

Exemplar Material (Full/Traditional characters)

Example 1

分析端午節的真正由來

端午節是中國一大傳統節日，每逢五月初五，賽龍舟，吃粽子，喝雄黃酒，但多少人知道端午節的真正由來？

端午節的由來眾說紛紜，以屈原的故事最為人知，屈原是戰國時楚國的副宰相，忠君愛國，但楚王信奸佞，楚國亡在旦夕，傳說屈原悲憤投汨羅江自盡，民眾聞訊趕到，划船及投入粽子，意圖嚇退餓飽魚隻，免屈原的屍體被吃掉。

屈原的故事令人感動，但無法解釋各種端午節習俗的出現，沒有提及寫道符做艾人，也沒有文獻提及屈原自盡及民眾的反應，令人質疑故事的可信性，至於其他如：迎祭伍子胥，紀念曹娥，討好圖騰神龍，掩飾越王練水軍等，都無一合理。

如果從端午節的習俗來分析，競渡龍舟在戰國出現，不是為了娛樂，而是駒妖，誰划的越快越有效果；雄黃是可克制蛇虫的藥物，自古中國人喝雄黃酒來保健解毒，另外還有一些古時注重的習俗如用艾葉蒜頭做艾人辟邪，用雄黃及黃砂做香囊避瘴，可見端午節是有辟邪避瘴之意。至於粽子，大概只是一種方便攜帶的食物，並無深意。

其實端午兩字，是夏天快到的意思，端午節與夏至的日期接近，夏至是天氣轉潮濕酷熱，看來古人以端午節提醒人們為夏天到來作好準備，預防蛇虫疾病。現在科學昌明，不再做艾人寫道符，保留划龍舟是因為具娛樂性，吃粽子喝雄黃酒是因為美味，至於故事，是為了增加節日色彩，或傳遞宣揚不同的訊息，如伍子胥的忠，曹娥的孝，屈原的愛國...

500 characters

參考及引用書目：

民俗活動-端午節 <http://flyingworld.pixnet.net/nlog/post/27836817>

眾說紛紜的端午節的來源 任家林 <http://www.3378.org/topic/20100319/346.html>

夏至節氣與端午節的起源 - 歷史文化學習網

edu.ocac.gov.tw/culture/chinese/festival/08/index08_c.html

屈原的故事 雲林縣馬光國小網

Commentary on Example 1

Completion of task

The title makes it clear that the candidate intends to discuss the origin of the Dragon Boat Festival and there is clear evidence of extensive research. The candidate demonstrates excellent knowledge of the various stories as well as the activities associated with the festival. The essay shows a high level of intellectual competence by distinguishing between myths and facts. It first points out the inconsistencies in the stories, and then proceeds to explain how the activities and customs were actually associated with climate and general concern to health and well-being. All the points made are well argued and each point supported by evidence. Conclusions are convincing.

Mark range: 13-15 (top end)

Organisation and development

Organisation and development of the essay are excellent. The essay is carefully planned and suitably concise. Factual knowledge, ideas and arguments are effectively presented and developed and skilfully controlled. With only 42 characters the introduction gives factual knowledge of the major activities of the festival. It sets the scene for discussion and leads to the second paragraph which is a brief but precise description of the story of 屈原. The essay is then dominated by arguments, evaluation and explanation and ends with a convincing conclusion.

The essay is written well in 500 characters.

Mark range: 9-10

Quality of language

Language is fluent, varied and appropriate. It is of a high level of accuracy considering the need to fit the amount of details into the word limit.

Mark range: 5

Overall

This essay is a sophisticated piece of research work at GCE level; and is a good example of the type of essay that could be achieved on the topic 'festivals'.

Example 2

中國傳統節日在現代社會是否有保留的價值?

春節、清明節、中秋節、端午節 中國傳統節日對大部份現代中國人來說可能只是一個假期, 沒有深入意義。那麼這些節日還有保留的價值嗎?

其實, 中國傳統節日蘊藏不少中華民族優良的價值觀。每年農曆除夕夜, 中國人都愛一家人一起吃飯, 反映了中國人的強烈家庭觀念。中秋節時, 中國人也喜歡一家人一起吃月餅、賞月。賞月時月亮要圓, 也是取團圓的意思。除了家庭觀念外, 中國人忠君愛國的思想亦反映在節日內。端午節紀念屈原精忠殉國, 反映了中華民族忠的美德。清明節孟蘭節拜祭祖先, 登山掃墓, 突顯了我們飲水思源的良好習俗。七夕節, 透過紀念牛郎等著只可一年一見的妻子, 提醒我們愛情要專一。種種價值觀在現代社會很容易被遺忘, 而傳統節日可提醒我們, 令家庭更融洽。

傳統節日更可提升中華人民的民族認同感,。這對海外僑民尤其重要。僑胞們旅居海外, 整天說外語。中國人身份也逐漸模糊。透過慶祝傳統節日, 僑民可重新確認自己的民族身份。而國內同胞還可以享受假期, 有助減少工作壓力。這樣社會自然少了反對的聲音, 有利政府施政。

節日還有巨大的經濟價值, 每逢佳節人們都要購買慶節用品, 中秋月餅, 端午粽子, 春節年花, 爆竹等。還有很多中國人愛趁著節日出外旅遊, 不少外國遊客趁節日到訪中國, 希望參加節慶活動。可見節日對旅遊業的重要。

所以, 中國傳統節日有保留價值。

493 characters

Commentary on Example 2

Completion of task

The candidate has chosen a title that is not really suitable. A different title focussing on **one** festival (as instructed in the specification) would have served the candidate better.

The candidate holds the view that festivals and traditional values are still relevant to modern Chinese society. However, the essay shows no clear evidence of research related to this. The candidate provides some basic information by compiling the names of several festivals, but is not able to demonstrate genuine understanding of their significance or values. Some references are quite confused or arbitrary, for example, 賞月時月亮要圓, 也是取團圓的意思; 七夕節... 提醒我們愛情要專一; 傳統節日... 令家庭更融洽; and the candidate does not fully appreciate the different significance of the '盂蘭節' from province to province. There is further evidence of this arbitrary approach to referencing as the candidate tries to justify their viewpoint, for example 可以享受假期,...這樣社會自然少了反對的聲音, 有利政府施政.

Mark range 3-4

Organisation and development

There is evidence of organisation. Indeed, the essay begins with an introduction, then moves on to consider the significance of individual festivals and follows this with a discussion of other reasons that support the candidate's stance. However, although ideas are neatly paragraphed, more evidence of using sources to support arguments would have been welcome. The candidate should have explored in greater depth what was offered in the second paragraph, instead of allowing the essay to become discursive. The conclusion is contained in just one simple sentence but this is, nevertheless valid (in light of the overall upper word count of 500 characters.)

Mark range 5-6

Quality of Language

The language is fluent, clear and appropriate.

Mark range 5.

Overall

This essay is an example of one where the candidate (1) does not seem to fully understand the specification and (2) relies too much on broad preconceived and fixed opinions. In order to improve the performance, the candidate would need to show clearer evidence of a genuine interest in the content and engage in more reading and research. This essay tended to feature a discursive writing approach with opinions rather than a reflective and evidence-based approach.

Example 3

海兒為什麼會死？討論這不幸事件所說明的一些問題。

海兒是覺新的兒子。海兒患了病，如果及早看西醫，病是會好的，但覺新遲遲不敢請西醫，令病情惡化，最後死於腦膜炎。

海兒的死是誰的責任呢？高家長輩反對西醫，認為新科學只是外國人稀奇古怪的花樣，高家長輩當然要負責任。但如覺民說：大嫂的無辜死去，一個又一個的損失，坐視大錯鑄成，「都是由一個人的懦弱行為做成的。」(1)這個人就是覺新。

高家長輩向來保守固執，但是像海兒一個病重的孩子，任何人也會動惻隱之心，會嘗試所有可能的方法為他醫治，高家長輩卻不動情，他們關心的就是祖宗之法不可變，變會令他們權威面子不保，這種思想使他們對後輩缺乏關愛痛惜之情，寧可犧牲孩子的幸福，更不要說開明了。

但海兒之死，覺新更要負責。覺新不反對新科學，他清楚知道海兒需要的是請西醫，他說過，海兒死了，他「也活不下去了」，他覺得對不起妻子(2)，可是他還是不敢逆長輩去請西醫。海兒跟蕙不同，蕙的事複雜多了，但為海兒請西醫，他的身份是可以作主的，只要他敢站起來，可惜他習慣了長輩的話是一言定春秋，明知不對，他也「不能不聽」(3)，這種思想已成為枷鎖，連對海兒的愛也不能使他勇敢行動，這看到了覺新由這種思想做成的徹底懦弱。

這件事讓讀者感受到什麼是封建禮教思想的壞處，如果不想有更多覺新，有更多海兒成為犧牲品，只有像覺民淑英敢面對敢行動，才能活出春天來。

(489 characters)

Quotation cited from:

1. 春簡寫本 43 頁
2. 春簡寫本 42 頁
3. 春簡寫本 3 頁

Commentary on Example 3

Completion of task

The candidate chooses to discuss the death of Hai'r. The title is clear and implies an evaluative approach which is evident throughout the essay. The candidate provides a sustained analysis of the behaviour of the elders and Juexin who were responsible for the tragedy. All the points made are well argued and supported by an intelligent use of evidence and quotes from the text. The mentioning of Hui is well crafted and shows good independent thinking. Clearly the candidate has a very good understanding of the whole story.

Mark range: 13-15 (top end)

Organisation and development

Organisation and development of the essay are excellent. The essay is carefully planned. Ideas and arguments are effectively developed and skilfully controlled. There is no padding. By pointing out the fact that '覺新遲遲不敢請西醫，令病情惡化' in the introduction, the candidate concisely answers the first part of the question and at the same time effectively sets the scene for the discussion. Reasons for the behaviour of the elders and Juexin are discussed in the following three paragraphs. A conclusion related to the theme of the story is drawn in the final short paragraph. The candidate has kept well within the word limit with 489 characters. The quotations have been referenced properly by using numbered footnote.

Mark range: 9-10 (top end)

Quality of language

Language is fluent, varied and appropriate, and shows good assimilation of the original text.

Mark range 5

Overall

This essay is an excellent piece of work. It is written well without citation of additional sources. The candidate has avoided clichéd ideological terms that can be easily found in a lot of additional sources in the form of commentary or literature review. There is a risk that the latter half of the question, due to its phrasing, could become discursive. However, this does not happen with this candidate. The candidate has adopted a reasoned and mature approach to this essay and demonstrates good independent judgement.

Exemplar Material (Simplified characters)

Example 1

分析端午节的真正由来

端午节是中国一大传统节日，每逢五月初五，赛龙舟，吃粽子，喝雄黄酒，但多少人知道端午节的真正由来？

端午节的由来众说纷纭，以屈原的故事最为人知，屈原是战国时楚国的副宰相，忠君爱国，但楚王信奸佞，楚国亡在旦夕，传说屈原悲愤投汨罗江自尽，民众闻讯赶到，划船及投入粽子，意图吓退喂饱鱼只，免屈原的尸体被吃掉。

屈原的故事令人感动，但无法解释各种端午节习俗的出现，没有提及写道符做艾人，也没有文献提及屈原自尽及民众的反应，令人质疑故事的可信性，至于其它如：迎祭伍子胥，纪念曹娥，讨好图腾神龙，掩饰越王练水军等，都无一合理。

如果从端午节的习俗来分析，竞渡龙舟在战国出现，不是为了娱乐，而是驱妖，谁划的越快越有效果；雄黄是可克制蛇虫的药物，自古中国人喝雄黄酒来保健解毒，另外还有一些古时注重的习俗如用艾叶蒜头做艾人辟邪，用雄黄及黄砂做香囊避瘴，可见端午节是有辟邪避瘴之意。至于粽子，大概只是一种方便携带的食物，并无深意。

其实端午两字，是夏天快到的意思，端午节与夏至的日期接近，夏至是天气转潮湿酷热，看来古人以端午节提醒人们为夏天到来作好准备，预防蛇虫疾病。现在科学昌明，不再做艾人写道符，保留划龙舟是因为具娱乐性，吃粽子喝雄黄酒是因为美味，至于故事，是为了增加节日色彩，或传递宣扬不同的讯息，如伍子胥的忠，曹娥的孝，屈原的爱国。

500 characters

参考及引用书目：

民俗活动-端午节 <http://flyingworld.pixnet.net/nlog/post/27836817>

众说纷纭的端午节的来源 任家林 <http://www.3378.org/topic/20100319/346.html>

夏至节气与端午节的起源 - 历史文化学习网

edu.ocac.gov.tw/culture/chinese/festival/08/index08_c.html

屈原的故事 云林县马光国小网

Commentary on Example 1

Completion of task

The title makes it clear that the candidate intends to discuss the origin of the Dragon Boat Festival and there is clear evidence of extensive research. The candidate demonstrates excellent knowledge of the various stories as well as the activities associated with the festival. The essay shows a high level of intellectual competence by distinguishing between myths and facts. It first points out the inconsistencies in the stories, and then proceeds to explain how the activities and customs were actually associated with climate and general concern to health and well-being. All the points made are well argued and each point supported by evidence. Conclusions are convincing.

Mark range: 13-15 (top end)

Organisation and development

Organisation and development of the essay are excellent. The essay is carefully planned and suitably concise. Factual knowledge, ideas and arguments are effectively presented and developed and skilfully controlled. With only 42 characters the introduction gives factual knowledge of the major activities of the festival. It sets the scene for discussion and leads to the second paragraph which is a brief but precise description of the story of 屈原. The essay is then dominated by arguments, evaluation and explanation and ends with a convincing conclusion.

The essay is written well in 500 characters.

Mark range: 9-10

Quality of language

Language is fluent, varied and appropriate. It is of a high level of accuracy considering the need to fit the amount of details into the word limit.

Mark range: 5

Overall

This essay is a sophisticated piece of research work at GCE level; and is a good example of the type of essay that could be achieved on the topic 'festivals'.

Example 2

中国传统节日在现代社会是否有保留的价值?

春节、清明节、中秋节、端午节 中国传统节日对大部份现代中国人来说可能只是一个假期, 没有深入意义。那么这些节日还有保留的价值吗?

其实, 中国传统节日蕴藏不少中华民族优良的价值观。每年农历除夕夜, 中国人都爱一家人一起吃饭, 反映了中国人的强烈家庭观念。中秋节时, 中国人也喜欢一家人一起吃月饼、赏月。赏月时月亮要圆, 也是取团圆的意思。除了家庭观念外, 中国人忠君爱国的思想亦反映在节日内。端午节纪念屈原精忠殉国, 反映了中华民族忠的美德。清明节孟兰节拜祭祖先, 登山扫墓, 突显了我们饮水思源的良好习俗。七夕节, 透过纪念牛郎等着只可一年一见的妻子, 提醒我们爱情要专一。种种价值观在现代社会很容易被遗忘, 而传统节日可提醒我们, 令家庭更融洽。

传统节日更可提升中国人民的民族认同感,。这对海外侨民尤其重要。侨胞们旅居海外, 整天说外语。中国人身份也逐渐模糊。透过庆祝传统节日, 侨民可重新确认自己的民族身份。而国内同胞, 还可以享受假期, 有助减少工作压力。这样社会自然少了反对的声音, 有利政府施政。

节日还有巨大的经济价值, 每逢佳节人们都要购买庆节用品, 中秋月饼, 端午粽子, 春节年花, 爆竹等。还有很多中国人爱趁着节日出外旅游, 不少外国游客趁节日到访中国, 希望参加节庆活动。可见节日对旅游业的重要。

所以, 中国传统节日有保留价值。

493 characters

Commentary on Example 2

Completion of task

The candidate has chosen a title that is not really suitable. A different title focussing on **one** festival (as instructed in the specification) would have served the candidate better.

The candidate holds the view that festivals and traditional values are still relevant to modern Chinese society. However, the essay shows no clear evidence of research related to this. The candidate provides some basic information by compiling the names of several festivals, but is not able to demonstrate genuine understanding of their significance or values. Some references are quite confused or arbitrary, for example, 賞月時月亮要圓, 也是取團圓的意思; 七夕節... 提醒我們愛情要專一; 傳統節日...令家庭更融洽; and the candidate does not fully appreciate the different significance of the '盂蘭節' from province to province. There is further evidence of this arbitrary approach to referencing as the candidate tries to justify their viewpoint, for example 可以享受假期,...這樣社會自然少了反對的聲音, 有利政府施政.

Mark range 3-4

Organisation and development

There is evidence of organisation. Indeed, the essay begins with an introduction, then moves on to consider the significance of individual festivals and follows this with a discussion of other reasons that support the candidate's stance. However, although ideas are neatly paragraphed, more evidence of using sources to support arguments would have been welcome. The candidate should have explored in greater depth what was offered in the second paragraph, instead of allowing the essay to become discursive. The conclusion is contained in just one simple sentence but this is, nevertheless valid (in light of the overall upper word count of 500 characters.)

Mark range 5-6

Quality of Language

The language is fluent, clear and appropriate.

Mark range 5.

Overall

This essay is an example of one where the candidate (1) does not seem to fully understand the specification and (2) relies too much on broad preconceived and fixed opinions. In order to improve the performance, the candidate would need to show clearer evidence of a genuine interest in the content and engage in more reading and research. This essay tended to feature a discursive writing approach with opinions rather than a reflective and evidence-based approach.

Example 3

海儿为什么会死？讨论这不幸事件所说明的一些问题。

海儿是觉新的儿子。海儿患了病，如果及早看西医，病是会好的，但觉新迟迟不敢请西医，令病情恶化，最后死于脑膜炎。

海儿的死是谁的责任呢？高家长辈反对西医，认为新科学只是外国人稀奇古怪的花样，高家长辈当然要负责任。但如觉民说：大嫂的无辜死去，一个又一个的损失，坐视大错铸成“都是由一个人的懦弱行为做成的”(1)。这个人就是觉新。

高家长辈向来保守固执，但是像海儿一个病重的孩子，任何人也会动恻隐之心，会尝试所有可能的方法为他医治，高家长辈却不动情，他们关心的就是祖宗之法不可变，变会令他们权威面子不保，这种思想使他们对后辈缺乏关爱痛惜之情，宁可牺牲孩子的幸福，更不要说开明了。

但海儿之死，觉新更要负责。觉新不反对新科学，他清楚知道海儿需要的是请西医，他说过，海儿死了，他“也活不下去了”，他觉得对不起妻子(2)，可是他还是不敢逆长辈去请西医。海儿跟蕙不同，蕙的事复杂多了，但为海儿请西医，他的身份是可以作主的，只要他敢站起来，可惜他习惯了长辈的话是一言定春秋，明知不对，他也“不能不听”(3)，这种思想已成为枷锁，连对海儿的爱也不能使他勇敢行动，这看到了觉新由这种思想做成的彻底懦弱。

这件事让读者感受到什么是封建礼教思想的坏处，如果不想有更多觉新，有更多海儿成为牺牲品，只有像觉民淑英敢面对敢行动，才能活出春天来。

(489 characters)

Quotation cited from:

1. 春简写本 43 页
2. 春简写本 42 页
3. 春简写本 3 页

Commentary on Example 3

Completion of task

The candidate chooses to discuss the death of Hai'r. The title is clear and implies an evaluative approach which is evident throughout the essay. The candidate provides a sustained analysis of the behaviour of the elders and Juexin who were responsible for the tragedy. All the points made are well argued and supported by an intelligent use of evidence and quotes from the text. The mentioning of Hui is well crafted and shows good independent thinking. Clearly the candidate has a very good understanding of the whole story.

Mark range: 13-15 (top end)

Organisation and development

Organisation and development of the essay are excellent. The essay is carefully planned. Ideas and arguments are effectively developed and skilfully controlled. There is no padding. By pointing out the fact that '覺新遲遲不敢請西醫，令病情惡化' in the introduction, the candidate concisely answers the first part of the question and at the same time effectively sets the scene for the discussion. Reasons for the behaviour of the elders and Juexin are discussed in the following three paragraphs. A conclusion related to the theme of the story is drawn in the final short paragraph. The candidate has kept well within the word limit with 489 characters. The quotations have been referenced properly by using numbered footnote.

Mark range: 9-10 (top end)

Quality of language

Language is fluent, varied and appropriate, and shows good assimilation of the original text.

Mark range 5

Overall

This essay is an excellent piece of work. It is written well without citation of additional sources. The candidate has avoided clichéd ideological terms that can be easily found in a lot of additional sources in the form of commentary or literature review. There is a risk that the latter half of the question, due to its phrasing, could become discursive. However, this does not happen with this candidate. The candidate has adopted a reasoned and mature approach to this essay and demonstrates good independent judgement.