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Education Bureau
Territory-wide System Assessment 2009
Secondary 3 English Language
Reading
Question Booklet

Instructions:

1. There are 8 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 gave you this article to read during Health Week at your school.

Read the article about fast food and answer the questions.

Fast food in schools

Many students would agree that their lunchtime is an enjoyable part of the school day. It gives them a break from the morning's classes to eat and get together with their friends. There has been some concern from education officials, however, about the type of food students eat for lunch.

- 5 Although schools have canteen facilities, fast food restaurants such as hamburger and chicken take-aways have become extremely popular for many students. According to the students, these restaurants are located conveniently close to their schools and provide a variety of cheap and tasty snacks. The food is prepared in hygienic conditions and is ready almost immediately. Most people would agree that the restaurants are clean and efficient,
- 10 but most of the fast food products on sale contain a large quantity of artificial ingredients, have a high fat content and are nearly always fried.

- In the words of one official, 'If you fry food, it can lose most of its goodness. Besides, its high level of fat causes people to gain weight. It can also lead to heart trouble and other health problems in later life. Furthermore, most fast food provides little in the way of
- 15 nutrition from vegetables. Our bodies need more than a piece of lettuce and a couple of slices of tomato each day, which is all you get with a hamburger.'

- Education officials are not against fast food, but they would like parents and teachers to discourage students from eating it every day. A salad or fresh vegetable dish on alternate days would help young people to maintain a healthy diet. It could also prevent them from
- 20 becoming overweight.

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

1. At what time during the day are most students happy to get a break?
 - A. breakfast
 - B. brunch
 - C. lunch
 - D. dinner
2. One reason why students like fast food restaurants is that the food is _____.
 - A. nutritious
 - B. healthy
 - C. artificial
 - D. inexpensive

3. Education officials think that fast food from restaurants is _____.
- A. a good choice for students
 - B. cooked well
 - C. full of fat
 - D. very expensive
4. According to education officials, eating fast food too often causes _____.
- A. weight loss
 - B. heart problems
 - C. stomach aches
 - D. all of the above
5. Eating vegetables helps a person _____.
- A. stay strong
 - B. not gain weight
 - C. remain healthy
 - D. all of the above
6. According to the article, teachers and parents should tell students _____.
- A. to eat all their lunch every day
 - B. not to eat fast food every day
 - C. not to eat at school
 - D. to eat more hamburgers

Part 2

You are collecting information for a project on Africa.

Read the following article. Fill in the fact sheet and answer the questions.

My Experience in Angola

Ever since I was a boy, I had always wanted to visit Africa. I felt I really wanted to get to know the people and experience their way of life for myself. In March 2007, I learned of an international programme that sends young people to developing countries, such as Angola, Ghana and Costa Rica. My choice was Angola.

5 The young people on the programme were there to learn leadership skills and build team spirit. We were all between the ages of 18 and 21 coming from England, Australia, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Since English was the language of communication, this was a test of the communication skills I had learned. Another test was to adapt to African culture, especially getting used to 'African time'. People are
10 always late and if someone says, 'I will come soon', it means that he will be there in about two hours. If someone says, 'I will be there in two minutes', it means he will probably arrive in half an hour.

15 One long, gruelling trek we took part in involved going into the wild, coping with dry riverbeds and getting across mountains to finally reach the coast. Besides struggling with our heavy backpacks, we had extremely hot temperatures and swarms of flies, which buzzed around us all the time.

20 During those three weeks, I learned survival skills like starting a fire, preparing meals, surviving on very little food and protecting myself against wild animals at night. All in all, it was an opportunity that opened my eyes and allowed me to challenge myself. I was amazed at what I was capable of accomplishing.

Fill in the fact sheet in the Answer Booklet.

My Experience in Angola

Why the writer went to Africa: 1. _____

One reason why the young people took part: 2. _____

Language used on the trip: 3. _____

One problem on the way to the coast:

4. _____

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

5. In line 8, what does the word 'this' refer to?
- A. learning skills
 - B. experiencing a challenge
 - C. communicating in another language
 - D. living in Africa
6. According to lines 9–12, people in Africa would probably _____.
- A. not arrive on time
 - B. like making jokes
 - C. not tell stories
 - D. speak English all the time
7. In line 13, what does the writer mean when he says it was a 'gruelling trek'?
- A. He liked travelling in the mountains.
 - B. He liked crossing rivers.
 - C. It was a difficult trip.
 - D. It was dangerous being in the wild.
8. According to the last three lines, 18–20, the writer thinks the programme was _____.
- A. a lot of fun
 - B. good for him
 - C. easy for him
 - D. not interesting

Part 3

Peter is reading some articles for his English project.

Read the three articles and answer the questions.

Article 1

Fastens his beer, not child

An Australian driver was fined for using a seatbelt to fasten a pack of beer but not his child, who was in the car with him. The police said they were shocked when they pulled over the car in northern Australia. They found a pack of beer fastened between two adults in the back seat, while a 5-year-old boy was left sitting on the floor. The driver was charged for failing to make sure that the child was wearing a seatbelt and was fined \$450. A police spokesman said, 'This is the first time that the safety of beer seems to be more important than a child. I've never seen anything like this before.' He added that the incident was a 'timely reminder' to all drivers to make sure that 'all passengers are protected, especially children.'



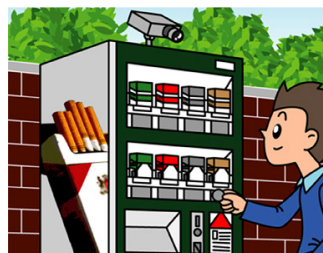
Choose the best answer and blacken the circle in the Answer Booklet.

1. In article 1, the police were surprised when they stopped the car because the _____.
 - A. car had no seatbelts
 - B. pack of beer had a seatbelt on
 - C. child was sitting on the back seat
 - D. driver did not fasten his beer
2. In article 1, line 9, 'this' refers to _____.
 - A. a driver not wearing a seatbelt
 - B. a driver fastening beer in the car
 - C. a child sitting on the floor of a car
 - D. beer being more important than a child
3. In article 1, line 10, a 'timely reminder' _____.
 - A. reminds people of something important at the right time
 - B. reminds people to have a good time
 - C. does not help people to get something done
 - D. reminds people to take their time

Article 2

Smokers face age test

Underage smoking is a big concern in Japan. To prevent the sale of cigarettes to teenagers, a Japanese company is developing and testing a vending machine which can check a smoker's age



- 5 through reading his or her face. If cigarette buyers fail the 'age test', the machine scans their picture identity cards to check their ages. The company believes that this new technology will stop kids from using someone else's identity card to buy cigarettes. The company claims that the accuracy rate of the vending machine could be up to 90%. The remaining 10% who would need to scan their identity cards in the machine are probably 'baby-faced adults'.

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

4. In article 2, what is the purpose of the vending machine?
- A. to stop underaged youth from buying cigarettes
 - B. to recognise the ages of adults
 - C. to read people's faces
 - D. to stop people smoking in public
5. In article 2, cigarette buyers will need to show their picture identity cards if _____.
- A. they are Japanese
 - B. the machine has no cigarettes
 - C. the machine cannot tell their age
 - D. they don't look baby-faced
6. In article 2, line 11, 'baby-faced adults' refer to adults who _____.
- A. act like babies
 - B. look younger than their age
 - C. look like babies
 - D. have babies

Article 3

Baby offered for sale on the Internet

A seven-month-old baby has been taken into care by Family Services in Germany after his parents offered to sell him for 1 Euro (about HK\$9) on an Internet auction site. The auction note stated, ‘Baby: pick up

- 5 in person only. I’m offering my nearly new baby for sale because it cries too much. Male, 70 cm long.’ The opening bid was 1 Euro. There were no offers in the two hours before the advertisement was removed. The mother insisted, ‘It was only a joke. I just wanted to see if someone would reply.’ However, the police did not think it was funny and they decided to look into the possibility of
- 10 child trafficking.



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

7. In article 3, lines 4–6, the auction note showed that the parents wanted to sell their baby because he was too _____.
- A. long
 - B. rude
 - C. noisy
 - D. bad
8. In article 3, line 6, ‘There were no offers’ for the baby means that no one _____.
- A. liked him
 - B. wanted him
 - C. was looking for him
 - D. wanted to help him
9. In article 3, lines 8–10, which one of the following is TRUE? The police _____.
- A. thought it was a good joke
 - B. received some replies
 - C. thought it was a clever idea
 - D. would try to find out more

The following questions are based on **all three articles**.

10. Which of the following articles tells people about safety?
- A. Article 1
 - B. Article 2
 - C. Article 3
 - D. all of the above
11. The stories in the articles are from which three countries?
- A. Germany, America, Japan
 - B. Australia, Japan, France
 - C. Japan, Australia, Germany
 - D. France, Germany, Australia
12. Where would you most probably find articles like these?
- A. travel guides
 - B. leaflets
 - C. brochures
 - D. newspapers

END OF PAPER