

## Road to HKDSE

### Writing notes (14) – Other Useful Expressions

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#### A. Expressions from SCMP

##### **1. It is worth remembering that + SVO 這是值得記住的一點**

Example: Undeniably, Britain has bounced back from economic recession. Nevertheless, **it is worth remembering** that many people in Britain are still unemployed.

##### **2. On a more positive note, + SVO 從正面看**

Example: There is no doubt the government has committed many mistakes since the handover. But **on a more positive note**, it has made strenuous efforts to stimulate economic development.

##### **3. In the wake of + n., + SVO 緊隨....之後**

Example: **In the wake of** China's implementation of open door policy, Hong Kong transformed from an industrial economy to an international financial centre.

##### **4. In the aftermath of + n., + SVO 緊隨....之後**

Example: **In the immediate aftermath of** the exposure of the scandal, several officials resigned.

##### **5. In a society where + SVO, + SVO 在....的社會裏**

Example: **In a society where wealth** is the yardstick of success, many people work industriously in pursuit of gaining social recognition.

##### **6. At a time when + SVO, + SVO 在...的時間**

Example: **At a time when** the relationship between China and Japan is deteriorating, Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, should not visit Yasukuni Shrine.

**7. Something (incident, pain.....) is still fresh in our collective memory**這件事仍歷歷在目

Example: Although Nanking Massacre happened 72 years ago, **this incident is still fresh in our collective memory.**

**8. It is a sobering reminder + that + SVO**這是嚴肅的提醒

**It is a sobering reminder of + n.**

Example: The outbreak of atypical pneumonia in 2003 **was a sobering reminder** that our medical system was far from perfect.

**9. It is a cause of great concern** 這是引起廣大注意的話題

Example: Recently, the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome has been spreading rapidly in South Korea. **This has been a cause of great concern** for many people in Asia.

**10. It is worth noting that + SVO**值得留意

Example: While China's economy has been growing at a staggering pace, **it is worth noting** that many people in China are still illiterate and impoverished.

**11. This is a step in the right direction** 這是正確的方向

Example: In recent years, developed countries have been providing more financial assistance for developing countries. **This is a step in the right direction.**

**12. It is a positive sign that + SVO**這是好兆頭

Example: The increase in foreign investment **is a positive sign** that the competitiveness of China has been improving.

**13. n. + is a case in point** 這是很好的例子

Example: In recent years, many celebrities are embroiled in drug scandals. Jaycee Fong **is a case in point**.

**14. The battle is far from over** 戰役尚未完結

Example: Although the spread of tuberculosis has been curbed in recent decades, **the battle is far from over** as tuberculosis is still one of the most fatal diseases in the world.

**15. It is just wishful thinking** 這只是一廂情願

Example: The United States and China want to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the reality proves **it is just wishful thinking** as both North Korea and Iran always want to build nuclear weapons.

**16. It is a particular concern that + SVO**這是特別值得關注的事

Example: **It is a particular concern** that many teenagers in Hong Kong are contaminated by violence and pornography.

**17. There is little dispute that + SVO**無可爭議

Example: Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a charismatic president. His intelligence and determination helped the United States brave the storms of the Great Depression and the Second World War. **There is little dispute** that he was the greatest US president in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**18. It is to be hoped + SVO**可望

Example: The juvenile suicide problem has been a cause of great concern. **It is to be hoped** the government can provide more counseling services for our teenagers.

19. **In the light of + n., + SVO**根據.....

Example: **In the light of** HKDSE results, the mother tongue instruction policy proves to be a complete failure.

20. **n. + has sounded alarm bells** 這個問題已敲響警鐘

Example: The great income disparity between the rich and the poor in China **has sounded alarm bells**.

21. **The clock is ticking** 時間已經無多

Example: **The clock is ticking** now. We have to take precautionary measures before the coming of the typhoon.

22. **There is increasing/ample evidence that + SVO**有更多/足夠證據顯示

Example: **There is ample evidence** that the competitiveness of Hong Kong has been undermined in recent years.

23. **There is an argument to be made that + SVO** 有論據要說明

Example: **There is an argument to be made** that we have to attract talents from the mainland of China to relieve the problem of ageing population.

24. **Thanks to + n., + SVO**由於

Example: **Thanks to** rapid economic development, we can enjoy higher living standard.

25. **Another area which should be looked into is + n.** 另一個需要留意的地方是

Example: In order to raise the morale of our staff, we can provide more medical welfare for them. **Another area which should be looked into** is their working environment.

26. **This is something to be thankful for** 這是值得欣慰的

Example: Although his parents died of cancer when he was very young, he did not give up himself. He is studying very hard now in pursuit of a bright future. **This is something to be thankful for.**

27. **It is perfectly/crystal clear that + SVO**這是顯而易見的

Example: **It is perfectly clear** that Tung Chee Hwa was responsible for the slump of the property market.

28. **Someone/something should by no means + v.** 沒有理由

Example: The plight of the underprivileged **should by no means be neglected.**

29. **This is easier said than done** 建議比實行容易

Example: Many people have suggested the government should provide more financial assistance for the underprivileged. However, **this is easier said than done** especially at a time when the government is still facing a fiscal deficit.

30. **We must translate words into action** 我們一定要將言語轉化為行動

Example: Many African countries are in dire straits. Developed countries **must translate words into action** to alleviate the problem of poverty in Africa.

31. **It is no exaggeration that + SVO**這絕無誇張

Example: **It is no exaggeration** that Michael Jordan is the greatest player in NBA history.

32. **It is beyond all reasonable doubt that + SVO**毫無疑問

Example: Despite the fact that the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is costly, **it is beyond all reasonable doubt** that it will be beneficial to our economic development.

33. **It must be acknowledged that + SVO**必須承認

Example: While China is the fastest-growing economy in the world, **it must be acknowledged** that the pollution problem in China is very serious.

34. **It remains to be seen whether + SVO**有待觀察

Example: **It remains to be seen whether** the Umbrella Movement will galvanize more youngsters to participate in politics.

35. **This is a welcome development/ This is to be welcomed** 這是受歡迎的進展

Example: In view of the serious juvenile unemployment problem, the government has provided more vocation training for teenagers. **This is a welcome development.**

36. **It is a question of principle versus pragmatism** 這是一個從原則與務實之間取捨的問題

Example: The argument on whether universal suffrage can be realized **is in fact a question of principle versus pragmatism**. If democrats want to improve their relations with the central government, they have to forswear their diehard approach and opt for a more moderate political reform.

37. **This is a wake-up call of + n.** 這是令人醒覺的警告

Example: This traffic accident killed three tourists and injured many. **This is a wake-up call** of the road safety in China.

38. **This makes it all the more important for + sbdy + to + v.**使...變得更重要

Example: The outbreak of the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome **makes it all the more important** for us to raise our awareness of hygiene.

39. **Out thoughts are with + n.** 我們永遠懷念

Example: **Our thoughts are with** those soldiers who sacrificed for our motherland during the Second World War.

40. **It is a tragic irony** 這是悲劇性的諷刺

Example: While Japan is reputable for its economic affluence and technological advancements, its suicide rate is the highest in the world. **It is really a tragic irony.**

41. **n. + is a far cry from + n.** 與...大不相同

Example: The food in Britain **is a far cry from** the food in France.

42. **n. + has been long an issue of debate** 這長期成為討論的話題

Example: The harmful consequences of pathological gambling **have long been an issue of debate.**

43. **With a view to + v.+ing, + SVO** 為了達到目的

Example: **With a view** to raising our competitiveness, we have to improve the education system.

44. **Needless to say, + SVO** 無須多講

Example: **Needless to say,** Hkgolden is the most hilarious online forum in Hong Kong.

45. **The jury is still out on whether + SVO** 仍未決定 / 仍未找到答案

Example: **The jury is still out on** whether government intervention is effective in cooling down the sizzling property market.

46. **There are clearly signs that + SVO** 有明顯的跡象顯示

Example: **There are clearly signs** that the stock market in China is overheating.

47. **There are lessons to be drawn from + n.** 可以從...獲取教訓

Example: **There are lessons to be drawn** from the Cultural Revolution.

48. **Something/Someone is to be commended** 值得稱讚

Example: George Bush and Tony Blair **were to be commended** for their determination to fight terrorism.

49. **n. + serves as a timely reminder of + n.** 是及時的提醒

Example: The ferry disaster **serves as a timely reminder of** the navigation safety in China.

50. **n. + is a cautionary reminder + n.** 引起注意的提醒

Example: Widespread demonstrations in China **are a cautionary reminder of** the great income disparity between the rich and the poor.



51. **There is no reason for complacency** 沒有自滿的原因

Example: It must not be denied Hong Kong's crime rate has been falling in recent years. Nevertheless, **there is no reason for complacency**. The police still have to make strenuous efforts to fight crimes.

52. **It is more than ridiculous to + v.** 非常荒謬

Example: **It is more than ridiculous** to legalize prostitution.

53. **The wounds/scars have not healed** 創傷/疤痕尚未痊癒

Example: The traumatic experiences in his childhood have left indelible scars on his psyche. **The scars still have not healed.**

54. **n. + is an exercise of futility** 徒勞無功的舉動

Example: Political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union **were exercises of futility**. The country eventually collapsed in 1991.

55. **n. + illustrates a chilling disregard for + n.** 顯示出令人寒心的漠視

Example: The incompetence of the government in extirpating pollution **illustrates its chilling disregard for** the alarming problem.

56. **It is hard to ignore + n.** 很難忽視

Example: **It is hard to ignore** the gargantuan cleavage between EMI students and CMI students.

57. **To be sure, + SVO** 可以肯定的是

Example: **To be sure**, the sound legal system is the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success.

58. **One encouraging sign of something is + n.** 一個令人鼓舞的兆頭是

Example: **One encouraging sign** of the economy is the fall of the unemployment rate.

59. **n. + is a harrowing episode** 令人悲傷的一幕

Example: The Cultural Revolution **is a harrowing episode** of Chinese history.

60. **Gone are the days when + SVO .....** 的日子已經遠去

**The days when + SVO + have gone. ....** 的日子已經遠去

Example: Gone are the days when Hong Kong people were tormented by destitution.

Example: **The days when** mainlanders looked up to Hong Kongers **have gone**.

61. **n. + sows the seeds of + n.** 播下...的種子

Example: **The seeds of corruption and bureaucracy in the Philippines** were sown by the authoritarian rule in the past.

62. **It goes without saying that + SVO** 毋庸置疑

Example: **It goes without saying that** globalization is the expressway from deprivation towards economic prosperity.

63. **At the heart of the issue is + n.** 這件事的焦點是

Example: **At the heart of the issue is** the credibility of the government.

64. **n. is a first step that is long overdue** 過時(但必須)的第一步

Example: The implementation of central slaughtering **is a first step that is long overdue**.

65. **The price for something is even too high to contemplate** 某事的代價太大

Example: **The price for** a nuclear war **is even too high to contemplate**.

66. **n. + has taking a rising toll on + n.** 對...造成的危害越來越大

Example: The ballooning food prices **have taken a rising toll on** the living standard of many residents.

67. **Beyond the shadow of a doubt**, + SVO 毫無疑問

Example: **Beyond the shadow of a doubt**, covert surveillance is conducive to maintaining law and order in Hong.

68. **n. + has spurred controversy** 某事已引起議論

Example: The government's consultation of the constitutional reform package tax **has spurred controversy**.

69. **In a nutshell**, + SVO 一言而蔽之

Example: **In a nutshell**, political liberalization is the antidote to the twin evils of inefficiency and dereliction inside the Chinese government.

70. **We ought to ask why** + SVO 我們應該要問

Example: **We ought to ask why** the evil seeds of domestic violence and child abuse have been blossoming in Hong Kong.

71. **It is high time** + SVO 這是適當時機

Example: **It is high time** students started preparing for the HKDSE next year.

72. **There is little doubting** + n. 毫無疑問

Example: **There is little doubting** the steely determination of the government to crack down on infringement of privacy.

73. **There will be a cloud over + n.** 陰霾仍然會籠罩

Example: Islamic terrorism has been deteriorating in the Middle East. Undoubtedly, **there will be a cloud over** the development of the region.

74. **Sbdy + puts + sthg back on track** 使某事返回軌道

Example: Franklin D. Roosevelt increased government expenditure on infrastructures to **put** the US economy **back on track** during the Great Depression.

75. **n. + has cast a shadow on + n.** 帶來陰影

Example: Ceaseless injuries **have cast a shadow on** Derek Rose's basketball career.

76. **Sbdy + goes to great length + to + v.** 竭盡所能

Example: He **has gone to great lengths** to beef up his English.

77. **(It is) no wonder + SVO**

Example: Roger Federer was lackadaisical and he played atrociously in the match. **It is no wonder** he was eliminated.

78. **n. raises questions about + n.** 引起疑問

Example: The government's slow response in the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome **raised questions about** its capability of dealing with disasters.

79. **All eyes are on + whether + SVO** 所有人的注意力都集中在

Example: **All eyes are now on whether** Greece will be expelled from the European Union.

80. **Sbdy + takes something down the wrong path** 把...帶入歧途

Example: Incontrovertibly, Mao Zedong **took China down the wrong path** when he was at the helm of the country.

81. **It is only a small step forward towards + n.** 這只是一小步

Example: The government has signed a ceasefire with the rebel forces. However, **it is only a small step forwards towards** the reconstruction of the war-torn country.

82. **For ordinary people + SVO...But for many, + SVO** 對一般人來說....但對很多人來說

Example: **For ordinary people**, Christmas is a time to go shopping. **But for many**, it is a golden opportunity for reunion with family members.

83. **n. + is called for ...** 被要求

Example: In the wake of the barbarian attack on the lawmaker, thorough investigation **was called for**.

84. **n. + brings + n. + into a tailspin** 造成混亂

Example: The ferocity of the typhoon **brought Fujian Province into a tailspin**.

85. **n. + is far from the case** 和事實相差很遠

Example: Iraq was expected to flourish in the aftermath of the toppling of Saddam Hussein. Nevertheless, **this is far from the case**. Sadly, it has become a breeding ground of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism.

86. **Sbdy + has to put the problem in perspective** 必須以正確的態度面對問題

Example: The government has to **put the problem of domestic violence in perspective**.

87. **There is every reason + for + sbdy + to + v.** 絕對有理由

Example: **There is every reason** for the central government to put a brake on the blistering stock market.

88. **Sad to say, + SVO** 令人傷心地

Example: **Sad to say**, the Middle East is the breeding ground of hatred and violence.

89. **Time and again, + SVO** 一次又一次

Example: **Time and again**, HKATV has failed to pay the salary of its staff.

90. **It is significant to note that + SVO** 必須注意

Example: **It is significant to note that** the battle against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is far from over.

91. **Credit should go to + n.** 功勞應歸於

Example: The economy of Hong Kong disentangled from the morass of recession after the outbreak of atypical pneumonia. **Credit should go to** the favourable policies adopted by the central government.

92. **For the majority of us + SVO. To some others, + SVO. To a small number among us, + SVO** 對大多數人來說...對有些人來說...對少數人來說

Example: **For the majority of us**, the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination is our gateway to university. **To some others**, it is an inevitable challenge in our life. **To a small number among us**, it is a golden opportunity to showcase what we have learnt.

93. **There is no reason to believe that + SVO** 沒有理由相信

Example: **There is no reason to believe that** Hong Kong can have true universal suffrage in the foreseeable future.

94. **n. + has sent ripples** 引起軒然大波

Example: North Korea's nuclear test in July **sent ripples around the globe**.

95. **n. + should come as no surprise** 不令人驚訝

Example: His resignation **should come as no surprise** in the wake of his scandal.

96. **The advantages and disadvantages of something are two sides of the same coin** 好處和壞處是一個硬幣的兩面 (各有理據)

Example: **The advantages and disadvantages** of minimum wage law **are two sides of the same coin**.

97. **The crying need for something is made clear** 迫切的需要變得明顯

Example: **The crying need for** humanitarian aid **was made clear** after the drowning of thousands of refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

98. **Something is at best + adj. ....and at worst + adj.** 最多只能說是...最差可以說是

Example: His argument **is at best** flabby and **at worst** ridiculous.

99. **The effects of + n. + will take long to heal** 負面影響要經很長時間才會消除

Example: **The effects of** the devastating earthquake **will take long to heal**.

100. **n. + is a step which should not be taken lightly** 不應輕率的一步

Example: The implementation of the goods and services tax **is something which should not be taken lightly**.

101. **Time will tell if + SVO** 時間會證明

Example: **Time will tell** if the measures adopted by the Chinese government are effective in taming the blistering economy.

102. **In a negative sense + SVO...But viewed positively, + SVO** 負面來看....但從正面來看

Example: **In a negative sense**, the president's resignation will precipitate the country into a vortex of political turmoil. **But viewed positively**, this can also be a demarcation of the country's democratic development.

103. **Not that + SVO. + Rather, + SVO.** 不是...而是

Example: **Not that** the students nowadays have insufficient entertainment. **Rather**, they are distracted by the kaleidoscope of entertainment, like smartphone games and video games.

104. **Sbdy + should + v. ... + at all costs** 不惜任何代價

Example: The international community should combat the problem of human trafficking **at all costs**.

105. **It is one thing to + v. + ....It is quite another to + v. ....** 是一回事....但..又是另一回事

Example: **It is one thing to** safeguard the privacy of citizens. **It is quite another to** torpedo press freedom.



106. **There is no mistaking + SVO**毋庸置疑

Example: **There is no mistaking** Bill Gate's unquenchable desire for innovation is the key to his phenomenal success.

107. **n. + leaves a lot to be desired** 仍有很大改進的空間

Example: The performance of Manchester United **leaves a lot to be desired**.

108. **The good news is that + SVO....The bad news is that + SVO...** 好消息是...但壞消息是

Example: **The good news is** that the Indian economy is still flourishing. **The bad news is** that it is still plagued by inflation.

109. **n. + demonstrates with remarkable clarity that + SVO** 清楚顯示出

Example: Ceaseless corruption scandals **demonstrate with remarkable clarity** that government-business collusion is existent in Hong Kong.

110. **It should not be forgotten that + SVO** 不應忘記

Example: **It should not be forgotten** that diligence is the gateway to success.

111. **n. + says a lot about + n.** 顯示出

Example: The humiliating defeats in the Opium War and the First Sino-Japanese War **said a lot about** the incompetence of the Qing government.

112. **Something is no more than + n., however + adj. + it may have been** 某事雖然....但只是

Example: **It is no more than** a joke, **however** provocative **it may have been**.

113. **There are grounds for cautious optimism** 有審慎樂觀的空間

Example: The once sluggish Japanese economy has shown signs of recuperation. **There are grounds for cautious optimism.**

114. **It is easy to understand why + SVO** 容易理解

Example: **It is easy to understand why** CY Leung is being buffeted by a conflagration of public opposition.

115. **It could be argued + SVO** 可以說

Example: **It could be argued** communication is the lubricant of misunderstanding.

116. **n. + is no laughing matter** 不是可以開玩笑的事

Example: The mocking of Prophet Mohammad **was no laughing matter.** It was tantamount to blasphemy of Islam.

117. **We must also keep in mind + SVO** 我們必須緊記

Example: Undeniably, the voyeurism of artists is scandalous and deterrent punishments have to be imposed on the black sheep of the mass media. Nevertheless, **we must also keep in mind** the preservation of freedom of press is of paramount significance.

118. **There is no reason for celebration** 沒有理由慶祝

Example: There is no doubt the diminution in unemployment is a sign of glittering economic development. Nonetheless, **there is no reason for celebration.** Clearly, we still have to fight an uphill battle to prevent Hong Kong from being marginalized by the blossoming mainland economy.

119. **There is no time to lose in + v.+ing** 不能浪費任何時間

Example: **There is no time to lose in** tackling the air pollution problem.

120. **Every effort should be made to + v.** 一定要努力

Example: **Every effort should be made to** sharpen the competitive edge of our next generation.

121. **The pendulum has swung the other way** 時移勢易

Example: Hong Kong was a manufacturing powerhouse in the 1960s and 1970s. But **the pendulum has swung the other way**. Hong Kong has now transformed itself into an international financial centre.

122. **It should be borne in mind that + SVO** 應該記住

Example: **It should be borne in mind that** the elderly were contributory to Hong Kong's metamorphosis from a barren rock to the Pearl of the Orient.

123. **It is inconceivable + SVO** 令人不能理解

Example: **It is inconceivable** the government has dragged its feet in the legislation of standard working hours.

124. **Hardly a year has gone by without + n.** 幾乎每一年都會有

Example: **Hardly a year has gone by without** terrorist attacks.

125. **There is no lack of reason why + SVO** 不乏原因

Example: **There is no lack of reason why** TVB has been bombarded by a barrage of criticism.

126. **We have no reason to doubt + n.** 我們沒有理由懷疑

Example: **We have no reason to doubt** the United States' determination to stem the tide of nuclear proliferation.

127. **There are examples aplenty of + n.** 有很多例子證明

Example: **There are examples aplenty of** the incompetence of the HKSAR government.

128. **It is bad enough ....It is worse** 已經很差...更雪上加霜的是

Example: **It is bad enough** for him to be laid off. **It is even worse** for him to be plagued illnesses.

129. **n. + has preyed on our mind** 縈繞我們的心靈

Example: The heart-wrenching footage of suicide attacks **has preyed on our mind**.

130. **There is all the more reason for + sbdy + to + v.** 有更充分的理由

Example: At a time when Hong Kong is being beleaguered by the thorny problem of graying population, **there is all the more reason for** the government **to** expedite the admission of foreign migrants.

131. **It is hardly surprising to see that + SVO** 不令人驚訝

Example: With the exacerbation of air pollution, **it is hardly surprising to see that** more and more people are suffering from respiratory diseases.

132. **Something bears witness to the fact that + SVO** 證明

Example: The ceaseless conflicts in Iraq and Palestine **bear witness to the fact that** the Middle East has been engulfed in the maelstrom of Islamic fundamentalism and extremism.

133. **n. + leaves the door open to + n.** 向...打開大門

Example: The positive non-interventionism policy adopted by the government in the 1990s **left the door open to** a flood of international speculators in the stock market and foreign exchange market.

134. **That + SVO + is beyond doubt. That + SVO is equally apparent.** 無須懷疑.....同樣明顯

Example: **That** China is an economic behemoth **is beyond doubt. That** it tramples on people's freedom **is equally apparent.**

135. **One glaring example is + n.** 一個明顯的例子是

Example: The twin evils of bureaucracy and corruption have been pervasive in China. **One glaring example is** the corruption scandal involving Zhou Yongkang.

136. **n.+ has laid bare the unwelcome truth that + SVO**將不想見到的事實顯露出

Example: **The scandal has laid bare the unwelcome truth that** the administration in Taiwan has been eroded by cancerous corruption.

137. **The spotlight has fallen on + n.** 焦點集中在

Example: In a world swimming against a tide nuclear proliferation, **the spotlight has fallen on** North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, who defied international condemnation and went ahead with a nuclear test this year.

138. **There is a case to be made that + SVO**有一點需要指出

Example: **There is a case to be made** that the glittering economic growth in China was the locomotive of Hong Kong's economic resuscitation in the wake of the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

139. **The fact that + SVO + is a reassuring affirmation of + n.** 是....的再次證明

Example: **The fact that** the economy is picking up steam again **is a reassuring affirmation of** the effectiveness of the government's policies.

140. **Truth to be told, + SVO** 老實說

Example: **Truth to be told,** there are still a myriad of glaring loopholes in the mainland judicial system.

141. **There is every sign + SVO** 有很多徵兆

Example: **There is every sign** Singapore has overtaken Hong Kong in terms of its competitiveness.

142. **The unpalatable truth we have to face is that + SVO** 我們要面對的不幸事實是

Example: **The unpalatable truth we have to face is** that materialism has been eating at the foundation of traditional Confucian values.

143. **This is not to say + SVO** 並非

Example: Undoubtedly, technological advancement has increased our life expectancy. But **this is not to say** we are immune from diseases. Rather, it is of paramount significance for us to maintain balanced diets and do enough exercise.

144. **SVO + let alone + v. / n.** 已經不能..... 何況...

Example: The Syrian government is unable to maintain law and order, **let alone** enhance economic development and ameliorate Syrians' living standard.

Example: The heavy burden of school bags is unbearable for adults, **let alone** schoolchildren.

145. **Time is fast running out for + n.** 時間已經無多

Example: **Time is fast running out for** our preparation for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination. We must work assiduously in order to accomplish satisfactory results.

146. **It is not difficult to pin down the reasons for + n.** 不難找出原因

Example: **It is not difficult to pin down the reasons for** the exacerbation of English standard of the students in Hong Kong.

147. **There is room for more to be done** 仍有更多可以做

Example: The intensification of collaboration with mainland China is a step in the right direction, but **there is room for more to be done.**

148. **n. + is welcome proof that + SVO** 令人欣喜的證明

Example: The fiscal surplus **is welcome proof** that the economy of Hong Kong is blossoming.

149. **The importance of + n. + should not be ignored ...** 的重要不應被忽視

Example: That the pursuit of academic excellence is crucial is beyond doubt, but **the importance of** extra curricular activities **should not be ignored.**

150. **It is my conviction that + SVO** 我深信

Example: **It is my conviction** that democratization will be conducive to the long term development of China.

151. **What is even more + adj. + is that + SVO** 更加...的是

Example: The lack of government's effort to preserve our heritage is disappointing. **What is even more exasperating** is that the government is nonchalant towards the alleviation of air pollution.

152. **Something provides a snapshot of + n.** 可以反映出

Example: The scandal **provides a snapshot of** the deteriorating corruption problem in Taiwan.

153. **At first glance, + SVO. But look closer, + SVO.** 表面看...仔細看

Example: **At first glance**, the economic development in Hong Kong is encouraging. **But look closer**, there are still problems that need to be addressed.

154. **For one thing, + SVO. For another, + SVO.** 一來 ... 二來

Example: The construction of casinos has stoked the flames of public exasperation. **For one thing**, it will lead to the deterioration of pathological gambling. **For another**, it will result in moral depravity.

155. **Whether + SVO + depends not on + n. but + n.** (是否...取決於...)

Example: Whether a student can thrive **depends not on** how much he or she spends on tutorial classes, **but** his or her diligence and persistence.

156. **Be it + n. or n., + SVO** (無論...還是...)

Example: **Be it** Chinese or foreign, celebrating a festival drains our financial resources.

157. **The last thing + sbdy + want to do is to + v.** (最不想做的是...)

Example: **The last thing** benevolent parents **want to do is to** reprimand their children.

158. **Sbdy + have no choice but to + v.** (別無選擇只好...)

Example: Under ferocious attack from the American forces, Japan **had no choice but to surrender** in 1945.



**159.The fact that + SVO is ... (...的事實)**

**Example:** **The fact that** more and more teenagers prefer living in public housing estates **is** alarming.

**160.It is a matter of urgency for + sbdy + to + v. (對...是迫切的事)**

**Example:** **It is a matter of urgency for** the government **to** step up law enforcement and deter irresponsible retailers from deceiving tourists.

**161.Among various kinds of + n., + SVO (在眾多...當中)**

**Example:** **Among various kinds of** JUPAS programmes, the ones related to the business sector seem to be the most popular.

**162.It pays to + v. (值得去做)**

**Example:** **It pays to work industriously** for the HKDSE since securing a place in a reputable university can pave the way for our future success.

**163.Adj + as + S + V, + SVO (雖然...但是...)**

**Example:** **Stupid as he is**, he has many friends who always help him.

**Example:** **Underprivileged as she is**, she is confident that she will have a bright future.

**164.So + adj. + is + n. + that + SVO (很...而導致...)**

**Example:** **So popular is Lee Min-ho that** many corporations invite him to endorse their products.

**Example:** **So superficial are some students that** they know nothing about current affairs.

**165. With + n. + v.+ing + ..., + SVO (隨著...)**

**Example:** **With** the Chinese government **cracking down on** dissidents, most Chinese citizens dare not criticize the authorities.

**Example:** **With** his parents **being incarcerated**, Bo Guagua is lonely.

**166. SVO + with + n. + v.+ing + ... (在...當中，...是最...)**

**Example:** There are many social problems in Hong Kong, **with** social withdrawal **being** the most alarming one.

**Example:** Students face many difficulties when studying overseas, **with** cultural shock **being** the thorniest issue.

**167. It is difficult, if not impossible to + v. (...很困難，甚至沒可能)**

**Example:** **It is difficult, if not impossible to** learn a foreign language in two months.

**Example:** **It is difficult, if not impossible to** stem the tide of media sensationalism.

**168. n. + have + n. + v. (主動)**

**n. + have + n. + p.p. (被動)**

**Example:** Many monster parents **have** their children **study** from day till night.

**Example:** The adjudicators **had** the contestant **eliminated** from the singing contest due to his poor performance.

**169. SVO. + More + adj. + is that + SVO (更...的是...)**

**Example:** Many teenagers are uninterested in studying. **More worrying is that** some of them have joined triad societies and committed crimes.

**170. SVO. Closely associated with this is that + SVO (與此密切相關的是...)**

**Example:** Participating in extra-curricular activities can enhance our communication skills.

**Closely associated with this is that** we can hone our problem-solving skills.

**171. n. + has yet to + v. (還未)**

**Example:** The European Union **has yet to** find out the recipe for the Greek financial crisis.

**172. SVO, albeit + adv. (儘管)**

**S, albeit + adj., + VO (儘管)**

**Example:** They were studying their revision notes, albeit slowly and inefficiently.

**Example:** The violent clashes during the Umbrella Movement, albeit regrettable, are understandable.

**173.SVO, one of which + is + ... (其中一個是)**

**SVO, one of whom + is + ... (其中一個是)**

**Example:** The birth rate has been plunging as a result of a host of factors, one of which is the rise of individualism and hedonism.

**Example:** Last night, the police arrested drug traffickers, one of whom is 15 years old.

**174.Whether + SVO + has long been a controversial issue (是否...一直充滿爭議)**

**Example:** Whether euthanasia should be legalized in Hong Kong has long been a controversial issue.

**175.There are many dangers arising from + n. (...產生很多危險)**

**Example:** There are many dangers arising from coloured dust parties.

**176.For the problems to be overcome, + SVO (要克服困難，就要...)**

**Example:** For teenage problems to be overcome, concert effort by schools and parents is required.

**177.The reasons for the problem are manifold**

**The reasons why + SVO are manifold (問題的成因有多方面)**

**Example:** The reasons why (Hong Kong lags behind Singapore) are manifold.

**178.The stark fact is that + SVO (明顯的事實是...)**

**The naked truth is that + SVO**

**Example:** Undeniably, China has transformed into an economic and military superpower. The naked truth is that the country is on the brink of a crippling financial crisis.

179. **It is patently obvious that + SVO (顯而易見)**

**Example:** It is patently obvious that John Tsang has become the favourite to become the next Chief Executive after President Xi Jinping shook hands with him.

180. **n. + is of paramount importance (至其重要)**

**It is of paramount importance to + v.**

**Example:** Pursuing all-round development is of paramount importance.

**Example:** It is of paramount importance to reassess the education system from time to time.

181. **n. + is different from + n. + in that + the former ... + whereas + the latter ...**

**The difference between + n. + and + n. + lies in the fact that + the former ... + whereas + the latter**

(A與B不同在於前者...後者...)

**Example:** University education is different from secondary education in that the former emphasizes self-learning whereas the latter attaches importance to spoon-feeding

**Example:** The difference between a democracy and a totalitarian country lies in the fact that the former allows residents to enjoy freedom while the latter suppresses basic human rights.

182. **n. + is + more aesthetic than practical. (華而不實)**

**n. + is + more practical than aesthetic. (實而不華)**

**Example:** LV handbags are more aesthetic than practical.

**Example:** Compared with Chairman Mao, Deng Xiaoping was more practical than aesthetic.

183. **adj. and adj., + SVO**

**Example:** Brutal and gory, wars have never left human beings.

**Example:** Merciless and bloody, ISIS has become the security threat in the world.

**Example:** Cruel and violent, Beijing slaughtered hundreds of students during the Tiananmen Crackdown.

184. **n./v.+ing + is a top priority of + n. (...是優先)**

**n. + should give top priority to + n./v.+ing (...應該視...為優先)**

**Example:** Eliminating the members of the Community Party was a top priority of the Nationalists in the 1920s and the 1930s.

**Example:** The government should give top priority to developing the economy and improving the living standard of Hong Kong people after the veto of the constitutional reform proposal.

**185.n. + is a/an + n. + of + n.**

**Example:** The 20<sup>th</sup> century is a century of progress in science and technology.

**Example:** Hong Kong is a city of glamour.

**Example:** Kenneth Lau is a man of acumen.

**186.n., + though + seem to + v, + is in fact + adj (表面...事實上...)**

**n., + though + n., + is in fact + adj.**

**Example:** The accusations from the Republicans, though seem to be reasonable, are in fact totally unfounded. It is clear that Obamacare is beneficial to the long-term development of the United States.

**Example:** The smokers, though conceivable, are in fact totally irresponsible.

**187.SVO + under the pretext that + SVO (用...藉口)**

**Example:** Many students are reluctant to study hard under the pretext that studying is boring.

**188.Time is now ripe for action. (是時候行動)**

**Time has now come for us to take action. (是時候行動)**

**Example:** Time is now ripe for action to reduce carbon emission and create a cleaner world.

**189.n. + has dealt a crushing blow to + n. (造成沉重打擊)**

**Example:** The outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome has dealt a crushing blow to the tourist industry in South Korea.

**190. When it comes to + n., + SVO (就...而言)**

**When it comes to the question + why + SVO, + SVO (當談及為何...)**

**Example:** When it comes to cultural development, Hong Kong lags far behind other Asian cities.

**Example:** When it comes to the question why female students tend to perform better than their male counterparts, educationalists pinpoint that girls are competent in expressing their ideas, which explains their superior results in language subjects and Liberal Studies.

**191. n. + and + n. + are inextricably linked. (A和B密不可分)**

**The inextricable link between + n. and + n. + should not be overlooked.**

(A和B密不可分的關係不能忽略)

**Example:** The mother tongue policy and the declining English standard of local students are inextricably linked.

**Example:** The inextricable link between obsession with smartphones and arthritis should not be overlooked.

**192. To a certain extent, + SVO. (某程度上)**

**To a large extent, + SVO (很大程度上)**

**Example:** To a certain extent, Confucianism contributed to the stagnation of ancient China.

**Example:** To a large extent, the economic crisis can be attributed to over-crediting.

**193. In an effort to + v., + SVO (為了...)**

**In a bid to + v., + SVO**

**In an attempt to + v., + SVO**

**Example:** In a bid to combat corruption, the colonial government established the Independent Commission Against Corruption in 1974.

**Example:** The central government has prohibited officials from gambling in Macau in an attempt to prevent money laundering.

**194. In the hope of + v.+ing, + SVO (為了...)**

**In hopes of + v.+ing, + SVO**

**Example:** In the hope of strengthening collaboration, Washington and Beijing organize the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue every year.

**Example:** In hopes of enhancing students' English standard, many schools organize extensive English reading schemes.

**195. With concerted efforts, + SVO (只要同心協力，...)**

**Example:** With concerted efforts by the Hong Kong and Guangdong governments, cross-border crimes can be tackled.

**196. In a + adj. + society + like Hong Kong, + SVO (在...的香港社會裡)**

**Example:** In a materialistic society like Hong Kong, those who cannot resist the temptation of luxury products often face financial difficulties.

**Example:** In a polarized society like Hong Kong, the rich are superior whereas the impoverished are despised

**197. SVO + anytime and anywhere (隨時隨地)**

**Example:** With the penetration of smartphones, Hong Kong people can browse the web anytime and anywhere.

**198. Things have taken a sharp turn in recent years. (這幾年有很大改變)**

**Example:** In bygone days, engineering was a popular undergraduate programme. Nonetheless, things have taken a sharp turn in recent years. No longer can engineering attract the most excellent students.

**199. n. + sheds light on + n. (清楚顯示出)**

**n. + casts light on + n. (清楚顯示出)**

**Example:** The recent Cable TV news reports shed light on the problems of dairy manufacturing in China.

**Example:** The new book casts light on the lawlessness of the Cultural Revolution.

**200.It is incumbent on + sbdy + to + v. (...義不容辭)**

**Example:** It is incumbent on parents to inculcate positive attitude into children.

**201.Every single time + SVO, + SVO (每次...，就會)**

**Example:** Every single time Greece faces a financial crisis, it seeks assistance from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund without reviewing the fundamental flaws of its economic system.

**202.SVO. + However, sbdy + is not alone. + SVO (某人並不是唯一例子)**

**SVO. However, sbdy + is not solitary. + SVO (某人並不是唯一例子)**

**Example:** Mrs. Wong picks up aluminum cans in the small hours every morning whether it is rainy or sunny. However, she is not alone. Sad to say, many elderly people in Hong Kong are mired in poverty and find it difficult to makes end meet.

**Example:** Every day after school, Patrick carries a heavy schoolbag and rushes to the tutorial centre near his school no matter how exhausted he is. However, he is not alone. Thanks to the emphasis on academic excellence in Hong Kong, hundreds of thousands of students have no choice but to attend multiple tutorial classes taught by star tutors every week.



## **B. Expressions from tutorial notes**

### **1. n. + is a stepping stone for + n. (...是...的踏腳石)**

**Example:** Excellent results in the HKDSE can be the **stepping stone** for our future success.

### **2. n. + is a stumbling block to + n. (...是...的踏腳石)**

**Example:** Poor academic qualifications are a **stumbling block** to career advancement.

### **3. Sbdy + stress the need for + n. / v.+ing (強調...的需要)**

**Example:** The government **stresses the need for** accelerating the development of innovative industries.

### **4. Sbdy + adds fuel to + n. (為火上加油)**

**Example:** Shinzo Abe's amendments of the Japanese pacifist constitution **have added fuel** to the Sino-Japanese relations.

### **5. Sbdy + stretch one's potential (發揮潛能)**

**Example:** Students **can stretch their potential** by participating in extra-curricular activities.

### **6. n. + develop + by leaps and bounds (一日千里發展)**

**Example:** The technology of smartphones **has developed by leaps and bounds** since their invention.

### **7. n. + pale in comparison to + n. / n. + does not bare comparison with + n. (不能相提並論)**

**Example:** The repercussions of the Qinghai Earthquake **pale in comparison with those** of the Tangshan Earthquake in 1976.

**Example:** When it comes to determination and persistence, most NBA players **do not bare comparison with** Kobe Bryant.

### **8. n. + fall prey to + n. (成為...的受害者)**

**Example:** Sad to say, many teenagers **have fallen prey to** consumerism and become shopaholics.

9. **n. + take the initiative in + n. / v.+ing (採取主動)**

**Example:** South Asian countries should take the initiative in tackling the problem of human trafficking.

**Example:** In view of the tide of parallel traders, the government should take the initiative and step up law enforcement.

10. **n. + should keep abreast of times (緊跟時代步伐)**

**Example:** Publishers have kept abreast of times and incorporated slang into dictionaries.

11. **n. + is a headache to + n. (對...是難題)**

**Example:** Persistent deflation is a headache to the Japanese government.

12. **Sbdy + is under the illusion that + SVO (...有...的錯覺)**

**Example:** Many students are under the illusion that using complex sentence structures can guarantee excellent results in English writing examinations.

13. **n. + has gained currency (漸被接受)**

**Example:** In a society where flexibility and work-life balance is increasingly emphasized, the idea of doing part-time jobs permanently has been gaining currency.

14. **V.+ing / n. + is tantamount to + v.+ing / n. (等同於)**

**Example:** Cigarettes contain carcinogenic substances. Smoking is tantamount to committing suicide.

15. **n. + bridge the gap between + n. and + n. (縮短差距)**

**Example:** Genuine communication can bridge the generation gap between parents and children.

16. **n. + is mired in a vicious circle (陷於惡性循環)**

**Example:** Many African countries are mired in a vicious circle of stagnant economic development and political turbulence.

17. **n. + put + n. + to jeopardy** (..危害...)

**Example:** The prevalence of fast-food culture has put our health to jeopardy.

18. **n. + is on the verge of n.** (處於...的邊緣)

**n. + is on the brink of n.** (處於...的邊緣)

**Example:** With his team plagued by injuries, LeBron James is on the verge of physical collapse.

**Example:** With the installation of missiles with nuclear warheads during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world was on the brink of another devastating war.

19. **Sbdy + live hand-to-mouth** (勉強餬口)

**Example:** Despite Hong Kong's affluence, more than 1 million Hong Kongers are embroiled in the quagmire of impoverishment and live hand-to-mouth.

20. **n. + reach an all-time high** (創歷史新高)

**Example:** With the political turmoil in the Middle East, the number of refugees seeking asylum in Europe has reached an all-time high.

**21. Sbdy + take the blame for + n. (為...負責)**

**Example:** With their blind pursuit of academic excellence, schools should take the blame for the mental problems of students.

**22. For the time being, + SVO (暫時來說)**

**Example:** For the time being, there is still no consensus on whether a new sports complex should be constructed in Kowloon City.

**23. Sbdy + spares no pains (全力以赴)**

**Example:** The Chinese government should spare no pains in enhancing the welfare of rural migrants.

**24. n. + caters to + n.**

**Example:** In order to cater to the demand from the audience, TVB has been utilizing online platforms to broadcast its programmes.

**25. Sbdy + has made great strides in + n. / v.+ing (取得重大進展)**

**Example:** Since economic liberalization in the late 1970s, China has made great strides in alleviating poverty and improving people's living standard.

**26. n. + is in dire straits (處於困境)**

**Example:** With its economy embroiled in recessionary spiral, the Greeks are in dire straits, clamouring the Germans for financial assistance.

**27. n. + reaches a turning point (到轉捩點)**

**Example:** With the sale iPhones in 2007, Apple reached a turning point, transforming into the largest enterprise in the globe.

**28. Sbdy + is kept in the dark (被蒙在鼓裡)**

**Example:** When children are obsessed with purchasing luxury products, their parents **are often kept in the dark** at the beginning. Only when they are plunged into financial difficulties will they inform their parents.

29. **Sbdy + sees nothing wrong with + n. (覺得並無不妥)**

**Example:** Nowadays, helicopter parents **see nothing wrong with** compelling their children to attend tutorial classes.

30. **n. + is the only way out (...是唯一出路)**

**Example:** Without care and warmth, many patients of depression think that suicide **is the only way out**.

31. **Sbdy + think out of the box (跳出框框思維)**

**Example:** Tormented by the ossified education system, hardly can students **think out of the box**.

32. **Sbdy + keeps an eye on + sbdy (密切留意)**

**Example:** Parents **should keep an eye on** their children to ensure that they are not obsessed with browsing online forums like Hkgolden.

33. **Sbdy + gain the upper hand over + sbdy (佔上風)**

**Example:** During the Second World War, the United States **gained the upper hand over** Japan and forced the latter to surrender unconditionally.

34. **Sthg + creates a win-win situation (營造雙贏局面)**

**Example:** The Individual Travellers' Scheme **created a win-win situation** in which Hong Kong could bounce back from recession and more mainland visitors could visit the Pearl of the Orient.

35. **Sbdy + cast doubt on + sbdy / sthg (質疑)**

**Example:** Many local students cast doubt on the standard of their English teachers.

36. **Sbdy + v. + ...+ in pursuit of + n. (追求)**

**Example:** A spate of rural residents on the mainland has migrated to coastal cities in pursuit of better living conditions.

37. **Sbdy + foster the habit of + v.+ing / n. (培養習慣)**

**Example:** It is advisable for senior form students to foster the habit of reading the South China Morning Post every day so that they can beef up their English.

38. **Sbdy + break the habit of + v.+ing / n. (戒除習慣)**

**Example:** It takes a long time for pathological gamblers to break their bad habit.

39. **Sthg + bring + sbdy into disrepute (使...蒙羞)**

**Example:** The corruption scandal brought Chen Shui-bien into disrepute.

40. **Sbdy + plays truant (逃學)**

**Example:** Frustrated with monotonous lessons and tremendous amounts of homework, many underachievers play truant.

41. **As time goes by, + SVO (隨時間過去...)**

**Example:** As time goes by, Hong Kong's competitive edge in the international arena has been undermined.

42. **Sbdy / Sthg + is second to none (首屈一指)**

**Example:** When it comes to technology and innovation, the United States is second to none.

43. **Sthg + has exposed the glaring loophole of + Sthg (揭發漏洞)**

**Example:** The outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in South Korea has exposed the glaring loophole of its crisis management mechanism.

44. **Sbdy / Sthg is hard hit** (大受打擊)

**Example:** Japan was hard hit by the devastating earthquake and the resulting nuclear meltdown in 2011.

45. **Sbdy / Sthg is the talk of the town** (...是城中熱話)

**Example:** In bygone days, the Miss Hong Kong contest was the talk of the town. Sad to say, seldom do people nowadays talk about the contest.

46. **In the course of + n. / v.+ing, + SVO** (在...的過程中)

**Example:** In the course of doing voluntary work, we can enhance our communication and leadership skills.

**47. Sbdy + v. + ...+ by hook or by crook (不擇手段)**

**Example:** Regrettably, some multinational corporations like Nike and Walmart maximize their profit by hook or by crook. For example, they recruit child labour and give meager salary to their employees.

**48. Sbdy + give the green light to + n. (准許)**

**Example:** After months of heated debate, the Legislative Council eventually gave the green light to the government's proposal to expand the three existing landfills.

**49. Under the pretext that + SVO, + SVO (以...為藉口)**

**Example:** Many people seldom spend time with their aging parents under the pretext that their life is hectic.

**50. n. + is here and there (無處不在)**

**Example:** Large-scale supermarket chains are here and there in Hong Kong. It is convenient for us to go shopping almost everywhere in Hong Kong.

**51. Sbdy + gets a grasp of + sthg (清晰了解)**

**Example:** Reading the Time magazine and Economist can enable us to get a grasp of international affairs.

**52. Sbdy + rubs shoulders with + sbdy (與人交際)**

**Example:** In a society where social network is of paramount importance for corporate growth, it is not uncommon to see companies rub shoulders with their clients.



53. **SVO + from time to time (偶爾)**

**Example:** As Hong Kong is affected by the monsoon climate, it is struck by severe typhoons from time to time.

54. **SVO,+ but to no avail (無濟於事)**

**Example:** He attempted to achieve excellent English results by enrolling in the tutorial classes of Kenneth Lau, Patrick Chan, Calvin Sun and Billy Ng, but to no avail. He could only get L3 in the HKDSE.

55. **Sthg + puts + sthg + out of business (把...淘汰)**

**Example:** Intensifying competition for the candidates of the HKDSE may put some inferior tutorial centres out of business.

56. **In the absence of + n., + SVO (沒有)**

**Example:** In the absence of law enforcement, the problem of selling counterfeit products can hardly be alleviated.

57. **Sthg + hits the headlines (成為頭條)**

**Example:** The fairytale wedding ceremony of Jay Chou with Hannah Quinlivan hit the headlines and made many women envy.

58. **Sbdy + work around the clock (日以繼夜地工作)**

**Example:** Rescue workers worked around the clock to save the passengers trapped inside the sunken ship.

59. **Sthg is a ticking time bomb (...是倒數的計時炸彈)**

**Example:** As we can see from the Umbrella Movement and the clashes with mainland tourists, that many youngsters are disgruntled with the government **is a ticking time bomb waiting to explode.**

60. **Sbdy + holds + sthg + in high regard (對...高度重視)**

**Example:** Nowadays, parents **hold** their children's all-round development **in high regard**, compelling them to participate in a wide variety of tutorial classes and talent classes.

61. **Sthg + is a bitter pill to swallow (不愉快的事也要接受)**

**Example:** For the players of Argentina, the defeat to Germany in the 2014 World Cup Final **was a bitter pill to swallow**. They are determined to work harder with a view to winning the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

62. **SVO + sooner or later (遲早)**

**Example:** With the exacerbation of the unemployment problem, social turmoil will break out **sooner or later**.

63. **Sbdy + blazes a trail in (開創先河)**

**Example:** In the 1980s, Japan **blazed a trail in** inventing the technology of high definition television.

64. **Sbdy + follows the footsteps of + sbdy (跟隨...的步伐)**

**Example:** Joyce Cheng **has followed the footsteps of** her mother, Lydia Shum, and become an artist and a singer.

65. **Sbdy + stand much chance of + v.+ing / n. (有很大機會)**

**Example:** In an economy dominated by service industries, introverted persons with poor communication skills **do not stand much chance of success**.

66. **Sthg + floods the market (充斥市場)**

**Example:** In a beauty-oriented society like Hong Kong, cosmetic products and slimming products **have flooded the market**.

67. Sbdy + lose touch with + n. (孤立)

**Example:** Reclusive adolescents **have lost touch with** society. Every effort should be made to reintegrate them into society.

68. Sbdy + makes one's mark (留下深刻印象)

**Example:** Lionel Messi **made his mark** in the Champions League final in Berlin, capturing the admiration from the fans.

69. SVO + in exchange for + n. (...以換取某東西)

**Example:** In such a hustle-and-bustle city, many people are willing to sacrifice their income **in exchange for** work-life balance.

70. Sbdy + points the finger at + sbdy (指責)

**Example:** The lawmakers from the pro-establishment camp **have pointed the finger at** democrats for their veto of the government's constitutional reform proposal.

71. **Sbdy + attaches emphasis on + sthg (重視)**

**Example:** In a society where academic qualifications are the barometer of success, most students attach emphasis on the pursuit of excellent results.

72. **Sbdy + rises to the challenge (挺身面對挑戰)**

**Example:** When everyone was injured or fatigued, Michael Jordan rose to the challenge, scoring 45 points and leading Chicago Bulls to its sixth NBA championship.

73. **Sbdy + has an unquenchable thirst for + n. (有難以止息的渴求)**

**Example:** Every great athlete, such as Roger Federer, Kobe Bryant and Michael Phelps, has an unquenchable thirst for perfection and glory.

74. **n. + comes at a price (要付出代價)**

**Example:** The dazzling economic growth in China comes at a price – severe pollution has been putting the lives of Chinese citizens in jeopardy.

75. **Sbdy + has an ongoing battle + with + sthg (與...有持續戰鬥)**

**Example:** Despite the absence of major wars over the past few decades, the world has an ongoing battle with extremism and terrorism.

76. **Sthg + puts + sbdy + at an advantage (使...處於不利位置)**

**Sthg + puts + sbdy + at a disadvantage (使...處於不利位置)**

**Example:** Unquenchable thirst for success puts many Band 1 students at an advantage.

**Example:** Although blindness has put her at a disadvantage, she has managed to achieve excellent results and enter Berkeley University in Los Angeles.

77. **Sthg + bring + sthg + to a standstill (使...陷於停頓)**

**Example:** During the Umbrella Movement, protestors' occupation of Admiralty and Mong Kok brought traffic to a standstill.

78. **Sbdy + bears the brunt of + sthg (承受...的衝擊)**

**Example:** The United States bore the brunt of the Great Depression, with more than 25 million people being laid off.

79. **Sbdy + mount the pressure on + sbdy (對...加強壓力)**

**Example:** With surging workload in the workplace, labour unions have mounted pressure on the government to implement standard working hours.

80. **Sthg + leave + sbdy + in confusion (使...困惑)**

**Example:** The government's frequent changes in education policies have left many students in confusion.

81. **Sthg + makes way for + sthg (為...讓路)**

**Example:** Since the end of the Cultural Revolution, the Communist ideology has made way for economic development.

82. **Sbdy + puts + sthg + on the right path (使...重上正確路途)**

**Example:** The rehabilitation programmes organized by Christian groups have put many former drug addicts on the right path.

**83. n. / v.+ing + is a big leap forward (...是大躍進)**

**Example:** Becoming the second largest economy in the world **is a big leap forward** for China. Nevertheless, there is no room for complacency. Every effort should be made to eliminate the gargantuan wealth gap in the country.

**84. Sbdy + establish a foothold in + sthg (立足)**

**Example:** Many American enterprises work with Beijing to censor dissidents with a view to **establishing a foothold in** the Chinese market.

**85. Sthg + is + at odds with + sthg (不一致/違犯)**

**Example:** Animal abuse **is at odds with** the norms of a civilized society.

**86. Sthg + leaves a scar on + sthg (為...留下疤痕)**

**Example:** The death of his parents during his childhood **has left a scar** on his psyche.

**87. Sthg + takes + sthg/sbdy + by storm (流行)**

**Example:** Hollywood movies featuring superheroes like Iron Men and Captain America **have taken** people all over the world **by storm**.

**88. Sbdy + paints a bleak picture of + Sthg (刻劃...負面的地方)**

**Example:** Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs **paint a bleak picture of** China's economic growth in the coming decade.

**89. Sbdy go to the extreme (走向極端)**

**Example:** Frustrated with the government's indifference, some protestors **went to the extreme** and attempted to occupy the government headquarters.

**90. Sthg + takes precedence over + sthg (優先於)**

**Example:** In the course of preparing for the HKDSE next year, studying **takes precedence over** participating in recreational activities.

91. **Sbdy + puts + sbdy on a level playing field** (使...能夠公平競爭)

**Example:** A responsible government should strive to put everyone on a level playing field and facilitate social mobility.

92. **Sbdy + distinguish right from wrong** (分辨是非)

**Example:** As teenagers are immature, hardly can they distinguish right from wrong.

93. **Sthg + engraves on one's mind** (銘記於心)

**Example:** So respectable is Mr. Fung that what he said in his Geography lessons engraves on his students' mind.

94. **SVO. + It is against this backdrop that + SVO** (在這些情況下)

**n. + has set the backdrop of + n.** (A是B問題的背景)

**Example:** The central government and the HKSAR government have been indifferent to Hong Kong people's strong desire for true democracy. It was against this backdrop that the Umbrella Movement was launched.

**Example:** Urbanization has set the backdrop of the severe land seizure problem in China.

95. **n. / v.+ing + is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.** (...是一生人一次的機會)

**Example:** Participating in the exchange trip organized by Oxford University is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Don't hesitate and sign up now!

96. **Sthg + kindles one's interest in + sthg (燃點對...的興趣)**

**Example:** The Umbrella Movement has kindled many adolescents' interest in local politics and social issues.

97. **Sthg + sets a precedent for + sthg (為...立下先例)**

**Example:** A recent verdict by the High Court has set a precedent for future drink-driving cases – drink drivers may be sentenced to long jail terms.

98. **Sthg + has come into the spotlight (成為焦點)**

**Example:** In the wake of the recent scandal involving Cambridge Nursing home, the plight of old people have come into the spotlight.

99. **The crux of the matter lies in + n. (問題癥結在於...)**

**Example:** The crux of the wide wealth gap in Hong Kong lies in the government's non-interventionist policy and its indifference to the plight of the impoverished people.

100. **n. + has a profound influence on + n. (對...有深遠的影響)**

**Example:** The behaviour of teen idols have a profound influence on adolescents.

101. **n. + is in the limelight. (受眾人注目)**

**Example:** Known as one of the best actors in Asia, Tony Leung is always in the limelight, with his private life being reported by the mass media from time to time.

102. **n. + is getting out of control (失去控制)**

**Example:** Hong Kong is increasingly integrated with mainland China. Paradoxically, anti-mainland sentiment in Hong Kong is getting out of control.

103. **n. + runs counter to + n. (違背)**



**n. + runs contrary to + n.**

**Example:** What tutorial schools are doing runs counter to the principle of education.

**Example:** What newspapers are doing runs contrary to their professional ethics.

**104. n. + pays a heavy price (付上沉重代價)**

**Example:** If we continue to devastate the environment ruthlessly, we will pay a heavy price.

**105. n. + stands little chance of + n. / v.+ing (機會不大)**

**Example:** Lazy students stand little chance of achieving excellent results in the HKDSE.

**106. n. + is a mixed blessing. (好壞參半)**

**Example:** Attending English tutorial classes is a mixed blessing. Whereas students can learn examination skills, they may ignore the significance of cementing their grammatical and vocabulary foundation.

**107. Sbdy + takes + sthg + for granted (視...為理所當然)**

**Example:** Not having faced any adversities in their life, teenagers often take wealthy lifestyle for granted.

**107. n. + is a necessary evil. (某事有壞處，但有存在價值)**

**Example:** Undeniably, the HKDSE is tormenting. Nevertheless, we should recognize that it is a necessary evil in our society as it can determine which students are capable of pursuing university education.

**108. n. is the lesser of two evils (兩者之中壞處較少的選擇)**

**Example:** When it comes to the choice between toiling and moiling for the HKDSE and playing video games leisurely but aimlessly, the former is definitely the lesser of two evils.

**109. The situation brooks no delay (情況刻不容緩)**

**Example:** Many trees in Hong Kong are severely eroded and may collapse one day. The situation brooks no delay and the authorities should take drastic action for fear that residents might be injured or even killed.

110. Sbdy + has a liking for + v.+ing / n. (熱愛)

**Sbdy + has much affection for + v.+ing / n. (熱愛)**

**Example:** Many people have a liking for taking selfies.

**Example:** Having much affection for Girls' Generation, she spent \$3000 buying a ticket of their concert in Japan.

111. Sbdy + set a good example (樹立榜樣)

**Example:** Parents should set a good example by refraining from such bad habits as gambling and smoking.

112. Sbdy + put oneself into + sbdy's shoes (為他人設想)

**Example:** When getting along with others, we have to put ourselves into other people's shoes.

113. n. + poses a serious threat to + n. (構成嚴重威脅)

**n. + constitutes a grave menace to + n. (構成嚴重威脅)**

**Example:** In bygone days, devastating typhoons posed a serious threat to Hong Kong.

**Example:** Global warming constitutes a grave menace to arctic animals.

114. n. + is far from the truth. (脫離現實)

**n. + is divorced from the reality. (脫離現實)**

**Example:** The accusations on newspapers are far from the truth. Not only does MTR aim to maximize its profit, it is also actively involved in philanthropic work.

**Example:** The arguments of parents are divorced from the reality. Instead of distracting students, dramas can motivate students to acquire knowledge.

115. n. + is the breeding ground of + n. (滋生地) (+/-)

**n. + is the hotbed of + n. (溫床) (-)**

**Example:** Hong Kong University is the breeding ground of professionals and leaders.

**Example:** Wetland is the breeding ground of bacteria and epidemics.

**Example:** Prior to Macau's unification with China in 1999, Macau was the hotbed of crimes.

#### 116. Sbdy + exert oneself (盡力)

**Example:** However formidable Mount Everest is, the explorers exerted themselves and eventually conquered it.

#### 117. Sbdy + work one's fingers to the bone (辛勤工作)

**Sbdy + toil over one's work (辛勤工作)**

**Example:** In a society where property prices are exorbitant, many people work their fingers to the bone in order to purchase their dream homes.

**Example:** In order to disentangle China from the turbulence of the Cultural Revolution, Deng Xiaoping toiled over his work and eventually led China to prosperity.

### C. The use of inversions

#### 1. Only through..... can somebody do something (只有通過...才能...)

**Normal form:** Through increasing its expenditures on education, the government can burnish the competitiveness of Hong Kong.

**Inversion form:** **Only through** increasing the expenditures on education **can the government burnish** the competitiveness of Hong Kong.

#### 2. Sad is the day when (...是傷感的一天)

**Normal form:** It was sad to hear the demolition of the Star Ferry Pier.

**Inversion form:** **Sad was the day when** the Star Ferry Pier was demolished

#### 3. No longer does somebody do something (不再)

**Normal form:** Children nowadays no longer have to work as child labour after school.

**Inversion form:** **No longer do children nowadays have to work** as child labour after school.

#### 4. Under no circumstances should somebody do something (任何情況都不應該做)

**Normal form:** The government should impose the goods and services tax under no circumstances.

**Inversion form:** **Under no circumstances should** the government **impose** the goods and services

tax.

**5. Not only is somebody, he is also (不但...而且)**

**Normal form:** Bill Gates is not only an entrepreneur, he is also a philanthropist.

**Inversion form:** **Not only is** Bill Gates an entrepreneur, he is also a philanthropist.

**6. Hardly can we do something (幾乎不能)**

**Normal form:** Students can hardly chill out when preparing for the HKDSE.

**Inversion form:** **Hardly can** students **chill out** when preparing for the HKDSE.

**7. Hardly a day elapses without + n. / v.+ing (沒有一天沒有)**

**Normal form:** A day **hardly elapses without** disheartening news.

**Inversion form:** **Hardly a day elapses without** disheartening news.

**8. At no time will somebody do something (永遠不會)**

**Normal form:** The central government will agree to the implementation of universal suffrage in Hong Kong at no time.

**Inversion form:** **At no time will the central government agree** to the implementation of universal suffrage in Hong Kong.

**9. Never do we do something (永遠不會)**

**Normal form:** We never read Biology textbooks.

**Inversion form:** **Never do we read** Biology textbooks.

**10. The + 比較級adj. + SVO, the比較級adj. + SVO**

**Normal form:** When you study harder, you will get better results

**Inversion form:** **The harder** you study, **the better** results you will get.

**Normal form:** If teenagers do more exercise, they will become healthier.

**Inversion form:** **The more exercise** teenagers do, **the healthier** they will become.

**11. The sooner....the better (越快越好)**

**Normal form:** It will be better if we concentrate on our studies sooner.

**Inversion form: The sooner** we concentrate on our studies, **the better**.

12. **SVO. + Nor does + sbdy + v. (不做...亦不做)**

**SVO. + Nor can + sbdy + v. (不能...亦不能)**

**Normal form:** Being a socially withdrawn youngster lacking motivation, he does not go to school **and search for jobs**.

**Inversion form:** Being a socially withdrawn youngster lacking motivation, he does not go to school, **nor does he search for jobs**.

**Normal form:** Getting lost in the remote forest, he could not find any food **and call the police**.

**Inversion form:** Getting lost in the remote forest, he could not find any food, **nor could he call the police**.

13. **Only when + SVO + can + sbdy + v. (只有到...時候，才會...)**

**Normal form:** **Only when** the Japanese government encourages more married women to rejoin the labour force, **Japan can raise its productivity**.

**Inversion form:** **Only when** the Japanese government encourages more married women to rejoin the labour force **can Japan raise its productivity**.

14. **However + formidable + S + is, + SVO (無論怎樣艱巨...也會)**

**Hard + though + S + V, + SVO (無論怎樣努力...也)**

**Normal form:** **Although** the HKDSE **is formidable**, every sixth-former should work strenuously.

**Inversion form:** **However formidable** the HKDSE is, every sixth-former should work strenuously.

**Normal form:** **Although** the rescue workers **tired hard**, they could not save the coal miners.

**Inversion form:** **Hard though** the rescue workers **tried**, they could not save the coal miners.

**15. Scarcely had sbdy + v. + when + sbdy + v. (不久後...便...)**

**No sooner had + sbdy + v. + than + sbdy + v. (不久後...便...)**

**(past perfect + past)**

**Inversion form:** Scarcely had the prisoners finished their lunch when they were ordered to work again.

**Inversion form:** Soon after the prisoners had finished their lunch, they were ordered to work again.

**Normal form:** Soon after he had arrived, he fainted.

**Inversion form:** No sooner had he arrived than he fainted.

**16. Without + n., + SVO (如果沒有...，就會...)**

**Had it not been for + n., + SVO (如果沒有...，就會...)**

**Normal form:** Without the assistance by the United States, China would have been defeated by Japan in the Second World War.

**Inversion form:** Had it not been for the assistance by the United States, China would have been defeated by Japan in the Second World War.

**17. In/On/At + 地方 + v. + n.**

**Normal form:** A swarm of crazy fans were standing in the airport.

**Inversion:** In the airport stood a swarm of crazy fans.

**Normal form:** A listless cat was sitting on the sofa.

**Inversion:** On the sofa sat a listless cat.