Gratia Christian College
宏恩基督教學院

Examination

Programme	:	General Education
Academic Year (Semester)	:	2025 - 2026 (Semester 3)
Course Code	:	HGE101
Course Title	:	English I: Reading and Writing Skills
Date	:	13/8/2026 (Thursday)
Time	:	19:00 - 21:00
Weighting	:	30% of the Overall Marks

Student ID No. : _____

Student Name : _____

This paper has 10 pages (including this cover page).

Instructions to candidates:

1. This question paper contains 4 parts.
2. Answer all questions in an Answer Book.
3. This paper carries 100 marks which are allocated to each question as indicated.
4. This is a closed-book exam.

No materials or aids are allowed during the whole exam. If any unauthorized materials or aids are found on a candidate during the exam, the candidate will be subject to disciplinary action.

Do not turn this page until you are told to do so.
You should hand in this question paper after the exam.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

版權所有©All Rights Reserved.

Part I. Reading Comprehension (20 marks)

1.1 Passage A (8 marks)

Instructions: Read the following paragraph and then answer the questions below.

THE RISE OF SMART BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES

The integration of smart technologies into building management is fundamentally reshaping the property and facilities management sector. One primary driver is the pursuit of operational efficiency; sensors and Internet-connected devices can monitor energy consumption, lighting, and HVAC systems in real-time, allowing for automated adjustments that significantly reduce waste and utility costs. Another major benefit is predictive maintenance. Instead of relying on reactive repairs, smart systems can analyse performance data to forecast equipment failures before they occur, minimizing downtime and extending the lifespan of critical assets such as elevators. Furthermore, smart buildings enhance occupant experience. Features like app-controlled access, and personalized environmental settings not only improve comfort but also allow facilities managers to optimize workspace layouts based on actual usage patterns. However, the transition to smart building management is not without challenges, including high upfront costs and the growing need for cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive operational data. For professionals in Hong Kong, where land and energy are at a premium, mastering these technologies is no longer optional but a competitive necessity.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

版權所有©All Rights Reserved.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

1.2 Passage B (12 marks)

Instructions: Read the following paragraph and then answer the questions below.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HABIT FORMATION

Understanding how habits are formed is crucial for anyone seeking to make lasting changes in their personal or professional life. At the core of this process is the "habit loop," which consists of three elements: a cue, a routine, and a reward. The cue is a trigger that initiates the behaviour, such as a specific time of day, an emotional state, or a particular location. The routine is the behaviour itself, which can be physical, mental, or emotional. The reward is the positive reinforcement that the brain receives, which strengthens the connection between the cue and the routine. For instance, feeling stressed (cue) might lead to scrolling through social media (routine), which provides a temporary distraction (reward). Over time, this loop becomes automatic, and the behaviour is executed with minimal conscious thought. To break a bad habit, one must identify the cue and the reward, and then replace the routine with a healthier behaviour that delivers a similar reward. Conversely, to build a good habit, it is essential to make the cue obvious, the routine attractive, and the reward satisfying. This understanding empowers individuals to redesign their environment and take control of their automatic behaviours.

版權所有©All Rights Reserved.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

Part II. Grammar and Vocabulary (38 marks)

2.1 Sentences vs. Fragments (6 marks)

Instructions: Indicate your answer (✓ or ✗) in the answer book for each item according to the question number. Put ✓ if the item is a complete sentence and ✗ if it is a sentence fragment.

1. The facilities management team, after reviewing the monthly maintenance reports and identifying several critical issues.
2. Property developers in Hong Kong are increasingly adopting technology to enhance market competitiveness.
3. Although the new smart lighting system significantly reduces energy consumption and operational costs.
4. Students should spend time on revision and seek help from instructors when they face difficulties.
5. The aging lift in this commercial tower, which requires frequent repairs.
6. Students an incredible amount of new vocabulary in English every day.

2.2 Subject-Verb agreement in the simple present (6 marks)

Instructions: Write the correct form of the verb in parentheses in the answer book to complete each sentence.

1. One of the most challenging aspects of studying in Hong Kong _____ (be) balancing academic demands with part-time work.
2. In my country, most people _____ (live) near the coast because the interior is too dry.
3. Effective property management _____ (require) a deep understanding of both building systems and tenant relations.
4. There _____ (be) several new regulations that affect how commercial buildings must manage their waste disposal.
5. A major advantage of smart building technology _____ (be) its ability to reduce long-term expenses.
6. Everyone _____ (know) that regular maintenance prevents costly emergency repairs.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

版權所有©All Rights Reserved.

2.3 Nouns and Pronouns (6 marks)

Instructions: Please choose the answer that provides a correct noun or a clearer pronoun reference, and write your answers in the answer book.

1. An experienced property manager understands tenant needs, but *the junior staff / they* often require additional training to handle complex complaints effectively.
2. It is very important for people who care for their elders to also take the *times / time* to care for themselves.
3. Sushi is a Japanese food made with raw fish. *Japanese people / They* consider it one of the most popular types of Japanese food.
4. The manager reviewed the building's maintenance records and discovered several costly *equipments / equipment* that needed immediate replacement.
5. *Smart sensors / They* can monitor energy usage in real-time. *Smart sensors / They* also provide valuable data for predictive maintenance scheduling.

2.4 Subject adjective clauses (4 marks, 2 marks each)

Instructions: Combine the original sentences using an adjective clause. Write your answers in the answer book and punctuate your sentences as appropriate.

1. **Original sentences:** Movies often make a lot of money. These movies feature superheroes.
2. **Original sentences:** Hong Kong faces increasing pressure to adopt sustainable building practices. It has one of the densest urban environments in the world.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

2.5 Vocabulary (10 marks, 1 mark each)

Instructions: Find the correct word from the box to complete each sentence and write your answers in the answer book.

Benefit	Consequence	Dilemma	Endurance	Identify	Integral
Intervention	Mentally	Premium	Reputation		

1. Getting enough sleep every night helps you stay _____ alert and focused during your classes.
2. One major _____ of studying in a group is that you can learn from your classmates' questions and ideas.
3. I faced a _____ when I had to choose between attending my friend's birthday party and completing my important assignment.
4. This university has a good _____ for providing excellent practical training to its students.
5. It is important to _____ your weaknesses so that you can work on improving them.
6. Good time management is _____ to success in both your studies and your personal life.
7. The teacher's early _____ helped the student improve his grades before the final exam.
8. As a _____ of missing the submission deadline, the student received a lower grade.
9. Running a marathon requires great physical _____, but studying for exams also requires patience and persistence.
10. In Hong Kong, properties near MTR stations often sell at a _____ price because of their convenient location.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

2.6 Collocations (6 marks, 1 mark each)

Instructions: Fill in the blank with the word or phrase that most naturally completes the phrase, and write your answers in the answer book.

Intense	Maintenance	Motivated	Repair	Resilience	Significantly

1. regular _____ work
2. _____ by a desire to succeed
3. _____ different from the rest
4. physical and mental _____
5. _____ concentration
6. _____ the damaged equipment

版權所有©All Rights Reserved.

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

Part III. Writing References (12 marks, 4 marks each)

Instructions: Read the short text below, which cites three sources. Then, write the full APA 7th edition reference list for each source in the answer book. Remember to arrange your references alphabetically. Underline the words that should be italicized.

> The expansion of English Medium Instruction (EMI) in higher education has drawn increasing attention. Aizawa (2024) examined the transitional challenges faced by first-year students and identified key areas of difficulty. Student motivation also plays a critical role in EMI success, as Kojima (2021) argued that motivated learners are more likely to persist through challenges. Beyond the classroom, the practical value of English proficiency is evident in professional contexts, with Ho and Long (2026) advocating that Hongkongers prioritise using English for real-world engagement over achieving native-like perfection.

1. **a book**

Book title: Student motivation in English-medium instruction
Publisher: Routledge
Author: (1) Naoko Kojima
Year of publication: 2021

2. a journal article

Journal title: English for Specific Purposes
Journal volume number: 73
Article title: Tracking the first-year experience in English medium instruction
Article page numbers: 20-32
Article DOI: https://doi.org/xxx
Article author: (1) Ikuya Aizawa
Year of publication: 2024

3. an online newspaper article

Authors: (1) Sam Ho; (2) Yuen Long
Date of updated publication on the website: 14 Jun 2026
News article title: Hongkongers learn English to engage in the real world, not to sound perfect
Online news agency: South China Morning Post
News article webpage URL: http://scmp.com/xxx

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.

Part IV. Writing a Paragraph (30 marks)

Instructions: Choose one topic and write a paragraph of about 200 words. Start with a topic sentence and end with a concluding sentence. Use details and examples to support your topic sentence.

TOPIC 1: Describe a problem in your community (local or global), and propose one or more solutions.

TOPIC 2: Discuss two impacts of AI technology on your life.

版權所有©All Rights Reserved.

--- End of paper ---

版權所有©
All Rights Reserved.