

Suggested Answers to 2018 O level English 1128/ Paper 1

SECTION B

To: newbuilding@school.sg
From: tommykoh@gmail.com
Date: 1 October 2018
Subject: Recommendation for new facility to be developed on the school site

Dear Mrs Lim,

I am Tommy Koh from Class 4/4, and I am writing this email to share my views on which new facility I would like to recommend for the school to build. After reviewing the three ideas shortlisted on the school website, I would like to suggest that the school build a new Performance Arts Centre.

Firstly, I believe that the Performance Arts Centre is a better choice than the Science and Technology Building and Fitness Centre for the following reasons. We already have science labs and computer labs in our school, and while they may not be equipped with the latest equipment and technology, I feel that they are sufficient to support us in our learning. Similarly, we already have a track and field as well as indoor sports hall in our school, which gives students more than enough locations to hold various sports activities. Although we may not have state-of-the-art gym facilities or a swimming pool in our school, I believe that public gyms and public pools are also easily accessible outside of school. Hence, this is why I feel that the Performance Arts Centre would be the option that adds the most value to our school.

Personally, I am interested in the arts and am also in a Performing Arts Co-curricular Activity (CCA). Presently, Performing Arts CCAs in the school face the challenge of securing a performance venue whenever we want to hold a performance. Additionally, space constraint is also a challenge for our weekly CCA practices in school, especially when different CCA groups have practice on the same days. With a new Performance Arts Centre, we would have a suitable venue for performance as well as studios and practice rooms to solve all these problems.

Building the Performance Arts Centre will also benefit not only the Performing Arts CCAs but the whole school in general as well, as it includes many facilities. The studios and practice rooms can also be used by teachers to hold classes during school hours, and the performance venue can be used to hold assembly programmes. The foyer will have an exhibition area which can be used to showcase the artwork of students, as well as to hold school events such as our science fairs. The café also offers students a more conducive environment to meet up for project meetings or to study after school. All these will allow our students to have a more vibrant and exciting time learning in school.

By giving our students a more holistic learning environment centered on the Performance Arts Centre, it is something that would be appealing to parents as well. Parents will also be less worried and more assured, knowing that their children are participating in activities in the Performance Arts Centre in school, rather than loitering around outside the school after school hours. Having a vibrant school culture will also help to convince parents of potential students to make the decision to send their children to our school.

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Furthermore, as the Performance Arts Centre will also be available for use by the community, it offers two more benefits for the school. Firstly, the school would be able to gain some revenue by renting the venue out. Secondly, our students will be exposed to many events and performances happening right in our school, which would help us to gain an appreciation for the arts. On top of that, it also gives students the chance to interact with members of the community and learn from them.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email, and I hope that you will take my suggestion into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Tommy Koh

3.

Planning:

- holiday with family, planned to visit theme park to ride rollercoasters
- fell sick with food poisoning on the very first day
- stuck in hotel room recovering, unable to ride rollercoasters → disappointed

Essay

I was bouncing with excitement as my family and I waited to disembark from the plane. My parents had promised to bring me to Genting to visit the theme park if I did well for my examinations and I was finally here. I had worked hard all year to earn this treat and I could not wait to ride all the rollercoasters as I really loved the thrilling rides.

Before we checked in to our hotel, we stopped by a roadside stall to have some local food before resting early for the night so that we could rise early the next day. I was so excited I could barely sleep!

The sun had still not risen when I was woken up by a sharp pain in my tummy. I frowned and tried to go back to sleep, but a second spasm of pain jolted me awake. The next moment, I rushed into the toilet, groaning in agony. It was unfortunately only the beginning. For the next hour, I was in and out of the toilet due to diarrhoea and vomiting and my parents were ringing the nearest clinic.

We were the first people at the clinic when it opened and unsurprisingly, it was a case of food poisoning. I was prescribed medicine and instructed to have plenty of rest and fluids. My parents then brought me back to the hotel where I slept for a few hours as I was feeling so weak.

When I woke up, I felt both queasy and uncomfortable, but I was finally less groggy. It then dawned upon me that half the day had passed by, and I was missing my opportunity to visit the theme park! I tried to jump out of bed but I immediately felt dizzy. I remained in the bed, frustrated that the trip I had been looking forward to so much had ended up this way – with me bedridden!

I sulked the whole night and insisted to my parents that we had to visit the theme park the next day, no matter what. My parents were exasperated, but they agreed that I could go if I felt well enough to walk.

The next morning, I gingerly got out of bed and readied myself for my trip to the theme park. However, when we were there, I felt too queasy to take any rollercoaster rides as my stomach was still weak. I tired easily from walking under the sun and I did not enjoy myself at all. I was disappointed that I had expected to have fun but was unable to do all the things I had wanted to.

My parents tried to comfort me and assured me that we would get the chance to visit Genting again when I was well. I returned to Singapore wistfully, upset that my trip did not turn out the way I wanted it to, but determined that I would return again. **(487 words)**

4.

Planning:

-narrative

-very shy friend, childhood friend who has never shown extreme emotions

-an encounter with a Turkish ice-cream man that made him laugh

Essay

It was the first day of the school holidays and I was spending a lazy afternoon at the house of my best friend, Thomas. Thomas and I were childhood friends as we have been neighbours since we were three and had attended the same schools for the past twelve years. I flicked through the channels on the television, feeling bored.

I looked at Thomas lounging on the opposite end of the sofa with a calm look on his face, and thought about how shy he was. Unlike my boisterous self, Thomas was a boy of few words and never showed extreme emotions. In all my years of friendship with him, I have only witnessed him chuckle a few times, as he usually smiled serenely in response to jokes.

“Alright, Thomas! It’s time for an adventure!” I declared, as an idea started to form in my head. Thomas looked at me with a puzzled expression, but he followed my lead and we left the house to head to the nearby shopping mall.

I had recalled walking past a Turkish ice-cream cart on my way home from school the previous day, and I rubbed my hands gleefully as I plotted to let Thomas be teased by the antics of the Turkish ice-cream man. It would help him to loosen up!

“Come on Thomas, I’ll treat you to some ice-cream,” I said, as I led an unsuspecting Thomas in the direction of the ice-cream cart.

We stood in front of the cart and Thomas took a few moments to order his chocolate ice-cream cone. Then, the fun started. The ice-cream man dangled the cone in front of Thomas, and just as Thomas was about to grab the cone, he swung it out of reach and I stifled my laughter at the surprised expression on Thomas’ face. Thomas tried to grab the cone again and was left with an empty paper napkin.

A smile broke out on Thomas’ face as he realised he had been tricked. He chuckled and tried to grab the cone again. This went on for a while, like a game of cat and mouse, with Thomas trying to grab the ever elusive ice-cream cone and the ice-cream man skillfully swinging it out of reach each time. Each time, Thomas laughed louder and more excitedly, and I was surprised as it was the first time I had seen him laugh so hard!

In a few minutes, Thomas managed to secure his ice-cream and was contentedly eating it as we strolled around. I clapped him on his back and said, “Thomas, I never knew you could laugh so much!”

Thomas gave me a small smile and continued eating his ice-cream. My friend was back to his quiet self again, but I was glad that he enjoyed himself at the ice-cream cart, and now I knew that he could have a very different side to him too!

(484 words)

5.

Planning:

- prefer to stand out: like to be a unique individual, be confident to express your own views, stand up for what is right
- prefer to blend in: shy, afraid of being under scrutiny
- take a stand

Essay

There are two types of people: some people like to stand out from the crowd while others just want to be part of it. People who like to stand out may be those who enjoy being in the spotlight or those who enjoy taking charge and being in the lead. Those who like to be part of the crowd may be those who are shy and reluctant to be the centre of attention and who shy away from positions of responsibilities where they may be under scrutiny. As for myself, I prefer to stand out from the crowd rather than to blend in.

Firstly, I believe that the greatest strength of any person is their individuality. Every person is unique, and hence there is no need for us to try to be the same as everyone else to blend into the crowd. Since everyone is fundamentally different, it means that we all have something special to contribute and to share with others. Therefore, I believe we should all be our true selves and that way, we can all learn something from one another.

Secondly, confidence is an important trait that is essential in many areas of our lives, be it in school or in society. If one is afraid to stand out, it means that one would not be confident in certain situations that require you to be, for example, at a job interview where you should be trying to outshine the other candidates. Therefore, I believe in being confident to express your views and having the confidence to stand out from the crowd and show your best self.

Finally, sometimes we are caught in difficult situations where it is necessary to stand up for what is right, even if the majority are not doing so. For example, if someone is in need of help in the middle of the street but no one in the crowd is stepping forward to help, this is a situation where we should stand up for what is right and take the lead. Therefore, I believe in being brave enough to stand out from the crowd when necessary and not succumb to peer pressure or conforming to the majority, especially when it is important to do the right thing.

Although I prefer to stand out from the crowd, some people are more introverted and may not be comfortable doing the same. However, that does not mean they have nothing to offer as they may be contributing in their own quiet ways. What is more important is for all of us to be more understanding and empathetic towards each other, to create a more harmonious society.

(441 words)

6.

Planning:

-essential: mobile phone (helps families to stay connected)

-not essential: vacuum cleaner (we can sweep/mop instead, noise produced, limitations of product)

Essay

Technology has become increasingly more advanced over the years and along with it, there are many inventions that have helped us to live a better life. Some inventions have become so essential that we rely on them in our daily lives and cannot imagine life without them anymore.

One such modern invention that my family and I could not live without is the mobile phone. Owning a mobile phone used to be a luxury only for those who could afford it but today, it has become an essential part of many people's lives, to the extent that almost everyone owns a mobile phone. For my family and me, the communication that mobile phones allow us to have is something essential that we cannot live without. Since my parents are busy working for most part of the day, mobile phones are what enables them to keep in contact with me during the day. Using mobile phones, we can communicate with each other almost instantly if we have anything urgent we need to discuss. I am also able to inform them of my whereabouts at all times so they will not be worried while they are busy at work.

These days, smartphones also allow us to have access to the Internet at all times. This also helps me to keep in contact with my other family members who are living overseas. Although we may not be able to meet each other in person often, being able to keep in touch with each other easily through our smartphones is what helps us to maintain strong bonds as a family.

On the other hand, some modern inventions are useful but I feel that we can live without them. One such example is the vacuum cleaner. My family owns a vacuum cleaner, but I believe that we can keep our house as clean even if we did not own one. This is because it is almost just as convenient to use a broom or mop to clean the floor, as a vacuum cleaner is bulkier and also requires electricity to operate. This means that it has limitations as it may be too big or the electric cord may be too short for it to clean certain areas or corners. On the other hand, using a broom or mop could help you to access hard-to-reach places to clean them. Furthermore, operating a vacuum cleaner is a noisy affair. As my family also owns a pet, it is a delicate affair trying to operate the vacuum cleaner without startling our pet. Therefore, this is one invention that I believe my family and I can live without.

There is no doubt that modern inventions have brought a lot of value to our lives. As technology continues to advance, I am sure that we can look forward to more creative and exciting inventions that will redefine our lives.

(479 words)