

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 4

PART A Group Interaction

This blog entry appeared on a website:

Giving money to parents?

I give money to my parents and parents-in-law. I have no problem with it, even though we have a young family just starting out, with all the expenses that go along with that stage in life and having a baby.

I do understand why we do it. It's a respect thing. It's a way to show honour to parents, and with my husband's parents it isn't really about the money or even the amount, it's about the act itself. This is an important way that Chinese parents can express or accept love from their children and it also seems to be an easy way for Chinese families to show and accept love.

Thankfully my parents-in-law are not demanding in their attitude, but we like to give them some money anyway. We give it with a cheerful heart and see it as a blessing to show our love to them in this way. Also, this sort of thing is connected indirectly with the traditions of showing respect for elders, and remembering dead relatives and ancestor worship.

However, I do know people who are in the same position as me, but don't have much money and find it very difficult to give money to older family members. They want to buy a flat or save money, but need to give money to their parents and parents-in-law. Sometimes their parents really need the money, so they have to give up their own hopes to help their family.

It's difficult.

As part of your English class, your group has been asked to write a reply to this blog entry. You may want to talk about:

- reasons people give money to their parents
- whether this tradition should continue in Hong Kong today
- other ways people can show respect to their parents
- anything else you think is important

PART B Individual Response

1. What gifts do parents like to get?
2. Other than giving money, how can children help their parents?
3. Would you give money to your parents?
4. Should children discuss money with their parents?
5. Do you think young people today respect their elders?
6. Do parents today still expect money from their children?
7. If you were a parent, would you expect your children to give you money?
8. Should children give money to their parents if their parents are rich?