

**EDB PDP on Grammar as Choice: Optimising Senior Secondary English Language Series:
The Role of Grammar and Vocabulary in Academic Reading and Writing**

Task Sheet

Task 1 Exploration of Grammar and Vocabulary Features of Academic Language

Table 1 Examples of Academic Language from various KLA's/subjects

	Example
A	If the disease is left untreated, the tooth may become loose and eventually fall off.
B	A vacuole is a fluid-filled space within the cytoplasm, surrounded by a membrane called the tonoplast.
C	League of Nations, ceasefire, trade liberalisation, equilibrium, mantle, asthenosphere, eco-tourism
D	The reduction in production costs and the rise in productivity help enterprises become more competitive and earn more profits.
E	The number of mitochondria in a particular cell depends on the cell's energy needs.
F	The development of medicine, natural sciences, space exploration, transport and communications was rapid in the 20 th century.
G	More studies should be done to find out the effects of using mobile phones on health.
H	When all 9 pieces of square origami paper are arranged in order of size and placed together at the centre, we get a pattern as shown in Fig A.
I	molecule, polymer, polymerisation, superconductor, element, compound, chemical change, acid, alkali, mitochondria, chloroplasts
J	All nucleic acids are built up from similar repeating subunits called nucleotides.
K	John's walking speed is 2.3 km/s. If this measured value has a percentage error of 2%, write down one possible actual walking speed satisfying this requirement.
L	Earthquake-proof buildings should be constructed in order to prevent collapse.
M	Enzymes are important proteins that regulate almost all biochemical reactions that occur in cells.
N	Without his military service, Italian unity would not have been achieved.
O	If an e-mail is sent from Japan at 3 p.m. local time to the Netherlands, what is the local time in the Netherlands when the e-mail is received immediately?
P	The independence of East Timor was maintained as a result.
Q	Glycogen, starch, and cellulose are examples of polysaccharides. They are made up of glucose molecules joining in different patterns.
R	Ingestion is the process which takes food into alimentary canal through our mouth.
S	Urbanisation is the process through which people move from rural areas to urban areas.

Table 2 Analysis of Grammar and Vocabulary Features of Academic Language

Grammatical/Vocabulary Feature	Examples	Subjects/KLAs	Function(s) of the feature in Academic English
1. Technical terms / Subject-specific terminology			
2. Complex noun phrases			
3. Modal verbs			
4. Conditionals			
5. Passive voice			
6. Relative clauses			

Table 3 Possible Meaning Functions of the Features of Vocabulary/Grammar in Academic Language

1	To describe key concepts, the changes to them and/or relationships among them
2	To suggest solutions to identified problems
3	To describe conditions for conducting certain operations
4	To suggest hypothetical situations
5	To denote the key concepts in a particular topic
6	To look and sound scientific/objective
7	To give definitions
8	To state casual relationships
9	To suggest actions of which the doers are obvious

Task 2 Discussion on relevance of academic language to English language teaching and learning

Text 1 (2021 HKDSE Reading Part A)

The War on Big Food

1 [1] Multinational packaged-food companies lost \$4 billion in market share alone last year, as shoppers switched to fresh and organic alternatives. Can these food giants win you back?

[2] Try this simple test. Say the following out loud:

- *Canned food*

5 • *Pre-packaged lunch*

- *Frozen TV dinners*
- *Soft drinks containing artificial colors and flavors*

10 [3] If any one of these terms raised a hair on the back of your neck, left a sour taste in your mouth, or made your lips purse with disdain, you may be part of Big Food’s multi-billion-dollar problem. In fact, you may even belong to a growing consumer class that has some of the world’s biggest and best-known food companies scrambling to change their businesses.

[4] Lest you think this is exaggeration, consider this: industry analysts say that the top 25 U.S. food and beverage companies have lost an equivalent of \$18 billion in the market share since 2009. One expert compared them to melting icebergs. “Every year they become a little less relevant.”

15 [5] In some ways, it’s a strange turn of events. The idea of ‘processing’ – from salting and curing to the modern artificial preservatives – arose to make sure the food we ate didn’t give us food poisoning. Today we know that it’s the processed food itself that’s making us unhealthy. Shoppers still value the convenience that food processing offers but the pendulum has definitely shifted in their minds. They have more and more questions about why this bread lasts 25 days without going stale.

20 [6] Although the changing consumer landscape has contributed to lackluster growth among some of the industry’s major players, major food companies are still going strong. For now.

Title: _____

- 1 [1] Recent research by NASA on terraforming Mars has sparked a debate among ethicists as to whether space exploration and terraforming other worlds are ethical endeavours. Human beings have been captivated by the possibility of planet hopping since the discovery of planets. Below is a short extract from a transcript of a debate between two professors, Annabelle Lee and Theodore Cheung, who are discussing this issue.
- 5 [2] Prof. Lee: The ever-increasing scope of our space exploration efforts threatens the other planets in our solar system with biological contamination from Earth. If life is present on another world, the introduction of terrestrial life forms would be an ecological disaster as well as an immense loss to science. The possibility that life exists on other planets tells us that we cannot simply land on other planets because we want to satisfy our need for more land.
- 10 [3] Prof. Cheung: I get your point but we have entered unspoiled environments before and those areas have benefitted from our intervention. The national parks service of the USA illustrates how we can create havens for nature, where we maintain the flora and fauna at levels that would not have happened if nature were left to her own devices. In response to your point that human exploration would alter natural conditions on other planets, I propose a planetary park system that would bar the landing of spacecraft in protected areas to prevent
15 destruction of the environment.
- [4] Prof. Lee: You know that microorganisms can be spread across the planetary surface by dust storms, for example, so this approach would not protect non-park areas from human contamination. Although it may help safeguard the aesthetic qualities of some areas, a park system approach misses the larger question of whether it is ethically responsible to interfere with other planets. The discovery, exploration, and invasion of the Americas
20 by Europeans led to dire consequences for the indigenous people of that 'New World'.
- [5] Prof. Cheung: I agree that the activities of human beings can damage the environment and cause other negative consequences, but these are exceptions. I do not subscribe to the idea that the natural world and other living creatures have intrinsic moral worth equal to human beings. It is our duty as human beings to make Earth a better place and that is something no other living organism can do. We need to continue the activities and
25 processes not only to make our world livable and comfortable, but all other worlds around us too.
- [6] Prof. Lee: While we grapple with our ethical obligations to our fellow humans and the other creatures with whom we share the planet, it would be wise to consider the ethical obligations we have to other worlds. We must consider whether landing spacecraft on other planets is justified because they may carry with them the potential to destroy endemic ecosystems. Even if these ecosystems are composed of only microbial life, our
30 ethical obligations must be taken seriously. Life independent of Earth deserves valuation equal to that of our world and those landscapes deserve to be spared from our meddling even if they are not home to any life.

Table 4 Identifying Features of Vocabulary and Grammar of Academic English in English Language KLA

Grammar / Vocabulary Feature	Examples
1. Technical terms / Subject-specific terminology	Text 1:
	Text 2:
2. Complex noun phrases	Text 1:
	Text 2:
3. Modal verbs	Text 1:
	Text 2:
4. Conditionals	Text 1:
	Text 2:
5. Passive voice	Text 1:
	Text 2:
6. Relative clauses	Text 1:
	Text 2:

Task 3 Reflecting on Academic Grammar and Vocabulary for Writing in English Language KLA

Text 3 (2021 HKDSE Writing Part B)

② **Learning English through Social Issues**

Although studies show electric cars are more environmentally friendly than petrol cars, less than 3% of all vehicles sold in 2020 worldwide were electric.



Write a letter to the editor of *Hong Kong Post*.

- Discuss why sales of electric vehicles are so low.
- Suggest what can be done to attract more people to drive these vehicles.

③ **Learning English through Workplace Communication**

You work in the sales department at Fast Fashion, an online company that sells clothes. Recently, you have received a number of complaints from customers about the company's no-exchange/no-refund policy.



Write an email to the sales manager.

- Explain why you think this policy should be changed.
- Suggest what changes could be made.
- Discuss ways to prevent customers from taking advantage of the new policy.

A large empty rectangular box for writing the answer.

Task 4 Reflecting on Academic Grammar and Vocabulary for Writing in Non-Language KLAS

Text 4 (Questions from the 2020 HKDSE Biology and Geography Papers)

2020 HKDSE Biology:

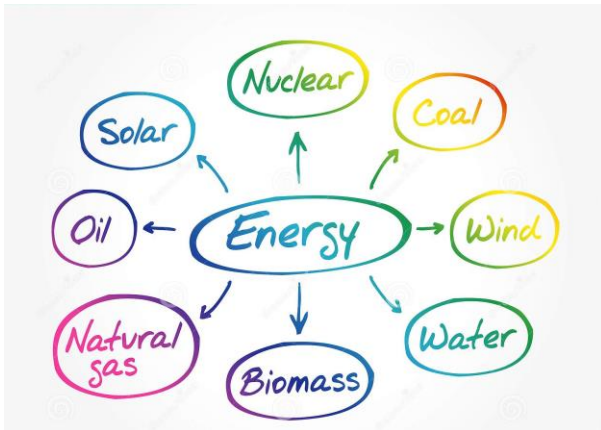
Our body systems are highly specialised at various levels of organisation to facilitate the functioning of each system. Discuss how the adaptive features of the human blood and circulatory system facilitate the transport of oxygen. Your discussion should cover adaptive features at cellular, tissue and organ levels.

2020 HKDSE Geography:

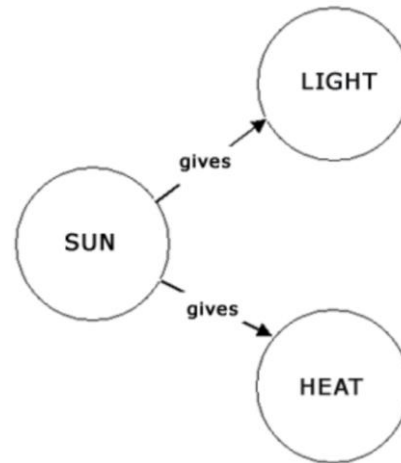
Describe and explain how earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur at convergent plate boundaries. Discuss whether land use zoning is more effective in reducing loss resulting from volcanic eruptions than that of earthquakes.

Task 5 Concept Mapping

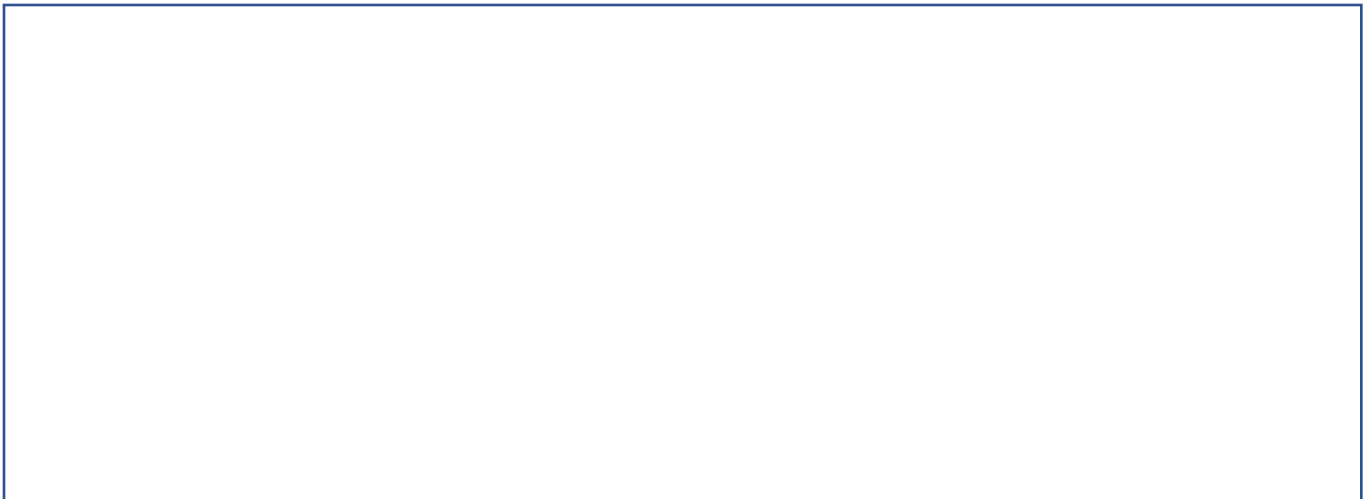
Which of the following is a mind map and which is a concept map? What are the differences between the two?



<https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/energy-mind-map-flow-chart-energy-mind-map-flow-chart-types-energy-generation-200192435.jpg>



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Another-example-of-a-simple-concept-map_fig4_26444585



Task 6: Hands-on Planning of Academic Reading and/or Writing Tasks

Read Text 5 and Text 6.

In your group, select one of the two and brainstorm some ideas for planning academic reading and/or writing tasks based on it. Focus should be put on grammar and/or vocabulary features.

Justify your choice of text and discuss how you would scaffold the students for accomplishing the task(s).

Text 5: <https://www.onegreenplanet.org/lifestyle/fun-upcycling-projects-that-are-perfect-to-make-with-kids/>

For both kids and adults, making our own stuff is rewarding, be it as simple as a long-flying paper airplane or as advanced as a house. You can use even more DIY prowess by going the eco-route; construct those airplanes out of old magazine pages rather than fresh printing paper, or build a house out of recycled tires rather than eating up more resources. Learning to transform garbage into something useful rather than wasteful, and aesthetically pleasing as opposed to heaping pile, is a great lesson for kids (as well as adults). It teaches us to think more innovatively, conserve what we have and entertain ourselves.

Text 6: <https://youmatter.world/en/definition/upcycling/>

Upcycling represents a variety of processes by which “old” products get to be modified and get a second life as they’re turned into a “new” product. In this way, thanks to the mix and aggregation of used materials, components and items, the end result is a “new product” with more value than the original value of the sum of all its components. In other words, upcycling is about materials or items that get to be re-adapted and/or re-purposed in a creative way, and whose lifespan is, therefore, expanded.

Text Selected: 5 / 6

Grammar and/or Vocabulary Features to be Focused on:	
Ideas for Academic Reading:	
Ideas for Academic Writing:	