

Measures of Character Strengths of the Gifted Students Using Values in Action (VIA) Survey Items



Research Division
Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE)

Background and Introduction

96 items - Inventory of Strengths for Youth (VIA Youth Survey)

Wisdom	Courage	Humanity	Justice	Temperance	Transcendence
Creativity	Bravery	Kindness	Fairness	Forgiveness	Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence
Curiosity	Honesty	Love	Leadership	Humility	Gratitude
Judgment	Perseverance	Social Intelligence	Teamwork	Prudence	Hope
Love of Learning	Zest			Self-Regulation	Humor
Perspective					Spirituality

<https://www.viacharacter.org/www/Character-Strengths/VIA-Classification>

Honesty

使說謊能讓我避免惹上麻煩，我仍會誠實以對。
即使因為說實話，而無法獲得我想要的事物，我還是說實話。

Love

對於我的家人與朋友，我會坦率地表達我的感受。
我會毫不猶豫地告訴我的家人與朋友我愛他們。

Spirituality

我相信有一股更高層次的力量，引導我做正確的事。
總是有一股更高層次的力量，關切我的最佳權益。



24 character strengths
6 Broad Virtues

The VIA Classification of Strengths is the "backbone" of the science of positive psychology.



WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

CREATIVITY: Originality; adaptive; ingenuity
CURIOSITY: Interest; novelty-seeking; exploration; openness to experience
JUDGMENT: Critical thinking; thinking things through; open-minded
LOVE OF LEARNING: Mastering new skills & topics; systematically adding to knowledge
PERSPECTIVE: Wisdom; providing wise counsel; taking the big picture view



COURAGE

BRAVERY: Valor; not shrinking from fear; speaking up for what's right
PERSEVERANCE: Persistence; industry; finishing what one starts
HONESTY: Authenticity; integrity
ZEST: Vitality; enthusiasm; vigor; energy; feeling alive and activated



HUMANITY

LOVE: Both loving and being loved; valuing close relations with others
KINDNESS: Generosity; nurturance; care; compassion; altruism; compassion; altruism; "niceness"
SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE: Emotional intelligence; aware of the motives/feelings of self/others, knowing what makes other people tick



JUSTICE

TEAMWORK: Citizenship; social responsibility; loyalty
FAIRNESS: Just; not letting feelings bias decisions about others
LEADERSHIP: Organizing group activities; encouraging a group to get things done



TEMPERANCE

FORGIVENESS: Mercy; accepting others' shortcomings; giving people a second chance
HUMILITY: Modesty; letting one's accomplishments speak for themselves
PRUDENCE: Careful; cautious; not taking undue risks
SELF-REGULATION: Self-control; disciplined; managing impulses & emotions



TRANSCENDENCE

APPRECIATION OF BEAUTY & EXCELLENCE: Awe; wonder; elevation
GRATITUDE: Thankful for the good; expressing thanks; feeling blessed
HOPE: Optimism; future-mindedness; future orientation
HUMOR: Playfulness; bringing smiles to others; lighthearted
SPIRITUALITY: Religiousness; faith; purpose; meaning

Research Objectives

The current study aims...

First

- ✓ Use VIA survey items to gauge the situation of affective development of HKAGE student members in 2021

Second

- ✓ Compare our members' 24 character strengths with that of the pervious study in 2018

Third

- ✓ Compare with Hong Kong students (n=3355) and youths of other countries (some 1500 samples of each country) (in 2017)

Fourth

- ✓ Investigate to any group differentiations with respect to the Grade Level
- ✓ Explore the association of students' 6 broad virtues with their life satisfactions

Research Methodology

● Survey Method & Period

- ✓ Online questionnaire survey of self-report items
- ✓ April 2021

● Response Rate

7.7%

● Target Population

6086 HKAGE student members

Male : 3574 Female: 2512

Primary: 970 Secondary: 5116

● Sample Size

467 HKAGE student members

Male : 237 Female: 236

Primary: 134 Secondary: 333



24 Character Strengths of HKAGE Student Members in 2021

Character Strengths	Creativity 創造力	Curiosity 好奇心	Judgment 判斷力	Love of Learning 熱愛學習	Perspective 洞察力	Bravery 勇敢	Honesty 誠實	Perseverance 毅力	Zest 熱情	Kindness 仁慈	Love 愛	Social Intelligence 社交智商	Fairness 公平	Leadership 領導力	Teamwork 團隊合作	Forgiveness 寬恕	Humility 謙虛	Prudence 審慎	Self- Regulation 自律	Beauty 欣賞美 與卓越 表現(德行)	Gratitude 感恩	Hope 希望	Humor 幽默	Spirituality 靈性
Mean	3.74	3.89	3.82	3.93	3.75	3.69	3.37	3.81	3.58	3.82	3.64	3.72	3.74	3.57	4.10	3.76	3.60	3.59	3.38	3.78	3.88	3.82	3.52	3.07
Rank	12	3	7	2	11	15	23	8	19	5	16	14	13	20	1	10	17	18	22	9	4	6	21	24
SD	0.84	0.77	0.74	0.84	0.74	0.74	0.80	0.80	0.86	0.69	0.88	0.74	0.74	1.00	0.67	0.78	0.71	0.75	0.76	0.83	0.75	0.77	1.01	1.07
75th percentile	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.75	4.25	4.25	4.00	4.50	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.75	4.25	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.25	4.25	3.75
Median	3.75	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.50	4.00	3.75	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	4.25	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.75	3.25
25th percentile	3.25	3.50	3.25	3.50	3.25	3.25	2.75	3.25	3.00	3.50	3.00	3.25	3.25	3.00	3.75	3.25	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.25	3.25	3.50	3.00	2.25

Survey Findings

Top-three rankings

- ✓ **Teamwork**
- ✓ **Love of Learning**
- ✓ **Curiosity**

Bottom-three rankings

- ✓ **Spirituality**
- ✓ **Honesty**
- ✓ **Self-Regulation**

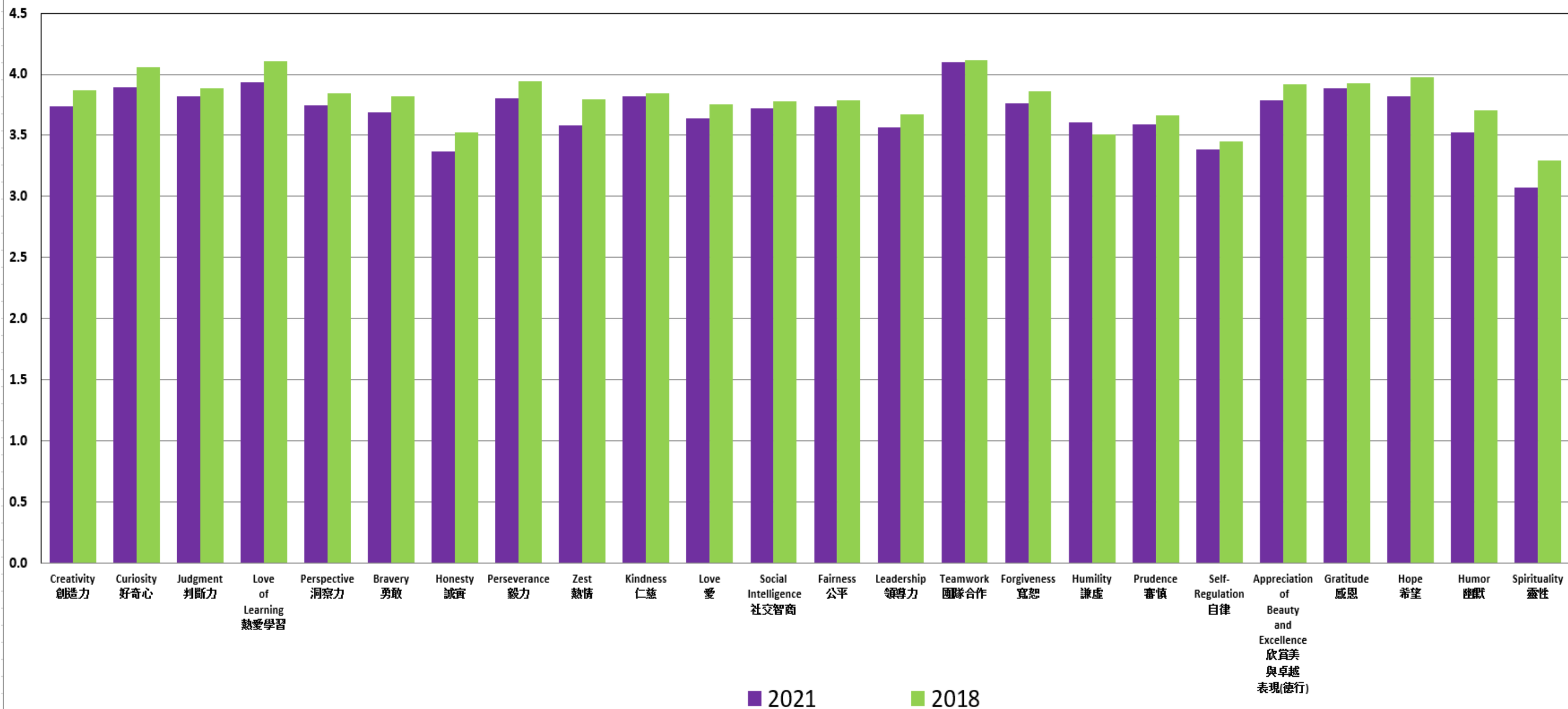
Large dispersions

- ✓ **Spirituality**
- ✓ **Humor**
- ✓ **Leadership**



Quite stable between the years of 2021 (n=467) and 2018 (n=964)

HKAGE Students' Character Strengths (2021 vs 2018)



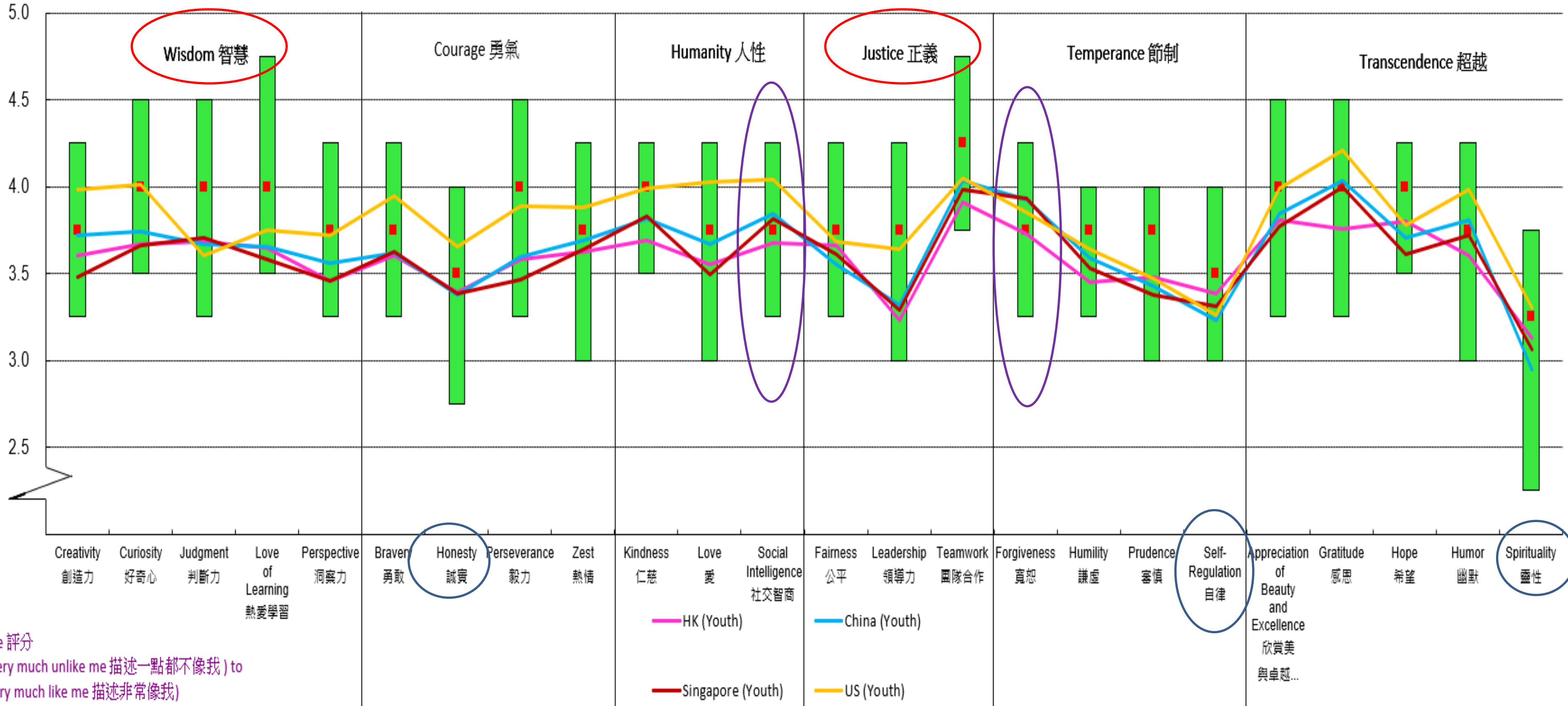
HKAGE student members VS Youth of HK, China, Singapore, US

香港資優教育學苑的學員的性格取向

HKAGE Student Members' Character Strength

平均分

Average Score

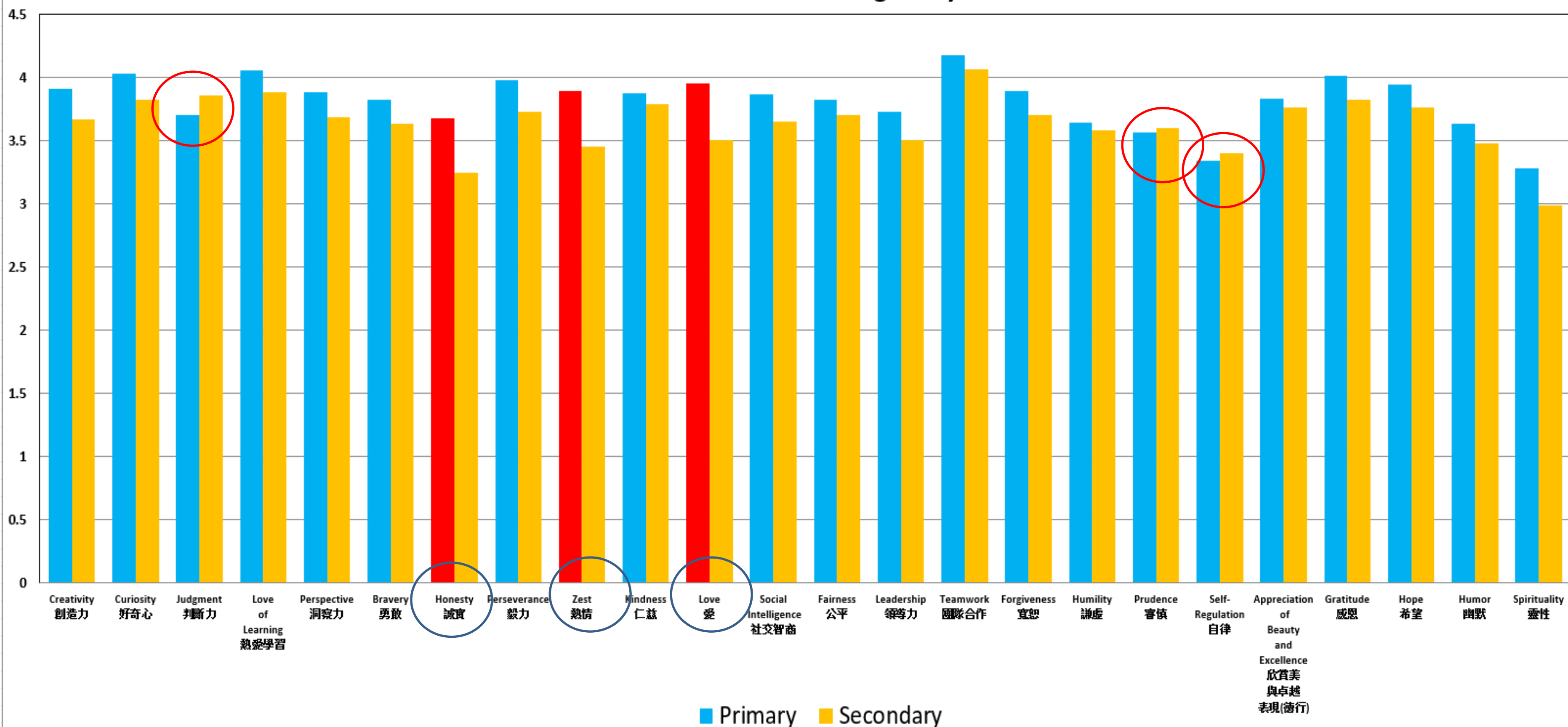


Score 評分

1 (very much unlike me 描述一點都不像我) to 5 (very much like me 描述非常像我)

Primary > Secondary : Honesty, Zest, Love

HKAGE Students' Character Strengths by Grade Level in 2021



Association of Students' Six Broad Virtues and their Life Satisfaction

Six Broad Virtues (VIA)	FULL marks	Mean	Mean/ Full Mark (%)	SD	SD/ Mean (CV)	Range	Min	Max	Percentiles		
									25%	50%	75%
Wisdom	5.00	3.83	76.5%	0.61	0.16	3.40	1.60	5.00	3.45	3.85	4.30
Courage	5.00	3.61	72.3%	0.63	0.17	3.56	1.44	5.00	3.19	3.63	4.13
Humanity	5.00	3.73	74.5%	0.62	0.17	3.25	1.75	5.00	3.25	3.75	4.17
Justice	5.00	3.80	76.1%	0.67	0.18	3.17	1.83	5.00	3.33	3.83	4.25
Temperance	5.00	3.59	71.7%	0.52	0.15	2.69	2.19	4.88	3.25	3.56	3.94
Transcendence	5.00	3.62	72.3%	0.65	0.18	3.60	1.40	5.00	3.20	3.65	4.10

Life Satisfaction	FULL marks	Mean	Mean/ Full Mark (%)	SD	SD/ Mean (CV)	Range	Min	Max	Percentiles		
									25%	50%	75%
My family life	7.00	5.60	79.9%	1.33	0.24	6.00	1.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
My friendship/ companionship	7.00	5.69	81.3%	1.15	0.20	6.00	1.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
My school life	7.00	5.30	75.7%	1.36	0.26	6.00	1.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
Feel myself	7.00	5.00	71.4%	1.49	0.30	6.00	1.00	7.00	4.00	5.00	6.00
My living environment	7.00	5.67	81.0%	1.28	0.23	6.00	1.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
My overall life	7.00	5.61	80.1%	1.15	0.20	6.00	1.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	6.00

Life Satisfaction	Six Broad Virtues (VIA)					
	Wisdom	Courage	Humanity	Justice	Temperance	Transcendence
My family life	.260**	.409**	.472**	.303**	.224**	.393**
My friendship/ companionship	.390**	.405**	.471**	.429**	.291**	.444**
My school life	.414**	.518**	.460**	.423**	.344**	.461**
Feel myself	.395**	.570**	.440**	.373**	.310**	.425**
My living environment	.266**	.341**	.326**	.268**	.260**	.283**
My overall life	.398**	.516**	.488**	.386**	.272**	.454**

Note: **Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Discussion and Summary

● Our student members

- ✓ Strong in **Teamwork, Love of Learning and Curiosity**
- ✓ Weak in **Spirituality, Honesty and Self-Regulation**
- ✓ Scores in 24 character were quite stable between 2018 & 2021

● Primary vs Secondary

- ✓ Primary > secondary students in all character strengths
 - except **Judgment**
 - Prudence**
 - Self-Regulation**
- ✓ The prominent differences were found in **Honesty, Zest and Love**

● HKAGE vs Other Countries

- ✓ HKAGE members > the Asian youths in all character strengths, except **Social Intelligence and Forgiveness**
- ✓ HKAGE members got relatively higher scores in **Justice and Wisdom**
- ✓ HKAGE members and youths of all the countries concerned scored relatively low in **Self-regulation, Honesty and Spirituality**

● Association of Six Broad Virtues & Life Satisfaction

- ✓ Life satisfaction had positive correlations with **Humanity, Courage and Transcendence** (Correlation Analysis)
- ✓ **Courage and Humanity** had positive impacts to life satisfaction (Regression Analysis)

Supplements.....



The hardest parts

Table 40 Growth Mindset In Comparison to the Results of PISA 2018

Percentage of students who disagreed or strongly disagreed that their intelligence can't change very much - Growth Mindset	
	%
HKAGE students	52.4
Japan	66.9
Singapore	60.0
Korea	53.3

Source: OECD, PISA 2018 Database, Table III.B1.14.1

Table 41 Growth Mindset In Comparison to the Results of PISA 2018

Percentage of students who disagreed or strongly disagreed that their intelligence can't change very much - Growth Mindset	
	%
HKAGE students	52.4
Germany	74.0
United Kingdom	70.0
United States	68.4

Source: OECD, PISA 2018 Database, Table III.B1.14.1

Table 49 Students' Fear of Failure In Comparison to the Results of PISA 2018

	Average of Fear of Failure %	Percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with the following:		
		When I am failing, this makes me worry about others think of me %	When I am failing, this makes me afraid that I might not have enough talent %	When I am failing, this makes me doubt my plans for the future %
HKAGE students	55.8	69.6	48.7	49.0
Singapore	74.1	71.8	73.1	77.5
Japan	70.5	76.6	74.0	60.9
Korea	65.0	75.0	66.4	53.5

Source: OECD, PISA 2018 Database, Table III.B1.13.2

Table 50 Students' Fear of Failure In Comparison to the Results of PISA 2018

	Average of Fear of Failure %	Percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with the following:		
		When I am failing, this makes me worry about others think of me %	When I am failing, this makes me afraid that I might not have enough talent %	When I am failing, this makes me doubt my plans for the future %
HKAGE students	55.8	69.6	48.7	49.0
United Kingdom	65.5	62.8	63.2	70.4
United States	61.1	58.4	60.4	64.5
Germany	40.9	47.6	37.8	37.4

Source: OECD, PISA 2018 Database, Table III.B1.13.2

Creativity Perspective
 Judgment Curiosity
 Honesty Bravery Fairness HUMOR Zest
 PERSEVERANCE Teamwork
 Love Kindness Leadership
 Social Intelligence Love of Learning
 Forgiveness HOPE PRUDENCE
 Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence Humility
 Spirituality SELF-REGULATION Gratitude

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Thank you 😊