



2008 Beacon UE Mock Exam – Writing (Sample Essay)

4. Asian Games(Updated)



With the trust and confidence placed in us by the International Olympic Committee and Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the 29th Olympiad (國際奧林匹克運動會), we are **thrilled** (非常興奮的) and honoured to have been chosen to stage the 2008 Olympic **Equestrian Events** (馬術賽). This is the first time Hong Kong will have staged an Olympic event, and we are excited about it. Despite some negative remarks on our *bid*¹ to **host** (主辦) the event, *there is no doubt in my mind that*² we should go *all out*³ to do all that we can to make the Equestrian Events a **resounding** (極大的) success and to bring pride and credit to our home, and our nation.

The Olympic Games is one of the most **prestigious** (有聲望的) and widely watched sport events. Once every four years, hundreds of millions of sports *enthusiasts*⁴ **throughout Asia and beyond** (整個亞洲及以外) **focus their attention on** (集中注意力在) the Games. For a city to be selected to host an Olympic event, it must meet very **demanding** (要求很高的) criteria, not only **in terms of** (以...而論) facilities for the Games itself, but also in terms of the cultural **uniqueness** (獨特性) and financial **capabilities** (能力) of the **host city** (東道國). Hosting a large-scale international event as such is an **enormous** (極大的) **endeavour** (嘗試) and requires **considerable** (相當大的) **commitment** (心力的投入). *Therefore, if chosen to be the host city, Hong Kong can definitely enhance* (提高) *its prestige in the international community*⁵.

Furthermore, the Hong Kong Tourist Association has been working hard to **revive** (恢復) Hong Kong as the tourist **paradise** (天堂) in the region. *But what is a better thing to do than hosting an international event such as the Asian Games?*⁶ The 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games was a good example. A lot of people who had never thought of going to the United States before went there just to experience the Olympics. They discovered **along the way** (過程當中) what a great city Atlanta was. You can imagine what a positive effect it had on tourism of the United States. Television **coverage** (報導) is also another good way to promote a city in front of the global audience. Once people see how beautiful, **sophisticated** (先進/有文化的) and **cosmopolitan** (大都會的) Hong Kong is, they will be attracted to come here. As a result, more tourist dollars will be coming in and Hong Kong can **regain** (恢復) its **luster** (光彩) as the Pearl of the Orient. The currently **feeble** (衰弱) tourist industry, which has been experiencing difficulties since the Asian





financial crisis, will **take the lead** (帶頭) to **invigorate** (振興) the economy.

Hosting the Asian Games will also create various opportunities for sporting development in Hong Kong. It will *help*⁷ **speed up** (加速) the training of more **top-notched** (一流的) local athletes. New **top-of-the-line** (頂級) sports facilities and gymnasiums will be built for the occasion. More varieties of sports **other than** (除了) soccer and gymnastics will be introduced to the public. This will **contribute to** (促成) a more balanced sporting development in Hong Kong. Anything built specially for the Games can later be used for local activities. As a result, the standard of coaches, athletes and sports administrators will be **uplifted** (提高). The government can also take the opportunity to **assume** (擔任) a more **assertive** (決定性) role in promoting sports education, thus building a healthier and more **vibrant** (有活力的) community.

Critics (批評者) *may argue that*⁸ hosting the Equestrian Events will put a great **drain** (消耗) on the **already-weakening** (已經疲弱的) economy. But they fail to realize that the success of such an event, which I am confident it will be, will bring in **tremendous** (巨大的) revenues to Hong Kong. **In other words** (換句話說), hosting the Games will **generate** (帶來) a lot of income that will **offset** (抵銷) the great drain the critics are talking about. Selling souvenirs to tourists is another great way of making money. The Olympic Games **mascot** (吉祥物), Fuwa, will no doubt become a **hot merchandize** (熱賣品). Television coverage and *commercials* (廣告)⁹ have also been proven to be extremely **lucrative** (賺錢的) considering the number of people who will be watching the event.

*All in all*¹⁰, it will be of great interest to Hong Kong to host the Olympic event and it is certainly worth *going at it*¹¹ (嘗試). Hong Kong will enhance its international prestige by hosting such an important sports event. Our economic well-being will also be enhanced **as a result of** (由於…的結果) winning the bid. The standard of our athletes will be **elevated** (提高). With 'One World One Dream' in our mind, I am sure Hong Kong will be able to pool all strengths with all stakeholders in fostering the spirit of Olympism advocated under the Olympic Charter.

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Grammar and Usage Highlights:

1. Bid 這個字是「投標」的意思，多用在拍賣(auction)的場合。但它還有「努力/設法爭取」的意思，在作文時常用得上，例如：The government is bidding for support from the general public to fight against SARS. (政府正設法爭取公眾的支持，打擊非典型肺炎。)
2. There is no doubt in my mind that...是一種強調，是「我深信」的意思，可以說 I am confident that 或 I am convinced that...，但第一種說法在語氣上最強。
3. Go all out 是慣用語 (Idiomatic English)，等於廣東話裡的「去盡」，跟 try one's best 同義，但前者聽起來比較「生鬼」。
4. 香港人很喜歡用 fans 這個字，enthusiasts 是同義詞，所以你可說某人是 a sports fan 或 a sports enthusiast。分別在於 enthusiast 比較有個人的參與的意味，而 fans 很多時候是「齊看」。而且在一些靜態的活動時，會用 enthusiast 而不會用 fans。例如：He is a stamp-collecting enthusiast。
5. 這句原來應該是：Therefore, if (Hong Kong is) chosen to be the host city, Hong Kong can definitely enhance its prestige in the international community。但為了更簡潔，當前後子句的 subject 是一樣時，前面的 subject 和 verb to be 可省略，只保留 past participle 的部分。
6. 這句是修辭上的提問 (rhetorical question)，並不是真正的問題，其實要強調的是：The Asian Games is the best thing to promote Hong Kong as a tourist paradise，也就是所謂的「正說反問」，是一種修辭的技巧，旨在加強語氣。
7. Help 後面可加 to，這裡可說 help to speed up...。但現代的用法更傾向省略 to，而直接跟動詞的原形，就是 bare infinitive (infinitive without to)。
8. 寫議論文時總得加上一些反對作者的立場 (counter argument)，讓讀者不會覺得你太主觀，開句時可用 Critics may argue / counter / assert / attack that...。但要記住帶出 counter argument 的目的是要讓你有機會作反駁 (rebuttal)，而不是要「仁者無敵」替反對者出頭。所以只要輕輕帶出 counter argument，而用更長的篇幅來作 rebuttal。





9. Advertisement 是一般的用語，在各種不同媒體賣的廣告都可以用，但電視或電台的廣告尤其是動態的，我們都會稱之為 commercial。
10. 寫到最後，總要鳴金收兵，作個好的 conclusion，開句時可用 all in all, in summary, to sum up, to conclude...等用語。
11. Go at something 也是慣用語，是「嘗試去做某事」的意思。很多時我們會說：Let's give it a go. 就是說：「我們試試吧。」

