

Teaching:

A good body paragraph contains the following elements:

<p>1. Topic Sentence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This contains the main idea and is the most important sentence. • The best place to write it is the first sentence. • Topic sentences should be broad (like a camera wide angle). • There should only be ONE main idea per paragraph. <p>Strong topic sentence: Another difference relates to weight and storage (it contains a broad statement, does not contain examples).</p> <p>Weak topic sentence: E-books take up less space as they can be stored on a device rather than a bookshelf. (It is too specific. This is suitable for the development part of the paragraph.)</p>
<p>2. Support the main idea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain • Elaborate • Give examples
<p>3. Concluding sentence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind the reader of the main idea • Use different wording from the topic sentence. • Do not just repeat the topic sentence • Remember to link your paragraphs and the supporting sentences.

Another difference relates to weight and storage. Space, especially in small apartments, is limited. Printed books take up a lot of bookshelf area and collect dust. By contrast, millions of books can be stored on e-reading devices, meaning there is no need for physical storage. In terms of weight, e-books are beneficial for students who haul heavy textbooks to school, putting their health at risk. Indeed, the latest e-book readers weigh less than a hardback book. There is no doubt that physical books differ from e-books both when it comes to storing them and how much they weigh.

Topic Sentence with main idea

Linking

Supporting sentence

Elaboration of supporting sentence

Linking

Supporting idea - contrast

Linking

Elaboration

Linking

Example

Concluding sentence, restating the main idea using different wording

Full essay for reference:

Humans have enjoyed reading for thousands of generations and most people read books for leisure, entertainment or information. However, the face of book publishing has changed radically in the past decade due to technological advancement. In the past, hardcopies had to be purchased but that has changed with e-book technology. When comparing the two forms, there are numerous considerations related to physical aspects as well as experience.

Firstly, the physical format is different, changing the reader's experience. Printed books are in hardcopy format while e-books are digital, for example PDF files or e-pub documents. What does this mean to the reader? For hardcopies, people need to turn pages and carry the books everywhere. The upside is they can write on the books and use physical bookmarks. E-books, on the other hand, allow readers to tap on their screens to turn pages. They only need to carry a gadget with them and notes of the type of the way the reader interacts with the books differs according to the physical format features.

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Aside from physical aspects, the features of both types of book are very different. Print books are just words on paper while e-books often incorporate interactive elements such as movies, photos and links to other information. Many even have built-in dictionaries and bookmarking options. However, some people prefer to hold a physical book and have the option to write notes in the margin and use bookmarks to locate areas quickly. E-books differ greatly from printed books in the features they offer.

The final point of comparison relates to cost, environment and accessibility. E-books are generally a third cheaper than printed books due to low overheads. Also, they do not use the world's resources such as the cutting down of rain forests. For accessibility, many books that are not available in print can be downloaded conveniently, meaning people can have a greater choice of reading materials now.

To sum up, print books and digital books are very different in terms of physical format, storage, reader experience and cost as well as environmental impact and accessibility. Many people prefer to read traditional books, turning the pages, while others enjoy the convenience of e-books.

Exercise 1

Read the following question and the introduction and conclusion that have been given. Then put the body paragraphs into order by rewriting them on the lines provided. Write the final body paragraph yourself.

Question:

Some environmental groups have stated that environmental awareness is low in priority for Hong Kong citizens, giving the main reason as convenience. Write an article for your school magazine, discussing the above based on your observations. State whether you believe the situation will improve in the future. Give your article a title.

Convenience or conservation?

Introduction

Gone are the days when Victoria Harbour's spectacular skyline was silhouetted against an immaculate blue backdrop. Instead, Central's skyscrapers are frequently shrouded in thick smog. It is no surprise that local 'green' organisations have labeled Hong Kong citizens environmentally unaware. According to my observations, this criticism is right on the ball. In this article I will give evidence to show that Hong Kong people choose convenience over conservation and discuss whether the situation is likely to improve in the future.

Body Paragraph 1:

- Such wastefulness is clear evidence of people’s lack of respect for environmental protection.
- The first issue is Hong Kong people pay little heed to diminishing land and resource reserves.
- The widespread use of polystyrene (EPS) food containers, an icon of the thriving fast food industry, is testament to this.
- Furthermore, many schools with on-site catering facilities provide a use-you-own container service but parents and students think it is convenient to carry soiled containers home.
- Rather than taking the trouble to wash and reuse these containers, people toss them to the garbage selfishly after one use.

Body Paragraph 2:

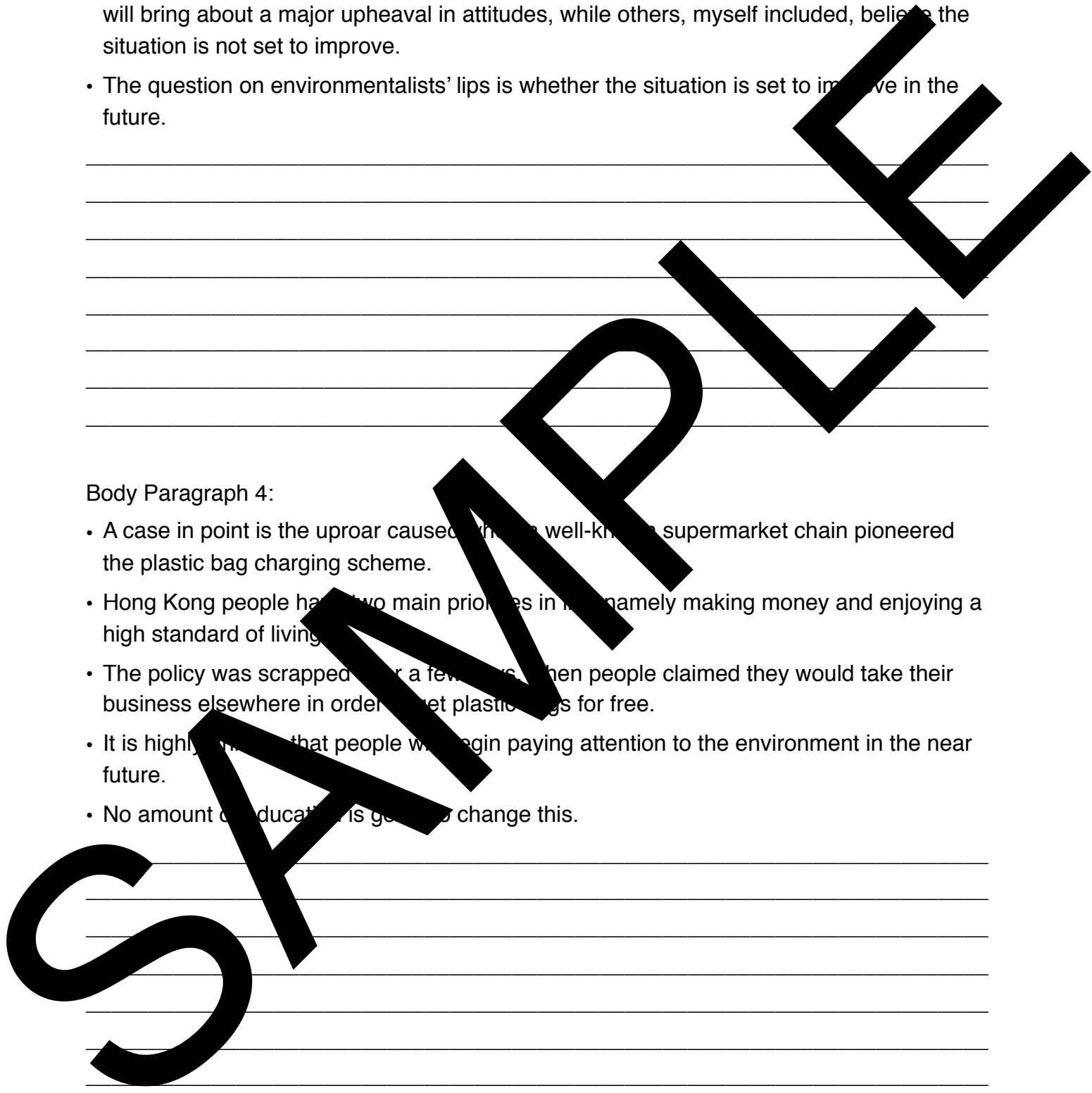
- In fact, figures released by the government reflect the sharpest increase in new ownership of private vehicles in the past few years.
- People are not prepared to bear inconvenience themselves for the sake of the environment.
- When it comes to travel, personal convenience is high on the agenda yet again, meaning that instead of cutting emissions by taking public transport, more and more citizens are choosing to go ‘private’.

Body Paragraph 3:

- Some believe that the government's recent efforts to step up environmental education will bring about a major upheaval in attitudes, while others, myself included, believe the situation is not set to improve.
- The question on environmentalists' lips is whether the situation is set to improve in the future.

Body Paragraph 4:

- A case in point is the uproar caused when a well-known supermarket chain pioneered the plastic bag charging scheme.
- Hong Kong people have two main priorities in life, namely making money and enjoying a high standard of living.
- The policy was scrapped after a few weeks when people claimed they would take their business elsewhere in order to get plastic bags for free.
- It is highly unlikely that people will begin paying attention to the environment in the near future.
- No amount of education is going to change this.



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Hong Kong people have two main priorities in life, namely making money and enjoying a high standard of living. No amount of education is going to change this. A case in point is the uproar caused when a well-known supermarket chain pioneered the plastic bag charging scheme. The policy was scrapped after a few days, when people claimed they would take their business elsewhere in order to get plastic bags for free. It is highly unlikely that people will begin paying attention to the environment in the near future.

Body Paragraph 5: Write your own.

More evidence to show that improvement is not on the cards is Hong Kong citizens' tendency to misguidedly believe that one individual's behaviour is unlikely to have a positive influence on the environment anyway. Another common trend of thought is 'My neighbour is not doing anything to conserve the environment, so why should I? They selfishly fail to realise that the collective efforts would be worth it and choose instead to ignore the environment.'

Conclusion:

There is a lot of truth in the environmentalists' claim that Hong Kong people display a low level of environmental awareness. This is evidenced in their convenient lifestyles, especially when it comes to rubbish disposal, containers and driving private vehicles. While there is optimism that the government's efforts will pay off, the sad reality is that Hong Kong people are too selfish to consider giving up convenience and making an individual effort to become environmentally aware. What people do not seem to realise is that such convenient lifestyles come at the expense of our once-beautiful but rapidly deteriorating environment.