

9	E	R	3
----------	----------	----------	----------

Education Bureau
Territory-wide System Assessment 2008
Secondary 3 English Language
Reading
Question Booklet

Instructions:

1. There are 7 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

Your teacher has asked you to read a poem to your class.

Read the poem and answer the questions.

A caterpillar on a leaf no longer. 1
Free of its shell, it's ready and stronger.
It flits and floats over grassy green,
A lovelier creature I have not seen.

It flutters in the middle of the street. 5
It dances away from happy children's feet.
I stop to stare, it's almost eight.
I don't care if I'm late.

Children dash to catch it, hands ready.
Too bad - it's gone already. 10
It flicks its wings and darts away.
In one place it will not stay.

It flees and flies to fields of flowers,
Hides in trees from birds for hours,
Rests its wings in the warm sunlight, 15
As it plans for a long, long flight.

And I stand here,
Breathing dirty city air,
Hoping to see brightly coloured wings,
All the wondrous beauty nature brings. 20

By: Mai Tai

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

1. This poem is about a _____.
 - A. shell
 - B. flower
 - C. butterfly
 - D. city
2. In line 6, 'It dances away from happy children's feet' means it _____.
 - A. wants to dance with the children
 - B. is happy to see the children
 - C. chases the children away
 - D. flies away from the children

3. In line 9, the word 'dash' means to _____.
- A. move quickly
 - B. get ready
 - C. pick up
 - D. jump up
4. In stanza 3, line 11, it 'darts away' because the children _____.
- A. are playing
 - B. have gone away
 - C. are bad
 - D. want to catch it
5. In line 13, 'It flees and flies to fields of flowers' is an example of alliteration. Find one example in stanza 1, lines 1-4.
6. In stanza 5, lines 17-20, what does the writer want to see?
- A. more trees
 - B. a clean city
 - C. beautiful things
 - D. more people
7. In stanza 1, 'green and seen' is a pair of rhyming words. Find a pair of rhyming words in stanza 4, lines 13-16.
8. What is the best title for this poem?
- A. Dancing in the Street
 - B. My Summer Travel Plans
 - C. The Joy of Nature
 - D. Hungry Birds: Good Hunters

Part 2

Tony is doing a project for his Social Studies class. He is reading the following article about life in Hong Kong.

Read the article carefully and answer the questions.

Hong Kong - City of Life

Many people think that the living conditions in Hong Kong are not good. Not only is it small and crowded, but the air quality can also be very bad. However, many people from foreign countries still choose to live here. One reason may be that they find living in Hong Kong very convenient. 1

Take eating out as an example. Here in Hong Kong, people can choose from different cuisines from all over the world. Chinese food, of course, can be found everywhere. Teahouses, or 'cha chan tang', in particular, are very popular with anyone who goes out with their family or friends for an inexpensive and delicious meal. 5

Getting around in Hong Kong is also very convenient. No matter where people live, they can travel to and from their home by bus, minibus, train, tram or taxi. What's more, many of these means of public transport run all night. So people never have to worry about getting home even very late at night. 10

Finally, Hong Kong is a world famous shopper's paradise. It provides all types of quality goods for sale. People can easily buy whatever they want. There are big shopping centres for those who want brand name products. There are also street markets where people can find good bargains. A good thing about shopping in Hong Kong is that there is no sales tax! 15

In short, no matter whether eating, getting around or shopping, Hong Kong offers great choice and convenience. Wouldn't you like to live here too?

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

1. According to paragraph 1, which TWO of the following are **TRUE** about living in Hong Kong?
 - A. The air is dirty.
 - B. Things are expensive.
 - C. There are many people.
 - D. Public transport is slow.
2. Which of the following has the same meaning as the word 'cuisines' in paragraph 2, line 6?
 - A. restaurants
 - B. shops
 - C. types of food
 - D. foreign food

3. According to paragraph 2, why are teahouses popular in Hong Kong?
- A. The Chinese love eating out.
 - B. Only family members are allowed.
 - C. The food is usually cheap.
 - D. They only sell tea.
4. According to paragraph 3, why don't people in Hong Kong worry about getting around late at night?
- A. People seldom go out at night.
 - B. People can usually walk back home.
 - C. There is public transport 24 hours a day.
 - D. People don't go home until the next morning.
5. In paragraph 4, line 13, what does the word 'it' refer to?
- A. the world
 - B. Hong Kong
 - C. a sale
 - D. quality goods
6. Where could you find this article?
- A. a food guide
 - B. a book review
 - C. a youth magazine
 - D. a travel magazine

Part 3

You are doing a project about Chinese customs. You have found an interesting passage about a traditional Chinese wedding.

Read the passage. Answer the questions.

A Traditional Chinese Wedding

One interesting custom in a traditional Chinese wedding is the ‘hair combing’ ceremony. This ceremony is performed for both the bride and the groom, in their own homes, as they are not allowed to see each other before the wedding day. It is believed that by performing this ceremony the couple will have a happy and successful marriage.

1

5

On the night before the wedding, the bride and the groom go through the same steps. Their parents pick a ‘lucky time’ to begin the ceremony. When the time is right the relatives light two red candles and three joss sticks.

First, the bride and the groom take a bath with pomelo leaves to drive away bad luck. Then they dress in new pyjamas to symbolise a brand new life.

10

The next step is for the relatives to begin reciting blessings while combing the bride’s and groom’s hair three times. The first combing means they will have a happy life; the second combing, a close-knit family; the third combing, lots of children and grandchildren. Once the ceremony is over, the couple eats some sweet dumplings, to symbolise that the family will always stay together.

15

There are hundreds of Chinese wedding customs and the hair dressing ceremony is only one of them. Yet these traditional customs are often not valued and have almost been forgotten these days.

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

1. What is the ‘hair dressing ceremony’?
 - A. a wedding
 - B. a custom
 - C. a habit
 - D. a stage
2. What do the bride and groom do the night before the ceremony?
They _____.
 - A. light candles
 - B. see each other
 - C. stay in different places
 - D. comb each other’s hair

3. What happens after the relatives light the candles?
The bride and groom _____.
- A. take a bath
 - B. light joss sticks
 - C. eat sweet dumplings
 - D. put on new pyjamas
4. According to the passage, which one of the following is true?
- A. The couple eats pomelo in the bath.
 - B. The bath washes away bad luck.
 - C. The bath symbolises new life.
 - D. Only the groom takes a bath.
5. How does the writer feel at the end of the passage?
- A. The hair dressing is unnecessary.
 - B. No one should practise the custom.
 - C. Most people don't think customs are important.
 - D. The custom is as popular as before.

END OF PAPER

