

Examination on Proficiency of Spoken English

Part I: Summary

(Preparation: 15 minutes; Presentation: 1 minute)

1. Read the following passage.
2. What is the passage about? Give a summary in your own words.
3. You may write down your notes on the notecard to use as the basis for your presentation.
During presentation, you should avoid reading word for word from the given text. If you wish, you can add your own opinions or ideas.

The Respectable Addiction

People in Hong Kong are famous for working long hours. However, it is now recognised that obsession with work can be an addiction. In Japan, it is called death by overwork and it is estimated to cause 1,000 deaths per year. In the USA, it is known as the 'respectable' addiction.

Addiction to work is not the same as working hard or putting in long hours. Hard-working people generally have some balance in their lives. They spend a lot of time at work, but also set aside time for their hobbies, such as playing sport. However, work addicts think about work even when they are playing sport. The obsession with work is total. It prevents them from maintaining healthy relationships and outside interests. Work addicts neglect their health and ignore their friends and family. They avoid going on holiday so they don't have to miss work, and even if they do go on holiday, they still think about work.

Often, work addicts only realize they have a problem when something terrible happens, for example, when their health completely fails or they start having family problems.

You may use the following to help you: -

- ☞ Good morning / afternoon. I have read a passage about... The writer says... .
- ☞ The writer also mentions ...
- ☞ I think that...

Part II: Follow-up Question (1.5 minutes)

The teacher will ask you one question related to the topic in Part I.