**Assessment Task for Speaking**

**Topic: Protective Hong Kong Parents**

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

**Speaking Task: Protective Hong Kong Parents**

**Part A Group Discussion**

You read the following on the “Your Say” column of the *Hong Kong Post*:

|  |
| --- |
| **Hong Kong Parents are Over-protective**  I was shocked when I read a report about parents accompanying their children to universities to help them tidy up their dorm rooms in your newspaper. I think Hong Kong students really need to learn how to take care of themselves. I remember another incident when a group of students were stranded at London Heathrow Airport because of a snowstorm. The children’s selfish behaviour and poor self-management skills appalled us. Little did they do except whining about the flight cancellation and poor arrangements of the airlines. They even made up stories of their parents’ death in order to board the first flight home. It is obvious that Hong Kong children are spoilt but I think their parents are to blame too.  Parents nowadays simply dote on their children too much. They take care of every detail of their children’s life and hire domestic helpers to constantly look after them. They help their children with their homework and get over-involved in their studies. They provide their children with every material comfort but forget the importance of developing positive values and attitudes in them. If parents do not change their mode of parenting, I am afraid these greenhouse flowerets will never grow up to become independent adults. Our city will be notorious for raising over-pampered “Hong Kong kids” who suffer from the “prince / princess disease”.  **K.C. Lee (Wan Chai)** |

Your school is concerned about the whole-person development of students and would like to improve students’ self-management and problem-solving skills. As members of the Student Union, your group is invited to make suggestions to the school. You may want to discuss the following before presenting your ideas to the school:

* why students are weak in solving problems and coping with difficulties
* what parents can do to address this issue
* what the school can do to address this issue
* anything else you think is important

**Part B Individual Response**

1. Do you think you are over-reliant on your parents?
2. Are your parents over-protective?
3. What makes a good parent?
4. How would you raise your children if you were a parent?
5. What advice would you give to the over-protective and indulgent parents?
6. What can be done to improve students’ problem solving and self-management skills?
7. What do you think about the label “Hong Kong kids” and terms like “prince / princess disease”?
8. What do you think about the description that Hong Kong students are spoilt kids and greenhouse flowerets?
9. Some people believe that “young people from affluent societies or well-off families are weaker in coping with problems and challenges”. Do you agree with this view?
10. Should Hong Kong students be required to serve in the armed forces or uniform groups to improve their discipline and self-management skills?

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

You may refer to the Speaking Descriptors for HKDSE Paper 4 (Speaking) on pp. 16-17 of the Standards-referenced Reporting Information Package for English Language (HKEAA, 2009) already disseminated to schools and available for purchase at HKEAA’s online bookstore at:

<http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/resources/publications/list_of_publications/hkdse_srr_pub/>