

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

### PART A

#### Reading Passages

8.30 am – 10.00 am (1½ hours)  
(for both Parts A and B)

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) There are two parts (A and B) in this paper. All candidates should attempt Part A. In Part B, you should attempt either Part B1 (easier section) OR Part B2 (more difficult section). Candidates attempting Parts A and B2 will be able to attain the full range of levels, while Level 4 will be the highest level attainable for candidates attempting Parts A and B1.
- (2) After the announcement of the start of the examination, you should first write your Candidate Number and stick barcode labels in the spaces provided on the appropriate pages of the Part A Question-Answer Book and the Part B Question-Answer Book which you are going to attempt.
- (3) Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question-Answer Books. Answers written in the margins will not be marked.
- (4) For multiple-choice questions, you are advised to blacken the appropriate circle with a pencil so that wrong marks can be completely erased with a clean rubber. Mark only **ONE** answer to each question. Two or more answers will score **NO MARKS**.
- (5) Supplementary answer sheets will be supplied on request. Write your Candidate Number, mark the question number box and stick a barcode label on each sheet and fasten them with string **INSIDE** the Question-Answer Book.
- (6) No extra time will be given to candidates for sticking on barcode labels or filling in the question number boxes after the 'Time is up' announcement.
- (7) The two Question-Answer Books you have attempted (one for Part A and one for Part B) will be collected together at the end of the examination. Fasten the two Question-Answer Books together with the green tag provided.
- (8) The unused Question-Answer Book for Part B will be collected separately at the end of the examination. This will not be marked. Do not write any answers in it.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART A

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part A is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Attempt ALL questions in Part A. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.

## PART A

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-30 on pages 1-4 of the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

### Text 1

## Apologies all around

“Oh look!” Rachel shouted. “There’s a robot at the door.”

Winston Sinclair hoped it wasn’t one of those sales robots. They were nearly impossible to get 5 rid of. He picked up Rachel and raised the viewing screen she had used. The robot was one metre tall, grey, squat, plain-looking.

“Robot, what do you want?”

It had a cheap synthesized voice. “Winston 10 Sinclair, born February 18, 2000?”

“Yeah...”

“Worked at CommaTech from 2023 to 2026?”

“Honey, don’t buy anything,” his wife Elizabeth called from the living room.

15 “Pardon, Winston Sinclair, I am not here to sell you something. I am not here to buy something. Winston Sinclair, sir, I am here to apologize.”

Winston sat on the couch with Elizabeth and Rachel while the robot explained.

20 “I contain an apology for Winston Sinclair from Karl Anderson.”

“Karl Anderson? I haven’t heard that name in, gosh, probably ten years.”

Rachel pulled at his shirt sleeve. “Daddy, who’s 25 Karl?”

“We worked together at CommaTech, then he got a great job at Future Industries. I applied to work there, but they never called back.”

The robot beeped. “Pardon, Winston Sinclair. 30 Will you hear the apology?”

“Uh, okay.”

An identicard reader on its side lit up. “Please confirm your identity.”

Winston pulled his card from his wallet and waved 35 it over the reader.

“Identity confirmed, Winston Sinclair.” The robot whirred as a small video screen unfurled into where its head might have been. “Playing apology.”

40 The man in the video had more grey and less hair, but it was definitely Karl.

“Hello, Winston. Isn’t this the strangest bot? It just shows up one day and... well, anyway.” Karl licked his lips. “Nine years ago, you applied to 45 Future Industries. I didn’t want a young hotshot like you competing with me, so I spread the rumor that you were impossible to work with. I’ve felt bad ever since and I’d like to apologize for doing that. I’m really sorry. I hope you can forgive me.”

The screen rolled back into the robot.

Winston jumped up. “THAT SCOUNDREL!!!”

“Winston!”

55 “Sorry — I really wanted that job. I always wondered what happened. I don’t believe it!” Winston stalked around the living room. “I was miserable at CommaTech for another year until I left, and then — ”

“And then you went to IndustriCorp,” Elizabeth 60 said. “And you met me, and we got married, and we had Rachel, and here we are. I’d say things worked out just fine.”

The robot chimed. “Winston Sinclair, do you accept the apology?”

65 He had wanted that job so badly back then. But if he’d gotten it, then Future Industries would be his life. Not Elizabeth. Not Rachel, who right now was poking a plastic magic wand at the robot from underneath the coffee table.

70 Elizabeth was right. Things had worked out just fine. Better, even. She saw the big picture, like she always did. It was one of the reasons he loved her.

“Winston Sinclair, do you accept the apology?”

75 He sat down on the couch and reached for Elizabeth's hand. "Yes. I do."

The robot extended a small metal arm, probably a camera.

80 "Please record your acceptance." Winston took a breath. "Hi Karl, this is Winston. I accept your apology. Things worked out. I hope you're well. Hey, call me sometime and we'll catch up. Bye."

The robot clicked. "Winston Sinclair, now you must record an apology."

85 "Excuse me?"

"You must record an apology. I will deliver it. This is my function."

Well, Winston thought, what do I have to apologize for?

90 "Okay. I scratched a hover-bike with my car door yesterday."

The robot was quiet while an LED on its front blinked, then went solid red. "Insufficient value."

"What!?"

95 "Value of new apology must calculate to within plus or minus twelve percent of value of accepted apology."

Winston rose from the couch. "I need to think about this over dinner."

100 While the family ate, the robot stayed in the living room and recharged.

"Pardon, Winston Sinclair," the robot beeped. "You must record an apology."

105 "Oh, geez, robot. Fine. I stole two books from the library when I was twelve."

Again, the silence. "Insufficient value."

"I teased Devon Marcus in tenth grade."

"Insufficient value."

110 "In university, I cheated on my fourth-year mathematics exam."

"Insufficient value."

A moment from Winston's past emerged in his mind. He slowly turned his chair around.

"What if I broke someone's heart?"

115 "Age at heart breaking?"

"Twenty-two."

The LED blinked for what felt like forever. It turned green. "Value is sufficient. You may apologize."

120 Sitting on the couch, Winston talked as the robot recorded.

"Hi, Cherie. This is Winston Sinclair. I want to apologize. That night by the lake? When I told you I didn't believe in love? I lied. I was scared 125 of being close, and I ran away. I'm sorry I didn't respond to your calls and your mail. I'm hoping you'll forgive me." He sat back. "That's it." Winston felt good, lighter somehow. He imagined this was how Karl had felt.

130 The robot collected itself, unplugged, and moved to the door.

Winston stood. "Robot, wait."

"Yes?"

"I thought of another apology."

135 "Only one apology is allowed. Now I must leave."

Winston opened the door for the robot.

"Karl Anderson will receive this acceptance," the 140 robot recited. "Cherie Deveraux will receive this apology. Goodbye, Winston Sinclair."

While Rachel waved goodbye to the robot, Winston watched it go down the path, down the driveway, and down the street until it disappeared into the night. He stood on the porch a few minutes more, and then went inside. He picked up the internet tablet and started searching.

145 "What are you doing, honey?" Elizabeth said from the table.

"I'm looking for instructions. I'm going to build 150 a robot."

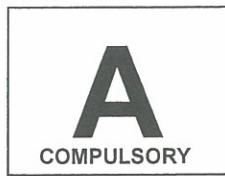
## END OF READING PASSAGE

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report and Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.

Candidate Number

Please stick the barcode label here.

**HKDSE 2014  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 1 PART A  
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**



Write your Candidate Number and stick a barcode label in the space provided on this page.

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-30. (47 marks)

1. Who shouts in line 1?

- A. the mother
- B. the father
- C. the daughter
- D. the robot

A     B     C     D

2. Why doesn't Winston like sales robots?  

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3. What does Elizabeth think the robot is trying to do?  

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4. How does Winston know Karl? \_\_\_\_\_  

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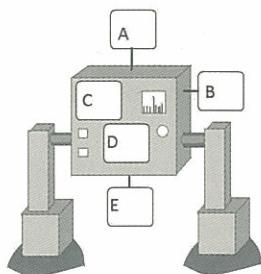
5. Who does 'they' (line 28) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in lines 1-30.  
Blacken ONE circle only for each statement. (3 marks)

- i) At first glance, the robot does not appear to be very impressive.  T     F     NG
- ii) Rachel knows who Karl is.  T     F     NG
- iii) Karl and Winston both wanted to work at Future Industries.  T     F     NG

7. What does 'it' (line 35) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Where on the robot is the 'small video screen' (line 37)? Blacken the correct circle.



A     B     C     D     E

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



9. Decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in lines 40-50. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement. (3 marks)

	T	F	NG
i) Winston does not recognize the man in the video.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) The job at Future Industries was to build robots.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Karl admits feeling guilty for what he did.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Why did Karl spread the rumor about Winston?

- A. Karl didn't like Winston.
- B. Karl preferred to work on his own.
- C. Karl was scared Winston was better than him.
- D. Karl thought Winston worked badly in a team.

A <input type="radio"/>	B <input type="radio"/>	C <input type="radio"/>	D <input type="radio"/>
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11. What is Winston's first reaction on hearing Karl's apology?

- A. sadness
- B. anger
- C. fear
- D. pity

A <input type="radio"/>	B <input type="radio"/>	C <input type="radio"/>	D <input type="radio"/>
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12. i) Who says 'Winston!' (line 53)? (1 mark)

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- ii) Why? (1 mark)

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13. Why did Winston want to change jobs? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Number the following events in chronological order. Write 1-4 on the lines provided.

Winston meets Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_

Winston applies for a job at Future Industries \_\_\_\_\_

Winston works at CommaTech \_\_\_\_\_

Winston works at IndustriCorp \_\_\_\_\_

15. What does 'it' (line 66) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Who is under the coffee table? \_\_\_\_\_

17. What is most important in Winston's life now? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What does 'the big picture' (line 71) refer to?

- A. The robot's video screen.
- B. The apology from Karl.
- C. The things Elizabeth had always wanted.
- D. The complete view of Winston's life.

A     B     C     D

19. Why does Winston accept Karl's apology?

- A. He hadn't really wanted the job at Future Industries.
- B. He feels things worked out in the end.
- C. He wants to catch up with Karl.
- D. He is afraid of the robot.

A     B     C     D

20. In lines 88-89, who is the question directed at? \_\_\_\_\_

21. What does it mean when the robot says, 'Insufficient value' (line 93)? (2 marks)

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22. What does the robot do while Winston thinks of another apology?

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23. How does Winston feel when he says, 'Fine' (line 104)?

- A. satisfied
- B. ashamed
- C. relieved
- D. exasperated

A     B     C     D

24. Fill in the missing word(s) for each of Winston's apologies. Choose an answer from the ten options given below. Write the answer in the space provided. Only **FIVE** options can be used. (5 marks)

**destroyed / copied / ignored / laughed at /  
returned / lost / lied to / took / damaged / replied to**

- i) I'm sorry that I \_\_\_\_\_ that hover bike.
- ii) I'm sorry that I \_\_\_\_\_ those books.
- iii) I'm sorry that I \_\_\_\_\_ you, Devon.
- iv) I'm sorry that I \_\_\_\_\_ my friend's answers.
- v) I'm sorry that I \_\_\_\_\_ your letters.

25. How many of Winston's apologies does the robot record? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Why did Winston stop contacting Cherisse?

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27. What is the robot's mission? (2 marks)

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28. What is the message behind the story? (2 marks)

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29. Name two people in the story who have accepted apologies. (2 marks)

i) \_\_\_\_\_ ii) \_\_\_\_\_

30. Which character from the story is most likely to say each quote below? Write the name of the character next to the quote. Do not use any character more than once. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

Quotes	Character
e.g. "I hope she gets my message."	Winston
i) "Cherisse Deveraux, born March 20, 2001?"	
ii) "Don't worry about the past dear, focus on the present."	
iii) "I cried so much when you left."	
iv) "Put me down, I want to play with the robot!"	
v) "I couldn't stop thinking that I ruined your career."	

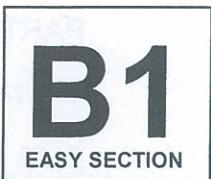
**END OF PART A**



2014-DSE  
ENG LANG

PAPER 1  
PART B1

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY  
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2014



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

### PART B1

#### Reading Passages

8.30 am – 10.00 am (1½ hours)  
(for both Parts A and B)

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Refer to the General Instructions on Page 1 of the Reading Passages booklet for Part A.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART B1

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part B1 is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Candidates who choose Part B1 should attempt all questions in this part. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.
- (3) Hand in only ONE Question-Answer Book for Part B, either B1 or B2, and fasten it with the Question-Answer Book for Part A using the green tag provided.

## PART B1

Read Text 2 and answer questions 31-44 on pages 1-2 of the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

### Text 2

#### The World Needs More Love Letters



- [1] The website *The World Needs More Love Letters* aims to spread joy through letters. Not through emails, or your usual love letters, written to real people you love, but surprise letters for 5 strangers. These letters don't say "I love you", but they are full of kindness, telling people how special they are. It's the sort of stuff that most people don't really say out loud even to the people they care about, let alone a total stranger.
- 10 [2] The website was started by a 24-year-old woman named Hannah Brencher. After college, she moved to New York City but was hit by depression and loneliness. One day she felt so alone, she wanted to reach out to someone. So she 15 started writing letters. Letters to complete strangers.
- 20 [3] But these weren't sad letters about how she was feeling. They were happy letters, all about the other person, not her. She would write messages 25 for people like "Have a bright day" or "You're brilliant!" Brencher began dropping the notes all over the city of New York, in cafes, in library books, in parks and on the train. It made her feel better, knowing that she might be making somebody's day through just a few short, sweet words. And so, *The World Needs More Love Letters* was born.

- [4] Brencher's idea of writing random letters to strangers has now exploded. She has personally 30 written hundreds of letters. Last year, she was invited to speak at a global conference. At the conference, she talked about a woman whose husband, a soldier, came back from the war and they struggled to reconnect. The wife tucked love 35 letters throughout the house as a way to say: "Come back to me. Find me when you can." In another example, she talked about a university student who slipped letters around her campus. Soon everyone was writing them and there were 40 love letters hanging from the trees.

- [5] Now there are more than 10,000 people who join in all over the world. Sometimes, they write letters that people have requested to order, to 45 people who are lonely and down and just want someone to tell them that everything will be OK. Mostly, though, they scribble notes and leave them somewhere unlikely, for somebody to find.

*Read Text 3 and answer questions 45-59 on pages 3-4 of the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.*

Text 3

[1] *The World Needs More Love Letters* is a very cute idea. It also sounds, well, a bit American touchy-feely. I'm not sure that's something we British do well. But I know that if I received such a letter, it would put a smile on my face. So I decide to give it a try.

[2] On the morning I decide to write my love letters to strangers, I made the journalistic schoolgirl-error of forgetting my notepad and pen.  
10 So I go to the nearest stationery shop and also buy some cards with matching envelopes.

[3] With my supplies to hand, I can't stop thinking about what I might say. By the time I sit down to write my letters, I feel very self-conscious. I don't want to make a spelling mistake, cross it out and ruin the whole thing. I browse Brencher's website for inspiration. But everything I start to write sounds, well ... cheesy. And stupid. "Hey! You! Yes, you!" Nope.

20 [4] I try again, and write a few over-used expressions before I cross them out and start afresh. "In a city like London where people go out of their way not to smile or even catch your eye, I just felt like saying hello." I add, "I hope you had a good  
25 day, but if not, wishing this random note will make you feel better." That'll do for a first attempt.

[5] My next letter is basically the same, except I address it to "the stranger sitting on the train". By letter number three, I figure less is more so simply say: "YOU ARE WAY BETTER THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE." Which, let's face it, we'd all love to hear someone say. I mark the envelope: "Something to cheer you up if you're having a bad day." I like that one. I think I nailed it.

35 [6] The next part is the letter-drop: where to leave them? I slip one in the sofa in the cafe that I'm in, between the cushions so the next person notices. Then I drop the other one on the train, as if it wasn't me that left it on that seat at all. On my way home I notice a nice-looking bike with a basket. So I drop the last note in there.

[7] It's kind of exciting leaving these notes behind. (I actually stand a safe distance from the bike, pretending to window shop just in case I catch the  
45 bike owner coming back.) I'd like to think they would appreciate the gesture, although I can equally understand why they might think I am a lunatic. But I guess, as Brencher's experiment shows, it's really not that much weirder to take the  
50 time to write a random letter for someone with the aim of making their day that bit brighter than it is to, say, Tweet a whole bunch of people you'll never meet or never really know.

[8] When I get home, I realise I have got one card  
55 and one envelope left. So I scrawl a lil' something for my husband and leave it under his pillow. Way better than sending a text.

**END OF READING PASSAGES**

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report and Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.

Candidate Number

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**HKDSE 2014  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 1 PART B1  
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**



Write your Candidate Number and stick a barcode label in the space provided on this page.

Read Text 2 and answer questions 31-44. (20 marks)

31. What is the name of the website?

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32. What is the purpose of the website? \_\_\_\_\_

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33. Who are the letters written to? \_\_\_\_\_

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34. Who created this website? \_\_\_\_\_

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35. Why did this person start writing such letters? (2 marks)

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36. In paragraph 3, find a word that is similar in meaning to 'letters'. \_\_\_\_\_

37. Which of the following places is NOT mentioned in paragraph 3?

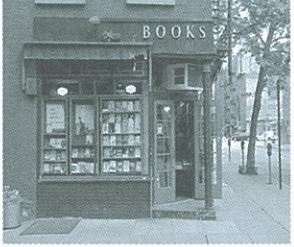
Blacken ONE circle only.

A  B  C  D

A.



B.



C.



D.



38. What did this person gain from writing these letters? \_\_\_\_\_

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Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



39. Give one example from the text which shows how the idea of writing these love letters has ‘exploded’ (line 29).

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40. In paragraph 4, find a word that can be replaced by ‘put’. \_\_\_\_\_

41. Who does ‘you’ (line 36) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

42. Decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in paragraphs 4-5. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement. (3 marks)

i) Hannah Brencher writes her own letters.

T       F       NG

ii) The love letters successfully made the woman and her soldier husband fall back in love.

iii) Some people ask for letters to be written to them.

43. Number the events (1-5) in order. The event that happens first is number 1. The first and last events have been ordered for you.

Brencher goes to New York City. \_\_\_\_\_ 1

Letters are hung from trees in the university campus. \_\_\_\_\_

Brencher writes letters to strangers. \_\_\_\_\_

A student slips letters around her university campus. \_\_\_\_\_

Brencher gives a talk at an international conference. \_\_\_\_\_ 5

44. Decide if the following statements are ‘Dos’ or ‘Don’ts’ for people writing the kind of letter mentioned in the text. Blacken ONE circle only next to each statement. (4 marks)

i) Send your letter by email.

Do       Don’t

ii) Say something nice to the person who will read your letter.

iii) Be romantic in your letter.

iv) Place your letter somewhere for a stranger to find.



Read Text 3 and answer questions 45-59. (21 marks)

45. What nationality is the writer? \_\_\_\_\_

46. Find a phrase in paragraph 1 that means ‘make me happy’.

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47. In line 6, the writer says that she decides to ‘give it a try’. What is she going to try to do?

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48. What did the writer buy at the stationery shop? (2 marks)

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49. What did the writer do to find ideas for her letter writing?

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50. Why does the writer say ‘Nope’ (line 19)?

- A. She does not like the website.
- B. She thinks writing letters is stupid.
- C. She does not like the words she just wrote.
- D. She does not want to make a spelling mistake.

A     B     C     D

51. How does the writer feel in paragraph 3?

- A. confident
- B. nervous
- C. relaxed
- D. upset

A     B     C     D

52. Decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in paragraphs 4-5. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement. (3 marks)

i) The writer thinks that people in London don't often smile at strangers.

T     F     NG

ii) The writer thinks that shorter notes are better than longer ones.

iii) The writer is most pleased with her third letter.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

53. Where does the writer leave each of her three letters? (3 marks)

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

54. How does the writer avoid being noticed while waiting for one of her letters to be found? (2 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

55. The ‘gesture’ (line 46) refers to ...

- A. leaving the letter.
- B. having someone say ‘thank you’.
- C. doing some window shopping.
- D. catching the bike owner.

A     B     C     D

56. What does ‘a lunatic’ (line 48) mean? Someone who is ...

- A. nice.
- B. clever.
- C. crazy.
- D. unkind.

A     B     C     D

57. How does the writer compare writing these letters to writing a Tweet?

Both are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

58. In which room of her house does the writer leave her last letter?

\_\_\_\_\_

59. Which of the following is the best title for Text 3?

- A. A guide to writing a love letter
- B. Have you ever received a love letter?
- C. How to write letters to impress
- D. My attempt at writing random love letters

A     B     C     D

**END OF PART B1**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

### PART B2

#### Reading Passages

8.30 am – 10.00 am (1½ hours)  
(for both Parts A and B)

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Refer to the General Instructions on Page 1 of the Reading Passages booklet for Part A.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART B2

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part B2 is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Candidates who choose Part B2 should attempt all questions in this part. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.
- (3) Hand in only ONE Question-Answer Book for Part B, either B1 or B2, and fasten it with the Question-Answer Book for Part A using the green tag provided.

## PART B2

Read Text 4 and answer questions 60-84 of the Question-Answer Book for Part B2.

### Text 4

An excerpt from the autobiography of Stephen Fry, a well-loved British actor, writer and comedian.



### Celebrity

[1] The morning after *The Cellar Tapes*<sup>1</sup> was aired on BBC2, I went for a walk along the King's Road. How ought I to treat those who approached me? I switched on a sweet gentle smile and practised a kind of 'Who?...me?' gesture that involved looking behind me and then 5 pointing with questioning disbelief at my own undeserving chest. I made sure, before setting out, that there were pens in my pocket for autographs.

[2] The first people I passed as I made my way up Blacklands Terrace were an elderly couple who paid me no attention. Foreigners possibly, or the kind of Chelseaites<sup>2</sup> who thought it smart not to have a television. 10 I walked twice around Sloane Square. Not one person stopped me. There was simply no reaction from anyone anywhere. I went into a newsagent and hung around the piles of television listings magazines. To pick up a *Radio Times* people had to ask me to step aside; obviously and by definition these persons must have been television watchers, but my features, by now set into a wild, despairing grin, meant nothing to them. This was most strange. Television, everybody in the world knew, conferred instant fame. Instead I 15 had woken up to find myself anonymous. I was still nothing more than another face in the London crowd.

[3] I pulled a compensatory *BBC Micro* magazine from the shelf and left. As I was trailing disappointedly back to the flat I heard a voice behind me.

'Excuse me, excuse me!'

I turned to see an excited young girl. At last. 'Yes?'

20 'You forgot your change.'

[4] Ever since I can remember I had dreamt of being famous. I know how embarrassing an admission this is. From the first moment I was aware of such a class of person existing, I had wanted to be a celebrity. We are forever telling ourselves that we live in a celebrity-obsessed culture; many hands are daily wrung at the supremacy of appearance over achievement. To *desire* fame argues a shallow and delusional outlook. 25 This much we all know. But if we clever ones can see so clearly that fame is a snare and a delusion, we can also see just as clearly that as each year passes a greater and greater proportion of the western world's youth is becoming entranced in that snare and dazzled by that delusion.

[5] You may wonder how our culture can be so broken and so sick as to venerate a pack of talentless nobodies who offer no moral, spiritual or intellectual sustenance and no discernible gifts beyond 30 unthreatening photogeneity. My counter-argument to this would be, firstly, the phenomenon simply is not as new as everyone thinks it is. Read any novel published in the early part of the twentieth century and you will find female uneducated characters who spend their spare moments dreaming of movie stars, tennis-players, explorers... The propensity to worship idols is not new. We humans are naturally disposed to worship gods and heroes. I would rather see that impulse directed into the adoration of daft singers than 35 into the veneration of militant politicians.

[6] Secondly, is it not a rule in life that no one is quite as stupid as we would like them to be? If the social-networking services of the digital age teach us anything it is that only a fool would underestimate the intelligence, intuition and cognitive skills of the ‘masses’. I am talking about more than the ‘wisdom of crowds’ here. If you look beyond sillinesses like the puzzling inability of the majority to distinguish  
40 between *your* and *you're*, you will see that it is possible to be a fan of reality TV, talent shows and bubblegum pop and still have a brain. Which is all a way of questioning whether pop-culture hero worship is really so mentally damaging, so corrupting of the soul of mankind as we are so often told.

[7] Thirdly, look at the kind of people who most object to the childishness and cheapness of celebrity culture. Does one really want to side with such apoplectic bores? I should know, I often catch myself  
45 being one, and it isn't pretty. I will defend the absolute value of Mozart<sup>3</sup> over Miley Cyrus<sup>4</sup>, of course I will, but we should be wary of false dichotomies. You do not have to choose between one or the other. You can have both. The human cultural jungle should be as varied as the Amazonian rainforest. We are all richer for biodiversity. We may decide that a puma is worth more to us than a caterpillar, but surely we  
50 can agree that the habitat is all the better for being able to sustain each. Monocultures are uninhabitably dull and end as deserts.

[8] Against all that it might be said that the quarrel is not with harmless idolatry. The problem, some would argue, is not that everybody worships celebrity, but they *want it for themselves*. Online user-generated content and the rise of the talent show and reality TV have bred a generation for whom it is not enough to flick through fan magazines, they want their own shot at stardom. They want, moreover, to go  
55 straight to fame and fortune, short-circuiting tedious considerations like hard work and talent.

[9] Work was coming in thick and fast. But I was not famous. A few invitations to film premieres and first nights began to trickle in, but I found that I could walk the red carpet entirely unmolested. I remember going to some event with Rowan Atkinson<sup>5</sup>, the press night of a new play, I think. To hear his name shouted out by photographers and see the crowd of fans pressing up against the crash barriers caused  
60 the most intense excitement in me, combined with a sick flood of fury and resentment that no one, not one single person, recognized *me* or wanted *my* picture. Oh, Stephen. I have clicked on and selected that sentence, deleted it, restored it, deleted it and restored it again. A large part of me would rather not have you know that I am so futile, fatuous and feeble-minded, but an even larger part recognizes that this is our bargain. I cannot speak for others or presume to drag out their entrails for public inspection, but I can  
65 speak for (and against) myself. Maybe, to put a kinder construction to it, I was living proof that you could want to be famous *and* want to do the work, you could relish the red carpet *and* relish working into the early hours cranking out articles, scripts, sketches and scenarios with a genuine sense of pleasure and fulfilment.

#### Notes

1. Stephen Fry's first major television show
2. people who live in Chelsea, an affluent area in London
3. widely recognized as one of the greatest composers in the history of Classical music
4. a teen idol and pop singer
5. an English actor best known for his performance in the sitcom/movie *Mr Bean*

#### END OF READING PASSAGE

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report and Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.

Candidate Number

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**HKDSE 2014  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 1 PART B2  
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**



Write your Candidate Number and stick a barcode label in the space provided on this page.

Read Text 4 and answer questions 60-84. (41 marks)

60. How was the writer feeling when he started his walk (paragraph 1)?

- A. excited
- B. relieved
- C. ashamed
- D. confused

A      B      C      D

61. Why did the writer think he would be approached?

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62. What three things did the writer do to prepare for his walk that were probably not normal for him? (3 marks)

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

63. Why did the writer say, in paragraph 2, that the couple he walked past were possibly foreigners?

- A. The couple looked like the kind of people who didn't own a television.
- B. The writer had seen the couple when working on his television show.
- C. The writer had never seen the couple in this area before.
- D. The couple didn't recognize the writer.

A      B      C      D

64. Why did the writer hang around the television listings magazines?

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65. What assumption about television did the writer have which turned out to be not true?

---

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



66. Why did the writer say ‘At last’ (line 19)? (2 marks)

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67. Who was the girl (line 19)?

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68. According to paragraph 4, what does the writer think is embarrassing?

- A. The western world becoming more obsessed with fame.
- B. So many people wanting to be famous.
- C. Saying that he wanted to be famous.
- D. Talking about his own fame.

A      B      C      D

69. Which ‘class of person’ (line 22) does the writer refer to?

---

70. Based on the information in paragraph 4, complete the summary by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to word form, plurals, etc. (5 marks)

When the writer was young, he desired (i) \_\_\_\_\_, like many young people today. It is a common worry that society now places less importance on ability than on (ii) \_\_\_\_\_. While it may seem obvious that wanting to be a celebrity is superficial and (iii) \_\_\_\_\_, it can also be (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ seen that more and more youths are (v) \_\_\_\_\_ by fame every year.

71. i) What is ‘the phenomenon’ (line 30)? (1 mark)

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- ii) In the writer’s opinion, what is a worse alternative to this phenomenon? (1 mark)

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72. According to paragraph 6, social networking services teach us that ...

- A. a large number of idiots use these sites.
- B. people are smarter than is often thought.
- C. certain TV shows and pop music are very popular.
- D. worshipping some types of celebrity is dangerous.

A      B      C      D



Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

73. What does ‘one’ (line 45) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_
74. In paragraph 7, what is the false dichotomy that the writer mentions? (2 marks)  
\_\_\_\_\_
75. What does the writer compare diverse culture to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
76. What metaphor does the writer use for comparing Mozart and Miley Cyrus?  
\_\_\_\_\_
77. In paragraph 8, identify two differences the writer mentions between this generation and previous ones. (2 marks)  
This generation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
78. Which word in paragraph 8 means ‘boring and frustrating’? \_\_\_\_\_
79. i) What does ‘Oh, Stephen’ (line 61) suggest about the writer’s feelings? (1 mark)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Why does he feel like this? (1 mark)  
\_\_\_\_\_
80. Which sentence is the writer referring to when he says ‘that sentence’ (lines 61-62)?
- A. ‘A few invitations to film premieres and first nights began to trickle in, but I found that I could walk the red carpet entirely unmolested.’ (lines 56-57)
  - B. ‘To hear his name shouted out by photographers and see the crowd of fans pressing up against the crash barriers caused the most intense excitement in me, combined with a sick flood of fury and resentment that no one, not one single person, recognized *me* or wanted *my* picture.’ (lines 58-61)
  - C. ‘Oh Stephen.’ (line 61)
  - D. ‘A large part of me would rather not have you know that I am so futile, fatuous and feeble-minded, but an even larger part recognizes that this is our bargain.’ (lines 62-64)
- A      B      C      D

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

81. What is ‘entrails’ (line 64) a metaphor for?

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82. Who is the writer referring to when he says ‘you’ (line 65)?

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83. Below are some quotes on fame. Which one most closely matches the writer’s opinion?

- A. ‘An interest in fame is natural and not unhealthy in itself.’
- B. ‘I fear today’s youth are obsessed with celebrities to an unprecedented level.’
- C. ‘I don’t understand why some people are so obsessed with celebrity.’
- D. ‘I have learned that fame is one of the few ways to make an impact on the world.’

A      B      C      D

84. Match the main ideas with the paragraphs by writing the letters (A-G) in the table below. The first one has been done for you. (6 marks)

Main ideas
A Choice is important in a healthy society
B An example of the writer’s own obsession with celebrity
C A story from the writer’s life to introduce the topic (example)
D Worshipping celebrities is not unique to our present-day society
E A love of celebrities does not automatically make someone unintelligent
F The writer’s desire to be a celebrity despite negative views of fame
G People nowadays desire to be worshipped

Paragraph	Main idea
1-3	C
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

**END OF PART B2**

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.