

Time in Different Cultures

Punctuality, pace and
the price of being late

DSE 2023 Paper 4 Set 7.1 • Lesson 6

FAST-PACED VS SLOW-PACED



Which one are you?

Two questions to get you talking



QUESTION 1 (Student A)

Are you often late for school?

QUESTION 2 (Student B)

Is being on time important to you?

Your discussion task

Your group is doing a project on how different cultures view time. You are meeting to discuss the project. You may want to talk about:

- Hong Kong people's attitude towards time
- whether attitudes towards time are changing
- how to live a more slow-paced life
- anything else you think is important



Q1 Hong Kong's attitude towards time

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- the clock rules the day
- being late reads as disrespect
- schedules crowd out family and rest



Q2 Are attitudes changing?

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- **YES: flexible hours and remote work**
- **YES: more people choose slow travel and digital detoxes**
- **NO: the 8 a.m. school bell has not moved**
- **NO: delivery apps have made us less patient**

Q3 How to live more slowly



SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- leave blanks in the timetable
- protect one long, offline meal with family
- change what we measure

Part B – Question 7



Is work-life balance important?

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- YES: the health cost of burning out
- YES: rest protects the quality of the work
- NO: some seasons demand total commitment
- NO: balance is a privilege some cannot choose

Part B – Question 8



Do you agree that time is money?

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- **AGREE:** billing by the hour makes it literal
- **DISAGREE:** time spent with people cannot be priced



Say it like this — from the lesson

I am chronically late — punctuality is not my strong point.

Keeping a friend waiting tells them their time matters less than yours.

Hong Kong runs at a fast pace: everything is scheduled.

Seven lessons and tutoring leave no room for an unhurried evening.

Some offices now let staff start later and finish later.

We expect food in fifteen minutes, so the culture is speeding up.

A day off is an investment in the next week's work.

Slower cultures are not lazier — they measure success differently.