



# Unit 1 Honesty and responsibility

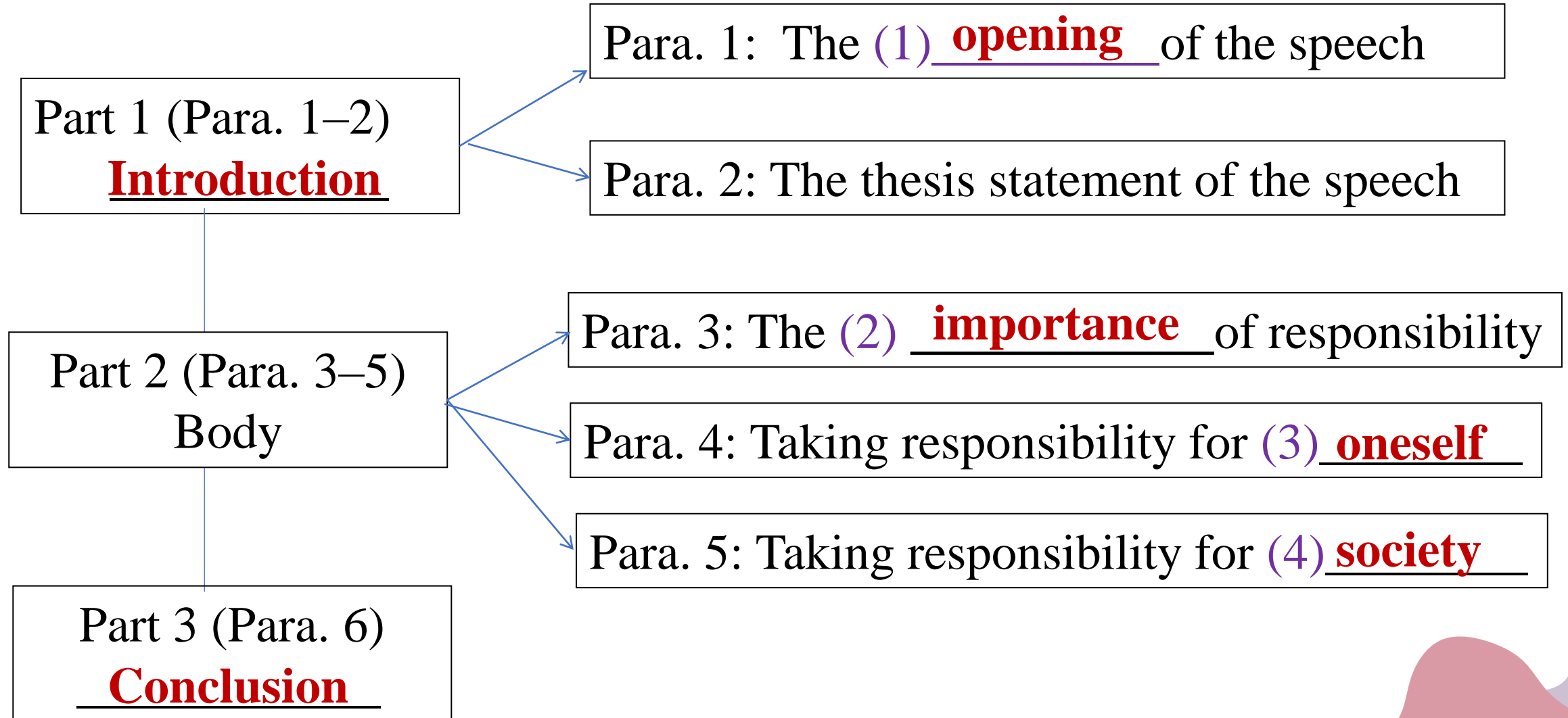
Extended reading

# Reading

**Read the transcript of a speech given at the students' coming-of-age ceremony by their principal.**



# Read the speech and finish the structure of it.



## Reading: Para.1-2

Honoured guests, teachers and students, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you here today and present my thoughts on this special occasion.

Students, the time has arrived for you to fully accept your passage into adulthood.

I have seen you grow from nervous Senior 1 students into confident young adults,

5 who sit before me today, ready to embrace the next phase of your lives. You must be both excited and anxious about the new experiences that are in store for you.

Don't worry, for you are all responsible young people, well prepared and well equipped to successfully manage the challenges of the years ahead.

**How does the author relate the topic to the audience?**

**The author expresses his understanding of the students' mixed feelings by standing in their shoes. He also comforts and encourages the students with positive comments, boosting their confidence and stimulating their interest in his speech.**

## Reading: Para.3

**What attitude should students hold towards taking responsibility?**

We should be responsible for our successes and failures, and view responsibility as a foundation for future development instead of a burden.

**What situation would a person who has no sense of responsibility face?**

A person who has no sense of responsibility is at the mercy of their own careless and thoughtless behaviour.



# Reading: Para.4

As students, you must take your studies seriously and accept responsibility for your own learning. This means meeting deadlines for your schoolwork, following your teachers' guidance, and of course, always aiming for academic excellence. However, your responsibilities go far beyond your studies. As you go through your daily life, you will encounter many difficult situations where things may go wrong. Instead of being quick to blame others, analyse the problem, and if it is indeed your own fault, be ready to admit your mistake and then correct it. This way, you practise the virtue of courage. Always give your best in whatever you set out to do, however difficult that might be. This way, you practise the virtue of determination. Be honest by saying what you mean and by meaning what you say. This way, you practise the virtue of integrity. Taking responsibility in all aspects of your everyday life, therefore, will help build a strong character.

The virtue of **courage**

The virtue of  
**determination**

The virtue of **integrity**

## Reading: Para.5

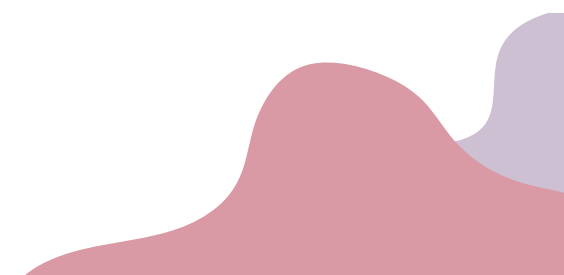
(1) Why does assuming responsibility for your actions also benefit society?

(2) What little things can you do to make a difference?

Apart from personal development, assuming responsibility for your actions is also important for the betterment of society. Society is an organic whole, and as social  
30 beings, we have a responsibility to make a contribution. You may have heard the story of a small boy who tried to save starfish left on the beach after a storm, by throwing them back into the sea. Passers-by told him that he was wasting his time, for he could not possibly save them all. However, the boy was not discouraged, believing that he could make a difference to the ones that he saved. As a result,  
35 the passers-by felt inspired and joined him in saving the starfish. Similarly, the little things you do can make a difference! For example, picking up garbage around your neighbourhood contributes to a cleaner environment. Reporting a speeding  
car helps ensure road safety. Being energy-efficient leads to savings of our precious  
natural resources. Doing volunteer work at a local nursing home brings love and  
40 warmth to the elderly. Just like the “starfish boy”, you may even inspire people around you to do the same, which is an added bonus. Working together, we have the power to gradually but continuously advance our society.



**Write a summary of the speech transcript. Use the following ideas to help you.**

- **The importance of taking responsibility**
  - **Taking responsibility for yourself and its rewards**
  - **Taking responsibility for society and its rewards**
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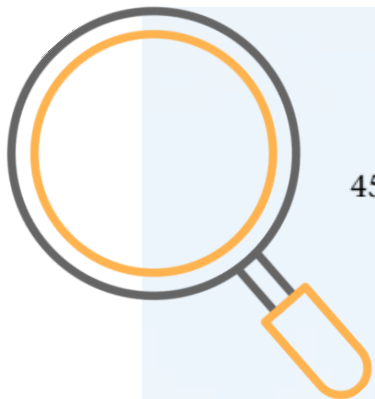


# Writing

Having a well-developed sense of responsibility means accepting responsibility for the successes and failures in life and viewing responsibility not as a burden but as a foundation that is necessary for future self-development. Without the sense of responsibility, one's behaviour would be careless and thoughtless. Taking responsibility in all aspects of one's daily life, however, helps build a strong character, which embodies the virtues of courage, determination and integrity. Virtue is its own reward. Furthermore, taking responsibility helps make society better. Little things can make a difference. It is through actions that others are inspired to join in.

# Appreciation

Using a quote helps the author express his idea in a more profound way.



45 So, dear students, take your first step into the adult world by accepting your responsibilities, so that adulthood will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for both you and those around you. Sometimes, responsibilities may weigh heavily on you. However, just as the Chinese saying goes, "Jade is good-for-nothing if not carved." A man cannot be perfected without trials. Sow the seeds of success today and your harvest will be great tomorrow. I wish you every success in your adult life!

quote(  
引用)

**How do you understand the Chinese saying?**

**Why do you think the author uses this saying?**

**I think this saying reminds us that we need to be tested and reshaped before we become fully mature people. We have to be responsible for ourselves and try our best to become better people.**

**The author uses this saying to tell the students to be ready to go through the trials of adulthood. Successfully overcoming these trials can help a person become a well-developed adult.**

# Appreciation

likewise: the same; in a similar way  
adv. 同样地, 类似地

A ship without an anchor is at the mercy of the waves and winds; **likewise**, a person who has no sense of responsibility is at the mercy of their own careless and thoughtless behaviour. (lines 13–15)

Analogy (类比) is used in the sentence to explain the importance of taking responsibility. By drawing a comparison between a ship without an anchor and a person without responsibility, waves and winds and careless and thoughtless behaviour.

It makes understanding an abstract concept easier. It also arouses their interest and adds visual effect.

# Appreciation

**As you go through ... This way, you practise the virtue of courage. Always give ... This way, you practise the virtue of determination. Be honest ... This way, you practise the virtue of integrity. (lines 19–26)**

**The principal uses parallel structure to expound on the rewards for yourself of taking responsibility.**

**It function as a means of creating a harmonious flow and rhythm, which can capture readers' attention and make the speech more coherent and persuasive.**

# Appreciation

**You may have heard **the story** of a small boy ... saving the starfish. (lines 30–35)**

**Why does the principal tell the story of the small boy?**

**Telling a story makes it easier for readers to understand the meaning of taking responsibility for society. It also arouses audience's interest and adds visual effect.**

**For example, picking up garbage ... brings love and warmth to the elderly. (lines 36–40)**

**Giving examples is used here to make the argument more convincing and easier to understand.**



# Homework

Talk about a **role model** who takes responsibilities



- **Who** is he/she? (classmates/friends/parents/celebrities...)
- **What** responsibilities does he/she take?
- **How** does he/she take responsibilities?