

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a business website:

Family Mart's first "unmanned convenience store" in Japan

We paid a visit to a Tokyo convenience store where there's no human clerk to pay.

On Thursday, Family Mart opened a new branch inside Tokyo Station. It has the sort of food and beverages you'd expect in a Japanese convenience store, but there aren't any employees at the check-out counters. That's because the payments are all done through a slick, unmanned system.

One difference you'll notice right away is that there's a gate you pass through when entering the shop. As we stepped through, a recorded voice called out, "Irasshaimase!" ("Welcome!").

The total selection of products isn't quite as wide as it is at some Family Marts, but customers can still get toiletries and face masks.

There actually is one Family Mart employee on the premises, who only handles shelf-stocking and customer inquiries. When we walked up to the check-out counters with our purchases, no human cashier was present. We didn't even have to scan anything. The terminal already knew what we had in our hand to buy and it made an electronic beep to draw our attention to the screen, where the total amount to be paid was displayed. You can pay with an e-money card, credit card or cash.

Oh, and by the way, there's also a gate you have to pass through in order to leave the store, and if you have an unpaid bill, it won't open up until you settle your account.

Your group is doing a project on unmanned convenience stores. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of unmanned convenience stores
- the limitations of unmanned convenience stores
- whether unmanned convenience stores are a good idea for Hong Kong
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you often shop at convenience stores?
2. What do people usually buy at a convenience store?
3. Do you prefer self-checkout or paying at the cashier?
4. Is customer service important to you when shopping?
5. Do you think there will be more theft in unmanned stores?
6. Would you find shopping at an unmanned store too impersonal?
7. Do you think the trend of unmanned stores will continue to grow?
8. Do you think automation is making life too convenient?

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PART B Individual Response

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PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a business website:

Cinemas vs Movie Streaming Services

Technology is changing the way young people consume entertainment. Many youngsters are choosing to use online movie streaming services instead of going to the cinema to watch films.

The popularity of streaming services such as Netflix, Disney Plus, and Apple TV further increased during the COVID pandemic because cinemas were shut down everywhere. Now, more than 200 million people use Netflix to watch movies and TV shows. This is due to four main advantages it has over cinemas.

1. You can choose from thousands of movies and TV shows to watch.
2. The monthly price of Netflix is cheaper than one movie ticket.
3. There is original content on Netflix you cannot watch in cinemas.
4. You can watch movies anywhere on your phone and laptop.

A study also shows that after joining Netflix, 30% of people go to cinemas less often and 15% of them don't go to cinemas anymore.

While this is good news for movie streaming services, cinemas are closing down due to a lack of demand, and a number of the biggest cinema chains around the world have filed for bankruptcy.

This brings up the question: Is this the end of cinemas?



Your class is doing a project on the entertainment industry. Your group is discussing the increasing popularity of movie streaming services and how it impacts cinemas. You may want to talk about:

- whether going to cinemas is a popular pastime in Hong Kong
- what cinemas can do to compete with movie streaming services
- any disadvantages of movie streaming services
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like watching movies?
2. Do you go to the cinema often?
3. Which do you prefer: watching a movie in the cinema or at home?
4. Would you pay for a movie streaming service?
5. What can people learn from watching movies?
6. What is your most memorable experience of going to the cinema?
7. Do you think movie streaming services make people less social?
8. Do you think movie streaming services will eventually replace cinemas?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a webpage:

Plant-based meats

Impossible Foods and *OmniFoods* are two of the best-known names in Hong Kong offering plant-based fake meat. While you're most likely to have seen them on the menus of Western restaurants, both brands have taken a step into traditional Chinese cooking, creating plant-based tasting menus at Chinese fine dining restaurants.

Chef Tsang is a restaurant industry veteran who works at Ming Court, a Michelin-starred restaurant on Hong Kong Island. "Meat is indispensable in Chinese cuisine and fresh pork is the soul of Cantonese cuisine. But the arrival of plant-based meat offers vegetarian options to diners and encourages them to make diet changes."

The rise of vegetarianism, increasing concerns about health and the very real threat of climate change have inspired the chefs at the restaurant to provide more vegetarian options to diners. They would also like to demonstrate how plant-based meat can be used in Cantonese cuisine – including Cantonese fine-dining – and make it just as delicious.

Chef Tsang has started experimenting with the new *OmniSeafood* series. "The Omni Classic Fillet from the *OmniSeafood* series can be used in most of the traditional dishes in Cantonese cuisine. One of our popular dishes is Fried Omni Classic Fillet, Kung Po style."

Your school is considering serving plant-based meats in the canteen on Green Mondays. You are discussing your views on this topic. You may want to talk about:

- why plant-based meats are gaining popularity
- whether your school should encourage students to take up a vegetarian diet
- whether people will eat less meat in the future
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you prefer meat or vegetables?
2. Have you been to a vegetarian restaurant?
3. Do most teenagers eat healthily?
4. Do you think you could only eat vegetarian food?
5. Why is it difficult for people to change their eating habits?
6. How could vegetarianism be promoted in Hong Kong?
7. Do you think the combination of fine dining and fake-meat will be successful?
8. Do you agree that meat is essential in Chinese cuisine?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a lifestyle magazine:

Night Owls

'Night owls' are people who are naturally more awake and active at night and tend to go to bed late. Research has found that night owls face higher rates of poor health, including having a 10 percent higher risk of dying younger than 'early birds' or people who get up early and feel more energetic first thing in the day. Night owls often suffer from long-term lack of sleep and this can increase the chance of diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Not having enough sleep even for just one night can make us moody; when it happens every single night for an extended period, depression can develop.



Associate professor Kristen Knutson at Northwestern University said: "This is a public health issue that cannot be ignored. We need to recognise that people have different body clocks which regulate the time we feel sleepy and wakeful throughout the day. Some people naturally wake up early while others feel more awake at night. All of this comes down to a combination of genes and the person's environment."

Employers can benefit from adjusting start times to suit individual employees' needs. Another study found that when companies let night owls start work later in the day or allowed them to work from home, there was an estimated US\$277m gain in productivity. It argues that people who are more awake at night should be allowed to start and finish work later. Not everyone is suited to get up for an 8am start.

Your group is doing a project on sleeping patterns and you are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- the advantages of being a night owl
- the advantages of getting up early
- whether companies should have flexible working hours for people with different sleeping patterns
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you wake up early on weekends?
2. Do you often have problems waking up in the morning?
3. What do you do if you cannot fall asleep?
4. What do you do to keep yourself awake when you are sleepy?
5. Have you ever overslept for something important?
6. What time of the day are you most productive?
7. Would you consider a job that requires working at night?
8. Do you envy people who only need a few hours of sleep?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on an online news website:

Should teachers and students be friends on social media?

A majority of teens are online and most of them use social networking apps such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. This makes social media a convenient way for teachers to connect with students. Some teachers think that as Instagram is what most teenagers use these days, it is a good idea for teachers to connect with students in this way to maintain their interest. Some parents agree that this allows teachers to be leaders and role models for their students online.

But at the same time, students should learn to know the difference between personal and professional communication. At school, students do not talk to their teachers as if they were friends, but when interacting with teachers on social media, the line between personal and professional communication is less clear. Therefore, it is recommended that students should not talk to their teachers like their friends on Instagram. Otherwise, they may cross that line.

Recently, a number of parents have also complained about seeing teachers wearing swimsuits and gym clothes on their Instagram accounts. These parents claimed the photos were inappropriate. In order to avoid such problems and complaints, some schools are proposing a new policy not to allow teachers and students to be friends on social media.

Your school is proposing a policy not to allow teachers and students to be friends on social media. Your group has been asked to discuss the proposal. You may want to talk about:

- why students like to connect with their teachers on social media
- problems with connecting with teachers on social media
- whether you agree with the proposed policy
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What do you like to share on social media?
2. Do young people spend too much time on social media?
3. Do you think many Hong Kong teachers are active on social media?
4. Why do you think Instagram is so popular?
5. Should schools teach students how to use social media safely?
6. Should parents monitor their children's friends on social media?
7. Does social media negatively affect your learning?
8. Should schools monitor their students' social media activities?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This advertisement for local entertainment appeared on a webpage:

Graduation ideas



Helicopter ride

Scenic flights take off from the roof of the iconic Peninsula Hotel, allowing guests to take in the unbeatable aerial view of the world famous Victoria Harbour, marvel at the rock formations of the Geopark and cruise over the beaches and bays of Hong Kong Island. As night falls, catch Hong Kong's famous laser light show, Symphony of Lights, on your return.

Cooking lessons with a celebrity chef

Take your cooking skills to the next level with a local celebrity chef. Join a Michelin-starred chef in a Hong Kong restaurant to learn the techniques that have brought them fame and fortune. The chef will teach you everything from buying the freshest ingredients to creating unforgettable dishes. Then enjoy seriously good food at the ultimate dinner party.



Zip line across Hong Kong

If hanging off rocks and flying over the water is your style, nothing beats a day of zip-lining with Hong Kong's spectacular scenery as a backdrop. Your journey begins with a trek through rocks, historical relics, and lush greenery to reach the site. Don't worry: experienced local zip-lining guides will brief you on the safety instructions before you make the leap. And once you do, well, keep your eyes open – it's a fun ride to the other side!

Your group is in charge of organising a graduation celebration for your class. You may want to talk about:

- what to consider when planning a graduation celebration
- whether any of the above activities are suitable
- how else you might celebrate your graduation
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to go on a helicopter ride?
2. Would you like your teachers to attend your graduation celebration?
3. What is the best way to celebrate something?
4. How do students usually celebrate graduation in Hong Kong?
5. Would you like your graduation celebration to be held outdoors?
6. Which do you prefer: a big celebration or a small one?
7. Would you like to be on the school graduation organising committee?
8. Is a graduation celebration meaningful to you?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a fashion blog:

How the pandemic has redefined the fashion industry

COVID-19 has upended many norms and one of its top victims has been the fashion industry.

A survey queried 1,843 Americans on how the pandemic has impacted their relationship with fashion trends and clothing. While one-third of Americans did not buy any new clothing during the COVID-19 lockdown, retail clothing businesses have actually seen an increase in sales since March 2020.

Shoppers are shopping for various reasons but a universal trend is that Americans are mostly shopping for more comfortable clothes to fit the remote work lifestyle.

The survey found that more than half of people (61%) are reaching for sweats, yoga pants and more casual clothing. Not only that, but nearly 40% have lowered their standards of what's 'acceptable' to wear since lockdown began.

Social media has also played a big role in revolutionizing fashion since early 2020. Tiktok, Instagram, and YouTube have influenced fashion choices. One-third of respondents said they have purchased clothing seen on social media during the last year.

Since people have been working from home, offices no longer require workers to wear a 'professional outfit'. More than 20% of survey respondents said they won't return to how they dressed before the pandemic. Spending more time at home for work and entertainment has given more people the freedom to express themselves and get more experimental with fashion.

Your class is discussing people's attitudes towards buying clothes since the start of the pandemic. You may want to talk about:

- how the pandemic has changed the way people dress
- how the pandemic has changed the way people shop for clothes
- how the fashion industry can cater for these changes
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like fashion?
2. Do you like shopping for clothes?
3. Do you dress differently at home when compared to going out?
4. Do you prefer shopping for clothes in stores or online?
5. Do Hong Kong teens like to follow fashion trends?
6. Where do people get their inspiration for fashion?
7. Which is more important to you when you buy clothes: comfort or how they look?
8. Do you think keeping up with fashion trends is a waste of money?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a local newspaper:

The value of doing chores

One of the traditions of Japanese education is that students do *soji* (cleaning). *Soji* starts after lunch and lasts for about 20 minutes. This happens four times a week and, on the last day of each semester, there is a longer cleaning session called *o-soji* (big cleaning).

During the entire cleaning time, the public announcement system blasts cheerful marching music. Every class is responsible for cleaning its own classroom and two other places in the school.

Through cleaning, children develop values such as responsibility, cooperation and discipline.

Similarly, research shows that when children help out with home duties or chores, they actually do better in school, and are more thoughtful and considerate. Even if they are asked to be responsible for only a certain area, like their own bedroom, they show more consideration to other family members and are less likely to mess up other areas.

Children who participate in everyday responsibilities are also found to be more positive and have a stronger sense of self-worth. Interestingly, the effects are comparable to those of playing with friends.

When children are contributing, they feel needed and bonded to the family. They see that they have an important role to play, and consideration and helpfulness become second nature to them.



Japanese students cleaning during the collective cleaning time, soji.

As part of the school's environment improvement campaign, your principal would like to add cleaning sessions to the timetable. Your class teacher has asked your group to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- benefits of adding cleaning sessions to the timetable
- possible problems of requiring students to clean the school
- cleaning tasks that are suitable for different forms
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like doing housework?
2. Do you help out with housework?
3. What can be done to make cleaning less boring?
4. How can parents motivate their children to do housework?
5. Do you agree that teenagers are messier than adults?
6. Do you agree that housework can bring family members closer?
7. Should cleaning staff receive more respect in society?
8. Will technology change housework in the future?

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Japanese students cleaning during the collective cleaning time, soji.

As part of the school's environment improvement campaign, your principal would like to add cleaning sessions to the timetable. Your class teacher has asked your group to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- benefits of adding cleaning sessions to the timetable
- possible problems of requiring students to clean the school
- cleaning tasks that are suitable for different forms
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper:

Gardening becomes a way of healing

Horticultural therapy is a professional practice that uses plants and gardening to improve mental and physical health. A horticultural therapist works with any group that can benefit from interaction with plants, including children, the elderly and those dealing with addiction and mental health problems.

"I was suffering from depression, which seriously affected my life," Mary Wright, a patient at a mental health centre, said. "One day, I was asked, 'Can you do flower arranging? Can you water and take care of plants?' I said, 'Well, I'll try it.'"

"It was exactly the help I needed," she said. "When I'm touching a plant, it's a very calming experience. It helped me get better."

Many studies have found that just being in nature – such as taking a walk through a garden, a park or a forest – can improve not only your state of mind but your blood pressure, your heart rate and your stress levels and, over time, can lead to a longer life.

Studies have also found that horticultural therapy supports recovery and improves mood, resulting in shorter stays for patients at hospitals and mental health facilities.



Horticultural therapy, or gardening, as a way of healing, can benefit many people.

Your school wants to develop students' interest in growing plants. Your class teacher wants you to discuss this idea. You may want to talk about:

- what benefits growing plants can bring to students and the school
- whether growing plants will be popular among students
- what other activities can help promote students' well-being
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like going to country parks?
2. Do you like gardening?
3. Do more young people or older people enjoy caring for plants?
4. Are there enough green spaces in Hong Kong?
5. Is gardening a popular hobby in Hong Kong?
6. Do you prefer caring for plants or keeping a pet?
7. Should there be plants in the work environment?
8. Which do you prefer: real or artificial plants?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a business website:

Wearable smart devices are here!

Wearable smart devices, commonly known as wearables, have become popular over the last ten years. Smartwatches like the Apple Watch are likely the best-known ones. But there are many other kinds of new smart devices you can wear on your body now, including clothing and jewellery. Let's take a look at two of them.

Smart Ring. The most common kind of smart jewellery might be the smart ring. Smart rings are worn on the finger like regular rings. But they can collect health-tracking data for the users and allow them to review it on a smartphone later. Compared to a smartwatch, the smart ring is less distracting since it cannot receive messages and can only track the user's health. And if you don't like rings, there are also smart bracelets created by well-known fashion brands.

Smart Clothing. By covering a large amount of a user's body, smart clothing can provide more information than other wearable devices. It allows for better medical care and lifestyle improvement. For example, there are smart shirts capable of diagnosing respiratory diseases, smart shoes that monitor running performance, smart yoga pants that vibrate to improve form during exercises, and smart swimsuits that alert the user to apply sunscreen. A luxury brand also added location-tracking to its jeans to track how frequently the customer wore them, so that the brand can reward frequent wearers with more of its products.

Your class is doing a project on new technologies and your group is discussing wearable smart devices. You may want to talk about:

- why wearable smart devices are becoming popular
- the disadvantages of wearable smart devices
- whether wearable smart devices should be allowed at school
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you or your friends have a wearable smart device?
2. Would you buy a wearable smart device?
3. Do you prefer a smart watch or a smart ring?
4. Do you think wearable smart devices are a waste of money?
5. Do you think there are too many smart devices in our lives?
6. Are wearable smart devices fashionable?
7. Can using wearable smart devices help us become healthier?
8. Would you be concerned about privacy if you wore a wearable smart device?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a website:

Adaptability quotient

We are all familiar with IQ (intelligence quotient) and EQ (emotional quotient). Adding to these two Qs is a new one: AQ. AQ stands for adaptability quotient. It is the ability to learn, adjust, and change to new situations or circumstances. People with high AQ can work in a variety of environments and succeed in times of change and uncertainty.

Technology is changing our world every day and requires us to learn and re-invent ourselves again and again, faster and faster. The good news is that AQ is something we can train and develop:

Change your routine

Seek or create opportunities for change. Doing the same thing is comfortable, but we can easily become too lazy to leave our comfort zone. Instead of staying home for the weekend again, reconnect with your old friends. Rather than robotically walking down the same street, take different paths.

Keep learning

Learn a new skill every now and then. Learning requires active thinking, careful planning, constant adjustment and strong commitment. Learning anything new will train you to be always up for challenges.

Be curious and observant

Watch and learn from others. They can be successful people you read about in books or your friends and family. Pay attention to how and why people make important decisions in life. The more you think from different people's perspectives, the more open you will be to different ideas.

Your school is organising a workshop on adaptability quotient (AQ). Your group is brainstorming some ideas for the workshop. You may want to talk about:

- why being adaptable is becoming more important nowadays
- whether being adaptable is more important than being intelligent
- whether it is possible to teach adaptability
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like trying new things?
2. Can you adapt to new environments quickly?
3. Do you think having new experiences is important?
4. Are Hong Kong students adaptable?
5. Are young people better at coping with change than older people?
6. Do you think change is always good?
7. Do you consider yourself a risk taker?
8. Why are some people more adaptable than others?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in an online magazine:

How to use social media to spread positivity

Social media has taken the sharing of knowledge to an entirely new level, but we face so much information we often don't know what to do with it. Here are some ways to reduce the impact of social media on your mental health and help you use social media to spread positivity instead.

1. Be intentional about using social media.

When you show up to use a social media platform, such as Instagram, ask yourself, 'Why am I here?' If you don't have any need to be on that platform then, close the app.

2. Filter the noise.

Go through your feeds and delete anyone who isn't contributing to a positive environment. You can't change the way people act but you can change your experience using these platforms quite easily.

3. Don't use it to fill time and space.

If you are using social media to kill time, you might want to ask yourself why. Why do I have to be entertained every second of the day? There's nothing wrong with being bored standing in line.

4. Remove yourself from the negativity.

At the end of the day, if you feel like you can't handle it or social media is really impacting your happiness in a negative way, it might be a better idea to remove yourself from it entirely. You might be surprised by how little you miss it after a while. You can always come back to social media when you feel like you are ready to be there again.

You are members of the Mental Health and Wellness Club. Your group has been asked to discuss the impact of social media on students' well-being. You may want to talk about:

- what kind of people are popular on social media
- the negative effects of social media on users
- what the club can do to help promote better social media habits
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you use social media?
2. Would you like to be popular on social media?
3. How do you feel when someone "likes" your social media posts?
4. Do social media posts show someone's real life?
5. Do people become addicted to social media?
6. How do you control your use of social media?
7. Do you agree there is a lack of compassion on social media?
8. Does social media impact people's self-esteem?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a local newspaper:

Searching for family history drives Chinese to DNA tests

With a growing middle class, an increasing number of people are now keen on finding their roots in China. DNA testing kits are now widely available – users simply buy the kit, follow the instructions and mail a sample of their DNA back. Within a week, a digital report returns, showing the origin of their DNA.

“I was curious about my family history. I wanted to know who I am and where I came from,” Miao, a Chinese executive who recently used the service, said. “Since I grew up in the south, I was quite certain that I’m a southern Han.”

But when results of the test came back, Miao was shocked. She had 60% Manchurian ethnicity – a north-eastern group. This then led to a search of her grandmother’s surname, which revealed that her great-great-great-grandparents were actually from the Red Banner – a royal family group in Manchu society during the Qing dynasty. In the process, she also reconnected with a few distant relatives she never knew existed.

“The DNA test was such a good experience that I’ve just bought another DNA testing kit. This one can reveal your personality,” Miao said. The kit she referred to claims to be able to detect personality traits in the genes, like whether the user is outgoing or shy, optimistic or pessimistic. “Who knows what I’ll find out about myself!”

Your class is doing a project on family history. Your teacher wants you to discuss the use of DNA tests to help research family history. You may want to talk about:

- why people want to know about their family history
- whether there are any disadvantages to DNA testing
- other ways to find out about your family history
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Are you interested in your family’s history?
2. Do you often visit your relatives?
3. Do you feel closer to your relatives or your friends?
4. How can you keep a record of important family events?
5. How would you feel if you found out you were related to someone famous?
6. Do you think young people know much about their family history?
7. Would you be interested in taking a DNA test?
8. Is personality more affected by DNA or our environment?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper:

Carousell

Carousell is one of Singapore's most well-known startup companies, a platform on which users can buy and sell new and secondhand goods.

It has come a long way since 2012, when the startup was awarded \$7,000 to develop a mobile-based marketplace app. Today, it's present in seven markets and valued at US\$1.1 billion.

Carousell was founded by three university friends – Quek Siu Rui, Marcus Tan and Lucas Ngoo. The trio wanted to build an app that would help to declutter the mountain of stuff they'd accumulated. The idea was to build a mobile-first version of US-based classifieds platforms like eBay and Craigslist. They were guided by a simple question: how can we reduce the time it takes to list a product?

For decades, when newspapers dominated the classifieds business, it would take a few days for an ad to show up in the papers. Then came the internet. Online classifieds like Craigslist cut that time to 30 minutes. You'd take a picture with a camera, transfer the file to a computer, connect to the internet and upload the listing.

As smartphones began to hit mass adoption, the founders aimed to build an app that allowed users to upload a listing for secondhand electronics, fashion, even cars and property. All within seconds. Snap, list, sell.



Your school is planning to use Carousell to sell products donated by students for a school fundraising event. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- the benefits of buying and selling products online
- how to organise the donations for uploading to Carousell
- any problems which might occur from selling products online
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you buy things online?
2. Do many people sell things online in Hong Kong?
3. Could selling things online become a full-time job?
4. Would you like to start your own business?
5. Will more jobs involve the internet in the future?
6. What are the difficulties of owning your own business?
7. What advice would you give someone starting his or her own business?
8. What qualities make someone a good entrepreneur?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This post appeared on a fitness website:

24 FitnessHK

With coronavirus keeping people indoors and away from sports and gyms, obesity is on the rise and so are health risks caused by an inactive lifestyle. But no need to worry, because 24 FitnessHK is bringing the workouts and personal trainers to your home!

24 FitnessHK is now offering online yoga classes to all its members!

From this month onwards, we are offering all our members online yoga classes held by some of our most experienced yoga teachers and senior personal trainers. You can learn and do yoga with these experts from the comfort of your home. All you need is a laptop or a mobile phone with a camera.



Meet the community!

Humans are social animals and need to socialise even when we are social distancing. Once you subscribe to this package, you can attend these yoga classes with your fellow fitness enthusiasts. You can talk and interact with them through the chat function on our mobile app to share your fitness journey.

Amazing value for money package!

- 10 online yoga classes for only \$2000
- Includes a limited-edition yoga mat, and a 24 FitnessHK towel and water bottle

What are you waiting for? Join now!

You and your friends want to join some online fitness classes. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- advantages of online fitness classes
- things to consider when choosing an online fitness class
- whether online fitness classes will continue to be popular
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Have you attended any online fitness classes?
2. Do you think you are an active person?
3. Are there any disadvantages of online fitness classes?
4. Should yoga be taught in school?
5. Do you prefer to exercise alone or in a group?
6. Is going to the gym popular nowadays?
7. Is Hong Kong becoming a healthier society?
8. Why are some people obsessed with doing exercise?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a website:

Super Bowl Advertisements

The Super Bowl is the championship game of the American National Football League (NFL). Super Bowl TV commercials are a cultural phenomenon as they have been among the United States' most-watched television broadcasts. These advertisements are high-profile and some viewers only tune in to watch the commercials rather than the game.

This year, the advertisement that won the 'Best Super Bowl Ad Competition' was a heartwarming commercial for Doritos, a brand of potato chips. In the ad, a kid dressed as a cowboy rides his big dog and uses a rope to lasso a bag of Doritos out of his brother's hands.



The winning ad showed how Super Bowl commercials sometimes can be less about creating laughter and more about appealing to the heart. "The ad touched the depths of my soul," says Char Baringhaus, a middle school teacher from Michigan. "Nothing reaches raw emotion like the love of animals."

Sometimes, the best way to sell a product is to tell a good story and create an emotional connection between the product and the viewers. A story that relates to our common experiences in life and has some elements of humour and surprise is a winning formula.

Your Business Studies teacher wants your group to use storytelling to advertise a new sports drink called 'Champion'. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- whether storytelling is a good way to advertise
- what ideas can be used in a storyline about the sports drink
- how to make the advertisement memorable
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like watching advertisements?
2. Do you think advertisements are annoying?
3. Have you ever bought something because of an advertisement?
4. Do celebrities make advertisements more effective?
5. Would you like to work in the advertising industry?
6. Does advertising make people buy things they don't really need?
7. Would you pay extra to watch programmes without advertisements?
8. Should advertisements targeting children be banned?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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Super Bowl Advertisements

The Super Bowl is the championship game of the American National Football League (NFL). Super Bowl TV commercials are a cultural phenomenon as they have been among the United States' most-watched television broadcasts. These advertisements are high-profile and some viewers only tune in to watch the commercials rather than the game.

This year, the advertisement that won the 'Best Super Bowl Ad Competition' was a heartwarming commercial for Doritos, a brand of potato chips. In the ad, a kid dressed as a cowboy rides his big dog and uses a rope to lasso a bag of Doritos out of his brother's hands.



The winning ad showed how Super Bowl commercials sometimes can be less about creating laughter and more about appealing to the heart. "The ad touched the depths of my soul," says Char Baringhaus, a middle school teacher from Michigan. "Nothing reaches raw emotion like the love of animals."

Sometimes, the best way to sell a product is to tell a good story and create an emotional connection between the product and the viewers. A story that relates to our common experiences in life and has some elements of humour and surprise is a winning formula.

Your Business Studies teacher wants your group to use storytelling to advertise a new sports drink called 'Champion'. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- whether storytelling is a good way to advertise
- what ideas can be used in a storyline about the sports drink
- how to make the advertisement memorable
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a webpage:

Good habits every student should develop

A survey of educators highlighted ten habits that successful students share:

Get organised. Plan what you're going to do and when you're going to do it.

Don't multitask. Studies have shown that multitasking is physically impossible.

Divide it up. Divide your work into manageable chunks and reward yourself when you finish each chunk. This will make studying (more) fun.

Set a schedule. Do you work better right after school or after you've eaten dinner? Are you more productive in 90-minute blocks or half-hour spurts? Find a schedule that works for you and stick to it.

Take notes. Taking notes will not only keep you more engaged during class, but also help you narrow down what you need to study. It's much easier to reread your notes than to reread your entire textbook!

Review. Review your material several days ahead of time, in small chunks. Use flashcards or take practice tests. But don't cram.

Manage your study space. Find a place away from the television and other distractions. Whether it's the library or your bedroom, set aside a space that you'll want to spend time in.

Find a study group. Get together with a group of people who are learning the same things. Teaching others helps you learn at the same time.

Ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask questions or for help from a teacher or your friends. This will truly help you understand the material.

Sleep. Getting a good night's rest will sharpen your focus and improve your working memory.

Your group is preparing a sharing session for S.4 students to help them prepare for senior forms. You are meeting to discuss the topic. You may want to talk about:

- what challenges S.4 students can expect
- how to help S.4 students develop good habits
- other advice to give S.4 students
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What is your favourite subject?
2. What do you usually do after school?
3. Do you like working in groups?
4. What is the best thing about studying in senior forms?
5. What is one thing that you have learned about developing good habits?
6. How can students improve their time management?
7. What is the best way to motivate yourself to study?
8. Which is more important for success: study or social skills?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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PART A Group Interaction

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

These profiles appeared on a website about performing acts:

Performing acts for hire		
<p>1. Rock Band</p>  <p>Brother Plainview is an alternative rock band based in Hong Kong. They have been performing around the city since 2018.</p> <p>Price: \$10,000 (2 hours) Requirements: must provide a large stage and a sound system</p> <p><i>"Booked Brother Plainview for our New Year's Eve party and they were fantastic! The dance floor was packed during their energetic performances."</i></p>	<p>2. Comedian</p>  <p>Vivek is a Hong Kong stand-up comedian who performs both in English and Cantonese. He performs in comedy clubs, and has won awards for his humour.</p> <p>Price: \$5,000 (1 hour) Requirements: must provide a small stage, a mic, and 2 water bottles</p> <p><i>"Local Hong Konger but sees society as an outsider. Effortlessly blends comedy with public consciousness."</i></p>	<p>3. Lion Dance Group</p>  <p>Kwok's Lion Dance group performs traditional lion dance, LED lion dance, and also Hip-Hop lion dance to attract both younger and older audiences.</p> <p>Price: \$7,000 (15 minutes) Requirements: must provide a large stage, and meals for 8 people</p> <p><i>"Amazing Lion Dance show! There's martial arts, stunts, costumes...even if you don't know much Chinese culture, you'll love it!"</i></p>

Your school is celebrating its anniversary and your teacher has asked your group to choose one performing act to hire for the celebration. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- what students would like about each act
- other important factors when choosing an act
- the best option for the school's celebration
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like to watch Lion Dance?
2. Do you enjoy watching live shows at school?
3. Do you enjoy performing on stage?
4. Do you prefer telling or listening to jokes?
5. What is your most memorable school celebration?
6. Do you think celebrations are a good use of school money?
7. What are the best ways performers can promote themselves?
8. Do you think it's difficult to be a musician nowadays?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4




GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This blog post appeared on the author's personal webpage:

Time in different cultures

If you live in Hong Kong, you may well be always looking at the clock and writing down your many appointments in a calendar. But does every culture use time this way? Different cultures have different views on how to use time. For example, in Switzerland or Germany, punctuality is important. Being late is unacceptable and often viewed as disrespectful. Other cultures, on the other hand, don't stress punctuality. They might be an hour late, a day late, a week late. And that's okay. Time is not ruled by a schedule, and neither is business.



Psychologist Robert Levine analysed different cultures and their attitude towards time. He found that more economically developed countries like the USA, Germany, or Japan are fast-paced. In other words, they greatly value time since "time is money".

On the other hand, countries with less developed economies are slow-paced. Cultures such as the Middle East, South America, or Eastern Europe have a more relaxed attitude towards time. They are more family and socially oriented.

However, such differences may not always be as clear. For example, even though Japan has a fast-paced culture, they view social relationships as important.

Your group is doing a project on how different cultures view time. You are meeting to discuss the project. You may want to talk about:

- Hong Kong people's attitude towards time
- whether attitudes towards time are changing
- how to live a more slow-paced life
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Are you often late for school?
2. Is being on time important to you?
3. How do you feel when your friends are late?
4. Do you prefer a fast-paced or a slow-paced lifestyle?
5. Is a fast-paced lifestyle healthy?
6. Do Hong Kong people have good work-life balance?
7. Is work-life balance important?
8. Do you agree that time is money?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This is an advertisement for a local video game company:

We're hiring a summer intern

Are you a gamer? Do you want to contribute to the development of video games? Do you have knowledge of coding and programming? If your answer is yes, apply to be our summer intern at BMSHock.

Who are we?

BMSHock is a fast-growing video game developer in Hong Kong. Our two fast-paced first-person-shooter games, *Marvel Strike* and *Glory and Honour*, are famous for their beautiful content and rich visual effects.

Why should you apply?

The video game development industry is quickly emerging as one of the most profitable industries in the 21st century. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of a team behind the creation of some of the best award-winning games. Gain experience at an entry level position which can set you up for a thriving future career.


You need to:

- have good knowledge of coding and programming OR
- have good knowledge of graphic design and animation programmes
- have good problem-solving skills
- be able to work in teams
- speak fluent Cantonese and English

You will:

- assist in the development of real-time visual effects with designers, developers and other artists
- give feedback on products
- assist in managing BMSHock's Instagram and Twitter pages for game launches

Apply by emailing your CV to recruitment@bmshock.com.hk now!



Your group is considering whether the above advertisement should be posted on the notice board of the Career Team. You may want to talk about:

- how students can benefit from internships
- whether the video game internship is a suitable choice for students
- ways the Career Team can promote internships
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like playing video games?
2. Do you want to work in the video gaming industry?
3. Do parents like their children to take part in internship programmes?
4. Should internships be compulsory for students?
5. Do you think video games are too violent?
6. Should the video gaming industry do more to attract female workers?
7. Why are video games so addictive?
8. Are video gamers given enough recognition by society?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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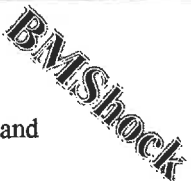
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a website:

Instagram craze threatens species' survival

An Instagram-driven craze in Japan for keeping otters in cafes and as pets has caused an increase in catching the animals from the wild, putting them in danger of extinction, investigators from environmental groups say.

Because of the animal's popularity, many people have opened otter cafes in Japan, where customers touch, play with, feed and cuddle them. Hundreds of people are also buying them to keep at home. Not only is the trade cruel because the stolen otters are given unsuitable homes, diets and surroundings, but worse – it is bringing down populations of the species.

All four species from Southeast Asia are already in decline from loss of their natural habitat and climate change, but now the pet trade poses a new human threat. The population of some species has decreased by half in three decades.

Cassandra Koenen, who heads the Wildlife Not Pets campaign, says, "Just because a wild animal is cute, it does not mean you should take it home with you. Unfortunately, cute animals can generate a lot of likes on Instagram."

"Once otters are in people's homes, there is no way to provide the space and freedom these animals would have in the wild. Many animals are kept in small spaces and don't have the correct nutrition, even if owners have the best intentions to care for them properly."



Your class is doing a project on animal conservation. Your group has been asked to discuss the topic of keeping pets. You may want to talk about:

- the advantages of keeping wild animals as pets
- the disadvantages of keeping wild animals as pets
- how social media may affect the choice of pets
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What is your favourite animal?
2. What do you think is the best pet to have?
3. Why do some people go to cafes to see wild animals?
4. Should cafes use wild animals to attract customers?
5. Why do some people keep dangerous animals as pets?
6. Why are some people not suitable pet owners?
7. Why do some owners spend a lot of money on their pets?
8. Are the rights of animals given too much importance?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared on a webpage:

Will everyone be eating insects by 2050?

By 2050 the population is expected to reach 9 billion. To feed all of those hungry mouths, we will need to produce almost twice as much food as we currently do. But that isn't going to be easy. One possible solution? Insects.

Eating insects is a common practice that's been taking place for thousands of years. Around 2 billion people regularly eat insects as part of their diet, and over 1,900 species are edible. The most commonly eaten bugs are beetles, caterpillars, bees, wasps and ants.

So what's so good about insects? Well, they're nutritious and healthy. Insects actually have a high fat, protein, vitamin, fibre and mineral content that is often comparable to fish or livestock. Beetles, for example, contain on average 205 g/kg protein; beef contains 256 g/kg.

Raising insects as a source of food as opposed to farmed animals is more environmentally friendly. Insects require significantly less land and water than traditionally-farmed animals and also reproduce much more quickly. Additionally, insects produce a fraction of the greenhouse gases when compared with other livestock, particularly cattle. Finally, insect farming can provide jobs and income to people living in poor areas. Insects are sustainable, green, nutritious and could help people out of poverty. Chocolate-covered caterpillars, anyone?

You are doing a project on the food we will eat in the future. Your group is meeting to discuss insects as food. You may want to talk about:

- how eating insects can benefit people and the environment
- why people may not want to eat insects
- how to promote insects as food
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Would you like to try eating insects?
2. Is eating healthy food important to people in Hong Kong?
3. Should people change their diet to help the environment?
4. Do you think Hong Kong should promote eating insects?
5. Should restaurants have insects on their menu?
6. Do you think Hongkongers will eat more healthy foods in the future?
7. Should Hong Kong develop insect farms?
8. Can people impact the environment by changing their diet?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in a newspaper:

Global study on walking puts Hong Kong a step ahead

According to a recent study, Hong Kong people walk an average of 6,880 steps a day, compared with a world average of 4,961, making them the most active in the world.

Researchers said they hoped their study could help policymakers around the world design towns and cities that encourage more physical activity. "In cities that are more walkable, everyone tends to take more daily steps, whether male or female, young or old, healthy or obese," Jennifer Hicks, one of the researchers, said.

There are many studies suggesting there are health benefits of walking, even if only for 30 minutes a day. Some say walking fast is best, others believe walking slowly is good enough, and a few recommend a steep flight of steps. The advice for those who want to add a few extra years to their life is that, whenever possible, taking the footpath will pay off better than getting into a vehicle. Most Hong Kong people walk a lot, but out of necessity, not choice.

Studies say it is a good thing, though: walking prolongs life. It reduces the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, respiratory and heart diseases, and even cancer. Walking is also free. It's convenient, requiring no special training or equipment, and it can be done at any age. Hong Kong people have obviously worked all that out.

Your group is doing a project on walking-friendly cities. You are meeting to discuss this. You may want to talk about:

- what makes Hong Kong suitable for walking
- what discourages people from walking in Hong Kong
- whether you think Hong Kong people are active
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like walking around the city?
2. Where is the best place in Hong Kong to go for a walk?
3. What things do people do while they are walking?
4. Why is walking a good exercise for old people?
5. What is the longest walk or hike you have taken?
6. Do you sometimes use the stairs rather than take the lift?
7. Do you find that walking helps you think?
8. Do you think people will walk less in the future?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This post appeared on an events website:

Harbourside Concert Series

The Harbourside Concert Series is a musical treasure: three nights of stunning classical music against the backdrop of the glorious Victoria Harbour. Stretch out on the West Kowloon lawn and enjoy the sumptuous delights of the world-class line-up.

Day One: 18th November, 7pm The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong and Special Guests

Day Two: 19th November, 7pm Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Special Guests

Day Three: 20th November, 6:30 pm The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra



The event promises to be spectacular, highlighting the best the city has to offer and the bright future of classical music in Hong Kong – up-and-coming stars from the city's youth orchestras will be making special appearances, alongside cameos from stage and screen performers.

Tickets are on sale now from the usual vendors.

1-day pass: \$380; 2-day pass: \$600; 3-day pass, with free picnic blanket: \$750

Special Offer for Schools: contact our ticket office to sign up for the "Music for Schools" programme: free tickets for students, plus classroom and promotional materials for the concerts. Spread the joy of classical music!

You are members of your school's Music Club. You have been asked by your principal to discuss the Harbourside Concert Series. You may want to talk about:

- whether the Harbourside Concert Series will be a popular event with young people
- how the event can be promoted in your school
- other ways to introduce classical music to students at your school
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you like listening to music?
2. Do you like going to music concerts?
3. Do you prefer indoor or outdoor concerts?
4. Do you prefer live music or listening to music online?
5. Do you think classical music concerts should be free for young people?
6. Is Hong Kong a good place for outdoor concerts?
7. Can concerts attract more tourists to visit Hong Kong?
8. How can the government support concert organisers?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of two parts: Part A, Group Interaction; and Part B, Individual Response. Part B will immediately follow Part A. DO NOT write anything on this page.

PART A Group Interaction

You will be given 10 minutes to prepare. The time allowed for the group interaction is 8 minutes (or 6 minutes for a group of 3 candidates). You may make notes on the notecard provided and refer to your notes during the discussion.

This post appeared on an events website:

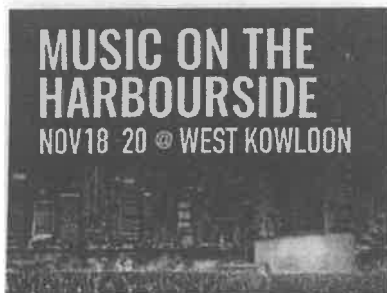
Harbourside Concert Series

The Harbourside Concert Series is a musical treasure: three nights of stunning classical music against the backdrop of the glorious Victoria Harbour. Stretch out on the West Kowloon lawn and enjoy the sumptuous delights of the world-class line-up.

Day One: 18th November, 7pm The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong and Special Guests

Day Two: 19th November, 7pm Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Special Guests

Day Three: 20th November, 6:30 pm The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra



The event promises to be spectacular, highlighting the best the city has to offer and the bright future of classical music in Hong Kong – up-and-coming stars from the city's youth orchestras will be making special appearances, alongside cameos from stage and screen performers.

Tickets are on sale now from the usual vendors.

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PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.