

香港標準評核  
HONG KONG STANDARD ASSESSMENT

香港中學文憑標準評核模擬考試 2013  
HKDSE STANDARD ASSESSMENT 2013

ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 2: WRITING

學生優秀作品集 2013  
STUDENTS' EXCELLENT WORKS 2013

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# PART A

For question 1, write about 200 words.

1. Your school is organizing a Student Exchange Programme and you are applying for it.

Complete the following sections of the application form below.

SAMPLE 1

## Why take part?

There are a few reasons why I would like to take part in the programme. Firstly, my English standard is bound to be improved by the environment as studying abroad will give me a precious opportunity to communicate with others in English all the time.

Secondly, I will learn about various cultures such as the dining cultures and the music cultures of other countries, thereby broadening my horizons.

The third reason why I would like to take part in it is that I can make more new friends who are from overseas. Subsequently, I may know how to get along with people of different nationalities.

Finally, I will have a further understanding of overseas schools, like the way they teach and how their examinations are like.

## Learn More!

be bound to (V-inf) ... ( 必定，一定 )

e.g.

My English standard is bound to be improved by the environment as studying abroad will give me a precious opportunity to communicate with others in English all the time.

e.g.

As you enter your first year of university, you are bound to encounter personal anxiety over the new place and new friends.

precious ( 珍貴 )

e.g.

Studying abroad will give me a precious opportunity to communicate with others in English all the time.

e.g.

You cannot afford to waste precious time.

e.g.

The watch is precious to me because it was my mother's.

broaden my horizons ( 拓寬了我的視野 )

e.g.

Secondly, I will learn about various cultures such as the dining cultures and the music cultures of other countries, thereby broadening my horizons.

e.g.

I would like to work abroad to broaden my horizons.

## Where you want to study and why?

I would like to study in England. This is mainly because I am really fond of its traditional schools and the views there.

The traditional schools in England have an excellent atmosphere of learning which can engage my interest in studying. Also, I like the accent that the British have. By studying in England, I wish I can have an accent similar to theirs.

On top of studying, soccer is extremely popular in England. Since I am a member of the school football team, studying in England will provide a lot of opportunities for me to hone my football skills.

### Learn More!

be fond of (doing) something ( 喜歡 )

e.g.

This is mainly because I am really fond of its traditional schools and the views there.

e.g.

I am not fond of cooking.

hone my skills ( 磨練我的技能 )

e.g.

Studying in England will provide a lot of opportunities for me to hone my football skills.

e.g.

While working as an intern, I managed to hone my interpersonal skills.

## What difficulties you may face and how you will overcome them?

However, I know that facing difficulties is definitely unavoidable.

The most likely difficulty that I will encounter is communication with others. There must be numerous words that I do not know and it is not an easy task to understand what people say clearly. To overcome that, I will read more English books and watch more local TV programmes so that I may get familiar with the words that the British use in their daily life.

Moreover, I have read in the news about a spate of bullying cases that happen in foreign countries. Thus, I am quite worried about being bullied by my classmates there owing to my nationality. To prevent from being bullied, I would like to talk with them so that they can know more about me and be understanding.

In addition to the above-mentioned, I would make the biggest effort to resist the temptation there. I will push myself to be more determined and study hard so that I can get fruitful results from this student exchange programme.

# PART B

## 2. Learning English through Drama

You are the chairperson of the school drama club. You are trying to recruit more people to join the drama club. Write a speech to give at the next school assembly describing the activities the club organizes, explaining the benefits of drama to students and persuading them to join the club.

### SAMPLE 1

Good morning, everyone.

Have you dreamt of being Prince Charming? Are you aware that you lack soft skills? On behalf of our school Drama Club, I'm excited to announce our activities in the coming year. First of all, you're sincerely invited to be part of our club and join our activities this year. They're delighting, impressive and challenging.

If you want to experience a different school life this year, please join our club. Our activities are well-planned and will never make you feel bored. Firstly, you're highly recommended to take our Drama Workshop. There're three elements for you to learn. They're 'WAB'—'Writing, Acting and Backstage'. In the writing section, you can follow your heart to write your creative scripts. It's a good chance for you to develop your creative ideas. After the writing section, our tutors will teach you acting skills. For example, you'll learn how to smile in a natural way. Eventually, for the backstage part, you'll be taught how to light the stage in an effective way or how to direct a drama smoothly. It's interesting!

### Learn More!

Have you dreamt of...? ( 你有沒有想過...?)

e.g.

Have you dreamt of being Prince Charming?

e.g.

Have you ever dreamt of living and studying abroad?

e.g.

Have you dreamt of looking just like one of the famous Korean actresses?

on behalf of ( 代表 )

e.g.

On behalf of our school Drama Club, I'm excited to announce our activities in the coming year.

e.g.

Peter accepted the championship award on behalf of the team.

e.g.

On behalf of the Student Union, I am writing to invite you to the prize giving ceremony.

If you believe that the Drama Workshop isn't attractive enough, you're suggested to participate in the Joint-school Drama Competition. The Joint-school Drama Competition is our feature activity this year. It provides a platform for our students and other teenagers to share their experience through drama. You can make a lot of new friends who are well-versed in drama. You can perform yourself on the stage and receive rave comments from your teachers, too. Not only can you make new friends, but you can also enhance your friendship with your schoolmates by rehearsing together before the competition. It's a good chance for you to develop your strength, isn't it?

As you may probably be aware, you can gain a lot from drama. It's beneficial for every teenager to learn drama. Firstly, you can learn a lot of soft skills. For instance, communication skills and presentation skills can be trained through taking drama activities. By being an actor, you can learn how to read the dialogue aloud with feelings. It helps you improve your language skills, too. Secondly, if you become part of us, you'll learn what sportsmanship is. Water and oxygen are indispensable to everyone; similarly, sportsmanship is indispensable to our club. You can learn the spirit of never giving up and how we always work as a team. Finally, you can develop an extraordinary friendship with your friends. Taking myself as an example, I was a timid person and lacked confidence before I joined the Drama Club. But drama changed my life and I'm confident now after three years' drama training. Everyone in my drama career is not only my friends, they are my confidence.

No matter what characters you have, easy-going or absent-minded, we sincerely invite you to join our club as long as you want to have a fruitful school life. Come and take part! Make your secondary school life a memorable one and don't miss any chance just because you're shy. Come and join us!

Thank you!

### Learn More!

a platform for (doing) something ( 一個平台 )

e.g.

It provides a platform for our students and other teenagers to share their experience through drama.

e.g.

Facebook has become a platform for marketing.

e.g.

The Internet provides a platform for cyber-bulling.

beneficial ( 有利 )

e.g.

It's beneficial for every teenager to learn drama.

e.g.

Calcium is beneficial to our bones.

No matter wh- / how ( 不管 )

e.g.

No matter what characters you have, easy-going or absent-minded, we sincerely invite you to join our club as long as you want to have a fruitful school life.

e.g.

No matter how hard he tried, he still couldn't do it.

e.g.

I will always love him, no matter what happens.

#### 4. Learning English through Poems and Songs

You enjoy reading poems very much. You have been surfing a website on learning English through Poems and Songs. You have seen the following topic on an online forum and are now writing your response.

*Poetry is often regarded as the least popular text type among students because it is boring and poems are difficult to understand. Please share your experience of learning English through poems with us!*

I know many students hold a similar view on poetry like yours. However, from my experience of learning English through poems, poetry is neither difficult to understand nor boring if you really understand what it is.

Many students are held back by the format of poetry which is very different from prose. Actually, poetry is similar to the lyrics of popular songs. They have rhymes at the end of sentences. Besides, poetry has a repeated pattern. Likewise, the chorus of songs is repeated. I listened to English songs and read their lyrics as the first step to appreciate poems.

It's also common to hear people say that the words used in poems are difficult. I overcame this in two ways. First, I read English books and newspapers. Second, I looked up the difficult words found in poems in the dictionary. After my vocabulary was broadened, I found it easier for me to read poems. After all, there are no shortcuts to learning.

Some may complain that even though they understand the meaning of every word in the poems, they may not get the ideas of the poems. I think it's due to the extensive use of imagery in poems. My way was to understand the meanings of the sentences first. Then I tried to form mental pictures based on the descriptions. You will find it easier to understand what the writer tries to express in this way.

#### Learn More!

**neither... nor** ( 兩者皆不是 )

e.g.

Poetry is neither difficult to understand nor boring if you really understand what it is.

e.g.

Neither failure nor threats could change his determination.

e.g.

He is not a professional actor. He can neither sing nor dance.

**find it + adj. + to do sth**

e.g.

You will find it easier to understand what the writer tries to express in this way.

e.g.

Teenagers find it hard to get a job because of the poor economy.

e.g.

I found it interesting to learn English.

If you don't know where to begin, try to start with simple poems. I read haiku and ballads before moving to longer and more complicated poems. The former are a type of Japanese poetry. They consist of only three to four sentences each and are easy to understand. The latter are longer poems that tell stories. They are usually accompanied by music, which may appeal to many students.

Let me move to the fun of poetry. If you write poems yourself, you can freely express any ideas you want. I wrote my own poems to express my personal feelings, my dreams, anything I could think of. If you've grasped the essence of poems, you can even express more complicated ideas such as those on politics or philosophy with poems.

In addition, learning poetry hones different skills of yours. As you need to understand the imagery when reading poems, your imagination will become more vivid. You will also learn a variety of new words and phrases through reading poems. I found that I could write other types of text better as I became more creative and more skillful in writing.

Another fun part about poetry is that poems are meant to be read aloud. Whenever I found some good poems or I wrote some myself, I tried to read it aloud alone or before my classmates. We enjoyed doing this once in a while. You can also compose simple melodies for the poems with your friends and sing them together. I think it would be a wonderful activity.

It would also be interesting if you compete with others on writing poems. I did so with my friends once a month. The prizes were usually simple things such as drinks or a meal, but it was a lot of fun. When everyone in your class gets used to writing poems, you may ask your teachers to organise a poem competition. See who write the best poems!

If more people get to know the correct ways to appreciate poetry, poetry can be fun! I hope it will become a more popular text type then.

### Learn More!

#### The former... The latter (前者...後者...)

e.g.

The rich possess much more than the poor, but the former are not always happier than the latter.

e.g.

I have been to London and Cambridge. The latter is truly beautiful.

#### Whenever... (每當)

e.g.

Whenever you are not sure what is the right thing to do, stop and think!

e.g.

Whenever I am sad, you are there to dry my tears.

#### get used to (doing) sth (習慣)

e.g.

You have to get used to the new environment.

e.g.

Peter did not understand the accent when he first moved here but he quickly got used to it.

## 5. Learning English through Popular Culture

You recently watched a film based on a famous novel. The film was a disaster and has spoiled the original story. Write a letter to the editor of the Hong Kong Express describing the film and explaining how the film has disappointed you.

### SAMPLE 2

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my disappointment towards a novel-based film by the name of "A Christmas Carol".

Originally written by Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol" is about the unbelievable and inspiring adventure of an old gentleman on Christmas day. This old man is very selfish and cold-hearted. He hates Christmas very much because that means he has to temporarily close his business. On that very night, after he has refused to donate money to a charity and turned down his nephew's dinner invitation, he is visited by the ghost of his long-dead business partner, telling him that he will be visited by three spirits, The Past, The Present and The Yet to Come. The three spirits show him what he did in the past, what he is doing now and most stunningly, his ending. This reminds him of how good he had been, what he has become and what will happen to him if he does not make any changes now. Since then, he has turned into a loving and warm-hearted old man, as he has learned the true meaning of Christmas.

With this novel, Dickens had successfully brought out the meaning of Christmas and the brightness of humanity. Besides, the background of the story reflects the transformation from traditional Christmas celebrations such as eating roast turkey and Christmas pudding, to new ways of celebration like decorating Christmas trees and sending Christmas cards.

However, the producers of the film with the same title have done a terrible job adapting the novel. First of all, it is an animated film. Not that I have any prejudice against animation, but it is definitely not the most suitable form to present the story. The novel was meant to explore some solemn issues. Using animation to present the story has ruined the seriousness of the main theme.

Up next, it is the storyline. The producers have completely twisted the whole story and turned it into a joke. The old man's past life is supposed to be happy and bright, unlike the present one. But in the film, his past has gone into complete chaos. He was an orphan and everyone treated him badly, whilst in the book, he had a loving family and a great sister, supporting him the whole time. The ending is also different from that of the novel in which the old man becomes a nice person once again. In the film, he still remains a selfish person and dies in the way foreseen by the spirit The Yet to Come. This has not only ruined the original story, but has also twisted the meaning behind the words.

Last but not least, it is the appearances of the characters. In the original story, the old man is described as a 'tiny, thin and beardless gentleman, with the eyes of an eagle and the nose of a hawk', whilst in the film, I saw a chubby man, looking exactly like Santa Claus. The appearances of the spirits also do not correspond with the descriptions in the novel. Instead of an elf, a giant and a man in a cloak, the film shows a baby, a teenager and a kind old man as the

spirits The Past, The Present and The Yet to Come respectively, disrespecting not only the author and the novel, but also the audience.

I must say for all these years, I have never seen a film so disappointing. I hope that there will be improvements from this company next time. Otherwise, they will lose a long-term supporter.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

### Learn More!

#### Wh- + S + V

e.g.

This reminds him of how good he had been, what he has become and what will happen to him if he does not make any changes now.

e.g.

I could not remember where I brought the dress.

e.g.

I am not sure why he has started taking drugs.

#### be supposed to (應該)

e.g.

The old man's past life is supposed to be happy and bright, unlike the present one.

e.g.

She is supposed to get to school at 9 but she is often late.

e.g.

You are not supposed to smoke here.

#### Instead of (代替, 而不是)

e.g.

Instead of an elf, a giant and a man in a cloak, the film shows a baby, a teenager and a kind old man as the spirits The Past, The Present and The Yet to Come respectively.

e.g.

Instead of wasting your time playing computer games, you should do more sports.

e.g.

To save water, we can take showers instead of baths.

#### Otherwise (否則)

e.g.

I hope that there will be improvements from this company next time. Otherwise, they will lose a long-term supporter.

e.g.

You must work hard. Otherwise, you will not pass the examination.

e.g.

Wear your boots, otherwise you may get bitten by snakes.

## 7. Learning English through Debating

You are a member of the school debating club. Your club is entering a debating contest and the motion is Pop singers and actors are paid too much, as they do nothing useful for society. Decide whether you are for or against the motion and write your debate speech.

### SAMPLE 1

Honourable adjudicators, the Principal, teachers and fellow schoolmates,

The motion of today's debate is "Pop singers and actors are paid too much, as they do nothing useful for society". I represent my team to declare that we would strongly stand on the opposition side since pop singers and actors not only entertain our society, but also contribute most in the charities aspect. Therefore, they deserve their high pays.

First of all, pop singers and actors are involved in the production of various songs and TV programmes to entertain our society. They're worth getting the money because they're using their talents together with great team efforts including production and marketing promotion to provide entertainment for us. No doubt that the singers and actors have made a lot of effort during the process. It's also undeniable that the production can be very popular around the world like the recent hit song 'Gangnam Style'. It creates a mania around the world. Its music video has been watched by hundreds of billions of people. All people are talking about it because it's funny and interesting. As a result, pop singers and actors absolutely deserve their salaries because of their efforts and huge entertaining impact to the world.

Apart from their entertaining function, they also contribute to our society in the charities aspect. Since they're powerful and influential in society, they can urge support and appeal to various sources for help to do charities work. Many fans may follow their idols to donate money and to be a volunteer. For example, the celebrities organised a live-broadcast charity show immediately after the Sichuan Earthquake in 2008 to raise money and help the victims. Only do the pop singers and actors have that huge influence in our society. Besides, they can be anti-drug ambassadors, animal ambassadors and so on to help spread positive messages. They can make contributions in different fields. So, who say that they do nothing useful for our society?

Finally and most importantly, pop singers and actors deserve their payments because they sacrifice their private lives. Their privacy is invaded since the public is very interested in them. There's a cost to be famous since a lot of paparazzi may follow them around the clock to reveal their daily life to the public. They can hardly do the things they like, such as dating or even meeting with the opposite sex.

Their life is bound and restricted! That's the price for them to be famous! However, they're actually doing things which contribute to our society. Therefore, in order to compensate for their sacrifice and keep them enthusiastic, high salaries should be paid to them.

To conclude, we do think that pop singers and actors deserve what they earn because they're contributing to our society in different aspects.

**Learn More!**

Not only..., but also...(不但 . . . 而且)

e.g.

Pop singers and actors not only entertain our society but also contribute most in the charities aspect.

e.g.

Many Canadians speak not only English but also French.

e.g.

Not only Westerners but also many Chinese celebrate Christmas nowadays.

be worth (doing) something (值得)

e.g.

They are worth getting the money.

e.g.

The plays written by Shakespeare are worth reading.

e.g.

The film is well worth seeing.

It is undeniable that...(不可否認的是)

e.g.

It is undeniable that the production can be very popular around the world like the recent hit song 'Gangnam Style'

e.g.

It is undeniable that internet addiction has become a growing problem among teenagers.

e.g.

It is undeniable that communication is important in a relationship.

Apart from (除了)

e.g.

Apart from their entertaining function, they also contribute to our society in the charities aspect.

e.g.

Apart from the ending, it is a really good film.

around the clock (日以繼夜)

e.g.

A lot of paparazzi may follow them around the clock to reveal their daily life to the public.

e.g.

We worked around the clock to finish the job.

e.g.

Mary studied around the clock for her English test.

hardly (幾乎不)

e.g.

They can hardly do the things they like, such as dating or even meeting with the opposite sex.

e.g.

Peter was so excited that he could hardly speak.

e.g.

I could hardly believe what she had said to me.

## 9. Learning English through Social Issues

You recently suspected that your best friend has started taking drugs. You are so worried about he/she will become a drug addict and commit crimes. Write an email to your friend explaining the disadvantages of using drugs and persuading him/her to stop taking drug.

### SAMPLE 1

Dear Peter,

How are you doing these days? I wonder if you realise that you're such a kind and generous person who never asks for rewards from your friends. That's the reason why you've always been my best friend and a pleasant person. You always conform to others, so I'm worried that you may have picked up the bad habit of taking drugs.

As you know, taking drugs may ruin your life by damaging your health, destroying your interpersonal relationships and involving you in crimes. Talking about the damage to health, drug addicts always suffer from mental illnesses. You should know that drugs can damage the brain of a person. Drug abusers tend to lose their concentration, which will hamper their studies. Moreover, taking drugs may lead to deterioration in the bladder's capacity. It means that drug abusers have to go to the toilet every 15 minutes. Isn't it terrible?

Peter, you should also know that no one wants to make friends with a drug abuser. Consider this, how will he feel if a person who treasures his friends like you loses all his friends because of taking drugs?

Most importantly, I want you to think about the crimes related to drug taking. If you're found possessing dangerous drugs, you'll be prosecuted and may face a penalty of long years in prison. Having been prisoned will absolutely stain one's personal record and you'll face a surge of difficulties in seeking your dream jobs afterwards. So, it's not worthwhile to put your future at risk.

Peter, I've got no intention to frighten you or make you feel frustrated. I just want you to be highly alert to the consequences of taking drugs. Please be calm and listen to me. I'm now giving you some advice that can help you stay away from drugs.

### Learn More!

I wonder if ( 我很想知道有否 )

e.g.

I wonder if you realise that you're such a kind and generous person who never asks for rewards from your friends.

e.g.

I wonder if I have made the right decision.

e.g.

I wonder if you could do me a favour.

Firstly, I'm sure that you've learned about the dangers of taking drugs from TV or the Internet, so you must refuse to try taking any drugs, not even once. If I were you, I would stand firm to reject any temptations to take drugs, even if the one who invites me to do so is my best friend. On the contrary, you can persuade the one who offers you drugs to quit this bad habit by telling him the consequences of drug abuse and suggesting other healthy activities. If you find that the situation is out of your control, please stay away from that person.

Secondly, there are now many non-governmental organisations which always raise campaigns against drug abuse. You can join these activities more often to obtain a clear concept of the nature of drug taking so that you can stay away from drugs. Meanwhile, you can expand your social network by making friends with the members of these organisations and building up harmonious relationships with them. In this way, you can overcome the negative effects of being easily submitted to peer pressure.

Peter, I really place our friendship in the highest position. I hope you can write back to tell me how everything's going on.

Best wishes,  
Chris

### Learn More!

If I were ..., I would... ( 假若我是... , 我會... )

e.g.

If I were you, I would stand firm to reject any temptations to take drugs.

e.g.

If I were you, I would say sorry to her.

e.g.

What would you do if you were the principal?

submit to ( 屈從 ; 忍受 ; 甘受 )

e.g.

In this way, you can overcome the negative effects of being easily submitted to peer pressure.

e.g.

Peter refused to submit to her control.

e.g.

We should never submit to a threat.