

Development of Self-Directed Learning (SDL) Packages Using DSE Past Papers

Objective

- Develop comprehensive SDL packages grounded in DSE past papers to enhance students' independent learning and exam performance.

Rationale

- Sustainability and reach: Unlike subscriptions to online platforms that benefit limited cohorts, SDL packages built on past papers provide lasting resources that can be reused and adapted across multiple year groups.
- Exam-aligned learning: Using authentic past papers ensures alignment with assessment standards and familiarizes students with real question types, marking criteria, and time management.
- Equity and scalability: Packages can be disseminated widely at low marginal cost, benefiting more students over time.

Scope and Deliverables

Package coverage (per year of past papers):

1. Reading Paper

- Strategy notes: Step-by-step guidance on question types (MC, matching, T/F/NG, short answer), skimming/scanning, inference, and time management.
- Annotated PowerPoint slides: Based on existing materials for ten years of papers; refined with model approaches and common pitfalls.
- Vocabulary development: Thematic word lists, collocations, and usage notes drawn from passages.
- Word formation practice: Prefixes/suffixes, parts of speech conversion, and sentence transformation tasks tied to passage vocabulary.
- Grammar focus: Targeted practice on structures frequently tested in comprehension (e.g., relative clauses, conditionals, participle clauses) with passage-based examples.
- Model answers and marking rationales for selected questions.
- Tailored video support (3 – 5 micro-videos, 4 – 8 minutes each):
 - Concept explainer: How to approach T/F/NG vs. inference questions (worked examples from a specific past paper).
 - Skills demo: Skimming/scanning in real time using an on-screen timer and highlighting.
 - Grammar spotlight: Participial phrases or relative clauses found in the passage; transform-and-check activity.
 - Vocabulary clinic: Paraphrasing and synonym recognition between passage and questions.
 - Production notes: On-screen annotations of the exact past-paper extracts; downloadable timestamps keyed to workbook pages.

2. Writing Paper

- Genre playbook: Notes and exemplars for common tasks (letters to the editor, complaint letters, letters to school/principal, feature articles, argumentative essays, reviews).

- Planning tools: Prompt deconstruction, audience/purpose analysis, argument mapping, and outline templates.
- Plug-and-play templates: Sentence and paragraph frames where students insert task-specific information.
- Language bank: Reusable sentence patterns, discourse markers, and topic-specific phrases; highlight transferable sentences for similar tasks.
- Model scripts with annotations: Banded exemplars showing how to meet content, language, and organization criteria.
- Self- and peer-assessment checklists aligned to DSE marking rubrics.
- Tailored video support (3 – 5 micro-videos, 4 – 8 minutes each):
 - Structure walkthroughs: Crafting openings, thesis statements, and conclusions for argumentative essays.
 - Genre-specific demos: Tone and register in complaint letters vs. letters to the editor (with do/don't examples).
 - Planning live: Turning bullet-point prompts into a paragraph plan and topic sentences.
 - Sentence surgery: Upgrading simple sentences with subordination, cohesion devices, and hedging.
 - Production notes: Side-by-side screen of outline → draft → refined version; downloadable checklist referenced in-video.

3. Listening Paper

- Pre-listening training: Fill-in-the-blank exercises targeting key vocabulary, numbers, dates, and common paraphrases.
- Synonym and paraphrase drills: Bridging recording language and question wording to build recognition of rephrased ideas.
- Data file practice: Tasks on extracting, organizing, and validating information; manipulation activities mirroring DSE data-file demands.
- Writing links: Short structured responses (emails, memos, reports) derived from listening inputs, with scaffolds and sample responses.
- Note-taking frameworks: Abbreviations, symbols, and layouts for multi-speaker and multi-source recordings.
- Tailored video support (3 – 5 micro-videos, 4 – 8 minutes each):
 - Paraphrase spotting: Matching question stems to likely phrasing in audio; common traps.
 - Data-file walkthrough: How to map audio cues to the data file; error-checking routine.
 - Production notes: On-screen captions of key phrases; pause-and-predict moments; printable note-taking template referenced.

Cross-cutting video standards

- Format: Short, focused micro-lessons to maximize engagement and rewatch value.
- Accessibility: Subtitles, clear audio (Text-to-Speech with suitable tone is acceptable), and paced narration; key terms displayed onscreen.

- Alignment: Each video tied to a specific task/page in the workbook with page codes and timestamps.
- Assets: Provide slide PDFs, transcript, and practice answers linked below each video.
- Hosting/delivery: Export MP4 for offline use
- QA: Script review for accuracy and consistency with marking schemes; sample student feedback loop after pilot videos.
- Language: Cantonese and English

Workplan and Resourcing

- Staffing: Hire one content developer (with DSE expertise) to produce materials; optional reviewer for quality assurance.
- Compensation model: Piece rate at HKD\$6,600 per sub-paper / HKD\$20,000 per past paper year.
- Timeline:
 - Pilot (1 – 2 years of papers): 4 – 6 weeks to produce, review, and refine templates.
 - Scale-up: 3 – 4 weeks per additional year once templates/processes are stable.
- Workflow:
 - Template finalization and style guide
 - Content drafting per paper
 - Internal review and alignment to rubrics
 - Light design/formatting (printable and digital-friendly)
 - Usability testing with a small student group and refinement

Quality Assurance

- Alignment checks against official DSE descriptors and past marking schemes.
- Consistency via a style guide (terminology, formatting, difficulty gradation).
- Version control and periodic updates for syllabus changes or new past papers.

Delivery Format

- Printable PDFs for lessons and self-study.
- Slide decks (PPT/PDF) for teacher-led or self-paced review.
- Editable source files (DOCX/PPTX) to allow future customization.
- Optional audio scripts and answer keys consolidated in an instructor pack.

Success Metrics

- Student outcomes: Improvements in practice scores and mock exam performance.
- Engagement: Completion rates of modules and student feedback on clarity/usefulness.
- Teacher adoption: Number of teachers/classes using the packages and reported time saved.

Budget Summary

- Content development: HKD 20,000 (per year of past papers) x 10 sets = HKD 200,000.