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Education Bureau
Territory-wide System Assessment 2025
Secondary 3 English Language
Reading
Question Booklet

Instructions:

1. There are 16 pages in this Question Booklet.
2. Time allowed is 35 minutes.
3. Do not write anything in this Question Booklet.
4. **Answer all questions in the Answer Booklet provided.**

Part 1

All Form 3 students at your school have to do a project about festivals. Your English teacher has given you an article about festivals in different places.

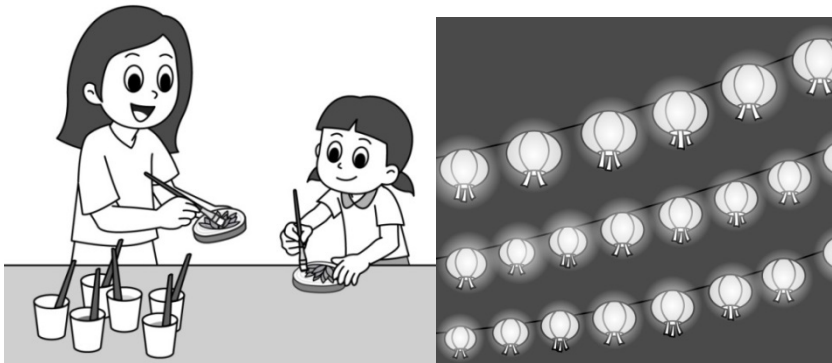
Read the article and answer the questions.

- ❶ Do you know of any festivals in different places? Why do people celebrate those festivals? What do people do during those festivals?

THE LOTUS LANTERN FESTIVAL

- ❷ The origins of the Lotus Lantern Festival can be traced back 1,200 years. This festival has been celebrated throughout China and other parts of Asia, including Korea.

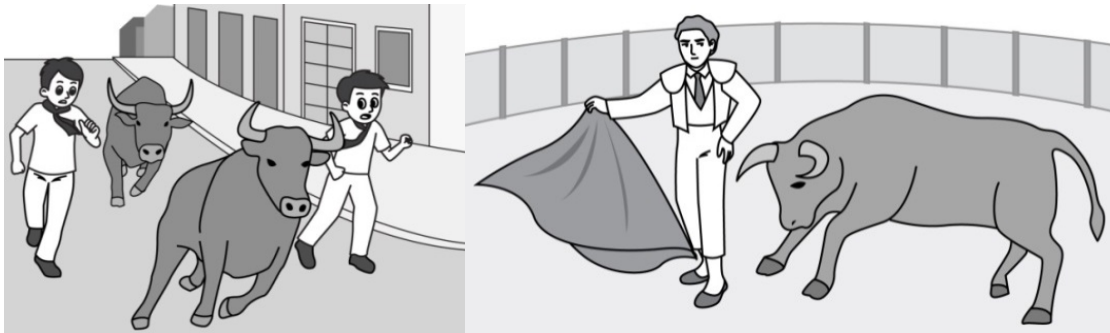
- ❸ In Seoul, the Lotus Lantern Festival is held in April or May each year. Women wear traditional Korean clothes in bright colours, such as green and pink. Some of them carry lanterns of various shapes and sizes while others carry fans with bright pink lotus flowers on them.



- ❹ Festival celebrations include dancing, acting, acrobatics and painting lotus flowers on wood. The highlight of the festival is at night, when the Lantern Parade and the Post-Parade Celebration take place. The Lotus Lantern Festival is definitely a ‘must-see’ for those visiting Korea.

THE BULL RUN

⑤ Traditionally, farmers in Spain transported their bulls from the countryside, where they were bred, to the city for sale or to the bullring for bullfighting. They found an easy and fast way to transport their cattle by hurrying them along with tricks using fear and excitement. This tradition turned into a competition and became part of a summertime festival around 450 years ago.



⑥ The competition involves running in front of a small group of bulls, typically six. The bulls can move freely through the streets. Anyone aged 18 or above and not under the influence of drugs or alcohol can run with the bulls. Runners do not have to register – they just show up before the competition starts. The runners try to get close to the bulls while the bulls sprint to the bullring. There, the fight begins when bullfighters use capes to provoke the bulls and display their skills.

APRIL FOOLS' DAY



⑦ The first day of April is known as April Fools' Day. Some historians believe that this festival began around 440 years ago. The King of France changed the start of the year in their calendar to 1st January in 1582. Before that year, some French had celebrated the new year in late March and early April. However, some did not like the change and continued to celebrate the new year around 1st April. People who used the new calendar called those following the old one 'April Fools' and played tricks on them.

⑧ To this day, people play pranks on each other on April Fools' Day by switching the salt and sugar. Some may make others believe things that are not true. For example, they lie to their friends by saying that their shoelaces are untied. It is particularly common for people to spread fake news, such as 'the rotation of the Earth is slowed down by the Internet'.

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

THE LOTUS LANTERN FESTIVAL

1. The Lotus Lantern Festival is celebrated _____.

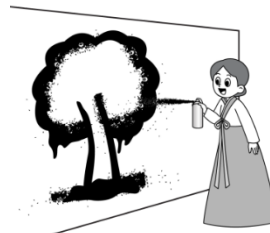
- A. only in China
- B. only in Korea
- C. in Asia
- D. all over the world

2. How is the festival celebrated in Seoul?

A.



B.



C.



D.



3. The highlights of the festival are _____.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. doing acrobatics | 2. painting on wood |
| 3. the Lantern Parade | 4. the Post-Parade Celebration |

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

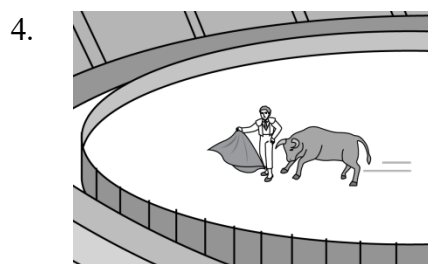
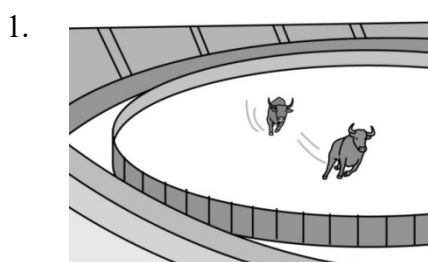
THE BULL RUN

4. Traditionally, farmers in Spain transported their bulls for _____.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. sale | 2. bullfighting |
| 3. a competition | 4. a festival |

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 3 and 4
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. All of the above

5. The farmers moved their animals _____.
- during different festivals
 - by using tricks to hurry them along
 - to the city for breeding
 - from the city to the countryside
6. To enter the bull run competition, one should _____.
- be 18 years old or above
 - register before the competition
 - not be under the influence of alcohol
 - form a group of six
- 1 and 2
 - 1 and 3
 - 2 and 3
 - All of the above
7. Read the article and put the following in the correct order.



- 1→2→3→4
- 1→4→2→3
- 2→3→1→4
- 4→3→2→1

APRIL FOOLS' DAY

8. Before 1582, the French celebrated the new year in _____.
- A. early January
 - B. early May
 - C. late March
 - D. late April
9. In paragraph 7, _____ played tricks on _____.
- A. the French who used the new calendar / those using the old calendar
 - B. the French who used the new calendar / the King
 - C. the French who used the old calendar / those using the new calendar
 - D. the King / those using the old calendar
10. 'Pranks' in paragraph 8 means _____.
- A. fools
 - B. lies
 - C. news
 - D. tricks
11. According to the article, many people celebrate April Fools' Day by _____.
- A. untying their shoelaces
 - B. slowing down the Internet
 - C. spreading fake news
 - D. using old calendars
12. According to the article, _____ has the oldest history.
- A. the Lotus Lantern Festival
 - B. the summertime festival
 - C. April Fools' Day
 - D. the Bull Run

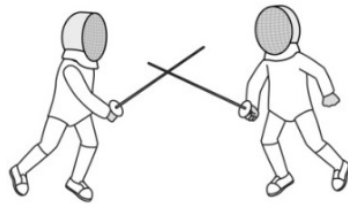
Part 2

Your class is giving a presentation about some popular sports in the Olympic Games. Your PE teacher has given you pages from an online article about sports games.

Read the pages from the online article and answer the questions.

POPULAR SPORTS IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

FENCING



❶ Fencing can be traced back more than 3,000 years. Thanks to the promotion by Italian and French fencing masters, it evolved from a form of military training into a sport around 600 years ago. Today, it has become popular worldwide, with numerous keen contests held not only in Europe but also in Asia, Africa, Oceania and other continents.

Scoring and rules

❷ Nowadays, fencing involves two competitors, each holding a weapon in one hand. They face each other to strike the opponent on a specific target area of the body to score points. The rules vary depending on the type of weapon used.

BREAKING

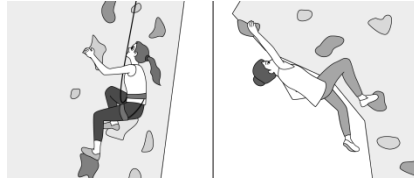


❸ Breaking, an urban dance style that originated in the United States in the 1970s, is characterised by rapid motions and impressive footwork. A number of international breaking competitions were held in the 1990s, helping to promote this dance style around the world.

Winning the Competition

❹ In the Olympic Games, the 16 breakers are divided into four groups. Each breaker performs a one-minute dance against the other members in their group. The top two breakers from each group progress to the quarter-finals, marking the start of the 'knockout' phase. Breakers are eliminated after losing one-on-one matches, and the last remaining breaker becomes the winner.

SPORT CLIMBING



⑤ Sport climbing started in the early 1980s and was first introduced in the 2020 Olympics.

Three types of sport climbing

⑥ ‘Speed’ is a race against the clock, as its name suggests.

⑦ In ‘bouldering’, all athletes need to climb fixed routes on high walls without ropes, within a limited time and with the fewest attempts possible.

⑧ In the ‘lead’ event, athletes have to climb as high as they can on a wall within six minutes without having known the assigned route beforehand. All the routes become more and more complex during the ‘lead’ event.

⑨ On the whole, sport climbing calls for both physical strength and mental ability from the athletes.

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

FENCING

1. Fencing became a kind of sports in _____ about 600 years ago.
 - A. Asia
 - B. Africa
 - C. Europe
 - D. Oceania

2. 'The rules vary depending on the type of weapon used.' The 'rules' in paragraph 2 refer to the _____.
 - A. number of competitors
 - B. scoring system
 - C. various types of weapons
 - D. time limit

BREAKING

3. _____ helped promote breaking in the 1990s.
 - A. An urban dance style
 - B. Impressive footwork
 - C. International competitions
 - D. Rapid body movements

4. Some breakers are 'eliminated' in the knockout phase. 'Eliminated' in paragraph 4 means being _____.
 - A. defeated
 - B. disqualified
 - C. split
 - D. promoted

SPORT CLIMBING

5. 'Speed' is a race against the clock. This means that athletes finish the race _____.
 - A. as fast as possible
 - B. as far away as possible
 - C. at the exact time
 - D. on the right track

6. 'Bouldering' requires _____.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. climbing with ropes | 2. finishing within a limited time |
| 3. fixed routes | 4. the fewest attempts |

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

7. Look at the word 'complex' in paragraph 8. The meaning that best corresponds to this word is _____.

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. (adj) difficult to understand or find an answer because of having many different parts
<i>The film's plot was so complex that I couldn't follow it.</i> | B. (adj) containing one or more subordinate clauses
<i>The use of complex sentences helps students enhance their writing.</i> |
| C. (n) a large building with various connected rooms or a related group of building
<i>They live in an apartment complex.</i> | D. (n) a particular anxiety or unconscious fear that a person has
<i>Don't go on about his weight. You'll give him a complex!</i> |

8. The next section of the online article will most likely consist of _____.

- A. suggestions on buying fencing and climbing equipment
B. tips and tricks to eliminate the others in a match
C. instructions on how to become an athlete
D. contents of other sports like skateboarding

Part 3

You are preparing to write an article about book fairs. Your English teacher has given you a promotional poster and a fact sheet to help you.

Read the promotional poster and fact sheet and answer the questions.

Promotional Poster Page 1

Book Fair for All

Theme: 'Dive into Reading!'

Venue: HK City Hall

Duration: 10 August – 22 August 2025

Come and read new books from around the world.
Meet esteemed authors who have won multiple international awards.
Receive wonderful gifts.

Opening Hours

Monday and Wednesday	9:30 am – 7:30 pm
Tuesday and Friday	11:30 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday	9:30 am – 9:30 pm
Closed on Thursday	

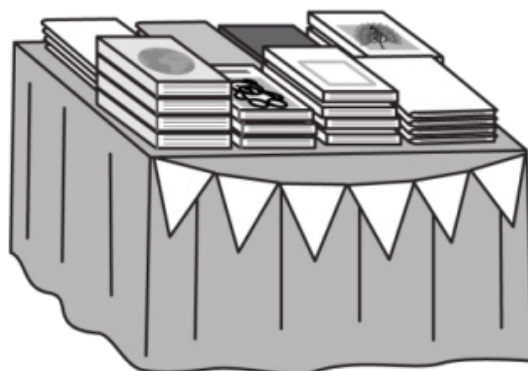
Tickets

Children under 6	\$10
Primary school students	\$20*
Secondary school students	\$20*
University students	\$30*
Others	\$40

Family Day Pass:

For up to five adults (any two children aged 6 – 14 count as one adult)	\$100
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* Student ID cards must be shown for entry.



Exciting Highlights

Meet the Authors

- an amazing line-up of children's picture book authors
- meeting authors face-to-face:
 - develop a child's interest in reading
 - inspire teachers and parents to think about how to build good reading habits for their students and children respectively

Fee: \$100 per person

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Date: 16 August 2025 (Saturday)

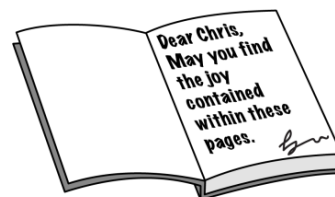
Number of seats: 20 (first come, first served)

Contact us for more details: meettheauthors@bookfairforall.org.hk

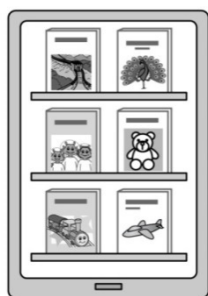


Book Signing Event

Get your book signed and receive a special dedication, like *'May you find the joy contained within these pages'* from your favourite author!



Explore the Latest e-Book Readers



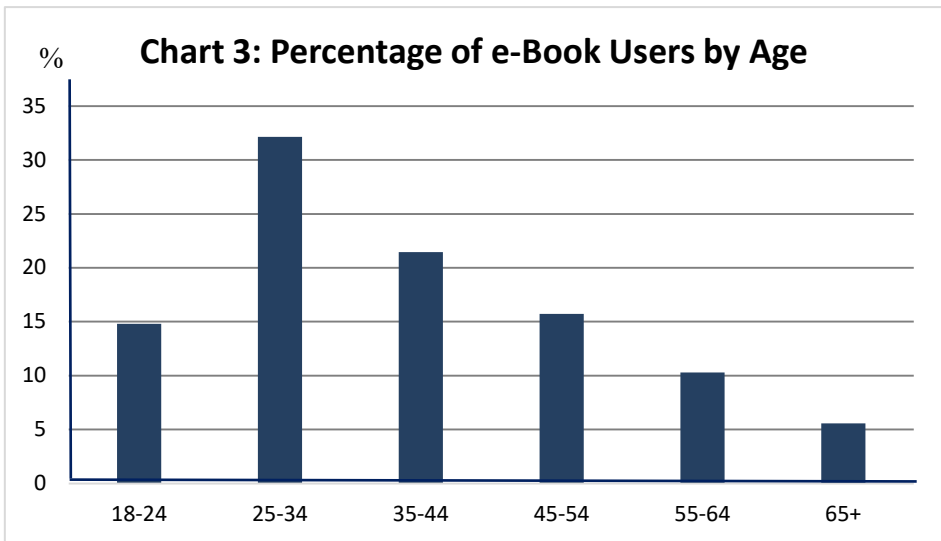
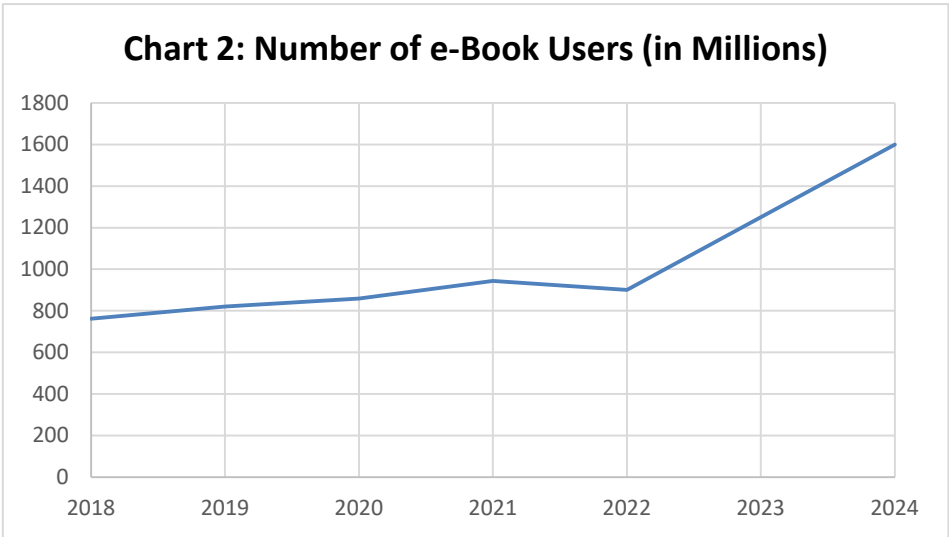
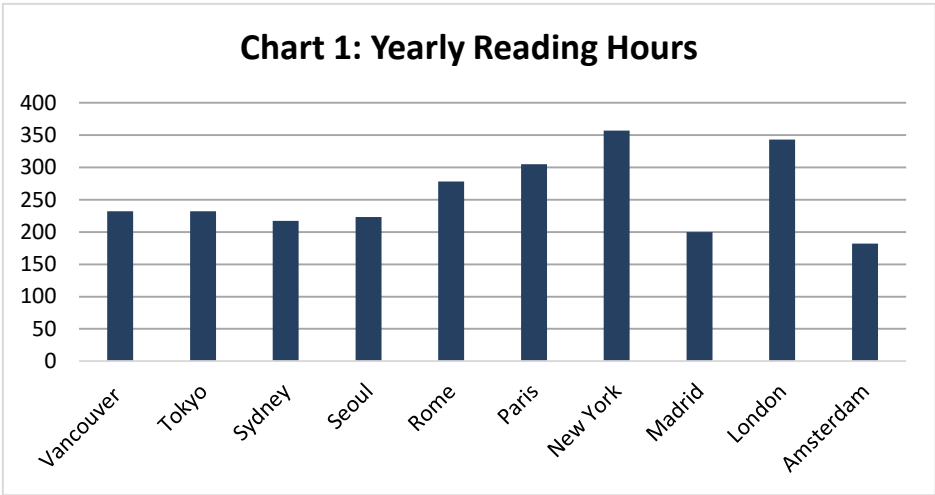
Discover a new way to enjoy books and experience the features of different popular e-Book readers.

- **Lightweight and portable:** Carry a wide range of titles wherever you go – an article for a short commute, an engrossing novel for a long flight.
- **Personalised reading experience:** Adjust the font size and brightness if your eyes are strained after reading for an extended period of time.
- **Long battery life:** Enjoy uninterrupted reading for days on a single charge.

Invite your family and friends to discover more!

Fact Sheet

How much time do you spend reading books? The following figures might be surprising!



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

Promotional Poster Page 1

1. The book fair starts _____.
 - A. in the first week of August
 - B. in the second week of August
 - C. in mid-August
 - D. at the end of August

2. Visitors can meet 'esteemed' authors at the book fair. 'Esteemed' here means _____.
 - A. friendly
 - B. rich
 - C. hard-working
 - D. successful

3. The book fair opens later in the morning on _____.
 - A. Monday
 - B. Wednesday
 - C. Friday
 - D. Saturday

4. Visitors cannot go to the book fair on _____.
 - A. Monday
 - B. Tuesday
 - C. Wednesday
 - D. Thursday

5. The ticket price for primary school students is _____ that for _____.
 - A. lower than / secondary school students
 - B. higher than / others
 - C. the same as / kindergarten students
 - D. lower than / university students

6. Students must show their ID cards to _____.
 - A. meet the authors
 - B. enter the HK City Hall
 - C. receive a student discount
 - D. get wonderful gifts

Promotional Poster Pages 1 and 2

7. The 'Meet the Authors' activity _____.
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. has a limited number of places | 2. is only for teachers and parents |
| 3. costs the same as the Family Day Pass | 4. is held every Saturday |
- A. 1 and 2
B. 1 and 3
C. 2 and 3
D. 3 and 4

Promotional Poster Page 2

8. A 'dedication' is a _____.
- A. book
B. short message
C. signature
D. small gift
9. E-Book readers have become popular because they have _____.
- A. the same level of brightness
B. a variety of titles
C. a fixed font size
D. a short battery life
10. Users' eyes may feel strained after reading. 'Strained' here means being _____.
- A. interrupted
B. injured
C. tired
D. shut

Fact Sheet

11. Which city has the second longest reading hours per year?
- A. London
B. New York
C. Paris
D. Tokyo

12. Which city has the shortest reading hours per year?
- A. Amsterdam
 - B. Madrid
 - C. Rome
 - D. Sydney
13. In Chart 2, there is a drop in the number of users between _____.
- A. 2020 and 2021
 - B. 2021 and 2022
 - C. 2022 and 2023
 - D. 2023 and 2024
14. In Chart 2, the number of e-Book users has been _____ since 2022.
- A. decreasing slowly
 - B. increasing slowly
 - C. decreasing sharply
 - D. increasing sharply
15. In Chart 3, the _____ age group has the second lowest e-reading percentage.
- A. 25-34
 - B. 35-44
 - C. 45-54
 - D. 55-64
16. In Chart 3, about _____ of users over 65 use e-Books.
- A. 5%
 - B. 10%
 - C. 15%
 - D. 20%

END OF PAPER