

DSE PAPER 4 • SPEAKING PRACTICE

Free TV, streaming platforms
and Hong Kong popular culture

DSE 2018 Paper 4 Set 1.2 • Lesson 5

MUST-SEE TV?



Still watching?

Two questions to get you talking



QUESTION 1 (Student A)

Do you ever watch TVB?

QUESTION 2 (Student B)

**Do you enjoy watching TVB
dramas?**

Your discussion task

You are doing a school project on TVB. Your group has been asked to discuss the fall in the number of viewers. You may want to talk about:

- why TVB was so successful in Hong Kong in the past
- why there is a fall in the number of viewers
- whether TVB can be successful again in the future
- anything else you think is important



Q1 Why TVB was so successful in the past

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- it had almost no competition
- a strong training academy
- dramas that spoke to Hong Kong people



Q2 Why there is a fall in the number of viewers

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- audiences moved online
- a lack of investment and creativity
- too few faces on screen



Q3 Can TVB be successful again?

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- YES: one genuinely original series
- YES: the streaming market is global
- NO: the habit is broken
- NO: the money cannot match the giants



Part B – Question 7

How would you feel if TVB closed?

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- **NOT SORRY:** the air time could go to fresher producers
- **NOT SORRY:** my generation has already moved on
- **SORRY:** Hong Kong would lose a shared living-room memory
- **SORRY:** hundreds of people would lose their jobs



Part B – Question 8

How important is TVB to Hong Kong culture?

SUGGESTED IDEAS — noun phrases

- **IMPORTANT:** it created a shared culture
- **NOT IMPORTANT:** it no longer sets the tone



Say it like this — from the lesson

TVB's audience has **fallen sharply** over the last decade.

Many of the dramas rely on **the same props and plots**.

Younger viewers have moved to **streaming platforms**.

For twenty years TVB **dominated** free-to-air television.

Only original drama could **reverse the decline**.

Its cultural influence has faded as audiences **have fragmented**.

It has lost **the creative edge** it once had.

TVB was **central to the way** Hong Kong people saw themselves.