

9	E	R	2	(	Q	)
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Education Bureau**  
**Territory-wide System Assessment 2026**  
**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.**

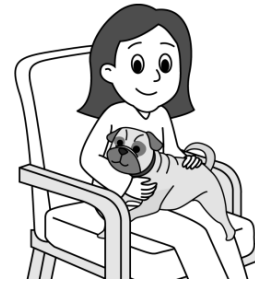
## Part 1

*Animal Protection Week is coming soon and your class needs to give a presentation about dogs. Your class teacher has asked you to read the magazine article to help you prepare for the presentation.*

Read the magazine article and answer the questions.

### HOW WOLVES BECAME 'HUMANS' BEST FRIEND'

#### FROM WOLVES TO DOGS



❶ Some scientists believe that dogs are descendants of wolves. However, they are divided over how dogs turned from wild animals into adorable pets. One idea is that the ancient hunters used wolves to help them hunt or guard their camps. Over time, they trained and tamed the wolves. Another idea is that wolves came near human camps to eat leftover food and got used to living alongside people.

❷ Over a long period of time, wolves that were less fearful-looking, friendlier and more obedient began to evolve and became different from wild wolves. These changes in appearance, behaviour and lifestyle helped them live better with people, and they eventually turned into the dogs we have today.

#### THERE IS STILL SOME 'WOLF' IN DOGS

##### Marking territory

❸ Wolves leave their droppings and urine to mark their territory – a place where only their pack is allowed to hunt. Dogs may no longer hunt, but they still raise a leg at a lamp post to urinate and mark the area.



##### Howling

❹ Wolves howl to communicate with their pack. Dogs usually bark to communicate, but they may howl when they feel anxious or stressed.



##### Burying prey

❺ Wolves hide their prey in the ground so that they can eat it later. Dogs bury bones for the same reason, even when they are fed regularly.



## WORKING DOGS

⑥ Dogs have been humans' loyal companions for thousands of years, but some are much more than household pets.

### Guide dogs

⑦ Guide dogs are specially trained to assist people with disabilities, such as blindness. They help their owners avoid obstacles and find their way, making it easier for them to move around safely and live more independently.



### Police dogs

⑧ Police dogs have a powerful sense of smell. They are trained to help officers find illegal substances or explosives. They are also used to track suspects by following their scent.



### Therapy dogs

⑨ Therapy dogs are specially trained, well-tempered dogs that usually provide people with comfort and support in places like hospitals, nursing homes and schools. In schools, therapy dogs can join reading programmes where children practise reading aloud to them. This helps kids build their confidence and improve their reading skills.



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

**FROM WOLVES TO DOGS**

1. 'Humans' Best Friend' in the title refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. dogs
  - B. hunters
  - C. scientists
  - D. wolves
  
2. Some wolves lived better with people because they were \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. less fearful looking
  2. less tamed
  3. more obedient
  4. more divided
  - A. 1 and 3
  - B. 2 and 4
  - C. 2, 3 and 4
  - D. All of the above
  
3. According to some scientists, some wolves began to evolve. 'Evolve' in paragraph 2 means to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. become trained and tamed
  - B. change over a long period of time
  - C. hunt or guard hunters' camps
  - D. get used to living with wild animals

**THERE IS STILL SOME 'WOLF' IN DOGS**

4. Both wolves and dogs \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. bury food to eat later
  2. hunt with their packs
  3. raise a leg at a lamp post
  4. urinate to mark their territory
  - A. 2 and 3
  - B. 1 and 4
  - C. 2, 3 and 4
  - D. All of the above

5. According to paragraph 4, dogs \_\_\_\_\_ when they feel anxious.

- A. bark
- B. dig
- C. howl
- D. urinate

### WORKING DOGS

6. Look at the word 'companion' in paragraph 6. The meaning that best corresponds to it is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. (n) a person or animal that spends a lot of time with you  
*At school, we were close companions for several years.*
- B. (n) one of a pair of things that go together  
*I've still got one of the chopsticks but I've lost its companion.*
- C. (n) a book that provides information or advice about a particular subject  
*The 'Encyclopaedia of Gardening' is a companion volume to the 'Encyclopaedia of Plants and Flowers'.*
- D. (n) a match for something  
*White wine is the usual companion to fish.*

7. \_\_\_\_\_ help blind people get around safely.

- A. Household pets
- B. Guide dogs
- C. Police dogs
- D. Therapy dogs

8. According to paragraph 8, police dogs are trained to use their sense of smell to find \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. their owners
- B. people with disabilities
- C. drugs
- D. police officers

9. According to paragraph 9, therapy dogs usually provide people with emotional support in \_\_\_\_\_.

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. hospitals | 2. nursing homes |
| 3. schools   | 4. households    |
- A. 1 and 2  
B. 3 and 4  
C. 1, 2 and 3  
D. All of the above

10. Most working dogs need to have \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a good sense of smell  
B. confidence  
C. comfort and support  
D. special training

11. The information in this article may also appear \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. in a history textbook  
B. in an encyclopaedia  
C. on a pet shop poster  
D. on a job search website

12. The next section of the article will most likely contain \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. differences between wolves and dogs  
B. different household pets  
C. the evolution of dogs  
D. recommendations for dog care

## Part 2

*Your class is giving a presentation about teen problems. Your class teacher has given you pages from an online article about procrastination.*

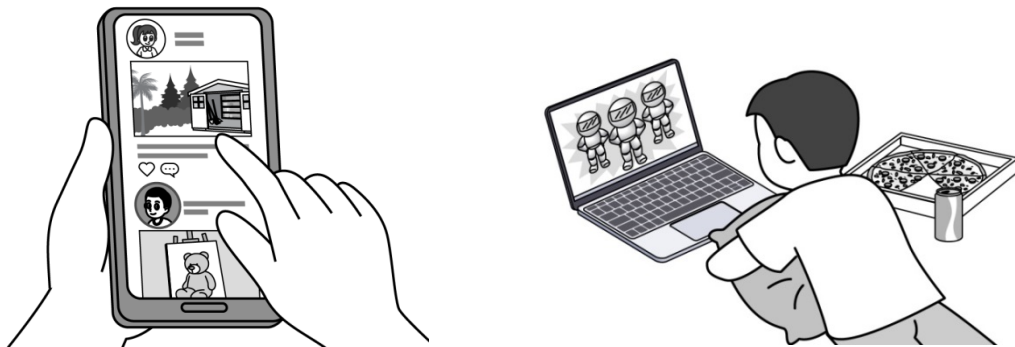
Read the pages from the online article and answer the questions.

### Procrastination: 'I'll do it later.'



① Almost everyone has experienced procrastination at some point. Whether it's leaving the homework until the last minute, delaying chores or avoiding unread email messages, we've all been there. You tell yourself, 'I'll do it later', and suddenly it's midnight and the task needs to be completed in eight hours. According to recent research, around 20 per cent of Americans make procrastination their way of life. They delay things at home, at school, at work and even in relationships.

② But why do we put off important tasks until the last minute, even when we know it's not good for us? It's not always about being lazy or bad at managing time. Sometimes, we avoid certain tasks because they are difficult, boring or stressful. In fact, procrastination is often a result of our brain trying to protect us from a threat, which causes a fear response. That explains why we scroll through social media posts, watch online videos or eat snacks instead of handling the required tasks.

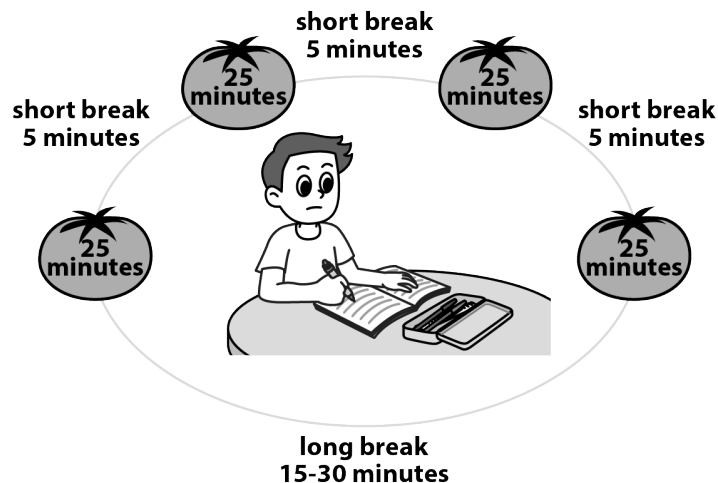


③ The problem is, procrastination doesn't make stress go away. It usually makes it worse. The longer we wait, the more stressed we feel. If we procrastinate a lot, it can lead to anxiety, sadness and even health issues.

④ So, how can we stop procrastinating?

- **Break big tasks into small steps.** If you need to write a 200-word essay, just start with the introduction. Once you begin, it is easier to keep going.
- **Take regular breaks.** Try working for 25 minutes, then take a five-minute break. This is called the Pomodoro Technique. After four rounds of Pomodoro, take a longer break of 15 to 30 minutes. It helps you stay focused without getting burnt out.

### The Pomodoro Technique



⑤ Remember, everyone procrastinates sometimes. The key is to understand why we do so and find ways to overcome it. If you don't want to end up being a timewaster, address the negative emotions that lead to procrastination. When it comes to time management, the goal isn't perfection – it's building better habits over time.

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

1. According to paragraph 1, 'procrastination' means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. completing a task as soon as possible
  - B. delaying something that must be done
  - C. doing homework at midnight
  - D. enjoying life
  
2. Around 20 per cent of Americans engage in procrastination that affects their \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. career
  2. research
  3. relationships
  4. schoolwork
  - A. 2 and 4
  - B. 1, 2 and 3
  - C. 1, 3 and 4
  - D. All of the above
  
3. According to paragraph 2, people often put off an important task because they \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. are lazy
  - B. find it unpleasant
  - C. have poor time management
  - D. want to be perfect
  
4. When our brain notices a/an \_\_\_\_\_, it starts a fear response.
  - A. threat
  - B. timer
  - C. social media post
  - D. online video
  
5. People will have a/an \_\_\_\_\_ stress level if they keep procrastinating.
  - A. lower
  - B. higher
  - C. stable
  - D. unstable

6. Put the following steps of the Pomodoro Technique in the correct order.
- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. take a break for 5 minutes     | 2. take a break for 15 to 30 minutes |
| 3. repeat four rounds of Pomodoro | 4. work on a task for 25 minutes     |
- A. 1→3→4→2  
 B. 1→4→2→3  
 C. 4→1→3→2  
 D. 4→2→3→1
7. Look at the word ‘address’ in paragraph 5. The meaning that best corresponds to it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. (n) the place where someone lives or an organisation is situated<br><i>They exchanged addresses and agreed to keep in touch.</i> | B. (n) a formal speech delivered to an audience<br><i>He gave details of the policy in an address to party members.</i>                |
| C. (v) speak to or write to someone<br><i>He likes to be addressed as ‘Sir’ or ‘Mr Partridge’.</i>                                  | D. (v) to give attention to or deal with a matter or problem<br><i>The policy fails to address the needs of people on low incomes.</i> |
8. The article focuses on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. development of good habits and perfect time management  
 B. negative effects of procrastination  
 C. reasons for procrastination and possible solutions to it  
 D. writing of a 200-word essay using the Pomodoro Technique

### Part 3

*Your class is preparing for a science competition. Your science teacher has given you the Hong Kong Youth Science Competition information sheet as well as a sample experiment report.*

Read the information sheet and sample experiment report and answer the questions.

#### Information Sheet

### The Hong Kong Youth Science Competition: Everyday Science, Extraordinary Discoveries



The Hong Kong Youth Science Competition is open for all secondary school students in Hong Kong between the ages of 12 and 17. The theme this year is about discovering science in our daily lives. You are invited to exchange and practise your scientific knowledge through hands-on experiments using everyday household items.

#### Application Forms

- Application forms can be:
  - i. obtained from the Hong Kong Science Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui or the Hong Kong Science Council in Wan Chai; or
  - ii. downloaded from the Hong Kong Youth Science Competition website: [www.hkysc2026.com.hk](http://www.hkysc2026.com.hk)
- Submit your application form through our website by 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

#### Rules and Regulations

- i. Each school can nominate a team of up to five students.
- ii. Make sure your experiment is safe and ask an adult for help if needed.
- iii. Film your experiment and submit a video no longer than 20 minutes.
- iv. Write a report that includes the sections below:
  - hypothesis (what you predicted)
  - materials (what you needed)
  - procedure (what you did)
  - results (what happened)
  - conclusion (what you learnt)
- v. The top four teams will enter the final round. Be ready to answer questions from the judges.
- vi. All entries must be submitted through our website by 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

#### Awards

- i. The winning team will get a trophy and a cash prize worth HK\$5,000.
- ii. The winning team will be sponsored to participate in an overseas science exchange programme.

## Sample Experiment Report

### Making Ink from Vegetables

#### Hypothesis:

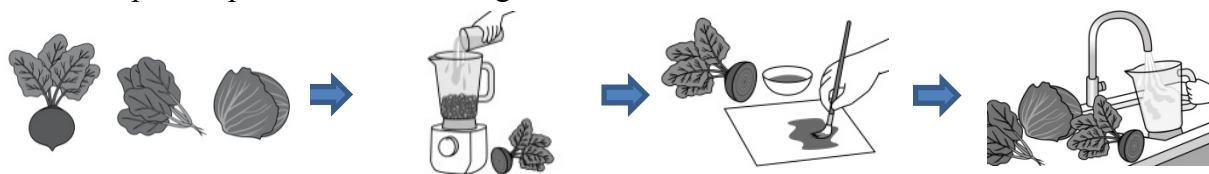
Vegetables contain pigments that can be used to make natural and colourful ink for writing or drawing.

#### Materials:

beetroot, spinach, red cabbage, lemon juice, baking soda, water, a knife, a blender, paper, a bowl and brushes

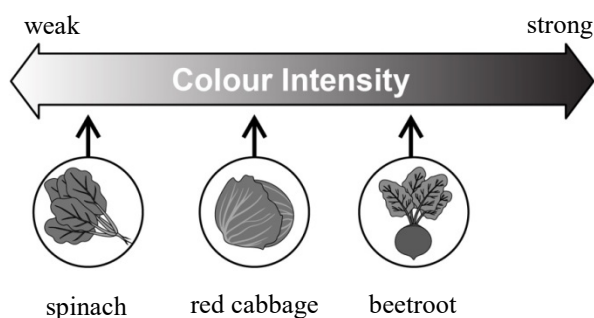
#### Procedure:

1. Keep each vegetable separate.
2. Cut one of the vegetables into small pieces.
3. Put the pieces into a blender with a small amount of water.
4. Test the vegetable ink on paper.
5. Wash the blender.
6. Repeat steps 2 to 5 for other vegetables.

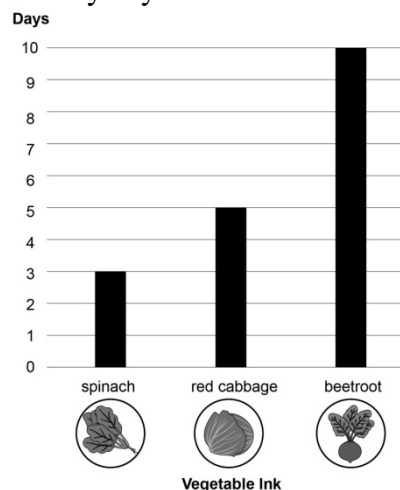


#### Results:

1. Which vegetable ink gave the strongest colour on Day 1?



2. How many days could the colours last?



3. How did the colour of red cabbage juice change after adding lemon juice or baking soda?
  - Red cabbage juice turned from purple to red when lemon juice was added to it.
  - Red cabbage juice turned blue when baking soda was added to it.

#### Conclusion:

Vegetable juices can be used as natural ink. Beetroot juice works best for clear, lasting colour. Lemon juice and baking soda can be used to change the colour of red cabbage juice. Spinach juice is not very suitable to be used as ink.

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

### Information Sheet

1. The theme of the Hong Kong Youth Science Competition this year focuses on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. exchanging scientific knowledge
  - B. demonstrating experiments
  - C. learning about everyday science
  - D. making science education fun
  
2. Students who enter the competition must be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. attending a secondary school in Hong Kong
  - B. a member of the Hong Kong Science Council
  - C. interested in household items
  - D. over 17 years old
  
3. The application forms of the Hong Kong Youth Science Competition can be obtained from the \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Hong Kong Science Museum
  2. Hong Kong Science Council
  3. school website
  4. Hong Kong Youth Science Competition website
  - A. 1 and 2
  - B. 3 and 4
  - C. 1, 2 and 4
  - D. All of the above
  
4. The deadline for submitting the application form is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026
  - B. 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026
  - C. 15<sup>th</sup> August 2026
  - D. 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026
  
5. Videos presenting the recorded experiments should be within \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.
  - A. 17
  - B. 20
  - C. 25
  - D. 30

6. All entries must be submitted online. 'Entries' here refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. application forms
  - B. answers to the judges' questions
  - C. experiment videos and reports
  - D. trophy and cash prize
7. The winning team will \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. get a medal and a certificate
  - B. go on a trip to an international science fair
  - C. join an overseas science exchange programme
  - D. win a cash prize of HK\$4,000

### Sample Experiment Report

8. Vegetables contain pigments. 'Pigments' here refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. colours
  - B. flavours
  - C. juices
  - D. roots
9. In the experiment, a \_\_\_\_\_ is used to make juice from the vegetables.
- A. blender
  - B. bowl
  - C. brush
  - D. knife
10. Step 5 of the sample experiment is important because it helps \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. make the colours of the vegetable juices stronger
  - B. make the colours of the vegetable juices last longer
  - C. mix colours from vegetable juices
  - D. prevent colours of the vegetable juices from mixing
11. The ink made from \_\_\_\_\_ gave the strongest colour.
- A. beetroot
  - B. lemon juice
  - C. red cabbage
  - D. spinach

12. The ink made from red cabbage lasted \_\_\_\_\_ than that from spinach and/but \_\_\_\_\_ than that from beetroot.
- A. longer / longer
  - B. longer / shorter
  - C. shorter / longer
  - D. shorter / shorter
13. Spinach is the least suitable for use as ink because its juice gives a \_\_\_\_\_ colour and/but the colour fades \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. strong / slowly
  - B. strong / quickly
  - C. weak / slowly
  - D. weak / quickly
14. What colour can you observe when baking soda is added to red cabbage juice?
- A. blue
  - B. green
  - C. red
  - D. purple
15. The sample experiment is best carried out in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. household store
  - B. garden
  - C. kitchen
  - D. market
16. The sample experiment report is most likely to be found in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. geography textbook
  - B. news report
  - C. recipe
  - D. science magazine

**END OF PAPER**

