

**Paper 2: WRITING****PART A**

1.

**Flying in the Air**

When I was young, I always dreamt of flying like a bird in the sky. I thought the sky was a wonderful place where the birds fly freely. I enjoy being in the air very much. Every time I travel on a plane, I ask for a seat near the window, so that I can spend almost the whole journey gazing out of it. I drew this picture five years ago, to keep reminding myself of how much I want to be a pilot in the future. I look forward to receiving proper pilot training, and I can't wait to fly in the sky in my own plane. It must be an incredible experience.

(115 words)

**Working When Travelling**

Travelling is simply irresistible. It is not just fun, but also educational because people will always learn about the history, culture and heritage of a place when travelling. When I was 10 years old, my mother asked about my dream job. Instead of telling her directly, I drew this picture telling her about my dream of being a tour guide, and also my wish to visit London. The next summer, my mother brought me to London. We were on a tour and I learnt a lot about England from the tour guide. The trip was a lot more fun because of him. I hope I will be like him very soon – bringing people to various places with fun.

(118 words)

**PART B**

2.

Dear Mr Wong,

For the forthcoming issue of the school magazine, I would like to produce an article about a well-known sports star among Hong Kong people, Lee Wai Sze.

In the article, I would like to talk about Lee Wai Sze's early years and her career as a professional cyclist. Lee Wai Sze, also known as Sarah Lee, is a professional racing cyclist, specializing in track cycling as a sprinter. In the 2012 London Olympics, Sarah won the bronze medal in women's keirin. It is Hong Kong's first-ever Olympics award in cycling.

Sarah was born on 17 May 1987 to a relatively poor family residing in a small flat in Ngau Tau Kok. She was born with anemia, which might affect her sports performance due to a decreased number of red blood cells. However, she still participated in her school's athletics. When she was at secondary three, she was recommended to study at Hong Kong Sports Institute. Later, she joined the Hong Kong Cycling Association, and became a full-time athlete in 2004. Unfortunately, she broke her left wrist in 2009 when she swerved to avoid a stray dog during training. After several months of rest, she resumed her training and started competing in various cycling competitions.

Sarah first captured the public's attention when she won the gold medal at the 500 meter time trial track cycling event at the 2010 Asian Games. Later, she also won the 2010 Melbourne Track Cycling World Cup. Sarah's achievement gained her the Hong Kong Potential Sports Stars Award for 2010. Two years later, Sarah reached the peak of her cycling career. She captured the bronze medal in 2012 London Olympics women's keirin, Hong Kong's first-ever Olympics award in cycling. In an interview with a local newspaper, Sarah said she hoped her achievement would inspire a new generation of Hong Kong athletes for the 2016 Olympics.

To make the article attractive to school mates, apart from reporting about Sarah's early years and cycling career, I would also like to have a short interview with her, and ask her to leave us a few encouraging words. I am sure our school mates would love to hear from her, not just about her story in sports, but her life philosophy. Moreover, I would also like to ask her for some of her photos which have never been published. The photos can be about her childhood, her training, her study and the competitions that she was involved in.

Please let me know what you think. Thank you.

Regards,

Chris Wong

(423 words)

3.

7 August 20XX      Rainy

Prince Hamlet avenged his father's murder by killing his uncle, Claudius. I believe Hamlet must be very angry at Claudius, who killed his father and married his mother. Due to anger, I avenged an injustice at school last week.

Tom is my classmate. He is best known for his bad temper. At school, he always shouts at people whom he dislikes, and he is very impolite with basically no courtesy at all. One day, I even saw him bully a junior form girl, who accused him of jumping the queue outside the tuck shop during recess. That junior form girl was so scared of him that she burst into tears. Yet, Tom didn't care but kept teasing her. Sometimes, he would form a 'gang' with other mischievous boys, and force other students to give him money. If they declined, Tom and his gang would threaten them, or even punch the boys who resisted and fled. I was also one of the 'victims'. He was impolite to me, and he took advantage of me too. He even stole my wallet! I thought this was just unacceptable, and I was quite mad at him. I decided to seek revenge, hoping to teach him a lesson.

The aim of the revenge was to show him a 'mirror image', showing Tom how irritating it is to treat others impolitely. First, I pretended I just didn't notice him even when he walked in front of me. I didn't say hello to him. When Tom shouted at me, I shouted even louder at him. I would also say silly things to Tom, for example, "speaking loudly doesn't mean I'm impolite". I also asked other 'victims' who disapproved of him to join me. None of us said hello to Tom even when we saw him. And we all spoke loudly or even shouted at him. When Tom was in need of stationery or books, we didn't even bother to help him. We never gave him a helping hand. During recess, when Tom was trying to jump the queue, we all yelled at him and showed our disapproval towards his behaviour. One day, after Tom collected the money from other students whom he bullied, I 'stole' the money from his drawer and gave it back to the 'victims'. Then I told the discipline master about everything he did. Later, I found out that he was punished severely by the discipline master. His parents even came to bring him home.

I hope Tom will learn a lesson after my revenge.

(431 words)

4.

Dear Principal,

This is Chris Wong of 6B. I am writing to express my concerns about our school joining the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS). Personally, I am against this proposal, and I will explain my opposition with three reasons.

There have been fierce discussions in our school and also the general public regarding the DSS. There is no doubt that the scheme does have its benefits, including autonomy given to schools on their curriculum, fees and entrance requirement. Due to such autonomy, schools joining the DSS are often more resourceful in terms of teaching staff and various teaching resources. Eventually, students would also benefit as they are given more personal, tailor-made attention in class. Students can also choose what they really like doing from a wider range of courses. This undoubtedly would help enhance students' motivation in learning.

Despite these advantages, I am still against our school joining DSS. The reasons are threefold. First, DSS schools are free to charge school fees. They are allowed to charge up to two and one-third times the average unit cost of an aided school place. Though higher school fees can mean better facilities and teaching resources, this will inevitably increase the financial burden of our parents. As far as I know, some of our parents can barely manage the existing school fee. It would be unbearable for them if the school fees were further raised.

Second, higher school fees would deprive some students of the opportunity to study at our school, especially those who are from the grass roots sector. Yet, education is meant for all, and this is essentially the motto of our school. There should not be any discrimination among students of various socio-economic backgrounds.

Third, though DSS schools are required to set aside at least 10 percent of their income for the purpose of financial assistance and scholarships, many of them do not fulfill this requirement. Instead, these schools made use of their income in various investment projects. Moreover, there have been controversies over the government monitoring mechanism on DSS schools, following the irregularities in the accounts of some DSS schools. This is giving an image to the public that DSS schools are chaotic in school management. This would greatly deter parents from letting their children choose our school.

I would greatly appreciate if our school can put this into consideration before making the decision on whether to join the DSS scheme. We all work for the betterment of our school, but I am afraid switching to DSS is not the right path.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong (6B)

(429 words)

5.

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Hong Kong being described as a ‘city of protest’ in a post by another reader published two weeks ago. I just came across a protest which I think is unreasonable last Sunday.

Last Sunday, I was in Central doing some shopping. When I stepped out of the shop, I saw a big crowd with placards, chanting slogans loudly and walking towards the central government offices. The protest was initiated by the Hong Kong Middle Class Union, consisting of members earning \$50,000–\$80,000 monthly. They were demanding the government provide them with many allowances, including housing allowance, tax allowance, and dependent parents allowance. They thought they were the ones with unbearable financial burden due to the income tax, yet they are not entitled to any special allowances to alleviate the burden. They did not stop chanting slogans until a government official came out of the office to receive their letter.

Personally I am not in favour of this protest. First, they are definitely not the ones with unbearable financial burden. They are earning \$50,000–\$80,000 monthly, and most of them are clearly living in luxurious residential areas. They work in professional industries, and their kids are often sent overseas to study. Moreover, the government is currently offering \$120,000 tax allowance to each of them. In the past, it was merely \$100,000. The dependent parents allowance is also \$60,000 maximum. This shows the government has already put this group of people into consideration as it was drafting the tax policies. Given this background, it is not convincing to further raise the tax allowance. It is also not justifiable to say the tax imposed on them is unbearable.

Regarding other special allowances, such as the housing allowance, I would say that the request is just ridiculous. First, it is not a must-do for the government to offer such an allowance. Nowadays, many government officials are not provided with any housing allowance either, not to mention people working in private companies. Furthermore, many people are living under the poverty line. They are the ones who are really in need of public housing or the housing allowance, instead of those from the middle class who choose to live in luxurious apartments.

I very much appreciate the freedom of speech we all enjoy in Hong Kong. However, as we enjoy such freedom, we should be cautious to discern whether or not our petitions are reasonable. This is not only important for us adults, but also for the next generation to learn about the importance of balance of interests.

Chris Wong

Central

(433 words)

6.

**We need you to keep the office clean**

Recently, the Human Resources Department has observed that the rubbish of various departments is not being disposed of properly. As a result, there is rubbish in the corridors, pantry, meeting rooms, and even at individual workstations.

This phenomenon is indeed very serious, and we would like to draw your attention to the negative effects it has created. First, as a large-scale multi-national corporation, there are many visitors and government officials coming to our office for cooperation opportunities every day. It would be giving these visitors a negative impression of our company if what they first see in our office is dirtiness and untidiness. People visiting us may easily associate dirtiness and untidiness with unprofessionalism and poor discipline. This is utterly unacceptable from the company's point of view.

Moreover, rubbish everywhere in the company may cause disruption while working. It is not uncommon to receive colleagues' complaints about losing stationery or even personal belongings. Yet, the so-called lost items were usually found under rough paper, or they were simply covered by various sorts of rubbish. We also had an accident last month, when an office assistant carelessly kicked a carton in the aisle and fell to the ground. His leg was seriously injured and we are still waiting for him to return to work.

To improve the situation, the Human Resources Department has placed more rubbish bins in the corridors, meeting rooms and the pantry. Other than the rubbish bins at individual workstations, colleagues can easily find one to dispose of their rubbish as they walk around the office.

Moreover, there is going to be a 'Shiny Department Competition' starting soon. 'Shiny' suggests absolute cleanliness and tidiness. In the coming three months, the Human Resources Department will observe all departments on the 'shiny' level. Marks will be deducted each and every time we find rubbish disposed of in the corridors and the meeting rooms. The department with the least amount of marks deducted will be the winner of the competition. The prize is going to be very attractive – a free lunch buffet for all colleagues at a local five-star hotel.

Don't miss the chance to enjoy the buffet. The company is a second home to many of us. Treat it properly and let's make it a clean, comfortable and danger-free environment in which to work. Should you have queries regarding the situation or competition, please do not hesitate to talk to the Human Resources Department directly.

(410 words)

7.

**Smartphones simply change the world**

Nowadays, people are walking, eating, waiting, working, studying, and basically doing everything with a smartphone. There is no doubt that smartphones are gaining in popularity all over the world among people of all ages. Why does this phenomenon happen? Why are we always 'heads down' with our eyes fixed on our smartphones?

Phones are no longer used only for the purpose of talking with each other. Rather, they serve multiple purposes. Young people, who are usually fond of electronic games, like playing on their smartphones, which allow installation of all sorts of games. Moreover, young people are closely tied with social networking. They like instant chats with one another, getting updates on their friends' statuses, and exchanging photos and videos on social networking websites. This also explains why some young people nowadays are criticized for lacking social skills, because they tend to know people only on the Internet with texts and emoticons, instead of doing it face-to-face.

Business professionals rely on smartphones for maintaining contact with business partners. Instead of talking on the phone, they can easily forward business information to one another through text messaging. In addition to text messaging, smartphones allow people to see each other clearly and instantly for business discussion. This further enhances business opportunities among people around the globe because they do not even have to travel abroad for meetings. Furthermore, they can download various applications telling them about everything related to the business environment, such as the stock market, exchange rate, etc. When everything is at the fingertips, business activities are greatly fostered due to improved efficiency and convenience.

Smartphones are also very popular among the elderly. First, they need smartphones to communicate with their children and possibly grandchildren who all have smartphones and are very used to talking with texts and emoticons. Moreover, smartphones provide them with some very useful and practical applications, such as maps, weather forecasts, calculators, etc. These help the elderly a lot to get closer with the younger ones and to live with more convenience.

In short, the invention of smartphones has indeed created many positive changes in our world. The distance between people is getting shorter, with significant improvement in efficiency and convenience. People of all ages around the globe are generally living easier and happier lives with the invention of smartphones. Ten years ago, we could not have imagined the impact of smartphones. Similarly, we cannot imagine the future and perhaps an even greater invention is yet to come.

(430 words)

8.

My fellow schoolmates, as the Best All-round Student, I'm honoured to share with you today my secret of success.

A Best All-round Student may suggest a 'superman' who can do everything at his best. However, this is not true. I can't do everything at my best. I sometimes fail too. Though I'm good at exams and also sports, there is still much room for improvement. However, I strongly believe that time waits for no man. We have to cherish our time and every opportunity we have. I came across this belief when I listened to an old song years ago. One of the lines in this song reads:

Once in a lifetime  
means there's no second chance  
so I believe that you and me  
should grab it while we can

"Once in a lifetime means there's no second chance" strikes me a lot. It's very true that many things happen just once in a lifetime. Actually every moment counts. Therefore, grabbing every opportunity to do my best is always the key to my success. Every day is precious, including my time at school and also after school. I like to make good use of every moment to learn and enjoy getting along with classmates and friends at school. Growing with my buddies is indeed a wonderful experience. I find it very true that as long as you enjoy doing something, you'll be good at it. So why not enjoy your time studying the subjects you like, or even studying together as a small group? This may help you get better results in exams!

After school, I like to join various school clubs and activities to broaden my horizons, and to enlarge my exposure to something interesting, such as chess, athletics and music. I really enjoy learning new things. At school, there are plenty of opportunities for us to learn. Extra-curricular activities are very wide-ranging, and there must be some which you'll find fascinating.

'I believe that you and me should grab it while we can' also strikes me. Not everyone is given the chance to enjoy so many activities at this stage in our lives, so we should embrace everything because we are so well provided for. If you can find one or two activities that you're really interested in, please try to work hard in them, and perhaps you may be one of the school team members getting awards for our school!

I hope my speech has given you inspiration. You'll soon be the next student getting the Best All-round Student Award. Thank you.

(429 words)



9.

### Adventures in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century

When I woke up in the morning, the very first thing I saw was a robot taking my toothbrush and toothpaste to me. After I finished brushing my teeth and washing my face, he showed me the itinerary of the day. I would be travelling around Hong Kong in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century and also going into space. Yes, space! Before I realised what was happening, he pushed me to the door and we were about to set off.

When I opened the door, I simply could not believe my eyes. The traffic was busy, and there were no cars but planes of very modern designs. As I was gazing at all sorts of planes in the sky, a plane made of transparent glass stopped by. There were no wheels and it hovered several inches above the ground. The robot dragged me into the plane and we were quickly on board.

Soon after we were in the sky, I saw the breath-taking view of Hong Kong. It had changed dramatically! Instead of high-rise buildings all over the territory, I saw buildings of various heights. Some of them were becoming taller, and some shorter. The robot told me their heights were all adjustable to facilitate the air traffic. It was just amazing to have adjustable buildings! Congestion is annoying, but there simply isn't any congestion in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century. What a good news!

As soon as we had had a glance over the territory, the robot directed the plane up to space at turbo speed. I was wondering if I would suffocate in space, but the robot reassured me it would not happen because there was enough oxygen supply in the cabin. I did not see any aliens or UFO in space, but rather many of us – people from Earth! Recently we have been talking about space travel which is very preliminary and costly. However, in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century, it was as easy as ABC to get to space! People even emigrated to different planets in space due to the continued depletion of resources on Earth. I saw houses, hospitals, schools and other public facilities on different planets. Though it was obviously not very developed, I knew it was getting increasingly common to live on other planets.

As we were moving from Jupiter to Saturn, which I longed to see because of its 'ring', I heard a loud voice. Suddenly it was all white. I opened my eyes, but I could not see the robot anymore. Rather, it was Mum waking me up.

(433 words)