



BEACON COLLEGE

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HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2010

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1A
READING

Reading Passages



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write all your answers in the Question-Answer Book.
2. **DO NOT** take away this booklet. It will be collected separately at the end of the examination.
3. **DO NOT** write any answers in this booklet because they will not be marked.

Part 1 – Boarding Schools

Read the information below on boarding schools and then answer questions 1 – 31.

(33 marks)

Boarding School 1:

Academy at Ivy Ridge

Upper New York State

Accepts boys and girls, ages 13-17&1/2 years

The Academy at Ivy Ridge campus was formerly a Junior College. It has over 200,000 square feet of building space consisting of classrooms, dorms, recreational areas, computer center, science labs, food services, offices, and a 30,000 volume library. It is located on 237 acres with plenty of outdoor recreational space and nature trails. The Academy at Ivy Ridge is located in upper New York State along the St. Lawrence River and close to the Adirondack Mountains. In addition to Academic Curriculum, students are also taught values, integrity, honor, accountability, and respect for authority. The Academy at Ivy Ridge provides a great location, facility, and setting for students to reach their potential. Equally important, it also has an experienced Administration and a dedicated and committed staff.

Boarding School 2:

Majestic Ranch

Randolph, Utah

Accepts boys and girls, ages 7-13 years

Majestic Ranch Academy is a Specialty Boarding School, with an excellent academic program, for elementary and junior high students. Majestic Ranch Academy is located on a 2,000 acre working ranch. This ranch setting provides an excellent opportunity for the students to gain responsibility assisting with ranch duties in a peaceful environment conducive to change. Children help with calving, lambing, caring for cows and sheep, and other ranch activities. This boarding school provides a safe, secure, growth opportunity for your child, and is perfect for young students that need to be redirected early in life. Experiences such as these will provide teaching moments that will create values such as respect, responsibility, compassion, caring, and service. Students work on academics and personal growth through real life lessons learned through ranch life.

Boarding School 3:

Spring Creek Lodge

Thompson Falls, Montana

Accepts boys and girls, ages 12-17&1/2 years

Spring Creek Lodge is located on 25 acres of prime forest land in southwestern Montana. This beautiful mountain setting is close to needed services, but appropriately secluded away from the distractions of everyday living. Teens focus on their academic development, personal development, and learn important values of integrity, honesty, respect, and accountability. The devoted staff is dedicated to guiding the teens in their personal journeys back to a life reflecting the important values learned. This is a wonderful program that has demonstrated remarkable results! The director, co-director, and staff are very dedicated to the success of the students. The students enjoy a safe, secure learning environment that promotes positive change. Students that have graduated this program exhibit life skills and emotional maturity that far exceed normal expectations. Graduates of this program can look forward to powerful rewarding futures. This therapeutic boarding school is in a really beautiful setting as well.

Source: Adapted from <http://www.teen5000.org/programs.htm>

Part 2

Read the following article and then answer questions 32 – 37.

(17 marks)

Storm and stress

- 1** Adolescence is a time of storm and stress ... not only for the adolescents, but also for the parents. It is marked by disagreements, bickering, emotional tensions, and minor conflicts with parents over the everyday details of family life, such as doing the chores, feeding the pets, doing schoolwork, and getting along with siblings. Changes during adolescence affect the parent-child relationship. During adolescence, young people develop advances in reasoning. They are more able to think about things abstractly and logically. They raise issues such as justice, fairness and rights. This change in thinking allows teenagers to question their parents' authority leading to conflict. Adolescents are more likely to feel that many issues should be a matter of personal choice instead of _____. They develop their own identity and form their own opinion. Also, teenagers begin to realise that their parents are not always right. These changes are cognitive, occurring within the brain at puberty.

An example

- 2** Gita's problem was that she wanted to be a dress-designer, whereas her parents wanted something else. But we need to deal with it contextually. Gita must first examine her intentions. Does she want to be a dress designer because she loves creating clothes? Have a good eye for colour and a flair for art? Does she have what it takes? Or, is she just enamoured by the glamour and publicity? Parents must also ask themselves about what they want from their daughter? Do they want her to be an extension of themselves; do they want her to fulfil their unrealised dreams? Or, are they just threatened by her independence? A good idea would be to meet a dress designer to get more information about the field. The next step is a healthy discussion based on facts. Interest and aptitude should be taken into consideration. Importance should also be given to _____ of both sides.

Communication, the key

- 3** Communication is an important part of any good relationship. This is especially true for the relationship between parents and their children. Unfortunately, in adolescence, _____. One reason this is so difficult is because parents often see themselves as 'managers' of their children. They are constantly organising their children's lives. Instead of being 'managers' of their child's life, parents need to be 'consultants'. Being a consultant-parent has the advantage of more successfully avoiding the two most common errors in parenting teenagers: treating them like children (over-parenting or stifling) and treating them like adults (under-parenting or abandonment).
- 4** Thus _____. Resolving a conflict as important as a career decision needs to be made over not one, but many, discussions. Tempers may flare and the intelligent route is to keep them under check. Both, the parents as well as the teen should actively engage in a dialogue, remembering that it is not a verbal duel and it is not about winning or losing. Finally, it should be remembered that there is a lot of love and caring between the two, the difference is only over the issue concerned and not the personality.
- 5** Eventually, it requires a sacrifice or compromise. It is best if it is the latter, on both sides. Both should be convinced that _____.

Source: Adapted from <http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/thscrip/print.pl?file=2004121100080400.htm&date=2004/12/11/&prd=qu&>

Part 3

Read the following article and then answer questions 38 –52.

(17 marks)

Nine die in Japan ‘suicide pacts’

1 A police spokesman said seven young people were found in a van in the Saitama mountains to the west of Tokyo. Minutes later, two women were found dead in a car south of Tokyo, in another apparent suicide pact.

2 Japan has recently seen a wave of Internet-linked suicides, as people seek companions to die with. More than 34,000 Japanese took their own lives in 2003, according to the National Police Agency - an increase of more than 7% from the previous year. Economic difficulties and an increasing sense of isolation among Japanese youth are believed to be contributing to the rise.

3 A small but growing number of suicide attempts are being made by people brought together through the Internet. Analysts have speculated that group suicide may mitigate the inherent loneliness of taking one’s life alone. The BBC’s Tokyo correspondent says dozens of suicide websites have appeared in recent years offering advice to those who plan to kill themselves.

Poisoned

4 The three women and four men who died in Saitama were all reportedly in their teens or early 20s. It was probably the largest group suicide in Japan so far, police said. This group and the two women found in Kanagawa are believed by police to have died from carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of charcoal burners in their cars. ‘We believe they all died after inhaling carbon monoxide from the charcoal,’ a police spokesman said of the seven found in Saitama. ‘We believe they got acquainted through the Internet. We found no traces of violence that could have otherwise led to their deaths.’ Investigators had yet to establish whether the two cases were related.

5 Our correspondent says suicide has become a widely discussed topic on many websites, and there is even a guidebook to the best places to kill yourself. The authorities have talked about closing down or regulating the websites. But organisers argue that they offer a compassionate service to those who have given up all hope of the future.

6 Increasing numbers of young people in Japan are feeling alienated by modern life. Several thousand are termed ‘hikikomori’ - recluses who never leave their room, finding entertainment only on the Internet.

THIS IS THE LAST PAGE OF THE READING PASSAGES BOOKLET.