

HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Reading Descriptors

Level 5

General comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main theme and subthemes or focuses of complex texts are identified with less familiar topics.• Views and attitudes expressed in complex texts are evaluated and alternative views are compared. The development of a point of view or argument is followed, and the reasons are fully understood.
Specific comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inferences are made in a wide range of complex texts, including those based on an understanding of the wider meaning of a text. The purposes of the texts are understood.• The meanings of words and phrases are identified when a context is given, including a context based on more than one part of a text. This includes both literal and figurative language.
Awareness of style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and mood are interpreted in all texts.

Level 4

General comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main theme or ideas of fairly complex texts are identified.• Views and attitudes are identified, and the development of an argument followed.
Specific comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obvious inferences are made in fairly complex texts. More sophisticated inferences are made if the text is simple and the topic is familiar.• The meaning of words and phrases is identified when a context is given by one or more sentences or a paragraph in fairly complex texts.
Awareness of style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and mood are interpreted in fairly complex texts.

Level 3

General comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main theme or ideas of a paragraph are identified if a text is straightforward.• Explicitly expressed views and attitudes are identified.
Specific comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explicitly stated information is understood in fairly complex texts on familiar themes.• Straightforward inferences are made.• The meaning of words and phrases is identified when a familiar context is given.
Awareness of style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and mood are interpreted in simple texts.

Level 2

General comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main idea of a simple paragraph is understood when this is clearly signalled.• Fact is distinguished from opinion in simple texts when this is clearly signalled.
Specific comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explicitly stated information is understood in simple texts.• The meaning of words is identified when a simple and familiar context is given.
Awareness of style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic stylistic features can be recognized.

Level 1

General comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sequence of events is identified in a text with a simple structure.
Specific comprehension
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explicitly stated factual information is understood in simple texts containing familiar vocabulary.• Features such as headings can be used to locate relevant information.
Awareness of style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic stylistic features can be recognized in short, simple texts.