**Assessment Task for Speaking**

**Topic: Shopping**

This assessment task focuses on developing senior secondary students’ speaking skills.

This set of materials consists of Question Paper and Suggested Answers.

**Speaking Task: Shopping**

**Part A Group Discussion**

Below is a list of places where you can do your shopping.

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| --- |
| * Department store * Shopping mall/centre/plaza * Small shop/boutique * Market stall * Street hawker * Website |

Your group is doing a project on shopping in Hong Kong. One part of the project, which you are now discussing, is where different people in Hong Kong do different types of shopping.

You may want to talk about:

* which types of people use each different shopping place
* what items customers look for in the different places
* the advantages and disadvantages of each place
* anything else you think is important

**Part B Individual Response**

1. What items do you buy for yourself without asking your parents first?
2. What do you like shopping for most and how do you shop for it/them?
3. Which is your favourite shopping area?
4. Is shopping one of your leisure activities?
5. What sorts of promotion attract you into a shop?
6. Would you like to go overseas for a shopping trip? Why/why not?
7. Do you think online shopping will mean there are far fewer actual shops for people to visit?
8. Do you think males and females have different attitudes towards shopping?

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

**Suggested Ideas for Group Interaction and Individual Response**

**Part A Group Interaction**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **People** | **Items** | **Points in favour** | **Points against** |
| Department store | * Well-off shoppers * Tourists | * Clothes, household items, furnishings | * All under one roof * Quality goods | * Often expensive * Crowded |
| Shopping mall | * Depends on type of mall (luxury, specialist, teens, etc.) | * Depends on the mall- clothes, computer goods, cosmetics, shoes, electrical appliances, mobile phones, etc. | * Protected from the weather, nice places to enjoy time with friends, great variety, entertainment and food facilities | * Need to wander about a lot to find what is there * Some items are expensive |
| Small shop | * Younger buyers * Bargain hunters | * Clothes, shoes, bags, small gifts, watches, jewellery | * Can find unusual items * Can build relationship with owner * Intimate * Can be very cramped | * Less variety |
| Market stall | * Bargain hunters * Older people | * Food, souvenirs | * Lower prices | * Not very good quality |
| Street hawker | * Bargain hunters * Passers-by * Older people | * Food, toys, clothes, leather goods | * Cheapness | * Unknown quality |
| Website | * Busy people * Young adults | * Books, music, fine food | * Can shop at one’s leisure | * Cannot handle the goods, have to wait for delivery |
| Anything else | * Brand name shops * Large chain shops * Different areas of Hong Kong * Shopping trips to Shenzhen | | | |

**Part B Individual Responses**

1. What items do you buy for yourself without asking your parents first?

*Basically I can spend my pocket money as I please. I get $500 a month so I cannot buy big items. I buy small gifts for friends, bits of stationery, items for hobbies and cheap items of clothing for the weekends. If I want large items, I must talk to my family. For example, recently I needed a new pair of sports shoes so I talked to Mum and Dad. They said how much I could spend, gave me the cash and let me go and buy them. I don’t often buy things like new computers or phones. My parents and elder brothers often upgrade what they have and give me their old models- I say old, but they are still up-to-date and I prefer my brothers’ slightly used good stuff to any cheaper stuff I could save to get for myself. Of course, I get money at Chinese New Year and my birthday, but I try to save that for anything special which happens.*

1. What do you like shopping for most and how do you shop for it/them?

*Anything to do with computers. I like to see all the latest hardware, software and games- and all sorts of special gadgets too. My school is in Wanchai so the two computer centres I visit most often are Oriental 188 and 298 Computer Zone. I get a lot of information from websites and computer magazines, but I also love going round the small stalls seeing what they’ve got and talking to the sales people. They can tell you all about the newest stuff. In the holidays I meet up with friends and we go over to the Sham Shui Po Golden Computer Arcade or Mongkok Computer Centre to see if they’ve got anything different- of course, usually they haven’t, but sometimes you can find something you haven’t seen before, and that’s exciting. I get good pocket money so I can afford to buy quite a bit of stuff, but there’s a lot too that I can only dream about.*

1. Which is your favourite shopping area?

*Well, my answer is not very original, but I think it’s Causeway Bay. There’s so much there. As well as the big department stores, there are a lot of small plazas and it’s really fun going up them one floor at a time seeing what they’ve got. Things usually get cheaper the higher you get as the rents are less, so I can start looking carefully at clothes on the fourth and fifth floors. I love buying nice tops and fashionable bags. My friends and I also hunt for bargains along the stalls on Jardine’s Crescent where prices are lower than in the shops. We sometimes go to Times Square for some window shopping- I can’t afford brand name goods but I like looking at all the beautiful fashion items. And when you are tired there’re lots of cafes and small places for a drink or snack. Best of all is the atmosphere- Causeway Bay is so crowded and lively. I really feel the spirit of Hong Kong there.*

1. Is shopping one of your leisure activities?

*Not really- I don’t mean I don’t go shopping. If I need something I will go and buy it, but I don’t think ‘Oh I’ve got a free afternoon. What shall I do? I know- go shopping!’. All sorts of sports are my main leisure activities. In the holidays I call my classmates to meet me at a playground for some basketball practice, or I arrange with a friend to go and play tennis or squash. Occasionally I like to go ice-skating too, and I am on the school football team so I practise with the team quite often. When I’m home I’m probably on the computer, playing games, looking up information, chatting with people I know and that sort of thing. These are what I call leisure activities- shopping is more like a chore. I don’t understand people who go window shopping- it’s really boring to look at things you can’t buy!*

1. What sorts of promotion attract you into a shop?

*Let me think- I guess number one is price reductions- special sales and big discounts. When you are shopping without much money like me, cost is a big factor so I am attracted by cheapness. For the same reason I like coupons- I look through magazines and take any leaflets in the hope of finding coupons for things I like. Oh and I’ve thought of another sort of promotion I like- cute things you can collect. Fast food shops do it sometimes- each week there’s a different colour or design figure which you can buy cheap with a meal or if you have stamps on a card. Once you have started you really want a full set so you keep on going to the shop. It’s silly but it works on me. I don’t like ‘buy one, get one free’- well not for lots of things- usually I don’t want two so I just give it away. Lucky draws aren’t very attractive either- I never win anything!*

1. Would you like to go overseas for a shopping trip? Why/why not?

*I certainly would if I had some money to spend on the trip! My elder sister and her friends go on overseas shopping trips and she comes back with lots of lovely things and says she has had a great time. I think my first choice would be Tokyo even though it’s pretty expensive. I can’t remember all the names of places, but she goes to the 109 Building somewhere- it has hundreds of stalls and is the best place for Japanese fashion. She buys jeans, T-shirts, bags, boots- all sorts of things to wear. And I know Tokyo has wonderful 100 Yen stores full of bargains and really cute Japanese things like Hello Kitty items. One time she went to a big market somewhere and brought back some plastic plates of sushi. I’d like to buy lots of things like that. My second choice would be Bangkok. It isn’t as fashionable as Tokyo but it’s a lot cheaper and there’s one big building full of cheap stalls that I’d like to visit. I’ve also seen a television programme about a huge weekend market. I’d enjoy that!*

1. Do you think online shopping will mean there are far fewer actual shops for people to visit?

*It would certainly make sense- particularly in a place with really high rents like Hong Kong. If you can see the goods very clearly on good websites, get them far more cheaply than from an actual shop and get them delivered to your door quickly, it’s definitely a better way of shopping. Shopping online also means you can shop at any time you want- if you get home late and feeling tired, like a lot of Hong Kong people do- you can have a shower, eat your dinner and then do some relaxing e-shopping. On the other hand though, people enjoy shopping as a social activity- friends go out together to the shops. A lot of people wouldn’t know what to do on Saturday afternoon without shops to walk round. So I think there will be fewer shops but they won’t disappear.*

1. Do you think males and females have different attitudes towards shopping?

*Yes, the normal idea is that men hate shopping and women love it. I don’t think that is entirely true as if you go round computer arcades or sports shops you will find a lot of men- and they aren’t just rushing in to buy something and leave quickly, but they are walking round slowly looking at everything. And in shops with movies and music I think you’ll find males and females in about equal numbers. But I think these are actually exceptions. Most shops in a shopping centre or plaza are for women- clothes shops, handbag shops, all sorts of beauty products, jewellery and so on. Most women will happily spend hours looking round such shops but very few men want to spend a lot of time buying clothes. I think the same is probably true of home furnishings. It’s usually women in the family who choose the curtains, towels, dishes, carpets and so on.*

**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS**