

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,疫苗是否施打引起許多的討論,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. In light of the pandemic which has ravaged our lives, threatened the well-being of citizens all across the globe, torn families apart, and deprived us of our beloved, the international society faces a whole new era of crises to conquer, humankind is put to test, freedom at stake.

As mankind commenced to retreat into their shells, corporations began to encounter issues of employee requirement decrease, schools needed to alter their teaching methods in order for students to take their courses online, enterprises had to cope with income loss, happily with space and resource unaffordably, all the while many people around them getting infected, even parting, due to the virus. Masks, once meant for the sick, became a common accessory, legislations and the public eye turning at the glue bonding them to our faces. Stores, which could once be entered freely, now met that customers scan their QR codes prior to entry. As the virus continues to spread, like the wildfires of Australia, or the floods of the Netherlands, our lives are being changed, by the hour, by the day, altering our habits, communities, environment, everything ^{my life}.

One of the biggest differences the pandemic caused in ^{my life}, apart from having to wear masks at all times while in public, was having to learn from home those few months prior to the summer vacation. Having never before experienced long-distance teaching, it was exceedingly difficult to become accustomed to the new methods, even more so to staring at the screen from dusk till dawn. Five days a week, looking to the teachers for guidance and with their aid, I attempted to cut down and ^{or} even out the hours I spent before the computer by leaving it wherever it wasn't cluttering, not using the laptop at times ^{when} it wasn't needed, and letting my eyes relax by staring afar during breaks. Online classes had their disadvantages, but they also brought advantages to learning. For instance, there could be this point that I hadn't caught in class, one would have to stay after class and inquire about it in the case of in-person learning, yet online I could just replay a clip, and I'd be able to obtain answers lying in a district on the black side of the globe, online classes also meant not having to commute the long distance just to go to and fro school, which meant four extra hours to myself, four more hours to rest, four more hours to study.

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Times are changing, and so are the things around us. Unhappily have been affected. Families, communities, countries, continents, the world. The younger generation will have to grow up oblivious to a world free of the epidemic, the older age in darkness and unknowing, blind to the day when the world will ever be the same. Even so, one must give up hoping ^a for where there is hope, there is light, and when there is a will, there will be a way. I aspire that the world will not cease to aspire, that our society will never give up dreaming, never cease to believe, that one day, it may be in a couple of months, a couple of years, ^{a couple of decades even,} this pandemic will come to an end, and when that day comes, the world will be beautiful and harmonious once more.