Key Stage 2

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# INTERVIEW STAR



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Activity 9: Writing and Presenting a Self-Introduction



Example 1: Can you introduce yourself?

Hello, my name is Harry. I am ten years old. I think I am a friendly and cheerful person. I live in Mei Foo with my family. I have one older brother and one younger sister. In my free time, I like playing basketball with my friends because it is a lot of fun. I also like reading books because they are interesting and the characters are fascinating.

#### Example 2: Can you introduce yourself?

Good morning, I am Sarah. I was born in China and now I live in Kwun Tong. I'm an only child, but I have many pets to keep me company. I enjoy playing the piano in my spare time because it is relaxing. I also like visiting my grandparents because we have lots of fun playing board games and we eat a lot of delicious food. I'm a hardworking and honest person.

# **Unit 2 Primary School Life**



Activity 5: Achievements and Awards





#### Example 1:

Have you ever received any awards before?

Last month, our school's basketball team won the inter-school competition, so every one of us on the team received an award from our headmaster. The awards were given out during school assembly. Everybody in the school was there, as well as our parents. The headmaster called our names out and we went to the front of the hall to collect our certificates and medals. I was very happy to receive it but also very nervous because I had to stand in front of the whole school!

#### Example 2:

Have you ever received any awards before?

When I was in primary five, I took part in the Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. I joined the solo verse speaking section and had to read out a short English poem. It was quite scary because I had to stand in front of all the other participants from other schools and read out loud. I was a little nervous, but I had practised very hard so it was okay. After I finished reading, everyone clapped and I felt very happy and proud of myself. At the end, I won the second runner-up prize! I thanked my English teacher because she spent a lot of time practising with me.





Activity 6: Writing and Presenting an Introduction on My School Life

#### Can you tell me about your school life?

I study at Kwun Tong Primary School. It is in Ngau Tau Kok. I take the school bus to get to school each day. In school, we study many different subjects such as English, Chinese and maths. We also have PE lessons. My favourite subject is maths because it's the subject I am best at. I also like PE because it is fun to play sports with everyone.

During recess and lunchtime, everyone goes outside to play in the playground, except when it is raining. During lunchtime, I like to play basketball with my friends. In primary five, I played the piano at the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival and I received a certificate of merit.

# **Unit 3 My Ideal Secondary School**





Activity 7: Writing and Presenting About My Ideal Secondary School

What is your ideal secondary school and what goals do you have?

My ideal secondary school is Tsuen Wan Secondary School because it is a wellknown school with great facilities, such as a gym and a swimming pool. It also has a Kung Fu Club. I am very interested in joining it and making new friends.

My main goal in secondary school is to improve my maths and English skills which the school can help. I want to improve in these subjects because I think they are important, but also because I enjoy them. I also hope secondary school will help me become a more mature and responsible person.







Activity 5: Writing and Presenting About My Dream Job

What is your dream job?

When I am older, my dream job would be a firefighter. I would like to be a firefighter because it is meaningful to help people in need and save their lives. Putting out fires is also very important. I also think being a firefighter would be exciting, but challenging because you have to work in a dangerous environment. To achieve my goal, I need to be healthy and strong. I also need to do well in secondary school and finish my studies.

# **Unit 5 Speaking with Clarity**



Activity 3: Identifying the Mood of a Text



Emma has a very big family. She lives with her parents and four brothers. She is the youngest in her family, so everyone likes to take care of her. Her parents always want her to be happy and don't like it when she cries.

Last winter, Emma's dad told the family some big news, 'We are going on holiday next month!' They all wanted to know where. He said excitedly, 'To London!' The family then started to prepare for their holiday and were all very busy. On the day of travel, they got to the airport early to catch the plane.

It was very cold in London when Emma's family arrived. It was lucky that they were wearing warm clothes. During the trip, the family did many interesting things. They visited museums and learnt about world history. They went to a theatre and watched a play. They also went to a winter festival in the city. There were lots of games and rides there. Emma was very lucky because she won a prize at the festival.

In the second week, Emma's dad drove the family to the mountains in the north. It was snowing there. Emma and her brothers wanted to go skiing, but her mum and dad thought it was too dangerous. Emma and her brothers could only watch other people ski. There were many people skiing and snowboarding in the mountains. After some time, Emma couldn't see her family and was lost. She was frightened and started to cry. Somebody saw Emma and helped her find her family. When Emma's worried parents saw her, they felt so relieved. They wanted to make Emma happy again, so they let her and her brothers go skiing. 'It's time to have fun!' Emma's mum said.

For Emma, it was a holiday to remember.

# **Unit 6 Picture Description** and Storytelling



Activity 4: Storytelling Worksheet



Sample Storytelling 1: The Hare and the Tortoise

All the animals were waiting together at the start of the race. The hare was very happy, but the tortoise was concentrating very hard.

The race started. The tortoise was walking steadily when suddenly, he heard someone snoring. It was the hare! He was sleeping under a tree. The tortoise walked past the hare and kept on walking so he could win the race.

When the hare woke up, he saw the tortoise near the finish line! He tried to catch up with the tortoise, but it was too late. The tortoise won the race! All the animals were happy and laughing.

#### Answer key for reference:

- 1) The white hare and the little green tortoise.
- 2) The hare and the tortoise are having a race.
- 3) The tortoise walks much slower than the hare.
- 4) The tortoise wants to win the race.
- 5) The story takes place in the countryside in the afternoon.
- The tortoise is slow and the hare is tired. 6)
- 7) The tortoise concentrates very hard and keeps on walking.
- The tortoise wins the race. 8)



#### Sample Storytelling 2: Monkeys at the Barbecue

I went with my cousins to the country park and we had a barbecue together. My cousins cooked the meat on the barbecue while I ate a banana. It was very hot and sunny, and the food smelt nice.

Suddenly, a monkey came out from a tree and stole my banana. I was really surprised and scared. The monkey took the banana and gave it to all of his friends in the tree. There were so many monkeys and they all looked happy.

The monkeys were very friendly. They gave us lots of meat to have with our barbecue. We took the meat back and had lots of food on our barbecue.

#### Answer key for reference:

- 1) My cousins, the monkeys and me.
- 2) They are having a picnic with a barbecue and banana.
- 3) The weather is good and the food smelt nice.
- 4) A country park on a public holiday.
- 5) A monkey came to steal the banana from me and took it to all of his friends.
- 6) The monkeys were friendly and they exchanged lots of meat with us for the banana.
- 7) We all had a good time and had lots of food on our barbecue.



cousins / country park



steal



afraid



What happened in the end?





**Activity 4: Giving Opinions** 





#### 1. Is bullying harmful to children?

Bullying is the act of hurting or frightening someone who is weaker than you. It could be by hitting them or by calling them names to make them feel sad. Therefore, I think bullying is harmful to children. Firstly, the student being bullied will be hurt. He or she will feel scared and upset, so they may not want to go to school. Secondly, if someone is bullied, they may feel alone and find it hard to make friends, even in the future.

#### 2. Is cruelty to animals acceptable?

Cruelty to animals means causing physical pain or even death to animals. I don't think cruelty to animals is acceptable. Firstly, animals can feel pain just like us. That means if we don't like being hurt, then animals also don't like being hurt. Secondly, I also think it is wrong because most animals cannot hurt people, so there is no reason for us to be cruel to them. In my opinion, I don't think it is okay to hurt animals.

#### 3. Is pollution getting worse?

Pollution refers to the damage caused by harmful waste or substances to water, air and land. I think that pollution is getting worse. First of all, pollution levels are increasing in developing countries, such as China and India, as they try to quickly grow their economies. Secondly, air pollution is now one of the biggest causes of death in the world with one in nine of all deaths being caused by it. In conclusion, pollution is getting worse and more needs to be done to reduce it.



#### 4. Should schools do more to stop children from being overweight?

Being overweight means being too heavy or fat. I think schools should do more to stop children from being overweight, but I also think their parents sould help. Some schools already provide healthy lunches and snacks, as well as regular exercise opportunities. However, I think schools also need to educate parents on how they can help their child be healthier outside school. Schools could also limit the amount of homework so students have more time to exercise at home. In my opinion, students are becoming more overweight and schools need to do more to encourage healthier lifestyles.

#### 5. Is discrimination a problem in Hong Kong?

Discrimination is defined as treating someone or a particular group of people less fairly than others. I feel that discrimination is a problem in Hong Kong. Firstly, insulting Cantonese words to refer to certain races or groups can still be heard on the streets. Secondly, there are many news stories that talk about how people are stopped from doing certain things, such as renting a flat, or taking a taxi because of the colour of their skin. Although there are discrimination laws in Hong Kong, more needs to be done to make sure we all live in an equal society.

#### 6. Is poverty the main cause for crime?

Poverty refers to the state of being very poor. I think poverty is a cause for crime but not the main cause. First of all, some of the poor may turn to crime to get more money, but many others also work hard legally to earn a living. Secondly, it depends on the crime. There are many crimes being committed by wealthier people or large companies, such as fraud or tax evasion. Additionally, sometimes it can be the rich that use the poor to commit crimes. Overall, poverty can be one cause for crime, but it is not the main cause.



Reports of events, written and read on websites that are not true is known as fake news. With the increased use of social media, there is also an increase in fake news. Firstly, anyone can write and post what they like on social media even if it is not true. Secondly, many new sites now use exaggerated or sensationalist headlines to attract more readers. However, some people may only read the headline and not the article, which may tell a different story to the headline. Therefore, it is important to not believe everything we read, especially online.

#### 8. Should there be stricter food safety laws in Hong Kong to prevent contamination?

Food contamination refers to food that has harmful things added to it which can cause people to be sick. I feel that there should be stricter food safety laws to stop food contamination. Firstly, most of the food sold in markets is not labelled or shoppers do not know where the food is from. Secondly, when we eat out in restaurants, it is not always known where the food comes from or if it is cooked properly. There should be clearer laws to make sure the food we buy or eat is safe.



## **Unit 8 Group Interview Skills**



Activity 4: Agreeing with an Opinion

**Sally:** I think we should take them to Ocean Park. It is a really fun place!

**You:** I like your idea! In Ocean Park, tourists get to visit Asia's rarest animals such as pandas. We can also ride exciting roller coasters. It's a great

way to spend their day!

**Sally:** What about taking them to the Peak?

**You:** That's a good idea too! At the Peak, we can experience the great view of

Victoria Harbour and take some nice pictures. We can also take a relax-

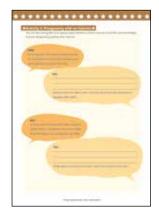
ing ride on the Peak Tram together. It will be a fun day.

**Ben:** How about visiting Mong Kok?

**You:** Good idea! In Mong Kok, there are many delicious local dishes that

we can try out. Also, we can go shopping since there are a lot of cheap things to buy in all different kinds of shops. We will have a

good time in Mong Kok.





Activity 5: Disagreeing with an Opinion

Sally: In my opinion, the summer holidays should be cancelled because students always play video games and waste their time.

You: I don't think that's a good idea. The summer holidays give us a rest from school, after we have been working all year. Also, it gives us time to try out other things such as new hobbies. We can also develop other skills which we don't learn in school. I think the summer holidays are important.

Ben: A long summer holiday will make students forget a significant amount of what they have learnt. So it should be cancelled.

You: I understand, but during the summer holidays, we can use our free time to revise what we have learnt so far. We also have time during the holidays to attend tutorial classes. These will allow us to catch up on things we don't understand, or maybe get a head start on next year's lessons. In my opinion, we should keep the summer holidays.





Activity 6: The Flow of a Group Discussion

**Student A:** Good morning everyone. Let's start our discussion. Our topic for today is 'Where would you like to take a tourist to in Hong Kong?' What do you think about this?

**Student B** In my opinion, we should take them to Ocean Park! It is one of the world's top theme parks. Everyone should pay a visit!

**Student C:** Yes, that's right. We can see many of Asia's rarest animals there! In Ocean Park, we have three famous pandas - An An, Le Le and Ying Ying.

**Student D:** I feel the same way. Besides the animals, we can also ride exciting roller coasters, such as the Hair Raiser. They are really thrilling!

Student A: I'm not sure about it. Although Ocean Park has many rare animals and exciting rides, it doesn't display the unique characteristics of Hong Kong. After all, every country has a theme park. Some even have more than one. We should take them to the Peak instead.

**Student C:** I agree. Tourists can take the Peak Tram to reach the Peak and appreciate the gorgeous view of Victoria Harbour up there. It really is an experience unique to Hong Kong.

**Student B:** This is also a good idea. Both Ocean Park and the Peak are worth visiting. Why don't we include both of them?





**Activity 7: Group Discussion Practice** 

Discussion Topic 1: Students should stay in school for lunch.

#### Agree:

- It is safer for students to stay in school and for teachers to know where they are.
- Schools could provide healthier lunches for students compared to outside.
- There may be discipline problems when they are outside school.

#### **Disagree:**

- The lunch provided at school may not be suitable for some students, so it is important for them to be allowed to get food outside.
- Allowing students to eat outside can show the school trusts them, as well as give them a sense of responsibility.
- Students can take a rest and relax outside school.

Discussion Topic 2: Shops should close on Sundays.

#### Agree:

- If shops are closed, people can have more time with their families doing more meaningful activities other than shopping.
- People that work in shops can have a day of rest. It is not good for your health if you are overworked.
- Online shopping is very popular and convenient, so it is not necessary to have shops open on a Sunday.

- It is expensive to have a shop in Hong Kong, so to make more money they need to open on Sundays.
- Many people work or go to school during the week and even on Saturdays and may only be able to go to the shops on Sundays.
- Sunday opening hours allow students to take part-time work outside of school or university hours.



Discussion Topic 3: The Peak is the best tourist sight in Hong Kong.

#### Agree:

- It provides an amazing view of Victoria Harbour.
- There are many things to see and do at the Peak. You can walk around the Peak, eat at the restaurants or visit the wax museum.
- People can experience one of the oldest trams that takes you up a mountain in the world.

#### **Disagree:**

- It does not represent much of Chinese culture.
- The Hong Kong Museum gives tourists more information about the history and culture of Hong Kong which I think is more important.
- Hong Kong is full of buildings and temples which are more unique and have more cultural significance, such as The Big Buddha on Lantau Island.

Discussion Topic 4: Students should do fewer extracurricular activities.

#### Agree:

- If students join extracurricular activities, they will have too many things to learn and it will be stressful.
- If they don't join, students will have more time to study and complete all their homework.
- They will also have more free time for themselves to rest.

- Students can develop their talents, such as music, sports and art.
- Students can learn new skills e.g. problem-solving and team-work skills.
- Students can make new friends.



#### Agree:

- Students go to school from Monday to Friday, and even on Saturdays. After school, they may have other activities. They do not have time to do homework.
- Students spend too much time on homework which could make them go to bed late. It affects their health negatively.
- If homework is banned, students can spend their time doing more meaningful activities or learning new skills, such as learning to play a musical instrument or playing a sport.

#### Disagree:

- Homework is a good way to review what you have learnt in class or refresh your memory.
- Some students prefer doing homework to doing extracurricular activities.
- Homework helps encourage us to learn more about a topic by researching at home or at the library.

#### Discussion Topic 6: Free lunches should be provided at school.

#### Agree:

- Food and drink is one of the basic needs for any human being and schools should provide it for free.
- Students already work very hard at school and have a heavy workload. They should be given lunch for free.
- If schools provide a healthy free lunch, it can encourage students to learn to eat healthily and try new dishes.

- It would be very expensive to implement and should only be given to low-income families.
- Some students may be picky eaters or have allergies. It may be difficult to offer something everyone can eat.
- Paying for school lunches can allow students to learn how to manage money which is an important skill when they are older.



#### Discussion Topic 7: People should stop eating meat to save the planet.

#### Agree:

- Every little helps, even if the impact is only small. It is a start to help rebuild and protect our planet from climate change.
- Eating vegetables and fruit is healthier than eating meat. Eating lots of meat can increase the risk of heart disease and cancer.
- Many farm animals are kept in poor conditions or being made fatter just for us to eat.

#### Disagree:

- Not eating meat could affect our health as we may not get enough vitamins or minerals from just eating vegetables.
- Just stopping meat consumption will not save the planet. Other actions are required, such as using renewable energy and reducing plastic waste.
- Children need to eat meat and other meat products to grow up healthily.

#### Discussion Topic 8: Robots and AI will take over the world in the future.

#### Agree:

- We already have AI which can help us in our daily lives, such as Apple's Siri or Amazon's Alexa, so I think we can invent a robot or AI with independence.
- Some people could use robots or AI for good or bad. They could programme them to do things like take over the world, so I think it is possible.
- Many jobs are already being replaced by robots or Al. I think it will become a normal part of life after a few generations. Seeing robots everywhere will become normal.

- Although robots can do so many things, they just do not have human innovation and intelligence.
- Robots or AI can't think for themselves. They are limited by the instructions given to them by humans.
- Computers and other technology, such as cars and lights, have been around for many years, but they still breakdown or stop working, so I think robots and AI will do the same.



# **Unit 9 Hypothetical Questions**



Activity 2: What if...?

1. If you were stranded on an island, what would you do?

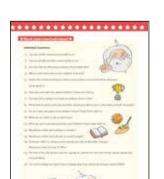
First, I would try to look for help, for example I would find rocks to make the letters 'S-O-S' on the beach. They should be big enough, so planes that pass by can see them and help me. Second, I would try to find water and food. Collecting raindrops, eating fruit or fishing in the sea are good ways. Then, I will start a fire and find shelter or build one using the trees, leaves and other materials I can find.

2. If you had to travel 100 years into the past or 100 years into the future, which would you choose? Why?

I would choose to travel to the future. I am very curious to see what the world would be like after 100 years. I can imagine that there would be a dramatic change in the climate. The sea level may have risen a lot and many rare animals would be extinct. Therefore, I want to take some pictures of this scene. Then, I will show them to people now. I hope that these pictures would then encourage people to work together to save the Earth.

3. You find a book and start to read it. After a few pages, you realise the book is about your life. You read up to the point that you are at now in real life. Would you turn the page to know what happens next?

I would not turn the page. I think it would stop me from living my life to the fullest because I would know what would happen next. There would be no excitement or surprise and so it would be a very boring life. I would know that no matter what I did, every event that happens in the future would be the same. My actions would have the same outcomes as what was written in the book. Also after reading about my future, some of the events may make me angry or sad and I do not want to feel that way all the time.



### **Unit 10 Mock Interview**



Activity 2: Mock Interview (Individual) Individual Questions (Written Sample Response)

#### 1. Can you briefly introduce yourself to us?

My name is Joe. I am 12 years old. I study at Bayview Primary School. I think I am a cheerful and outgoing person. At school, I like to take part in different activities to make friends from different classes. Outside school, I do volunteer work with my family around once a month because I enjoy helping others and meeting new people. In my free time, I like ice skating and playing board games.

#### 2. Can you briefly introduce your family to us?

There are five members in my family. My dad is an ambulance driver and my mum works at a magazine publishing company. I have a younger brother called Darren. He's 9 years old and we go to the same school. My grandma lives with us too. She retired several years ago and now takes care of us when my parents are working.

#### 3. Can you tell me what your primary school looks like?

My primary school is a six-storey building with brick-red outer walls. The central part of the ground floor is our outdoor playground. The school hall is on the first floor with space to fit 400 students. It also has a big stage. My classroom is on the third floor, next to the music room. There's also a newly renovated rooftop garden with lots of green plants and some cozy benches for us to relax during recess.



#### 4. What is your favourite school subject? And why?

Actually, I have two favourite subjects. They are maths and general studies. I like maths because I like the feeling I get after successfully solving a difficult problem. It feels very satisfying. I like general studies because it is a subject where we can learn about many different things, for example history, geography and science. I never get bored with the lessons as we are always learning about new topics.

#### 5. Share one school activity you took part in at your primary school and tell us what you thought about it.

I've been a member of the Chess Club at my school for 2 years. I first joined because I liked playing Chinese chess. Soon after I entered, I also learnt how to play traditional chess as we practised with a coach every other week. The club has held inter-school chess matches with chess clubs from other primary schools too. I think playing chess regularly has improved my thinking and analytical skills.

#### 6. Have you received any awards before? Tell us about one.

In an inter-school board game contest last year, our team received 'The Most Cooperative Team Award'. I was the team leader for that match. This was unexpected because we actually did not win the contest, but the judge appreciated our team work and unity. We lost the match, but we demonstrated our team spirit. From this experience, I've learnt that victory might not be the only valuable thing we can gain from contests.



be a student at our school?

My ideal secondary school is a place where we can strike a balance between studying and developing our other talents. I think your school meets this description. As I know, your students have always performed outstandingly in public exams. Despite this, your school encourages students to explore their personal interests away from studying. It does this by asking everyone to join at least one interest club every year. I think you are a very open-minded school and I aspire to be a student here.

### 8. What kind of extracurricular activities would you like to do in secondary school? And why?

I would like to join the Folk Dance team at secondary school. First, it's an activity we don't have at our primary school and I'd like to try something new. Second, I've practised ice skating for years and I think ice skating and dancing both require flexibility and balance. Therefore, my previous training will help me with folk dancing. Lastly, I think being in a team helps build up a strong friendship amongst members. I look forward to making many good friends through joining this team.

#### 9. Do you have any goals in secondary school? Share them with us.

My goal is to learn about different subjects and do school activities that are not taught in primary school. In secondary school, we learn about many new subjects like history, science and geography. I am very excited to study everything about them. Also, there are many clubs that I want to join, such as the Red Cross and the Debating Team. I am very interested in learning more about first-aid and taking part in inter-school debating competitions.



#### 10. What do you want to be in the future?

I want to be a physiotherapist in the future. I once injured my knee in an ice skating class and was referred to a physiotherapist by my doctor. It was a wonderful experience because in three months, I recovered completely without having to take any medicine or having an operation. I feel that being a physiotherapist would be a meaningful job as they help people manage their pain with simple but effective exercises. Also, I'm interested in biology and that's why being a physiotherapist is my dream job.

#### 11. What are your favourite pastimes and hobbies? Share them with us.

My favourite hobby is collecting and playing board games. I have a huge collection at home and every month I invite friends over to play them with me. I like it because I can have a lot of fun with my friends without going anywhere. Recently, I've also started colouring and have a thick colouring book with lots of pictures in it, along with a pack of 48 colour pencils. I enjoy colouring as I can be creative with the colours while having a relaxed mind.

#### 12. Would you rather be prettier or smarter?

I would rather be smarter because beauty is not as long-lasting as intelligence. Even the most beautiful appearance will eventually fade as we get old, but knowledge and intelligence will stay with us and even get better as we grow and learn more. Also, being pretty does not help with overcoming many situations in life like exams and getting a job, but being smart does. That's why I think it's better to be smarter than prettier.



#### 13. Would you rather end all wars or end world hunger?

I would rather end all wars because I think ending wars can actually help end world hunger. First, we all know from history that wars often lead to shortages of food and poor living standards. If there were no wars in the world, there would be one less cause for world hunger. Second, world peace could also mean more cooperation between different countries. If all countries could join hands and give what they could offer, we might be able to ease the world hunger problem.

### 14. Someone offers to tell you what exactly you will be like after 20 years. Would you want to hear it? Why?

I wouldn't want to hear it because I think it wouldn't make my current life better. If I found out that I become a completely different person to that of which I imagined, I would be frustrated and stop pursuing my dreams. On the other hand, if I found that I become a very successful person, I would be stressed as I wouldn't know what to do to make that come true. Mainly, I believe that our future is in our hands and no one can really tell us what the future holds.

### 15. If it had to be only winter, autumn, spring or summer for the rest of your life, which would you choose? Why?

I would choose autumn because the weather is most comfortable. In winter, it gets too cold. In spring, the weather is humid and in summer, it is too hot. In autumn, I can play outdoors without it being too hot or too cold, plus there is less rain. In addition, I really enjoy the Mid-Autumn Festival, which takes place in autumn. I like eating mooncakes and seeing all the bright and colourful lanterns with my family and friends.



which would you choose? Why?

I would choose always daytime. From a scientific point of view, most crops grow healthily when there is sunlight. If it was always nighttime, we wouldn't be able to produce enough food to survive. Personally, I like to have a longer day because it always feels like I have more time to work or play when the sun sets later in summer. If it's always daytime, we can go outdoors to the mountains, or to the beach every day after school or work.





**Read Aloud Passage** 

#### 1) Steve Jobs

What do the World Wide Web, Toy Story, and the iPhone have in common? They have all changed the world in many ways, big and small. More importantly, if it was not for the vision of one man, these great designs might not have happened.

Steve Jobs created new and excellent ideas to improve computing. In 1976, together with a childhood friend, they started Apple Computers. Jobs' goal was to design computers and phones that looked great and had functions which were useful and easy to use. His company's iPhones, MacBooks, and iPads have now become popular around the world.

Steve Jobs never lost focus by always doing things his own way. In 1985, he was fired from Apple Computers, and he quickly started a new computer company. In fact, the people who created the World Wide Web used one of Job's new company's computer systems! He also took over the company Pixar around that time, which made movies such as Toy Story, Finding Nemo, and WALL-E.

Steve Jobs was asked to rejoin Apple in 1997 and continued to encourage his workers to make the best, most innovative computer systems. He said this about their work, 'We are here to put a dent in the universe. Otherwise, why even be here?' It means it is important for each of us to make a difference in the world by trying our best and creating new ideas. The iPhone is a good example. First appearing in 2007, it keeps getting better every year. Each new model continues to surprise with its improved technology.

Although Steve Jobs died in 2011 from cancer, he will be remembered as one of the greatest leaders in the IT industry ever.





#### Read Aloud Passage

#### 2) A Bird came down the Walk

by Emily Dickinson

A Bird came down the Walk-He did not know I saw-He bit an Angleworm in halves And ate the fellow, raw,

And then he drank a Dew From a convenient Grass-And then hopped sidewise to the Wall To let a Beetle pass-

He glanced with rapid eyes That hurried all around-They looked like frightened Beads, I thought-He stirred his Velvet Head

Like one in danger, Cautious, I offered him a Crumb And he unrolled his feathers And rowed him softer home-

Than Oars divide the Ocean, Too silver for a seam-Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon Leap, splashless as they swim.





Read Aloud Passage

#### 3) Two Happy Snowmen

My name is Richard and I am the only child in my family. I had a friend called Holly who lived next door.

One winter day's I went out to play in the snow after I'd put on my coat and gloves. I planned to make a snowman to show my father when he came back from work at 7p.m. While I was making a snowball, Holly stood beside me and said, 'I want to help you.' 'OK!' I answered. I wanted to collect the things we might need, so I told her to make three snowballs. She said, 'We only need two snowballs to make a snowman.' I didn't think we could make a snowman with just two snowballs. I told her that I would do it myself and I didn't need her help.

Holly went back to her garden to make her snowman while I made mine. It was difficult and it took me a long time to finish it. Finally, I put a scarf and a hat on my snowman. I put two grapes for its eyes, but I couldn't find a carrot for its nose. The snowman looked strange without a nose!

At that time, I heard my Dad's car coming up the street. Holly knew about my problem and came out with a carrot. She broke it in the middle and gave me half. I put it on my snowman and Holly took the other half and put it on her snowman. I thanked her for her kind help. Both of the snowmen looked great, no matter how many snowballs they were made of. We were happy about the two fat white snowmen in our street.



#### **Read Aloud Passage**

#### 4) Favourite Festival

What is your favourite festival, Beth? Sam:

**Beth:** Mine's Christmas, the time we get lots of presents from our family.

Sam: I like Christmas too, but we get all our presents at Chinese New Year.

I love Chinese New Year as well. The dragon parades are a lot of fun. **Beth:** 

I love all the Chinese festivals. They're so colourful and exciting.

Sam: What others do you like?

**Beth:** The Mid-Autumn Festival. It's so beautiful with all the lovely coloured

lanterns in all shapes and sizes.

Have you been to the Bun Festival on Cheung Chau? Sam:

Beth: My parents took us there last year. Amazing, but so dangerous the

way they race each other up the towers to get the buns!

Sam: It's the Dragon Boat Festival next week. Come with me to see some

dragon boat races.

Beth: I'd love to! It sounds exciting.







Read Aloud Passage

#### 5) Barbara McClintock

Barbara McClintock was born in the year 1902. She was an American scientist who studied DNA. She found out that a mother and father's genes determined what a child would look like. She also explored the reason why some genes were stronger than others. In 1983, she won the Nobel Prize for Medicine due to her medical science discoveries.

Barbara McClintock had a difficult family life. She was always fighting with her mother who thought she wasn't pretty or girly enough. When she was 3 years old, McClintock left her parents to live with her aunt because her family did not have enough money to raise her. When it was time to go to university, McClintock's mother would not let her go as she was afraid that if McClintock went to university, no one would want to marry her. However, McClintock's Father decided it would be better for her to go to university than to get married.

After university, McClintock travelled around South America and Central America to study DNA. Because she was a woman, she had many problems getting people to take her seriously. However, McClintock did not give up. She eventually won the respect of the people she worked with. In the 1960s, people began to value her work.

'If you know you are on the right track, if you have this inner knowledge, then nobody can turn you off... no matter what they say.' Barbara McClintock once said. During her time, she guided many other young scientists.

McClintock's work affects many things in our daily life, from the kinds of food we eat to the way we fight sickness. Her work is very important to mankind.





Activity 3: Mock Interview (Group)

Group Discussion Question 1: Living in Subdivided Flats

- Let us talk about the first question: 'Do you believe that it is fair for people to live in these subdivided flats? Why or why not?' What are your opinions about this?
- In my opinion it is not fair for people to live in these subdivided flats. They B: are too small so it is like living in a cage and is not good for your health. They are treated like an animal.
- C: I agree with you. The homes are too small and you cannot move. It is very dirty, so it is unhealthy.
- D: I understand your point, but I think that it is fair because it is so cheap and there is not enough public housing. I think a subdivided home is better than having no home and living on the street.
- A: I'm not sure about that. Many of these subdivided flats are illegal, so it is very dangerous to live in them. It is probably not safe.
- B: OK, let's move on to the next question: 'What do these statistics say about the gap between the rich and the poor?'What do you think about this?
- C: I think that the statistics show that there are a large number of very poor people in Hong Kong. There are 210,000 people living in subdivided flats, and around 268,500 people on the waiting list for public housing.
- In my opinion, this shows that there is a big difference between the rich and D: the poor. The poor people can only afford public housing rents at around \$2,500 per month, but other people can pay more than \$20,000 for one month's rent.



- A: Yes, I think so too. Poor people would have to save money for many years to live in a normal home for one month. So it is very hard for them to rent let alone buy a normal home.
- **B:** Yes that's true. Let's talk more about the problems for people who live in subdivided flats. We've said that subdivided flats are too small and dirty, right?
- **A:** Right! Also, these homes can get very hot during the summer because they have no air conditioning and some do not even have windows.
- C: I agree with both of you. Also, many subdivided flats are illegal, so if you live in them then you are breaking the law.
- **D:** Yes, these flats do not follow the fire safety rules. So when there's a fire, many neighbouring flats may catch fire too. It may be difficult to escape.
- OK, let's discuss the final question: 'What can society do to help the poor?'
  What do you think about this?
- **B:** I think people could help the poor by giving money to the homeless. If everyone gave \$1, they could save lots of money and it could change their lives.
- Yes. We should donate money to charities that help the poor but not just the homeless.
- **D:** I see your point, but I think the Government should help the poor. Not everyone will give their money to help them.
- **A:** Definitely. I agree. If there are more public houses then there wouldn't be so many people on the housing waiting list.
- C: It seems to me that both society and the Government can help the poor. OK, I think we are running out of time now. We should finish there.



Group Discussion Question 2: Social Media

- A: Let's discuss our social media use. Let me start. I check my Facebook page every day after school. I use it for around 30 minutes. I like to see my friends and look at their pictures.
- B: I like to spend a lot of time on Facebook. We can do many things, like chat with friends, see pictures and play games. I use Facebook for more than one hour every day.
- C: I just use Facebook a little. I don't care about the games, and I can use my phone to talk to my friends. I go on Facebook a few times each week.
- D: I do not use Facebook, but I like to use Instagram. I think Instagram is simpler to use, and I just want to see pictures. I use Instagram every day.
- C: Let's talk about the second question: 'Do you believe social media sites such as Facebook are healthy for children and teenagers? Why or why not?' What are your thoughts on this?
- B: I think the sites are good for young people because we can always talk to our friends even when we are at home. It is nice to talk with my friends.
- I agree, they are good for children and teenagers. I like Facebook because A: I can talk to my relatives in Australia and see their pictures. I can see what food they eat and where they go.
- C: I understand your points, but I disagree. I do not think social networking sites are healthy. People spend too much time using them. It is better to play a sport, study or meet friends in person.



- **D:** It seems to me that there are good things and bad things about social media. I agree with Student A, because it is nice to see our friends and talk with them. But, I also agree with Student C, because it is not healthy to always use Facebook.
- Yes, I agree. Another problem with Facebook and other sites is that sometimes you don't know who the people are. The text says a high percentage share their personal information online. Therefore, it may be dangerous because strangers could contact them easily.
- **A:** Definitely. I think another problem with social media is online bullying. People can write mean comments on our pictures, or send a bad message to make you feel scared and upset.
- **B:** I agree with Student C. I think the main problem is that it is dangerous. However, I think the parents should teach their children about how to be safe online.
- **D:** I take your point. I think parents should watch what their children do on the Internet, so they will always be safe.
- C: I disagree with that. If the parents watch us then we have no privacy. I think just talking to us is good enough.
- **A:** Personally speaking, I think the parents can decide if they want to talk to the children or watch them.
- **B:** OK, the time is almost up, so let's finish there.





Group Discussion Question 3: Using Smartphones

- Good morning everyone. Let's start the discussion. I use my phone a lot. I A: usually spend three hours a day playing games and talking to my friends.
- B: For me, I spend around two hours a day on my phone, but I don't play games on it. I like to use my phone to check Facebook and Instagram.
- C: I don't have any social media profiles, but I spend about an hour a day on my phone. I watch YouTube videos and cartoons on it.
- D: I rarely spend time on my phone as I am busy. I only use it for emergencies and maybe to take the odd photo. I usually spend less than 1 hour per week on my phone.
- A: I see. I think sometimes it is good to use our phone, especially for emergencies like Student D said. If we get into trouble or need help, we can call someone immediately.
- C: Yes, I agree. We can also use our phones to go online and learn about things. We could use YouTube to watch shows about animals, the forest and even space.
- D: That's true. There are many educational channels on YouTube. You can also learn a language.
- B: Both the emergency and learning points are good, but I think sometimes we need to stop looking at our phones.



- **A:** Yes, I think so too.
- **B:** By doing so, we can spend time talking to our friends in person or doing fun activities with our family.
- **D:** Don't forget that a lot of screen time is also bad for us. It is not good for our eyes to look at screens for long periods of time.
- **C:** Exactly. More and more children wear glasses nowadays. Also, if we always look at screens, whether it is our phones, TV or computer, it can make us turn into zombies.
- **D:** I feel the same way. On the streets everyone moves slowly or doesn't look where they are going because they are looking at their phones. Let's move on to the final question. 'What can we do to limit screen time?'
- **A:** I think people can have self-control and set a time limit on using their phones and other screens. I think one to two hours a day is OK.
- C: I agree with you. When it is time for exams, our parents can order us to not use our phones as much. They could even take the phones away from us.
- **B:** In my opinion, if we are busy, we won't get bored. Then, we don't need to use our phones, watch TV or play video games, which would reduce our screen time. We need to have new hobbies.
- **A:** I think we are almost out of time, so let's finish here. Thanks.



Group Discussion Question 4: Violence on TV

- Hello everyone. Let's begin our discussion. I think television programmes A: are becoming too violent. There is a lot of violence on TV even in some cartoons.
- B: Personally I am not sure if TV is becoming more violent. I have not seen many old TV shows so I can't compare.
- C: I agree with Student A. I think there is a lot of violence on TV.
- D: I disagree. I think TV has always had violent shows.
- B: Let's talk about the second question. I do think children become more violent after watching violent programmes. After they watch a show with violence, they may copy the violence seen on TV.
- D: I agree. I think young children copy the things they see and hear on TV.
- C: I see your point, but I disagree. I don't think violent TV shows make children more violent. We have seen many violent things on TV but we are not all violent and we don't all fight.
- I think some children may become more violent, but for most children it is A: OK.
- D: OK, let's talk about question three. I think parents can control what their children watch to limit what they see and hear on TV.
- C: I think violent programmes should only be shown late at night. If children



are already in bed then they won't see these programmes.

- **A:** I agree with you. Also, I think that parents can control what children see on the Internet. It is easy to see violent things on YouTube.
- **B:** That's true. However, we are only talking about TV shows, not online videos. I think young children should not have their own TV in their bedroom, so that they cannot watch whatever they want.
- **D:** I think it is better for young children to watch educational programmes on ETV so they can learn and do better at school.
- **B:** In my opinion, young children should watch children's programmes only.
- Yes, I agree with you. English children's programmes are good because they can learn English at the same time.
- **A:** I think watching TV programmes together with the family is good because then they can talk about the show together. Well, that's all the time we have now. Thank you everyone.