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**Education Bureau**  
**Territory-wide System Assessment 2012**  
**Secondary 3 English Language**  
**Reading**  
**Question Booklet**

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Instructions:

1. There are 12 pages in this Question Booklet.
2. Time allowed is 30 minutes.
3. Do not write anything in this Question Booklet.
4. **Answer all questions in the Answer Booklet provided.**

## Part 1

*You are doing a project on the Chinese signs of the Zodiac. Your teacher gave this poem to the class and asked you to study it.*

Read the poem and answer the questions.

- 1 I dreamed that there were dragons  
on an island in the sea,  
where they threw a raging party  
and, of course, invited me.
- 5 They wanted me to celebrate  
their dragon holiday,  
so I learned the dragon disco  
and we danced the night away.
- 10 It wasn't long at all before  
I found that I could fly  
as my flashing wings and flaming breath  
lit up the midnight sky.
- 15 I soared with all the dragons  
spinning circles overhead  
till, at last, the party ended  
and I made my way to bed.
- 20 You may not ever dream like this;  
most people never do,  
but I dream of dragons every night  
for I'm a dragon too.

Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. The poem is about someone who \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. wants to learn how to swim
  - B. goes to discos to dream
  - C. is a dragon
  - D. celebrates a birthday with dragons
2. After the party, the character was found \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. on an island
  - B. in the sky
  - C. at the disco
  - D. in bed

3. The word 'raging' in line 3 means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. angry
  - B. powerful
  - C. fantastic
  - D. quick
4. In stanza 3, the words 'flaming breath' mean that dragons can breathe \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. smoke
  - B. fire
  - C. water
  - D. air
5. In stanza 4, the rhyming words are \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. soared and overhead
  - B. overhead and bed
  - C. ended and bed
  - D. soared and bed
6. The words from the poem which can be used to describe the dragon flying are \_\_\_\_\_.
- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. soared  | 2. flashing |
| 3. flaming | 4. spinning |
- A. 1 and 2
  - B. 1, 2 and 3
  - C. 1, 2 and 4
  - D. 1 and 4
7. The dragons had their party \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. at sunrise
  - B. in the morning
  - C. at noon
  - D. at night
8. The dragons taught the character how to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. breathe
  - B. dance
  - C. dream
  - D. swim

9. The party was held to celebrate a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. holiday
- B. birthday
- C. marriage
- D. dance

10. Which title is **NOT** suitable for the poem?

- A. Flaming Fiery Dragons
- B. Dragons Dancing Disco
- C. I Dreamed That There Were Dragons
- D. Signs of The Zodiac

## Part 2

*You are working on a history project and your teacher gave you this blog to read.*

Read the History Blog excerpt and answer the questions.

www.thehistoryblog.com.sa →

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### East and West Germany

At the end of the Second World War, Germany was divided into sections. The city of Berlin was divided into four sections and East Germany was controlled by the Russians. About 3.5 million East Germans defected because life was so hard. In 1961, the government erected a wall to try to stem the flow of people from east to west. It made it almost impossible for people from East Germany to get to the West. However, the number of escapes attempted after 1961 totalled 5000.

### Escapes from East Germany

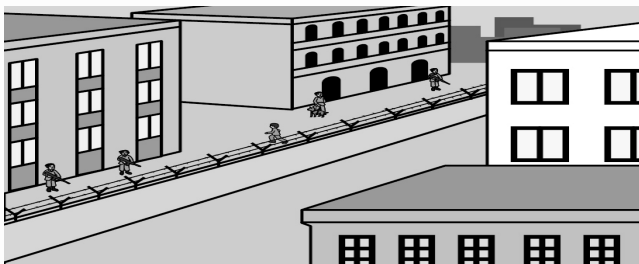
The most famous section of the wall was known as the Berlin Wall. One escape from East Berlin was unusual. Two families working together bought small amounts of nylon cloth. The buying of the cloth in secret and in small amounts did not raise any suspicion. When they had enough cloth they sewed it together to form a hot air balloon. They had just enough fuel to get in the air and barely floated over the Berlin Wall. They reached West Berlin safely. As a result of this successful escape, the purchase of lightweight cloth in East Germany was strictly controlled.



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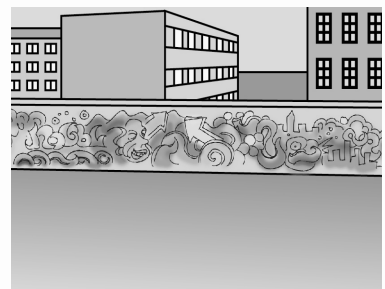
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Another person tried to crash through the Berlin Wall in a tank. The driver of the tank was shot by the East German border guards. Then he was rescued by West German police.

### 'No-man's land'

In the early days of the Berlin Wall people used the buildings they lived in to help get them across. Some jumped out of their windows. Others used rope strung between the east and west to slide across. In response, the East German government demolished all the buildings next to the wall that divided east and west. The area was patrolled regularly by soldiers and dogs. There were mines, wire, fences and guard towers to stop anyone trying to run across the area. This area was called 'No-man's land'. It is estimated that nearly 200 people died trying to get across to West Germany.



Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. To escape from East Germany to the West became difficult after \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Berlin was divided into four sections
  - B. the Russians got control of East Germany
  - C. the wall went up
  - D. many people died trying
2. Why were people defecting to the West? They \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. wanted a better life
  - B. wanted to escape with friends
  - C. wanted to see what it took to escape
  - D. were worried about their families in the West
3. To 'stem the flow (of people)' in lines 6-7 means to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. stop in parts
  - B. start slowly
  - C. continue quickly
  - D. stop completely
4. Which of the following escapes were attempted?
  1. using a hot air balloon
  2. crashing a tank
  3. jumping out of windows
  4. patrolling 'No-man's land'
  - A. 1 and 4
  - B. 1, 3 and 4
  - C. 2 and 3
  - D. 1, 2 and 3
5. The buying of lightweight cloth was controlled because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. it was expensive
  - B. people used it to escape
  - C. it was dangerous material
  - D. it was too small
6. 'No-man's land' was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. safe and accessible
  - B. easy to get across
  - C. a course used for training dogs
  - D. a dangerous area to try to get across

7. The number of people trying to escape from East Germany after the wall was erected totalled \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 3.5 million
  - B. 5000
  - C. 200
  - D. not given

### Part 3

Your teacher has asked you to read her blog about preparing for exams.

Read the blog and answer the questions.

www.theteachersblog.com

#### Passing Exams

My students always ask me how to prepare for exams.

I ask them - Do you revise regularly?



Do you study until you fall asleep at your desk?

Maybe you even cheat by looking at the answers of the students next to you or by writing the answers on your hand!

There are many ways to deal with exams. Some students work hard while others take the easy way out.

#### Cheating and the Consequences

Cheating is wrong! It won't help you in the long run. Cheats never prosper! You might pass the exam, but what about later when you really need to put that knowledge to use and can't because you didn't learn it?



What if your teachers catch you?  
You will fail the exam and get into trouble.  
You may even have to repeat the whole year.  
Is it worth the hassle and humiliation?

#### Revision Tips

Listening carefully to your teachers is important. Following the study guide or the revision guidelines will also help you.



Set up a sensible schedule. If you revise your work regularly you will remember facts and figures better. Then you won't have to cram before the exam.

#### Taking Notes



You can take notes in your own words. Remember to put things into categories or use headings to make things clearer on your paper.

Point form is good because it can help you to summarise your notes. This will make it easier to learn facts and figures.

Using highlighters or writing different points in different colours can help you too!

I sometimes use mind maps but I often run out of space as I try to fit too much on the page.

#### Before the Exams

(1) Don't waste time and energy playing computer games.

(2) Take regular breaks when studying to give your brain a chance to digest all the information.

(3) Make sure you get enough sleep.

(4) Go for a walk to get some fresh air or do some other regular exercise so that you are fit and healthy.

(5) Don't worry too much or feel stressed – just try to do your best.

(6) Eat healthy food so that you have enough energy to concentrate.





Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. Some students prepare for exams by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. studying until late at night
  - B. revising material regularly
  - C. writing answers on parts of their bodies
  - D. all of the above
  
2. The writer says that 'cheats never prosper'. This proverb means that people who cheat \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. will be successful
  - B. will not be successful
  - C. will always have good luck
  - D. will always take the easy way out
  
3. Some useful revision methods are \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. using highlighters
  2. writing points in different colours
  3. listening carefully in class
  4. writing answers on your hand
  5. repeating the whole year
  - A. 1 and 4
  - B. 1, 3 and 5
  - C. 1, 2 and 3
  - D. 4 and 5
  
4. The writer does not mention using \_\_\_\_\_ to revise.
  - A. mind maps
  - B. headings
  - C. note cards
  - D. revision guidelines
  
5. The use of highlighters, points and colours is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. make your work look pretty
  - B. help you to relax
  - C. help you to organise your work
  - D. get extra marks for being neat and colourful

6. The writer thinks that if you take regular breaks when studying, \_\_\_\_\_.
- you will be able to remember the material
  - you will fail the exam
  - your stress levels will be high
  - you will get enough sleep

7. Look at the word 'hassle' in **Cheating and the Consequences**. Now, look at the dictionary entry for 'hassle' below. Which meaning corresponds to the word in the sentence?

1. (n) a disorderly argument e.g. <i>The two boys got into a hassle about the girl and one tore his pants.</i>	2. (n) a problem brought about by pressures of time, money, inconvenience e.g. <i>It is a hassle to find a good place to eat at lunchtime.</i>
3. (v) to dispute or quarrel e.g. <i>The children were hassling over the toys.</i>	4. (v) to take time or effort: e.g. <i>We will hassle with the queues so that we get good tickets.</i>

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

According to the passage, decide which statement is **True**, **False** or **Not given**.

Cheating always helps you pass exams.	8. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>True</li> <li>False</li> <li>Not given</li> </ol>
A sensible schedule can help you to study.	9. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>True</li> <li>False</li> <li>Not given</li> </ol>
Point form can be used to summarise your notes.	10. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>True</li> <li>False</li> <li>Not given</li> </ol>
Colourful work will get higher marks.	11. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>True</li> <li>False</li> <li>Not given</li> </ol>
The writer always uses mind maps.	12. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>True</li> <li>False</li> <li>Not given</li> </ol>

13. Look at the word ‘cram’ in **Revision Tips**. Now, look at the dictionary entry for ‘cram’ below. Which meaning corresponds to the word in the sentence?

1. (v) to fill with an excessive amount of food; overfeed e.g. <i>She would always cram the food into her mouth.</i>	2. (v) completely fill (a place or container) to the point of overflowing e.g. <i>The ashtray by the bed was crammed with cigarette butts.</i>
3. (n) a dense crowd; throng e.g. <i>There was a cram on the way into the football ground.</i>	4. (v) study intensively over a short period of time e.g. <i>Classes were cancelled so students could cram for the end of year exams.</i>

- A. 1  
B. 2  
C. 3  
D. 4

Students have written to *The Teacher’s Blog* for advice and help. Read what they have written and match their comments to the advice from the section **Before The Exams**. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Example

**Judy:** I need help! I don’t have time to eat and I can’t remember anything I have studied. The best advice for Judy is number \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. **6 ✓**  
B. 2  
C. 4  
D. 5

14. **John:** What should I do? I never seem to have enough time to study. I like to have fun. The best advice for John is number \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 2  
B. 1  
C. 3  
D. 5

15. **Mary:** What can I do? My back hurts when I sit at my desk. I am always sick before my exams. The best advice for Mary is number \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 5  
B. 1  
C. 3  
D. 4

16. **Jackie:** Can you help me? I sometimes fall asleep in my exams.  
The best advice for Jackie is number \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 2
  - B. 3
  - C. 1
  - D. 4
17. **Kim:** I don't know what to do. I am a very nervous person and I shake uncontrollably before all of my exams.  
The best advice for Kim is number \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 4
  - B. 2
  - C. 1
  - D. 5
18. **Peter:** Please help me. My mother makes me study for hours and hours!  
The best advice for Peter is number \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 4
  - B. 2
  - C. 3
  - D. 5

**END OF PAPER**

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the Territory-wide System Assessment Report on the Basic Competencies of Students in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.