**Appendix A： Writing Prompts**

Prompt 1

Nowadays, some safety incidents happen to many female students as a result of hitching a ride or taking a fake taxi. That has drawn great public attention, and whether or not we should get a lift from strangers has become a hot debate. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 2

With the development of science and technology, the Internet has become more and more common. Making friends online has increasingly grown in popularity in the last few years and now. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 3

A saying goes, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The virtue of generosity is extolled and promoted in China. Please comment on the above saying.

Prompt 4

With the development of society and the opening-up to the outside, more and more people hug and kiss in public. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 5

The debate on women's status has never stopped. However, with the development of society, women have caught more and more public' attention. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 6

The curriculum in China mandates that students must take ethics courses in compulsory education. However, as ethics courses carry little weight in students' entrance exams, they are usually ignored in class and give way to other exam-related subjects. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 7

One of the greatest physicists, Albert Einstein, points out the relation between perspiration and inspiration by saying that "genius is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration". Please comment on Einstein's saying.

Prompt 8

With the development of society and technology, there are numerous social network sites where tens of thousands of people show their daily lives. At present, the behaviours of stealing personal information through the network are becoming surprisingly more common. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 9

More and more college graduates want to find jobs with high salaries as they wish. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 10

With the development of society and technology, living standards rise constantly. More and more people can participate in one entertainment. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 11

With the development of society and the economy, the wealth gap between the rich and the poor in China has been becoming wider and wider. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 12

Since the girl's views on materialism became the spotlight on the stage and stirred heated controversy, dating shows have been restricted and cut down because they promote wrong values and beliefs. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 13

Recently, the question of "to help or not to help" has become a heated topic since some helpers are accused of causing harm. Blackmail and wrong charges are making people increasingly reluctant to give their helping hands. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 14

With the development of society, girls pay more attention to keeping fit and building a thin figure. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 15

With the development of the reform and opening up, more and more foreign teachers flow into China. Students can enjoy the classes in various styles given by teachers from different countries. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 16

With the rapid development of more convenient online bookstores, many physical bookstores are forced to go out of business because fewer and fewer people are willing to buy books in physical bookstores. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 17

Nowadays, it is a very common practice for businessmen to mark bigger clothes with a smaller size. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 18

With the development of education and society, ordinary people get more chances to be educated, and college students are everywhere today. Many students choose to get a master's degree for a highly-paid job or a promising future. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 19

Because of the rapid development of the Internet, most people prefer to read books on the Internet. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 19

In recent years, sharing economy has been becoming more common in many industries and nations. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 20

Many college graduates find it very hard to adapt to the competitive society, and when they leave their colleges, they feel that they haven't learned anything in the past four years. Especially when they are sophomore students, they tend to get lost that year. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 21

A Chinese educator, Ye Shengtao, once said, "Education is not manufacture, but agriculture. "Please comment on the above saying.

Prompt 22

With the development of globalization, it is easier for us to access all kinds of cultures worldwide. However, more and more people tend to forget their own culture simultaneously. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 23

Senior high school students in China are usually mocked as mindless machines travelling between the dorm, the canteen and the classroom. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 24

China has become one of the most important economies in the world. As a result, people's living standards have improved a lot indeed. However, social issues cropped up increasingly. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 25

With the increasing concerns about climate change and environmental degradation, people are calling for a green life to protect our planet. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 26

With the development of our society, all kinds of books fill in our lives. Some people claim that first-hand and concrete experiences are more important than books. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 27

Writing is a critical part of learning a foreign language. In our education system, it seems that all training in writing is for exams, so we have already developed a fixed form or style of writing which is not so creative and interesting. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 28

Recently, the somewhat stringent requirements for its staff in the high-speed railway of Beijing Railway Bureau have caused much controversy, including strict standards for gender, age, height, weight and even complexion and figure. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 29

Nowadays, there is a hot debate about classics. Different people have different opinions. Some people believe that classics are out of date and not suitable for modern society. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 30

Because of the rapid development of technology and the Internet, university students in China have been employing them to improve the efficiency and quality of their learning. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

Prompt 31

China's one-child policy is now a two-child policy. A lot of young couples show a certain reluctance to have a second child. Please comment on the above phenomenon.

**Appendix B: Selected global cohesion Indices**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Features | Indices | Tool | Description |
| Semantic similarity | LSAPP1 | Coh-Metrix | the semantic co-referentiality between paragraphs or similarity across paragraphs |
| Lexical overlap | Content word lemma overlap | TAACO | Overlap of content words between paragraphs |
| Synonym overlap | Synonym overlap(noun) | TAACO | Overlap between words and word synsets across paragraphs for nouns |

**Appendix C: Selected Sample Essays**

Sample essay 1

Nowadays, some safety incidents happened to many female students as a result of hitching a ride or taking fake taxi. That has drawn great public attention whether or not we should get a lift from strangers has become a popular debate. Some people hold the view that it's convenient and cheap to get a lift. While others believe that it's dangerous to get on an illegal car. We don't need to take the risk. As far as I'm concerned, it's not wise to get on strangers' cars.

There are some potential dangers if you do so. To begin with, some drivers have evil motives.

They always wait for someone to fall into their traps, especially for young females, and then they will rob or rape the passengers, even worse, kill them. The recent incident happened on Chongqing proves the fact. It's a young girl. She waited for the car to pick her up on the side of road, but she got on the wrong car. It's too late when she found something wrong. The girl was killed at last. In addition, if some safety accidents happen to you, you will at yourself own risk, because those fake taxis are illegal, and even some drivers don't have driving licenses. The law won't protect you in this situation, so you will suffer the consequence.

In my eyes, one of the chief causes of those accidents is the fact that we lack safety awareness and danger awareness. Besides, universities ignore the education about defensive skills and safe consciousness. The absence of those things leads to serious consequences.

There is some advice of avoiding dangers. Firstly, it's better to find a companion. Don't be alone. Secondly, let your family and friends know where you are going and keep in touch with them. Thirdly, don't take fake taxis for convenience or saving money. It's not worth your safety.

From what have been discussed above, it can be concluded that taking a lift is not a wise choice. The fact is a wake-up all for young people, especially females, that it's crucial to danger around us. For our safety sake, we must keep those lessons in our minds. Upon careful consideration, it is not such a wise choice after all. （Prompt1 written by Mike）

Sample essay 2

As is known to us, the news that lots of girls were missing and killed in response to their getting into strangers' cars aroused a blockbuster among the public. Although there are certainly some warmhearted people who are really willing to give us a ride and it's really more convenient to take a stranger's car than waiting for a taxi or bus, I still stand in the side that girls should not get into strangers' cars.

Obviously, the most serious problem is that it might endanger girls. From my perspective, it's hard to control a person who has evil thoughts, but we can try our best to keep away from the danger. I would like to share an example with you. On August 1st, Jin got into a stranger's car near the Ji Nan station to go back to school. The criminal suspect imprisoned her in a worn-out and faraway grange, maltreated her and raped her. Then she was killed and thrown into the river. In conclusion, it is not safe for girls to get into strangers' cars. Therefore, we should avoid getting into strangers' cars. What's more, some people take advantage of taking strangers' cars to save money. There is an old saying that disadvantage is a blessing. People won't gain extra advantages by unfair means anymore if they have thought about it. There's an example that Lao Li is an old lady who always wants to gain extra advantages by unfair means. One day she wanted to go to her grandson's school by taxi. But when she realized the price difference between the taxi and the fake taxi,she chose to take the fake taxi without hesitation. You can guess the consequence. Of course, she was robbed and killed. From this story, we can summarize that it's not wise to gain extra advantages by unfair means, especially for girls. As a result, the idea that taking the strangers'cars to save money is wrong. So do not do that.

My opinion is not to get into strangers' cars. However, when we have to face some special situation which forces us to get into strangers' cars, what could we do to protect ourselves? I'd like to give you some suggestions. Firstly, remember the car's number and massage it to the one you trust in. Secondly, when you are already in the car, you cannot let the driver see your money. What's more, you should choose the backseat. (Prompt 1 written by Windy)

Sample Essay 3

As people put it everyone is a born writer, however to be a good writer depends on you unswerving study through profound and wide reading as well as contiguous practicing. Consequently, that is to say, it's easy to inform child to be a good describer than to teach them how to practice and improve their capabilities. Though it is gonna be tough, we are still passionate to deal with it, to hurdle obstacles, to deliver a good performance by the following tips.

Significant factor of writing should pay the top priority to so that we can handle the most pivotal trouble and achieve profound progress which is bound to put us forward. Just as an old saying goes that interest is the best teacher. Trying to combine entertainment with teaching, giving a shot of new ways of teaching, for instance TED, its presentation about writing of great fun and of great enlightenment. So it might as well to absorb some "unbelievable' ways to revitalize your class and make your children vigorous by the ways of funny materials, interesting tones and easy but concise ways rather than theories. As for majority of naughty guys, monotonous tone and dull theories are both ways to force them to have a good sleep.

Being a serious teacher, which not means all the time but to some extent teachers should be strict with their lovely children. For English majors, the most efficient way is to recite, recite and recite. This sill appeals to English writing. Without sufficient accumulation and practicing, it is not possible to be a good writer. At this time, teacher is accountable to get rid of students' laziness and be serious that the keep in mind what you required while delivering appropriated useful resources. Only in thus way great progress can be made.

To say is simple but to do is quite hard. No matter what we face, if we rise to the difficulties with our painstaking efforts and unswerving persistence as well as our humor, kindness and insistence. (Prompt 27, written by Windy)