

110 學年度第 1 學期高中部英文作文比賽

1. Charles Dickens 的雙城記(A Tale of Two Cities)說「那是最美好的時代,那是最糟糕的時代」(It was the best of times. It was the worst of times)。疫情,帶給我們生活上的巨大改變,疫苗是否打引起許多的討論,線上線下的學習也有許多需要適應的地方;這些改變終究是美好還是糟糕,已經深深刻印在這個時代每個人心中。請寫一篇字數至少 500 字的文章,敘述這些日子以來疫情帶給你的影響、你如何因應,以及你的盼望是什麼。

2. 比賽時間: 13:10~14:50, 共 100 分鐘。

3. 不得使用任何形式的字典與電子載具,其餘依本校考試規定辦理。

"It was the best of times, It was the worst of times," famous American author Charles Dickens wrote in A Tale of Two Cities. Readers may wonder what the meaning behind the phrase is, as it is so simply worded yet so deep in context that one might just spend hours thinking about it. To me, it actually does not implicate anything too abstract; it can be utilized to depict any kind of moment if you think about it literally. In my opinion, the phrase describes perfectly how quarantine under COVID-19 has imposed an influence on my life and perhaps others.

People may question, now is quarantine the best of times? To begin with, if we remove our acknowledgment of the restrictions such as going out to eat and having to put on masks, nothing's really changed in our daily lives. Students in Taiwan rarely go out to do sports and other extracurricular activities, therefore the impact we suffer from should be way less than countries such as the United States and France. For indoor people like me, the amount of time I spend outdoors does not actually change, at least not drastically. Heck, there are more benefits to quarantine than one can imagine. For instance, the society could practice how to cooperate better with the government and with each other. After all, going through a challenge or an obstacle is always the best method for bonding. Second, while making preparations for combating COVID, we are also preventing other diseases such as the flu from spreading. Our personal hygiene have become much better, and the public areas have also gotten cleaner, which indicates that people care more about the society.

On the contrary, while people may care more, the amount of attention they put onto the topic is not the amount they can handle, making them

(more space in the back)

mentally out of control, It is indeed! also the worst of times, as one can tell. First, the inconvenience brought by quarantine is overwhelming; for instance having to be tracked wherever you go, having trouble figuring out how the online schooling system operates, not being able to eat out at restaurants, and so forth. What's worse is that small businesses and others with careers unhelpful to the "survival" of quarantine are brutally eliminated from the industry, causing unemployment rates to rise globally. With the negative statistics, one can already predict how the stock market, the supply and demand, and everything else related to the economy are going, and it is definitely not toward the positive direction. Another consequence that one may ignore because it's so obvious is the vaccines being untrusted by the society, and also being turned into a tool for politicians to gain fame. When people are under panic, they tend to have doubts for what's in front of them, and at this moment it's the vaccines created by the government. This may lead to distrust in the nation, and possibly worse. Lastly, the social aspect is something that should not be forgotten. When people are under quarantine for a long period of time, they will most likely lose their ability to socialize or interact with others face to face, and it's a serious issue because socialization is a necessary skill in the job market. From what the situation looks like as of today, I would say the quote by Charles Dickens really fits perfectly like Cinderella's glass slipper for this issue.

The virus from what I've seen is most likely not going away for a long while, however humans being the most adaptive mammals should be able to deal with it pretty well. Although the times may be hard, I know that one day in the future I will look back to 2021 and tell myself that it was an unforgettable and precious memory. I've learned from the virus that it's essential to cherish what I have and do what I want and love the most so I wouldn't have any regrets in the future.