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## 獨立寫作（共 28 題）

1. **獨立寫作**：必須使用清潔的能源（太陽能，風能）替代引起污染的能源（油，煤）。

同意或者反對：必須使用清潔的能源（太陽能，風能）替代引起污染的能源（油，煤），哪怕前者的價格更加高昂。

**題目更正版：**Some people argue that using cleaner energy (such as, Solar power or wind power) to protect the environment is a better idea even though the cost is higher, but some people say the traditional energy sources such as coal and oil are less expensive. What is your suggestion?

### Sample Writing:

A cleaner energy utilization is always welcoming in the perspective of sustainable management. It helps us reduce the level of pollution in all aspects; however, for the perspective of economy, it is cheaper to use conventional energy, such as coal and oil. To me, personally, concerning the environmental situation, which matters our generations of generations, I would agree with the statement that using a cleaner energy is more beneficial.

Firstly, using cleaner energy enables human beings to protect our environment in a reusable way. In other words, cleaner energy does little or no damage to the environment. Solar energy, wind energy, or water energy are all from nature, which indicates their environmental friendly property. If mankind tries to make use of them, we can save natural resources for our offspring. For instance, some solar-powered cars use and store sunlight in the daytime and people can drive cars at night without concerning about lack of sunlight. Some traffic lights and street lamps are also capable of using sunlight as their energy source, which saves a lot of electricity and protect our environment. Some admittedly may say that it is more expensive to use them due to our technology for such energy is not fully developed; however, we cannot completely consider things via the value of material. Besides, we need to use more of such cleaner energy to develop and accumulate our technology and know-hows in this field.

A more striking viewpoint for me to support the use of cleaner energy is that it also affects social development in the long run. Compared with the polluting and scarce nature of traditional energy, cleaner energy is considered as the most promising energy in the future owing to its beneficial properties. Once we, human beings, can successfully master this sustainable energy, we can bring a lot of job opportunities to our society where the employment rate is not promising. To put it differently, an increasing number of people will start study the usage and collect useful data to, for instance, develop solar-powered cars and other vehicles. Maybe one day, this cleaner energy will be cheaper than the traditional energy. Even though it costs a lot to study the cleaner energy, it will save lots of unnecessary efforts and money in the future. Contrarily, if we are short-sighted and use the traditional energy, one day such energy will fall short of. Maybe before that, our global warming effect will be aggravated and

this is even more costly since we need to protect our homes and family. The cost to clear up the effects brought about by burning cheaper energy is immeasurable. Are we saving money for the long run? No, we are not.

Last but not least, traditional energy is not only detrimental to our environment, but also to all creatures living on earth. To be more concise, some traditional energies such as coal and oil have been exploited by people for a really long time, and the left content of coal especially is so little that people can continue use coal not longer than hundred years. In addition, burning fossil fuels release plenty of carbon dioxide which worsens climate warming ; sulfur dioxide which leads to the formation of acid rain, which are damaging our building, plants and animals alike in the forest. We are all living in the same place—earth—in a shared eco-system. Maybe humans do not feel the harm too much now, yet one day when all other creatures are in trouble survival, it is too late for us to take measures. Thus, we cannot simply just think on saving money for the energy usage.

Irrefutably, some people may say that we need to concern more about saving money and use the traditional energy. The earth is big and once we save the money, we can use such saved money to help the poor or fund the school. Maybe one day, we will figure out a way to heal the earth if traditional energies really worsen our environment. This viewpoint however is too optimistic. We will not save money for the long run if we continue employing traditional energy to do the benefits of human activities. For a short period of time, it may look prosperous since money is saved, yet for a long term, we are not gaining any benefits because we are hurting our mother earth for our selfish needs. So, are we going to live on this planet for long? Are we saving resources to our children and grandchildren? Yes, the answer is positive. Thus, using cleaner energy (such as, Solar power or wind power) to protect the environment is a better idea even though the fee is higher. We after all only have one earth.

2. **獨立寫作**：中學生應該做家务養成責任感。

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:**

**In order to help high school students learn the sense of responsibility, it is necessary for them to do household work after school.**

**Sample Writing:**

The sense of responsibility is of essence for any people at any age. Without it, people will just lost the passion for learning more things and extend one's strength to go further. To high school students, they are still at their early stage of life, so if they can cultivate the sense of responsibility at such age by learning from household work after school, they can achieve their goals easier down the road.

To begin with, high school students can learn more about things that are not taught at school. Doing household work after school enable s young students to know what their parents are doing for them. For some high school kids, what they are told to do is to study and attain a good score for a prestigious

school. This viewpoint makes them narrow-minded about the world. Doing the dishes, for example, makes young children aware that it is not an easy job. Keeping the living room clean or doing the laundry enables them to appreciate what their parents do for them; in turn, they will care about other people more. Those things are not typically taught at school. By learning these household chores, they can also learn the sense of responsibility if they cannot finish things on time or in a tidy way. Needing to learn the basic way of doing those things, they can learn to be responsible for their own chores and their study at school. When such sense of responsibility is learned in the young age, they will be more passionate to fulfill their jobs in the future. They know this is their responsibility and they need to take care of it no matter how.

Secondly, doing household work can motivate young students to do better things in the future. Research has shown that motivation is related to whether or not students have opportunities to be autonomous and to make important academic choices. Having choices allows children to feel that they have control or ownership over their own learning. This, in turn, helps them develop a sense of responsibility. In other words, doing household chores, students have to learn various chores that are not common to them apart from their academic work at school. By finishing assigned household work, they feel a sense of fulfillment, which is something like they have achieved something they set up as schedule. This is a process of learning the sense of responsibility. For instance, bigger successes of life are accumulated by numerous smaller successes. During their completing household work, such as mopping the floor or recycling, they will feel motivated to do learn more and do better. Each time they finish what they are assigned by their parents; each time they feel the sense of responsibility being learned. The feeling of completing things will help students gain not just sense of responsibility but confidence, which is also essential to their life. In addition, participating in household chores enable young students to share time and effort with their family, during which they also learn to observe how other people deal with difficulties. This can help high school students learn the way how things are tackled.

Certainly, some people may say that students should focus more on their school work instead of household work, which should be done by their parents. Besides, even though high school students excel at those chores, they cannot go to renowned schools because of this. Even though they are doing it after school, high school students are under academic pressure and they need to make better use of their time working on their school learning. However, without doing household work, young students do not know the role they are playing in their family. Having a great performance in school is just something they need to do for themselves. They cannot only focus on their own things. Rather, they should all be participating in household work for learning the sense of responsibility no matter they like it or not. This is a great training for young kids because when they leave school or leave their family, they also need to do things that they do not like. With the practice of doing household work, they can gain such knowledge through the demonstration of sense of responsibility. Thus, high school students no doubts should learn to do household chores after school, so that they can learn the sense of responsibility.



### 3. 獨立寫作：大學應該做什麼更好地幫助學生。

Do you agree or disagree: colleges and universities must do a better job of preparing student for the workplace.

老師云：

1. 這一篇的題目是“better job”也就是說，學校有做，但沒做得很好。所以同學不要寫成“學校如何幫助學生做好未來工作準備”或是“學校應該做什麼。”還要多加一層→ 學校是已經做了，但是做得不好，為什麼？如何做更好的建議等。

2. 還有 要小心題目中的名詞概念，要加“s” to colleges and universities. 並且，我們是在討論“高等教育”領域喔。 題目字也要適時丟出！

3. TOPIC SENTENCES 完後，老師都先合理化然後再帶例子。這是正班寫作的基礎訓練。可多注意！

4. 老師內容都有多寫，要自己擷取要的大意喔！400 字已足夠~~~ 加油喔！

#### Sample writing:

We are now living in a global village where competition is fierce. Some people then consider that colleges and universities should do a better job of preparing students for their future workplace. However, not all the people agree with this idea since this is too occupation-oriented for higher education. To me, personally, I am in favor of the former idea which is also the stand our prompt consents.

Firstly, colleges and universities need to help students to know what they are adept at for their future career. Most of them need to seek for a job right after they graduate from colleges or universities, thus schools undoubtedly need to prepare them for their jobs in a more serious way. Locating what students needs or inspiring the interests of students is important tasks for higher education. For instance, universities should offer more courses that allow students to explore what kinds of field they are appropriate so that they can spend more time working on the specialty during their college years. Besides, schools can also provide more information about what jobs are related to their major. A good case in point, some students love the language of “English,” so they choose to study in English major that requires students to read a lot of literature of English. However, the job opportunities in the society do not need people who read a lot of literature, but people who can speak the language or who can teach the language and use the language in the daily life. Thus, if the school can help such preparation, college students can take more courses relevant for their future career in advanced. A head start for the career preparation is always inviting to the students as well as the school.

Secondly, pure academic studies have a gap to the reality of the requirement that the workplace requires. It goes without saying that colleges and universities are the foundation of academic work that leads to the advancement of the work in all aspects. Without it, human knowledge cannot be

accumulated in a solid foundation. However, not everybody goes for further studies and becomes a scholar after college. Thus, it is of importance for schools to help students of preparing for their workplace. A good case in point is that, many students do not fully comprehend what they learn in school having anything to do to their future job. What they are doing is just like playing a game on paper according to the school schedule, not on the real world. A chemist can know knowledge about chemistry well, yet for the future workplace, they need a chemist that can help them solve, such as questions about poor crop yielding or water quality from the steel company. Moreover, universities should provide students with more career directions prior to their leaving universities, such as an education-majored student can also be a tour guide or a museum interpreter. Schools should also equip them with the skills they need to do the job, not just academically teach students for the paper work. Thus, schools can cooperate with current company and ask them to provide internship with present students. This will facilitate students to learn more not just on their academic work, but also the practical work they might encounter down the road.

Thirdly, colleges and universities fail to impart the knowledge of life students need for their future job.

What I define as knowledge of life here refers to teamwork and time management, which are so essential in student for their future workplace. In spite of the fact that colleges and universities do prepare students to some extent with these skills as in the group activities of study group or school project, it does not do a good job for preparing them to really focus on the importance of such. For example, in the workplace, what matters are cooperation and teamwork in the group along with the limited time utilized for carrying on a project. For students, they usually finish their shares in a study group and wait for others to join them as a group. However, in the workplace, every individual is seen as a significant "cog" of the whole machine. If the members do not finish the work, others will not wait for the outcome, but will try to help out as a team in the time the boss requires.

Lastly, schools need to prepare students how to present themselves in the best way possible for the future workplace. At school, students mainly employ their time on their studies, in the library or discuss school courses with other students. Not fully aware of the job market, students sometimes feel frustrated in their first step of job pavement. The school does help them to make a preparation for a job interview as in dressing nicely, skills for resume and the forth; however, this is not sufficient. Job hunting also includes the negotiation of proper salary, how to make a better impression than other applicants and the mindset new employees should hold toward their first, say, five years of career life. In addition, schools should well inform students of companies in the market on what they expect for their future employees or seminars between students and future employers. By doing so can colleges and universities better assist students with their future work.

In conclusion, high education, such as colleges or universities, should not just aim at academic work and only encourage students to study. Admittedly, students should spend most of the time in their academic work, yet this should better be cooperated with schools that are aware of what the real world is for students' future workplace. A better preparation, after all, is the key to success.

#### 4. 獨立寫作：大學教授的角色。

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The main role of a university professor is to educate students rather than to do research.

##### Sample writing:

Professors play an essential role in higher education. Students are motivated and inspired by renowned professors who are proficient in their field. However, they also are engaged in various work such as educating students, doing research or cooperate with either the school or the enterprise. The more things they do, the worse efficiency they might have toward every work. As for our topic, what is the main role of a university professor over the issue of educating students or doing research? To me, personally, I think professors should focus more on doing research than educating students.

First of all, the research could have great importance in the real world and could one day lead to real breakthroughs. In other words, the research done by professors in the college environment can result in great contributions to the society, such as to the medical world, like a cure for cancer or a solution to global warming. As is known, in order to solve problems big or small, a series of research needs to be observed and performed by professional people who are based on the academic work. College professors are those who have PhDs and performed and practiced tons of experience in the field relevant, thus they should focus mainly on doing research, which could make a big difference to the world rather than students in the school. Besides, they are working in the school, so they are provided a great environment to focus on their research and meanwhile they can also inspire students for the future study. It, therefore, seems fair that a professor should spend more time doing research than giving lectures to students.

In addition, if a professor's research was successful it could benefit the university and the students in two ways. First, the university would be able to receive grants and funding to continue with further research. This money would help the university improve their research facilities, which would benefit the students who use these facilities. Secondly, recognition of the research would improve the reputation and standing of the university, which is something that would also benefit the students who studied there by association, such as Ivy League schools in the US. Moreover, a professor who continues to do research is more aware of recent developments and is kept at the forefront of the field, which will eventually benefits college students in the long run. The professor is also more likely to be a more enthusiastic teacher because they will be excited about the new discoveries they are making and be eager to share this enthusiasm with the students they teach, who in turn will also learn the spirit and methods performed by the professors at the same time.

Admittedly, some people may think that professors should not just focus on doing research; for example, they are "teachers" by definition who should spend more time on the education part. True indeed, this is a cogent argument; however, we are talking about colleges or universities in this regard. To put it differently, students in this level are more self-motivated and know what they want in their studies.

Professors should not play the role of “teachers” who merely teach as what their teachers in high school do; instead, professors should play the role of “instructors” who instruct students when they have problems along their self-study path. Besides, too much “teach” may bring about the dependence of learning that makes students only search for the right answer. As we all know that education is not all about doing “the right thing,” but trying to think independently and making mistakes and learning from those mistakes as a whole. It should, therefore, be given precedence over teaching for the role of professors and they should be allowed to focus more on their research.

**5. 獨立寫作 : Teaching is harder than it was in the past .**

**Do you agree or disagree with the statement: Teaching is harder than it was in the past.**

Education is an ever changing field in the world. In the past, it was always teacher-centered classroom settings. Students played the role of the receiving end and teachers dominated the whole class through lecturing. As time goes by, the "receiving end" groups are allowed to have their opinions discussed and expressed more frequently in the classroom since communication skills, the ability of leadership and facility of delivering public speech are valued in our time. These factors influence the way today's teacher applies their teaching pedagogues. Is teaching harder than it was in the past? Yes, in my view, I totally agree with the statement.

To begin with, teachers are burdened with more tasks with the advancement of technology. In other words, they need to keep up with technology or a move to the online classroom that's adding extra hours to their work day. With the advent of technology, there is a big shift for the traditional classroom where only blackboard or whiteboard is used and the teachers lecture on the subject for the day. The widespread Internet use computerizes the whole classroom setting. The traditional black and white boards are replaced with a touch-on screen where students do not just read words but watch clips, listen to music or see pictures. All these changes are positive for education; in the meantime, it also makes teachers have to spend their time for the smoothness of the class (carrying out) by familiarizing themselves with the operation of the computers, electronic gadgets as well as looking on line for proper resources or information such as clips, pictures or music. All these modern way of conveying knowledge will surely burden the teachers and complicate the teaching process. Based on a survey from annual Faculty Focus from USA, fifty percent of the teaching faculty rated that their teaching job as more difficult and challenging than it was before. Teachers need to be familiar not just with their scope of knowledge for the subjects, but also the technique and skills of the Internet and relevant operation.

Secondly, due to the gradual complexity of the student pool at school, teachers need to spend extra time and effort for such diversity. To be more concise, additional committee work and administrative responsibilities are imposed on all the teachers who were originally only responsible for the subjects they taught before. As is known, the world is becoming smaller in not physical size, but the concept of diversity is making the world just like a village for cultures, nationalities, genders and so on. In other words, we are in a transition where the world becomes less simple than it was. Take American schools for example. The student body is composed of not just Americans, but a diversity of nationalities.

According to a survey performed by Princeton Review, for Ivy League schools, nearly forty percent of students come from other places than the USA. With such diversity, teachers are imposed more work in addition to their teaching. For example, they need to be aware of the various cultures in order to better understand their students, school ball games, speeches or even food diversity designed for such changes in the student body. With such a burden, they have less time for their teaching and they need to employ extra time on the subject they are teaching in accordance to cultures, nationalities and beliefs. For history class, they may try to not offend people from Iran or Pakistan about wars or chaos. For environmental issues, they need to deal with subtle issues for students from China, India and other developing countries regarding CO2 emissions and refusal to sign certain protocols regarding our environment improvement. All these will make the teaching more arduous than it was before when teachers only had to deal with less diversity of students along with less extra administrative tasks and chores.

Admittedly, some people might say that today's students are smarter and they are exposed to various kinds of knowledge in such an Information Explosion Era when they can self-teach and self-learn many things, academic subjects will certainly be included. Teachers do not need to be as intense as they were before that when teachers were the only source of what they were learning. (Irrefutably, it is not always the case. Students in the past were only learning what were taught in the school compared with what students living in our time need to learn as extracurricular activities, so they would go deeper into the school subjects that made the teachers need to refer to more information for their questions and this would be harder for teachers to do.) However, as time passes, the complexity of the society will only become more sophisticated, which of course applies to the teaching field where teachers need to ever update themselves for the rapidly-changing world--the world in which all students are participating in creating a more vivid world instead.

#### **More details:**

Here are just some of the comments from teachers who think today's students are becoming more complicated and their teaching is getting hard than ever. With extra time spared and spent on those new tasks, teaching is not what it was and is more difficult.

1. Difficulty in getting blocks of time in which they need to focus on learning new technologies balancing work/home life Lack of funds. The worst aspect of teaching now, after nearly 40 years in the profession, are the students who are not prepared for the rigors of college and they are being asked to teach a course with little or no advanced notice (as a part-time faculty associate), demands outside of the workplace (e.g., family/kids schedules, time for exercise)
2. Having the University recognize the importance of teaching in a research intensive highly competitive environment finding ways to integrate the assigned reading into class sessions so that students don't feel as if it's just extra work that they do; effectively leading classroom discussions; finding new teaching strategies and methods that I can apply to my subject matter

3. Heavy grading load, in part because every assignment needs to have a consequence if not done or students will not do it Finding time to integrate new technology or updating to newer technology in my course work How do we convince students that there is value in long-term, careful, thoughtful study? This also speaks directly to the question of their motivation for working toward a degree. The credential has become far more important than the learning for many, if not most, of my students! Finding time to be creative in developing my courses

4. Grade inflation. Students expect to get a “good grade” simply because they attended class vs. putting in the effort to earn the grade. Engaging 1st year students in discussions. Biggest problem are that students lack basic knowledge and skills. They are prepared to work hard, but are ill-equipped Finding culturally relevant reading resources Students’ poor writing skills Finding time to develop creative and engaging lessons. Also, finding new examples and case studies to integrate into my lessons is indispensable. Writing new assessment tools especially quiz and exam questions.

**Jot down the details for your body paragraph.**

**Write me one topic sentence for this topic and try to look for the details in the content.**

→

6. 獨立寫作：汽車比飛機對社會有更大影響。

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The car (automobile) has had greater effect to society than the airplane has.

Human beings invent a wide variety of things to facilitate our life for the betterment. One of the most revolutionized inventions by mankind is the advancement of transportation. As to what has had greater effect to society—automobiles or airplanes—? They both have so many positive factors to this question. To me, I agree with the statement that the car has had greater influence to society than the airplanes.

To begin with, for the society, we need more short distanced mobility than the long distanced one. Not everyone, in our society, needs to take the airplane to reach different countries or need the airplane to carry items from places faraway. However, we do need automobiles to go to work every day, to move cargoes to different places or stores, to take people to a nearby place for either travelling or visiting people. In society wise, automobiles are more in need than airplanes. Besides, due to the wide application of automobiles, many infrastructures are being built for this need, such as asphalt, technology relevant to roads and traffic signs. Those changes have made a huge impact on our society. Workers decide the way how to get to their companies; stores open based on the visiting people of the traffic and many of us choose the most appropriate place to live based on the route the automobiles bring and create. The effect is tremendous to our society since we cannot live without cars for any single day.

Secondly, automobiles have brought the development of a society. To be more exact, the number of the “motorized” transportation exceeds greatly than that of the “flying” transportation and this can surely invite my statement for this topic. With the increasing number of cars, we begin to rely on the mobility and practicality to develop our cities or towns. For our society, it has changed the way people live, work, travel and of course, urbanization, which is considered one of the most important effect in human society. Due to societal urbanization, we make greater use of our land. We choose the proper areas for planting trees, feeding farmed animals and places human beings live and carry out their business activities that make the society prosper. The influence of automobiles makes all these not just possible, but convenient, easy and nationwide. In addition, based on this, we build our society on the areas as well as on the functions mention above.

Irrefutably, airplanes are abridging the distance on the planet to a point that we can fly to any place we long to, be it British or Vietnam. Not only does the airplane make far travelling possible, but it also makes travelling faster and more comfortable. Moreover, there are no borders around the world. For the development of society, we need airplanes to carry goods not just for commercial purposes (chained supermarkets for instance), but also for helping people in need, such as overnight delivery of packages and merchandise or carrying rice or food to people living in Africa. Those things have had deep influence in our society for sure; however, in comparison, automobiles have greater effect in our society that is mainly shaped by the high frequent usage in our time and performed in every single day.

7. **獨立寫作**：獨處才能真正放鬆減壓。

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The best way to truly relax and reduce stress is to spend time alone.

**名詞定義**：可以先在思考上 有所建樹

**1. Alone:** Without company: without any other person or thing nearby or in attendance, for company, or to give assistance

**2. Relax:** To spend time resting or doing things for pleasure, especially in contrast to or as a relief from the effort and stress of everyday life. Relaxing is also a process of reorganizing the brain's function and ability

**3. Stress:** Mental, emotional, or physical strain caused, e.g. by anxiety or overwork. It may cause such symptoms as raised blood pressure or depression.

**Sample writing:**

Everybody has a unique way to relax and reduce the stress accumulated in their daily life. Some people prefer spending time alone, while others may go exercising or socializing with their friends in a team. To me, I agree with the statement—the best way to “truly” relax and take away stress is to spend time alone.

To begin with, enjoying the tranquility of one's own time soothes people. In modern society, whatever people do, in work or at school, they are being with people around them. In other words, people need to spend time with themselves to truly relax and have the stress relieved. **For workers**, they work hard and deal with co-workers and customers a lot, which has consumed much of their energy mentally and physically. A peaceful moment without any interference from others can be the most effective method to recover and refresh themselves. For instance, they can watch movies and laugh or cry with it, which is a great channel to outlet their hidden emotions from work. If they were with other people doing this (假設語態), they might consider what other viewers think of them when they have sentimental gushes. **For students**, they are at important stages of learning both in life and in their academic work; mostly, they are either in the classroom learning with other students or with classmates socializing or discussing homework. In other words, they cannot truly relax and reduce pressure. Keeping their own company, they can go exercising alone, listening to music alone, rather than talking to other people; they can go to library alone reading books in their favor. By having total control over themselves at that moment, stress can be released and that is thorough relaxation. If they were still with their classmates or friends(假設語態), they might need to consider what they think and make compromises for decisions on, for instance, where to eat, when are they going home from the library or which movies they want to watch. (以上二選一寫)

Secondly, being alone with oneself can be more concentrating. In order to live a carefree life, we need to learn to be with ourselves, spending time with ourselves. Independence of mind and lifestyle can lead to productivity and fulfillment. Being alone and self-reliant means they can focus more on what they do and be productive. For computer programmers, if they can be productive, they can finish their work on



time or even ahead of the due time. This is a big relief for them since they are always having a tight schedule for their work. To be more concise, they do not need to keep such burden stored in mind for an extended period of time. Moreover, the sense of fulfillment of their work brings pleasure and confidence in them. With the solitude of oneself, people can be more focusing and that is conducive to productivity and fulfillment in their work.

Everything of course can be viewed from other perspective, which also includes this statement. Some people may think that for relaxation and stress reduction, there are many ways to achieve this goal, such as hanging out with friends being sociable and gregarious in a group. When people desire to relax, they need people around to share their good times and bad times alike. When people long to lessen their stress, they need someone to be with them, to give them ideas or suggestions or to do the exercise together in a ball game etc. Being alone with oneself might make people feel lonely and inactive. Nevertheless, for wider proportion of people living in modern days, the truly relax and reduce stress is to spend time alone, being with themselves so that they can enjoy their peaceful life more and be able to concentrate more on what they do for the best achievement of relaxation and pressure reduction.

8. **獨立寫作**：科技進步使人類生活變簡單或複雜。

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: Technology designed to make people's lives simpler often turns out to make them more complicated.

Human beings are proud of technology created for the convenience of people's live, which makes things seemingly impossible possible. The Internet, communication methods, refined instruments for the medical world as well as lighter, yet more solid materials for buildings and the like. Is technology created for the convenience to the mankind as it was originally designed for or are they turning out making things more complicated in the end? In my opinion, personally, I think that technology makes people's life simpler not more complicated.

**第二種第一段**: Some say technology is a blessing; others say it is a curse that makes simple things more complicated in the end. Which is right? We have to admit that nothing is perfect and personally I think that technology designed makes people's life simpler, not more complicated down the road.

To begin with, transportation advancement helps long distance travel possible. We used our foot to travel from one place to another in the primitive time for food, safe places and more suitable living environment. Those were only regional and such movement was largely confined to a limited area with a complicated preparation. Now, with the help of technology, we have designed from early steam boats to later airplanes or even space rockets to make human's life more convenient. People do not need to carry heavy luggage and use a lot of time in order to travel from one place to place for any need. Automobiles allow people to travel long distance for fun, for visiting friends or for work and it do not waste too much time along the process. This makes people's life much easier than it was before.

Moreover, the improvement of transportation can also contribute to color and save our life by enabling goods, such as food, garments, and even elites in various fields, to go from one country to another country when they are in need due to new business requirements or natural disasters.

Secondly, the Internet is designed to assist people with their communication. One of the greatest designs created to make people's life easier is the Internet. This makes possible--for business people to advertise their products in an efficient way without the limitation of borders and time; for students to search for information in a faster and more precise way. Additionally, students can also find different solutions for their projects in an international forum on the same topic. All these make people's life simpler. Before the Internet was created, business people needed to use papers for their advertisements or presented themselves in a discussion or meeting. Now it is simpler for them to use the efficiency and availability of the Internet for the work. In the same manner, students went to library for information. Now, they go on line for it without going out and they can locate the information in a more precisely way with the access of the Internet. Moreover, students can have a look at the information on line first. All those make their life simpler, not more complicated.

讓步段拉出寫一段:

Admittedly, everything has two sides depending on how people look at it. Many people may consider that technology originally designed for the convenience of people turns out making things more complicated. For instance, we create antibiotics for killing virus and germs, yet they are evolved and human beings are gradually losing hands to the mutation of virus. Our use of antibiotics is leading to superbugs that are resistant and more deadly. Mass production technology has made food preparation easier and faster, yet it turns out creating obesity problems and health concerns making easy, simply matter more complicated. However, nothing is perfect. Will we go back to the time when there were no light just because it has the potential to catch fire? Will we go back to the time when there were no cars just because it might cause car accidents? Thus, I still think that technology makes people's life simpler, not turning out to be more complicated.

讓步段和最後一段寫在一起:

Admittedly, everything has two sides depending on how people look at it. Many people may consider that technology originally designed for the convenience of people turns out making things more complicated, such as antibiotics that end up creating superbugs or the use of the Internet that turns out to be a tool of wasting time or plagiarism on papers. However, nothing is perfect. As human beings have the heart for making our life simpler, when there are things becoming more complicated, we will try to tackle problems. Technology is still used for the convenience of human beings, not the other way around.

**Other thoughts you might use:**

What are hot topics about technology?

<p><b>Cars (Good)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make long distance travel possible</li> <li>2. Able to go from one place to another place in a shortest time possible</li> <li>3. Carry heavy goods around</li> <li>4. Boost business</li> <li>5. Safer and more convenient in the process of travel</li> </ol>	<p><b>Cars (Bad)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make people's life sedentary</li> <li>2. thwart the possibility of walking, jogging and doing exercise</li> <li>3. emitting CO<sub>2</sub> heating up the temperature of earth, causing Greenhouse Effect</li> </ol>
<p><b>Microwave ovens (Good)</b></p> <p>Easier to prepare food, which is needed in our fast paced society</p> <p>(i) Microwave oven cooks many foods in about 1/4th of the time necessary on a gas burner. There is no wastage of energy.</p> <p>(ii) It saves time in heating frozen foods. Thawing can be done in minutes or seconds.</p> <p>(iii) Only the food is heated during cooking. The oven or the utensil does not get heated except under prolonged heating periods.</p> <p>(iv) Flavour and texture do not change when reheated in a microwave oven.</p> <p>(v) Loss of nutrients is minimized. (3-carotene and vitamin C are better retained by microwave cooking compared to pressure cooking and saucepan cooking.</p> <p>(vi) After cooking in a microwave oven washing dishes is much easier as food does not stick to the sides of the vessels.</p> <p>(vii) Food gets cooked uniformly.</p> <p>(viii) Preserves the natural colour of vegetables and fruits.</p> <p>(ix) No fat or low fat cooking can be made.</p>	<p><b>Microwave ovens (Bad)</b></p> <p>Microwave causes too much pollution and they make some of the food unhealthy because of the way they heat them.</p> <p>(i) Due to short period of cooking, food does not become brown unless the microwave has a browning unit.</p> <p>(ii) It cannot cook soft or hard boiled eggs.</p> <p>(iii) Sometimes unwanted chemicals migrate to food from plastic cookware or food packages. Only "microwave safe" should be used.</p> <p>(iv) The short cooking time may not give a chance of blending of flavours as in conventional methods.</p> <p>(v) The operator should be careful in operating the microwave oven since any exposure to microwave oven causes physiological abnormalities.</p> <p>(vi) If the food is greater than 80 mm the central portion is out of range of the microwave radiation will only heat by the normal slow process of conduction. It will be relatively uncooked while the exterior accessible to microwave is cooked in minutes or seconds.</p>
<p><b>Cell phones (Good)</b></p> <p><b>1. Emergency</b></p> <p>If you were on the highway and your vehicle broke down, the cell phone would be great to call for help.</p> <p><b>2. Texting</b></p>	<p><b>Cell phones (Bad)</b></p> <p><b>1. You might forget</b> to charge your phone and only have 1 bar or no bars left on your phone. I have done that occasionally.</p> <p><b>2. If you are texting during</b> a meeting, this can</p>

<p>You can get texting capabilities on a cell phone, which is great for certain situations when in a public place. You might not want everyone else hearing your conversation. Also, everyone else might not want to hear your conversation, especially in a crowded restaurant or in a store. Texting can be a great way to keep in touch with relatives and friends all over the world.</p> <p><b>3. Pictures &amp; Videos &amp; Games</b></p> <p>I once attended a wedding, as the bride walked down the aisle; there were numerous people along the aisle that had their cell phones taking videos and pictures. Nearly wherever you may go, you can instantly use your cell phone to take photos or videos. There is no need to carry a camera to an event. You can also watch movies on your cell phone. You can also play games on your cell phone.</p> <p><b>4. You can connect to your favorite social networking site.</b></p> <p>It is so simple to upload the pictures to your computer or favorite social networking site such as Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, or Utube.</p> <p><b>5. Flexible Plans</b></p> <p>Some companies are much more flexible with cell phone plans now. You can find some of the best cell phone plans for families, if you just do some price comparisons. There are companies that require no contract, no credit check, and will give you unlimited calling and texting for one flat rate per month including taxes. There are cheap cellphones plans available to fit your budget. You can also change these plans from month to month depending on your needs. Some have unlimited web access, GPS capabilities, instant messaging, and even free directory assistance.</p>	<p>be very distracting, because you are not giving the speaker your undivided attention. Also, the speaker may not be very happy should they see you texting during the speech.</p> <p><b>3. You might accidentally</b> leave your cellphone on high, when it should be on vibrating. This could be cause for great embarrassment when it goes off when you least expect it.</p> <p><b>4. Cellphone Towers</b></p> <p>You may not be able to receive a signal in some areas, depending where you are. Especially, if you are in the mountains, cellphone reception may be terrible.</p> <p><b>5. Unexpected phone call</b></p> <p>You may receive calls when you are in the middle of something. If you are compelled to take the call, it can be rather disrupting. People get more brain damage from listening to people who claim cell phones create brain damage than they ever would from a cell phone. People are spending more and more time on them because they are a tool that aids and eases our society. We have music, movies, games, GPS, communication and the internet at our fingertips wherever we are. That is beyond incredible.</p> <p>Even though cell phones are great they can also produce hearing problems and brain damage. because phones are becoming so great more people are getting them and people are spending more time on them cell phones kill honeybees.....these days honey is used by hr8 patients &amp; they would also someday die if this is continuously followed.</p>
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Jot down ideas that you prefer from this prompt:

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9. **獨立寫作**：是否同意政府不應該給藝術家任何金錢補助。

網路版：是否同意政府不應該給藝術家（musician, filmmaker, artist...）任何 financial support

更改版：

→ **Do you agree or not agree that government should not provide any financial support for musicians, filmmakers and artists?**

Without art what will become of this world? Life would be duller or better because government does not have to spend money on it and then use such amount of budget on other items such as education or health for a government. (都談到 題目!) To me, personally, I think government should provide the financial support for musicians, filmmakers as well as artists for sure.

To begin with, art is educational and resourceful to people in the country. This is why our government should subsidize it. Arts are a unique and effective form of teaching empathy, critical thinking, and inter-personal skills. In addition, it is advantageous for people, especially young students, to learn logic and spatial concepts through paintings and music. For example, when students are producing art, they need to think of an object in mind. How the object is presented in regard to the real size, such as a building, a vehicle, or a person's face. Three dimensional aspects would be processed through the human mind for a perfect presentation of the art work, which will help students to advance not just their hand-eye coordination skills, but a big facilitator for the development of science and math. Moreover, art can help us think and understand ourselves as individuals, as a nation, and as human beings. Thus, the government subsidy of the arts allows a greater diversity of work to flourish, for the benefit of all who live in our country.

(多寫的 同學看看裡面的 IDEAS 看你要不要用) One the same notion, the arts can also help children with disabilities learn things such as how to perfect their motor skills by drawing. Additionally, arts can also help them learn basic mathematical shapes and the importance of lines and contrast Music can soothe children and teach them about pitch, sound and rhythm. The lyrics in music can increase children's vocabularies and help with speech. Use songs that incorporate academic lessons in the music so that the children will find learning easier.

Secondly, art improves civic life and makes citizens find a channel to release their pressure. The purpose of the government is to make people live delightfully in a carefree environment. Through supporting music related activities, such as symphony, concerts or vocal performances from overseas, citizens can enrich themselves with those art forms, which are usually too expensive for most citizens and without the support of the government, the average citizens can never be stimulated by such activities. By supporting filmmakers, more independent directors will be keen on making non-mainstream movies saving our culture and teach more people beautiful things, such as documentaries about the local tradition, such as the life of the bald eagle as an indigenous species. Those things are not just entertaining, but also provide a channel for most people to have another chance to view the world with a different perspective, releasing pressure accumulated in the fast-paced urban life. Without government funding and support, the arts in this country could easily languish.

Thirdly, artists in filmmaking, music and paintings deserve to receive full support from government as providing more jobs. Good art makes our world a better place to live. Who does not want to live in a world that has good music, good painting, good literature, and good clothing? Art reaches to every field of our daily life; they have been an essential component of the human world since day one. In the meantime, since it is pervasive in society, a support of this aspect from the government is equivalent to creating job opportunities. By doing this, government gets to provide more opportunity and freedom to those who are willing to create an artistic environment for the society. We can expect to see more art events being held, more museums being funded, and more people who will realize the importance of art and get involved in it. Most importantly, they have a job and can make a living with such support.

Irrefutably, entertainment is a want not a need. More money should be spent on healthcare, children, senior citizens, security and education, which are the true responsibility of a wholesome government. Art is subjective, "Why should I fund a stranger's taste for the arts?" Popular art will be paid for and if an art form is not popular then people who like the art form must fund it. Why should the majority pay their hard earned money on art that they don't appreciate? However, this is not all true. If we see everything through the angel of materialism, we will not provide free environment for the whole citizenry in a way of enlightenment and inspiration. What the government should do is to provide a channel for all citizens rich or poor alike, to create a platform for the average to get access to. The art is not just at face value, but a symbol of fairness for education, entertainment. Thus, government should still support the art for its citizens.

**Jot down ideas you prefer there or outline the sample writing.**

10. **獨立寫作**：多數人不考慮政府的幫助。

**Special Edition:** Agree or disagree: Most people do not count on government for help because they think that it is always better to either do things on their own or to ask for help from their family.

What is the fundamental function of our government? When people have troubles in life, who do they seek for help? Indeed, many people would turn to their family for assistance. However, it is not always a better way to solve problems and receive assistance as the statement indicates.

Initially, the function of the government is to maintain or keep the public security. In other words, government should engage in such public concerns, which cannot be solved by the citizen themselves. Without the force provided by the government, no one could imagine how our world would be dominated by those ill-intentioned people and lucre-oriented companies. Robberies, murdering cases and even war would appear everywhere; people will live with sadness, fear and danger. Government is the source they can count on. In addition, some indecent companies prioritize their profits without caring about other people. They produce adulterated food products that do tremendous harm to customers. At such special moment, government is the source of their reliance. As we all know, only through the help of families can we maintain the society in a correct order; there must be some powerful force to control it, such as the law or the army. Thus, counting on our government on the security matter is sagacious.

Secondly, inadequate help from our family or trying to solve the problems by ourselves can aggravate the problem. In my own interpretation, when unfavorable things occur, our family members are the first group of people that pop out in our mind. They are the people we spend a great deal of time together, talking, having fun and sometimes sharing the upsetting time together. However, their help may include too much of the intimate judgment. For instance, when people break up with their loved ones, they seek such help from their family, not the government units. However, family will too emotional to assist them cope with such problems. The sad sentiment may be stirred up in a negative way. Yet, if they seek for help by the counseling service line of our government, they will be helped by the objective analysis of those professional people and let go of such heartrending moment in a faster way. Another good case in point is regarding accidents, such as car accident. We, ourselves, may deal with it in anger at that moment and make strife into physical fight. Our family members coming to rescue may also bring the whole situation uncontrollable. The police can facilitate this type of accident and diminish the damage for both parties based on professional knowledge and power.

Admittedly, some people must think that seeking assistance from families or themselves is more accountable since it is faster to target the problem and to solve it with experience or group work. However, experience can go wrong and group work will complicate a simple matter. Thus, it is in my perspective better to rely on our government of which it is chosen and elected by all the people in the country. If we do not count on it for solving problems in a wise way, who are we relying on?

另一版本題目(不放過):

Most people can solve the important problem in their lives by themselves or help from their families; assistance from the government is often not necessary.

Most people seek for help from their families or by themselves without the help of the government because they think the close relationship or themselves is good enough to solve their important problems in life. Does government play a critical role on solving problems for people? Which will we seek for help when we encounter problems--nobody, families or the government? To me, the government is indeed of importance for people to receive assistance from while facing troubles.

To begin with, owing to the government's financial assistance, a great many of students are able to keep studying. The right of education is important in people's life. Hardly can they receive such help from either their families or themselves. Under such battered economy, a large number of youngsters barely have money to finish their schools or higher education. Without the assistance from the government, they cannot pay for the high tuition. Without the help of the government, they cannot concentrate completely on their academic pursuit. For example, our country facilitates students who are financially inferior to possess chances to fulfill their dreams--studying abroad; at least eighty percent of the children in low-income families go to school for free. Hence, the government indeed can aid people in solving their problem under such unfavorable economy.

Secondly, assistance from the government is necessary when it comes to unemployment. People, especially referring to those in their retirement, are not easy to locate job opportunities if they do not manage well on their retirement. Those groups of people sometimes need to take care of not just themselves, but also of their spouses or families. Family support is important for sure, yet it is more on the mental session of this matter. The practical part of it should still count on our government from which they can receive subsidies, lower interest rates for their mortgages or connections from legal senior organizations that help them employed. Self-help behaviors can sometimes worsen the situation since such group of people cannot take jobs too physically strained and they may hurt themselves. In a wider concept on this issue, there are professional experts trying to work out unemployment problems. With the help of the government, the unemployed can readily find out why they have difficulty locating a job or what education or skills they are required for this issue.

Last but not least, they need the government to help them deal with health insurance. All the people will, one way or another, need such policies. It should be the basic need of every citizen. However, not all the people are insured and once they need such help, it is way over the assistance from either their families or themselves. Why? It is costly and it takes time and plans for a wholesome treatment. Without the help of the government, it is not easy to solve such problems in an apt manner.

To conclude, people should find as many solutions as possible for important things. Families and the self-help can certainly come to help the problems. However, there are things that we cannot be assisted in a professional way, such as financial assistance, unemployment and medical insurance. Our government is the best source and the best reliance for us to solve those problems indeed.



11. 獨立寫作：安穩低薪或高薪但失業風險高的工作。

**Do you like low paid jobs with security or high paying jobs but easily be lost.**

通往“線路”的方向~ Soliloquy

食：內→ 食物、品質、人生、壓力、責任→

In this rapid changing world, we need money for a decent life. That is to say, we need more money to secure a quality life throughout our time, such as being able to make purchase on a fancy car, a big house, affording overseas travelling, luxurious meals occasionally and most importantly, being with our beloved family or friends. Those possibilities will make our life full of happy times and add up spices in it. Besides, living in this competitive world, everyone is hectic in life. Having a high pay job enables people to spend time with people they love in terms of quality. People can get together for a candle light dinner for their birthdays, anniversaries, and many other great days. They do not need to choose inexpensive places for such occasions and receive inferior dining atmosphere, food as well as service. In those expensive restaurants, people can focus only on the time being with their families or friends along with the best overall services and food. In order to earn more time spending with people we love, we need such high pay job to have those events accomplished. Even though such high pay job can be easily lost, we can still take the risk and earn as much money as we can with our efforts during the time. Since nothing is permanent in life and what we can choose is to spend the same amount of time doing the best we can and earn the most money we can on the risks of losing such job readily.

Examples:	Actors
Entrepreneurs	Singers
Professional athletes	Estate agents...

衣：外→ 外觀、社會地位、冒險、競爭→

If people know they will lose their job easily, they will be more sensitive to the environment in which they work. They feel somewhat insecure in their job, so they will mostly try their best to learn as much as they can throughout this working experience. To be more concise, for brokers working in the stock market, they know they might lose their jobs in the recent years or even months, they will try so hard to know this field, to facilitate clients, to reach their financial satisfaction, and to learn from other brokers in know-hows, tips. In other words, they push themselves to make constant improvements and persevere in forcing themselves to keep updated with the latest information and to see how far they can go in such short time. Their high payment is rewarding. Certainly, their job position is unpredictable and they may lose their job because of the big fluctuation of the economy or the slowdown of the expected economic expectation. However, everything is a trade-off. Compared with the job that has the security, but low pay, those people working in high-paid jobs will stay conscious of what is going on in this ever-changing world and learn as much as possible out of their discretion.

**住:** 家人、社區概念、國家、環境→

If everyone tries to secure a job first without the concern of payment, they will end up perishing in a global scale. For the long run, it is certainly hostile and intimidating to the country. Take Japan for an example. The economy has been gloomy for decades. Why? Youngsters try to focus on only the security rather than high payment jobs, which are more demanding and requiring professional knowledge. For Japanese people, they used to work in a company throughout their entire life and the company would secure their job, yet the payment was not high. The rule used to work favorably; however, with the advent of competitiveness in a global scale, the economy declines sharply. With low payment, workers tend to just “work,” not to “think” and “learn.” Whatever they do either in learning a lot actively or being fooling around, they still have the job and the low payment will hard to make people try to make the initiative in learning more and making improvements in such career. For instance, many youngsters try to work in the convenient stores, traditional noodle stands, state-owned companies or organizations. They of course can survive in this society; however, they lose their motivation to see how best they can actually be for their work and competitiveness. In turn, the overall talent pool will go downhill that will then cause economy slumps, which is adverse to the country as a whole.

**如何使用老師的想法寫成一個完整文章?**

Some people think that because of global crisis, it is hard to locate a job, so security is above everything even at the expense of payment, while others focus more on the payment even if the job can be easily lost. Which is the more promising way for an ideal job? Personally, I think having a high pay job is better for me even though it can be easily lost.

To begin with, time is more important than anything else. That is to say, compared to secure jobs, high salary jobs can earn huge amounts of money within the equivalent time they spent in comparison to low paid jobs with job security. Everyone has limited time for working as the most efficient time in what they engage in. They are more productive and will be able to learn more things. Take professional athletes for an example. Their job is not secured since there are numerous new sports people replacing them. However, they receive high payment, so they can try their best to have their goals achieved. They may be busy and intense in the training, yet they still have great rest time when they can be with people they love, spending quality time together and knowing each other more. Besides, since they earn high payment, they can go to places they like for such get-togethers as in fancy tourist resorts, luxurious restaurants where they are being served excellently and where they do not need to worry about doing the dishing or the preparations prior to the cooking to save money etc. Another example can be interpreted fully from actors and singers. In this entertainment world, new stars, who are younger and prettier, appear all the time. They are not secure in their job opportunities and can be replaced anytime. However, with the high payment and working experience, they can use the money for their interests such as fashion design, directors or singing advisors or judge. They can also invest in real estate with their high payment. Compared with low paid yet secure jobs, life is full of variety and intensity. In addition, once they lose their jobs, they can always be ready to do others things with the money they save and things they learn from their previous jobs.

Second, in the field of high paid jobs, it usually means they need to keep learning all the time. High paid jobs usually require people to learn more in order to keep abreast with the latest information and knowledge. For instance, the real estate agents need to grasp the chance of selling more houses with the rise of property prices. As is known, all the fields have their ups and downs. Even though those agents may lose their jobs easily when the trends fades away or retreats, they have gained great experiences in such short time and they also make great amounts of money. In other words, the risk of losing their job can be the driving force for them to work harder. On the contrary, if the job is secured but the payment is not promising, people will not work as diligently as those who have high payment but can easily lose their jobs. Job security makes people satisfied and content with life; however, it is not pushing people to see what their limits are and how great they can actually be in their job (responsibility). Whatever they perform, they earn that amount of money which is so little and this can hardly make people motivated to learn more and do better work. We are all human beings and we all fit into "the principle of pleasure," of which it means if people are not forced to perform things without pressure, we do not push our limits to do the best that we can. Cases can be seen from state-owned employees, government sponsored companies, automobile companies. Thus, for the high-paid jobs, people may have the risk of losing it sometime in the near future, they can learn more, be more competitive, be aggressive, and be motivated for answers.

To sum up, even though job security is prioritized for many people, the high-paid job can be more rewarding in the run long. Since life should be full of variety and spice, we should all try to locate a high-paid job at the expense of the risk that we might lose it anytime soon. As a good saying goes, "Nothing is permanent," and when this unexpected occasion strikes, it is always those who learn the most and who are most active that can survive, after all.

### **Low pay job with security is better:**

#### **1. 通往"絲路"的方向~ Soliloquy**

**食:** 內→ 食物、品質、人生、壓力、責任→

Security for jobs is the fundamental thing for everything. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "How to be rich? Either diminish your wants or augment your means." Of course, for a low pay job with security, it will probably not make people rich, but the job security enables people to make plans for their life. For instance, they can try not to spend any money for a year, such as going to restaurants, shopping, going out traveling as much, drinking coffee in the stores, taking taxi or cabs, buying 3C products, renting expensive houses. Instead, they can cook for themselves, shopping in the second hand stores, jogging or mountain climbing in the nearby areas instead of travelling far away, making one's own coffee, walking, bicycling, or taking buses, staying in less expensive houses or sharing the house with other friends. This is what Benjamin Franklin said--If you cannot increase your properties, you can decrease your desires--. Additionally, with the security in jobs, people can try to learn new things, such as languages, computers, cooking classes or even helping out community for taking care of children or the elderly. Security in jobs is conducive to people who really make plans for career learning. They know when they can have time with their families or friends. They know they can make installments in buying

things because they have stable income, which may not be much, yet it is of stability. They can make big dreams by such security in having a small amount of money depositing in the bank, for a house, a fancy car, an exotic travelling. Compared with the high paid jobs without security, they feel safe and ease in life and have dreams for their goals that, if they do not squander or waste, will come true one day.

**住:** 家人、社區概念、國家、環境→

1. Stability for the most basic unit—labors—is the key for a country to grow. As we can see from history, it is not the wealthy issue that makes a country uproar, but an unstable foundation for people living in the society. If people, having high payment, can lose their job easily, they wind up being so profit-minded. They feel insecure in jobs, so they must try to make as much monetary gains as possible. Many of them become opportunists, seizing any chances when they can make profits. That is to say, this might hurt other people. For instance, they try to sell houses that are not as good as they indicate by hiding the disadvantages of them and exaggerating the advantages. This is lucrative for sure. However, it does damages to house buyers. Another case can be seen from second hand automobile company agents who brag about how great conditions are in those cars, but actually they are not in mint conditions as phrased. If such venture career increases in the country, the quality of products or the overall working environment will certainly deteriorate. “Bad news spread.” No other countries will ever do business with such countries possessing this economy trait.

2. For the high pay jobs, workers or “participants” must lead an intense life. They risk their losing jobs for higher payment and they do not know if such “job-losing” thing will appear soon, they will certainly be self-centered; that is to say, they will grasp anything opportunities to stay as long as possible in this job by, for example, backstabbing co-workers, pleasing their supervisors being not focus on their duty, or flatter anybody who are of importance to their positions. They will not learn much in this job experience and they will not build skills required for their next job. All they may think of is to make money or stay in this position with such high payment as long as possible. In the long run, it hurts the motivation of being the best employers they can be for what they are doing and thus adverse to the country in the long run.

12. **獨立寫作**：20 年後人們有更多休閒時間。

Agree or disagree: 20 years from now, people will have more leisure time (free time) than they do now.

**普通版**

There is no telling about what will happen in the future because things keep changing all the time. Our topic--Twenty years from now, will people have more leisure time than we do now?

Firstly, the young generation is required to be more efficient and effective by modern society. In other words, youngsters living in the future will need to learn more and do more things in order to survive in this competitive world. From twenty years from now, the demand from all sorts of aspects in life will only

be more hectic for a better life. For example, just like American president Franklin Roosevelt said, "No country can afford the waste of its human resources." And many businessmen get used to listing a schedule for arranging their time reasonably. What are listed on the schedule? Maybe work time, business trip, business dinner time, online time, newspaper and instant coffee time, laundry time, gym time, (gardening time, kids pick-up time, ) probably psychological counseling time as well. What a living machine! Perhaps there are not always places to add a reading time or a family time to it.

In addition, nowadays our world is facing the challenge of population aging. According to birth statistics, the birth rate is to decrease sharply in the next decade. The shortage of young people may result in series of school and economic problems. Take China for example. The population in China has been strictly controlled in the last two decades by One Child Policy; the following consequence is very serious. Several years later, a middle-aged couple in China will not only need to feed their own kids, but also have to take care of "four" aged parents at the same time. Because they don't have any brothers or sisters to lend a hand, it will be a big challenge to this family.

What's more, the serious aging problem not only has influence on individual families. As we all know, China is famous for its cheap labor, but now the world's factory faces the same problem. Although the population in China is still the largest in the world, with the working-age population decreased, the labor costs will become less competitive and thousands of labor-intensive industries will suffer an unfavorable transition. How to solve this problem? The best answer is still unknown. However, some Chinese experts suggest putting off retirement age to cope with it, and so far it seems like a realistic solution. It means 20 years later, people will work three or five years longer than now before they retire.

To sum up, under the coupling effects of the rapidly developed economy and the serious aging problem, it is evident that people will less free time in the future indeed.

#### 加強版

There is no telling about what will happen in the future because things keep changing all the time. Our topic--Twenty years from now, will people have more leisure time than we do now? **Even though it is not easy to say, I can draw a conclusion for my answer in the observation that after two decades we will not have as much leisure time as we have now.**

Firstly, the young generation is required to be more efficient and effective by modern society. In other words, youngsters living in the future will need to learn more and do more things in order to survive in this competitive world. From twenty years from now, the demand from all sorts of aspects in life will only be more hectic for a better life. For example, just like American president Franklin Roosevelt said, "No country can afford the waste of its human resources." And many businessmen get used to listing a schedule for arranging their time reasonably. What are listed on the schedule? May be work time, business trip, business dinner time, online time, newspaper and instant coffee time, laundry time, gym time, (gardening time, kids pick-up time, ) probably psychological counseling time as well. What a living machine! Perhaps there are not always places to add a reading time or a family time to it. **In two**

decades from now, life's pace will only be more intense and our time will be occupied by endless pressure from work, school, home, modern lifestyle and so on. More time taken from our control, less leisure time will be left. (拉回來)

In addition, nowadays our world is facing the challenge of population aging. According to birth statistics, the birth rate is to decrease sharply in the next decade. The shortage of young people may result in series of school and economic problems. Take China for example. The population in China has been strictly controlled in the last two decades by One Child Policy; the following consequence is very serious. Several years later, a middle-aged couple in China will not only need to feed their own kids, but also have to take care of "four" aged parents at the same time. Because they don't have any brothers or sisters to lend a hand, it will be a big challenge to this family. Thus, their leisure will be taken up by such huge burden. Will people living in 20 years from now have more leisure time because of this? The answer is not possible to be a "Yes." (拉回來)

What's more, the serious aging problem not only has influence on individual families. As we all know, China is famous for its cheap labor, but now the world's factory faces the same problem. Although the population in China is still the largest in the world, with the working-age population decreased, the labor costs will become less competitive and thousands of labor-intensive industries will suffer an unfavorable transition. How to solve this problem? The best answer is still unknown. However, some Chinese experts suggest putting off retirement age to cope with it, and so far it seems like a realistic solution. It means 20 years later, people will work three or five years longer than now before they retire. In any case, people will hardly have more leisure time than they do now. (拉回來)

To sum up, under the coupling effects of the rapidly developed economy and the serious aging problem, it is evident that people will less free time in the future indeed.

13. 獨立寫作：電話和電視對人們生活的影響何者較大。

Do you agree that telephones are playing a more effective role than televisions in people's life?

Whether or not telephones are playing a more effective role than television in people's life is a subject of intense controversy. They are all great inventions to facilitate our life for a better tomorrow. What plays a more effective role in people's life—telephones or television? I strongly believe that the later latter plays a bigger role than telephones.

First of all, watching TV is one of the most economical forms of entertainment. In other words, it is an inexpensive way to make people feel amused especially when people are in tight budgets. In hard economic times like the present time, people are tightening their belts and postponing spending decisions; thus, television plays an essential role in people's life. For instance, people have to keep up with ever-climbing gas prices, utility bills and higher tuition. Some people even have difficulties putting food on the table and owning a safe home. So the amount of money that can be used on leisure and

recreational activities is dwindling. Watching TV is of little cost or mostly free. So it helps people deal with budgetary problems and ease their financial pressure with this effective way of entertainment.

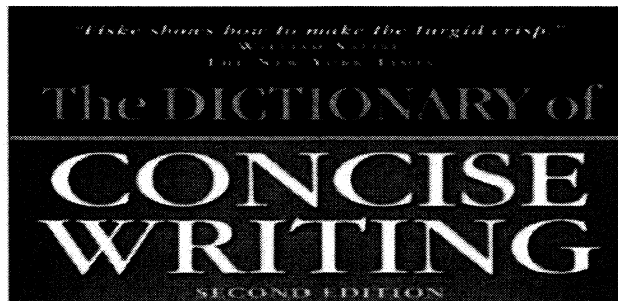
Secondly, watching TV helps people expand their horizon and acquire all sorts of knowledge and skills. Watching educational TV programs enables all people to widen their horizon in an effective way. In an information exploration era, people need to acquire all sorts of knowledge to keep up with the constantly developing world in the shortest time possible, yet still perceive all the details. For instance, people can learn more about what happens around the world with a TV connected to the Internet that enables people to immediately know the world. There are also many educational programs available, like BBC, Discovery series, and National Geographic series. These programs can teach people a lot about nature, human societies and natural environment, not just in an effectual way, but in vivid images. On the contrary, telephones do not have such educational function. We by using telephones can reach people at any time we want for sure, yet this is only communication and it will not have images that impress people in terms of acquiring knowledge. For TV, people can see the images that are in combination with the sound and narration in a rapid way, so it is resourceful and informative to people's living.

Last but not least, watching TV helps people deal with mental stress and refreshes their mood. Most people living in the modern society have a heavy workload and therefore they are overworked and overstressed. They have to worry about losing jobs or getting sick. Some people cannot fall asleep in spite of the fact that they are exhausted in their daily life. Some people even need sleeping pills to fall asleep. For an effective relaxation in life, watching TV helps people put aside their worries and for a normal, functional life. For example, there are some cartoon series and situation comedies that most young people find enjoyable, which tremendously release their pressure. Therefore, this is an effective role played as a medium to help people living in our time to have a better life.

Admittedly, some people may say that telephones, enabling people to reach their friends, relatives in no time, play a more effective role in our life. For instance, they can build good relations for life due to such convenience and swiftness. In modern society, communication and the feature of easy reach to people are of essence. However, in this hectic life style, people would rather choose to save money for leisure, to expand their knowledge with an approach of sound and image, and to ease the pressure accumulated daily. Therefore, televisions indeed play a more effective role than telephones.

14. 獨立寫作：20 年後學生不再用紙本書。

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In twenty years from now, students will not use printed books any more. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.



1 With ever-changing advancement in written communication, people have learned to receive such adaption. From hieroglyphics on cave walls, to Sumerian texts on scrolls, to Gutenberg's printed Bible, to leather-bound copies of the classics, readers have adjusted to the way information is presented to them. Books and other printed publications have been the accepted medium for centuries, but now we are seeing a gradual increase in the number of documents that are read solely on a computer or e-reader screen. There seems to be little doubt that, twenty years from now, students will no longer need to acquire hard-copy materials as "books."

2 In the first place, in terms of functionality, printed books are inferior in many ways. A majority of students now have ample exposure to electronic media, iPhones, iPods or laptop computers, all of which are portable and easy to use. In twenty years from now, it would be a rare scene if students do not have such machines. Think about the development of cell phones in the past decade, being from being a luxury to a necessity. Many people even have more than one cell phone. This is applicable to the "e-trend" down the road. Thus, with the prevalence of such machines, students can pull up the text for the course, highlight key passages as the teacher comments on them, and even insert "comments" for further review and study. Likewise, a student can use the Word program to take notes, and then structure those notes by using bullet, copy and paste, and other word-processing functions. Those functions are way more advanced than the printed books. Portable media (such as laptops) will also change the way students pack for school: No longer will a high school student have to lug around a large backpack, stuffed full with textbooks for each class—every text and all supplemental material will be stored on one laptop.

3 Secondly, printed books are out of date for this modern world. To put it differently, teachers will also find it much more useful to assign electronic, rather than printed, reading assignments simply because it will so easy to update the course materials. In twenty year from now, it would definitely be out of date if the information cannot be revised or changed "immediately." Furthermore, in our swift-changing world, the data might be outdated in the night time even though it is just printed out in the morning. News, media, ball games or even scandals about a celebrity will be updated at any possible moment. Additionally, if a new edition of a biology textbook, for example, is available, the students do not have to



complain about buying another book—they will simply have to download the latest update (for a fraction of the hard-copy price). With printed books, there is no way they can match such electronic downloads and save money for other information usage. Even now, e-copies of textbooks are much less expensive than hard copies, as there are no actual pages to print.

4 There is no telling about what will happen in the next two decade in terms of the ideas of “books.” Admittedly, there are many people who bemoan the decline of printed reading material. “I want to hold the newspaper in my hands,” they complain. “I like the way a book feels and touches,” others say. Yet young people do not typically feel the same way about old communications systems; they are much more comfortable with new technologies and willing to take a chance on a revolutionary product. Twenty years from now, printed books will be ancient history and the “writing on the wall” will refer to something posted on a Facebook page. (501 Words)

**15. 獨立寫作：有影響力的領導者。**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the effective leader tries to make others feel they have been part of a decision.

**Advantages:**

**1. People can feel more respected:** When people are involved in a decision, they tend to believe in what they can do; they can have things accomplished in a more effective way. Why? Having people hold the feeling of being respected for a concerted goal is a strong agreement among people in the implementation of tasks. An effective leader always tries to enhance the outcomes of their task, so having more people feel this way will make them work harder and obliged to work for the best result.

**2. They can perfect the decision through the way of decision making.** In other words, an effective leader always encourages people to brainstorm for a perfect result. When more people feel they are part of decision making, they will try to express themselves for what they think is ideal. With the power of more people for “racking their brains” for the perfect ideas or solutions for a task, the leader can certainly make things solved in a more rosy way by simply making people feel they are parts of the decision making along the process as a whole.

**Disadvantages:**

**1. Not be able to implement tasks in the best timely manner.** An effective leader means having things done in a fast way with firmness for the market. However, “More hands in a task along the decision making process, more delays and postpones will occur.” There is no ideal or perfect solution for anything. Sometimes, having people feel they are a part of such decision making will hurdle the implementation time, which is of essence for the modern world, such as cellphone designs, Anti-virus software, latest models for garments or electronic appliances... IMB, once the biggest computer company, lost its competitiveness by delaying the plan for personal computer trend. If people feel they

are part of the decision, they would try to come up with their opinions making attempts to do things in their favors or in what they think is the best. Yet with so many arguments and opinions, an effective leader can hardly make compromise in a fast time possible.

**2. More pressure impedes the carrying out of the task:** More tasks for group members in the decision making process, more degree of pressure will be exerted to the members. Even though they feel they are wanted and respected in such decision making process, they still feel pressurized for the adverse outcomes. When people feel they are part of a decision, their happiness fluctuates with the whole process of carrying out the task. An effective leader will sense that pressure is actually not promising for people to think of a task for the long run. Feeling timid of making mistakes, people will just try to do things in a safe way and this is not auspicious for the company as well as the leaders.

**3. Creating too much competitiveness among the group members:** When people feel they are a part of the decision making, they would always try to impress their leaders with what they can do. This yet will incur competitiveness in a negative way. They might fight for putting forth the best ideas for a decision with other members or groups and this usually involves overly criticizing the plans or ideas proposed by other people in the team. Even though they finally have a plan for this decision, they will not cooperate well. This is a “settled” deal and for both parties, they are not the best plan. An effective leader will try to make their team members to match each other for the anticipated result; an effective leader always have all the team members’ work together in a harmonious environment. So it is adverse to have people feel they are a part of the decision making. They will always try to bring the other side down and have the leader accepted their ideas being the best. A group with different ways or approaches of doing things will not succeed. An effective leader will never do this.

#### **Sample writing:**

When we talk about effective leaders, numerous factors are included for this term. Should they make other people feel they have been part of a decision in the implement of the task? In my view, personally, I think that to be effective, leaders do not need to make others feel this way.

To begin with, projects or company goals will not be practiced and finished in the best timely manner. It goes without saying that when more people are involved in a task, everyone’s opinions and perspectives should be valued and put into consideration. An effective leader means having things done in a fast way with firmness for the market. However, “More hands in a task along the decision making process, more delays and postpones will occur.” There is no ideal or perfect solution for anything. Sometimes, having people feel they are a part of such decision making process will hurdle the implementation time, which is of essence for the modern world, such as cellphone designs, Anti-virus software, latest models for garments or electronic appliances. If people feel they are part of the decision, they would try to come up with their opinions making attempts to do things in their favors or in what they think is the best. This therefore goes against effectiveness of a leader.

Secondly, leaders will create unnecessary competitiveness among the group members. When people feel they are a part of the decision making process, they would always try to impress their leaders with what they can do. This yet will incur competitiveness in a negative way. For instance, they might fight for putting forth the best ideas for a decision with other members or groups and this usually involves overly criticizing the plans or ideas proposed by other people in the team. An effective leader should avoid such gratuitous competitiveness which highly halts the improvement or the carrying out of the projects. When people are working in a for-profit organization, they all try to put their best foot forward and impress their leaders. Even though they finally have a plan for this decision, they will not cooperate well. This is a “settled” deal and for both parties, they are not the best plan. An effective leader will try to make their team members match each other for the anticipated result; an effective leader will always have all the team members’ work together in a harmonious environment. So it is adverse to have people feel they are a part of the decision making process. A group with different ways or approaches of doing things will not succeed. An effective leader will never do this.

Certainly, some people might think that having employees or team members feel they are a part of the decision making process increases the chances of perfecting the projects or tasks to be performed. In other words, an effective leader should always encourage people to brainstorm for a perfect result. When more people feel they are part of the decision making procedure, they would try to express themselves for what they think is ideal. With the power of more people for “racking their brains” for the perfect ideas or solutions for a task, the leader can certainly make things solved in a more rosy and effective way. However, a company is a company; if everyone is included, things will never be done in the effective way. An effective leader will avoid this slow and ineffective way of doing things.

16. **獨立寫作**：環境問題對個人而言太複雜。

Do you agree or disagree? The environmental issue is too complex to be handled by the individual.

We only have one earth. The environmental issue has brought the awareness worldwide. People often lament the deterioration of our environment due to the development of the human culture. Will this issue really be too complex to be handled by individuals or they can also take part in this heated topic? We of course think we can do great things when we try to, yet in my view, most people are not capable of taking meaningful actions to do something about the environment owing to the complexity of it.

First of all, most people face tight budgets and many financial problems themselves in this battered economy. To be more concise, they don’t have the financial resources to do something about the environment. Environmental conservation efforts usually cost a lot of money, whether it is cleaning up polluted water or collecting chemical wastes. For individuals, they need to take a great amount of money out of their own pocket; thus, it is inconceivable that individuals are able to do that without the help of the government or organizations that it needs a concerted effort as well as professional knowledge to really tackle the environmental issues. In hard economic times in our time, most people are grappling with a wide range of financial headaches already, struggling to make their ends meet. In

view of the huge financial investment that conservation efforts require, it is only natural that individuals will consider the environmental issue too complex to handle.

Secondly, in the hectic lifestyle that we live in, most people do not have sufficient time to engage in environmental issues. Taking meaningful measures to protect the environment requires a lot of time of which it is one of the most important elements for modern people who are occupied with their work and with their family. In other words, most people in modern societies are like mice on a treadmill that they make attempts to strike a balance between work and life. For example, commuting to and from work every day, working overtime, spending quality time with family and learning new things like languages, computers to keep up with the latest information and so on. It takes time for those environmental issues to yield a promising result. So it is fair to say that individuals do not have plenty of time to participate in such issues. Examples can be seen from the issues of acid rain, deforestation, endangerment of species. It really takes a great deal of time to participate in the activities and adjust to the variation of the environmental conditions in the process.

Last but not least, individuals do not have authority power needed to put pressure on the factories that are polluting the environment. To be more exact, we need the authorities concerned from our government to facilitate to handle the environmental issues from our society. It is obvious that big polluters are not ordinary families, but the kind of factories that consume a lot of fossil fuel and emit a lot of pollutants. How can the individual fight against the corporation such as syndication? Factories or manufacturing companies need to be checked and regulated by the power from the government based on a series of rules and laws relevant, definitely not from individuals. Therefore, Individuals just cannot handle such issue due to lack of authority power from the government.

Irrefutably, some people may point out that not all the environmental issues are too complex to handle on the scale of individuality. For instance, we can reduce the use of plastic items or recycle papers or cans in our daily life. In addition, individuals can buy environment friendly products or drink coffee that is certified by Fair Trade, an environment protecting organization. However, this is not the environmental issue we are targeting and the true environmental issues should be dealt with by group efforts. Besides, for individuals, they do not have the professional knowledge or expert skills for handling the environmental issues. We sometimes think that we are helping our environment, yet we are making it worse.

All in all, I firmly believe that the responsibility for protecting the environment lies more with the government or groups due to various constraining factors--money, time and public authority; individuals are not capable of making a difference in that regard.

17. **獨立寫作**：是否同意以下論述：我們沒有理由對其他人不禮貌（或是粗暴無禮）。

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There is never a reason to be rude (impolite) to another person. Use specific reasons to support your answer.**

As the world becoming more complex, there are many chances that we encounter something not in our favor. Some people think that no matter how differences people's opinions are, we have no reasons to be rude to other people. Is there really never a reason to be impolite to another people? In my opinion, I think the answer is positive because that is the fundamental manner being a civilized person in the modern world.

Firstly, it is not desirable to behave in an impolite manner to people for settling down the differences. We are all living in the same world in which all the things reflect and respond to each other. To be more concise, if one person is rude to another person, that sort of negative energy will bounce back as unfavorable responses. We are all sentient beings and we feel happy when other people treat us nicely, whereas we feel dispirited or even infuriated if someone is impolite to us. When people are in such situation, they either feel sad or mad. Whatever they do, they all try to retort such negative behavior to others, which will certain make all the things or relation worse and sour. We sometimes are not aware of some of our behaviors that might bother other people. For instance, we carelessly talk loudly in the public; we accidentally let cell phones ring while everyone is sleeping in the train or we take away the wrong umbrella in the rainy days. Those can be made unwarily in our daily life. If someone is being rude to us on the spot, we would feel ashamed due to our carelessness, yet this would also arouse conflicts or disputes. A nice reminding or a smile instead would do the trick since no one likes to be bothered by these things. Being impolite would only make things more complicated and tough to deal with.

Secondly, being impolite can make the world unfriendly and that halts the development of our society. In a society where everyone is impolite and rude to each other no matter what justifiable reasons they can put forth, the place will be imbued with anger, discontent and hatred. Those negative elements are contagious and may cause chain effects. When a school kid is teased and be scolded by his behavior walking carelessly in the corridor, he will then nurse the grudge and channel it to, for instance, his younger sister who might then yell at her father or mother for petty things. This can also apply to the working environment where employees are rude to each other due to trivial matters in their work. This will then make the company an unfriendly place and everybody does not cooperate with each other well; this will enormously hurt the productivity and harmony of the working environment as a whole. When people are not satisfied with their life because being treated discourteously, they will make every single person living in the same place feel uncomfortable and sad; this indeed stops the improvement of everything in the society.

Of course, some people may say that being impolite may sometimes be one of the best ways to make people learn something and thus is a good reason for this behavior. For instance, some people like to speak loudly with their cellphones. Even though they know this is disturbing to other people, they are still taking advantages of other people who are trying to tolerate. However, this makes people around

them not “strangers” anymore because that loud conversation engages all the people in their dialog forcibly. Another case can be seen in this case, some youngsters like to pop up their legs high in the chair which makes the public place their home, yet it is not pleasing to people on the scene. Being straightforward and impolite is a great and fast method to compel those kinds of people feel embarrassed. Chances are high that they will remember what they do is not proper in the public. However, most people do not act like this, for they do not like to be bothered and they know what exactly that feeling is. They sometimes just do not pay attention to the environment and will change their behavior once they are told in a nice way, not in a rude, impolite way.

To sum up, being impolite to other people brings no advantages. We are all living in the same world and should learn to respect each other under all circumstances. There is never a good reason to be rude and impolite because this mindset will make things more complicated to solve and stall the development of our society. With prevalent education, we are all taught to be sensible and wise to pay attention to the environment around us and will show esteem to all the people different from us and think positively toward some behaviors. Being impolite is really not necessary, after all.

**18. 獨立寫作 : People care more about public recognition than about money .**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People care more about public recognition than about money. Even if no more money is given, public recognition can still make people work harder.

**老師前言**

公眾認可：即因為所做的事被大眾認可：Public Recognition: As a common term in our society and on our first recognition, the image we know about this name is public acknowledgement of a person's status or merits, achievements, virtues, service, etc. In other words, some people really value this part since it is a feeling of being respected due to a great thing done and this thing is cherished by most of the people in the community the doer is involved. In psychology, a person seeking excessive recognition, or unnecessary recognition, could themselves be exhibiting traits of a narcissistic personality disorder.

**Sample Writing 1: “Public Recognition” is better→more valued:**

In our society, we work to earn money to make our life happier and make our goals accomplished. Either we try to make our life wealthy or try to seek for the public recognition; we all know that we need to work hard to earn them. For sure, many factors in this process affect our thoughts and behaviors toward this issue played in our life. Will we still work harder if we only receive public recognition without money being paid? To me, personally, this can happen as the statement indicates.

To begin with, it is a realization of one's self-actualization. Without a doubt, we all work to make money and this need makes us work harder. However, for some people, money is not everything no matter if they have a lot or do not have much. For instance, an affluent businessperson can donate money to the needy, such as orphans, medical research or education. Do they want something, especially monetary gains in return? No, they do this even though they are not paid; they receive appreciation from those

being helped, they are delightful when they see patients receiving better treatment or students obtaining better education. They help people to possess a better life as they are. This is not evaluated by money and they will still work harder to make other people feel learned and hoped again during the process.

Secondly, some people target on making our world a better place to live for generation. For example, paper recycling volunteers, they work for the wholesomeness of our earth, which is much recognized by the public. They know if they contribute what individuals can do for the concept of sustainable management, they can help our earth, nature as well as our environment for a better living place, not just for themselves, but for all the people on this planet. Such public recognition is way more pivotal than the value money can bring. The public respect those people who do it merely for our environment, not for their private means. Thus, they will still work harder to keep the public recognition because it is meaningful public acknowledgement that is highlighted merited.

Undeniably, we cannot live without money and material things to support our life. Some people may think that money is the lure to make people work harder, rather than public recognition. In psychology, human beings do something for a purpose. Customarily, we do it for receiving more money in the security of our own life so we can buy luxurious cars, garments or big mansions. To some people, the demand of such desire is the way to make them work harder. Earning public recognition is just an invisible or intangible thing that exists only in one's dreams. However, for a great number of people, they still care more about public recognition over whether money is given and those people still work hard to make them feel respected, wanted and valued by the society. They simply do not do it for money, but for the happiness of all the people living in the same community. The world, after all, still needs some dreamers to make it a better place. Thus, I agree with the statement for sure.

**Sample Writing 2: "Public Recognition" is not better → we will not work harder if no payment is given:**

Will people still work harder if they only receive public recognition, but obtain no money in the process? As the proverb puts it "Money makes the mare go," a majority of people go all out working harder to their goals due to such reason. We all need money to make us lead a better life. Even though there are many non-material rewards public recognition brings to people, I disagree with the statement.

Firstly, money is somehow one of the most important parts of people's lives. In today's world, we all need money to lead a more content life. It is not said that without money, we cannot live a happy, but with money, it will drive people to work harder for their goal. As Robert Kiyosaki, the author of Rich Dad and Poor Dad, once commented "Tell me what money does not affect in our current society." Indeed, we need money to live in a safe house, to dine in a restaurant, to dress up in an important occasion. Public recognition brings respect and it is a great feeling for some people, yet still people care more about the material things that will have a tangible effect in their life.

Secondly, everyone needs money to support their family. In other words, they need to offer sufficient money for their family members to acquire satisfying living conditions in house, food, clothes as well as transportation tools; in terms of education, they have to afford high tuition for their children' education or

even some emergent cases, such as medical fees or monetary cushions for employment. Thus, it is not gone extreme to make such remark that people care more about money than public recognition and money is the drive that makes them work harder for the happiness of their family.

Admittedly, some people might say that public recognition makes people feel wanted, respected and appreciated. Those spiritual rewards are able to make people work harder even though no money is offered. For one thing, they are known to people in the society where they have contributed largely so they can discover the worth being equivalent of material gains. This is what makes them work hard to sustain it. We, for example, have volunteers to work freely for the elders who are sick and homeless; we have volunteers to serve as the community guard to protect others from dangers in the community. Such public recognition makes them feel valued and they of course will work harder to make those missions better. However, for the reality of life, people will not care more about public recognition than money; they all work harder to meet their own needs and wants from the world.

All is considered, from what I have discussed above, the benefits of working for the need of money are more likely to surpass those of public recognition and this is the desire to make people work harder. After all, when people are hungry, they need money to buy food; public recognition is important only in one's acknowledgement.

19. **獨立寫作**：學生一年應該上課十一個月。

**題目**：Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Students could receive a better, more efficient education if they spend 11 months a year studying.

**老師前言**：

同學看到這題題目，一定很納悶，為什麼有“11”這個數字。托福現在的題目，要會分析和了解題意。通常，題目裡，要讓你考慮到“年紀或數字”，會有以下情形：

- **年輕的**→young children (5 to 10 years old)→心智尚未成熟，花錢投資在此年齡層不知成效如何，但又有可能啟發未來的興趣和發展，有可能長期投資建立關係...
- **普通的**→ College students, high school students or parents
- **年老的**→ Grandparents, in your grandparents' time, 50 years ago→隔兩代的時空，不用“父母”這個詞就是怕沒太大的差異，但也不要回答太遠說“古時候或是有人類歷史以來”，祖父母如果還在你可能會被揍（小心！要用過去式）
- **未來的**→ 20 years from now, 50 years from now, in your life time, thirty days from now.（小心！要用未來式）



那”11”在這個題目，是什麼意思呢？答案是→”多花一點時間學習，會不會比較有效率。”因為以正常的學校體制來說，我們有寒暑假(因 TOEFL 是考非美國人，故只要解釋放假的方式，都可以被認可。)以及一些其它國定假日，加起來約放 4 個月，也就是說，一年是學習 “8”個月，相較於題目的”11”個月，是學習較少，可利用時間變多。哪一種方式較好以及有效？題目的主人翁是”students”，沒有特定是哪一個範圍(算有良心，因為侷限會更難寫)，只要泛泛之論的學生概念或是”切分”→以小學生來說、中學生來說、大學生來說。

題目的隱含也有比較級的使用，因為要說比較好或是不好，一定要有比較物，也就是說，和一般教育體系比的話，真的是比較好又有效嗎？思維有點像正班的二、三周作業→ **spend all the time on the academic study or spare some time for physical exercise in daily life.**

As Benjamin Franklin once said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” For students as well as schools, they all try to adopt a more efficient way for better education. Is spending 11 months a year studying in a year more sensible than spending more time a year for this purpose? To me, personally, I do not agree with the statement and consider spending less than 11 months a year for studying at school is better and of more efficiency.

To begin with, a more desirable education is not only confined to school studying. With 11 months a year studying at school, students’ time for their leisure is, by comparison, reduced. In regular education system in my country, students have more than four month vacation, including summer and winter vacation, new year vacation and other national holidays. Learning should not only be based only on academic studies or on books. With less school time, students can take time out to learn from various sources outside the school settings, such as short-term overseas study, backpackers, part-time jobs, clubs and the forth; those all need extra time spent for an ideal result. According to Time Magazine, almost all 500 top entrepreneurs worldwide foster many successful factors outside schools. They make great use of time socializing with people, learning leadership and communication skills. Those extra-curricular activities enable students to broaden their perspectives for the world, which is advantageous to them down the road. Thus, in terms of education, students can be more effective and successful if they have more vacation time from school than just one month long in this issue.

Secondly, students need to rest more in order to be productive in learning more. Without doubts, spending 11 months a year studying makes students study more and concentrate more in what they do as academic study; however, this is not efficient in term of using time. With more time studying, it means less time doing leisure and resting. In our society due to competitiveness, students are under pressure and excessive stress for being on the top of the class. Only one month vacation in a school year cannot make them relieved and released the stress accumulated in a year. If they spend 11 months a year in school, they cannot totally let go of stress accumulated in the whole year and this is not productive for them to learn something new. Detrimental to students, the stress and pressure will reduce their productivity and something innovation. For a global stand of view, they will lose their competitiveness and unable to conquer new challenges down the road. Therefore, for a better and more effective way of

education for young students, it is always advisable to have more time resting so that they can make better use of time for resting and learning.

Certainly, some people may think that for students, time is money and 11 month study in a school year enables them to learn more, see more and do more. For the angle of effectiveness in education, concentration might be everything. Using 11 month time in a year at school is of no interruption in the complementation of a course. Young students need such method to make them focused for the decrease of distractions from other chores. Each time when students have more vacation, schools need to take some time to make them focused again in their academic study and this is not effective learning. However, for students, they still have a long way to go in life; learning how to slow down and to make great use of time is also of importance. They are the future of our world. Intense study without proper rest might make them sick and diminish their interest along their learning process.

In conclusion, for a better and more effective way of education, each person has his or her outlook on this issue. To me, I am completely against the idea that students should attend classes for 11 months a year. Students can not only learn more things in their life by taking advantages of more vacation time, but also learn things in a more productive way due to more rest. After all, it is not about how much one can learn, but how the learning quality that matters to the students in their daily life.

20. **獨立寫作**：一個大學為了吸引好學生，花很多錢給學生組織社會實踐。

Agree or disagree: if a university wants to attract good students, it must spend a lot of money on social activity for students.

**解題：**首先要先知道 什麼是 Social Activities?

Simply put, it is associating with other people in group activities, such as clubs, sports, and other leisure activities.

大學為了要吸引更多好學生，需要花都點的經費在此嗎？ 如是的話，social activities 到底在大學生中扮演何角色，學校需要多砸一些經費？ Social activities 等於成功嗎？ 等於會讓學生的學校成績進步嗎？

### **Sample Writing:**

With the advent of the information age, society has been changed greatly. This trend has also come to universities in which many new departments and new knowledge domains have been introduced into higher education. All the universities are trying their best to attract more elite students. Should they spend a great deal of money on social activities for this purpose? In my perspective, yes, a university needs to do so to attract more elite students.

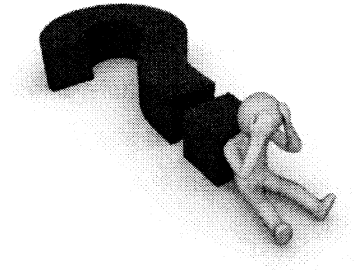
To begin with, participation in social activities is an important element to future success. In the university stage, if students can be socially connected with other students, through clubs and organizations, they can foster social interaction and learn how to talk to people, express themselves properly and deal with

people who do not have the same opinions toward certain things. For instance, when students graduate from universities, they need to either go into a new company to work with new people or pursue further studies and team up with new classmates or professors in projects. Communication skills are of essential” to make people work in a group successfully, expanding the power of individuality for a perfect result. If school can invest more money on social activities at schools, good students will be attracted because they know they need to learn the art of dealing with people and work with them for a great outcome. This will provide students a great opportunity to practice these communication skills by participating in those activities in their student hood.

Secondly, social activities bring college students the ability to cultivate a second professional skill other than their work. When more money is invested in social activities, more great organizations or clubs will be funded with a larger amount of money, such as swimming pools, basketball courts, tennis court, and the like. Nowadays many college students are not so sure about their interest or even their majors. So by participating in those activities, they can find out what they truly like since there is no pressure exerted to students on any commitment. With carefree learning in the group, they tend to locate what they actually excel at. A case in point, a student majoring in literature may find out that he can design APP programs for games by joining the APP club at university. This will help him gain a professional knowledge in addition to his own major. Another example is about William Henry Gates who was a law major in college, yet by joining some school activities, he met some people who were really adept at computers, so he then learned it by himself and created a great kingdom of computer software. Thus, in order to attract more good students, spending more money on social activities is a must. Students all wish to learn as much as they can and not being limited merely to books.

Thirdly, by participating in the social activities, students can relate more to people who are different from them. To be more concise, they can learn how to make a plan or strategy with a thorough consideration for being more successful. The participation in social activities, such as Red Cross, or International Poor Children Charity can engage fortunate college students to have a chance to see the world in which poverty, diseases or children without homes and parents exist in our world, the real world, not just in the movies. By participating in those activities, students can learn to relate to people less fortunate. According to Time Magazine, "People who can feel what other people feel can make better policies and plans not just for their own but for their future companies." Students can learn to make better plans for themselves and fulfill their duty for a rosy future. If universities focus on such social activities, more excellent students will like to try their hands in the charity for learning more hands-on experience on serving people. "To be a leader, one must learn to serve," said Mother Teresa. That intangible learning will then turn into tangible benefits. Thus, the poor environment or people they visit and serve will facilitate them in the future career.

看到新的題目，你要如何應對呢？



### 1. 通往“絲路”的方向~ Soliloquy

食：內→ 食物、品質、人生、壓力、責任→

衣：外→ 外觀、社會地位、冒險、競爭→

住：家人、社區概念、國家、環境→

行：交通、效率、方便性→

育：休閒教育(如:閱讀習慣、讀書館)→

樂：休閒活動(如:運動場、公園、科技、網路、媒體、行動電話)→

Prompt: If a university wants to attract good students, it must spend a lot of money on social activity for students.

不用花更多的錢 on activity，或是其它的方式也可以吸引到好學生

### 1. 通往“絲路”的方向~ Soliloquy

食：內→ 食物、品質、人生、壓力、責任→ Students come to schools for the academic studies, which will help them learn professional skills in the field they major. Besides, the theories or formula they learn may seem feeble and unaided for their future in the real world, yet those are the foundation of the knowledge. The whole formula, hypothesis, principles are all stemming from that basic knowledge and then advanced to "principles." This is what students going to university should do. They should make themselves possess the intention of going to university for the level of mission in which they learn, think, produce, create, and innovate for the wholesomeness of all mankind. Thus, schools should not spend a lot of money on those social activities; just regular budget will serve well. Instead, they need to spend a lot of money on school equipment, such as computers, the Internet, wireless facility, laboratory, music instrument, stadiums, auditoriums, cafeteria (Students do not go out for meals, and have more chances staying at schools for research, study and social activities.), more money on inviting successful figures to deliver speeches...

**衣:** 外→ 外觀、社會地位、冒險、競爭→ Students now focus on if the schools have resources for them for their future careers, such as great laboratory, excellent teaching faculties that can lead them for an international breakthroughs in the field, great libraries that contains all the book in printed forms as well as electronic ways for reference, great sports facilities, workout places for releasing pressure and stress from school, mentors that they can seek for when in troubles and when deciding either pursuing further studies, or going to work, excellent human networks that connect them to the society from either alumni or other enterprises...

**住:** 家人、社區概念、國家、環境→ Schools need to focus on prestige of school in academic development, rather than social activities. Social activities do not need to spend a lot of money, for learning those social etiquette they need mostly the presentation of themselves if more they have more money, they sometimes use it to do some socializing things, such as eating, singing together, going out for trips... I was in the clubs when I was in the university. All we do is, proportion-wise, use the money for socializing purposes, however, like ivy-league schools in the United States, they ensure all the all departments are funded properly for the academic needs. That is why there are numerous Nobel Prize winners in those schools, making great contributions to not just the fields they are embarked on, but also the whole world in various fields. So many young people are inspired to do well and make efforts on the way to their goals. This is what a university should spend more money on... University is higher education, not vocational schools or certificate-offer places. As the definition in American Heritage Dictionary; a university is an institution for higher learning with teaching and research facilities. Each education should have each purpose in the system of education as a whole.

**行:** 交通、效率、方便性→ attracting more students by good hardware of a school, such as library, laboratory.... Similar to 衣:

**育:** 休閒教育(如:閱讀習慣、讀書館)→ 衣:


**樂:** 休閒活動(如:運動場、公園、科技、網路、媒體、行動電話)→ 衣:

全部的 JJ 都能夠用這樣的思維腦力激盪，所得到的原因點和佐證會更深沉、多面喔!

Prompt: If a university wants to attract good students, it must spend a lot of money on social activity for students.

要花更多的錢 on social activities，才可以吸引到好學生

## 2. 通往“絲路”的方向~ Soliloquy

 內→ 食物、品質、人生、壓力、責任→ Those social activities will help students to socialized with different kind of people. So they will know how to deal with other students or tasks they dislike. In their high school time, they maybe could avoid doing something they did not like. Yet, now they are in university and will need to learn how to cooperate with other students in effective communication, compromising making or even a deal of trade off. If they are taking up the posts of club leaders or the responsibility of certain work, they will learn to cope with pressure and learn to be responsible. Those things are successful factors for them to learn down the road. When they graduate, they also need to learn those things. So why not learning them while they are still students? Schools know this, students are aware of this as well. So school must spend a lot of money on this part.

 外→ 外觀、社會地位、冒險、競爭→

Young students participating in social activities can learn being in the society first. Organization like Red Cross, United Nation, YMCA, Save the Children Organization, Rockefeller Foundation, Save the Planet by Recycling, Greenpeace, Non-governmental Development Organization...

Those organizations are very official and not just students are involved, but many professionals are working, volunteering in them. When students are in such environment, it is just like doing a project, they need to do research, make good image of themselves for more fund-raising, or to brainstorm for helping more poor children in need, activities for orphans, change one's attitude of bottled water and beverage and reduce using them as much, help single parents for raising money and caring about their children while parents are working....(When Paris Hilton was discharged from jail, she said, she want to use her publicity to raise fund for breast cancers, sclerosis.) Students will be blamed for not doing a good job and they need to try their best to learn with all they can. In the school clubs or organization, such as Foreign Language Learning, Art clubs, Rowing, Rock and Roll clubs, Acting, Sewing, Math Team, Gay-straight Alliance, Game-theory clubs, Food Appreciation Club... Students will learn how to design classes to attract more students, dealing with people and have them learn something, be working in a team...

Survival *
Table Tennis Club
Teen Christian Fellowship
Team Tailgate
Thespians
Thinking it Through
Thumbwrestling Club
UNA-USA Student Alliance Group
Urban Art Club
Version One Dance *
Video and Film *
Viking *
Web Design
World Aid Club
World Affairs
Yoga Club
Young Democrats *
Young Liberals *

**住:** 家人、社區概念、國家、環境→ Social activities make students start to know the role they are playing. They are not just an individual to a group, but members of the group in which they have the power to contribute as well as to take are receive in this group. This will help them know faster the society they are going into when they graduate. It is not a school bubble house where they are so much protected by the school. They can also know the relation between them and their family, parents by socializing with people in the clubs and being dealing with problems all by themselves. They can learn leadership, patience, perseverance, innovation, problem solving, humor, self-expression, communication, how to deal with angers, discontent and this sort of emotional dissatisfaction...

**行:** 交通、效率、方便性→ social activities can engage students to the real society, connect them into the world where they need just not skills, techniques, professional know-hows, but they also need to bring all the people's need and the environment into consideration. What they are learning in the clubs or organizations is similar to what they will have to learn in the society when graduating. They do not need much time to bridge the gap between school life and the real working environment.

**育:** 休閒教育(如:閱讀習慣、讀書館)→ learn something books cannot teach; They can also practice what they learn from school books, such as leadership, art, communication skills, and negotiations. (Some of the ideas are overlapped above)

**樂** 休閒活動(如:運動場、公園、科技、網路、媒體、行動電話) → learn a sport or a hobby that they can make friends in those occasions. They do those activities for fun, for working out, for keeping in shape and for racking their brain for more innovative ideas. They are good for a rapid-changing world where creativity is highly valued. Relaxation, pressure, stresses relief, reaching a balance for life and work. If students participate in web design, game-theory clubs or food appreciation clubs, they can learn the most updated information and trend there that are usually not taught in the class. Students will have a good opportunity to learn things with a group of people who are in the same hobby and craze for the same interest. If schools spend a lot of money on them, they can hire good instructors, or buy advanced computers or equipment for the clubs.

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**Make a copy for more practice!**

1. 通往“絲路”的方向~ **Soliloquy** 找一題試試思維!!

**食**: 內 → 食物、品質、人生、壓力、責任 →

**衣**: 外 → 外觀、社會地位、冒險、競爭 →

**住**: 家人、社區概念、國家、環境 →

**行**: 交通、效率、方便性 →

**育**: 休閒教育(如:閱讀習慣、讀書館) →

**樂**: 休閒活動(如:運動場、公園、科技、網路、媒體、行動電話) →



21. **獨立寫作**：自己國家的電影及電視節目比較有趣。

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Movies and TV programs made in your own country are more interesting comparing to movies and programs made in other countries.

老師小語：

1. 這一題乍看之下！好像有一點無理頭！同學的要先知道 “interesting,” 是→arousing curiosity or attention: Arousing curiosity, attracting or holding attention, or provoking thought. 所以並沒有很狹隘，只是“有趣”或“好玩”的觀點而已。
2. 這一還有一個很重要的切入方式→country，要回答到它。二正一反比較好寫(或一正一反)。同國家的人，有相同文化，幽默、笑點、興趣比較沒有文化背景隔閡。但是不同國家的電影或電視卻又是帶來新思維和新觀點，也是非常有啟發性和引起興趣喔。

Enjoying movies and TV programs is one of the pastimes modern people do in their leisure. With the advent of technology, people have more access to movies or TV programs from all over the world. What is more interesting to people—those coming from other countries or those produced in one's own country? To me, personally, it is always more interesting for such media entertainment made in one's own country than those made abroad.

To begin with, movies and TV programs made in one's own country can be better perceived in all aspects. In other words, with the same culture background, directors, actors as well as audiences have no difficulties in communicating and expressing general ideas and inner values of the works. People living in the same country possess the same concept toward what is funny, what is humorous, or even what is the right thing to do in life. For instance, in my country, Taiwan, people like to watch TV programs about “mothers in law” and stories regarding marriage life. However, this might not the case to Americans who prefer TV programs about science, how to become rich and topics about friends mostly. To Taiwanese, those family scenes are similar to their daily life because a high proportion of people married still live with their parents under the same roof; stories based on such background can trigger more empathies, interest, and relating. Thus, the programs made in one's own country can be better understood and certainly will be more interesting.

Secondly, viewers of movies and TV programs can sometimes be misled by the poor translation. To be more concise, those foreign media entertainment can sometimes be difficult to understand. Since the language used is not the same from the viewer, it is largely made understood by the translation. As we all know that there is a vital link between cultures and languages, people thus have difficulty perceiving what the programs are intended to express or interpret. With inadequate understanding of the movies, how can people feel more intrigued and echoed by them? A case in point, when I watch India made movie, I could not understand some of the language translated since there is not such words in my culture. When I watch Korean movies, I could not totally understand why women are always so polite to men and use a language so humble that it seems that men are the center of the world. Accordingly, some humorous plots resulted from the conversation or relationships are totally confusing and ambiguous.

Admittedly, I do not deny that some people may think that movies or TV programs made in other countries can be more interesting. For one thing, since there are many differences among countries, culture shocks, such as women in Vietnam are the people bringing home the money and they work a lot while most men do not work. For Japanese, they think men should always be the people who sustain the home finance so if men go home early, that means they do not work hard; thus they sometimes prefer lingering outside doing nothing instead of going home early. TV programs or movies focusing on these exotic things can be very interesting and sometimes inspiring since they trigger people living in different countries to ponder. However, such kinds of insights are only temporary. Once people get used to the culture, it is not that interesting any longer. Only by watching TV programs or movies made in one's own countries can viewers feel related.

To conclude, in terms of TV programs and movies, it is always more exciting and interesting to watch them that are made in one's own country. Not only can people understand more about the programs designed in a relating way, but they can fully understand them without being misled by the translation. After, TV programs and movies are made to entertain people, not to bring trouble to people who need to understand a new culture, a new language to understand.

22. 獨立寫作：應不應該對高峰期上路的司機徵收附加費用。

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Drivers should pay a fee to be allowed to drive on the city streets during the time when there is the greatest amount of traffic.

It has often been stated that drivers should pay the fee to drive on the city streets when there is the greatest amount of traffic. However, some people oppose this idea and say that those drivers have paid the tax already and they should have the right to drive on any street anytime they desire. From my perspective, I however agree with the topic for three reasons: reducing the traffic, increasing the government revenues, and protecting the environment.

The first reason for my agreement is that the policy serves to reduce the traffic during rush hours in big cities. Should drivers pay the fee to drive into the busy city, they would consider other alternatives of entering the city such as taking the public transportation, which will tremendously diminish the degree of the traffic jam. A good case in point is London, the Europe's largest city. Since it introduced the policy, car traffic in the city center has been reduced by "twenty percent," cited from Time magazine. This illustrates that the volume of traffic in downtown will certainly decrease and the whole city would function a lot better in all aspects.

The next reason underscoring my viewpoint is that the municipal government can obtain more revenues if drivers are forced to pay the fee to enter the busy city. For example, charging eight pounds per day for every vehicle entering the city, London utilizes the income to purchase more hybrid buses saving up to

“thirty percent” fuel. At the same time, not only the road infrastructure but also the mass transportation system can benefit from the extra fund, offering a better service to citizens and visitors.

Last but not least, paying a fee in such special period of time in a day will reduce the pollution for our environment. To be more concise, the “green” policy of paying the fee to drive the car into the busy city helps to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide mostly spewed from old and badly maintained vehicles and thus protect our environment. With the congestion charge, most drivers would rather embrace the public transportation system. Again, the London experience demonstrates that this traffic regulation contributes to lowering air pollution with a perceivable degree. Therefore, the more people choose to take the public transportation, the better our environment will definitely be.

Definitely, those who are against my opinion may assert that it is unfair to charge drivers who have already paid other taxes such as the license tax and the fuel tax. Nevertheless, I still agree with the statement that drivers should pay the fee to drive their cars into the jam-packed city during peak hours--to cut the traffic, to generate the funds, and to ameliorate the environment. (Words: 455)

23. **獨立寫作**：學校應該改善設施或是聘請有名的老師。

Agree or disagree? Schools should be more focused on improving facilities (libraries, computers, or labs) for students than on hiring famous teachers.

**老師云**：這一題要小心的地方是名詞的單複數，學校“School”是可數的(JJ上的題目背錯了喔!) 其它的名詞概念也要小心。還有一點就是這個題目的學校沒有限制是“大學”，所以同學不要劃地自限了。

For the school budget distribution, it is of essence to invest the money on the field that will benefit the most people, students and schools alike. Some people think that it is the responsibility of school to focus more on the improvement of facilities that students can frequently use when they are at schools such as libraries, computers or labs. In my opinion, however, I consider that schools should hire famous teachers as their emphasis for many reasons.

To begin with, students can be motivated more if schools focus more on hiring famous teachers. It goes without saying that if students are guided by experienced teachers in what they learn, they can feel more inspired to perform things; for instance, if students delight in physics or chemistry, they can be advised to read something more or watch certain channels, such as National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Animal Planet that can complement their school work. A famous teacher always knows what other aspects of the knowledge can best motivate students longing to learn more by themselves. Even though students do not like the subjects, such as math or music, they can still try to learn and know more rather than giving up on those subjects. Famous teachers have experienced the same learning course that the students are going through right now and those teachers can always have a way to make what they teach absorbed and understood. Thus, if schools are focusing more on this session, more students will be encouraged to learn more and exert themselves more on their main duty--being a student.

In the second place, famous teachers can assist students who have various understanding of the subject. A famous teacher not only knows how to motivate students, but also instills remarkable ideas into their students who have different questions or troubles with the subject they learn. Most importantly, teachers can be reached at school for those things face on face. A good case in point, when college students cannot understand how the formula of math comes from, a renowned professors can always be reachable at school and can provide ideas and knowledge to students' problem based on their different levels of the knowledge. Since they talk face to face, students can still raise questions during the process and professors can guide them into discovering the answers. On the contrary, if school focus more on improving school facilities, students may find the answer all right via computers or laboratories, yet they cannot have other problems solved providing they have more questions in, for example, math or chemistry during the process. To impart knowledge, a human is better than a machine or non-reacting method. A famous teacher can always give out questions for students to ponder based by their intelligence; a famous teacher can always make tedious principles or theories of physics or math understood by giving students ideas and proper assistance. Thus, hiring famous teachers should prevail over improving school facilities.

Some people, of course, will hold such opinion that advanced facilities of a school is conspicuous to students when they choose schools. Thus, school facilities should be focused more, not the teachers. Almost, for example, all prestigious schools, such as Ivy League schools in the United States, or LSE, London School of Economics in UK, invest a great deal of money on the facilities. A good library is a great place for students to check out books for reference; a great computer room enables students to use the advanced technology for their study; a great lab allows students to do innovative experiments for their research. Nevertheless, these factors weigh considerably less when it comes to the quality and quantity of famous teachers who can pass on knowledge with their experience, with students' learning situation as well as with encouraging students to learn more and to not just try to find out the answers, but to learn and to create during the process. Those things can only be employed by an experienced teacher. Therefore, hiring famous teachers for a school should deserve the attention, not the improvement of the facilities. (讓步段和最後一段併在一起)

24. **獨立寫作**：人們應該堅持自己有挑戰性的夢想還是注重實現現實的夢想。

翻譯：People should maintain their dream even though the dream is challenging. Or they should focus more on the dream that is more realistic and down to earth.

Confucius, a great Chinese sage, once said, "Dare to dream, release the boundary of limitation." This is true to people when they are trying to accomplish their dream. In the journey of life, some people learn about chasing their dream is arduous and consider that people should focus more on the dream that is more down to earth because this is what life goes. To me, however, I do not think so. People should still stick to their dreams in spite of the fact that they are challenging.

Firstly, challenging dreams make people work harder. There is a proverb that goes, "If you aim at heaven, you got earth thrown in; if you aim at earth, you got nothing." To be more concise, people do not know how well they can do for their dreams. If a student desires to acquire all straight As, which seems not possible for him, he will work more strenuous than ever in achieving the goal. Maybe frustration will appear if the dream is not achieved, yet he has extended his limit and worked harder in the process. Much more he learns. If the student only focuses on the realistic part and set the dream easier to achieve, such as "Bs" for all his subjects, he may not work as diligent and his potential will not be stimulated. Thus, people should maintain their dream even though the dream is challenging and seemingly unachievable.

Secondly, maintaining one's challenging dream will make people learn more. If people only try to chase a dream more realistic and down to earth, they will never know how much they can learn throughout the process. People usually feel pain before they can learn more. In other words, if people set a goal concerns only the reality and bows to it due to the environment, the dream is still a dream since it is altered by the realistic facts, not by what people think they should be. For instance, William Henry Gate, one of the richest persons in the world tried to eradicate epidemic diseases contracted from unsanitary water around the African areas. Rich as he is, he still cannot address the problem with a promising result. However, he continued his dream and went to Africa to learn more about the issue. Learning so much about it, he then established a charitable foundation with his wife and asked all other people to participate. People can preserve more enthusiasm and persistence if they do not set a goal catering to the reality, but to the dream as it is. Now the diseases coming from the source of water have almost been wiped out thank to their maintaining the demanding and tough goal they set up in the first place.

Irrefutably, some people may say that we should focus more on the reality in our dreams because it is life that masters what we are and what we do. Being consistent in pursuing a dream that is challenged will make people feel more frustrated and dispirited. Some people may just abandon everything or perform none when they discover the dream they set up is too tough to achieve. They should instead choose the dream more down to earth and lead a regular lifestyle as everyone does in the society. However, people who hold such viewpoint do not perceive the concept of life. Life itself is a constant process of challenges. When children grow up, they go to schools. When they graduate from them, they choose their career and work much in their life. Dreams as well as life are challenging them. In other words, choosing a dream more down to earth will make people stop learning and their potential talents will be undermined.

In conclusion, dreams are nouns if they are not performed and are only stored in one's heart and mind. No matter what kind of dream it is, people should all go out for it despite it is challenging. "The sky, the limit." We all deserve a better life, so people should always maintain their dreams even though they are hard to achieve.

25. **獨立寫作**：耐心不是好策略。

Patience is not a good strategy. We should take actions now rather than later. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Today we are often urged to take actions right away, such as "Just do it", a famous slogan from Nike. It seems that taking actions is the best way to have things solved and settled. On the other hand, is patience now no longer a good strategy? Shouldn't we wait for things to clear out and then take actions later? To me, personally, I believe that being patient is a good strategy for many aspects.

To begin with, it is patience that makes the plan done in a more smooth way. As the saying goes, "Slow and steady wins the race." True, indeed. Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance. Imagine that if we take actions without deeper thoughts, what would happen? Engaging in essential projects usually takes time. Lacking a meticulous design or organized plan in the preliminary phase can possibly lead to failure. For instance, a salesperson needs to be patient with the customer to make their own decisions, rather than pushing them and incur negative reaction. A teacher needs to be patient with their students making progress. Learning is not all about correct answers, but the process of acquiring the answers right or wrong that needs time and patience. Thus, to accomplish great things, one needs to be patient as a correct strategy.

In addition, being patient is a good strategy to build up relationship. Humans are social animals. We seek for belonging through our lives. We feel more beloved and confident when people listen to us, which furthers the development of relationship due not to taking actions, but to wait until things become clearer. For example, my mother always listens patiently. Whenever I encounter a problem or have quarrels with my friends, she is there being patient with me for my problems, so I love to share with her all bad times as well as good times. On the contrary, if she were not patient listening to me, I would not share with her how I think in life. The relation would turn sour in the long run. Therefore, in terms of building up good relationship with people, being patient is a great strategy.

**讓步段寫一段**

Admittedly, some people may assert that taking actions immediately has merits to some extent. In the world, some activities should take actions now rather than later, such as the issues of our environment, our study plans or crime rate crackdown and so on. These things need not to be patient expecting a due time as a strategy. (如讓步段要寫成一段，還要再把以上的"例子"擴充!)→ There is no ideal timing for those matters since "every second counts" and making immediate actions indeed is a better approach. The matters aforementioned are constructed on experiences and various situations relying on the reactions and results to the situation. We need to implement the plans in the first place and to learn along the way. However, in order to achieve the best result, being patient for a thorough plan to tackle those things is still a better strategy. The ramification triggered by hasty application can be fatal and needs more time to mend.如讓步段寫一段，這句才要。這句為批判剛剛反方的好處。因為讓步段舉了太多好處，必須先批判再返回正方，這比較自然及不唐突。 For a better and a long term effective result,

people should still require a step-by-step strategy to reach the success for those problems. (175 Words)

讓步段和最後一段併在一起

Admittedly, some people may assert that taking actions immediately has merits to some extent. In the world, some activities should take actions now rather than later, such as the issues of our environment, our study plans or crime rate crackdown and so on. These things need not to be patient expecting a due time as a strategy. In summary,(However,) being patient has significant advantages, such as assisting our work in a more effectual way as well as cementing relationship and so forth. Accordingly, I disagree with the statement and believe that--patience is a good strategy and people should take actions later--.

(100 Words)

26. 獨立寫作：電影和電視對年輕人負面影響較大。

Do you agree or disagree, movies and television have more negative effects than positive effects on young people.

Movies and televisions have greatly exerted impacts on both our life-style and our thought. Some people argue that movies and televisions lead young people to produce bad behavior because of violence, drugs and obscene plots in them. Yet, as far as I am concerned, my feeling is that movies and television have more positive effects than negative ones on the young people.

To begin with, serious and sad movies and TV make us learn a variety of knowledge that we do not need to really experience in our life. Through such movie or television, we can understand the principle of survival, the view of the world, even the valuable outlook on betrayals, deprivation of love, money as well as legal rights. No doubt, the knowledge we have learn in school is very limited, but in the media, people could obtain necessary supplements for broadening your view those things serious and sad movies bring to young people who are just at the early stage of life and the viewpoints they gain from watching such movies and TV will make them ponder on life without really experience them to learn.

What's more, movies and TV nowadays can provide great opportunities for young people to learn. With the advent of the Internet, people gain knowledge easily and swiftly. Just a click away, they are connected to the world with great images, sound and narration of the media. In other words, it makes learn fun and intriguing. Take Discovery Channel, one of the most popular programs, for example. It narrates myriads of stories regarding nature, history, chemistry, astronomy, that young people have never heard. They are all very educational for young people who might be motivated to learn more on the same topic. In addition, the news which we watch every night on TV can update us with the world on the latest technology or discoveries all over the world that young people can be curious about. Obviously, it is of great benefit to them during the whole life.

Certainly, things usually have two side--movies and TV might not be all positive to young people. In order to excite or strike an accord to viewers, movies and TV sometimes describe societal events in

details. What cannot be ignored is that young people are copying violence in movies and TV. **For example**, Hollywood movies simply have too many violent scenes in them and foul languages, bad, negative attitude toward life are abundant. As we all know that youngsters do not excel at distinguishing what is good, what is real and what is bad in life. What they do know is imitating those figures are cool. They speak like them and sometimes act out the plots from TV or movies to the real life. Some violence is even depicted as heroic or glorious. Yet they cannot get away with the negative results, such as imprisoning or physical damages from car racing..., like the figures in the movies. **Nevertheless**, I still think those cases are going extreme. Young people are well educated better than what they were and they do know what are real and what not in the movies or TV. Simply, young people just view those kind of movies or TV as a pastime or leisure away from heavy workload. Besides, all movies and TV are required to be censored, which is strictly implemented for protecting youngsters.

All in all, TV and movies are playing effective roles in our life; for youngsters, they eager to know more about the world and learn more for their future. Will movies and television have negative effects on them? Of course, everything has its downside. To me, the benefits of being living in this modern world are that we can try to avoid the downside and focus more on the positive side of things. **Thus, I still think that there are more positive effects than negative effects on young people in terms of TV and movies since youngsters can learn something they cannot learn in their textbooks and they can be provided more opportunities to know more about the world in a vivid way.**

27. **獨立寫作**：政治領袖和藝術家何者對社會貢獻較大。

網路版：你覺得 great artists 和 political leader 誰對社會的 benefit 更大？

點題版：Society benefits more from the work of great artists than from political leaders

老師云：中文的題目比較好了解，英文的題目，就繞了點。寫時以英文的為主中文的概念為輔。

你同不同意這個題目的陳述呢？其實，只要有政府和藝術的題通常比較難發揮，因考慮要通盤。事實上，老師認為，這比較物→“藝術家”和“政治人物”對社會所貢獻的領域不同，實在難比！

“海灘”這個字的短音，頓時從腦中升起。明智的選擇，就是要縮小比較範圍，有**標出**領域，這樣比較，就清楚多了。一樣，二正一反的立場比較好寫，因政治家的影響力，涵蓋廣，所以以政治領導者為主是比較好寫。

Our society is composed of many aspects that affect people living in this community. Each individual can be viewed as a cog in this big machine--the society--. Great artists bring esthetic contributions to people for their spirits under this competitive society, while political leaders set up the rules and standards for people residing in the same community or country. Who has the greater influence in our society? To me, personally, I do not agree with the prompt and think that political leaders benefit our society more than great artists do.



To begin with, political leaders withhold more political resources that can make a big difference to the society. To be more exact, they are the people elected by citizens and are empowered by those people to carry on national welfares. For example, we are living in a society of economic instability. People lose jobs easily and they are forced to keep up with the increasing living expenses. It is political leaders who can change the law and use the national fund to come to their aid, not the great artist. When people are in need of medical care, it is political leaders who can enact policies to help those who have trouble paying the bill or design a program to assist those people to pay off their bill later and go under the treatment at present. For the issue of education--the most fundamental unit for the greater development of country--, political leaders can also use their power to bring the awareness of the public to help out, such as donating money, contributing books or places for poor kids to receive education. None of these can be achieved by great artists.

In the second place, political leaders can gather people's will in a wider range. Throughout history, when the society is rife with corruption, injustice or the disparity of the rich and poor, political leaders can serve to the performer and pioneer of the society. For instance, in America, African Americans were the underprivileged group; in other words, there were injustices for them to, for example, seek for employment, fair treatment in social benefits or welfare. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. can accumulate the will of more people and take it to the legal level, making sure African Americans are protected by the law and have the liberty to pursue their happiness on this land. Another example can be seen from Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. He saw the injustice of the slavery system and fought for the right of slaves, who should also be considered the citizens in the US. Assassinated, Abraham Lincoln benefited the society in a great range that affects generations of generations. Another great example is Bill Clinton who led America to a great stability in economy with his diplomatic skills and perseverance. Thus, the way those political leaders benefit the society is irreplaceable and way profound than that the artists can do to our society.

As to the other option—great artists—to our topic, they of course benefit our society a lot. For instance, art work really help people relieve the pressure their daily life and work bring to them. In addition to relieving stress, great artists, like Beatles calming people down with their songs and giving hopes to those who are in depression and who are in times of difficulty. Our society becomes more peaceful and people have the power to look at the bright side of unfavorable conditions and be optimistic. Those are great benefits. However, in terms of "greater benefits," by comparison, I would still choose political leaders because they are more accessible to the nation's resource and they have more power to convene the public to reform for a better tomorrow for all.

28. **獨立寫作**：有衝突時用 e-mail、簡訊或語音訊息溝通。

If you need to discuss upsetting or controversial problems with others, you will use e-mail or text messaging, OR use the telephone or voice-messaging.

老師云：“Telephone and message” 都是可數喔。下列幾個寫法都對

- The telephone
- Telephones
- The message
- Messages
- Messaging

“E-mail” 可不可數？ 紛擾未定。在這邊用可數。

**Sample Writing:**

Everyone can be thrown a difficult time in his or her life from occasionally. It can make the whole situation upsetting or controversial and it is harder to deal them with other people. In solving the problem, some people may stick to use the more indirect way, such as e-mail or text messaging, while think those methods cannot be carried on for really understanding the discussion. To me, personally, I would use telephones or voice-messaging to handle the tricky problems.

To begin with, it is more efficient and convenient to convey ideas. Compared with either e-mails or text messages, using the telephone or voice messages allow people to express themselves better, not just in words, but in speaking tones. For instance, I had quarrels with my friend about the correct answer in one of the math questions. We had our own view and ways of how this math question should be calculated and it was upsetting that we came up with the different answer to it. Being overbearing and dominating at that moment, I was insisting my own view. However, I was proved incorrect in the end. By calling my friend, I apologized timely and explained my calculation again, locating my logical flaw with him together. I learned something and my friend knew I did not do it on purpose, so it did not take much time to solve the problem. On the contrary, if I used text messages or e-mails, we would need to exchange more ideas, which is time-consuming and not clear. Besides, by discussing together, my friend could hear me with my voice intonation and knew I was sincere and really tried to solve the problem without leading to more problems.

Secondly, using the telephone or voice messages enable people to express clearly. To be more concise, the upsetting or controversial problems are always making people sensitive. By reading e-mail or text messages, people tend to focus on words they feel not proper or being offended. They will mistake some words, which might be used to appease the controversial issues, for aggravating the situation. By using a more direct way—the telephone or voice messages—, people can ask questions or vague comments to be further explained. As a good case in point, people can easily have arguments with their

love ones over trivial matters. By talking to each other over the phone, they can get to understand the point why they engage themselves with disputes. With listening to the real-time speaking intonation, they can get to the arguing point easier and cope with it in a more detailed way.

Admittedly, some people may consider that for upsetting or controversial issues, it is better to deal with it in a more indirect way, such as emails or text messages. For one thing, people can take more time to ponder over the controversial issues and use the most appropriate way to deal with it, as in a relationship or in a political issue. For another, when people discuss upsetting and controversial issues, they tend to be excited readily and then easily become involved in arguments. Dealing with controversial things are risky and people cannot guarantee what they will react at that moment. Even though people make attempts to solve problems by talking to each other, they might end up arguing over another problem that they never expect. However, those indirect ways tend to waste time communicating with each other and can cause more trouble. Solving problems by exchanging opinions and ideas through written words is never a great way for upsetting issues.

In conclusion, although text messages or e-mails allow people to think twice before they exchange ideas, we now live in a busy world where time is precious and where correct responses are required to avoid misunderstanding. Thus, it is better that we solve upsetting or controversial problems with either the phone or the voice messages.

**29. 獨立寫作：**人們是否應該關心發生在全世界的事件。

網路版：瞭解 event happening around world is important for us even though it will not affect our daily lives.

真經版：Do you agree or disagree with the statement:

It is important for people to understand events happening around the world even though it will not affect our daily lives.

人們應該關心發生在全世界的事件，即使這些事件跟我們的日常生活沒有關係。

老師云：像這種“條件句”的題目，如有“if”, “because”, “although”等陳述，都是有兩層的層面要回答，副詞字句裡，是有一些條件的框架，這一題的限制是“即使不太可能對我們的日常生活造成影響。”所以在寫時，要在寫出這一句才能更客觀回答題目問題。

More:

這些事對日常生活沒影響，但對做未來決策或預防有影響、對維護社會安定有影響、對互相幫助互相學習和國際關係有影響...環保、汙染等。

**Sample Writing:**

As the technology advances, the world is getting smaller that everything is interconnected in this global village. Understanding events occurring in this world, thus, is not just important, but essential, providing it will not affect our daily lives. Some people may have a different perspective toward me; however, in my opinion, events happening around the world are of importance to everyone living in this globe whether or not they are affecting our daily life.

Firstly, world economy is heavily connected to each country. To be more concise, for some people, they may think what is happening in, for example, Russia, is not affecting them at all since it is far away from their countries, such as Taiwan, Thailand or Japan. Nevertheless, if Russia is economically punished by the European countries due to political issues, can the economy of Asian countries remain promising and stable? People buy mutual funds, stocks or natural gases which are based on the worldwide investing regions. It may seemingly look unimportant to our life, yet all the countries will be affected sooner or later. Moreover, for investors, the knowledge of worldwide events, such as crude price in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, contributes to better decisions on their future investment. Therefore, in a world of globalization, it is certainly important for people not to be ignorant of what is happening about this world.

In the second place, people can more opportunities to help each other. Some events happening around the world are indeed not very influential, but people are suffering. As a world citizen, we need to understand what is going on in this world and know what we can do to help each other for a better tomorrow. By understanding the famine problem in African, we can donate money to charities like Red Cross or World Vision. By reading the news about the torrential rain, Tsunami or earthquakes in certain countries, we can provide them with what we can to mitigate the pain the sorrow. For sure, those events do not affect people living far away in other counties, yet we can help each other by understanding those events; besides, as the proverb goes "What goes around comes around," we do not know what is happening in the future and maybe we will be in need of assistance when those mournful events occurring in our own country. Moreover, we can learn from those events happening in other countries and make preventions prior to such natural disasters take place.

Admittedly, living in this highly competitive world should be efficient since modern people have too much to learn that they need to be focused on things affecting them in daily life. In addition, if we all try to understand everything happening in this world, our life will be so distracted as there are so many things taking places every second and everywhere. In other words, we need to have the faculty to sort out important information affecting us and meaningful to us. However, the knowledge of human beings is limited and we are not sure if something not affecting our life really does not affect us down the road. When we feel the event can affect us, it might be too late to react. Hence, in my strong opinion, it is no doubt for everybody to learn about events happening around the world even though it will not affect our daily lives. The world is small and things are complicated in connection, after all.