Key Features

Aligned with the NSS English Language curriculum and exam requirements

Written in accordance with the NSS English Language curriculum. Questions formats, suggested answers and assessment guides all align with the requirements of the HKDSE Examination.

Assessment Framework of the **HKDSE English Language Examination**

1. Mode of assessment

The public assessment of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) English language Exam consists of a public examination component and a school-based assessment component.

A. Public examination component

Paper	Weighting	Duration
Paper 1 Reading	20%	1.5 hours
Paper 2 Writing	25%	2 hours
Paper 3 Listening & Integrated Skills	30%	About 2 hours
Paper 4 Speaking	10%	About 20 minutes

Paper 1 Reading (20%)

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 There are two parts in this paper: Part A Computory and Part B.
 In each part, candidates read one to two texts and answer to range of guestions including multiple-choice items, matching, abrues responses, etc.
 For Part B, candidates choose either Section 1 (see (or Section 2), more difficult).
 The inghest level attantiable by attempting Part A and Part B Section 1 is Level 4, whereas that by attempting Part A and Part B Section 1 is 1.

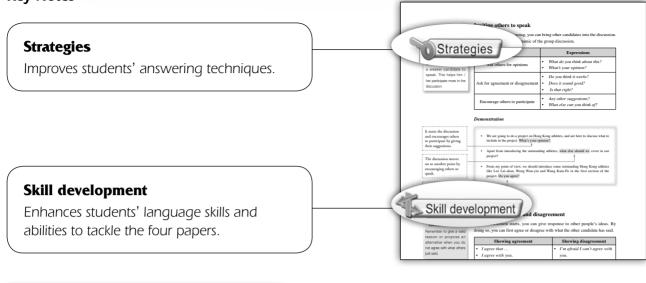
Paper 2 Writing (25%)

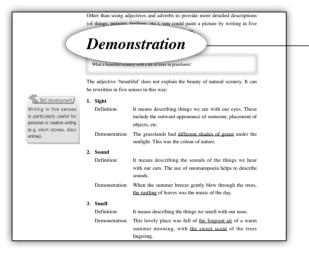
- There are two parts in this paper: Part A (10%) and Part B (15%). For Part A, candidates complete a short, guided task in about 200 words. Part B involves an extended and more open-ended writing task in about 400 words. Candidates choo: one out of eight questions, each based on one of the eight modules in the Elective Part of the curriculum.
- Listening LISICIIII tests your ability to compre-and written sources to complete various integrated tasks in about two hours. Exam Support Pack includes: Below are some crucial tips that can help you in the exam. Listening for key words **Exam Strategies** During the exam, not every word in the recordings is relevant to the questions. Instead, some are actually used to mislead or confuse you. So it is crucial for you to judge what is relevant and what is not. Provides students with the essential skills in tackling the There are three types of key words in the recordings: Strategies HKDSE English Language Examination. There are three types of key works in the recordings:
 Works that are repeated.
 Works which are spelt out for you. They are usually proper works, such as the anness of people and places.
 Works which show a change of idea or opinion. In the recordings, the speakers sometimes make changes to what they have said earlier. Thus, pay attention to these transitional and signalling words, such as *but, however, edition*. If the speakers repeat what they have said or request other speakers to repeat something, those pieces of information are often while and yes Reading Listening for main ideas Four kinds of reference words Speaking Skil development J. Pronouns Definition: They are words that we use to replace nouns, i.e. *I*, you, he, she, it, me, him, her, we, they, us, them, this, that, these, those. A referent usually precedes the reference word, so read what goes before the reference word to look Discussion skills 5 for the answer. Also, pay attention to whether the reference word is in the Demonstration: I have tried <u>bungee jumping</u> in New Zealand. It is really You will take part in the discussion based on a given text. You may be asked to make suggestions, give advice, make and explain a choice, argue for / against a position, or discuss the pros and cons. exciting. 2. Hyponym Definition: They are words that belong to the same group. Starting a discussion ..., would a promotion on the <u>kettle</u>, rice cooker, <u>microwave oven</u>, etc. <u>These electrical products</u> are now at bargaining prices. Demonstration: This shop is doing a pro A good start can leave a good impression to the examiners. Here are the steps to give a structured and organized beginning: Step 1 Give a simple greeting and initiate a discussion **3. Paraphrasing** Definition: It means phra
 Demonstration: The encyclo ₽ Step 2 State the aim of the discussion ntences Writing ₽ which contai subjects, is a es as a si Step 3 Raise the first point relates to the whole . Step 4 Ask others for opinion Consider 'giving suggestions on proper pet keeping' in the letter to the editor Skil development about your concern regarding stray cats / dogs Topic sentences help readers follow your arguments or thoughts. Remember to develop the paragraph on the controlling idea stated in Proper pet keeping - suggestions (1) Pets are not toys. You have to provide pets with food, shelter and love – make them healthy and safe. the topic sentence Below are two topics sentences. Which sentence, (a) or (b), makes a better topic sentence? The topic sentence for this paragraph will probably be: (a) Pets are not toys.(b) Pet owners should keep their pets healthy and safe.

It is too general as a topic sentence. It tells you the topic (Pets), but i

(a) Pets are not toys

Key Notes





Demonstration

Illustrates how to apply the skills in exam.

Reading Passages and Data File

The reading passages of Paper 1 and the Data File of Paper 3 are provided in separate booklets for students' easy reference.

1	Part B
s	Situation
	You are Sam Chan. You work in J&C, a large fashion chain store in Hong Kong. You are ar assistant to Alex Lam, the Marketing Manager.
3	You will listen to a recording of part of a meeting.
а	Before the recording is played, you will have five minutes to study the Question-Answer Book and the Data File for Part B1 and the Question-Answer Book and the Data File for Part B2. De NOT attempt both Parts B1 and B2.
Complete the tasks by following the instructions in the Question-Answer Book that you choose and on the recording. You will find all the information you need in the Question-Answer Book and Data File that you choose and on the recording. As you listen you can make notes on page 2 of the Data File.	
	An and the second se
	tou win nave rive minutes to familiarize yourself with the Part B Question-Answer Book and he Data File.
ť	fou will have five minutes to familiarize yourself with the Part B Question-Answer Book and he Data File.
ť	he Data File.
t Co	he Data File.
t Co	he Data File. Intents Pa
t Co 1. 2.	he Data File. Intents Note-taking sheet for executive meeting
t Co 1. 2.	he Data File. ntents Pr Note-taking sheet for executive meeting Email from Alex Lam to Sam Chan
t Co 1. 2.	he Data File. ntents Note-taking sheet for executive meeting Email from Alex Lam to Sam Chan Business card of Alex Lam Email from Iris Cheung to Alex Lam
t Co 1. 2. 3.	he Data File. ntents Pr Note-taking aheet for executive meeting
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	ntents Note-taking sheet for executive meeting Email from Alex Lam to Sam Chan Business card of Alex Lam
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 7.	he Data File. ntents Note-taking sheet for executive meeting Email from Alex Lam to Sam Chan Business card of Alex Lam Email from Iris Cheung to Alex Lam Email exchange between Alex Lam and Janice Cheng of Kiddy Magazine

Text 1

Modern gadgets, a help or hindrance to our health?

1 🔟 This is the age of consumerism, meaning that 35 🔟 According to Lauren Hale, Assistant professor shopping is king and that we are constantly looking to buy the next 'best' thing. This is also the age in which society's thirst for technology continues to sleep for these disruptive modern information s grow. Advertisements everywhere show the latest and greatest electronic gadgets. Mobile phones, 40 recent years. 'The trend is having an effect on tablet PCs and more are advertised and sold at people's health. When they get less rest, their tance, social standing, and organizational help,

at times having these devices is a way to show

yes, technology brings with it many positive nts, and most people accept electronic gadgets 🛛 💿 Modern technology also gives rise to new in 'toys' that are now part of our culture. Rarely eople consider that perhaps they are affecting way of life and our health.

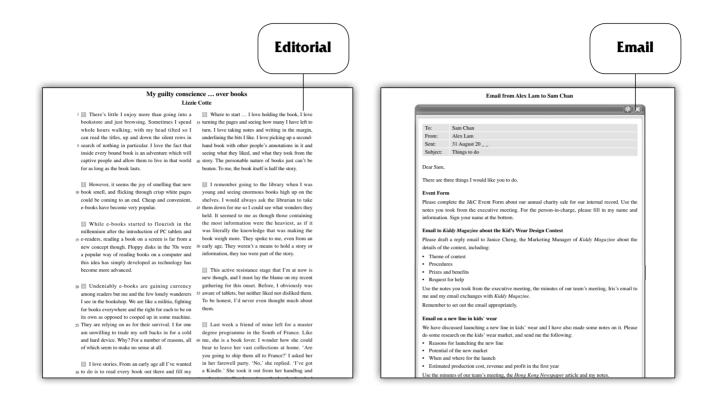
day everyone owns a few technological is because they are mostly affordable, easy to use and give so much fun. It is thus no wonder ets be ing to sleep. According to a study done by the can National Sleep Foundation, 95 per cent of surveyed play video games, watch television pivotal hours before going to sleep, there of these light-e

of Stony Brook University Medical Centre, the number of people who sacrifice a decent night's immune system is weakened, and they are more prone to illness,' he added. Indeed, health problems such as obesity, anxiety, depression, cardio related 45 illness and more could become a reality when we alter our sleep pattern.

diseases. Mobile phones, computers, the Internet and many other forms of technology have become 50 engrained within our communities because people use them all the time to keep themselves updated. So much so that when deprived of technological interaction, people may experience symptoms akin to addiction. A research group from the many people cannot leave their devices alone, when they are having a meal, a conversation has become known as Information Deprivation Disorder. During the study, volunteers endured twenty-four hours without access to their mobile phones or the Internet. Over the twenty-four computers in the hours before going to bed. 60 hours participants began to demonstrate signs of deprivation, experiencing similar effects to those typical of people who were quitting smoking

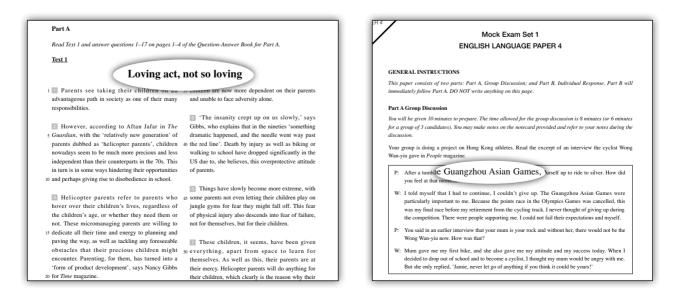
A wide range of themes and text types across each set of mock papers

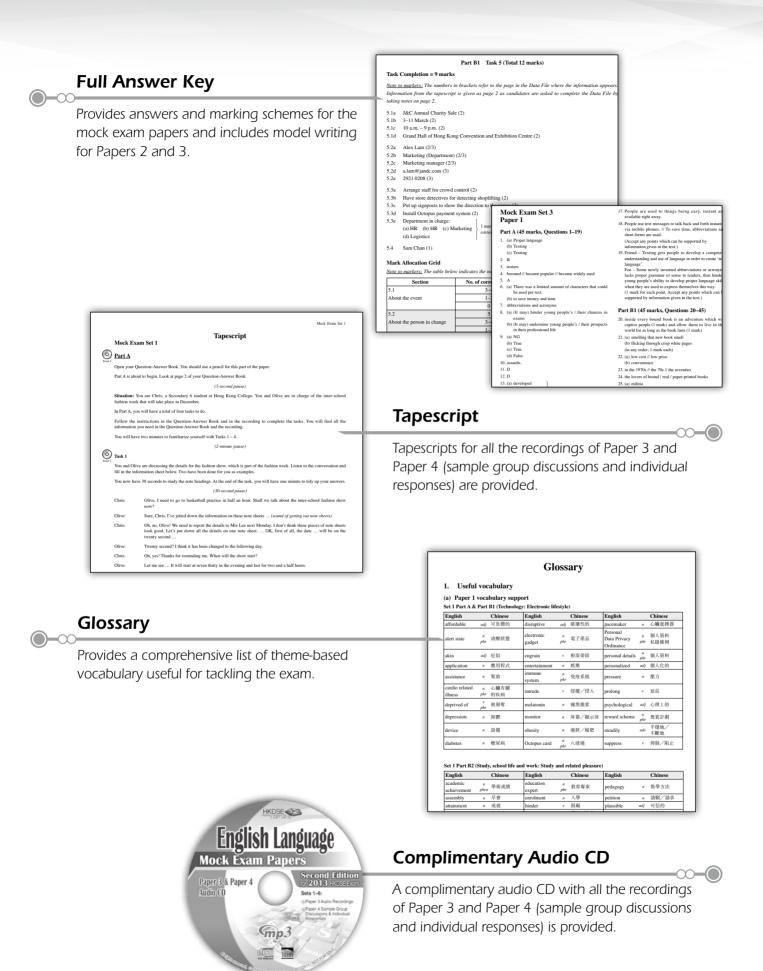
Each set covers a wide range of themes and text types, e.g. editorial, article, short story, email, closely written in exam formats.



Topics following current issues

The topics chosen are relevant to current issues, helping students increase their knowledge and awareness of important events happening around them.





Themes and text types of the mock exam papers

Each set of mock exam papers features a combination of themes and text types.

Set	Paper	Theme	Text Type	
	1	 Technology: Electronic lifestyle Study, school life and work: Study and related pleasure 	Reading passages: • article • blog entry • web postings	
1	2	 Nature and environment: Natural disasters Leisure and entertainment: The world of sports 	Writing tasks:• article• email• letter to the editor• recruitment poster• speech	
	3	• Leisure and entertainment: Fashion show	Integrated tasks:• email• event form• evaluation report• letter	
	4	• Leisure and entertainment: The world of sports	Reading passage: • interview transcript	
	1	 The individual and society: Cultural development Cultures of the world: Street art and travelling 	Reading passages:• article• pamphlet• newspaper article• fiction	
2	2	Technology: Electronic lifestyleStudy, school life and work	Writing tasks:• article• blog entry• email• letter to the editor• web page	
	3	TechnologyCommunicating: Electronic communications	Integrated tasks:• letter• report• memo• review• record form• service brief	
	4	• Leisure and entertainment: Films	Reading passage: • film review	

Set	Paper	Theme	Text Ty	pes
	1	 Technology: Texting and e-books The individual and society: Junk food and health 	Reading passages: • article • columns	film reviewweb page
3	2	 The individual and society: Social issues Nature and environment: Animals 	 Writing tasks: application letter diary entry essay letter to the editor 	 poem review proposal school newspaper article speech
	3	Wonderful things	Integrated tasks: • email • evaluation report	event formletter
	4	• The individual and society: Charitable events	Reading passage: • article	
	1	 Nature and environment: Natural disasters Leisure and entertainment: The world of sports 	Reading passages: • article • short story	editorialweb page
4	2	Cultures of the worldTeenage problems	Writing tasks: • blog entry • email • leaflet • letter of appeal • personal letter	school magazine articleshort storyspeechweb page
	3	Wonderful things: Successful people	Integrated tasks: • description • email • letter	note sheet proposal report
	4	• Study, school life and work: Careers	Reading passage: • information sheet	

Set	Paper	Theme	Text Types	
	1	 The individual and society: Road safety Nature and environment: Animals 	Reading passages: • article • poem • letter to the editor	
5	2	Getting along with othersNature and environment	Writing tasks:• email• report• personal letter• school magazine article• poem review• school newspaper article• proposal• speech	
	3	• Leisure and entertainment: 'Showbiz'	Integrated tasks:• email• report• evaluation form• speech• memo• summary	
	4	• Getting along with others: A good neighbourhood	Reading passage: • newspaper article	
	1	 Getting along with others: Parenting and friendship Nature and environment: Protect the environment 	Reading passages: • article • poem • book review	
6	2	 Technology The individual and society: Social issues 	Writing tasks:• article• email• essay• letter of application	
	3	• Study, school life and work	Integrated tasks: • description • form • email • report	
	4	• Communicating: Internet communication	Reading passage: • magazine article	