

English Language Paper 2: Writing

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The paper should not to be confused with the HKCEE Paper 2 which tested Listening & Integrated Skills, the HKDSE Paper 2 is a writing paper, with some overlapping similarities with the HKCEE writing paper, Paper 1B. The paper is divided into two parts.

PART A: Candidates will be asked to complete a short, guided task of about 200 words. The guided task will consist of a brief writing prompt to assist candidates in producing a short text.

PART B: Candidates will be asked to complete a longer, more open-ended task of about 400 words. There will be eight questions for Part B, and each question will be based on one of the modules in the Elective Part of the English Language curriculum.

Candidates are free to choose any one question from Part B, and do not have to restrict themselves to the modules they have studied (though, of course, it may be advantageous for them to do so).

Brainstorming and planning

Candidates should spend some time brainstorming ideas and making a plan before they start writing. Two sheets of rough-work paper will be provided to each candidate for this purpose.

If two sheets of papers are not enough, candidates may request for extra rough-work sheets.

The rough-work sheets will be collected at the end of the exam but will not be marked.

Word Guides

The word lengths of 200 words for the short task (which roughly makes up one ruled page of the question-answer book) and 400 words for the long task are intended to give candidates an indication of the task requirements, how to organise their writing as well as the amount of time that should be allocated to each task.

Candidates who write significantly less than the suggested number of words will inevitably fall short of fulfilling the task requirements and are unlikely to display a sufficiently wide range of language. Candidates who write significantly more than the suggested number of words may not have time to complete both tasks satisfactorily or proofread their writing.

General instructions

For ease of marking, candidates should write clearly and neatly. They should avoid using their real names when answering questions. Unless otherwise specified, an alias such as 'Chris Wong', 'Mary', 'Peter' etc. can be substituted in place of real names. Candidates should write on every line to avoid unnecessary use of supplementary sheets.

Marking

Each task will be assessed independently by two markers. The marking guidelines provided in the Information Booklet will form the basis of the marking guidelines for both tasks in Paper 2. However, the marking guidelines may be adapted depending on the requirements of the task and may also be supplemented for additional guidance for markers.

Candidates are advised

- ◆ to read more and increase their exposure to authentic texts and genres
- ◆ to learn vocabulary in context and familiarise themselves with the different meanings of words

- ◆ to master basic sentence structure, and increase the range of structures available to them
- ◆ to spend adequate time planning and proofreading their work
- ◆ to read the questions carefully and avoid misinterpreting the questions
- ◆ to expand on their ideas with examples and supporting details