HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Listening and Integrated Skills Descriptors

Level 5

Listening

General comprehension
- The main theme and subthemes or focuses of complex spoken texts are identified.
- Views and attitudes expressed in complex spoken texts are evaluated. The development of a point of view or argument and the supporting background detail are fully understood.

Specific comprehension
- Inferences are made from complex spoken texts and their purposes understood when delivered at near-natural speed in different varieties of English in familiar accents in a wide range of situations.
- Both explicitly stated and implied information is extracted from spoken texts. Figurative language is understood.

Awareness of sound patterns
- Speakers' attitudes and intentions are identified based on features of stress and intonation.

Integrated Skills
- All Data File instructions are interpreted and followed appropriately.
- Relevant information is located and transferred appropriately from complex texts.
- Contrasting views and attitudes in complex written texts are evaluated.
- The content is complete and relevant to the writing task/purpose.
- There is a wide range of written sentence structures, and the use of language structures, spelling and punctuation is highly accurate.
- Register, tone and style are appropriate, and appropriate features of the genre are used.
- The organization is wholly coherent.

Level 4

Listening
General comprehension
- The main theme or ideas of a spoken text are identified.
- Views and attitudes expressed in fairly complex spoken texts on familiar topics are evaluated. The development of a point of view or argument is followed, and the supporting background details are understood.

Specific comprehension
- Obvious inferences are made from fairly complex spoken texts when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents in most situations.
- Explicitly stated and some implied information is extracted from spoken texts. Simple figurative language is identified.

Awareness of sound patterns
- Speakers' attitudes and intentions are identified based on obvious features of stress and intonation.

Integrated Skills
- Most Data File instructions are interpreted and followed appropriately.
- Most relevant information is located and transferred appropriately from fairly complex texts.
- Most of the content relevant to the writing task/purpose is included.
- There is a range of written sentence structures, some of them complex. Punctuation, spelling and most language structures are accurate. Errors do not affect overall clarity.
- Register, tone and style are appropriate in familiar tasks, and the features of familiar genres of writing are used correctly.
- The organization is coherent.

Level 3

Listening
General comprehension
- The main theme or ideas of a spoken text are identified when they are straightforward.
- Explicitly expressed views are identified.

Specific comprehension
- Explicitly stated information is understood in fairly complex spoken texts when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents in familiar situations.
- Straightforward inferences are made from literal language.

Awareness of sound patterns
- Straightforward attitudes of speakers are identified based on stress and intonation.

Integrated Skills
- Some Data File instructions are understood and followed appropriately.
- Most relevant information is located, understood and transferred appropriately from straightforward texts on familiar themes.
- Some of the content relevant to the writing task/purpose is included.
- Some fairly complex written sentences are accurately constructed and punctuated.
- Register, tone and style are appropriate in straightforward, familiar types of writing, and features of familiar genres are used.
- The organization is coherent in parts of the text.

Level 2

Listening

General comprehension
- The main idea of a simple spoken text is identified when it is clearly signalled.
- Fact is distinguished from opinion in simple spoken texts when it is clearly signalled.

Specific comprehension
- Explicitly stated information is understood in simple spoken texts when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents.
- Literal language is understood when the context is clear.

Awareness of sound patterns
- Simple emotions can be recognized from the speakers' delivery.

Integrated Skills
- Some Data File instructions are followed in part.
- Some relevant information is located and transferred from simple texts.
- Relevant content is included in the writing task when its relevance has been clearly signalled in the text(s).
- Short and simple sentence types are used accurately enough in writing to convey meaning.
- Some features of familiar genres are used.
- There is some evidence of paragraphing.

Level 1

Listening

General comprehension
- Simple, predictable factual information is understood in short simple spoken texts.
- A sequence of events is identified in spoken texts with a predictable linear structure.

Specific comprehension
- Straightforward explicit information is understood in short simple spoken texts when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents.

Awareness of sound patterns
- Very simple emotions can sometimes be recognized from the speakers' delivery.

Integrated Skills
- A few Data File instructions for simple tasks are followed in part.
- Some relevant information is located and transferred from short simple texts.
- Relevant content is included in the writing task if detailed cues have been given in the text(s).
- In parts, simple basic structures and punctuation are accurate enough to be understood.
- Basic features of familiar genres are used.
- One or two links are made between sentences.