

Listening and Integrated Skills

HKDSE Paper 3 is the Listening and Integrated Skills paper. It is divided into two parts. All candidates must do Part A and then choose either Part B1, the easier section, or Part B2, the more difficult section.

Part A

Part A tests candidates on a variety of listening skills. These may include:

- ◆ understanding and interpreting the purpose and meaning of a spoken text;
- ◆ identifying the key details of a spoken text;
- ◆ interpreting the speakers' feelings, views, attitudes and intentions;
- ◆ understanding speakers with different accents;
- ◆ understanding a range of language features characteristic of spoken texts.

The type of spoken texts which feature in Part A may include conversations between two or more people as well as monologues. Candidates should listen carefully to the instructions on the recording. Candidates will be given some time before Part A begins to look at all tasks. Candidates can make good use of this time by:

- ◆ reading the situation and thinking about who the speakers are and their roles in the recording;
- ◆ looking at the theme of each task and thinking about the type of vocabulary that may appear in the recording;
- ◆ looking at individual questions and trying to predict the type of answers that will appear;
- ◆ thinking about what they know about the subject from their experience of the world.

Part B

Candidates will be required to process information by selecting and combining data from both spoken and written sources in order to complete several tasks in a practical work or study situation. Part B tests a variety of reading, listening and writing skills. These will include:

- ◆ following and interpreting instructions in the Data File;
- ◆ locating relevant information and transferring it appropriately to the candidate's own text;
- ◆ writing in a style appropriate to the task and context. This may mean adapting what was originally written in the Data File or said in the recording;
- ◆ writing clearly and accurately using a range of sentence structures and vocabulary;
- ◆ Writing a coherent text.

In Part B the candidates should also make use of the time given before the recording to familiarise themselves with the situation and the Data File. To do so they should ask themselves such questions as:

- ◆ Who am I and what is my role?
- ◆ What is the situation?
- ◆ What tasks am I being asked to do?
- ◆ What kind of information should I include in my texts?
- ◆ Where in the Data File or the recording am I likely to find such information?

To prepare for the recording, candidates should look at the note sheet and ask themselves:

- ◆ What type of information is likely to appear under each heading?
- ◆ How is this information relevant to each task?

When they start writing their text candidates should ask themselves:

- ◆ Who is the intended audience of the text?
- ◆ Will this affect the type of information I am to include?
- ◆ Will it affect the style of language that I should use?
- ◆ How should I organise what I have to write?
- ◆ Is what I've written understandable for someone who has not read the Data File?