

HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Subject Descriptors

Level 5

Candidates at this level typically

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand spoken English, both literal and figurative, when delivered at near-natural speed in familiar accents and a wide range of situations, and are able to evaluate views expressed and identify the speakers' attitudes and intentions through stress and intonation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand complex texts and are able to follow the development of an argument and evaluate the opinions presented within them, make inferences and work out the meaning of unfamiliar words from the context, and respond comprehensively to written instructions requiring relevant information from the texts to be used to complete a task.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write in an interesting, relevant, organized and creative way, using a wide range of sentence structures and vocabulary accurately, and adopting a style suitable to the purpose.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express a wide range of ideas fluently in clear, accurate, well-pronounced English, consistently initiating and maintaining exchanges and responding to others in a sustained and constructive manner.

Level 4

Candidates at this level typically

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand spoken English, both literal and figurative, when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents and most situations, and are able to evaluate views expressed in fairly complex texts and identify the speakers' attitudes and intentions through obvious features of stress and intonation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand fairly complex texts and are able to follow the development of an argument and identify the opinions presented within them, make obvious inferences and work out the meaning of unfamiliar words from the context when clear textual support is given, and respond to written instructions requiring relevant information from the texts to be used to complete a task.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write in an interesting, relevant, organized and creative way, using a range of sentence structures and vocabulary accurately, and adopting a style suitable to the purpose, especially when the text type is familiar.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express a range of ideas fluently, if with occasional hesitation, in clear, accurate, well-pronounced English, initiating, and maintaining exchanges and responding to others in a sustained manner, especially when with a sympathetic partner.

Level 3

Candidates at this level typically

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand literal spoken English when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents in familiar situations, and are able to identify views expressed in straightforward texts and the speakers' attitudes and intentions when they are explicitly expressed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand simple texts, especially if the topic is familiar, and are able to follow the development of an explicit argument and identify explicit opinions presented within them, make straightforward inferences and work out the meaning of unfamiliar words when a familiar context is given, and respond in part to simple written instructions requiring relevant information from the texts to be used to complete a task.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write in a relevant, organized and creative way when the context is familiar, using some more complex sentence structures and common vocabulary accurately, and adopting the main elements of a style suitable to the purpose.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a range of simple common expressions with fluency, pronouncing familiar words accurately, and responding to others in a sustained manner.

Level 2

Candidates at this level typically

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand literal spoken English when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents in familiar situations, and are able to distinguish fact from opinion when this is clearly signalled and the context is simple and familiar.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand simple texts if the topic is familiar, and are able to follow parts of the development of an explicit argument and identify opinions when they are clearly signalled, work out the meaning of unfamiliar words when a simple and familiar context is given, following simple written instructions to locate and transfer some information relevant to a given task.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make some relevant points in writing, organized in a straightforward way using simple sentence structures and simple vocabulary accurately, and showing some awareness of features of genre.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a small range of short and simple common expressions with fluency, pronouncing familiar words comprehensibly, and responding to others when prompted.

Level 1

Candidates at this level typically

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand simple spoken English in short spoken texts when delivered at moderate speed in familiar accents in familiar situations, and are able to identify and extract simple, predictable information on a familiar theme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand parts of simple texts if the topic and vocabulary is familiar, and are able to distinguish straightforward factual information, identifying some relevant details through awareness of headings and other basic textual features and using them to complete parts of a given task.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make one or two relevant points in writing with a few simple comprehensible sentences, several examples of simple vocabulary, and some links with other parts of the text.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a few short and simple common expressions and pronounce some simple familiar words comprehensibly, giving brief responses when prompted.