



Locating general and specific information



General

Headings and subheadings

- identify the topic

Word choices

- locate words that are similar or relevant to the key words in the questions

Specific

Detailed information

- scan for numbers and figures such as statistics, dates, time and so on
- look for paraphrases

Let's look closer!

'The use of smartphones has had a negative impact on personal relationships,' said Ray, who studies the social impact caused by modern technology. As people become more addicted to using smartphones, it is likely that more of them will just scroll through their phones and ignore people around them. 'If we do not pay attention to it, we may end up with a dysfunctional family relationship,' he said. 'When parents are addicted to smartphones, their children's needs are neglected. Both society and schools should be more concerned about this issue since it has a negative influence on family relationships.'

Locate the key words. Find the answer in front of them.

DSE 2022 Part B2 Q54 Short question

- e.g. Ray mentions being 'more concerned' (line 6). Who should be more concerned?
society and schools

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(ii) word choice—duration = time spent

The President of the Students' Union asked why the school was lengthening the time of each class while cutting down on the duration of sports classes per week. A survey by the Students' Union revealed that although students' academic performance at the school had increased 26 percent, the number of students exercising more than two times a week had dropped by more than 20 percent. This was a significant drop.

(i) detailed information—more than 20 percent (statistics)

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DSE 2019 Part B1 Q24 Fill in the blanks

- e.g. Complete the summary by writing ONE word taken from the text in each blank below.

The reason why the President of the Students' Union was concerned about the time spent on sports:

He was worried that students' fitness levels might (i) drop, which could be caused by the reduction in the (ii) duration of sports classes.

Let's practise!

Li Pi-Hua, also known as Lilian Lee, is a prolific writer from Hong Kong, China. Her works were featured in newspapers across Singapore and Malaysia in the 1980s and 1990s. She is talented and hardworking. She was a primary school teacher while having a side gig as a reporter. In addition to penning more than 120 books, she wrote scripts for TV series, films and dramas.

Li's passion for ancient Chinese stories is evident in her writing. Some of her works are based on well-known Chinese literature but told from a different angle. Some of her novels, such as *Green Snake*, have been adapted into films, resulting in a wider audience for her works and increased recognition.

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DSE 2022 Part A Q6 Short question

- ① Find a word or phrase in the text which has a similar meaning to 'additional job'.

DSE 2022 Part A Q7 Fill in the blanks

- ② Complete the biography of Li Pi-Hua by writing ONE word taken from the text in each blank below.

Before Li Pi-Hua became a (i) _____ author of popular (ii) _____ tales, she worked as both a teacher and a reporter. Some of her books have been adapted into TV dramas and films. *Green Snake* is a noteworthy example that helped her gain much international (iii) _____.

Exam Booster

Flash fiction is a genre that typically features stories of fewer than 1,500 words. Although it is short and may not provide adequate background information, it still manages to have a complete plot and may focus on one or a few central scenes. As the word count is limited, the setting of your micro-fiction story should be as simple as possible. Avoid giving too many details. Instead, use contextual clues to convey important information.

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DSE 2023 Part A Q7 Sentence completion

- ① Complete the notes below by choosing ONE word from the paragraph to fill in the blank.

The _____ length of flash fiction helps you write in a minimal way.