

Essential Reading Skills

Skill development

Practise both skimming and scanning so that you can get what you want from a text quickly.

Since time is limited in the examination, effective reading skills that help you tackle the questions more efficiently are essential. This section provides you with some basic but crucial reading skills for tackling the exam.

Skimming and scanning

Skimming and scanning are two very important skills that help you get the gist of a text in a short time.

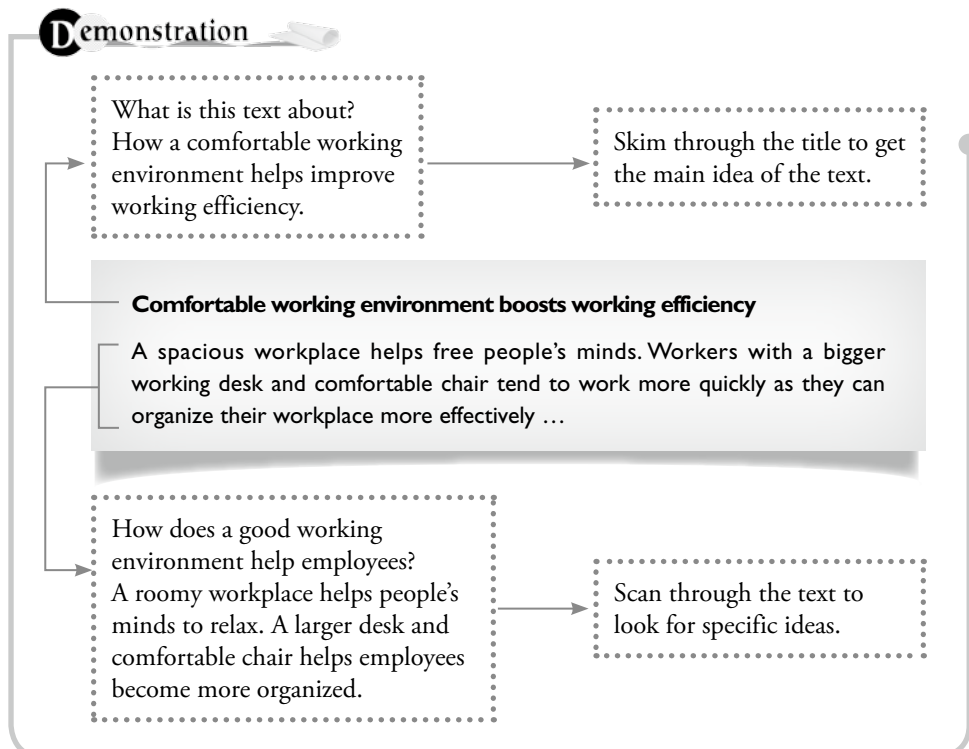
Skimming

- Skimming means you read only the title, subtitle, subheadings, topic sentences and illustrations of a text to quickly get the main ideas of it.
- You also skim for specific information, e.g. dates, names and places, or review graphs, tables and charts.
- As you do not need to read through the text word by word, it enables you to get an idea of a text in a very short time.

Scanning

- Scanning means you read a text quickly in order to locate a target piece of information.
- Your eyes scan through the text quickly to identify the specific key words or ideas.
- You may look for organizational clues, e.g. numbers, letters, steps or signpost words. Examples of signpost words include *first, firstly, next, then, after that / this, following that / this, finally*.

Demonstration

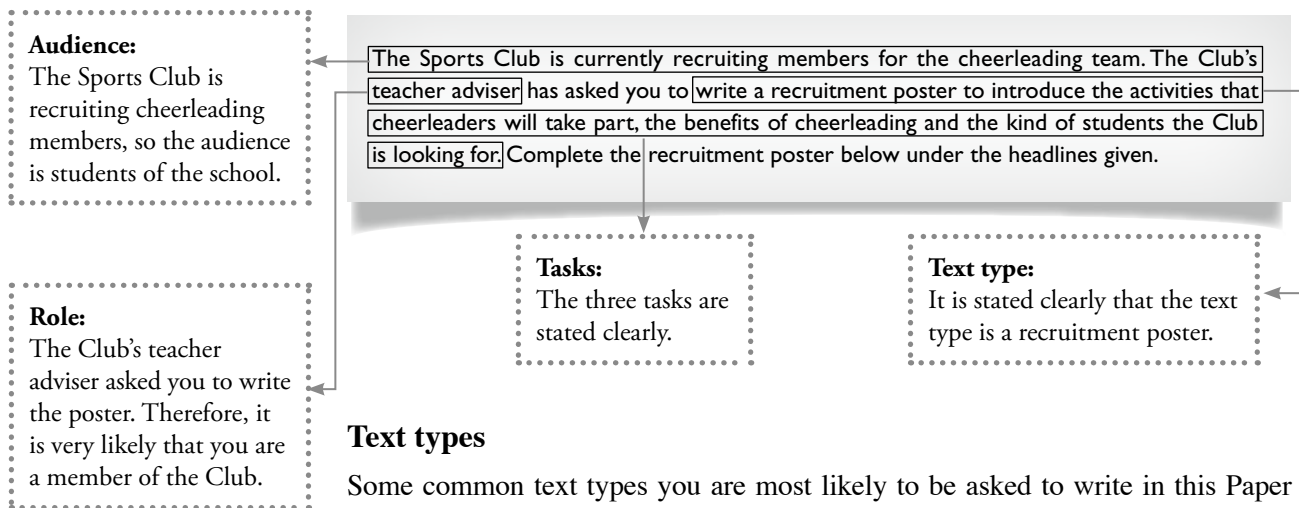


Essential Writing Skills

The writing examination tests your ability to write texts for diverse audiences and purposes with appropriate content and language skills.

Understanding a writing question

It is important to understand your role, audience, the text type and the tasks before you start writing. The following is a typical Paper 2 writing question.



Text types

Some common text types you are most likely to be asked to write in this Paper include:

- Article
- Email / letter
- Poster / leaflet
- Proposal
- Report
- Review
- Speech
- Diary / Blog entry

Usually a particular text type has its own requirements for the opening, main body and closing. Read the following section and pp. 49–59 for the features and formats of common text types.

Topic

Each writing question requires students to write on a specific topic and / or in a specific context. If your writing is off topic, according to the writing marking guidelines, it will not be awarded more than three marks in the three domains: Content, Language and Organization.

Register and style

The register and style of the writing depends on who you are (role) and whom you are writing to (audience).

For example, if you assume the role of a student and are asked to write an article for your fellow schoolmates, you need to use a friendly tone and the pronoun 'we / us' to create a sense of belonging. The style can be informal.

Essential Listening Skills

The Paper 3 Listening and Integrated Skills examination tests your ability to complete various listening tasks, and select and combine data from both spoken and written sources to complete various integrated tasks in about two hours. Below are some crucial tips that can help you in the exam.

Listening for key words

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.

There are three types of key words in the recordings:

- Words that are repeated.
- Words which are spelt out for you. They are usually proper words, such as the names of people and places.
- Words 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*, *while* and *yet*.

Strategies

If the speakers repeat what they have said or request other speakers to repeat something, those pieces of information are often important.

Listening for main ideas

Listening for main ideas requires you to process what you have listened to. Very often, you need to use your own words to summarize the most important idea.

There are several things you should be aware of when listening for main ideas:

- The examples and detailed explanations provided should not be regarded as the main ideas.
- You may need to generalize the content from the recordings by forming some patterns or categories in order to find out the main ideas or focuses.
- You need to pay attention to the changes that the speakers make in the recordings, especially signals like *although*, *but*, *despite*, *however*, etc.

Taking notes

When you listen to the recordings, it is often impossible to write in full sentences, mainly because:

- the pace of the recordings may be quite fast.
- complete sentences are too long.

To tackle this, you should learn how to take notes. The table on the next page shows two main ways to help you when note-taking:

Skill development

Practise using abbreviations and symbols before the exam.

Essential Speaking Skills

The speaking examination mainly tests your ability of making effective communication. Below are some crucial tips that can help you achieve this.

Making a discussion

It is important to understand your role, the purpose and the content of the discussion before the exam starts. The following is a typical Paper 4 discussion question.

The article below appeared in a local newspaper: →

A helping hand

The earthquake which attacked Hualien, Taiwan on 6 February 2018 has caused 17 deaths and over 200 injuries. Many buildings in the city were damaged, including four that had partially collapsed. Many people became homeless. A number of fundraising events have been organized in Hong Kong.

Last Saturday, a bazaar was held in a local secondary school. 'We have trained our students to be global citizens,' said Mr Wong, a teacher at the school. 'They should know the world is one and we are always there to help people of other countries and regions. Our students and staff were enthusiastic about the idea of raising money for the victims in Taiwan. They worked overnight to set up booths and design banners for the purpose.'

The event raised \$8,000. It allowed students, parents, teachers and even the community to get involved in serving a meaningful purpose. 'It was a good lesson for my students. They have learnt something important about helping others,' said Mr Wong.

Your principal has asked your group to **suggest a fundraising activity to raise money for the Community Chest**. Discuss the activity with your group. You may want to talk about: →

- what activity will be held
- how the school can get involved in the activity
- what students can learn from participating in the activity
- anything else you think is important

Input for discussion:

Article from a local newspaper

Role:

The word 'principal' implies that your role is a student.

Purpose of the discussion:

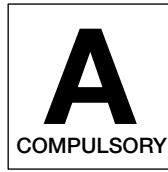
To suggest a fundraising activity.

Content of the discussion:

These are the suggested aspects of the topic that the discussion should cover. You can add relevant aspects to discuss with your group if you consider it necessary.

Candidate Number									
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**HKDSE Mock Exam Set 1
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1 PART A
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**



Write your Candidate Number in the space provided on this page.
Read Texts 1–2 and answer questions 1–22. (40 marks)

Text 1






1. For each word given below, find a word which has a similar meaning in the announcement. (4 marks)

- i) 'environmentally-friendly' _____
- ii) 'men or women' _____
- iii) 'main' _____
- iv) 'urgent' _____

2. Answer the following questions by writing the number in the box. (4 marks)

- i) Which stream covers environmental issues around the world?
- ii) Which stream is about what the public can do to reduce plastic pollution?
- iii) Which stream focuses on the impact plastic pollution has on our food?
- iv) Which stream gives information on the consequences of plastic pollution?

3. Which of the following might appear in the documentary directed by Caitlin Mckinney? Write the letters in the boxes below. (1 mark)

A. 	B. 	C. 	D. 	E. 
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Photos and

4. Text 1 is likely to be found ...

- A. on an organization's website.
- B. in a journal of environmental science.
- C. on a school noticeboard.
- D. in a local newspaper.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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Part A

For question 1, write about 200 words in the space provided on page 1.15.

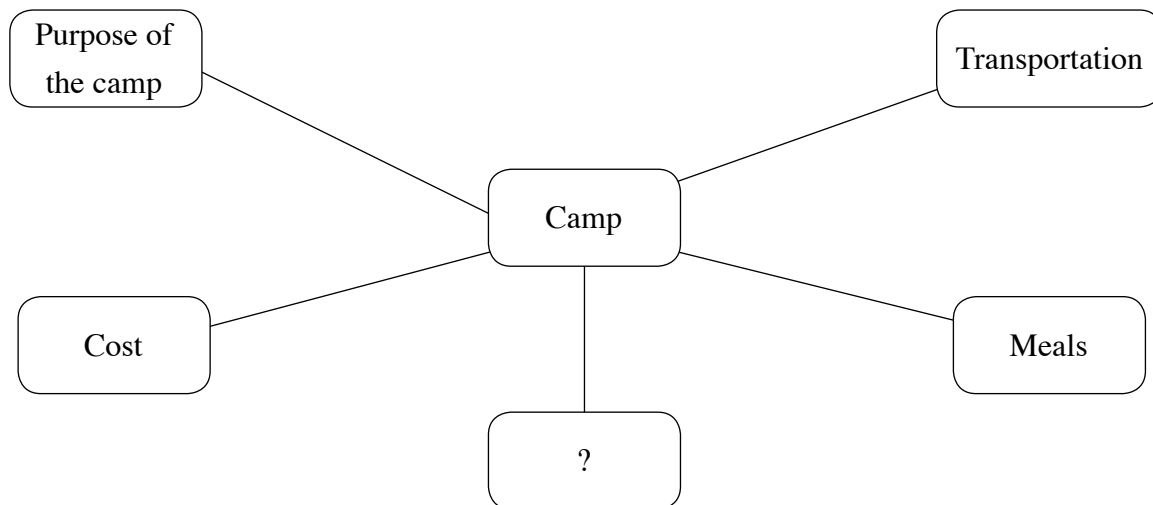
You are Chris Wong, the class teacher of 5A. You will be taking the students to a leadership training camp, shown in the poster below.

Write a letter to parents giving them the necessary information about the camp. You may use the mind map below to help you write your letter.

Poster:

Leadership training camp	
	20–22 August (2 days 1 night) Youth Village Wong Ma Kok Path, Stanley Fee: \$350

Mindmap:



Task 1 (13 marks)

Henry, Allison and Bill are writing a new About Us page for their website. Listen to their discussion and write the information in the spaces below. One has been provided as an example. You now have 30 seconds to study the task. At the end of the task, you will have one minute to tidy up your answers.

House of Classical Sound

Opening hours

Monday – Friday (1) _____

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 10.00AM–7.00PM (example)

(2) _____ can be scheduled outside opening hours

Why choose us?

Convenience	Located in the (3) _____ the city
Spaciousness	Over (4) _____ of space
(5) _____ rooms	Each Practise room is (6) _____
A variety of practise rooms to fit your needs	We provide larger rooms with (7) _____ and rooms with (8) _____ mixers for vocalists
Two large (9) _____ , each with a (10) _____	Pianos professionally tuned (11) _____

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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Location

(12) _____

(13) _____

Central

Hong Kong

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

END OF TASK 1

Mock Exam Set 1
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of two parts: Part A, Group Interaction; and Part B, Individual Response. Part B will immediately follow Part A. DO NOT write anything on this page.

Part A Group Interaction

You will be given 10 minutes to prepare. The time allowed for the group interaction is 8 minutes (or 6 minutes for a group of 3 candidates). You may make notes on the notecard provided and refer to your notes during the discussion.

The teacher-in-charge of your school career centre has asked your group to help invite professionals from three different fields to give a talk to the students in your school. Discuss which three types of professionals you would choose from the following:

Flight attendant



If you are an adventurous and outgoing person, try not to choose a nine-to-five job. Being a flight attendant allows you to travel around the world and meet people from different countries.

Journalist



Are you curious about what is happening around you? Do you believe in the power of the media? If you answered 'yes', then being a journalist may suit you best.

Accountant



A mind striving for accuracy and a keen interest in the business world are all you need to become an accountant. Do you possess these qualities?

Athlete



'Hong Kong athletes are not rubbish,' said Lee Lai-shan, the first Hong Kong windsurfer to win an Olympic gold. A career in the sports field can be glorious and rewarding.

You may want to talk about:

- your views on each job
- which three jobs students would find most interesting
- what students would want to learn about in the talk
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

The examiner will ask you one or more questions based on Part A. You will have up to 1 minute to respond.