

Special Guidance on Written Expressions for Communication Application in the College Entrance Examination

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Abstract: In recent years, written expressions related to communicative applications in the college entrance examination have mostly appeared in various forms such as letters, emails, and notifications. This type of composition includes two attributes: "communication" and "application". Candidates need to analyze communication needs based on the closeness and distance of the communication object, combined with language situational analysis, and flexibly utilize their language comprehensive application ability to plan the layout of the essay, in order to achieve the purpose of communication.

Key words: Communication Application Category; Thinking Quality; First Cause Effect

1. Introduction

The "National Curriculum Standards for High School English" states that "the writing section mainly tests students' writing ability, including fluency, accuracy, and appropriateness in writing. Writing ability is an important component of middle school students' comprehensive language proficiency. In recent years, the national college entrance examination English test has divided the assessment of writing ability into two parts: practical writing and post reading continuation writing. Practical writing includes two types: communicative application and explanatory introduction. Among them, communicative application written expression includes two attributes: "communication" and "application". In the college entrance examination, it mostly appears in various forms such as letters, emails, and notifications. the real exam questions related to the college entrance examination include the 2012 National Exam Paper A Proposal Letter, the 2021 Beijing Exam Apology Letter, the 2022 New College Entrance Examination Paper I and II and

Beijing Exam Invitation Letter, the 2022 Zhejiang Exam Invitation Letter, and the 2023 New College Entrance Examination Paper I and II Proposal Letter. It is not difficult to find that written expressions of this kind are dominated by written exam questions.

2. Characteristics and Trends of Propositions

The "Curriculum Standards for Ordinary High School English" emphasize that "pragmatic knowledge refers to the accurate understanding of others and the appropriate expression of oneself in a specific context. Mastering a certain level of pragmatic knowledge helps students choose formal or informal, direct or indirect, oral or written language forms based on the communicative purpose, the degree of formality of the communicative occasion, and the identity and role of the participants, to communicate and interact with others appropriately and appropriately, and achieve the communicative purpose. Taking the 2022 and 2023 college entrance exams as examples, written expressions related to communicative applications exhibit the following characteristics:

1) Strengthened the examination of students' thinking qualities in their core competencies. In the "National Curriculum Standards for High School English", the core literacy and thinking quality are described as "thinking quality refers to the ability and level of thinking demonstrated in logical, critical, and innovative aspects. Thinking quality reflects the mental characteristics of the core literacy of the English subject. the development of thinking quality helps to enhance students' ability to analyze and solve problems. " Critical thinking and innovative thinking are important manifestations of higher-order thinking ability. In high school English teaching, cultivating students' ability to identify, question, and reflect through various methods can help them develop the habit of

dialectical thinking and improve their ability to analyze and solve problems (Cheng Xiaotang, 2020). By utilizing the semi openness and blank space of writing test questions, using language contexts for empathetic imagination, promoting the formation of transfer writing, innovating content expression, encouraging exploration and filling of blank space, and promoting the development of creative thinking.

The content of the essay for the 2023 New College Entrance Examination Volumes I and II is: Assuming you are Li Hua, foreign teacher Ryan plans to randomly divide the students into groups of two to practice speaking after class. Do you think there are problems with this grouping. Please write an email to the foreign teacher, including an explanation of the problem and suggestions. the proposition of this writing test is the best test for whether students have critical thinking skills. the improvement of critical thinking ability in thinking quality requires students to actively think, deeply understand, analyze and judge, distinguish right from wrong, and reason and argue. Because the communication partner is a teacher, this is a formal letter, and its difficulty lies in politely explaining the issue of random grouping and providing reasonable suggestions. Although students may not have relevant life experience, candidates with critical and creative thinking abilities can understand the purpose of teacher grouping based on their experiences of group dialogue or group reporting in English classes, analyze the problems generated by random grouping, and provide creative suggestions based on the problems.

2) Enhanced the assessment of students' comprehensive language proficiency

The "National Curriculum Standards for Ordinary High School English" describe core literacy language ability as "the ability to understand and express meaning in social contexts through listening, speaking, reading, watching, writing, and other means, as well as the language awareness and sense formed in the process of learning and using language. the improvement of English language ability contains cultural awareness, thinking quality, and learning ability, which helps students expand their international perspective and thinking mode, and engage in cross-cultural communication. " It requires students to

accumulate and choose appropriate and appropriate words for fluent communication and expression based on complex contexts, situations, interpersonal relationships, and other factors in English learning.

In the past, the written expression test questions for communication applications mostly described the key points and details of the composition, and candidates could translate them one by one. However, in the past three years, the requirements for essay questions have become increasingly open and more blank spaces have been left for candidates. Candidates can add reasonable details to their essays based on their own life experiences. For example, in the 2023 national exam proposal letter essay, candidates are asked to write their own questions and suggestions that may arise from random grouping. the writing requirements do not limit the content of the questions and suggestions, and candidates can freely express themselves. In order to enhance the logic and fluency of the article, students also need to add transitional sentences and establish causal relationships with the suggestions proposed in the following text while explaining the problem, so as to correctly convey information and achieve the purpose of communication. Both teachers and candidates are unable to adequately prepare vocabulary and sentence structures for this content during exam preparation. Frequently practiced high-frequency vocabulary and last-minute memorization of rigid sentence patterns may also not be useful. the examination of candidates' abilities has shifted from translation proficiency to comprehensive language proficiency. the training of written expression cannot be separated from the training of listening, speaking, and reading. This is a process of gradual development of language ability, and also a process from quantitative change to qualitative change. From regular rewrites, expansions, imitations to specialized writing exercises, from memorizing vocabulary, dictation, and mastering new meanings to rewriting advanced vocabulary and sentence structures, each step needs to be carefully implemented to form a gradient and continuous teaching process, in order to truly improve students' comprehensive language proficiency.

3. Real Exam Analysis

2023 New College Entrance Examination
Volumes I and II

Assuming you are Li Hua, foreign teacher
Ryan is planning to randomly divide students
into groups of two to practice speaking after
class. Do you think there are problems with
this grouping. Please write an email to the
foreign teacher, including;

Explain the problem;

Provide suggestions.

Be careful:

The number of writing words should be around
80.

Please answer in the corresponding position on
the answer sheet according to the following
format.

Dear Ryan,

I'm Li Hua from Class _____

Yours sincerely,

Li Hua

1) Interpretation of Test Questions

This article is an application writing question
used to test whether students have the ability to
use English to solve practical problems,
express their suggestions and opinions politely
and clearly. It mainly tests students' writing
ability within the prescribed range, while also
providing candidates with certain room for
development. This semi open written
expression type is adopted by most exam areas,
which is sufficient to demonstrate its
advantages. the essay requires candidates to
write an email to the foreign teacher, telling
them to randomly divide the students into
groups of two and have everyone practice
speaking after class. If you think there are
problems with this grouping, please provide
suggestions. Because it is a letter addressed to
the teacher, the language is polite and formal,
which can avoid offending the teacher and
allow for the use of advanced vocabulary and
longer sentence structures. In the process of
reviewing the topic, we first determine that the
genre is a suggestion letter, the person and
tense are first person, and the tense is present
tense. It is recommended that students divide
their writing into three paragraphs to complete.
the first paragraph introduces the purpose of
writing the letter. the second paragraph
explains the problem and provides suggestions.
the third paragraph expresses hope or gratitude
for accepting the suggestion.

The difficulty of this college entrance

examination essay lies in explaining the
problem of random grouping and proposing
reasonable suggestions. However, this context
is not personally experienced by most students,
and the vocabulary and phrases in the corpus
are not well prepared, so careful analysis of the
content is needed. Random grouping may lead
to uneven abilities, low efficiency, inability to
achieve the purpose of practice, or oral
practice being controlled by students with
strong abilities, or problems with students
getting along well within the group.
Suggestions could include allowing students to
freely find practice partners, grouping
according to their English speaking level,
forming groups of four, and setting up group
leaders. When presenting content in parallel, it
is necessary to add appropriate conjunctions
and transitional sentences.

2) Sentence patterns:

I feel an urge to express my different voice,
hoping that this won't offend you.

I have been considering some improvements
for the grouping strategy.

This can hinder the progress of students as the
more advanced one may dominate the
conversation, leaving little room for the other
students to improve.

Besides, Students may feel uncomfortable or
less motivated if paired with someone who
they don't get along with or have difficulty
communicating with.

This method, while fair, might not necessarily
contribute to our study efficiency.

We feel privileged if you could match us
according to our oral English levels, rather
than pair us randomly.

It really makes a great difference if you put
three to four students together, with one as the
group leader, in which case we can
communicate with each other at a great depth.

It couldn't be better if students with mixed
levels of English could be grouped together
deliberately rather than at random, so that we
can help each other during our practice.

My suggestion is that we are supposed to
group students based on their language
abilities or to let students choose their own
partners.

Should it be possible, I truly hope you can take
my suggestions into consideration.

To sum up, it is my sincere hope that you can
take what I've stated above into account.

3) Writing Sample:

Dear Ryan,

I'm Li Hua from Class 3. I think it's not a good idea to randomly pair up students for the spoken English training after class. the reasons are as follows.

To begin with, randomly pairing up students may lead to unbalanced language abilities within the groups. This can hinder the progress of students as the more advanced one may dominate the conversation, leaving little room for the other students to improve. Besides, students may feel uncomfortable or less motivated if paired with someone who they don't get along with or have difficulty communicating with.

My suggestion is to group students based on their language abilities or to let students choose their own partners freely. This way, everyone can feel more comfortable practicing and improving their spoken English together.

Thank you for considering my suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

Li Hua

4. High Score Strategy

Communicative application written expression is a literary form formed by human beings in long-term social practice activities, including letters, notices, messages, and other forms (according to the 2017 National Curriculum Standards for High School English). It is a tool for people to transmit information, handle affairs, and communicate emotions, with practical characteristics of clear purpose, fixed object, clear structure, and concise language. Communicative written expression ability is an important component of students' comprehensive language proficiency. This type of written expression has a fixed format and key points, generally consisting of three parts: beginning, body, and end. It may seem simple, but it's actually difficult to stand out. To improve the writing ability of this genre and achieve high scores, we can start from the following two aspects.

1) Optimize the opening paragraph of the essay to create a good first cause effect.

The primacy effect refers to the influence of the impression formed by the initial exposure to information on people's future behavioral activities and evaluations. If the candidate can use a good opening paragraph to leave a good first impression on the reviewer, the reviewer has reason to believe that the candidate has

good knowledge and thinking abilities. A good opening paragraph often accompanies the entire process of grading an essay. If the opening paragraph is favored by the reviewer, the essay is likely to receive a higher score.

The key to writing a good opening paragraph is to enable the reviewer to quickly perceive that the candidate can establish a close connection between the writing content and the question. So the only way is to get straight to the point in the opening paragraph and start with the topic. Although there is no requirement in the scoring criteria that the opening paragraph must have a key question, examiners who are full of reading expectations will inevitably hope that the beginning of the essay can be relevant to the topic. Some candidates like to quote background materials at the beginning of such essays, without quickly writing the key points, wasting time and words. the majority of written expressions related to communicative applications in the English college entrance examination are semi topic compositions, which are difficult to avoid in recent large-scale selection exams. Whether it's emails, invitation letters, written notices, or proposals, although they leave room for candidates to express themselves, they are essentially "controlling propositions". In order to maintain the fairness of college entrance examination essays, both examiners and examiners hope that candidates do not add irrelevant content when answering questions, and truly complete writing tasks according to requirements within the prescribed word count. For example, the essay in the 2022 college entrance examination Beijing test: If you are Li Hua, a senior high school student at Hongxing Middle School, you would like to invite your British friend Jim to have an online discussion about English writing for your class. Please write an email explaining the specific content, reasons, communication time, and related matters of the proposed communication. Some candidates expressed their longing for friends or talked about the many difficulties they encountered in learning English at the beginning of the email, but did not invite Jim after a few sentences. Because the college entrance examination requires this type of essay to be around 100 words long, the length of this short essay determines that its opening sentence should neither be lengthy nor narrow, and the word count should be moderate and

reasonable. the opening paragraph of an application article is usually around 20 to 30 words, which is more appropriate. In practical applications, many English teachers suggest that students end the opening paragraph of such compositions within three lines. Because it was written to my friend Jim and both parties are familiar with each other, there is no need to introduce oneself or engage in a lot of small talk at the beginning. the purpose of the writing is to invite you to participate in an online experience exchange, and then use an attributive clause to indicate the content and reasons for the exchange.

2) Emphasize language logic and build logical connections between information

The logicity of thinking refers to whether people are related before and after expressing something or discussing a viewpoint, whether the paragraphs are properly ordered and organized, whether the conclusions drawn are logical, whether they can delve into the core of things, distinguish between primary and secondary, surface phenomena and essence, and grasp the laws and essence of things. "(Cheng Xiaotang, 2020)" In the past three years, real exam questions in the college entrance examination show that written expression questions for communication applications usually allow candidates to freely explain the content or arrangement of activities, and then put forward their own suggestions or share personal feelings. For example, in the 2023 National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) papers I and II, candidates are required to write about their random grouping for teaching abroad and provide suggestions. the essay questions for the 2022 Zhejiang exam require candidates to write about their experiences and personal gains during cultural festivals. the essay questions for the 2021 Beijing exam require candidates to explain their reasons for not being able to travel together and provide their own suggestions. What makes a candidate's essay stand out is often these freely expressed parts, which are also important scoring points for candidates to demonstrate their language abilities. Although it is a short essay of about 100 words, the logical coherence of the context in the composition is an important indicator of the development level of the candidate's thinking quality. Taking the essay questions of the 2023 National College Entrance Examination

Volume I and II as an example, following the logical order of discovering and solving problems, if a candidate discovers that the problem is due to poor peer relationships within the group after random grouping, which affects oral practice, then the suggestion section should allow students to freely group according to their own relationships with classmates. If the problem is that students with good oral skills in the group are concerned about controlling the conversation, then the following suggestions can be made to maintain consistent oral proficiency within the group. If the problem is concerned about the low efficiency of random group oral practice, it is recommended to divide into groups of four and select a group leader to supervise the progress of everyone's oral practice and improve efficiency. Contextual coherence will make the article a logically coherent whole, reflecting the candidate's high-level mature thinking qualities. When we read text, analyzing the logical relationships between information within paragraphs allows us to gain an overall perception of the text and appreciate the logical beauty of language.

Objectively speaking, it is difficult to innovate written expressions for communicative applications, as the college entrance examination is different from literary creation. Innovation is not the purpose of examination, and accurately conveying information is the key goal of such compositions. In addition, it is difficult for examiners to appreciate and appreciate the innovative performance of essays within a limited time. Based on this, we should recognize that the overall proposition of the college entrance examination, which is a selective examination, needs to tend towards flatness and conservatism. So when preparing for exams, it is necessary to carefully study and summarize the common types of such compositions, master the writing skills of each composition, and adapt to changes without change.

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