

THEME-BASED VOCABULARY 3

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Supplementary Writing Tasks

These writing practice tasks aim to provide students with extra writing practice that will help consolidate the vocabulary they have learnt in each unit and boost their confidence in using the new vocabulary. Moving from guided writing tasks to free writing, they should enable students to master the art of writing. Students are encouraged to write 150 to 250 words on each topic, using as many words or phrases they learnt from the units.

Unit 1 • Show Business

Topic:

You are the reporter of Entertainment Weekly. You are going to interview Yvonne Lam, a superstar, about her feelings at different stages of her career path. Read her profile below. Write an interview dialogue between you and Yvonne.

Yvonne Lam Fact Sheet

Age 30

Show Biz History

Started as stunt woman at the age of 18

Began taking lead roles in films at the age of 21

Started singing at the age of 25

Became lead singer of the pop group 'M' at 26

Began hosting talk show a year ago

Won the Best Actress Award at the Hong Kong Film Awards this year



Unit 2 • The Cinema

Topic:

You had a terrible experience at the Hollywood Cinema last night. Write a letter of complaint to the cinema. Describe what happened in the cinema. Your complaint can be based on the following areas:

- ticket arrangements;
- environment of the theatre;
- service provided by the staff members;
- audio/visual quality of the film, etc.



Unit 3 • Musical Instruments

Topic:



Write about a piece of music played by an orchestra or a band. Do you know what instruments are used? How does each instrument sound? What is the overall mood of the piece?

You can write something like this:

The piece title 'Greensleeves' performed by the London Symphony Orchestra is very good. I especially like the violins. They are the main instruments of the piece and I find them very soothing ...

Unit 4 • Shopping

Topic:

Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper telling the readers about your shopping experience at a shop. What did you buy? Describe the quality of the things you bought and the service provided by the sales staff. Would you recommend this shop to the readers of the newspaper?



Unit 5 • Department Stores

Topic:



Chris and Jackie wanted to stay overnight in a department store. So they hid in the department store and came out after midnight. They were having a lot of fun when suddenly they saw a man standing at the entrance ...

Write what they did that night and what happened to them.

Unit 6 • Electrical Appliances

Topic:

Imagine you have invented electrical appliance that can do several kinds of housework. Make a drawing of it showing its parts and write a passage explaining its functions. Explain how this new invention can help reduce housework.



Unit 7 • Electricity

Topic:



Fire accidents caused by electricity are frequent in Hong Kong. Write an article informing the readers of the newspaper the safety rules for using electrical appliances and electricity. You can find the information you need for the article from the website of Electrical and Mechanical Services Department: <http://www.emsd.gov.hk>.

Unit 8 • Buildings

Topic:

'Fire! Run for your life!', I suddenly heard someone yelling in the corridor outside my apartment. I opened the door and was horrified by what I saw — the corridor was full of smoke! Immediately I ran out of the door to escape the fire.

Start your story with the given opening. Write what happened. Describe what you saw and did as you escaped from the fire.



Unit 9 • Harbour Sciences

Topic:



Go to the waterfront and write a description of the harbour view. Describe the things, people and colours, and sounds and smells there. Write down also what the people at the waterfront and on the ships and boats are doing.

Unit 10 • Street Sciences

Topic:

A lot of streets and roads in Hong Kong are usually very busy, but things may look very different when there is a typhoon. Imagine the Typhoon Signal No. 10 is hoisted. Write about the street scenes you see as you look out of your window. Describe the sounds, the light, the motion and the colour of the things on the street.



Unit 11 • Camping

Topic:

Read the following poster of a camp. You have been to this camp last year, and your teacher would like you to write an article in the school newspaper telling your fellow students about your experience. Describe briefly what you saw and did, and inform readers of important things that they should notice or bring if they want to go to the camp this year.

Student Leader Camp

organised by the **Asian Youth Force**

The 12th Student Leader Camp is open for application now! Every year our participants enjoy exciting games and find out more about themselves in the camp. Through cooperating with their team mates, they make more friends and learn to be a better co-worker and leader. So, don't miss this chance to make your summer vacation memorable, rewarding and fun.

Time: 26-29 July **Venue:** Sai Kung

Activities: Orienteering, hiking, cooking using local ingredients, night adventure

Application deadline: 15 June



Unit 12 • Countryside

Topic:

Conrad is the park warden of Shing Mun Country Park. One day, he was patrolling in the park when he heard someone screaming 'Help!' from far away. He ...

Finish the story any way you like.



Unit 13 • The Natural Environment

Topic:

Your school has just put in place three recycle bins at school to encourage students to recycle paper, plastic and aluminium. Your teacher has asked you to write a letter to fellow students explaining briefly the importance of recycling and how they should make use of the recycle bins.



Begin:

Dear Fellow Students,

Unit 14 • Living in a City

Topic:

Imagine the power stations of Hong Kong are temporarily damaged by a severe storm and there is no power for a week. Describe what you expect to see during the week on the roads, in houses, at schools, etc.



Unit 15 • Crime

Topic:



You are a news reporter covering the courts. Follow a court case by reading the reports of the case from several newspapers over a few days. Then give a brief summary of the case — what the crime is about, people involved, the charge and the verdict.

Unit 16 • Health and Nutrition

Topic:

You are Dr. Cheung, a nutritionist, and you write regularly in the health column of a newspaper. People send you letters asking for your advice on dieting. One day you receive from a girl the letter below. Write your reply.

Dear Dr Cheung,

My name is Jane. I am 15, 1.5 m tall and I weigh 60 kg — clearly I have the problem of obesity. I want to lose weight desperately! I want to look like a supermodel. I want to be slim as quickly as possible, and as effortlessly as possible. I only want to be beautiful! Should I join the slimming programmes provided by the beauty companies? Should I stop eating certain kinds of food, like fat and carbohydrates? I will try whatever to make me look slim – except, perhaps, exercising ... Is there any way you can help me?

Yours,
Jane

Unit 17 • Body Features

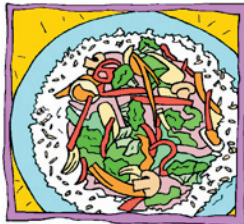
Topic:

Write a description of the person you like most. Describe in detail the body features as well as the personality of this person. Also describe one or two incidents that can illustrate his/her personality or your friendship/relationship.



Unit 18 • Cooking

Topic:



Introduce a traditional Chinese dish to a Westerner by translating the recipe into English. It can be a famous local dish or a food item that is prepared for traditional festivals. Also write a short passage about the origin, taste and colour of the dish.

Unit 19 • Seeing a Doctor

Topic:

Describe your experience of a visit to the doctor. What was your illness? What treatments and prescription did you get?



Unit 20 • The Rich and the Poor

Topic:



Find out about the situation of people living in poverty in Hong Kong. How bad is the problem? How does the government help the poor? How can you help them?

Unit 21 • Hotels

Topic:

Design your dream hotel. Write a passage to be put in the promotional materials for your hotel describing its views, facilities and services. Give your hotel an attractive name.



Unit 22 • Tourists

Topic:



Plan a 4-day/3 night itinerary for tourists coming to Hong Kong. Decide the type of activities, places to visit, food and hotel arrangements as if you were a travel agent.

Unit 23 • Air Travel

Topic:

'I am so tired. I don't want to fly anymore,' Lois sat down on her seat and said.

Imagine what happened to Lois before she boarded the plane. Write her story ending with the given sentence.



Unit 24 • Religious Customs

Topic:

Visit a church, temple or mosque in your city. Write about the atmosphere inside that building. What are the people doing? Describe their method of worship. Are there any priests or idols? Also describe your feelings.

Unit 25 • Terrorism

Topic:

Look through a newspaper to find articles about the war on terrorism. Write a letter to the editor describing how you feel about terrorists/terrorism.

*Dear Editor,
I feel ...*