

Supplementary Materials S1

Four Writing Tasks Used in the Study

Task 1 (fewer elements, more prior knowledge)

Suppose you are looking for your life partner. Which of the following two candidates would **YOU** prefer? Why would you choose this candidate and not the other one? Please justify your preference with detailed reasons.

Candidate A is talented but a little lazy.

Candidate B is not so talented but hard-working.

For this part, you have 40 minutes and should write at least 250 words¹.

Task 2 (fewer elements, less prior knowledge)

Suppose you are looking for your life partner. Which of the following two candidates would **YOUR MUM OR DAD** recommend to you? Why would s/he choose this candidate and not the other one? Please justify her/his possible preference with detailed reasons.

Candidate A is talented but a little lazy.

Candidate B is not so talented but hard-working.

For this part, you have 40 minutes and should write at least 250 words.

Task 3 (more elements, more prior knowledge)

Suppose you are looking for your life partner. Which of the following three candidates would **YOU** choose? Why would you choose this candidate and not the others? Please justify your preference with detailed reasons.

Candidate A is talented, hard-working, but not so sociable and comes from a relatively poor family background.

Candidate B is not so talented, but is hard-working and very sociable though s/he comes from a relatively poor family background.

¹ 25 words is the requirement for English majors. Non-English majors should write at least 150 words, since this is what they usually do in their daily practice.

Candidate C is not so talented and a little lazy. S/he is, however, very sociable and comes from a very well-to-do family background.

For this part, you have 40 minutes and should write at least 250 words.

Task 4 (more elements, less prior knowledge)

Suppose you are looking for your life partner. Which of the following three candidates would **YOUR MUM OR DAD** recommend to you? Why would s/he choose this candidate and not the others? Please justify her/his possible preference with detailed reasons.

Candidate A is talented, hard-working, but not so sociable and comes from a relatively poor family background.

Candidate B is not so talented, but is hard-working and very sociable though s/he comes from a relatively poor family background.

Candidate C is not so talented and a little lazy. S/he is, however, very sociable and comes from a very well-to-do family background.

For this part, you have 40 minutes and should write at least 250 words.