

Yuen Long Catholic Secondary School

Proposal for the use of ‘One-off Grant for Promotion of Self-directed Language Learning (English Language)’ (School Year : 2025-2026)

Introduction

Self-directed learning (SDL) is an approach where learners take the initiative to identify their learning needs, set goals, locate resources, and evaluate their progress. This method fosters autonomy, critical thinking, and a lifelong learning mindset, making it crucial in today’s rapidly changing world. This proposal outlines a structured plan to implement self-directed learning effectively, incorporating technology such as an AI-powered writing app to enhance the learning process through utilizing the “One-off Grant for Promotion of Self-directed Language Learning (English Language)” mentioned in Circular Memorandum No.210/2024.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this proposal are:

1. To develop the ability to identify personal learning goals. (Enhanced essay)
 2. To enhance self-motivation, time management, and accountability. (Pre-writing guide/ Individual grading report)
 3. To cultivate critical thinking and problem-solving skills. (Individual grading report/grammar mistakes report)
 4. To foster a habit of lifelong learning and adaptability in various contexts. (Grammar mistakes report/ Improvements in Content, Language, and Organization)
 5. To leverage AI tools for improving writing and overall communication skills. (Customized Sentence Exercises/ Common error report)
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Arrangement of the use of ‘One-off Grant for Promotion of Self-directed Language Learning (English Language)’

- HK\$100,000 has been utilized to support the development of the Diocesan Online English Learning Platform.
- HK\$100,000 will be used to purchase an AI Writing Learning Platform.

The vendor selected will be the one capable of satisfying the majority of the objectives mentioned above and providing the best service. The final functionality of the platform will depend on the capabilities provided by the chosen vendor. Here are the proposed functions of the AI Writing Learning Platform that will be presented in the tendering process:

1. Pre-Writing Guidance

- Offer brainstorming tools to generate ideas and structure essays effectively.
- Recommends topic-specific vocabulary and stylistic suggestions for polished writing

2. Customisable Grading Criteria

- Allow teachers to customize marking rubrics based on the needs of learners’ diversity
- Students’ work is graded by HKDSE or/and TSA Marking Rubrics

3. Personalised Exercises

- Provide a detailed individual grading report for students, pinpointing their strengths and weaknesses
- A platform is provided for students to view their grammar mistakes
- Supply improvements in the areas of Content, Language and Organization
- Provide customized sentence exercises summarizing common errors to enhance grammar and vocabulary
- ‘Enhanced Essay’ of the individual student has been provided to enhance English proficiency.
- Generate common error reports based on class-wide mistakes

4. Individual Progress Tracking

- Track students’ performance over time with detailed analytics
- Empower teachers to monitor improvements and adapt instruction effectively

5. Class-wide Error Report

- Identify frequent errors across essay to address collective weaknesses
- Help teachers focus on critical areas for improvement

Steps for Implementing Self-Directed Learning

1. Assessing Learning Needs

- Conduct a personal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis at the very beginning of the semester, early Sept 2025.
- Identify gaps in knowledge or skills relevant to academic, professional, or personal goals. (Sept 2025)
- Use feedback from peers, or teachers to pinpoint specific areas of improvement, such as writing clarity and/or coherence. (throughout the whole year)

2. Setting SMART Goals

- Define **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound** goals.
 - Example: "Improve writing skills by practicing with an AI writing coach app for 20 minutes every week over the next month."
- Break larger goals into smaller, manageable tasks to maintain focus and track progress.

3. Generate Learning Resources

- Identify and utilize diverse learning materials, including:
 - **AI-Powered Tools:**

Writing Apps: Enhance grammar, style, and clarity with an AI writing coach

4. Designing a Learning Schedule

- Allocate specific time slots for focused learning sessions. (Devote one lesson to teaching writing every week)

- Use the productivity AI writing coach app to organize and do writing tasks. (Pre-writing guide)
- Schedule regular sessions to practice using AI tools (one lesson for writing practices every week).

5. Engaging in Active Learning

- Actively engage with the material through:
 - Note-taking, summarizing, and reflecting (Pre-writing guide)
 - Using AI apps for immediate feedback and improvement (Individual grading report/ Grammar mistakes report/ Improvements in Content, Language, and Organization)

6. Monitoring Progress

- Regularly review progress against goals (Individual grading report)
- Maintain a reflective journal to document key takeaways, challenges, and areas for improvement (Grammar mistakes report/ Improvements in Content, Language, and Organization)
- Use self-assessment tools in AI apps to track growth (Individual grading report)
 - Monitor writing scores

7. Seeking Feedback

- Share progress with mentors, peers, or instructors for constructive feedback (Common error report)
- Incorporate feedback to refine learning strategies and address blind spots (Individual grading report)

8. Evaluating Outcomes

- Assess whether goals have been achieved and identify areas for further exploration. (Post Task Writing)
- Reflect on the effectiveness of learning writing, including the role of AI tools, and make adjustments for future learning (Individual grading report/ Common error report/ Post Task Writing)

Conclusion

Self-directed learning is an empowering approach that enables individuals to take charge of their education and personal development. By incorporating AI-powered writing app, learners can accelerate their progress in communication skills while maintaining autonomy and flexibility. This proposal provides a structured framework to implement SDL, fostering skills essential for success in the modern world by using an appropriate writing app.