

Paper 4: SPEAKING

Part A Group Discussion

- A: Good afternoon, everyone. **Let's talk about what to include in the Bruce Lee Festival.** As a big fan of martial arts and Bruce Lee, I understand that his followers are mostly keen on knowing more about his **childhood and youth**. **What I mean is** we should let our fellow schoolmates know how a genius like Bruce Lee grew up. By showing them pictures from his childhood or hearing what Bruce's family, his old schoolmates, teachers or co-workers said about him, we can get a full picture of this film hero. **Do you think this would be appealing to our schoolmates?**
- B: **Yeah, that idea sounds wonderful.** Being an American-born Chinese holding a degree in philosophy, Bruce had a very unique background as an actor. So **I share your view that** people are mostly interested in how he gradually became a film star. **I'd like to add one more thing that's worth presenting.** I think we can draw a timeline of the important moments in Bruce Lee's life such as his **early life** with the **wing chun master Yip Man**, his **debut film** and his **glorious days** when he achieved awards in the film industry and so on. This way, the festival will be both informative and entertaining.
- C: **That's a great idea!** I think many people would love to know the **milestones** of his career and how **well-received** his films are in the overseas market. He's **the pride of China** and **the master of Chinese kung fu**.
- D: Indeed he is. **Just one more point to add. Talking about the entertainment element, shall we also include the gossip** on Bruce's personal life? It may sound like non-serious news, **but don't you think** it would be more amusing to our visitors? We don't always have to take a serious approach, **do we?**
- A: Well, I'm rather hesitant to cover that. **Honestly speaking,** I find gossip so superficial and trivial. Plus, it's difficult to prove whether this kind of news is **real** or just **rumours**. Thus, it may not be **appropriate** for us to talk about that in the festival. **However,** we may consider referring students to our club's website which has links to the gossip surrounding Bruce Lee.
- C: Alright. In that case, I think **we had better skip that part** and stick to more factual reporting on Bruce Lee's life.
- B: OK. **We've already come up with some ideas for the first part. Let's now move on to talk about** how to search for information related to this film star. I think searching through the Internet is definitely the most speedy way to find all his basic information. Plenty of information is available in the Bruce Lee official website and his fan club website, **isn't it?**
- D: **I couldn't agree with you more.** We can spend a day or two on it to gather his background information first. **However,** I believe we need to visit the library if we are to look for **news clippings** about him or other interviews that he has done with magazine reporters **both locally and internationally**. We must take it seriously when trying to create his timeline **so as to** present **the most accurate data** to our schoolmates.
- C: **That's a brilliant idea. Have you guys heard of** a place called the Hong Kong Film Archive? This museum-like utility not only stores the database of all Hong Kong films but also clearly presents the history of film industry development. As Bruce Lee is the jewel of the Hong Kong film industry, we must be able to find a lot of good information about him there. It's located in Sai Wan Ho and can be accessed by MTR. **Why don't we** go there and have a look?
- A: **That's terrific.** I've also heard of this place before. We should **give it a try** and we may have some **surprising findings** by going through the **exhibits** there. **Talking about** exhibition, I noticed that the Bruce Lee Fan Club has previously held an exhibition on their idol. Maybe we can **take the initiative** to approach their committee members to see whether we can interview them and borrow some exhibits from them. I'm sure they're **far more familiar with** Bruce than the four of us here. **Also,** they can **give us some advice** on how to improve our festival.
- B: **Fantastic. It seems that our discussion today has been pretty smooth. Having figured out how to obtain the information, I think it's time for us to go on to discuss more solid ideas now.** Let's think about what kind of activities we should include in the festival. **In my opinion,** we should make it like a fun day with game booths and exhibition boards displayed in the school hall. Candidate D, you seem to have something on your mind. **What do you think about this activity?**
- D: Um... a fun day would be good. Students like **games and prizes**. We should also make the games **like competitions** and give out prizes to the winners.

- C:** **Sorry to interrupt.** But **the way I see it**, this festival should be more **informative** than **entertaining**. If students are attracted to the game booths, I'm afraid that they may not bother to walk around and explore the exhibits. Moreover, we don't have the budget to get enough prizes for them. **So I suggest that** we set up a **mini-cinema** to play films of Bruce Lee **instead** and **divide the school hall into different sections** to display the exhibits of the star.
- A:** **Candidate C, don't you think** both ideas can co-exist, setting up game booths and holding an exhibition? It's true that our event should be informative but we can still offer our schoolmates 'infotainment', which means the content is **entertaining yet educational**. I think we need to think of ways to attract visitors. **Games and prizes** are definitely the most **effective way** to achieve it. **However**, we may design the games differently, including **running a quiz show like 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'** to test students' knowledge of Bruce Lee.
- B:** **I take your point.** If we present the information in a traditional way, the only outcome will be low participation rate. Therefore, we have to be **innovative** and **imagine ourselves in our schoolmates' shoes**. Also, Candidate C, I quite like your idea of playing Bruce Lee's films in **an audio-visual section**. **Nevertheless**, we should be careful that we inform the students about the time that each film will be played in advance. Maybe we could **post the schedule** of playtime **in the corridor**. We could also invite teachers in charge of the film club to do **a sharing session** after each film is played. That would make the whole event more fruitful. **Don't you agree with me?**
- D:** Alright, let's go for both ideas then. I believe the event will be a fruitful one, catering for the needs of different students. So shall we set the time for our next meeting, so that we can make sure everything is in progress?
- A:** Sure. Shall we meet next Monday. Meanwhile we can tell our teacher advisor on what we have just discussed, and see if he has any feedback.
- D&C:** Great. Let's meet next week.
- B:** Fine. I believe that's it for today. Thank you.

Part B Individual Response

1. What are the advantages of being a famous film star?

There are several privileges a famous film star can enjoy. The first one is surely the opportunity to **make a fortune** by starring in an advertisement or being an endorser of a certain brand. In the showbiz industry, one's fame is equal to one's value. It's not uncommon to read from magazines that these hot idols are **making millions of dollars** a year.

Plus, they always **get special offers** in daily life. Take dining in a restaurant as an example. They can easily get a table in a **3-star Michelin restaurant** despite the long waiting list only because the restaurant owners perceive them as **honorable guests**. Another example is the arrangement for their **departure and arrival** in the airport. They manage to take the **short-cuts** instead of queuing up because the airport management board is worried that their fans may follow them aboard or their existence may cause some kind of **inconvenience** or even **chaos** in a public area.

2. Why do some people dislike becoming famous?

In my opinion, **there are mainly two reasons that deter people from becoming famous**. First of all, becoming a film star or celebrity comes with some downsides, like the **deprivation of privacy**. If you are famous, everything you do, however ordinary is **in the public eye**. Even without the **paparazzi**, you would still be the focal point of the cameras. The photos could be posted on fan blogs or public forums and would then **be spread virally** on the online community.

Apart from the **intrusion** on their private life, famous people particularly worry about their security. When their **insurmountable wealth** is revealed in magazines alongside their personal details like their addresses and phone numbers, it's not hard to imagine some **crooks** planning to do harm to these wealthy people, like **breaking into their homes** or **kidnapping their family members**. As they're film stars, they have to withhold information related to their family members being exposed to the public. The **trade-off** of fame is a reduction in your private life.

3. Are you a fan of martial arts?

Yes, indeed. I've been **obsessed with** films featuring martial arts since I was in primary school. I really admire these film stars **including** Jackie Chan, Jet Li, Donnie Yen and of course Bruce Lee, who are all so **charismatic** in front of the camera. No matter whether the film is set in a modern background or ancient setting, the practice of martial arts like **wing chun** and **tai chi** quickly catches my attention. As a Chinese person, I just can't think of any reason to resist martial arts, because it forms **the most unique part of our culture**. Plus, it's a combination of **physical exercise and philosophy**. By practising it, we can **maintain** both our physical and mental well-being. It's definitely **an asset** of our 5000 years of history, which Chinese people should be proud of.

4. Do you think the Hong Kong film industry will be good in the future?

Despite the recession in the film industry in recent years, I'm pretty **optimistic** when talking about the future of film-making. I think the demand for good quality films from the mainland is **growing bigger and bigger**. Therefore, Hong Kong can provide mainland producers with **talented directors, cinematographers and script-writers**. This is indeed a **win-win arrangement** as we can bring their production to **an international standard** while they offer us some **challenging work opportunities**. So I trust that our film industry will **thrive again** in the near future.

5. What are the major qualities for a good actor?

To become a good actor, **one must be equipped with at least 3 major qualities**. The first one has to be good looks. A **charming appearance** is undoubtedly the most **crucial** thing to decide whether someone can attract an audience to visit the cinema. Actresses like Nicole Kidman or Natalie Portman all have **stunning beauty**, which has helped them **excel in their career**. As well as this, the star must receive **professional training** in acting or other performing arts. It would be ideal if they had studied films or the arts before, because a good actor should be **knowledgeable** as well as **good-looking**. The third core quality is that they should **demonstrate enthusiasm** in acting. Even one with perfect acting skills has to wait for a chance to play a role in an **awesome film**. They never know when this chance will come but there's one thing they must be certain of – they must love acting. Otherwise, they may finally **quit** and **give up their dream** just because they've waited for too long.

6. Do you want to be an actor?

Well, I have to say I have **neither** the **talent** **nor** the **desire** to become an actor.

To me, an actor should feel confident enough to perform in front of the audience **without a trace of anxiety**. That's definitely something that I can't do **because of** my **timid and introverted character**. I dare not sing in front of my friends, **not to mention** act on the big screen.

Another reason is I would feel uneasy if I became the focus of the public. I simply couldn't cope with the **tremendous stress under the limelight**. I know some people enjoy the attention but definitely not me. I'm the kind of person who'd rather **hide myself backstage** and take up the supporting work like being a stage manager or director.

7. How do famous actors or singers influence adolescents?

Celebrities like actors or singers **exert influence on teenagers in a number of ways**. **First**, their followers love **imitating their behaviour** including the clothes they wear, their hair or make-up styles, things they say and their habits. That means what the celebrities do is **directly reflected** on their fans.

What's more, these **idol-worshipping** youngsters invest **a large sum** of money on buying products with their idols' images. Other than money, they also spend **a great deal of time** on chasing these stars and following them to their workplaces like radio stations, TV studios or the airport, only to see their idols for ten seconds.

All these strongly **hinder their academic studies** and **create a financial burden** on their parents as well.

8. Why do some people dislike films featuring martial arts?

I think they dislike this kind of film because of the **excessive violence** portrayed in it. Even in blockbuster films **like** 'Yip Man' or 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon', the focus usually lies on the **fighting scenes** instead of the **plot**.

In the film, the **conflicts between the two parties** are seldom tackled through discussion or negotiation, but **by fists and bloodshed**. It's commonly seen in Bruce Lee's films that **the antagonist and the protagonist** fight with each other violently until either one of them is dead. **Worse still**, this kind of death is somehow **glorified** in the film. I think teenagers **are easily misled** that they can become heroes by fighting their enemies in this way.