are still young, this will allow for a much better outcome in the long term. Only the shift in attitudes will cause young people to grow up without treating each other badly.

It is clear that bullying is a phenomenon which could happen through several media. As such, it is important to emphasise that we should not ban or try to get young people to cut down on using social networking, as it does not inherently cause bullying. We should tackle bullying at its **root cause** – the interpersonal level.

Word count: 440



# Blog – 2018 DSE Q.2

You recently ran the Hong Kong Marathon for the first time.

Write a blog to be posted on the Hong Kong Marathon’s website to encourage other young people to take part in the next marathon.

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing a blog to share your experiences and encourage young people to participate in a marathon.
Role	Blogger / Internet celebrity
Point of View	Athlete
Text Type	Blog
Audience	Young people (and other people interested in this sport)
Tense	Past and Present Tenses
Tone and Style	Persuasive, informal and entertaining

## Tips to Follow

1. Keep it **personal**

- ➔ Blogs are personal documents. You may be asked to write a blog on behalf of a company, but usually they are yours.
- ➔ Talk about your life and your experiences (particularly the events leading up to the marathon in this case).
- ➔ Use the **pronoun “I”**.

2. Keep an informal tone

- ➔ Write in a **friendly and disarming manner**.
- ➔ Use phrasal verbs, colloquialisms and informal connectors.
- ➔ Contractions are accepted but, as always, avoid overdoing it.

3. Make your blog clear and interesting

- ➔ Give a good, **eye-catching title**
- ➔ Use interesting examples
- ➔ Refer to **popular culture**
  - References to topical issues, popular musicians and common pastimes.
- ➔ Use humor
  - **Adding jokes or humour** will help your reader stay focused and interested.

4. Interact with your readers

- ➔ Refer to other blog posts
  - You can talk about other blog posts you have read, or refer back to blog posts you have written previously.
- ➔ Invite readers to **follow your blog** at the end.

## 2018 DSE Q.2 Sample Essay

A New Finish Line to Cross!	
Introduction	
<p>① <u>I just ran the Hong Kong Marathon for the very first time, and it was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.</u> I'm still <b>on cloud nine!</b> That's why I'd like to tell you all about my experience and encourage you to take part for yourselves.</p>	<p>① A quick recap of your experience – <b>"I" centric</b>, based on personal experiences.</p>
Body Paragraph 1 – Training	
<p>First off, running the marathon was great for my health. Before I decided to do the race, I was pretty overweight and did hardly any exercise. However, as soon as I signed up I knew that I needed to begin training immediately. ② <u>I started to go running every day, covering short distances at first and then doing longer and longer routes.</u> I also cut down on sugary, fatty foods and increased my protein intake. <u>The results were miraculous.</u> ③ <u>Before I even ran the marathon, I felt like a new person. I was so much happier and healthier than before.</u> Clearly, running a marathon had an amazing impact on my health and I know that it can do the same for you too.</p>	<p>② <b>Explain</b> in detail how challenging the sport proved to be for you.</p> <p>③ Emphasise to what extent preparing for a marathon has affected you</p>
Body Paragraph 2 – The surprises	
<p>④ <u>On top of that, doing the marathon was an amazing social experience, which I hadn't expected.</u> Various group training sessions were held around the city, and through these I got the chance to meet a huge range of different people, from newbies like me to experienced marathon runners. Everyone had a <b>fascinating story</b> to tell about why they were running the marathon, and being with other people also made the training a lot easier. I have made friends for life through running the Hong Kong Marathon, and I feel way more sociable and connected than before. ⑤ <u>In short, a marathon is about more than just running!</u></p>	<p>④ Talk about the <b>unexpected benefits</b> / <b>unintended consequences</b> of this event.</p> <p>⑤ A small conclusion at the end of each paragraph helps to wrap it up.</p>



Body Paragraph 3 – The most meaningful part of the marathon

However, the most satisfying thing about running the marathon was that I raised a lot of money for charity. My mum was diagnosed with cancer last year, and so I decided to run in order to raise funds for the Hong Kong Cancer Institute. Lots of friends and family members sponsored me, and so in the end I raised over HK\$5,000. ⑥ What's more, thousands of people do the marathon for charity every year, making it one of the biggest fundraising events in Hong Kong. If there is a cause that you would like to support, running a marathon is an amazing way to raise both money and awareness.

⑥ **Use** of **slang or abbreviation** to make your blog more informal and accessible to your (young) readers.

Conclusion

Running the Hong Kong Marathon has changed my life in so many ways, and I know that it can do the same for you too. ⑦ I feel better than ever. Not only am I happier and healthier, I **also** have more friends and have been able to raise money for a great cause. ⑧ So, what are you waiting for? If you think you might like to have a go, I encourage you to sign up today. It will be the best decision you have ever made.

⑦ **Recap** the benefits that marathon has brought to you.

⑧ **Use rhetorical questions** to encourage audience engagement and participation.

Word count: 478

Useful vocabulary and phrases

on cloud nine (idiom)	高興極了	miraculous (adj.)	奇跡般的
fascinating(adj.)	極有趣的	diagnosed (v.)	診斷



## Model Essay – 2017 DSE Q.2

You have just heard this song about opportunities.

Look  
If you had  
One shot  
Or one opportunity  
To seize everything you ever wanted  
In one moment  
Would you capture it  
Or just let it slip?

You have been inspired to share your feelings about opportunities on your online blog. In your blog write about one opportunity that you missed and one opportunity that you took.

### It All Comes Down to You Saying “Yes!”

Have you ever missed a great opportunity? Yesterday, I heard a song which was all about opportunities. It made me think about my life, the opportunities that I have missed, and the opportunities that I have taken. Although I’m still at school, there have been many missed opportunities in my life.

For example, five years ago, I applied for a place at Mountview Music School in England. I played the piano, and I had always dreamed about going to a music school in England. My audition was in January and I flew all the way from Hong Kong to London. It was cold and dark, but I was so excited and the audition went really well. I performed my favourite music and the teachers at the school were very impressed, so I flew back to Hong Kong with a huge smile on my face. Then, two weeks later, a letter arrived... They offered me a place! Me and my family were **over the moon**.

However, suddenly I became very scared. England was thousands of miles away. Would I miss my family? Would my dreams really come true? Was I too young to leave home? It was all **too overwhelming**, so I decided to turn down the offer. My family were shocked but they said that they would support me no matter what. I had an amazing opportunity and I **let it slip**.

On the other hand, I have also taken some great opportunities in my life. Last year, I had a chance to do a concert at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall as part of an event celebrating youth music in Hong Kong. At first, I didn’t want to do it. I was scared, just like I was scared when I received the offer from the music school. Thankfully, I had become a stronger person since then. It was an **incredible opportunity** and I didn’t want to let it slip, so I said “yes”! Honestly, it was the best day of my life. Not only did I play my favourite music, but there was a huge audience too.

All of us have missed opportunities in our lives, but we shouldn’t be sad about it. After all, there will be more opportunities in the future. My advice is this: go for it! Be brave, confident and positive. Seize all the great opportunities that come your way.

Word count: 397

# Book / Film Review – 2019 DSE Q.6

You are a reporter for the entertainment section of the Young Post. You have been asked to review a new film called *Cinderella* which is based on the comic series *Princesses of Power*.

- Write a review of the film
- Include a brief description of the plot, how the characters are portrayed in this new version of *Cinderella* and why the director wanted to make this film
- Give your review a title

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing a review on the film <i>Cinderella</i> .
Role	Film critic
Point of View	Audience and reviewer
Text Type	Film Review (a book review works in a similar way)
Audience	The general public (those interested in this film)
Tense	Present Tense
Tone and Style	Informative commentary, informal and entertaining

## Tips to Follow

1. Start right away

- ➔ Do not make your reader wait
  - At the beginning of your review, say the name of the book/film and the author / filmmaker.
- ➔ Give your opinion at the start
  - You do not have to wait until the end of the review to say what you think of the book / film. You can do that right at the start.
  - **Give** your **readers a general idea** of whether you enjoyed it or not.

2. Do not give away the ending

- ➔ When you are summarising the plot, you should only choose key details.
- ➔ **Do not talk about** anything that happens in **the last third** of the book / film.

3. Give specifics

- ➔ **Refer to specific scenes** or aspects of the book / film that you enjoyed or did not enjoy.
- ➔ Do not just say “the romantic scenes were nice”.
- ➔ Usually in an exam question, details about the book / film are not given. Make them up!

4. Choice of words

- ➔ Use positive / negative adjectives
- ➔ **Use** some **technical vocabulary** (literary / filmmaking jargons)
- ➔ Use appropriate connectors



## 2019 DSE Q.6 Sample Essay

<b>A Hero for Teenagers Everywhere</b>	
Introduction	
<p><i>Cinderella</i> is the latest film by director Travis Leung, and it is based on the popular comic series <i>Princesses of Power</i>. Fans have been looking forward to this new movie for years, ① <u>but does it <b>live up to</b> people's expectations?</u></p>	<p>① Use rhetorical questions to attract readers to read on and possibly to check out the film.</p>
Body Paragraph 1	
<p>The plot is an update of the classic story of Cinderella. Just like in the original story, Cinderella works like a slave for her stepmother. ② <u>However, in the film she is transformed into a superhero instead of a princess.</u> Also, a mysterious alien gives her superpowers rather than a fairy godmother. She only has until midnight to save the world from the evil villain Dr Death, who wants to take over the planet. ③ <u>The story follows the original comic book very closely except for <b>an unexpected twist</b> at the end. I won't tell you what happens, but it is definitely <b>shocking and thrilling</b>.</u></p>	<p>② <b>Mention briefly</b> the changes the film made to the classic story, especially one as well-known as Cinderella.</p> <p>③ <b>Do not spoil the important scenes</b> to the readers. If they want to know more, they will get tickets to see the film!</p>
Body Paragraph 2	
<p>④ <u>The characters in the film are very strong, especially Cinderella, played by Hong Kong actress Lucy Cheung.</u> She is a powerful, independent woman and not like a traditional fairy tale princess at all. Meanwhile, the alien who gives her superpowers is another strong female character played by Vanessa Mak. ⑤ <u>"I wanted to make this film in order to boost the number of heroines in movies," says director Travis Leung. "So many superheroes are male and so many traditional stories like Cinderella do not have strong women. I wanted to change that."</u> Meanwhile, the evil Dr Death is played brilliantly by Jackie Wong, and Paula Mak also appears as Cinderella's wicked stepmother.</p>	<p>④ <b>Pick characters</b> that you like and <b>describe</b> who they are and why you like them in considerable detail.</p> <p>⑤ Quote lines from director or from the film to <b>show behind-the-scenes commentary</b> and thoughts that went into making this film</p>

Body Paragraph 3	
<p>The film contains brilliant acting, but lots of other elements are also very effective. ⑥<u>For example, the special effects are amazing, especially in the scene where Cinderella fights with Dr Death’s evil army.</u> It looked so realistic. The costumes by designer Flora Lam are also excellent. I’m sure that girls everywhere will want to dress up in Cinderella’s silver and red suit. On top of this, the music by veteran film composer Tom Parkinson is also noteworthy. It really makes the film come to life and the main theme tune is very memorable.</p>	<p>⑥ <b>Comment on</b> the movie from different perspectives – making a film requires a lot of people working in different positions – pick on <b>the music, special effects, camerawork, screenplay</b>, etc.</p>
Conclusion	
<p>Overall, I think that <i>Cinderella</i> is a brilliant film on many different levels. Not only does it feature amazing acting, costumes, special effects and music, but it also sends a powerful message that women can be superheroes too. In this way, Leung has achieved his goal. ⑦<u>Fans of <i>Princesses of Power</i> will not be disappointed by this adaptation, and I definitely recommend it.</u></p>	<p>⑦ <b>Recommend others to watch if you find the movie interesting.</b> Remember that the question does not require you to like or dislike the film, so be creative on your ‘take’ on it!</p>

Word count: 417

Useful vocabularies and phrases

live up to (phr. v.)	與...一樣好	villain (n.)	反派角色
veteran (n.)	經驗豐富的人	noteworthy (adj.)	值得注意的



## Mock Question and Answer

Write a book review on *The Witches* by Roald Dahl.

### Book Review - *The Witches* by Roald Dahl

Children's author Roald Dahl firmly established himself as one of the most **imaginative writers** of recent times through books such as *James and the Giant Peach* and *Danny, The Champion of the World*. But it's his grisly and amusing 1983 story *The Witches*, **superbly illustrated** by Quentin Blake, that is the jewel in the crown of his illustrious writing career.

The tale begins with the unnamed narrator being orphaned through the tragic death of his parents. According to their wishes, he takes up residence with his Norwegian grandmother and the pair moves to England for the boy's education. But antics in a hotel in Bournemouth soon eclipse anything the English school system can provide. The narrator, warned by his grandmother of a suspicious breed of witches disguised as upstanding, middle-class ladies, gets more than he bargained for when he discovers a plot to wipe out the entire population of English children by transforming them into mice. Unwittingly finding himself at the annual convention of England's witches, the narrator gets a sneak preview of the demonic intentions of the Grand High Witch, as fellow hotel guest Bruno Jenkins is transformed into vermin before his very eyes. Bruno, in many ways a spoilt child, forms an alliance with the narrator and his grandmother and the trio vow to take on the witches and put paid to their evil scheming.

Dahl is to be **congratulated**, as always, on his **boundless capacity for flights of imagination**. Not many writers would get away with a cast of Norwegian grandmothers, talking mice and half-womanly, half-devilish creatures. But where Dahl really stands out is his ability to make the serious comic, and the comic serious. After all, his plot deals with the death of parents, as well as **a thoroughly uncharitable plot** to exterminate children. But somehow, Dahl forces us to laugh at these sinister events, whilst also asking us to **reflect more somberly on vices** such as greed and selfishness. Such an achievement is no mean feat.

Of course, **the book has its flaws too**. The fact that the hero is a small boy, whilst the villains are middle-aged women is sure to give feminists something to complain about. And it could be argued that the plot is too contrived: how likely is it that the boy and his grandmother would really find themselves in the same hotel as the Grand High Witch? Nevertheless, these minor detractions do not stop the book being one of the most entertaining in modern children's literature.

Fans of Roald Dahl will no doubt enjoy reading *The Witches*, but even those who are not **seasoned lovers** of his books, or of books in general, would find it highly entertaining. In the opinion of this critic, it's well worth a read.

Word count: 468

# Debate Speech – 2018 DSE Q.5

You are representing your school at an inter-school debating competition. The motion is: ‘The policy of reporting students’ class position should be abolished’. Write a debate speech arguing for OR against the motion.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Name	Chinese Grade	English Grade	Mathematics Grade	Overall Position
2	Jack	A+	A+	A	1
3	Billy	A-	A	A+	2
4	Philip	A	A	B+	3
5	Sally	B+	A	B+	4
6	Ruby	B+	B+	B	5
7	Mark	B	B	B	6
8	Mary	B	B	B-	7
9	Elsa	B	B-	B-	8
10	Ricky	B-	B-	C	9
11	Jane	C	B-	C	10

## Question Layout

Situation	You are joining a debate competition to debate on whether schools should report students’ class positions.
Role	Debater
Points of View	Students / teachers / parents
Text Type	Debate Speech
Audience	Judges, opponents and audience
Tense	Present Tense
Tone and Style	Persuasive

## Tips to Follow

### 1. Greet your audience

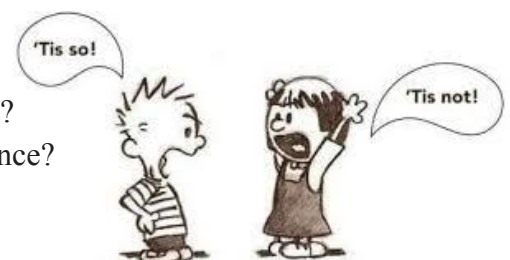
- ➔ It is important to recognize who you are talking to. You might be addressing your fellow classmates, teachers, or even the principal.
- ➔ Keep your points short and simple. Get to your points as soon as possible. Do not let your audience fall asleep before you have begun.

### 2. Make your position clear

- ➔ **State** which **side of the motion** you are defending right at the start. Your readers do not want to wait for you to be halfway through your speech before they are aware of your position.
- ➔ In this case, supporting the motion means you think this policy *should be abolished*.
- ➔ Maintain a **consistent stance** throughout your speech.

### 3. Make your speech persuasive

- ➔ Words like ‘for’ and ‘since’ add persuasive power to your arguments
- ➔ **Use Point – Evidence – Example (PEE) format**
  - Point – what is your main argument?
  - Evidence – what example can you use to support the argument?
  - Explanation – what is the link between the point and the evidence?
- ➔ Add adverbs to emphasise your points



### 4. Write a strong conclusion

- ➔ Summarise your arguments in a **short but powerful sentence** at the end.

### 5. Remember that it is a team effort instead of an individual speech

- ➔ Use ‘We’ instead of ‘I’

→ Question your opposing team with rhetorical questions

## 2018 DSE Q.5 Sample Essay

### Opening

Good afternoon everyone. ① We are here today to debate whether the policy of reporting students' class position should be abolished. ② I strongly support this motion for a number of compelling reasons, and I am sure that by the end of this speech you will too.

① State the purpose of debate and rephrase your question.

② Clearly state your stance.

### Body Paragraph 1 – Argument #1

③ First of all, school grades are clearly a private matter. It is my belief that academic results should be treated like phone numbers or bank details.

③ State a clear **topic sentence** to tell readers what you are going to talk about.

④ Students should be able to choose when and how they share this information, if they choose to share it at all. After all, only our own grades matter to us, not anybody else's. Although we might be curious about how our classmates have done, it is up to them to tell us if they want to. ⑤ In this way, those who want to share their results can do so, and those who would rather not don't have to. This is a win-win situation.

④ Explanation on how the evidence support your stance (bank details are suitably compared with grades in terms of privacy).

⑤ **A small conclusion** at the end of each body paragraph reminds the audience on the points you have mentioned.

### Body Paragraph 2 – Argument #2

However, as well as violating personal privacy, reporting students' class positions can also be disastrous for mental health. ⑥ As we all know, students in Hong Kong are under a lot of pressure, with tutorial classes and extracurricular activities every day and high expectations from teachers and parents. Knowing that you will be ranked and that your results will immediately be compared with everyone else's adds **an unnecessary layer of pressure.** This can lead to stress, anxiety or even suicide among young people who are struggling to cope as it is. ⑦ Why would we not support a measure which could reduce the pressure that teens feel? Abolishing this practice **is just common sense.**

⑥ **Use real life illustrations** to support your points – your essay will sound more grounded and persuasive.

⑦ Use rhetorical questions to emphasize your points and to leave audience with room to think.



### Body Paragraph 3 – Rebuttal

⑧ Some people may argue that reporting results in this way encourages competitiveness among students and leads them to work hard and achieve their very best. It is true that students may want to perform better in order to get a better ranking, but this kind of competitiveness easily leads to bullying and abuse.

⑨ For example, students who have a low overall position may be mocked by their classmates when the results are published. What’s more, students who have a high ranking may start to feel like they are better than everyone else and look down on their classmates. There is **a dark side** to competitiveness, and it seems obvious to me that making students’ class positions public encourages all sorts of negative behaviour.

⑧ Mention possible counter arguments and refute them.

⑨ **Use anecdotes or personal experience** to support your stance (i.e. “improvement through competition” is less important than students’ mental health).

### Conclusion

In conclusion, reporting students’ class positions is an outdated practice ⑩ which makes private information public, increases the amount of pressure on students, and leads to bullying and bad attitudes among students. There is no doubt in my mind that it should be abolished so that students can be happier, healthier and more in control of their personal information. Thank you for listening.

⑩ **Rule of three** is used to make the essay more compelling – the message is more efficiently conveyed.

Word count: 452

#### Useful vocabulary and phrases

compelling (adj.)	很有說服力的	a win-win situation(n. phr.)	雙贏局面
disastrous (adj.)	極其糟糕的	cope (v.)	(成功地)應付
an outdated practice(n. phr.)	過時的作法		

## Mock Question and Answer

You are a member of the school debating club and will soon give a speech on the motion ‘The Government should increase taxes on alcohol and tobacco.’ Write the first speech for either the affirmative or negative side.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, I am here today to speak **in favor of the motion** that ‘The Government should raise taxes on alcohol and tobacco’. Let me start by telling you a story. Imagine a man named Li, who is down on his luck because he has lost his job and his house. He is miserable most of the time and the only thing that makes him feel better is heavy drinking. He hates himself, he hates living on the cold, lonely streets, and he hates that what little money he has goes to buy alcohol. **Now I ask you**, ladies and gentlemen and our dear opponent, which should be cheaper for Li? A care programme to help him get his life back on track or another bottle of whiskey?

**It is difficult to deny that** if taxes on alcohol and cigarettes were raised, the government would have more money to rescue, resolve and rejuvenate the lives of the thousands trapped in a pit of alcoholism and smoking addiction. Not only would the government be able to reinvest the taxes to turn Li’s life from a dead end to a road to recovery, they could use the extra money to improve life for everyone.

**The keystone of this argument** is that all the extra funds would come from two of the most harmful substances available legally, substances that can lead people to destruction because they are available so cheaply. Firstly, raising taxes would generate more money for public services, and secondly it would reduce the supply of harmful substances to our most vulnerable citizens.

It is likely, ladies and gentlemen, that today you will hear opposition from two different camps. The first will try to convince you that to rob a man of the pleasures of drinking will reinforce the divide between rich and poor. The second will put forward that the government will not use the tax money for social good. Let me tell you that **I wholeheartedly believe in this motion**, and that these points of opposition are **speculative, fear-mongering and ignorant**. The first is ignorant in its assumption that we need alcohol as a society, its assumption that these harmful substances are a basic human right. Even a small tax increase would have an enormous effect, and a small increase is what I am proposing. The second opposition is fear-mongering because it forgets that before us we see an elected government. Elected no less by the people of this great city! Is it not with them that the responsibility lies? The responsibility to support an increase in tax and improve the lives of so many impoverished?

Before ending my speech, permit me to leave you with this thought: someone will always make money from alcohol and tobacco. Would you rather live in a world where tobacco and alcohol companies got rich from **the mires of human misery**? Or would you rather live in a world where the government was able to wean a nation from its addiction and improve the lives of its most vulnerable citizens? **I leave the decision up to you**. Thank you.

Word count: 519

# Letter of Advice – 2018 DSE Q.4

You write an advice column for *Teen* magazine and you have received the following letter:

I've been thinking about my future. I love animals and I've always wanted to be a vet. But when I told my parents, the first thing they said was 'No'. I feel really frustrated. What should I do? – J.C. (16 years old).

Write a letter of advice.

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing a letter to offer suggestions and recommendations to the puzzled and agitated youngsters for <i>Teen</i> magazine.
Role	Advisor
Points of View	Columnist / teenagers / parents
Text Type	Letter of advice
Audience	Teens (J.C.) and the general public
Tense	Present Tense
Tone and Style	Positive, constructive and helpful

## Tips to Follow

1. Start with **friendly greetings**

- ➔ Begin with general greetings
- ➔ Do not jump in with your advice yet

2. Bear in mind his / her identity

- ➔ Show genuine concern and understanding of their age / gender / situation
- ➔ **Do not patronise them** (with generic and cliché expressions)
- ➔ Use informal language (to better connect with them on a personal level)

3. Sympathize with their situation

- ➔ Demonstrate your understanding towards the problems
- ➔ **Be compassionate and empathetic**

4. Give specifics

- ➔ **Give specific and constructive advice**
- ➔ Make sure the advice is tailored to their needs
- ➔ Avoid general suggestions



## 2018 DSE Q.4 Sample Essay

<p>Greeting and Opening</p> <p>Dear J.C.,</p> <p>① <u>Thanks so much for <b>getting in touch</b>. I am very sorry to hear about your problem with your parents.</u></p> <p>② <u>This is <b>a classic situation</b> for a teenager to be in, but I hope that I will be able to help you through it.</u></p>	<p>① Start with a general greeting that sounds <b>catered to their letter</b>, even though this is a column.</p> <p>② Show that as a columnist, you have encountered this problem before and know how to help.</p>
<p>Body Paragraph 1 – Parents’ perspective</p> <p>First of all, ③ <u>it’s important to understand why exactly your parents said “No” when you told them that you wanted to become a vet. After all, they could have responded in this way for many different reasons.</u></p> <p>④ <u>Perhaps they don’t think that you are serious about your ambition. On the other hand, maybe they think that being a vet is not a worthwhile job, or they want you to do the same job that your family has been doing for generations.</u></p> <p>⑤ <u>How you respond really depends on why they are saying “No” in the first place.</u></p>	<p>③ Give the first piece of advice (begin with parents’ perspective).</p> <p>④ Give clear and <b>concrete examples</b> (sometimes from your own experience).</p> <p>⑤ Ask the recipient to think from their <b>parents’ perspective</b>, then move on to any <b>alternative explanations</b> in the next paragraph.</p>
<p>Body Paragraph 2 – Introspection</p> <p>⑥ <u>If they don’t think that you are serious about wanting to become a vet, it is worth asking yourself: are you? Obviously, being a vet is an extremely challenging job which is not to be taken lightly.</u></p> <p>⑦ <u>Vets work very long hours and frequently must deal with <b>heart-breaking situations</b> such as animal deaths. In addition, while vets are quite well-paid, competition for jobs is fierce in Hong Kong. Just loving animals may not be enough to prepare you for this <b>gruelling career</b>. You need to be interested in biology and interpersonal communication too, for example.</u></p> <p>⑧ <u>Make sure that you really do want to become a vet, then you will be in a stronger position when talking to your parents.</u></p>	<p>⑥ <b>Linked from the previous paragraph</b> – what if the parents are correct?</p> <p>⑦ Counter-argument – might even persuade J.C. to give up (note that the question doesn’t ask you to persuade him to become a vet, you are supposed to give a balanced account).</p> <p>⑧ Give the second piece of advice (i.e. follow the <b>logical flow</b> of Problem A → Solution A → Problem B → Solution B, etc).</p>

Body Paragraph 3 – The society’s view	
<p>However, your parents may not want you to become a vet ⑨ <u>because they don’t think that it is a serious job or because they want you to do something else.</u> Some mums and dads think that <u>being a doctor or lawyer are the only serious careers, while others might want you to take over a family business.</u> In these cases, it might be helpful to explain to your parents why vets are valuable to society beyond just looking after people’s pets. For example, ⑩ <u>vets are vital to the farming industry, which affects all of us.</u> <u>In addition, they can work on movie sets or in zoos, helping to provide entertainment to the public.</u> If you can make it clear to your parents that being a vet is a valuable job which serves society in a variety of ways, they may <b>feel more positive</b> about your choice.</p>	<p>⑨ Give the third piece of advice with concrete examples of ‘desirable’ career choices.</p> <p>⑩ <b>Plausible counter-arguments</b> of benefits of becoming a vet. Look at the situation from different perspectives (i.e. parents / yourself / the society)</p>
Closing and sign off	
<p>I’m sure that your parents want what is best for you, but it’s also important for you to be able to follow your dream. ① <u>Whatever happens, just remember that <b>good communication is vital</b>, so keep talking to your parents in a clear and positive way.</u> I really hope that your problem gets solved, but please feel free to write back to me any time. Good luck, J.C.!</p> <p>Best Wishes, Chris Wong</p>	<p>① End the letter with a <b>friendly and reassuring tone</b>, showing your awareness as an editor.</p>

Word count: 479

Useful vocabulary and phrases

help through (phr. v.)	幫助...渡過	in the first place (link. phr.)	最初，原本
well-paid (adj.)	薪水高的	gruelling (adj.)	艱辛的
feel free (idiom)	可以隨意做		



## Mock Question and Answer

You have received an email from your friend Jane. She is asking for tips as she is preparing for a job interview. Try to give some advice on how to act confident and capable in an interview, as well as how to prepare beforehand. Sign your name Alex.

Hi Jane,

It's great to hear from you. Congratulations on your interview at Cathay Pacific! I'm glad to hear you are making a good start in your job hunt. I think I can offer a few tips to help you out in getting the job.

First of all, it is important to be confident in your abilities! You are a very strong candidate and being able to recognise this will show Cathay Pacific that you will be a self-assured and motivated employee. Projecting a strong and confident personality is an important part of engaging your interviewer and being able to show your strengths rather than concentrate too much on your weaknesses. If you **let your nervousness take over** the interview, you won't be able to show the interviewers what you really can do. But don't go overboard. Be polite to your interviewers and be modest about your achievements. **Don't show off or lapse into arrogance**. Employers will be put off if you over-estimate your abilities or over-exaggerate your achievements.

A good way to prepare for interviews is to try to anticipate what the interviewers are going to ask you. If you know what types of question to expect, you can think of answers to the questions beforehand. You will have to think on your feet in the interview, but if you prepare rough answers, you can mould them for different purposes in the interview. For example, the interviewers will probably ask you about your past work experience, so be ready to talk about the responsibilities that you had in your job at Pluto Marketing. It is useful to think about what you might say if the interviewers ask about your strengths and weaknesses in that job, and how you could improve on your performance at work. Another useful thing to do before the interview is to research on the company. You will **prove your seriousness and dedication** if you are able to show that you have learnt about the company and take your application seriously. You could learn something about the history of Cathay Pacific, such as when it was founded.

If you don't get this job, don't take it personally. Many people apply for a number of jobs before they are successful. This is inevitable when there are high levels of competition. I am sure that you will find a job eventually, if you are not successful with Cathay Pacific. Treat the interview as a learning opportunity. The next time you go for a job, you will have better experience of how to perform well in interviews. In terms of applying for future jobs, it is important to be clear and confident about your abilities on your CV. You don't want to risk hiding your amazing achievements behind your lack of confidence!

I'm sure you'll do very well, so don't be discouraged. Keep me posted!

All the best,  
Alex

Word count: 480

# Letter to the Editor – 2016 DSE Q.2

Because of the lack of sports facilities, some people in your community have suggested that schools should allow the public to use their sports facilities after school hours.

Write a letter to the editor of the *Hong Kong Daily* stating your opinion. Support your opinion with three reasons.

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing a letter to editor discussing whether schools should allow the public to use the sports facilities in your school after school hours.
Role	Student / school staff / member of the general public
Points of View	Students / teachers / staff / school
Text Type	Letter to the Editor
Audience	The school and the general public
Tense	Present tense
Tone and Style	Persuasive and formal

## Tips to Follow

1. Know your audience

→ You might address your letter to “the editor”, but remember that you intend your letter to be read by the public. So make sure you **speak through your editor to the public** at large.

2. An appropriate introduction

→ **Refer back** to the article

- Refer back to the article you have read or the event that has caused you to write in. You can attack the journalist who wrote the article, but not the editor. Give the title of the article and the date it was published.
- Example: I would like to take issue with Tim Hansen’s article “The Drive of Your Life” published in your newspaper last week.

→ Say who you are

3. Make body paragraphs **clear and interesting**

→ Begin each paragraph with a general sentence that introduces your main argument.

→ Choose interesting examples. If you cannot think of any, make them up!

4. **Include opposite points**

→ You absolutely do not have to present the opposite view in detail, or analyse it in any way. Yet, you should mention it. Then **knock it down**.

→ Show that you appreciate other people have different opinions about this issue. In particular, if you are writing in response to an article, say if you agree or disagree with the journalist.

# 2016 DSE Q.2 Sample Essay

## Introduction

① Dear Editor,

② It is criminal that from 4pm, state-of-the-art sports equipment and modern facilities **lie useless and unused**, while local residents in Peaktown have to travel for miles to get their daily fix of sports and exercise. The proposal that the public should be allowed to use school sports facilities in the evenings ③ is an **elegant solution**, as long as it is carried out responsibly.

## Body Paragraph 1 – Encourage people to do sport

Allowing local residents to use school facilities would encourage more people in the local area to take part in sports. ④ As the situation currently stands, people who live in Peaktown have to travel to neighbouring districts in order to take part in sporting activities. Peaktown has no public gym, swimming-pool or even park to run in. This naturally discourages people from exercising, since for many people, it is already **a mammoth effort** to get off the sofa, even without the prospect of a long commute. Giving people a more convenient option would encourage participation in sports and exercise.

⑤ This would be beneficial for the health of individuals, and would also promote community cohesion through team sports and tournaments that would surely arise.

## Body Paragraph 2 – Create links between school and locals

Indeed, opening schools to the general public would enhance community cohesion by creating more links between **schools and the local community**. ⑥ Mutually beneficial relationships could be formed if schools opened their doors to local residents for the use of their sports facilities. If locals feel more connected to the school, there might be an increased turn-out at school events such as concerts and plays. ⑦ As a student myself, I would be over the moon to see more locals enjoying the many events that our school holds. There could be further benefits to students if people using the school facilities felt more inclined to become involved with the school, for example by giving talks or arranging work experience for the school's pupils. As you can see, this scheme could benefit both local residents and schools.

① Address the letter to the editor.

② **Summarise the problem** precisely: schools' facilities aren't used; Peaktown doesn't have sports facilities.

③ **State position/opinion**: agree with proposal to allow the public to use facilities.

④ Create concrete examples that are not given in the question to support your arguments.

⑤ More benefits that may come about with the proposal.

⑥ State that the proposal is beneficial to both parties.

⑦ **Give** personal **examples to support the arguments**.



### Body Paragraph 3 – Possible limitations and practical solutions

⑧ However, I believe strongly that this proposal has to be carefully managed in order to ensure its success. In short, schools should not **foot the bill** for any misuse of the facilities out of school time. Full-time employees would be needed to supervise the safe use of the equipment and grounds, and to provide security for other school buildings which might contain dangerous scientific equipment or confidential information about pupils. A cleaner would also be needed, to ensure that the equipment was returned to the state in which it was left by the children. Certainly, such a scheme would benefit the local community, but there should be no disadvantages to the schools or the pupils. After all, these facilities were originally built for school children.

⑨ Perhaps the local council could organise this scheme and employ the necessary staff, funded by small donations by the people who use the school facilities.

⑧ **Show** that you have considered **the possible limitations**.

⑨ **Give solutions** to the problems that may occur.

### Conclusion

There are many benefits to be gained from opening school facilities to the general public: local residents could more easily access sports facilities, and the school would benefit from links to the community. ⑩ Let us try to implement this proposal without any disadvantages to the existing users of these facilities: the children.

⑩ End the essay by reinforcing the main points and a strong end note. Emphasise the many benefits of the scheme, suggest that it is implemented properly and sign off appropriately.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

Word count: 537

### Useful vocabulary and phrases

criminal (adj.)	糟糕的	mutually (adj.)	互利的
over the moon (idiom)	非常高興	foot the bill (idiom)	埋單



## Model Essay – 2017 DSE Q.5

Recently the Hong Kong government published a list of intangible cultural heritage items that the city should protect. The following were on the list:

*Traditional egg tarts* | *Mahjong*

Write a letter to the editor of the *Hong Kong Daily* supporting the Government's choice of these two features of Hong Kong culture, suggesting why they are worth protecting and how they can be protected.

Dear Editor,

I am writing **in support** of the government's decision to include traditional egg tarts and Mahjong in their list of intangible cultural heritage items that the city should protect. I would like to discuss why they are worth protecting and how they can be protected.

First of all, traditional egg tarts have been **at the heart of** Hong Kong cuisine for over 75 years. Although the recipe combines Portuguese and English elements, the tarts have become a symbol of modern Hong Kong. What is more, there are hundreds of different kinds of egg tart that are unique to Hong Kong. Therefore, they represent Hong Kong's past as well as its future, not to mention that they are absolutely delicious.

The origins of Mahjong are very different. In fact, the game was invented nearly 200 years ago in China. Nowadays, it is popular all around East Asia, but the Hong Kong version is certainly the most popular and accessible. Although the number of people who use traditional methods to make Mahjong tiles is declining, the game is still very popular and is available in electronic versions too. Just like egg tarts, Mahjong symbolises Hong Kong's past, present and future.

Nevertheless, despite the popularity of egg tarts and Mahjong, they must be protected. The world has changed a lot in recent years. **Globalisation** means that the unique identities of cities and countries around the world are at risk. What if young people get distracted by modern video games and forget about Mahjong? What if fast food chains like McDonald's and Burger King replace traditional street food?

I **suggest** that the government holds special events to celebrate Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage. The target audience should be young people because they are the future of Hong Kong. For example, the government could hold a "National Egg Tart Day" on which schoolchildren learn how to make egg tarts and free tarts are given out in the street. Alternatively, there could be a Mahjong tournament for students in the region. This would encourage students to enjoy the game and so they will keep playing when they are adults.

In conclusion, I am proud of Hong Kong's cultural heritage and I am glad that the government has decided to honour traditional egg tarts and Mahjong. However, we need to make sure that these amazing things are protected for future generations.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

Word count: 400

# One-sided Argumentative Essay – 2019 DSE Q.3

The Hong Kong Daily Press invites readers to submit their views on the following topic:

Do social media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter encourage or stifle public debate? When first created, social media was thought to be a place where rational debate and logic would thrive. However, as time has shown, this is not always the case.

- Write an argumentative essay
- Choose one side of the argument and state your position, giving reasons and evidence to support your view
- Include a title for your essay

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing an argumentative essay to convince the audience to agree with you.
Role	Readers of The Hong Kong Daily Press
Point of View	Users of social media platform / the general public / the government
Text Type	One-sided argumentative essay
Audience	Readers and the general public
Tense	Past and Present tense
Tone and Style	Persuasive and formal

## Tips to Follow

### 1. **Set the context**

- ➔ Begin with the general context (i.e. why you are arguing about this)
- ➔ Try to rephrase the question
- ➔ Stay relevant (to the topic)

### 2. **State your position**

- ➔ State your position right and clear in the introduction

### 3. Use **PEE structure**

- ➔ Point – be aware of your main argument
- ➔ Evidence – use examples to support your point
- ➔ Explanation – state clear the reasons and consequences



## 2019 DSE Q.3 Sample Essay

### ① Public Debate and Social Media

#### Introduction

① The recent **rise of social media** has permanently changed the way that we communicate with each other. While platforms like Facebook and Twitter were intended to be a place for rational debate and logic, nowadays they are dominated by anger, abuse and hatred. As a result, ② I believe that these platforms stifle rather than encourage public debate.

#### Body Paragraph 1 – Interpersonal Detachment

First of all, ③ posting online is very different to face-to-face communication. When you are talking to people you disagree with in person, you are more likely to be polite and respectful. However, when you are online you cannot see who you are talking to, it is easier to be rude and hurtful. ④ Because of this, online debates often become toxic and unpleasant, which stifles any chance of having a meaningful conversation. Users just shout other people down rather than engaging in a real debate. On top of this, ⑤ users can **post anonymously**, which makes this problem even worse because there are no consequences to people **being rude or abusive** online.

#### Body Paragraph 2 – Brevity of message

In addition, ⑥ social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook encourage people to post very short messages. In fact, on Twitter users can only use 280 characters in a “tweet”. This means that people usually write quick and simple posts instead of long and in-depth posts, thus becoming more **prone to getting misconstrued**. ⑦ U.S. President Donald Trump, for example, has on many occasions claimed that Twitter employees have misunderstood his intent behind his tweets. One consequence of this is that debates are very shallow rather than having nuance or depth. People can just post quick opinions without any evidence. Clearly, this lowers

① Begin with a proper title and introduction – **start wide and become narrower** until you reach your thesis statement (e.g. global prevalence of Internet usage → more convenient way of communication → social media as a double-edged sword → your stance).

② **State clearly your stance** (also called a thesis statement – the most important sentence of your essay).

③ Give the first argument – use universally agreed upon observations (different between face-to-face interactions and consequence-less contact on the Internet).

④ In *most* cases, people behave with **less restraint** on the Internet, **validating your explanation**.

⑤ Anonymity – another universally agreed upon fact of the internet.

⑥ Give the second argument – use social media’s restrictions and their ways of communication to emphasise how difficult it is to fully understand everyone on the Internet.

⑦ Give an example of famous people being misconstrued in their short tweets here (celebrities, political figures, etc.).

the quality of public debate rather than encouraging people to be **rational and thoughtful**.

### Body Paragraph 3 – Rebuttal

It is true that social media gives millions of people the chance to take part in public debate, including people who did not have a voice in the past. **⑧** However, the reality is that people on social media usually socialise in circles of similar faiths and beliefs, thus they are surrounded by others who often share the same opinions as them. Rather than having polite debates with people who have opposing views, users just have their own opinions confirmed and do not think about any other arguments. Consequently, they think that they are right about everything and cannot handle it when people disagree with them. **⑨** Real debate is stifled and divisions in society become more entrenched.

**⑧** **Counter-arguments** – essential component in a good argumentative essay – shows that you have considered about the other side and have thought about their flaws.

**⑨** Restate and reiterate your point of view.

### Conclusion

Social media is a powerful tool which can be used for both good and evil. **⑩** It has the potential to encourage public debate, but only if people are respectful, thoughtful and willing to talk to people with views that are different from their own. Otherwise, these platforms will only stifle public debate.

**⑩** Sum up your arguments and briefly look into the future – what it is now and what it potentially could be with a push in the right direction.

Word count: 407

#### Useful vocabulary and phrases

rational (adj.)	理智的	stifle (v.)	阻止，壓制
shout down (phr. v.)	蓋過，淹沒	shallow (adj.)	膚淺的
entrenched (adj.)	根深蒂固的		

## Mock Question and Answer

You are a member of the debating club in your school. The club is inviting opinions on whether keeping animals in captivity, zoos and safari parks, is a positive thing. Write a one-sided argumentative essay which will be posted on the website of the club. State and justify your position in the essay.

### Set the Animals Free!

Keeping animals in captivity is always wrong. Zoos and safari parks, although billed as an ethical form of conservation and education, are no different from circuses and shows in terms of their physical and mental effect on the animals involved – they are all principally concerned with entertainment. In this essay I will argue that keeping animals in zoos and safari parks are **morally indefensible**.

Keeping animals in captivity is often **defended on the grounds of** providing a source of education and a centre of conservation. Zoos and safari parks' principle source of revenue, however, is from visitors. Their chief concern is with attracting visitors in order to meet their overhead costs and make a profit. The fact that their main concern is making money means that they cannot be principally concerned with the animals that they claim to conserve and educate people about. They are not hospitals or sanctuaries, but commercial businesses. This concern with money means that animals are not protected equally. It is always profitable to keep a lion, for example, because it attracts crowds, but such establishments are less willing to spend money protecting rare insects or fauna. Zoos and safari parks cannot be defended on the grounds that they put forward, therefore.

Indeed, this concern with money **breeds unethical practices**. Baby animals often attract larger crowds than grown animals do, for example. The money-making potential of baby animals means that zoos and parks often force animals to mate and take their offspring away from them at a very young age. This is distressing for the animals but as the desired effect on the mature adults – it allows them to breed successfully again more quickly. The result is that the zoo or park is again 'blessed' with babies to bring in the crowd. This treatment is distressing and inhumane. It is, however, practised by zoos and parks.

Of course, some people have defended keeping animals in captivity on the Realpolitik grounds that animals are not equal to people. That is to say, animals have no rights because I do not **envisage** any relationship between myself and the animals, thus I have no obligations to them. Take this person's pet dog or cat away, however, and the tune becomes very different. Anyone with a pet will know that animals do feel emotion. To claim that we do not have an obligation towards their welfare, and that we are justified in keeping them in captivity because we want to, is simply outrageous. Zoos and parks simply cannot be defended on these grounds.

Indeed, there are better ways to **educate and conserve** animals than keeping them in captivity. Detaining animals behind bars does allow them to breed and allow the opportunity to study them, but it also costs a lot. There are more effective ways of achieving these goals and investing money than into these parks, most notably of which is investment into charities that aim to maintain animal populations in situ. That is to say, they aim to protect animals in their natural environment rather than removing them for public display. In the past this has been far more successful than putting animals into captivity. For example, very few animal populations are re-released into the wild once put into captivity, in comparison, programmes that protect animals in their environments boast a much more impressive success rate. We ought to consider the different ways in which we can help animals other than the options offered by captivity.

Zoos and parks are **undoubtedly** entertaining; however, there are better ways to achieve the noble aims of these institutions. Protecting animals does not mean putting them behind bars. This has been shown to have a negative impact on their physical and mental health. It is a business that aims to entertain more than anything else. Instead we ought to **focus on the alternatives**, particularly preserving animals in situ.

Word count: 630

# Report – 2017 DSE Q.7

You are working on a project entitled ‘Hong Kong’s NEETs’. NEETs are young people who are not in education, employment or training. Many of these young people spend their time at home playing video games or surfing the Internet.

Write a report to explain why the number of NEETs in Hong Kong is rising and suggest what can be done to help these youths. Give reasons to support your suggestions.

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing a report to explain the increase of NEETs in Hong Kong and give solutions to the problem.
Role	Student / non-government organization worker
Point of View	Student / concerned citizen
Text Type	Report
Audience	The general public
Tense	Present Tense (with use of Reported Speech and Passive Voice)
Tone and Style	Persuasive, formal and informative

## Tips to Follow

1. Provide a **title**

→ All reports have titles. This is an essential feature. For formal reports, it is best to follow the formula: ‘Report on’ / ‘Report about’.

2. Make your report clear

→ **Use subheadings** to make it easier to follow.

→ Provide a summary at the end to sum up your report.

3. Make your report persuasive

→ **Refer to statistics** – if no data is given, make them up.

→ **Keep your tone neutral**, avoid giving opinions unless required.

→ Make suggestions – It is important to remember writing a report. You presumably want someone to do something in response to it.

4. **Use Passive Voice and Reported Speech**

→ As the overall tone of reports needs to be formal and informative, Passive Voice is highly appropriate to this genre.

→ When writing a report, you will often be reporting what other people have said. Using direct quotes is appropriate, but Reported Speech shows a greater degree of sophistication.

## 2017 DSE Q.7 Sample Essay

<b>Report on NEETs in Hong Kong</b>	
Introduction	
<p>Hong Kong has a problem with NEETs, meaning young people who are not in education, employment or training. ① <u>The number of NEETs is rising, and so this report has been written to explain why this is happening and what can be done to help these young people.</u></p>	<p>① Explicitly describe the purpose of the report after giving a word-for-word definition.</p>
Body Paragraph 1 – Reason #1	
<p>② <u>One of the main reasons why the number of NEETs in Hong Kong is rising is the fierce competition in the job market.</u> Nowadays, it is much harder for young people to get a job or a place on a training programme than in the past because the market is very competitive. In short, there are too many people and not enough good jobs. Even if young people have a great education, finding work or training is difficult.</p> <p>③ <u>Exacerbating the problem is the fact that</u> in a pandemic as devastating as COVID-19, many employers have no choice but to cut cost, in the forms of hiring fewer people, implementing unpaid leave and asking previously full-time employees to now work part-time. As a result, more young people become NEETs and live at home.</p>	<p>② A <b>clear topic sentence</b> to introduce your point – the fierce competition within the job market.</p> <p>③ <b>Include</b> real-life <b>examples</b> in your essay.</p>
Body Paragraph 2 – Reason #2	
<p>④ <u>On the other hand, technological advancement means that young people are also more tempted to hedonism than those in the past.</u> Smartphones, video games and the internet distract them from important things like finding a job and being a responsible adult member of the community. <b>Responsibility should also be shared</b> by their parents. If they allow their child to sit at home all day surfing the internet, then the child will never learn about how to be a hardworking and productive member of society.</p>	<p>④ To show that different factors contribute to the phenomenon. From this point of view, rapid advancement of technology has given rise to hedonism, making it easier for the younger generation to find entertainment at home without considering if there are more meaningful things to do elsewhere.</p>



<p>Body Paragraph 3 – Solution #1</p> <p>⑤ <u>What can be done to solve this problem?</u> First of all, the government should ensure that there are better jobs and training programmes for young people. For example, they can offer incentives to companies who take young employees for full-time jobs, instead of part-time work for low pay. What is more, ⑥ <b>financial subsidies</b> can be given to these young people for training programmes that will help them to <u>find work</u>.</p>	<p>⑤ Use a rhetorical question to introduce your point.</p> <p>⑥ Explain clearly how your <b>solution</b> can be carried out. Use Passive Voice.</p>
<p>Body Paragraph 4 – Solution #2</p> <p>Additionally, ⑦ <u>schools should educate students about how to be responsible members of society, including how to get a job and how to avoid cyber-addiction and laziness.</u> At the same time, <u>parents should not allow children to spend all their time at home playing video games and surfing the internet.</u> Instead, they should encourage their children from a young age to work hard and proactively find employment in the future.</p>	<p>⑦ Suggest that schools / parents should instill in their students / children the value of working hard and being productive from a young age.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	
<p>⑧ <b>This report has aimed to shed light on the reasons why</b> <u>NEETs are on the rise, namely the challenge of finding jobs in the market and the increasing prevalence of hedonism.</u> If steps are taken by the government, at school and at home, the number of <u>NEETs in Hong Kong will hopefully begin to fall, and we will have a more prosperous society with a lower unemployment rate.</u></p>	<p>⑧ Briefly <b>recap the problems and solutions</b> given in previous paragraphs and end with a strong note looking into the future.</p>

Word count: 413

Useful vocabulary and phrases

prosperous (adj.)	繁榮的
incentive (n.)	誘因
hedonism (n.)	享樂主義

## Model Essay – 2015 DSE Q.7

You are working on a project entitled ‘Cinemas in Hong Kong’ for the Learning English through Popular Culture module and have found that fewer people go to cinemas than before. Write a report to explain why this is happening and to suggest what could be done to increase the number of moviegoers. Give reasons to support your suggestions.

### Dealing with Low Attendance at Cinemas

Watching a film at the cinema is becoming a **decreasingly popular** leisure activity. This report considers the reasons for this trend, and outlines suggestions for how to encourage more people to go to the cinema.

#### Why Don't People Attend Cinemas?

The key reason for decreasing attendance at local cinemas is the low budget and easy availability of films online. There are both legal and illegal avenues for watching films on the internet. Illegally, people can easily watch brand new releases for free from the comfort of their own home. There are also legal websites on which people can pay to view new films, or simply wait for films to become available on subscription websites such as Netflix. For these people, it is **cheaper and more convenient** to wait for films to become available online, rather than going out to the cinema.

#### Solution 1: Cheaper Cinema Tickets

In order to encourage people to go to their local cinema, cinemas need to recognise consumers' desire for an experience that is value for money. As cinemas are finding it difficult to reduce the prices of tickets due to falling custom, local governments or even charities might decide to **subsidise** ticket prices, in order to avoid the closure of local cinemas. Another option for cinemas would be to implement a policy of free cinema tickets, with moviegoers encouraged to spend money on 'extras', such as premium seats, snacks and drinks. The result would be to draw huge crowds of people to the cinema with the free tickets, allowing the cinema to make a profit on the **extra perks** that people choose to purchase.

#### Solution 2: Enhanced Cinema Experience

Another solution to this problem would be to make the experience of cinema **more luxurious and multifaceted**, so that people no longer see cinema simply as a more expensive and inconvenient version of Netflix. Rather than offering the tired options of popcorn and fizzy drinks, cinemas could focus on providing **gourmet snacks and even meals** for people to enjoy before or during the film. They could make use of new technology to enhance the cinema-going experience, such as **kinetic seats** and **IMAX dome screens**. Thus, rather than just being an over-sized television or laptop screen, the cinema would become a worthwhile experience, which people would be happy to leave their houses and spend money on.

#### Conclusion

Advances on the Internet and personal technology have **contributed to the downfall** of the local cinema. Local cinemas need to act quickly in order to survive. They might consider cheaper or free cinema tickets, and creating an enhanced cinema experience, to **entice** more customers through their doors.

Word count: 444

# Speech – 2019 DSE Q.7

Taylor Swift is an award-winning singer-songwriter. In an interview with *Parade* magazine she said: “I wrote the song ‘Mean’ about a critic who kept giving me really bad reviews. I get that, no matter what, people will criticise what you do. But there are different ways to criticise someone... and there’s a line that you cross when you just start to attack everything about a person.”

You lead an after-school arts club. You would like to instruct members on how to review each other’s work.

- Write a speech to be delivered to club members
- Discuss what a critic does, how to give criticism and ways to respond to criticism
- Give your speech a title

## Question Layout

Situation	You are writing a speech to discuss what a critic does, how to give criticism and ways to respond to criticism.
Role	Leader of an after-school arts club
Point of View	Students
Text Type	Speech
Audience	Members of the art club
Tense	Present Tense
Tone and Style	Advisory, instructive and informal

## Tips to Follow

1. Make your speech interesting

- ➔ **Grab attention at the start** by using a rhetorical question at the start to engage your audience’s attention.
- ➔ Use anecdotes or personal experiences in your speech

2. Know your audience

- ➔ Remember that you are giving a speech to a specific group of people
- ➔ Address your audience directly, **use the pronoun “you”** to show that you are directly speaking to them

3. Make your essay clear and persuasive

- ➔ Use signposts to help your readers follow better
- ➔ **Use lists and repetition** to help audience to remember your content
- ➔ Use the PEE (Point-Evidence-Explanation) format

4. Include a powerful ending

- ➔ **Use emotive / strong vocabulary**
- ➔ End where you began and try to link the end of your speech back to the beginning

## 2019 DSE Q.7 Sample Essay

### The Art of Criticism

#### Introduction

Good afternoon everyone. As you all know, reviewing other people's work and having our own work reviewed is an important part of the arts. However, there are both good and bad types of criticism, as you may no doubt have encountered participating in our club activities. ① Recently, Taylor Swift has discussed how she wrote a song about the difference between criticism and just attacking everything about a person, and so today I want to talk to you about "The Art of Criticism", namely what a critic does, how to give criticism and also how to respond to it.

① **Address the problem directly** and show audience awareness (they are your club members and so should have a basic understanding of performing arts).

#### Body Paragraph 1 – What a Critic Does

② Firstly, a critic's job is to evaluate everything about a work of art. Therefore, a good review should be **fair and balanced**, pointing out both positives and negatives. A critic should also give people information about an artwork, such as when it was created. Finally, a critic should also put works of art into a historical context and compare them with other works of art. For example, if a critic doesn't like a painting, they should give examples of comparable better paintings. ③ Therefore, a critic should not only give their opinion but also inform and advise the reader.

② **Use of signposts.**

③ Include a small conclusion to repeat the main points that you have just mentioned remember that arts can be any forms of expression, so choose examples that match your club.

#### Body Paragraph 2 – How to Give Criticism

Nevertheless, when you do need to **voice your opinions** in a review, there are good and bad ways to do it. Here are a few suggestions. ④ First, you can criticise the work of art, but don't criticise the artist personally. You should **never insult someone** or make them feel bad. Second, always **be constructive**. Even if you are criticising an artwork, do suggest how things can be improved rather than giving a list of faults. Third, always be polite. ⑤ Use a polite and respectful tone as if you were talking to the artist face-to-face.

④ Use of listing. List the steps that allow one to criticize in a constructive and positive manner.

⑤ Provide a recap and think from the recipients' point of view.

### Body Paragraph 3 – How to Respond to Criticism

Of course, artists also need to be able to respond to criticism, even though it might hurt sometimes. It is important to be open to people's suggestions. Even if a review is negative, it might have some very helpful ideas and advice, so keep an open mind. ⑥

However, it is also important to be confident in your own abilities. If you are proud of your work, don't let anyone damage your confidence. Remember that art is subjective and everyone has different opinions. Also, if someone is criticising your work in a **rude or disrespectful** way, just ignore it or walk away.

### Conclusion

⑦ I hope that you all now know a little more about what criticism is, how to do it properly, and how to respond to it. Thank you for listening.

⑥ **Use rule of three** to make your essay more persuasive. Note also the frequent use of the pronoun 'you' to directly address your audience.

⑦ **A quick recap** of the topics you have covered (all within the question scope) and a quick thank you to your audience at the end.

Word count: 427

### Useful vocabulary and phrases

insult (v.)	侮辱	constructive (adj.)	建設性的
subjective(adj.)	主觀的		



## Mock Question and Answer

You are a member of your school's Green Club and have recently persuaded your principal to allow you to address the school during an assembly. Write a speech telling students why they should be more proactive in their green responsibilities and encouraging them to join the club.

I invite you, ladies and gentlemen, to picture the scene. You've finished a delicious drink of milk, but the bottle's empty! You have to throw it away, but as you reach for the lid of the kitchen bin you remember the recycling bins down the hall. To recycle or not to recycle? You may not know it, but it's the most important decision you'll make today. Recycling is something we all like to ignore, a little annoying effort no one likes to make, but that annoying effort could literally save our world.

Did you know that 50% of Hong Kong's waste comes from homes like yours? And only 14% of it is recycled. That means a **whopping** 36% is a pile of rotting rubbish, sitting and **reeking** in landfill sites. You're probably thinking 'What difference can I make? There are over seven million people in Hong Kong!' but imagine everyone in Hong Kong saying that with one voice. Now imagine everyone saying 'I will make one small change to lead a greener life'.

In truth, one small change is all it takes. One small change to turn off your lights when you don't need it. One small change to take your rubbish away with you on a hike. One small change to recycle your milk bottle. So what's at stake here? A better question might be what is not **at stake**, for we are talking about the environment here, and the environment is something we all share, and something that affects everyone from you to your principal, from your parents to your next-door neighbour. Even though we are only particles in the ocean of the human race, we are linked by a responsibility towards change, and to **lay the foundations** on which our children can build their futures.

So that is what's at stake here – not just your lives but those of your future children. Children who can't yet decide for themselves. Children who will depend on their parents. Children who will be born into **a world scarred by mankind's short-sightedness** unless we act now. So here today I offer you the chance to make a difference as part of our Green Club, and to **secure the future** of Hong Kong and the future of us all. In the Green Club you will learn more about sustainability, recycling and the environment. To raise awareness around school, you will join us in writing school newsletter entries and creating educational posters. I promise that you will not regret joining, so what are you waiting for?

I leave you with the thought that, as you open the lid of your kitchen bin, all it takes is one small change – one small change to make a difference. Thank you.

Word count: 455

# Story – 2014 DSE Q.9

You are taking a creative writing workshop and you have to submit the following assignment:

Imagine you are a university student living in a student hall. Your roommate has suddenly decided to leave. Write a short story describing the events that led up to your roommate's sudden departure.

## Question Layout

Situation	You are a university student living in a student hall and your roommate is leaving. Write a story to describe the incidents that led up to his / her departure.
Role	A university student
Point of View	Students / teachers
Text Type	Story
Audience	The general public (a fiction reader)
Tense	Present and Past Tenses
Tone and Style	Intriguing / exciting / entertaining / mysterious / thrilling

## Tips to Follow

### 1 **Show, don't tell**

- ➔ This is the most important technique in telling a story. Don't tell your readers how people are feeling or where they are, use your words to describe it.
- ➔ E.g. *Tim bit his tongue hard and his face went red: he'd never made a mistake like this before* – instead of *Tim was embarrassed*.

### 2 **Include scene-setting details** (i.e. time, place and characters)

- ➔ Lots of (seemingly) insignificant details help to establish the scene.
- ➔ E.g. *It was night-time when I heard the news. I remember because my clock read 23:58. I looked out of the window and saw a group of youths in baseball caps throwing a basketball around.*
- ➔ If there is a mystery element to your story, plot details such as the above can serve as breadcrumbs for your readers to follow.

### 3 Use of **Foreboding**

- ➔ Seemingly insignificant items or lines of dialogue can be “planted” at the beginning.
- ➔ E.g. *'Why do I feel like you would be the end of me?' Mr. Smith stared at me.*
- ➔ If it turns out that “Mr. Smith” would get into trouble because of “me”, this line will later take on a new meaning.

### 4. Include more structural and lexical variations in your story

- ➔ Vary your sentence structures (using a mix of long and short sentences)
  - Long sentences are used to show the slower passage of time, or that the action is relaxing, e.g. *Our movements flowed with a dazzling grace that took away the breath of every person in the audience. We could feel our souls becoming one with the music as we unleashed our inner artist.*
  - Short sentences are used for action lines and dramatic scenes, e.g. *'The winner is...6B!' I froze. Then my heart sank. How could it be? The only possible explanation is...I glanced at the adjudicators, and my worst fear was confirmed.*

## 2014 DSE Q.9 Sample Essay

<b>A Swift Departure</b>	
Introduction - Prologue	
<p>① <u>There are a lot of rumours about Sally Lee. I've heard people say that she was a foreign spy. I've heard people say that she had killed someone. I've heard people say that she never existed. But she did exist. She was my roommate, and this is her story.</u></p>	<p>① <b>Establish the main characters</b> – Sally and “I”. Provide an intriguing origin story for Sally, a mysterious acquaintance.</p>
Body Paragraph 1 - Setting	
<p>Looking back, I suppose that the clues were there from the very start. Before my arrival, I had been told that I hadn't been allocated a roommate. So when I arrived at my student room, laden with bags and nerves about the years ahead, ② <u>I was surprised to see a mild-looking young woman in my room. Assuming that it was just an administrative error, I greeted her and was soon confident that we would be firm friends.</u></p>	<p>② Describe your feelings in details. It can make your story more believable. Note the use of <b>foreboding</b> (伏筆).</p>
Body Paragraph 2 - Exposition	
<p>Perhaps I should have become skeptical about her position when she was not registered for any classes. ③ <u>She attended the classes with the largest lectures; of course, it's easiest to hide in a crowd.</u> I told her that she should complain to the admin office. But she would always laugh it off, <b>quipping</b> that she was always being forgotten.</p>	<p>③ Include details of her behaviors to <b>hint the events</b> that are happening.</p>
Body Paragraph 3 - Development	
<p>Apart from these <b>seemingly small glitches</b>, she did nothing to <b>arouse suspicion</b>. ④ <u>She worked harder than anybody else I knew, and she was the perfect roommate: tidy, quiet and friendly.</u> I could see from her tatty clothes and second-hand belongings <u>that she had money problems.</u> I was well aware that university tuition was expensive, but being quite well-off myself, I helped her out whenever I could, without embarrassing her.</p>	<p>④ Show the personality of the main character instead of telling the readers. Also show how the two characters have got closer to each other through interaction without actually saying it. <b>Note the use of “Rule of Three”</b>.</p>



Body Paragraph 4 - Suspense	
<p>Our relationship was uneventful until that fateful night two months into the first term. I came back to my room after a long day studying at the library, to find Sally <b>frantically</b> shoving her modest belongings in a tattered suitcase. ⑤ <b>A river of tears</b> was <b>streaming down</b> her cheeks, and she was <u>jerking from <b>barely-stifled sobs</b></u>. ⑥ “Sally!” I cried, <u>catching her small, cold hands in my own</u>. “What are you doing?”</p>	<p>⑤ Use adverbs to show the scene.</p> <p>⑥ <b>Use conversations</b> in direct speech to describe the incident happening instantaneously.</p>
Body Paragraph 5 - Climax	
<p>Between her heartfelt sobs, she explained everything, her eyes downcast as if ashamed. It turned out that she had never enrolled at the university. She hadn’t been able to afford the tuition fees, but she was desperate to study and escape the poverty which loomed over her like a spectre. “I thought,” ⑦ she <b>moaned</b>, “that if they saw how hard I worked, they might give me a degree anyway. I don’t know... I wasn’t thinking straight!”</p> <p>Now, ⑧ <u>the university had found out, and were threatening to escort her from the premises</u>. “I have to get out before they throw me out; it would be too humiliating!”</p>	<p>⑦ <b>Use descriptive wordings</b> to tell the readers how she feel. More use of direct speech to show immediate reactions and emotions.</p> <p>⑧ Offer an explanation towards the dramatic situation – be as logical and natural as possible.</p>
Resolution	
<p><b>Ignoring my assurances</b> that we would find a solution, that she must be eligible for a grant, Sally said with <b>devastating resignation</b> that it was too late. She reached out and gave me a tight, warm hug. ⑨ <u>Then, suitcase in hand, she walked from the room with her head held high. That was my last sight of Sally. My attempts to find her have always been futile. I hope that she managed to evade the life of poverty that she had tried so hard to flee.</u></p>	<p>⑨ <b>Include an emotional ending</b> in a limited amount of words – it can be a grim ending, but the readers should feel a sense of loss or helplessness in this case.</p>

Word count: 532

#### Useful vocabulary and phrases

laden (with) (adj.)	裝滿的	skeptical (adj.)	懷疑的
glitches (n.)	小毛病	fateful (adj.)	對未來有重大（負面）影響的
heartfelt (adj.)	衷心的	escort (v.)	押送
eligible (adj.)	具備條件的	resignation (n.)	辭職
futile (adj.)	無作用的	from friends (in phr)	很要好的朋友

## Model Essay – 2016 DSE Q.6

One of the planned activities for the Creative Writing Week at your school is a short story writing competition. The theme of this year's competition is 'Revenge is Sweet'. Write your story.

### Sickly Sweet Revenge

I still don't know how Roland managed to copy my homework answers. He must have stolen my book. It was just bad luck that it was mine. It was bad luck for me, because we both got into trouble when the teacher discovered it. It was bad luck for him, because I swore that I would get my revenge. My acts of revenge started **small and subtle**. I'd move his bag and hide it. Sometimes, I'd move his chair so that he fell down and got laughed at by the whole class. Nobody knew that it was me, but I felt like I was in control. I liked making Roland feel small.

Finding new ways to make Roland pay became **my new obsession**. It was in my mind all the time. Whatever I did – drawing on his workbook, flicking ink on his shirt – it was never enough. I'd lie awake at night thinking of novel methods of getting back at him. Sometimes, I couldn't even remember what I was getting revenge for; the punishment was so long ago. But I couldn't stop. It took over my life.

Soon, the perfect opportunity for a final act of revenge came along. Roland came into school one day very excited, because he had got a new skateboard for his birthday. He was the centre of attention in class, as it was the latest model. It was all anyone talked about. Throughout the day, I gradually **formulated a plan**. When Roland brought the skateboard to school the next day, I couldn't wait to find a moment to be alone with it. I had it all planned out. During break-time, I **sprinted** to the cloakroom where I knew the skateboard was being kept, whipped out my pocket screwdriver and quickly got to work.

My heart was in my mouth and my hands were shaking, but my biggest fear was of being caught. I had no impression that I was doing anything unfair or dangerous. I loosened the wheels of the skateboard: just loose enough to make Roland lose control. The **thrilling feeling** of the adrenaline coursing through my veins is one I'll never forget.

After school, everyone was begging Roland to do some tricks. I **sneered**, certain that he would make a fool of himself in front of everyone. However, a dark pit opened up in my stomach when I realised that he was going to do some curb trips alongside the busy road. I pushed through the crowd of admirers, but it was too late. Roland flipped the skateboard expertly onto the curb, and everything after that seemed to happen in slow motion. As soon as the skateboard impacted the curb, the wheels wobbled and gave way, and Roland started falling sideways into the road, into the path of a car which was going too fast to stop. My ears filled with the **screeching of brakes** as I reached out and grabbed Roland's coat, **tugging with all of my strength**.

It **sickens** me that I was heralded as the hero of the hour. I had managed to pull him so that he fell sideways onto the path, rather than under the wheels of the car. The car hadn't been moving quickly, but the accident would have inflicted a broken limb at least. I'm lucky, I suppose, that nobody suspected the skateboard had been tampered with, but I know that I've had enough 'revenge' to last a lifetime. They say that revenge is sweet, but of course, too much sugar can make you sick.

Word count: 492



# Student Essays

## Article – “Magic Vacuum Bottle” – By Timothy Lo (F5)

You are the product manager of a product called Magic Vacuum Bottle. Your job now is to design a leaflet telling consumers how good this product is. Before letting your designers work on the graphics, you have to write the selling point in an article using the three headings provided. You can use the headings in any order.

- i) Super keep-warm performance
- ii) Extreme durability
- iii) Lifetime guarantee

### A Product You’ll Regret Not Having One

Have you ever got frustrated at lukewarm coffees or experienced that awkward moment when your water bottle breaks and leaks? Fear not, the Magic Vacuum Bottle is definitely for you!

#### Super Keep-warm Performance

The Magic Vacuum Bottle is something you’d wish for in a freezing winter afternoon. Our brand-new **heat insulation technology** made with polypropylene along with 100% vacuum spacing keeps your coffee or hot chocolate at **scorching hot** temperature of 70°C for 10 hours so you can stop worrying about **lukewarm beverages**.

#### Extreme Durability

The Magic Vacuum Bottle is entirely made of aluminum, making it **as strong as steel** yet **as light as a feather**. Scratching off fancy paints or leaving horrible dents on your bottle would **no longer be a concern** as you can now chuck it wherever you want, swing it across your room or even slam it on your desk without worrying about damaging your bottle.

#### Lifetime guarantee

Here in our company, we stand behind our products and provide customers a lifetime guarantee of quality. If the bottle is unfortunately damaged by accident, take it back to your local store and we will either fix it for you or replace it with a new one for you and you’ll **be on your merry way**.

**Still considering? Stop hesitating**, get your hands on the Magic Vacuum Bottle and **be prepared to be amazed**.

Word count: 233

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Miss Clara’s Review:

[Marks awarded: 18/21]

The article is well-organized, with the tone and highly synchronizes with that of an advertisement. The content is appropriate and plenty of supporting details are provided. The writing shows high level of fluency, with a range of accurately used vocabulary. Furthermore, a memorable message has been successfully crafted. Together with a call to action inserted at the end, making the advertisement even more unforgettable.

## Article – “Poverty in Hong Kong” – By Mandy Ma (F5)

Write an article entitled “Poverty in Hong Kong”. Give reasons for the problem of poverty in Hong Kong, and suggest various ways in which the government and charities can help poor people.

### Poverty in Hong Kong

Residents in subdivided flats, beggars and vagrants draw our attention to the serious problem of poverty in Hong Kong. **It is lamentable to find that** there is **a mounting number** of people living below the poverty line and that the disparity between the rich and the poor is enlarging. Research has revealed that one fifth of Hongkongers are living in poverty, **for which this article aims to provide an explanation**, as well as ways for the government and charities to make the poor’s lives less miserable.

One of the reasons for the high poverty rate is inflation. The prices of properties, as well as daily necessities, have been skyrocketing that people’s wages simply could not catch up with. According to the Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong’s Gini coefficient index shows a figure of 0.539, the highest we have seen in 45 years. Hong Kong’s tax policy with the aim of maintaining a free economy has long caused the poor to become poorer, to the point where their income is inadequate in covering their living expenses, leading to the **exacerbation** of the poverty problem.

Apart from inflation, another factor causing poverty is the lack of government financial support. According to the Hong Kong government’s budget, the **annual surplus** in 2017 reached HK\$138 billion. However, there are little welfare programmes for the public, merely the policy of distributing HK\$4000 to selected citizens. Moreover, only people who have not received Comprehensive Social Security Assistance are allowed to receive the money, meaning that the government actually offers close to no help to grassroots groups. Income redistribution is key in combating disparity, and recent government actions (or lack thereof) have shown that they are incapable of solving the problem.

To curb poverty, the government should redevelop hectares of golf courses into more public flats. The housing problem and poverty problem are interrelated in the sense that lower-income groups cannot afford the astonishingly high rents of private housing. If they are able to live in public housing with low rent, they can save plenty of money, mitigating their financial difficulties. However, the average waiting time for public housing per person is 3.3 years. More public housing is needed to shorten the waiting time, and keeping so many hectares of recreational golf courses while sacrificing the right to affordable living for the poor hardly seems logical.

Another way to deal with the problem is to improve social welfare. For instance, the government can lower the age limit of the Old Age Allowance or raise the amount. In terms of education, it can also provide more subsidies for books and study tours, lowering the cost of studying. Charities can help in these efforts by following up with the elderly and students in poverty to make sure they get and effectively use what is provided. Also, financial assistance like tax cuts can be offered to small and medium-sized enterprises to **avoid monopolisation** by large companies. Last but not least, charities can be provided with more supplies more regularly to give to street sleepers, including food, water and blankets.

To conclude, the epidemic that is poverty worsens Hong Kong people’s standard of living on average. It demands immediate action from the government. Being in the same community, we are all responsible to voice for the underprivileged groups and **strive for a better, more humane, future**.

Word count: 556

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Derek Sir’s Review:

Marks awarded: 18/21]

Sufficient and accurate use of statistics to add credibility; logical and convincing arguments. Note that some emphasis should be put on what the people who have stake in the golf course would argue.

## Blog – 2018 Q.2 – By Duncan Szeto (F4)

You recently ran the Hong Kong Marathon for the first time. Write a blog to be posted on the Hong Kong Marathon's website to encourage other young people to take part in the next marathon.

### The First and the Most Memorable Marathon I've Ever Run

Have you ever run a marathon? I ran my first Hong Kong Marathon last weekend, and it was remarkable. Let me share my experience with all of you.

Last Sunday was the 2019 Hong Kong Marathon, which attracted hundreds of world-class elite runners to compete in Hong Kong's largest running event. As I know it would be **a tough mission**, I had started preparing it a month before. During those days, I woke up much earlier in order to have more time to practice before heading to school. Although it was a tiring process, jogging in the morning had made my life healthier and **more fulfilling**.

After days of practices, I thought I was well-prepared. However, things came up totally **beyond my expectations**: Not getting used to running with an enormous group of running elites, I could not keep up with my own running momentum and felt **extremely fatigued** in the middle of the race, which made me want to give up. However, thinking of the whole month effort I had paid before, I encouraged myself not to give up easily. If I gave up then, all the effort I had made would be worthless. During the second half of the Marathon, I met some friends whom we shared common values and experiences and we encouraged each other to finish the race. Finally, after **giving it 110%**, we finished the whole 42-kilometre Marathon successfully.

The next marathon will be held the same time next year. To all my dear readers, I would greatly encourage you to at least join the event once in your life as finishing a 42-kilometre Marathon is **a lifetime achievement**. The joy and the sense of completion you feel after finishing a marathon is so enormous that it is **beyond words to express**. Even if you think you are unable to finish such a long race, you can **opt for** the Half Marathon or the 10-kilometre race. Moreover, you will gain enormous benefits you if you run a Marathon: **Not only** can you maintain a healthy body during training, **but also** you can make more friends while you are **partaking in** the events. Therefore, **do not hesitate**, join the next marathon. I look forward to seeing you this time next year!

Word count: 385

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Miss Clara's Review:

[Marks awarded: 17/21]

The blog has successfully conveyed a personal perspective on the challenges and benefits of running a marathon with a tone of excitement, which inspires readers to sign up for the next marathon. A variety of sentence structures and idiomatic phrases are used intelligibly to enhance communication. Furthermore, the clear and logical flow of ideas is enhanced with the good use of appropriate links and effective cohesive devices.

## Debate Speech – 2017 DSE Q.6 – By Yoni Ho (F5)

As captain of the debate team, you have been asked to write a debate speech. The task is to argue that ‘Watching TV Makes Us Smarter’.

In your speech you should include three reasons to support the statement.

Write your speech.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. **The motion for the debate today concerns whether** watching TV makes one smarter. Being smart or intelligent may sometimes be defined as whether we can get good grades in school, but it is so much more than that. One should strive to become a multifaceted citizen in the society and possess social awareness and the ability to think critically, which is why **our side vehemently believes that this motion must stand** for the following reasons.

To begin with, watching TV can hone one’s language skills. For example, online streaming platforms such as Netflix have become popular not just because of their convenience and accessibility, but also for their wide variety of content. TV shows on such platforms can be enjoyed on-demand, and viewers can choose whichever genres they enjoy watching. For most shows, they can also choose whichever of the two to four languages available to watch in, as well as subtitles that are provided in different languages. With browser add-ons, viewers can even have them shown on screen in two languages at the same time. The flexibility to switch between languages are **paramount** in assisting language-learners’ listening skills, to the extent where for example, I have personally been able to transition from using Chinese and English subtitles for shows to needing no subtitles at all. In addition, conversational and formal expressions are featured in most shows, and watching them can therefore allow us to learn sayings that are unfamiliar to Hongkongers.

Adding to my previous point, watching TV can also broaden our horizons. TV programmes cover many different genres ranging from fictional detective series to documentaries about social issues, history, and nature. The wide array of content gives viewers knowledge and perspectives that school textbooks alone cannot provide. Receiving this information via “moving pictures” is a more direct way to let viewers know what is happening in the world. For example, the National Geographic channel teaches and shows us about wild animals in real time, and Master Chef entertains us with the different levels of cooking amongst the population while also informing us about cookery, making even the average homemaker more capable in their daily tasks. This medium of transferring knowledge, we believe, is more effective than flipping through nature guides and cookbooks, their paperback counterparts.

**Our opponents may contend that** children and teenagers easily fall into the trap of TV addiction, negatively affecting their intelligence in the long run, but to counter that, TV programmes are also a good way to educate young children. Children are usually interested in colourful animations, and they will pay more attention to TV programmes than books. Research has shown that blending teaching into cartoons is the most efficient way for children to learn. Children tend to understand and absorb more from TV animation than textbooks, which shows that TV can help children learn more effectively. As with other forms of entertainment, parental and teacher guidance should suffice in offsetting the risks of overindulgence.

In conclusion, watching TV can help both adults and children to be smarter in different ways, due to their language assist features and its technological capability over textbooks. Therefore, this motion must stand. Thank you.

Word count: 531

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Derek Sir’s Review:

[Marks awarded: 19/21]

Both the reasons and the solutions are appropriate and well explained. Meaning is clear and attempt at complex sentences are successful in many cases. The writing is well-ordered. Plenty of linking devices and clear topic sentences are used. Signposts for debate speech are aptly given.

## Letter to the Editor – 2016 DSE Q.4 – By Hilda Ma (F6)

It has recently been reported that some parents in Asian countries are installing apps on their children's mobile phones that monitor their activities to ensure they use these devices responsibly. Write a letter to the Young Post stating whether you agree with these parents' actions or not. Justify your position with three reasons.

Dear Editor,

I was disgusted, but unfortunately not surprised, to read in your last issue that some parents have been installing monitoring apps on their children's phones. This is just the latest development in the phenomenon of 'helicopter parenting', and it is time we **acknowledged its dangers** for the victims: the children.

**One of the biggest dangers of** helicopter parenting is that it stops children taking responsibility for their own actions. In this age of constant technological advancement, it is more important than ever to encourage independent but responsible use of technology. If a child is given the independence to use their own phone responsibly, they learn how to deal with issues themselves. It might feel daunting for parents to **deliberately expose** their children to the risks of using a mobile phone, but it is actually a crucial part of a child's development. By facing problems, young people build resilience, which is central to their mental health later in life. Parents constantly watching their children will create a vulnerable and anxious generation who are unable to cope with the smallest obstacle.

Another danger with this spying phenomenon is that it could break down the relationship of trust and openness between child and parent. If a child is constantly watched, they might crave privacy in other areas of their life, and therefore engage in secretive and risky behaviour, just so that they can have a life outside of their parents' watchful eyes. Thus, constant surveillance of your child could actually be **counter-productive**, as it could bring about a relationship in which children don't want to share problems with their parents. This is a common risk when children reach adolescence and start to **crave independence** from their ever-present parents.

The final reason why I disagree with this practice is that there are many other, less intrusive ways to monitor a child's activities on their mobile phone. Parents could give them a non-smartphone, limiting their access to the internet. If a child does have **internet access** on their phones, parents can easily install a child blocker on the browser, which is a less interfering method of stopping children accessing unsafe websites. However, in my view, the best advice of all is to create a communicative and open relationship with one's child: discuss what your child is doing on their phones, and educate them about how to stay safe when using a mobile phone. Encouraging communication would make children more likely to go to their parents for help if they had problems which they could not handle by themselves. This approach would also make children more receptive to advice about their mobile phones, since they would not be having it **rammed down their throats** with constant surveillance and nagging.

Parents have always been concerned when their children are dealing with a trend which they did not have when they were young: right now, it is mobile phones. However, parents **must not let this fear get in the way of** fostering a trusting and communicative relationship with their children. Spying is **certainly not the means to this end**.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

Word count: 516

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Derek Sir's Review:

[Marks awarded: 20/21]

Strong arguments against helicopter parenting, with a reasonable alternative to achieve the same purpose. Solving the problem at its root (via communication) is a more constructive proposal indeed. This letter is structured in clear paragraphs which transition well into others.



## News Report – 2019 Q.4 – By Patrick Miu (F4)

You are a reporter for the sports section of the Young Post. You were attending the final game of the season between rivals St. George's School and Royal College when something unexpected happened during the game. i) Write a news report; ii) Describe the incident and what happened afterwards. Include thoughts and opinions from different people involved; iii) Give your report a headline.

### Fire Burnt Down the Final Game

28<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

It was a calm day in the Millennium Stadium of Royal College. Large crowds were lining up at the entrance for the historical soccer match between the two most competitive schools -- St. George's School and Royal College. St. George's School had been a 3-time **consecutive champion**, but Royal College acquired new bloods and was **a dark horse** throughout the season. Both schools got talented footballers, while St. George's School had a better chemistry, Royal College was superior in its defensive plays. The score had been close since the start of the game. When St. George's School started off with a long-distance shot, the crowd **went hyped** while the opposing fans **were in despair**. Within 10 minutes, the midfielder of Royal College scored as **a payback**. The fascinating goal left the whole stadium **in utter silence**, even a pin dropping on the floor could be heard. During the last 10 minutes, the score was tied at 3-3, an overtime session was likely to happen.

The football match was in great tension when audience from the front row started to scream. It was found out that some youngsters intended to smoke and were about to light a cigarette when the lighter dropped on the floor. Unfortunately, it lit some piles of newspapers and posters on the floor. These materials were easily flammable. Soon, the front bench was **burning in ferocious flames**. Panic rose among the front rows when they started to evacuate. Meanwhile, the security guards yelled into their megaphones and urged the crowd to leave calmly in order. Yet, the words were ignored as everyone wanted to get away from this dangerous circumstance.

The most tragic accident arose with the chaotic situation. Some people fell down during the evacuation, while others collapsed onto theirs, **resulting in a stampede**. Though many saw what happened, they still moved towards that direction as it was the nearest path to the exit. Medical workers and security guards arrived just in time. They removed people on the 'piling hill' by means of yelling and pulling them away, while the security guards made use of **the critical time** to save the people at the bottom. Some of them were transferred to the nearby hospital. Luckily, everyone survived in this accident. Among the injured, five of them have returned to normal condition after the support of respiratory equipment. Meanwhile, the football match had to be postponed to 3 weeks later with fewer seats available this time.

We attempted to interview the principal of Royal College. He **moaned in disbelief**. He believed that more education on public safety is required. That was a **valuable experience** to him. He was also relieved no one died in this accident. According to witnesses of the accident, they described it as 'horrific'. They could not even imagine when loads of people fell on the ground. 'People should be instructed to leave orderly and calmly,' said a student from St. George's School. The captain of Royal College was a bit disappointed with the match results. However, he still believed safety was the most important. He hoped that all the fans were safe and no accidents like this would occur again.

This incident taught people a lesson they should **remain rational during emergency** and put safety as **the first priority**.

Word count: 555

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Miss Clara's Review:

[Marks awarded: 17.5/21]

This is an appropriate news report which covers all the content requirements. The writing style is engaging and imaginative, with an accurate use of vocabulary, dialogues, and reported speech. Furthermore, communication is enhanced by the effective use of linking devices.

## One-sided Argumentative Essay – 2017 DSE Q.4 – By Sammy Wong (F5)

‘Did my heart love till now? ... For I never saw true beauty till this night.’ – Romeo and Juliet – Shakespeare.  
In your drama lessons you have been looking at plays about romantic love. Your essay assignment from your drama teacher is to answer the question: Is Romantic Love Necessary for a Happy Marriage?  
Write your essay.

### Is Romantic Love Necessary for a Happy Marriage?

Across nations and cultures, marriage is seen as a solemn and lifelong commitment into which two romantically linked individuals agree to enter. **That being said**, it does not follow that freely chosen partners will end up happily ever after, nor will arranged marriages necessarily fail. Whether romantic love is necessary for a happy marriage has **caused fierce debate** in society for decades. However, after considering the factors that lead to a happy marriage, **I am strongly convinced that** romantic love is not necessary based on three reasons.

The first reason is that romantic love is usually temporary and cannot last for years. **Studies have shown that** romantic love usually transitions or fades to obligatory love within five years of marriage, meaning that it is common to see couples blindly over-obeying and following their partners’ wishes when they start dating. They usually believe that their partners **mean the world to** them and they are perfect. However, this kind of mindset soon turns into them getting tired or annoyed by little faults of their partners, such as picking their nose in front of them, their hair being too long or even the way they talk. People usually do not have the patience to stay perfect in front of someone that they have to face for a long time. In terms of a happy marriage, the couple should feel at least comfortable in front of each other, but if they keep thinking about romance and ignore the true facts, how is the marriage going to last long?

In addition, it is hard for couples bound by romantic love to settle their differences after the romantic phase of their relationship. When they discover that they have differing views on, for example, politics, religion or life goals, most couples avoid discussing these issues and mainly focus on how much they fancy each other and where they are going next. However, once they get married, they eventually have to discuss where their relationship is heading or how many kids they want to have and how they should raise them. Undoubtedly, everyone has a different point of view and might get angry when they hear others opposing them. For couples with romantic love, the consequences can be more serious. As they believe their partner understands everything about them, they are **more prone to** feeling “betrayed”. Accordingly, they might find other people who understand them and end up separating.

Some may argue that a marriage without romance sounds impossible to maintain. They contend that sexual longing and infatuation should only be felt between couples, and the culmination of that relationship is marriage. In my opinion, this argument is not sound as the most important factor in a happy marriage is to have trust and understanding between the spouses. I refer back to a previous point that arranged marriages have worked in many cases. Take our grandparents who ended up together decades ago as an example – in a time period where divorce was not a popular option, they have learned to endure each other’s flaws and maintained their relationship even if romance was no longer there. As “man and wife” for such a long time, they eventually understood that romance merely provides the spice in a relationship. What is more important is that they believe in each other and understand each other, good or bad. That way, they are still happy to have one another for the remaining time that they have.

From the above, we can see that romantic love, due to its short-lived nature, usually takes another form as time goes on, namely obligatory and familial love. The absence of romantic love does not mean that the relationship is over, and so even if the presence of which can bring two people together in the first place, it is certainly not needed for the long road ahead.

Word count: 640

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Derek Sir’s Review:

[Marks awarded: 18/21]

Logically presented contrast between freely chosen partners and arranged marriages. The structure of a one-sided argumentative essay is correctly used.

## One-sided Argumentative Essay – 2019 DSE Q.3 – By Oscar Lam (F4)

The Hong Kong Daily Press invites readers to submit their views on the following topic:

Do social media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter encourage or stifle public debate? When first created, social media was thought to be a place where rational debate and logic would thrive. However, as time has shown, this is not always the case.

- Write an argumentative essay.
- Choose one side of the argument and state your position, giving reasons and evidence to support your view.
- Include a title for your essay.

### Social Media Platforms Ruin Rational Debate

Nowadays, there have been **rounds of heated debate** on whether social media platforms are supporting debates and logical arguments on different topics. Supporters of this argue that social media allows people living countries apart to talk about **controversial topics**, thus promoting public debate. While others stated debating using social media will finally lead to emotional arguments rather than staying rational. In my opinion, social media stifles public debate.

The main reason opposing this argument is that social media places people with **similar ideologies** together. Social media often have numerous groups. Each group focuses on a different topic. These groups are mostly created by users. If a user creates a group on certain topic, people who are also interested in that topic will join. If a person disliking the subject joins and posts rational reasons against the topic, chances are most will **blindly throw insults and hate**, knowing that the entire group has their back; instead of trying to counter the argument rationally. Other people seeing this will be discouraged from starting a rational debate with one another through social media, leading to people being separated based on their opinions. If people only **associate with like-minded people**, there is no opposition, and no debate will happen on that topic.

Secondly, people debate in social media emotionally rather than rationally. People on social media can **remain anonymous** as long as they do not expose too much of their personal information to be recognized in real life. Knowing this, its users will hardly hold back at all on a comment or a post opposing their ideas. Insults will be thrown to the unfortunate person rapidly, as they know that even if their friends or family saw those hateful words, no one would know it was them. It will not affect their real-life reputation at all. Even if they have a bad reputation on the internet, all of it can be reset by creating a new account. They will have no consequences at all, as no one will be able to confirm the two accounts are used by the same person. This is why people debate in social media emotionally rather than rationally.

Some may say that social media encourages debate among people from different countries, different cultures and therefore with different mindsets. They will be likely to provide a fresh point of view to the topic, thus promoting debate. However, this is not true. **Unpopular opinions** are often ignored in social media. Picture this: in a group, there are 100 people each posting a supporting document on a topic. One person sees this and offers a new point of view that counters most of their arguments. The consequence is either the person gets insulted, or their **comment goes unnoticed**. This is because of how social media works. When someone scrolls down to look at posts of the group, the top posts are determined the number of likes and an unpopular opinion will not be liked by others solely due to different mindsets. Even if **the reasoning is well-constructed** and rational, few people will like the post. This leads to the unpopular opinion not being able to spread. Therefore, social media will not be able to promote debate.

To sum up, social media stifles public debate due to people interacting with **like-minded people**, having no responsibility for what they say and how algorithm works **against the minority**.

Word count: 569

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Miss Clara's Review:

[Marks awarded: 18/21]

The arguments are convincing and are well-supported by strong, valid and salient evidence. The writing possessed a wide range of lexical knowledge related to debate, social media and the internet, which demonstrates high level of fluency.

## Report – 2015 DSE Q.7 – By Max Chan (F4)

You are working on a project entitled ‘Cinemas in Hong Kong’ for the Learning English through Popular Culture module and have found that fewer people go to cinemas than before. Write a report to explain why this is happening and to suggest what could be done to increase the number of moviegoers. Give reasons to support your suggestions.

### Decreasing Trend of Moviegoers: Reasons and Suggestions

For most people, seeing a movie in the cinema used to be an experience **not easily replicable** at home. **In recent years however, some have contended that** the movie theatre no longer adds enough value to this experience to justify the cost. A recent survey by the University of Hong Kong observed that fewer people went to the cinema than before in Hong Kong. It seems that people are more reluctant, but why is this happening?

First of all, the price of movie tickets has risen sharply over the years. Some cinemas charge more than \$100 for a single ticket, it is so expensive that people would rather spend their money on other entertainment. Because of the increasing prices of movie tickets, many middle-class citizens and grassroots cannot afford to go to the cinema anymore. Couple that with the effect that COVID-19 has had on cinemas, **it is no surprise that** fewer people would buy tickets to see movies at the cinema.

Another reason that contributes to the decreasing trend of moviegoers is the rising number of pirated movies. Finding a free (not even necessarily in lower quality) version of a film is nothing more difficult than a simple Google search. With the right antivirus software in place, one can enjoy countless hours of free entertainment in the form of pirated movies. Before the age of the Internet, the government could shut down pirated movie stalls and hawkers easily. But it is now very hard to keep track of these pirated movie distributors because they can operate their illegal business on the Internet. The methods are so accessible that more movie-viewers would rather see pirated movies on the Internet than watching them in the cinemas.

How can we solve this problem? First of all, cinemas can provide all sorts of discounts to customers. For example, they can issue a family discount, which can effectively bring family moviegoers to cinemas in a bundle. They can also make better use of membership systems. Members can earn various discounts and complimentary snacks. **These incentives will** bring down the perceived overall cost of moviegoing, hopefully attracting more people to go to cinemas.

In order to solve the problem of pirated movies, the government should take stronger actions in the form of setting up more laws to **curb movie piracy**. A harsher sentence on offenders (which includes people who simply download such films) can deter them from partaking in this illegal act. To achieve this, the government can also cooperate with search engines to block the pirated movies showing up in the search results. The inconvenience and **deterrent effect** should send more people back to cinemas.

In an era filled with technological advancement and inexpensive shortcuts on the Internet, it is a mission for motion-picture lovers to save the movie industry. It is possible for intellectual property rights to be better protected by the government and actions to increase the number of moviegoers can be systematically taken.

Word count: 492

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Derek Sir's Review:

Marks awarded: 17/21]

Strong observations about the increasingly accessible nature of pirated movies and well done on providing clear elaboration and suggestions for both reasons. The formal and objective tone is appropriate for a report. This report is structured in clear paragraphs which echoes one another in a logical and systematic way.

## Story – 2019 Q.9 – By Vito Wong (F5)

Cosmo book shop is organising a short story contest. The details are below:

In the tale *The Tortoise and the Hare*, two animals challenge each other to a race to prove who is the fastest. Mid-race, the hare lies down to rest, certain that it will win. The tortoise, though slow, never gives up and crosses the finishing line ahead of the hare. Slow and steady wins the race, as the message of the story goes.

- i) Rewrite this story.
- ii) Use the same characters but imagine that the tortoise and the hare team up to race against other contestants.
- iii) Express a message through the telling of the story.
- iv) Give your story a title.

### The Turtle and The Hare – The Second Race

**An immense tension fills the ground** all of a sudden. The blinding sunlight shines through the trees and falls onto the contestants, who are all seemingly well-prepared and are warming up for their final race. The tiger, the squirrel, the cat, and the hare line up on the starting line, leaving the tortoise behind in the shadow, panicking at his clear disadvantage. The tortoise himself clearly knows, unlike the tiger's confidence from his body language, he is indeed shivering, even though his shell you could clearly see.

Not long after the air horn blasts, everyone except the tortoise **is dashing full speed ahead**, running for themselves. Fifteen seconds in, where the tiger is already 20 yards ahead, he grits and roars, 'None of you is going to win against me, you fools!' Behind the tiger is everybody sprinting while gasping for breath, the tortoise especially. You could see the tortoise's old legs and bulky shell add an extra torture to him, making him **slowly hobbling** towards the destination. When the tiger is leading by miles, he turns his head round with arrogance, stirring up with blood, fiercely staring at the contestants, as if he is going to turn his opponents into his **luscious meal**. The tortoise is surely afraid of the ferociousness, retreating into the shell for cover.

Seeing the tortoise **panicking and trembling**, the hare is brave enough to go back for the tortoise and comforts him, 'Are you okay, Mr. Tortoise?' Hearing the hare's comfort, the tortoise raises his head and pulls up a gratifying smile. 'I am..... yes, fine.....' That hesitation sums up the tortoise's emotions, pretending to be fine despite all his nerves showing on his pale face. The hare understands, everyone understands, and so the hare questions mannerly, 'Mr. Tortoise, do you want a lift?' The tortoise understands his own abilities very well and nods his head immediately - he knows this is the only way to win the race. Not rejecting the hare's generous offer, he drives his entire body onto the hare's back. That is undeniably **an arduous task** for the hare, but out of kindness and empathy, he **bites his bullet** and brings the tortoise on his back. It is never easy to claim victory over the tiger, especially when the weight of the tortoise makes this run more demanding, until they realise what it takes to achieve greatness. Running with an extra load, the hare is exhausted half away from the finishing line, he, or they, do just enough to surpass the squirrel and the cat, but not the tiger. The tiger is no longer running, just after ensuring that he could win the match no matter what. He stands still, with baring his fangs and brandishing his claws, looks amok at the rest being clowned and teased at. The tiger is ready, ready to prey on everyone when they reach him. The hare, and the tortoise at his back, have got to think of a method to **surmount** and **overcome this riddle**. Indeed, the tortoise has an idea in his mind.

'Little kid, we got to think of a way, I am not dying at the mouth of that striped creature.' The tortoise, calm as ever, claims.

'Emm.....Mr. Tortoise, do you.....have a way.....?' The hare **pantingly says**.

'Urgh..... I have an idea, kid.' The tortoise says and snores. 'How about my shell?'

'Your shell, Mr. Tortoise?'

'Yes, kid. Let me use my shell cover your body, and we will slowly crawl towards the grass pit. Camouflage. That's the word.'

‘And we will crawl past the tiger without him noticing and we will share the victory together, Mr. Tortoise!’

And there this duo turns into a moving, green object, crawling towards the grass. They move slowly, trying their hardest to prevent any noise, and from grabbing the tiger’s attention. They walk into the pit of bushes, and hardly you could hear **a sizzling noise** coming out from the ‘greenery’, where the duo successfully blends themselves into the heap of green. The action is done in dead silence, shadowed by the tiger’s heavy breath. Without anyone noticing, the duo **sneaks their way** past the tiger, with the tiger still **boasting about** his **imaginary victory**, not sensing the furtiveness beside him. Behind the tiger is only 100 metres away from **the promised land**, and for the sneaky duo, it is a no man’s land for them to sprint towards their victory. From the grass, they could barely hear the tiger gritting its teeth for his delivered meal, and under the contestants’ scream and **sharp piercing cry**, the race ended out of everyone’s expectations. As the referee blasts his air horn once again signalling the end of the race, the duo wins. The tiger is in absolute shock, followed by **an earth-shaking growl**, but everything’s too late, as the duo steps onto the podium, claiming their **well-deserved yet controversial triumph**. The hare and the tortoise put their glittering medals round their neck, with a smirk on their face, leaving the tiger in **the abyss of regret**.

The foolish ones are always the one to pay - the typical moral of a story it is. Boasting about oneself never makes the victory sweeter, one’s ability greater, nor makes yourself feel better - it is yet the beginning of the downfall. This is what the story tells you. There is never one situation that one is ever stronger than others, as teamwork brings the best out of someone - the **sky-high potential** that one could ever reach by themselves. Two is always greater than one.

Word count: 937

**Highlighted** = Useful Phrases

Miss Clara’s Review:

[Marks awarded: 17.5/21]

This is a well-written story with an imaginative plot. Adequate attention is given to characterization, showing the strengths of each of the animal could be used to benefit the team. Moreover, various descriptive languages, metaphor and dialogue are used with high accuracy. Ideas are organised in a clear and logical manner through the intelligent use of linking devices.

