

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART B1

Reading Passages

8:30 am – 10:00 am (1½ hours)
(for both Parts A and B)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Refer to the General Instructions on Page 1 of the Reading Passages booklet for Part A.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART B1

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part B1 is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Candidates who choose Part B1 should attempt all questions in this part. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.
- (3) Hand in only ONE Question-Answer Book for Part B, either B1 or B2, and fasten it with the Question-Answer Book for Part A using the green tag provided.

Not to be taken away before the
end of the examination session

PART B1

Read Texts 2-3 and answer questions 24-42 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

Text 2

JOB A

**Social Media Marketing Assistant
STAR RESORT HOTELS**

Job Summary:

- Works closely with local and regional sales and marketing teams for social media needs (Instagram, Facebook, WeChat, etc.)

Job Requirements:

- Diploma in Marketing / Communications / Hospitality
- Experience in advertising / design
- Ability to work well in small teams
- Knowledge of other countries / cultures

JOB C

**Assistant to Chef
NANONG CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS**

Good opportunity to advance because the chef will teach assistants

Job Summary:

- Assists chef in daily operations
- Needs to work long shifts

Job Requirements:

- Experience with a wide variety of cooking techniques
- Quick learner who enjoys challenges

JOB B

**IT Assistant Technician (6-month contract)
KING'S GROUP**

Job Summary:

- Provides IT support for office and warehouse management software
- Trains users on property management software

Job Requirements:

- Diploma or above in Computer Science or related disciplines
- Experience in IT support, preferably gained from property management industry

JOB D

**Multi-media Designer
MONOSHINE CLOTHES GROUP**

Job Summary:

- Provides creative designs for the image of the retail brand
- Creates graphics for social media accounts

Job Requirements:

- Higher diploma or above in Graphic Design or related disciplines
- Understanding of brand image and design

Text 3

Graduate job seeking: The rise of the 'slasher'

- 1 [1] A slasher refers to a new group of workers. The slasher, also called a portfolio careerist, has become increasingly popular. It describes one person with a number of jobs and the slash (/) is used in the job title, for example, someone who is an X/Y/Z or a journalist/web editor/advertiser.
- 5 [2] In the past, an employee was traditionally expected to put in 40 hours per week (plus the other 40 hours of unpaid overtime!) into a single career. However, the unstable job market has led many individuals to take on various jobs at the same time, as a form of safe-keeping their own incomes.
- [3] Self-proclaimed slasher Jane Mellon wrote, 'This approach might appeal to anyone who has lost their job. When our entire income comes from a single position, losing it would drop us from comfort into terror. For a slasher with multiple sources of income, losing one job would not be a disaster if she still has five more.'
- 10 [4] There is even better news, as it may be easier to recover from losing a job as a slasher. Not only does the slasher not need to hunt for a new full-time permanent job, she also has a stronger and wider skillset, which is reinforced by strong time management and organisation skills. After all, to balance multiple jobs, you require excellent self-motivation and exceptional planning ability.
- 15 [5] For the modern graduate, the idea that you can become a slasher can be very attractive. Alex McDonald graduated with a degree in computer science and has juggled multiple roles since then. He said, 'I've been a web developer, a games tester, a web designer and an occasional writer. It makes me more employable in a tough market.'

[6] Erin Albert is a widely recognised expert on the portfolio career, having not only recently written a new book on the subject but also acted as a role-model to slashers everywhere. Erin is a pharmacist, an assistant professor, an entrepreneur, a writer, and a law student: does this make her any less employable? 'I'm often asked about career development, especially during the current economic crisis,' she said. 'I regularly challenge students to think about why they can't both take an immediate job offer they are not sure about and work towards their dream job.'

[7] In the UK, entrepreneurs are a typical example of a group that expects to spread their careers across multiple areas. This inspired Emma Jones, founder of Enterprise Nation and Bitsy, to publish *Working Five to Nine: How to Start a Business in Your Spare Time*. Emma said, 'I thought it was the very best way to start a business as you keep risks low and give yourself time to build confidence and cash flow. I wanted to tell these stories and offer a guide to others wanting to follow the same path. The title *Working Five to Nine* came to me when I was sitting at my computer working on my own business during a 5pm to 9am shift!'

[8] Unfortunately, even accounting for the positives of being a slasher, some attitudes have been slow to change. Headhunters and recruiters are often disapproving of individuals who have worked multiple jobs at the same time, while some are even disbelieving. Recruiter Norman Lamp said to a slasher client, 'There is no way someone your age could have such a wide variety of skills.' Many recruiters do not believe that these skills are deeply ingrained in the young people with slasher careers.

[9] It is no surprise that a greater number of people under 30 are choosing to have portfolio careers. For the typical Millennial, the typical behaviour patterns of immediate pleasure seeking, multitasking and low boredom thresholds (typically all summed into the phrase 'instant on') make slashing particularly appealing. Many large organisations may mistakenly see these characteristics as weaknesses in the younger generation. They should see them as strengths.

[10] For the foreseeable future, the advantages of being a slasher will, in most cases, continue to outweigh the negatives. And as the younger generation grow up, the slasher philosophy will no doubt continue to grow.

COMMENTS

craftsman - 8 April 2022 10:45

Interesting article on 'slashers' – portfolio working is nothing new but it is interesting that this type of career is on the rise. The article seems to ignore creative talents like artists and craftsmen who have complex and diverse careers. Far from seeing this as a negative, craftsmen like myself believe that portfolio working is a very fulfilling way to work.

girlartisan - 8 April 2022 13:29

I'm a slasher because there really is no choice. There just aren't any jobs out there even for those who have graduated with high grades. Since I graduated from my degree, I have been a portfolio worker because of this and they don't even consider my slasher experience.

bellaneil - 9 April 2022 16:23

I am a Millennial struggling to make a living and I feel patronised by this article. I am doing this to survive! Just giving it a cool name doesn't make my situation cool.

END OF READING PASSAGES

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *HKDSE Question Papers* booklet published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.