HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2
(SAMPLE PAPER)
Time allowed: 2 hours
(25% of the subject mark)

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Answer Question 1 and ONE question from Part B. Write the answers to BOTH questions in the Answer Book provided.

(2) You MUST write on EACH LINE. Do not write in the margins. Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

(3) You are advised to use a pen for this test.

(4) Do not use your real name in answering any of the questions. If names are provided in the question, you must use those names. If no name is provided and you still wish to use a name to identify yourself, then use ‘Chris Wong’. If you need to use names for other characters in the composition not specified by the question, you may use names such as Mary, Peter, Wai Yee, Mr Smith, Ms Young, etc. You may lose marks if you do not follow these instructions.

(5) You are reminded of the importance of clear handwriting and the need for planning and proofreading.

(6) Rough work should be done on the rough-work sheets provided which will be collected separately. These will not be marked.
You have two hours to answer Question 1 and ONE question from Part B.

**Part A  (10% of the subject mark)**

1. Write about 200 words on the following topic:

   Sunday, 14th September, 2008

   **Hong Kong Post**

   **LOCAL NEWS**

   **Trapped in Building**

   Yesterday six people were trapped for five hours in a Wan Chai office building when the electricity suddenly went off and they discovered that the fire exits were locked. The Fire Services eventually rescued the six. The drama began at 11 am ……

   You are Pat Chan. You were one of the six people trapped in the building. Write a report for your own school newspaper describing what happened.

**Part B  (15% of the subject mark)**

Write about 400 words on any ONE of the following topics:

2. **Learning English through Sports Communication**

   You have received a letter from your brother Andy who is studying in America, telling you he has taken up motorbike racing as a hobby. Write a reply to him, explaining why you are worried about his new hobby. Try to persuade him to take up a different sport and give reasons for your recommendation.

3. **Learning English through Drama**

   You recently went to see the first performance of a school play written specially for students and their parents. The performance was a disaster from start to finish. Write a review of the performance for the school magazine, describing what the play was about and explaining what went wrong on the night.
4. **Learning English through Poems and Songs**

A local restaurant is running a competition for a creative advertisement to attract overseas tourists. Your friend, Pat, wants to enter the competition and has written a poem which he thinks could be quite effective for advertising the restaurant. He has asked for your opinion.

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Lunchtime in Golden Bauhinia Chinese Restaurant

Many people wait
It's already one o'clock
Will they get a seat?

Around the tables
Everyone talking loudly
It makes my ears hurt

I can smell my lunch
Noodles, garlic and roast pork
I hope it comes soon

Delicious dim sum
Spring rolls, crispy and crunchy,
They are my favourite

Yummy roast pork bun
So hot it burns my hand
Ouch! Eat it quickly
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Write a reply to Pat telling him what you think about his idea. Comment on the things you like best about his poem and what could be improved to make the advertisement more effective.

5. **Learning English through Debating**

You are the secretary of the school debating team. Last week you attended the finals of the inter-school debating contest. You have been asked to write a report on what happened at the finals for the school newsletter. Describe the topic you had to debate, how your team performed, which team won the competition and what the prize was.

6. **Learning English through Short Stories**

Your parents have sent you away for a month to do a creative writing course in a summer retreat on one of Hong Kong’s outlying islands. After several days, you finally have time to write some entries in your diary. Describe your experiences on the course and of life on the island, and say how they have given you some ideas for writing short stories.
7. Learning English through Popular Culture

Recently, a TV presenter helped you arrange a special birthday event for one of your parents without his or her knowing about it. The preparations for the event and what happened on the day were filmed as part of a very popular TV show called *Surprise of Your Life*.

Write a letter to your sister in Canada describing what sort of surprise event you chose and why, how it was organized and how your parent felt about being shown on TV.

Begin your letter ‘Dear Shelley,’ and sign it ‘Nicky’. Do not write an address.

8. Learning English through Workplace Communication

Your school recently conducted a ‘Working Week’ scheme during which students could choose to work as one of the following:

- a reporter
- a teacher
- a restaurant cook
- a flight attendant
- a photographer

You took part in the scheme. Now your careers advisor has asked you to write an article for the school magazine describing your experience during the ‘Working Week’ and how you felt about the job you chose.

Write the article.

9. Learning English through Social Issues

Your school building is going to be pulled down as part of the redevelopment of the area. Write an article for your school magazine saying why you think this *is* or *is not* a good idea.

END OF PAPER
HKDSE English Language Paper 4 (Speaking)
(Sample Paper)
(10% of the subject mark)

Instructions to Examiners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part A  Group Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greeting the candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructions before starting the timer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reminding candidates about the time left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending the discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Part B  Individual Response</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Part B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking the question(s) and starting the timer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Part B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Examination

| Collecting the notecards after all the candidates have completed Part B | That’s the end of the examination. Please give me your notecards. You may leave now. (Check that the question paper has not been taken away.) |
Part A  Group Discussion  (Preparation:10 minutes; discussion: 8 minutes per group of four candidates)

The article below appeared in yesterday’s newspaper:

**A question of privacy?**

Members of the media often complain that the government limits their freedom of expression though many members of the public feel there is nothing wrong with this. Some years ago, photographs of Twins singer Gillian Chung Yan-tung were published by a local magazine, Easy Finder, and they caused a real storm. The photographs were taken with a hidden camera as she was changing costumes backstage. Many people were upset by this and demanded that press freedom be restricted. The Hong Kong Performing Artists Guild condemned the incident, and insisted the government amend the law and punish the magazine’s owners.

‘Some people thought that the whole episode had been exaggerated but people buy these magazines for exactly this kind of shocking content so it’s the market itself that demands such pictures,’ explained retired editor John Peters.

Mike Chau

Your group wants to write a letter to the editor of the newspaper responding to the points made by Mike Chau. Discuss with your group what to include in your letter in response to this article. You may want to talk about:

- whether the media have too much freedom
- whether famous people should have their privacy protected
- why people like to read magazines for their shocking content and gossip
- anything else you think is important

Part B  Individual Response  (one minute per candidate)

1. Why do some people not want to be famous?
2. Why is it sometimes difficult being famous?
3. What are some of the advantages of being famous?
4. Why is personal privacy so important to some people?
5. Can famous people expect to keep their private lives secret?
6. How are family members of famous people affected by their fame?
7. Why do some people dislike the gossip magazines in Hong Kong?
8. Do the public have the right to know about the private lives of famous people?
9. Why is freedom of expression important for the media?
10. Are there any types of stories which gossip magazines should not publish?
Part A  Group Discussion  (Preparation: 10 minutes; discussion: 8 minutes per group of four candidates)

Below is an extract from a report on youth culture in Hong Kong:

**Body art expresses individuality**

More and more teenagers are turning to different forms of body art, such as tattooing and nose piercing, to establish their personal identity and look different. One of the main reasons young people decide to modify their bodies is to look cool. Teenagers want to express their individuality and have a strong desire to stand out from the crowd. This gives them a sense of uniqueness that makes them different from everyone else.

19-year-old James Keen is a typical example. He is one of the first in Hong Kong to have had the tip of his tongue split into two. ‘When I first saw it in some teen magazines, I thought tongue-splitting was the most beautiful thing I’d seen in my life,’ says James. Most of his friends do not know that he has had his tongue split unless he shows it to them. When asked how he felt about the splitting process, James said it did cause some pain for about a week, especially when he ate, but he believed it was worthwhile. ‘Piercing of the ears, nose and lips is just too common. I wanted something different.’

Your group wants to write an article for your school magazine about the advantages and disadvantages of body modification. Discuss with your group what to include in your article. You may want to talk about:

- why some teenagers like body art such as tattooing and nose piercing
- the medical dangers of body art
- how Hong Kong society views people with tattoos and their bodies pierced
- anything else you think is important

Part B  Individual Response  (one minute per candidate)

1. What do you think of teenagers who have tattoos and body piercing?
2. Why do teenagers think body art is ‘cool?’
3. Do any of your friends have tattoos and body piercing?
4. Have you ever thought about having a tattoo or body piercing?
5. Why is it important for teenagers to express their individuality?
6. How do adults and parents feel about teenagers who have body modifications?
7. Do teenagers go too far with body modifications these days?
8. What do you think are the long term problems of having a tattoo?
9. What other ways do young people try to ‘stand out’ from the crowd?
10. What advice would you give to a friend who wanted a tattoo or some kind of body-piercing?
Sample 3

Part A  Group Discussion  (Preparation: 10 minutes; discussion: 8 minutes per group of four candidates)

The extract below appeared in a report on health and safety at work:

The Respectable Addiction

People in Hong Kong are famous for working long hours. However, it is now recognized that obsession with work can be an addiction. In Japan, it is called death by overwork and it is estimated to cause 1,000 deaths per year. In the USA, it is known as the ‘respectable’ addiction.

Addiction to work is not the same as working hard or putting in long hours. Hard-working people generally have some balance in their lives. They spend a lot of time at work, but also set aside time for their hobbies, such as playing sport. However, work addicts think about work even when they are playing sport. The obsession with work is total. It prevents them from maintaining healthy relationships and outside interests. Work addicts neglect their health and ignore their friends and family. They avoid going on holiday so they don’t have to miss work, and even if they do go on holiday, they still think about work.

Often, work addicts only realize they have a problem when something terrible happens, for example, when their health completely fails or they start having family problems.

You want to prepare a presentation on work addiction for a group of young people who will soon be starting their first job. Discuss with your group what you will include in the presentation. You may want to talk about:

- why Hong Kong people tend to work long hours
- the health and social problems that can be caused by long working hours
- things that people can do to avoid work addiction
- anything else you think is important

Part B  Individual Response  (one minute per candidate)

1. Do you have any friends or family members who work too hard?
2. What are some of the disadvantages of working on Saturday and Sunday?
3. Do you think young people now work harder than their parents did in the past?
4. How do you think children are affected by parents who work long hours?
5. How can children in Hong Kong help parents who have to work long hours?
6. How much do you believe success depends on hard work?
7. How might a workplace be disadvantaged by having workaholics on its staff?
8. Why do you think work addiction is known as the ‘respectable addiction’ in the USA?
9. Why do you think some people enjoy working so much?
10. Some people live to work and others work to live. Can you tell us which kind of person you think you are and why?