

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This article appeared in an online blog:

Online Scams: Get Wise!

More and more Hong Kong people are being cheated online. Not only is the number of crimes increasing, but the amount of money being stolen is also increasing. And what's more, you have to be vigilant 'cause these online scams can come in all shapes and forms. The most common at the moment are:

Dating and romance scams

Scammers create false IDs on dating websites. Once they've got your trust, they ask to borrow money which, needless to say, is never repaid. In September 2018, a local woman was cheated out of more than 100 million dollars by her online boyfriend.



Computer hacking

Emails are often used to trick people out of passwords or to use software to spy on people as they use their own computer. Once they have your password they can hack into your account (or accounts if you're stupid enough to use the same password for multiple accounts) and take control of...well, your life!

Online shopping scams

A common scam is not getting what you paid for. A scammer will sell a product, but send a faulty or an inferior product or sometimes won't send any product at all.

Banking and credit card scams

Scammers send text messages and emails that pretend to be from a bank or financial institution. They usually claim there is a problem with your account and request details. They then use these details to steal money from your account.

The police will be visiting your school to talk about online crimes. Your teacher has asked your group to discuss this problem first. You may want to talk about:

- whether online crime is a serious problem in Hong Kong
- what type of online crimes students should worry about most
- how students should protect themselves
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. Do you spend much time online?
2. Do you ever shop online?
3. Would you make friends with someone online?
4. Should online safety be taught in schools?
5. Is it possible to make real friends on the internet?
6. Why is the number of online crimes increasing?
7. What kinds of people are likely to be cheated online?
8. Who should be blamed for online scams?