**Assessment Task for Speaking**

**Topic: Young People in Hong Kong**

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

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

**Speaking Task: Young People in Hong Kong**

**Situation**:

You are a member of “Youth Power”, a voluntary organisation that promotes youth development and leadership. You and your group members are going to represent Hong Kong at an international youth conference. Among the activities there will be a sharing session on some facts about the young people in different areas of the world.

**Part A Group Interaction**

To prepare for the sharing session, you have found some information about young people in Hong Kong, including the following fact sheet about Hong Kong’s young people (10-25 year-olds), which was generated from the results of the surveys carried out by different organisations in 2001.

|  |
| --- |
| **Facts about Hong Kong’s Young People (2001)**   * The population of young people is declining. * Most young people think their home life is happy and their parents are reasonable. * Most young people find talking to their mothers easier than to their fathers. * The age of first employment has been rising. * Young people are taller than in the past. * The most popular career field is accounting. * Most think family and friendship are most important in life. * Shopping, family chats, ball games, housework and sleeping are the most common leisure activities. * The main areas of spending are entertainment, clothes and hobbies, and for the older ones, travel. |

Your group would like to include the above information in your sharing. Now, discuss the information above and decide how relevant it is to the current situation and what the changes in Hong Kong’s young people are.

You may want to talk about:

* how true the information is about young people in Hong Kong nowadays and what the changes are, if any
* reasons behind the various changes in Hong Kong’s young people
* any aspects which are worrying
* anything else you think is important

**Part B Individual Response**

In the international youth conference, there will also be a question-and-answer session. To prepare for the session, your group leader will ask each of you a question so that you can learn to take questions effectively. Answer the question.

1. What are the main problems that the young people of Hong Kong face?

2. What in your opinion are the strengths of the young people in Hong Kong?

3. How do you think your generation can contribute to Hong Kong?

4. In what ways are the people of your generation different from the previous generations?

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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

**Part A Group Interaction**

* how true the information is about young people in Hong Kong nowadays and what the changes are, if any
* *The population of young people is declining or has remained the same.*
* *I heard the birth-rate had gone up a bit recently.*
* *I think I heard that there is an increase in the number of school-age immigrants.*
* *I don’t think something like that would change in just a few years.*
* *The grumbles people have about home are pretty minor ones. Parents in the past spent more time with their children at home, whereas young people are often left behind by their working parents who have excessively long working hours.*
* *Most parents have made more attempts to communicate with their children.*
* *Maybe Chinese fathers are a bit stricter, but I don’t think there’s much difference nowadays. Compared with those in the past, fathers are now far more approachable and willing to engage in family activities with their children.*
* *Maybe mothers are there more often. A lot of fathers are out at work most of the time.*
* *I think there are a lot more young people are staying on at school now to finish Secondary 6.*
* *Different from the older generation in the past, a lot of parents now tell their children not to rush to start work but to get properly qualified first.*
* *I’m certainly taller than my parents!*
* *While young people 10 years ago were interested in jobs connected to technology, I think the financial sector is one lots of people want to be in nowadays.*
* *Similar to the younger generation in the past, I’m sure people in our class are more concerned about having friends and a warm family than just earning money.*
* *The consumption habits of young people back then were quite the same as ours.*
* reasons behind the various changes in Hong Kong’s young people

*- The new academic system and the HKDSE*

*- Youth unemployment*

*- The computer/communications revolution*

*- Greater contact with and knowledge of the outside world*

*- Contact with and travel round mainland China*

*- Changes in China with its opening up and economic boom*

*- Changes to Hong Kong’s economy*

*- Changes to the family, moral values and prosperity levels*

* any aspects which are worrying
* *Youth unemployment*

*- Immersion in electronic communication*

*- Access to harmful websites*

*- Materialism and commercialisation*

*- Housing shortage*

*- Instability of marriages*

*- Health issues*

*- Drug taking*

* anything else you think is important
* *Ways to nurture a happier and healthier younger generation can be discussed:*
* *School education*
* *Parenting*
* *Activities for young people*

**Part B Individual Response**

1. What are the main problems that the young people of Hong Kong face?

*Well, there are a lot of young people who belong to families who are short of money. The cost of living here is high and many people have to struggle. I think study problems are important. Everyone tells us how important study is and they are probably right, but it can be very difficult and quite boring. It’s depressing if you try hard but you still don’t do well. If you decide to leave school, it’s very hard to find a job and if you do, it’s probably low-skilled and poorly paid. I think when young people feel their lives are pretty meaningless, they are easily tempted to try drugs and make themselves happy with chemicals. Another big problem is pollution. Of course, it affects everyone and it isn’t healthy growing up in a city with so much haze and dirty air.*

1. What in your opinion are the strengths of the young people in Hong Kong?

*Let me see. I think we are open-minded, active and peaceful. Let me explain - first, open-minded. When I think about my schoolmates, they don’t mind people being different. In the past people were so prejudiced about women and foreigners and people’s sexual orientation. But my generation respects other people’s right to be themselves. I think this is because Hong Kong is indeed a place where east and west meet. We eat dim sum, sushi, pizza, hamburgers and curries. Second, we are active. We have plenty of school activities and clubs – singing contest, drama performances, debates and sports activities. Most of my friend do courses outside school too and take part in voluntary work. Thirdly, we are peaceful. Young people in many countries seem to be in gangs, fighting and doing awful things. It just isn’t like that here- maybe because we are so busy, as I just said!*

1. How do you think your generation can contribute to Hong Kong?

*The last few generations have created a lot of problems- especially with the environment. There is terrible air pollution and global warming is happening, the Arctic ice is melting, deserts are growing, the sea has been over-fished, plant and animal extinction is occurring all the time, and many other bad things need solutions. I think my generation is going to have to make some sacrifices and try to do something serious about using less and cleaner energy. We need also to have a less wasteful lifestyle. I hope my generation can protect Hong Kong’s freedom and persuade the central government to allow us more democracy. We must stand up for our rights and not give in weakly. Then of course we also need to keep Hong Kong full of life with a strong economy and lots of creativity. I hope we can do it!*

1. In what ways are the people of your generation different from the previous generations?

*The older generation finds technology quite challenging and they don’t understand lots of things about computers. My parents’ generation is much more comfortable with the latest gadgets, but my generation never knows a world without them. We grew up with mobile phones and texting - there’s nothing alien about them to us. In fact, we cannot survive without them. Physically my generation is a bit taller and stronger than our elders, but sadly we are also fatter. Most of us are better at languages too - a lot of people of the older generation only know Cantonese; our parents usually use English too, and we feel okay with Putonghua too. Of course, there are lots of exceptions to that. I also think my generation may not be as hard-working and ambitious as the two generations before us. I think it has been much easier for us to receive education and the lack of struggle has made us softer.*

**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS**