**Extended Writing Task: A Debate Speech**

*Choose one of the motions from the following and write a speech arguing either FOR or AGAINST the motion. Write approximately 400 words.*

1. Gay couples should be given the same legal rights as heterosexuals in adopting children.
2. Examinations should be replaced with other forms of assessment.
3. The government should enforce a mandatory retirement age.
4. Parents should be required to attend parenting classes before being permitted to raise children.
5. Animals should not be kept as pets.

**END OF QUESTION**

**Extended Writing Task: A Debate Speech**

Aims:

* to think about how to construct arguments and write persuasively
* to write a debate speech

**Activity 1: Brainstorming**

Other ideas could be: logical arguments, attention grabbing opening, use of examples to support points, relating what is written/said to the audience, making the audience laugh/cry/think, and effective closing.

**Activity 2: Discussion**

Apart from the points for and against, think about what makes some motions easier to debate than others. It could be familiarity with the issues or how they relate to the students personally.

**Activity 3: Writing**

Choose one of the motions and write the speech individually in about 400 words.

The language focus should be on:

* modal verbs for propositions (e.g. “The government should ….”, “Parents must ….”)
* adjectives for emphasis and persuasion (e.g. “It is crucial that …”, “This is a fundamental human right …”)

**Marking Criteria\***

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| **Content** | * relevance (all points must be relevant to the motion and to the side of the argument being addressed) * evidence of creativity and imagination (elaboration of points and ability to bring the speech alive through creative use of language) |
| **Language and Style** | * sentence structure * grammar and punctuation * vocabulary * register, tone and style (containing features of spoken language such as rhetorical questions, repetition for effect) |
| **Organization** | * coherence (with the main argument clearly stated and supported, as well as restated at the end) * paragraphing * cohesion between sentences and paragraphs |

* Based on the HKDSE draft descriptors for writing from *Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education, English Language, Standards-referenced Reporting Information Package*. Published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (2009).

**Additional Resources**

Hong Kong Schools Debating Council <http://hksdc.wordpress.com/>

Speech Tips <http://www.speechtips.com/how-to-write-a-speech.html>