**Week 1:**

**Spring Festival Gala on CCTV**

**The approach of** the Chinese Lunar New Year **poses a national issue concerning** the necessity of holding the CCTV Spring Festival Gala. Its established status is being challenged by a growing number of people, especially by **younger generations**. It is increasingly difficult to **cater for all tastes**.

**Some individuals deem that** it should be cancelled or replaced by other programs. These young people focus their attention on other forms of celebration instead of **immersing themselves in TV**. Despite that, the majority of mid-aged people and senior citizens **uphold** the importance of the traditional performance. The most **striking feature** of this gala is its traditionally close link with ordinary people’s lives. Most people **view this gala as** an annual staple on the traditional Chinese Spring Festival Eve. They all have a restless night and **glue their eyes on the television**.

**I am not supportive of the view that** the grand gala should be abandoned. Undoubtedly, it **plays a vital role in** the celebration of Chinese New Year. To increase its appeal and meet young adults’ need, the upcoming performance should invite some **big names** including super stars from Hong Kong and Taiwan. We are all eagerly anticipating this unforgettable evening show.

**Week 2：**

**Suitability Is the Key to a Good Job**

What is a good job? Different people may have different answers: good salary, light workload and high social status, etc. Yet then why are some people still unhappy even if they **are privileged to** all these? **As I see it**, the best job should be the one that suits your personality and interest.

**For one thing**, a good job is not only the means of “making a living”, but is a career that can “make a life”. High salary is desirable, **nevertheless** it does not automatically lead to happiness if one does not love the work; light workload is attractive, but it equals idleness if one does not **engage in** the work; high status is enviable, but it does not produce respect if one does not do the job well. Doing something that interests you turns work into a kind of enjoyment.

**For another thing**, a suitable job is the best **in the long run**. It is able to **tap people’s enthusiasm and initiative**, so that they can constantly improve themselves. A motivated worker can acquire knowledge and skills more willingly and hence **foster capability** to do the job better in the future. What’s more, with good performance, pay will rise and promotion will follow.

A suitable job **provides a platform** for workers to develop themselves. Therefore, I believe suitability is the key to a good job.

**Week 3:**

**My New Home**

Last year, I lived in an apartment building known as “Dormitory One”. When I moved out, my joy was **beyond description**.

“Dorm One” exactly resembled the film “Neighbors”. The long corridors serving as a kitchen were lined with gas stoves. The public toilets were often wrong with their drainage. While I ate, the polluted air **ruined my appetite**. When I slept, a sudden noise would **startle** me like a nightmare.

**Compared with** the dorm, my new apartment seems like a paradise. It is so quiet that I can’t hear any noise except **the ticking of the clock**. When I am tired, I step onto the balcony to enjoy fresh air and sunshine. The clean, quiet and roomy privacy makes me energetic and enables me to work late at night, for I always have a good sleep.

**Week 4:**

**The Arguments on Advertising: For and Against**

An argument for advertisements **assert**s that ads give up-to-date information about products. The contrary argument against ads is that they do not give information but rather try to persuade us to buy.

**Pro-advertisement people** tell us that if there were no advertising, consumers would only know about goods in their local shops. **Anti-advertisement people** say that, **in reality**, ads create a demand for goods that are not really needed.

Advertisers claim that advertising helps to sell to a bigger market. Therefore, the more goods are sold, the cheaper they become. People who disagree with advertising argue that it actually adds to the cost of goods.

Finally, people **in favor of** advertising say ads provide income for newspapers, magazines, etc. Those who dislike advertising say they do not enjoy seeing them everywhere, such as in newspapers and on buses. They say advertisements are generally ugly to look at and **spoil the environment**.

My opinion is that advertisements do not **portray reality**, but give us unrealistic expectations for ourselves and **fuel greedy desires**. They are everywhere and unavoidable even if we try to get rid of them. I wouldn’t like to see advertisements any more.

**Week 5:**

Version 1:

WeChat is becoming the new trend in our fast-paced world.

First of all, WeChat is a free instant messaging service application and thus provides convenience for people to send voice messages, pictures and texts, which undoubtedly helps shorten the distance between people and enhance mutual understanding. What's more, WeChat keeps us updated on current affairs and helps us keep pace with the times. However, WeChat can also be potentially dangerous as it may give away people's privacy and other significant information. In addition, some unfounded or false information released on WeChat can be misleading, affecting the healthy development of young people.

All in all, WeChat provides us with comfort and also inevitably some concerns, so we should keep our eyes open and be extremely careful while using it.

Version 2:

WeChat is becoming the new trend in our fast-paced world.

Enabling phone users to communicate with others in the form of voice messages, pictures and texts conveniently and rapidly, Wechat, free of charge, contributes a lot to shortening the gap between people and promoting mutual understanding. Better still, through WeChat people can have access to the current affairs, which helps them keep pace with the times.

However, it may pose some potential risks to the users as their privacy is likely to be exposed to the public. To make matters much worse, the diverse information online may mislead the young people, so it is strongly suggested that we should be highly cautious when taking advantage of it.

**Week 6:**

Dear Peter,

I’d like to ask you to write an article for our school’s English newspaper.

In our newspaper there is a column called “Foreign Culture”, which introduces history, arts, and way of living etc. in foreign countries to cater for our readers’ needs to get more acquainted with western societies. Being glad to find that articles written by native speakers enjoy tremendous popularity among our readers who prefer reading materials of the original English flavor, I am wondering if you could write an article of approximately 400 words about American customs or the life of American high school students. We will really appreciate it if you can send your article to us via mail or e-mail by June 28.

Your contribution to our column will be highly appreciated and I’m looking forward to your reply as soon as possible.

Yours,

Li Hua

**Week 7:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I’m glad to know you’re going to hold a summer camp from July 1st to 7th during the vacation. With a great interest in it, I’m writing to apply for the participation.

According to your advertisement, various activities ranging from experiencing local cuisine, visiting world-famous schools and places of interest, attending foreign classes to learning domestic gardening will be offered, which I find practical and educational. By fully immersing ourselves in foreign surroundings for a week, I think we can not only broaden our horizons (broaden the mind) but also enrich our knowledge of the local history and culture.

Of all the activities, I prefer to attend foreign classes for the reason that as a student nurtured by the Chinese education system for over 10 years, I’m curious about what a foreign class is like and the routine school life of the local students. Hopefully, from this journey, I may catch a glimpse of the western education system and meanwhile gain some insights into our own.

I’m looking forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

Li Hua

**Week 8:**

Version 1:

Dear Headmaster,

We have been asked about our opinions on opening iPad classrooms.

I am in favor of this plan for the following reasons. Firstly, by simply touching the screen, teachers and students can have access to a sea of resources on the Internet varying from pictures and videos to encyclopedias and libraries. Moreover, with iPads connected to Wi-Fi, we will find it possible to shorten the distance between students and teachers, and more convenient to interact with each other. Better still, compared with a traditional classroom relying heavily on paper materials, iPad classroom is more environmentally-friendly. Most importantly, immersing ourselves in the brand new academic environment, we may develop our self-learning capability, critical thinking and creativity.

We are eager to attend an iPad class, which will bring a breath of fresh air to our campus and make our classroom more lively and efficient. Looking forward to your rely.

Yours sincerely,

Li Hua

Version 2:

Dear Headmaster,

We have been asked about our opinions on opening iPad classrooms.

I am in favor of this plan for the following reasons. To begin with, everyone learns differently. Students can customize their iPad with materials that fit their level and learning style, and thus tailor it to different needs. Moreover, when connected to the Internet, students can interact with teachers and classmates about what they learn more conveniently. For the sake of environmental protection, opening iPad classrooms is a good way to save trees that we have been cutting down for paper. Most importantly, I believe students will develop their interest in the subjects by enjoying a new way of learning.

I hope you would take my ideas into consideration and we look forward to attending an iPad class.

Yours sincerely,

Li Hua

**Week 9**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Li Hua, a high school student from China. With the intention to study English in Britain, I'm writing to enquire about the relevant course you offer during the summer break.

Of all the courses mentioned in your advertisement, the 6-week English course attracts me most, for never have I experienced an authentic English class abroad. But I am still wondering when it will start, how many students there are in each class, and how many hours the course will take per week. Furthermore, the fees are also one of my top concerns. Finally, as for the type of accommodation, will we stay with our host family, or board at the dorms of your university?

Thank you for such a fantastic program and your great patience to answer these questions. Your early reply will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Li Hua

**Week 10**

Version 1:

Cell Phone and Internet Dangers

Cell phones and the Internet have improved our lives in many ways. However, along with improvement, they have also brought about some worrying problems that need to be addressed.

It is not a rare scene that some people make phone calls while driving, becoming a great hazard to other vehicles and pedestrians. Besides, without their parents’ permission, some children go out to meet the strangers to whom they chat online and put themselves in great danger. Worse still, connected with the Internet, cell phones make the users’ privacy likely to be exposed to the public and users to suffer economic losses. Last but not least, with the arrival of smart phones, phubbers decrease real human interactions while increasing their health problems with eyes and neck.

All in all, with improvement and problems, it is suggested that we should be highly cautious when using cell phones and the Internet.

Version 2:

Cell Phone and Internet Dangers

Cell phones and the Internet have improved our lives in many ways. However, along with improvement, they inevitably arouse many serious problems. For instance, many phone users are so addicted to chatting or playing games online that they ignore the busy traffic while driving and put their life at a high risk, consequently leading to some tragic accidents which ruin the whole family. Besides, teenagers without much life experience are very likely to be cheated by strangers they make friends with online who intend to make use of their innocence and defraud money and property. Worse still, on the basis of a recent study, the number of children who suffer from shortsightedness at an early age has risen rapidly due to the over-exposure to cell phones.

To sum up, cell phones and the Internet bring much comfort as well as unavoidable dangers to our life. Thus, we should be extremely careful while taking advantage of it.

**Week 11**

Dear Peter,

I’m writing to tell you something about e-hongbao, which is becoming popular in China.

E-hongbao is virtual money sent from and to relatives and friends via WeChat or other social media apps not only in the Spring Festival but on other special occasions. Unlike the tradition of elders giving lucky money to children, youngsters are taking the lead in the trend, who are commonly seen to grab or send e-hongbao on their smart phones.

The money e-hongbao contains is flexible, varying from 0.01 yuan to 1,000 or more, but it's the good wishes we convey in the process that really matter. By combining traditions with modern technology, e-hongbao adds color to the dull festival routine. Nevertheless, concerning the safety of online payment, rules and regulations need to be improved to ensure its operation.

What do you think of it? Looking forward to your opinions.

Yours faithfully,

Li Hua

**Week 12**

Dear Peter,

Today my class had **a heated debate about** whether the college entrance examination should include a physical education examination.

Those who support the idea **believed it to be highly necessary** because students nowadays pay so much attention to grades that they sometimes **ignore their physical fitness**. This change would certainly force students to **take physical fitness more seriously**. Meanwhile, their better fitness would **in turn** contribute to studying efficiently. Others added that it would help **develop their willpower, build teamwork spirit and shape their characters**.

**On the other hand**, some disagreed because it could turn PE lessons into some kind of boring training, and thus students’ enthusiasm for sports would decline. They also pointed out that it would be difficult to **set a uniform standard for** sports tests given that different people’s physical conditions are different.

In my opinion, life is like a marathon. A strong body is essential in fighting for our dreams whether PE is to be included in the college examination or not. I am wondering how your school **promotes the importance of physical education**.

Looking forward to your reply.

Best regards,

Li Hua

**Week 13:**

Having received your e-mail, in which you said you intended to give up English study for making little progress despite your great efforts, I am writing to share with you some suggestions.

First, whatever difficulty you are in, you should be confident. Confidence is the most important factor leading to success. Second, I advise you to make friends with those who study English well, from whom you can learn valuable experience and appropriate methods. Last but not least, always keep in mind awarding yourself when you make progress, even if it is a small pace forward. Prizes serve as motivation to push us towards prosperity.

Success always comes at a price. Follow my advice, and you will make a difference. I am looking forward to good news from you. If you have further problems, feel free to contact me.

**Week14：**

Falling on Singles’ Day, November 11th, Taobao’s online shopping festival attracts consumers in increasing numbers every year, becoming prevailing in China.

There are several factors behind this phenomenon. First, with the development of science and technology, many people can gain easy access to the Internet via computers or smartphones. Furthermore, without going out, people enjoy more choices of goods than they do in real shops, which saves time and energy. Finally, it is the low price that accounts for higher sales online, showing another advantage over traditional shopping.

In my opinion, it is natural that online shopping will take the lead. However, when enjoying the convenience, we should be cautious about the quality of goods. Besides, stay rational and just buy what we really need. Otherwise, it will cause a waste of money and resources.

**Week 15:**

The “only child” policy has been changed in our country and now it is possible that some of us may have a brother or sister. In a school-wide survey about the acceptance of a sibling, most of my classmates say yes. They are very glad to have a companion at home and therefore they will no longer feel lonely when their parents are busy working. In addition, they can learn to share things with and offer help to other people. However, the few others who say no to it are afraid that their parents would love them less if they had a sibling at home. Moreover, according to them, newly-born babies, to some extent, are always very noisy.

As for me, I will be terribly delighted to have a younger brother or sister. For one thing, a little child is great fun to me and I like to play with him or her cheerfully, despite the age distance. For another, I will have an intimate friend to do things with, to talk with and to share my life with. How nice it is growing up with someone to lean on, someone to count on and someone to tell on!

**Week 16：**

Dear Jack,

It’s been some weeks since I last wrote you. How have you been?

Recently I have read a collection of poems, arousing my great interest in poetry. Now I’m more willing to share my feelings with you in this letter.

As far as I’m concerned, there are a few unique characteristics making poetry fascinating. First, featuring strong rhythms and harmonious rhymes, poems usually sound beautiful. Furthermore, the language of poetry, brief but provoking imagination, can not only portray some fair things, like splendid natural scenery, but also keep an account of historical events. Last but not least, usually used as an ideal way to convey a poet’s feelings, poetry is a best form of literature to express one’s emotions.

Being so keen on poetry, I have written a short poem and attach it to this letter. Please take some time to read it and tell me what you think of it.

Looking forward to your next letter.

Yours sincerely,

Li Hua

**Week 17:**

My fellow students, in recent years, as the Dust-haze weather strikes our cities frequently, terms like PM 2.5 and PM 10, which we were unfamiliar with, have been referred to more often, raising the public’s awareness of environmental protection.

Compared with other cities, although Shenzhen still enjoys higher air quality, it is no longer the city it used to be a decade ago, with the sky getting grey and the river getting smelly. It is the development of industry and an increasing number of vehicles that have caused air pollution.

Therefore, as a teenager, we should take some measures to protect our environment. In our daily life, we can start our low-carbon life by taking public transportation more and riding our private cars less, using cloth bags more and plastic bags less, and above all, doing more and saying less. As far as I’m concerned, every effort we make really counts. So please remember: together, individuals can make a difference.

**Week 18:**

After you witnessed a crime against humanity in Paris with the casualties of over 200 people, your suffering is more than one can imagine. But as an old saying goes, "Life is full of roses and thorns", one’s life is full of unexpected events, some of which are wonderful and some disastrous. Those heavy terrific blows, such as, floods, snowstorms, and earthquakes, including the terrorist attack in Paris, France, seem to weigh one down.

　　However, Tom, as you know, it’s even worse if one can’t drag himself out of the grief in that mental break-down is more serious than the disaster itself. Instead of indulging oneself in great depression, one should take a positive attitude towards life and contribute to the reconstruction of his or her life and hometown. There are no such setbacks in life that we could not overcome.

　　As for me, if I were lucky enough to survive in a disaster, I would try my best to help those who are still suffering by donating blood or money. If I were a victim, I would endeavor to recover from the deep sorrow as soon as possible and be bound to be strong and supportive to the recovery work. I'm fully convinced that you can conquer yourself soon and have a brand-new beginning.

**Week 19:**

Hongbao, a red envelope with small amounts of money in, is a gift that is guaranteed to be warmly received, not just because of the cash, but also because of its traditional symbolism and best wishes for the future. This is true throughout China, but especially in the south where people regard receiving hongbao as an auspicious beginning to the New Year.

Legend in the south has it that a devil used to appear to harm children and the elderly but loud noise would frighten the devil away, as did the color red.

Firecrackers took care of the noise and during the Spring Festival couplets also helped keep him away. But firecrackers couldn’t go off all day so children and the elderly also got hongbao, red envelopes containing money.

The tradition has survived millennia and giving hongbao to children and the elderly remains popular among Chinese people all over the world. It has also made its way into workplaces where bosses often give employees hongbao and most recently, companies have adopted online marketing strategies where hongbao are distributed, hoping their companies and staff members have a good start.

Giving hongbao at the beginning of the Lunar New Year indicates best wishes for the future.

**Week 20:**

In the blink of an eye, you are on the threshold of being an adult. In the past three years, you have really lived a bittersweet campus life. I can still remember the day when you knew your devotion to decorating the blackboard was rewarded with the first prize, your silly smile made yourself look like a little child. I can also remember the moment when you first succeeded in completing a solo in the school band, you acted as cheerfully as a lark. However, apart from those happy memories, there were also once some dark clouds of failure getting in your way. You have suffered the bad grades, the scold of teachers, the misunderstanding of friends, and so on. But I feel so proud and appreciative that you just leaped over the hurdling and chased those clouds away!

Dear me, thank you, for all your painstaking efforts and diligence. There was a time when you sowed the seeds of hope. Now, you harvest the fruits of success. With your having been admitted to your dream school, a new journey is on the horizon. I believe in the not-too-distance future, you will still keep pursuing the perfect as you always do.

**Week 21**

Fall in Love with English

Hiding behind the **loose** **dusty** **curtain**, a teenager **packed up** his **overcoat** into the suitcase. He planned to leave home **at dusk** though there was **thunder and lightning** outdoors. He **had got to do** this because he **was tired of** his parents’ nagging about his English study and did not want to **go through** it any longer. He couldn’t **get along well with** English and **disliked joining in** English classes because he thought his teacher ignored him on purpose. As a result, his score in each exam never **added up to** over 60.

His partner **was concerned about** him very much. She understood **exactly** what he was **suffering from**, but **entirely** **disagreed with** his idea. In order to calm him down and **settle his problem**, she talked with him **face to face** and **swap**ped **a series of learning tips** with him. The **item**s she **set down** helped him find the **highway to** studying English well.

The teenager was **grateful** and got great **power** from his friend’s words. Now, he has **recover**ed **from** being upset and has **fall**en **in love with** English.

**Week 22**

Our family is our blessing which we should cherish for a lifetime while we ourselves, born and brought up in such a love-filled environment, are also the apple of our family’s eye forever. Parents devote themselves to creating a brighter future for us and we are bound to show love and care for our parents.

There was a time when I was cast down by those heavy burdens I forced myself to shoulder. Caring about my parents’ feelings, I was so afraid of not living up to their expectations and letting them down. A mere imagination of my beloved ones’ disappointed faces would make me hate myself. However, sensing my silent collapse, my parents gave me a letter on my eighteenth birthday, in which they told me how much they loved me and how less they wanted to get from me. They said that in no way were they trying to persuade me, and that they asked for nothing in return as long as I was happy. Only after I finished the letter did I realize that I was the most important treasure to them just as they were to me. I’m still under stress now, but in a firmer belief that I will become my parent’s pride in any case.

As the old saying goes, “Love satisfies itself by loving”. Our family is our heaven-sent gift and we ourselves are our family’s precious “apple”. Thus, there is no point in weighing pros and cons in this selfless relationship. Only love counts.

**Week 23:**

We and our family both exert deep influence on each other. Born and nurtured in the love and care from our family, we are always the apple in their eye. Whenever we go through frustration and sadness, like a floating boat, we berth in the harbor – our family for a while, and then we can go back to the raging sea, with hope and energy. Just as family is so important to us, we’re the ones who bring the whole family hope and happiness. To our family, our birth is the present from God. During our growth, our every step, either forward or backward, affects their feelings. When we grow up and no longer need their protection, it’s their turn to count on us.

I used to think that my mum weighed her job more than her own daughter. Every time I was ill and stayed at home alone, I couldn’t help thinking like that. It was not until once my mum ended up getting a bad cold after I recovered that I realized how worried she was. I tried my best to act as a “little adult” to take care of her, for I knew she needed me as well. It’s the faith that we’ll be there for each other forever that makes a family complete.

Family is not our come-and-go hotel, and we no passersby. We and our family both need love and care from each other. After all, love is a two-way street, not a one-way road.

**深一模：**

I’m Li Hua, a Chinese student who intends to attend a 6-month language training course in Lancaster University. On your website, I came across an ad about host family information. Now, I’m writing to you for more detailed information.

There are several points I’m seeking for your clarification. Firstly, could you please tell me the exact address of the host family and how to get there? Secondly, will I enjoy a separate room or share with others? Are there any children in the host family? How about the special customs? At last, as for the homestay fees, what is included and is￡2,500 for one month?

I’ll appreciate it if you can clarify these questions. Looking forward to your reply.

**适应性考试：**

I’m Li Hua, a student who is in charge of the English broadcast station in our school. Now I’m writing to invite you to attend the 10th anniversary ceremony of our broadcast station.

Thank you so much for your contributions to the broadcast station as a consultant for a long time. Without your guidance or effort, our broadcast station wouldn’t have made such great progress and wouldn’t be so popular with our students. Therefore, I sincerely invite you to attend the ceremony and witness the historic moment with us.

The ceremony will be held in our school hall at 8 a.m. this Monday. Could you please prepare a speech for it? You can say anything about our broadcast station and its 10th anniversary.

We would really appreciate it if you can come.

**广一模：**

How have you been recently? I’ve been conducting a survey concerning how Chinese students and British students spend their winter vacation. Thus, I’m writing to share with you our vacation life, hoping you can describe yours.

Chinese winter vacation usually starts in January, lasting for about 20 days. During the vacation, we students will have lots of activities, ranging from travelling around, gathering with our classmates to doing some voluntary work. Most importantly, a traditional Chinese festival, the Spring Festival falls in the vacation. We usually celebrate this festival with our family, tasting delicious foods, paying visits to friends and receiving much lucky money.

How do you British students spend the vacation? I’ll appreciate it if you could describe the winter vacation in detail.

**Week 24:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I’m Li Hua, a Chinese student, studying in New Zealand. I’m writing to enquire about traveling around New Zealand during the approaching winter vacation.

My friend and I are planning a 7-day trip, seeking clarification of the following aspects. Firstly, what are the highly-recommended scenic spots and how can we get there by means of cheap public transportation? Secondly, to get some insights into local culture, we are eager to taste local cuisine, experience special festivals if possible, and have a try on distinctive costumes. Thus, could you please give us a detailed introduction? Last but not least, what else should be paid close attention to in case of embarrassment and offense?

Without your help, we couldn’t have a good preparation for the trip. Please do us a favor. I’d appreciate it if you could give us an early reply.

Sincerely yours,

Li Hua

**Week 25:**

Dear Sir/ Madam，

I’m Li Hua, one of the students who attended the course English Film Appreciation last term. Knowing that you’re collecting advice on the course, I’m writing to express my opinions and give some suggestions.

I’m fond of this course mainly for the following two reasons. First, in the class, exposed to different kinds of English films, we can improve both our English listening and speaking skills. Besides, the amazing stories of the heroes show us that a person can work hard to make a difference.

However, to make the course better, I suggest that films of different themes should be shown. Besides, more activities, such as discussion, should be included so that we can have more chances to practice our English.

I’d appreciate it if you could take my suggestions into consideration. I hope that the course will become more popular.

Sincerely yours,

Li Hua

Week 26

*I am a student from Xinhua Middle School in Chongqing, China.* I would like to be the **spokesman** **for** animals to try my best to protect them.

Since my parents raised a puppy when I was still young, I have had a loving heart for animals, among which I love polar bears most. So I want to **speak for** polar bears. Nowadays, the balance of nature is being destroyed and the weather is getting warmer and warmer, **posing a great hazard to** polar bears. Worse still, some people kill polar bears **for their own sake**. As a consequence, the number of polar bears is becoming smaller and smaller. So, in order to **increase people’s awareness of** protecting polar bears, I apply for the spokesman for polar bears sincerely.

I do hope I can be chosen as a spokesman for polar bears.