

HKDSE Examination 2013: English Language Paper 4

Question 1.1 : YouSchool?

Group Discussion Demonstration (recorded in Aug 2015):

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Level attained in DSE Eng Lang Paper 4</i>
A	2015	5**
B	2015	5**
C	2015	5**
D	2015	5*

Transcript (with improved grammar in red)

Examiner:

You may start now.

B:

Well, good afternoon, everyone. Erm, so I guess we are all here to discuss about the presentation ... to encourage people to learn English as a second language. Erm, so maybe, ... when we talk about ... social networking ... like Youtube or Facebook, I think a very good way of learning English is by ... liking those pages and subscribing to ... sources, for example, ... media outlets like Reuters, ... CNN, BBC. And also, ... other, for example, sports teams, or any kind of hobbies that we like so that we can always follow news that we are truly interested in, and ... are from authentic sources. What do you think?

C:

Erm, it is very true that ~~we~~ **students** like those ... pages that are entertaining to themselves so that it is more acceptable ~~to~~ ... to the students ~~who~~ ... who are ... engaged in ... the English learning ... exercises. Like, erm, ~~they may~~ ... through Youtube, they may learn from **videos** like ... the Ted or ... some movies, like episodes which ~~are~~ ... they are interested in so that they can learn from other people speaking ... English and ~~whether~~ ... ~~how~~ they learn from the vocabularies or other sentence structures, etc. What do you think?

D:

Erm, I see your point. Just now, candidate B and C suggested some passive ways to learn English outside the classroom. Erm, foreign films and songs are definitely some possible means to learn English. However, there are also active ways to learn English, as ... speaking skills are also essential in improving your ... English language skills. So, I ~~suggested~~ **suggest** that ... ~~some~~ students can write a drama script and act it out, and record the performance ~~out~~ and ~~uploading it~~, upload it into Youtube so that more people can watch it and, ~~and~~ learn English. This provides incentives for people to ... really engage in English activities and it can definitely improve their speaking skills.

A:

Well, er, I definitely agree with what candidate D said. But I would like to add some points on what candidate C said. Because I think ... listening is one of the main components of learning English, so ... with Youtube or Facebook, we have a lot of commentaries or videos ~~on Youtube~~, and which are spoken

in English, but by different people from different countries around the world, so, in this case, we can learn a lot of different accents from ... people speaking English from different kind ... of countries and races. So, I think it's a really great way to learn how to ~~speak~~, listen to English ~~but~~ **and** ... at the same time, ... ~~the way to learn to speak English well~~.

B:

Well, I definitely agree that a commentary is a very good way to ... listen to ~~English~~, native English speakers from different parts of the world. For example, ... in sports ... like basketball, or even e-sports ... like video-gaming, we hear, ~~we see~~ a lot of ... professional commentators ... giving speeches and also, ... talking about the sport themselves so that those who love these sports can actually be engaged in these ... forms of learning English and they will definitely be very interested. So, I think ... for social networking, this is ... a very good way of learning **English**.

C:

Erm, so I believe that ... most of us ~~has~~ **have** ... explained how ... students can learn English through ... social networking sites by ~~like~~ ... watching those entertaining movies and how ~~do~~ they ... ~~more~~ **can** engage in their English activities, like ... their conversation learning. So now, let's move on to talk about ... how they can learn English outside the classroom. I suggest that ... they can join ~~the~~ **an** exchange programme ... apart from only ~~learning~~ **English** ... in the ~~classroom~~. Because through the exchange programme, they can go visit the foreign countries and ... really submerge in their culture ~~that are really~~ ... with ~~English~~ ... native English people. So, it can really ~~motivates~~

~~motivate~~ them and ~~encourages~~ **encourage** them to ... **be** more active and **have** the courage to speak English.

D:

Erm, I agree with you. Travelling in other countries ~~where people~~ ... where most people use English as their mother language can definitely improve their speaking skills. Because this environment ~~are~~ **is** conducive to ... learning English because the students are forced to listen and speak English in those foreign countries and they cannot use their own mother language to ... actually ... engage in a conversation with those foreign people. Erm, so I think ... exchange programmes and travelling ~~is~~, are the possible means to learn English outside the classroom.

A:

Yes, I really agree with what ... candidate D said, because I think, travelling to ~~an~~, a native English-speaking country would really ~~gives~~ **give** a context for our students to learn how to think in an English way, instead of using Cantonese or Chinese to think, like we ~~did~~ **do** in Hong Kong. So, ~~let's~~, maybe let's move on to give advice about ... how to learn English by themselves. So, ... for me, I think the best way to learn English is to listen and to write. So, I think ... by watching TV dramas ... from America or ~~in~~ UK, I think ... they can learn a lot of new terms and at the same time, ... ~~jotting~~ **jot** down the new vocabularies, so they can form a vocabulary bank so that they can learn new words every day.

B:

I think, erm, for a ~~new~~, new student, ... learning from native speakers is very important because, well, ... once their accent is

formed, it's very hard for them to change, and it's, it'll be very obvious if they ... for example, they're submerged in ... an environment that is not conducive to learning English. And I think that ... being aware of spelling and pronunciation is very important because ... these are the foundations of the English language itself. So, ... for a student, I think they should definitely form a good habit of getting these things right.

C:

Erm, I believe in a more psychological way. Er, students should be ... more willing to step out of their comfort zone and ~~speaking~~ **speak** English. Because ... ~~there're~~, there're new students who're ... learning English ... for the first time, or very new **students**, ~~so they should be more~~ they should not be afraid of speaking or even ... listening to English ... although it may be quite difficult for them to ... pronounce or to ... know what ~~people~~, other people are saying. But, it may be a very good start for them to step out of their comfort zone and to learn English in a more active way.

D:

Erm, it is very common for beginners to make mistakes**s**, so I believe that beginners should not be ashamed of making mistakes and they should be willing to accept their mistakes**s** and correct them. I think ... accepting different ... advices from professionals such as teachers, or foreign native speakers can actually ... improve their ~~English~~ ... English skills so that they can actually improve. So, ... they should not be ashamed of their mistakes and but rather ~~actually~~ accept them as their ... incentives to

improve English so that ... their mistakes can be ... improved ... and their English skills can actually ... become ... better.

B:

Well, adding to that, I think ... it would be quite ... useful for them to find, for example, a partner to learn English ... with them because a lot of beginners may find ... English as a different language very difficult to learn. And so, ... they may find it easy to give up and ... just ... stop learning. So, if they have somebody who is willing to learn with them, then maybe they'll have more motivation ~~to~~ ... to persist and make ... themselves better, to ... motivate themselves to ~~learn more~~ ... learn better English. Well, I think ... we've given some ... useful advice.

[End of discussion]