

(國中自選題 1)

The Power of Being Strong

(論說文)

Life is full of ups and downs. Sometimes, everything feels great, and we feel happy and successful. But other times, we face challenges, like failing a test, losing someone we love, or not reaching a goal. These moments can be very hard, but they also give us a chance to grow. Being strong inside—staying calm, learning, and not giving up—is an important skill we can all develop.

Being strong inside means facing problems bravely and finding ways to solve them. For example, Helen Keller became blind and deaf as a child. Instead of giving up, she worked hard with the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan. Helen learned how to read, write, and even speak. Later, she went to college and wrote books that inspired people around the world. Her story shows that being strong inside is not just about getting through hard times but also about growing because of them.

This kind of strength is not something we are born with—it's a skill we can build. One way to grow this strength is to see problems as chances to learn. Instead of thinking that challenges will never end, we can break them into smaller steps and focus on solutions. Having a support system is also important. Family, friends, and teachers can remind us of our strengths and encourage us to keep trying. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness—it's a smart way to grow stronger.

Life will always bring challenges, but staying strong inside helps us face them with confidence. By staying positive, working hard, and learning from mistakes, we can grow stronger and achieve more than we thought possible. This strength teaches us that every challenge is a chance to learn and improve. So when life gets tough, don't give up. Stay strong and keep moving forward.

(國中自選題 2)

The Danger of a Single Story

(記敘文，改編自 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie 的 TED 演講)

When I was a child in Nigeria, I loved reading books. But most of the books I read were about people with pale skin, blue eyes, and blonde hair. These characters lived lives far different from mine. While I enjoyed these stories, they made me feel like my own life wasn't important enough to be part of a story. Everything changed when I discovered African writers. Writers like Chinua Achebe wrote about people who looked like me and lived in a world I recognized. These stories gave me pride and taught me that there isn't just one kind of story—there are many.

The problem of a single story happens when we make comments about others based on limited knowledge. For example, when I went to study in America, my roommate was shocked that I spoke English fluently. Her idea of Africa was shaped only by images of poverty and struggle. This single story stopped her from understanding the color of my culture and my experiences. Stereotypes, like the idea that all immigrants are poor or struggling, also come from single stories. But people's lives are full of many stories, not just one.

I've made this mistake too. For a long time, I thought people from rural areas in Nigeria were less educated than those in cities. But when I met them, I learned they had stories of amazing wisdom and creativity. This taught me that we must stay curious and open-minded. Everyone has many stories, and we need to listen to them to understand each other better.

The danger of a single story is that it creates false ideas about people and limits our understanding of the world. To truly know others, we must reject single stories and embrace the many stories that make up our shared world. Only then can we create a kinder, more connected society.

(國中自選題3)

The Road to Greatness

(論說文)

Greatness is not something we are born with—it is something we achieve through hard work, patience, and the courage to try new things. The journey to greatness is not easy, but it is worth it. Anyone who is willing to work hard can take this journey and achieve amazing things.

Greatness takes courage. It means trying new things, taking risks, and not being afraid to fail. Thomas Edison, who invented the light bulb, failed thousands of times before he succeeded. But each failure taught him something new, and he never gave up. His story shows us that failure is not the end—it's a step toward success.

Another key to greatness is hard work. Being talented is not enough. Behind every success, there is someone who spent hours practicing and improving. Michael Jordan, one of the greatest basketball players, is a good example. He didn't make his high school basketball team at first, but he kept practicing and became one of the best players in history. He once said, "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. I've failed over and over again. And that is why I succeed."

The path to greatness is not always smooth. There will be hard times, but these challenges make us stronger. People who keep going, even when things are tough, are the ones who achieve greatness. They don't let failure stop them; instead, they use it to grow and improve. It is not about being perfect or lucky—it's about trying to be better every day. The road to greatness may be hard, but with the right mindset and effort, anyone can achieve more than they ever imagined.