Road to HKDSE

Writing notes (6) (Descriptive Writing - 記敘文)

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A. 歷屆試題

	題目		考核重點
1	HKDSE English Sample Paper Q3 (Review)	a.	Write a review of the performance
	Learning English through Drama	b.	Describing what
	You recently went to see the first performance of a school play	υ.	the play was about
	written specially for students and their parents. The performance was a disaster from start to finish. Write a review of the	C.	Explaining what went wrong
	performance for the school magazine, describing what the play was		G
	about and explaining what went wrong on the night.		
2	HKDSE English Sample Paper Q5 (Report)	a.	Write a report for
	Learning English through Debating		the school newsletter
	You are the secretary of the school debating team. Last week you attended the finals of the interschool debating contest. You have	b.	Describe the topic you had to debate
	been asked to <u>write a report</u> on what happened at the finals <u>for the</u> <u>school newsletter</u> . <u>Describe the topic you had to debate</u> , <u>how your</u>	C.	Describe how your team performed
	team performed, which team won the competition and what the prize was.	d.	Describe which team won the competition
		e.	Describe what the prize was

	題目		考核重點
3	HKDSE English Sample Paper Q8 (Article)	a.	Write an article for
	Learning English through Workplace Communication		the school magazine
	Your school recently conducted a 'Working Week' scheme during which students could choose to work as one of the following:	b.	Describing your experience during the 'Working Week'
	• a reporter	C.	Describing how you
	• a teacher		felt about the job you chose
	a restaurant cook		
	a flight attendant		
	• a photographer		
	You took part in the scheme. Now your careers advisor has asked you to write an article for the school magazine describing your experience during the 'Working Week' and how you felt about the job		
	you chose.		
	Write the article.		
4	HKDSE English Practice Paper Q2 (Diary entry)	a.	Complete your
	Learning English through Drama	l-	diary entry
	You are the director of a play. Yesterday you held the first rehearsal. Complete your diary entry describing what happened at	b.	Describing what happened at the rehearsal
	the rehearsal, whether you think it was a success and what you need to improve before the next rehearsal.	C.	Describing whether you think it was a success
		d.	Explain what you need to improve before the next rehearsal

	題目		考核重點
5	HKDSE English Practice Paper Q3 (Article)	a.	Writing an article about the book fair
	You are a reporter for the school magazine. You recently attended some events at the Hong Kong Book Fair. Your favourite one was	b.	Explaining why you found it interesting Explaining what
	a talk by three different authors on what makes a good short story. You are now writing an article about the event, explaining why you		you learnt
	found it interesting and what you learnt.		
6	HKDSE English 2012 Q4 (blog)	a.	Write on your blog
	Learning English through Poems and Songs	b.	Describing the performance
	You are the lead singer in a band. Last week, you held your first performance at a music festival in Victoria Park. Write on your blog	c.	Describing how you
	describing the performance, including how you felt, the atmosphere		felt
	and the things you could have done better.	d.	Describing the things you could have done better
7	HKDSE English 2013 Q3 (Diary entry)	a.	Write a diary entry
	Learning English through Drama	b.	Describe a situation when you
	You are reading Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare for drama class. In the play, Brutus betrayed his best friend, Julius Caesar, for the good of the country. Your homework is to write a diary entry about a situation when you betrayed your best friend.		betrayed your best friend

HKDSE English 2014 Q6 (Article)

Learning English through Workplace Communication

The Hong Kong Daily is asking students to submit an article about their summer job experiences. You were employed as <u>a costumed character performer</u> in one of the local theme parks last summer. In your article, <u>write about your typical working day, and the good things and bad things</u> about your job. Write the article.

- a. You were employed as a costumed character performer
- b. Submit an article to a newspaper
- c. Write about your typical working day
- d. Write about the good things and bad things about your job

9 HKDSE English 2014 Q7 (Article)

Learning English through Popular Culture

You recently attended a stand-up comedy show and you were impressed by the performance. Write an article for your school magazine describing the show, discussing the challenges such performers might face and how students at school can benefit from watching such a performance.

- a. Write an article for your school magazine
- b. Describing the show
- Discussing the challenges such performers might face
- d. Discussing how students at school can benefit from watching such a performance

10 | HKDSE English 2014 Q8 (Article)

Learning English through Poems and Songs

You took part in the Hong Kong Schools Poetry Festival. You have been asked by your teacher to <u>write an article for your school</u> <u>magazine</u> about <u>how you prepared for the competition</u> and <u>what you</u> <u>learned from this experience</u>.

- a. Write an article for your school magazine
- Describe how you prepared for the competition
- c. what you learned from this experience

HKDSE English 2014 Q6

Learning English through Workplace Communication

The Hong Kong Daily is asking students to submit an article about their summer job experiences. You were employed as a costumed character performer in one of the local theme parks last summer. In your article, write about your typical working day, and the good things and bad things about your job. Write the article.

B. 範文

範例1

標題	Costumed character performer? I do!	
Paragraph 1	1. 其他人觀點	
(介紹)	When it comes to the question how harsh it is to be a costumed character	
	performer, people would answer unanimously that the job is not challenging	
	at all. However, this is not the case.	
	2. 簡介全文內容	
	Although working as a costumed character performer might be as tedious as	
	being employed as a fireman, it is undeniable that there are both good and	
	bad things about my job. But first, let's start with describing my job duties on	
	a typical working day.	

1. 對話吸引讀者注意

(日常工作1)

"Hello, I am Minnie. Welcome to the Disneyland and have fun!"

2. 簡述職責

I was trained to <u>imitate</u> the voice of Minnie and sound positive even though I am actually <u>exhausted to death</u>, in order to please every customer passing by.

3. 一大早上班

Waking up at 6 a.m. and arriving at Disneyland before 8 a.m. would be my first task every morning.

4. 衣著

Please don't <u>ridicule</u> my costume because it is really heavy. It would be hard to imagine how a girl would wear it and walk around under <u>the sweltering sun</u> in summer time. Yet, this <u>arduous task</u> was no longer impossible to me.

Paragraph 3

1. 標題句

(日常工作2)

After changing into the costume, all character performers had to be ready to receive the enormous crowd at 10 a.m.

2. 簡述職責

Taking instant photos with them was a basic task, <u>not to mention</u> performing according to their wish, like dancing with music and singing Disneyland theme songs! My job was really less challenging in the morning as the sun rays were less strong. As an energetic teenager, I would <u>accomplish the tasks</u> given by different customers without any difficulty.

Paragraph 4 過渡 1. (午飯時間 The one-hour lunch break would be the time for us to recharge our batteries and prepare for the upcoming challenges ahead. Of course we would not all --過渡段) rest at the same time and therefore our lunch time was scheduled accordingly. Paragraph 5 標題句 1. (日常工作3) After the relaxing lunch and being rejuvenated, it's time for us to work again. 與上司的關係 2. Usually, I would stay sedentary inside some buildings in order to prevent myself from suffering heat stroke. I thought that I would be scolded by my supervisor. Nevertheless, she was really amiable and considerate, which I am grateful for. 3. 完成工作 At around 4 p.m., my daily routine ended and this was how my typical working day looked like. Paragraph 6 1. 過渡 (好處1) Every coin has two sides and therefore there are certainly both good and bad things regarding my job. 好處1 2. The task of putting on the heavy costume has obviously shaped my personal character of having perseverance. I believe after this job, which depended largely on physical strength, challenges ahead are under no circumstances insurmountable.

1. 標題句

(好處2)

Moreover, I have learnt to <u>put myself into others' shoes</u> after this <u>rewarding</u> job experience.

2. 詳細解釋

For jobs that may not be tough <u>at first glance</u>, I would still respect them since every career has its uniqueness. It would be unfair to judge one's career just based on the appearance. Taking my job as an example, I did wrongly think that it would be relaxing as what I was required to do was not demanding. Only when I fully experienced my job did I notice that something which seemed to be <u>trivial</u> would also <u>immensely influence</u> others.

Paragraph 8

1. 標題句

(好處3)

In addition, being a costumed character performer allowed me to have <u>a</u> sense of commitment after completing my assigned tasks.

2. 詳細解釋

It was really an interesting experience to have contact with many strangers, especially when most of them were children. Making them happy and listening to their laughter enabled me to gain a sense of satisfaction.

1. 標題句

(壞處)

Of course there were also disappointing moments about my job but they were mostly <u>trivial</u> stuffs when compared to what I gained.

2. 詳細解釋

Besides having contact with children, I was also <u>obligated to</u> serve adults. Some adults might seem a lot more difficult to handle when compared to the easily satisfied children as the <u>former</u> always complained without reasonable ground. I was once scolded by a mainland tourist just because I did not take a photo with him immediately after his request. He was really furious and <u>reprimanded</u> me until I <u>burst into tears</u>, but I could do nothing at all due to the <u>paramount importance</u> of customers in Disneyland. <u>Undue emphasis</u> was placed on serving customers while less emphasis is <u>devoted to</u> taking care of employees' needs.

Paragraph 10

1. 總結內容

(總結)

Overall, my summer job experience was really beneficial to my personal growth despite the bad things that I have encountered.

2. 對未來的期望

I have become more mature and <u>equipped with</u> appropriate attitude to <u>overcome the challenges ahead</u> in my future life.

Content	7/7	7/7	
Language	7/7	7/7	
Organization	6/7	6/7	
Total	20/21	20/21	
	40/42 (5**)		

<u>範例2</u>

標題	Seize the day, make your life extraordinary	
	A summer job as costumed character performer – By Chris Wong	
Paragraph 1	1. 普遍學生的選擇	
(介紹)	After the mentally and physically demanding DSE examination, what would	
	you choose to do with your long summer vacation? Squander your time at	
	home or get hooked on the TV games and Facebook round the clock? Travel	
	across the world for relaxation?	
	2. 自己的選擇	
	All these activities are attractive, yet after listening to the sharing by Nicholas	
	Tse at HKUST, I realized that "One needs to get rid of those temptations	
	before he can succeed." Unlike most of the teenagers, I chose to be a	
	costumed character performer at Hong Kong Disneyland last summer. The	
	tasks sound formidable , but in no way insurmountable . Soon after, I plucked	
	up my courage to hand in the application form and get away from my	
	temptations.	

1. 標題句

(日常工作)

Every day I had a typical working routine to follow, starting from dressing in the costumes in the changing room.

2. 綵排

After wearing my Mickey Mouse uniform, my working day then officially **kick-started**. The day was definitely **hectic** and physically demanding. Before the opening of the theme park, all of us needed to have rehearsal for the coming shows.

3. 表演

Having to perform at regular intervals, I was required to play the roles of various Disney cartoon characters, including Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Winnie the Pooh. After two hours of rehearsal and the checking of props, all of us would get ready for the real performance. Having completed three rounds of plays, we would continue to wear the costumes and perform other activities. The tasks after lunch time were the most challenging. Not only did I need to sing Disney theme songs and dance energetically to entertain **the multitude of** locals, mainland tourists and foreign tourists, I had to take photos with them to **capture their blissful moments**. Performing till the firework display, I was then able to **take off** my costumes, ending my typical working day in Disneyland with sweat and joy.

1. 過渡

(工作辛勞)

Being a costumed cartoon character performer was definitely <u>a double-edged</u> <u>sword</u>, with both sorrow and merriment.

2. 辛勞1 -- 遊客行為不當

What disappointed me most was that some selfish mainland visitors tended to act according to their desire and <u>disregarded</u> my feelings. Not only did they abuse me with foul languages, they also excreted and spitted everywhere in the theme park. Unfortunately, I accidentally fell into their "traps", which stained my costumes. Even though I complained to my seniors, they <u>turned</u> <u>a blind eye</u> to my suffering and <u>mercilessly</u> emphasized the <u>paramount</u> <u>significance</u> of respecting our customers.

3. 辛勞2 -- 綵排發生糾紛

Apart from being <u>tormented</u> by the irresponsible mainland tourists, conflicts arose during rehearsal sessions. Owing to misunderstanding and miscommunication, I had some heated arguments with my colleagues during the first weeks. Thankfully, we managed to <u>mend fences</u> after <u>getting</u> <u>acquainted</u> with each other.

1. 標題句

(工作得著)

The benefits brought by the job definitely outweighed the drawbacks.

2. 得著1 -- 傳達愛與關懷

To commence with, this <u>once-in-a-lifetime opportunity</u> allowed me to bring merriment to children. In this <u>materialistic</u> society, <u>spiritual fulfillment</u> is always neglected. Through the job, I could make good use of my talent to bring love and care to others. As Nelson Mandela once said, "Love wins everything. Teaching people through love is the best way to reach their heart." No matter which race people belong to and how old they are, I can have the chance to convey the message of love and care to them.

3. 得著2 -- 提升工作技巧

Furthermore, through working independently as a costumed character performer could I enhance my problem solving skills. Having to deal with some unexpected situations, like how to comfort a crying child or forgetting the script of a play, I have become more mature and confident of coping with the challenges in my future career.

1. 呼應首段

(總結)

If one sets a limit for what he will do, he will then set a limit for what he can do. Dear all, everyone can have a chance to do something useful and pursue the dream! Why one should **opt for** wasting the time on electronic gadgets? Why not try to have some breakthroughs before becoming a mature adult?

2. 強調獲益良多

Although being a costumed character performer is no easy task, the job is definitely rewarding as we can learn to spread love and care to people from all walks of life and enhance our problem solving skills. Why are you still hesitating? Fill in an application form and you can transform into the ambassador of love.

Content	6/7	7/7
Language	6/7	6/7
Organization	6/7	7/7
Total	18/21	20/21
	38/42 (5**)	

範例3

標題	Behind the Scene of a Glorious Cartoon Character		
Paragraph 1	2. 用問題吸引讀者注意		
(介紹)	Have you ever imagined how the life of a famous cartoon character would be like? Cartoon characters are certainly fictional, but I tried to become one last summer.		
	3. 簡介工作職責		
	As a Form Six student, I took part in the work experience scheme held by the Hong Kong Disneyland. The job that I applied for was "costumed character performer". These performers were required to dress as one of the cartoon characters of Disneyland, and dance with the music during the parades. The job was amazing and eye-opening , yet sometimes tedious . Overall, I think that this is a precious experience notwithstanding the difficult parts of the job.		
Paragraph 2	2. 標題句		
(日常工作1)	The <u>daily routine</u> of a cartoon character performer is as follows.		
	3. 準備巡遊 In the morning I had to wake up quite early at six to catch the bus Disneyland. Upon arrival, the manager would hold a meeting with the all the performers, informing us of the weather that day, whether there were special		
	guests, or some other special arrangements. The meeting would be held until ten o'clock. Then, we would have to get prepared for our performances.		

1. 標題句

(日常工作2)

There were usually three scheduled parades every day, and each parade involved different casts. I was mostly responsible for the parade at three o'clock as Donald Duck.

2. 準備巡遊

I was mostly responsible for the parade at three o'clock as Donald Duck. To avoid any <u>blunders</u> during the performance, I would usually watch cartoon scenes of Donald Duck with my phone before my performance, in order for me to <u>imitate</u> his behavior and his tone. I would also practice frequently in front of the mirror before my performance. Being a cartoon character was not east; these are the important things that we all needed to do with a view to making the show <u>flawless</u>.

Paragraph 4

1. 標題句

(日常工作3)

Although the content of the show was always the same every day and it was always the same songs every day that got repeated, I always <u>felt a tinge of nervousness</u> before the three o'clock show, as at three o'clock the pack was <u>packed with tourists</u>.

2. 巡遊

I made sure that I was costumed well, and then I had to act as if the ghost of Donald Duck had possessed me. During the parade, I always greeted visitors with a Donald Duck voice and I danced together with other cartoon characters. Usually after the parade, there would be a photo-taking session at the Main Street of the park, and I took tens of thousands of photos with different postures with the visitors, as there was usually a long queue waiting for the photo-taking. At six o'clock, my job was finished and that marked the end of my typical working day at Disneyland.

1. 標題句

(好處1)

There are two good points about my job. First, the job is always full of fun and challenges.

2. 詳細解釋

Being a costumed character performer means that I had to amaze visitors. It was always satisfying to see happy and smiley faces when people were impressed with my performance. I would get an instant sense of fulfillment and achievement. Moreover, dancing with the music during a parade was a pure enjoyment for me too. Also, there were always challenges when dealing with different visitors of different nationalities, since I had to switch my language constantly when I talked to different kinds of tourists. Whenever I was successful in making them contented, I would feel jubilant too.

Paragraph 6

1. 標題句

(好處2)

Furthermore, the job was a unique and rare experience.

2. 詳細解釋

Rarely do people get a summer job as mine when compared to jobs in offices. It is definitely special to experience how a theme park operates daily and how to deal with people. Also, my communication skills were well-trained through the job because I had to be a fluent speaker with instant wit as a popular cartoon character. This is certainly not anything that one would learn from an office job.

1. 標題句

(壞處1)

However, there are some aspects of the job that I am not quite contented with. To commence with, the job was **physically demanding** in summer.

2. 詳細解釋

Imagine wearing a heavy and bulky costume under the bright sun. It was very stuffy inside the costume and I often sweated all over my body, not to mention dancing in the skin of Donald Duck. Besides, the job was at times tedious and tiring. Squeezing my voice to imitate Donald Duck's signature voice nearly got me sore throat at the end of my working experience scheme. That was how I suffered physically.

Paragraph 8

1. 標題句

(壞處2)

Mentally, often do I get frustrated when I was ignored by visitors.

2. 詳細解釋

As everyone knows, Donald Duck is not the dominant character of Disney film series. Children are often more fond of Mickey and Minnie than Donald Duck. Nevertheless, I realized that in order to create a joyous atmosphere for the fellow visitors, this was what I had to overcome. Hence, in the end, this frustration transformed me into a more accommodating person at the workplace. Thanks to this experience, I finally got a taste of being at work and now, I understand that every coin has two sides – and so does being a seemingly glorious and happy cartoon character.

1. 總結全文

(總結句)

The difficulties at work were certainly <u>blessings in disguise</u>, as I have learned and gained a lot during this summer job experience. Instead of being ordinary, this experience was extraordinary.

2. 期望

Hopefully, ordinary students like me would also have a chance to try the job. I guarantee that such an experience would be the most unforgettable and most precious one in your secondary school life. From now on, I view the theme park performers in new light as I <u>appreciate</u> their hard work more than before after experiencing their work last summer.

Content	7/7	7/7	
Language	6/7	6/7	
Organization	5/7	5/7	
Total	18/21	18/21	
	36/42 (5*)		

HKDSE English 2014 Q7

Learning English through Popular Culture

You recently attended a stand-up comedy show and you were impressed by the performance. Write an article for your school magazine describing the show, discussing the challenges such performers might face and how students at school can benefit from watching such a performance.

標題	Entertaining, yet Educational Stand-up Comedy Shows
Paragraph 1	1. 表演簡述
(介紹)	The first stand-up comedian in Hong Kong, Wong Tze Wah, performed his
	tenth stand-up comedy show in the Hong Kong Coliseum last Sunday, 6th of
	April.
	2. 簡介全文內容
	I went to the show and I definitely enjoyed the two hours spent. Not only did I
	laugh, but also I learnt a lot.

1. 標題句

(記述表演)

The show started at around 8:30 p.m., with an amusing opening featuring recent protests in Taiwan.

2. 詳述表演

Wong Tze Wah gave an excellent kick-off. He dressed in a white suit with a gun-shot pattern on his back and stepped on a pair of shoes of different styles and colours (yellow boot on his left foot and leather shoes on his right foot). He continued on his elaboration of Taiwan's situation and added spice to it. By creating logical contradictions and overstated consequences, Wong Tze Wah managed to lead the audience to his world of laughter. Whenever he drank water or changed topic, there would be a strong melody played to keep up the atmosphere. In the two hours, Wong Tze Wah showed a lot of his own insights or experiences with the audience over a basket of featuring topics and hot news. There were times when people gave instant responses that were not expected by the performer. However, Wong Tze Wah was capable of dealing with them with his overwhelming humour and outstanding talent. He presented the audience with thoughts which were unique and humorous in a lively and entertaining way. At the end of the comedy show, Wong Tze Wah sang a song that summarized all laughing points of the show to remind us of the enjoyable moments during the show. After the show, I could not help but reflect upon his views and thought about the social issues he mentioned.

1. 承上

(過渡段)

To just talk for two hours on a stage alone is undoubtedly not an easy task.

2. 啟下

I can imagine all sorts of difficulties he might face.

Paragraph 4

1. 標題句

(挑戰1)

Firstly, it is very hard to choose the materials which can cater to the audience of the show.

2. 詳細解釋

I saw elderly people, working adults, families, teenagers and even kids in the auditorium. These people have different interests, mindsets and exposure, thus having different reactions towards the same performance. Wong Tze Wah must have tried very hard to understand people of various ages deep enough to find out what makes them laugh, what they care and what they want to hear.

1. 標題句

(挑戰2)

Secondly, it was difficult for Wong Tze-wah to capture the attention of the audience.

2. 詳細解釋

Normally, people can at most pay attention to the same speaker for 15 minutes and yet Wong Tze-wah succeeded in attracting our attention for 2 hours. Apparently, this required years of experience and sharpened presentation skills to do so. He knew when to tone down his voice so that the audience could take a break mentally and changed topic when the audience was just about to get bored. What impressed me was that he managed to grab my full attention in the two hours and overcame such difficulties.

Paragraph 6

1. 標題句

(挑戰3)

Thirdly, when facing negative reactions of the audience, Wong Tze-wah did not lose his confidence.

2. 詳細解釋

Sometimes, the audience <u>lost track of</u> what Wong Tze-wah was saying and did not laugh. Despite the awkwardness of dead air, Wong Tze-wah remained calm and upbeat, impressing his audience with his <u>tremendous</u> <u>sense of humour and hilarious jokes</u>. His capability of controlling and leading the atmosphere was simply <u>inimitable</u>.

Paragraph 7	1. 承上啟下	
過渡段	Having elaborated on the challenges Wong Tze-wah was facing, here are the benefits to students when they are watching a live stand-up comedy show.	
Paragraph 8	1. 標題句	
(好處1)	To commence with, students can learn the presentation skills showcased by Wong Tze-wah. 2. 詳細解釋	
	A stand-up comedy show is a matter of presentation and communication. By acting as a role model and example, Wong Tze wah managed to inspire students and teach them how to grab attention from audience and effectively communicate with people. Through watching such presentation could students enhance their public speaking skills.	

1. 標題句

(好處2)

Apart from presentation skills, students can also understand how selfconfidence is essential for public speaking.

2. 詳細解釋

Stand-up comedians need sufficient confidence to display the best performance to a large crowd of people. As mentioned above, he might encounter dead air or unexpected feedback from the audience. Through watching the excellent performance by Wong Tze-wah could students realize how courage is important in public speaking. After experiencing such a live show, students would not be afraid of public speaking and gradually transform into a mature leader who could confidently present themselves.

Paragraph 10

1. 標題句

(好處3)

Another benefit is that students <u>can be exposed to</u> insights of the performer about various <u>social phenomena</u>, enhancing their social awareness and critical thinking.

2. 詳細解釋

Stand-up comedies are mostly related to our society and daily life. Students might overlook such issues before watching the show. However, students would pay more attention to things happening around them and become more aware of social issues and trends. This can improve students' all-round development and enrich students' knowledge in multiple aspects.

Paragraph 11

1. 總結感受

(總結

After watching the show, I have become a <u>staunch</u> fan of Wong Tze-wah and I cannot wait to watch his next show.

2. 期望

I <u>bet</u> you are now interested to join me at the show next time. I wish I could share the pleasure with every one of you!

Content	7/7	7/7	
Language	6/7	7/7	
Organization	7/7	7/7	
Total	20/21	21/21	
	41/42 (5**)		