

Candidate Number

Please stick the barcode label here.

**HKDSE 2018
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1 PART A
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**

A
COMPULSORY

Write your Candidate Number and stick a barcode label in the space provided on pages 1 and 3.

Read Texts 1-2 and answer questions 1-22. (42 marks)

Text 1

1. For each word given below, find a word which has a similar meaning in the specified classified ad. (3 marks)

(i) 'free' (Classified Ad 1): _____

(ii) 'schools' (Classified Ad 2): _____

(iii) 'teach' (Classified Ad 3): _____

2. Which of the classified ads do the following statements refer to? Select ONE classified ad for each statement. If the statement does not match any ad, select 'X'. (3 marks)

Statements

This ad...

	Ad 1	Ad 2	Ad 3	X
(i) states the monthly fees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) mentions the teacher's personality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) indicates that the teacher will travel to the student.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

3. Some of the comments below are from the music teachers in the classified ads. Match each comment with a classified ad in Text 1. (3 marks)

(i) I have the most teaching experience.

- A. Ad 1
B. Ad 2
C. Ad 3
D. Does not match any ad

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

(ii) I teach different kinds of musical instruments.

- A. Ad 1
B. Ad 2
C. Ad 3
D. Does not match any ad

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

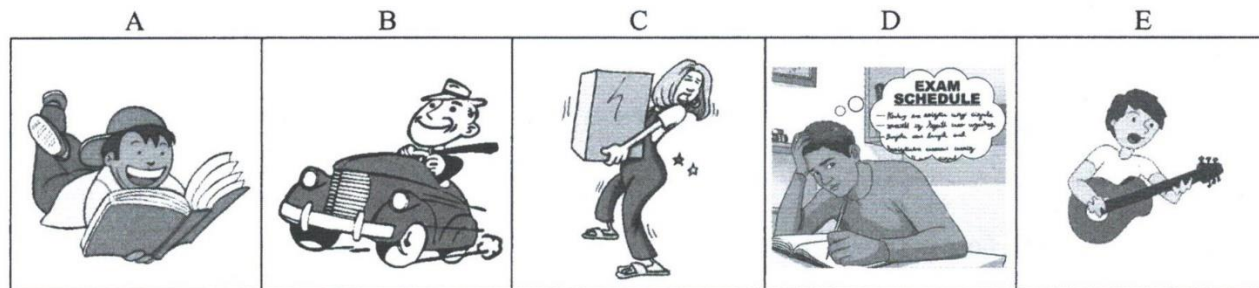
(iii) I don't teach beginners.

- A. Ad 1
B. Ad 2
C. Ad 3
D. Does not match any ad

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Text 2

4. Which two activities are NOT mentioned in paragraph 1 as tasks people do while listening to music? Write the letters for the two activities in the boxes below. (1 mark)



Activity

and activity

5. What does 'that' (line 5) refer to?

6. Complete the summary of paragraphs 3 and 4 by writing ONE word in each blank. You should make sure your answers are grammatically correct. (7 marks)

Paying Attention

Surprisingly, the human brain finds it (i) _____ to think about one thing for long periods of time.

The brain has two attention systems:

1. The Conscious System

It helps people to focus and is related to higher reasoning. It operates at a (ii) _____ speed.

2. The Unconscious System

It helps people to notice anything that our senses consider (iii) _____.

It is linked to how our (iv) _____ guide the processing of our surroundings. The system is (v) _____ functioning even when we are focusing on something else.

We are easily distracted by unexpected noises even when the distraction is not as (vi) _____ as the task we are engaged in. When the task is boring, this distraction is even (vii) _____.

7. What does 'You can't help it' (line 14) mean?

- A. You cannot stop the noise.
- B. You have to focus on the noise.
- C. You will feel scared when you hear the noise.
- D. You will definitely hear noises when home alone.

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8. Find a word or phrase that the writer uses in paragraph 4 to draw readers' attention to the fact that the unconscious attention system can cause us problems.

9. What does 'it' (line 17) refer to?

10. Find a word in paragraph 5 which has a similar meaning to 'harmless'.

11. Give ONE example of a distraction mentioned in paragraph 5.

12. According to paragraph 6, the main benefit of listening to music when working on an important task in a library is to...

- A. stop the non-invasive noises.
- B. create enjoyment for the listener.
- C. neutralise the pleasurable feelings.
- D. cancel the effect of the unconscious system.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. When the writer says 'it really is down to personal preference' (line 32), he/she means...

- A. people prefer to dance to funky music.
- B. people study while listening to catchy lyrics.
- C. people focus better listening to music they enjoy.
- D. people make better choices when listening to music.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Find a word in paragraph 8 which can be replaced by 'reduces'.

15. Explain why playing only one type of music in a classroom would 'end up with mixed results' (line 34).

16. 'Working companions' (line 36) refers to _____
_____.

17. Based on the information in paragraphs 11-12, complete the timeline of the development of video game soundtracks using ONE word from the text. (6 marks)

Early video games

At the start, technological (i) _____ resulted in the use of somewhat (ii) _____ music.

Next 10-20 years

Game soundtracks improved so they were (iii) _____ without being (iv) _____ for the players.

Latest development

With advances in (v) _____ the game producers are choosing from a wider range of music. The difficulty is keeping the (vi) _____ right so players enjoy the music whilst focusing on their game.

18. Describe the irony in paragraph 12.

19. Which type of music is considered to be extremely useful in helping people concentrate?

- A. sad music
- B. video game music
- C. heavy metal music
- D. motivational music

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Which of the following is the best title for Text 2?

- A. Why is music important?
- B. How does your brain function?
- C. Why does your brain like music?
- D. Can music really help you concentrate?

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Which of the following best describes the intention of the writer of Text 2?

- A. To defend his point of view.
- B. To present some new research.
- C. To explain a puzzling observation.
- D. To persuade readers to change their habits.

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Read the Comments (lines 52-62) and answer question 22.

22. What is the most likely opinion of each of the four people towards the statement 'Music helps me study'?

(4 marks)

	Agrees	Disagrees	Neither agrees nor disagrees
(i) Laura	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Sandy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) John	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) Leo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

END OF PART A

PART A

Read Texts 1-2 and answer questions 1-22 in the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

Text 1

Classified Ad 1

Are you looking for an experienced and patient piano teacher?

I am an experienced pianist with professional training in piano performance and music theory. Have been teaching piano for over 25 years. Love teaching students from kindergarteners to those who have retired. Able to speak English / Mandarin / Cantonese / Korean.

If interested, please call 2121 3456 for a complimentary lesson.

Classified Ad 2

Advanced level guitar tuition in your home

I am a performing musician with over 15 years' experience in tutoring. Past students attended top music academies, have successful recording contracts, or work as musicians.

I teach lessons for learners at intermediate level or higher.

Classified Ad 3

I can coach you for all levels of drum exams from beginner to expert

New teacher qualified in UK. Conveniently located in Wan Chai. Build confidence and develop awareness of the drummer's role in a band.

Call 2134 5678 to get a 30-minute trial lesson for \$150.

Text 2



'I won't be able to focus if you turn my music off,' a gazillion teenagers have whined at their parents. Is it possible that they're right?

[1] Many people listen to music while they're carrying out a task, whether they're studying for an exam, driving a vehicle or even reading a book. Many of these people argue that background music helps them focus.

- 5 **[2]** When you think about it, that doesn't make much sense. Why would having two things to concentrate on make you more focused, not less? Some people even go so far as to say that not having music on is more distracting.

Paying attention

- 10 **[3]** Why would music help us concentrate? One argument is to do with attention. For all its amazing abilities, the brain hasn't really evolved to take in abstract information or spend prolonged periods thinking about one thing. We seem to have two attention systems: a conscious one that enables us to direct our focus towards things we know we want to concentrate on and an unconscious one that shifts attention towards anything our senses pick up that might be significant. The unconscious one is simpler, more fundamental, and linked to emotional processing rather than higher reasoning. It also operates faster. So when you hear a noise when you're alone at home, you're paying attention to it long before you consciously notice it and start to work out what it might have been. You can't help it.

- 15 **[4]** The trouble is, while our conscious attention is focused on the task in hand, the unconscious attention system doesn't shut down; it's still very much online, scanning for anything important in your peripheral senses. And if

what we're doing is unpleasant or dull – so you're already having to force your attention to stay fixed on it – the unconscious attention system is even more potent. This means that a distraction doesn't need to be as stimulating to divert your attention to something else.

- 20 **[5]** Have you ever been working on a very important task in the library only to be driven slowly mad by someone constantly whispering, sniffing, or tapping their pen? Something quite innocuous suddenly becomes much more infuriating when you're trying to work on a task your brain doesn't necessarily enjoy.

- 25 **[6]** Music is a very useful tool in such situations. It provides non-invasive noise and pleasurable feelings to effectively neutralise the unconscious attention system's ability to distract us. However, it's not just a matter of providing any old background noise to keep distractions at bay.

Type of music

[7] It seems clear that the type of noise, or music, is important. This may seem obvious: someone listening to classical music while they work wouldn't seem at all unusual, but if they were listening to heavy metal it would be thought very strange indeed.

- 30 **[8]** While the nature and style of the music can cause specific responses in the brain (funky music compels you to dance, sad music makes you melancholic, motivational music makes you want to exercise), some studies suggest that it really is down to personal preference. Music you like increases focus, while music you don't impedes it. Given the extreme variation in musical preferences from person to person, exposing a classroom to a single type of music would obviously end up with mixed results.

- 35 **[9]** Music also has a big impact on mood – truly bleak music could sap your enthusiasm for your task. Something else to look out for is music with catchy lyrics. Musical pieces without words might be better working companions, as human speech and vocalisation is something our brains pay particular attention to.

Video game soundtracks

- 40 **[10]** Some people argue that one of the best music genres for concentration is the video game soundtrack. This makes sense, when you consider the purpose of video game music: to help create an immersive environment and to facilitate but not distract from a task that requires constant attention and focus.

- 45 **[11]** Limitations in the technology used for early game consoles meant the music also tended to be fairly simplistic in its melodies – think Tetris or Mario. In a somewhat Darwinian way, the music in video games has been refined over decades to be pleasant and entertaining, but not distracting. The composers have (probably unintentionally) been manipulating the attention systems in the brains of players for years now.

[12] There are signs that, as technology progresses, this type of theme music is being abandoned, with game producers opting for anything from big orchestral pieces to hip-hop. The challenge will be to maintain the delicate balance of stimulation without distraction. To achieve this, game composers will need to stay focused, which is ironic.

- 50 **[13]** So after knowing all this, how do you stop yourself getting distracted by noises around you? Perhaps it won't be a bad idea to keep your headphones and your favourite music close to hand.

Comments:

Laura 20 Aug 2017 17:56

- 55 I find it impossible to work with any music playing at all. I like music too much not to pay attention to it, whatever its quality and whatever I'm doing.

Sandy 20 Aug 2017 15:11

Are you kidding? Am I alone in wanting peace and quiet... no sounds apart from the rain or wind.

John 19 Aug 2017 22:34

- 60 All my life no one could understand how I was able to study and get good grades by listening to heavy metal music. I can't study without my brain being blasted by my tunes. Thank you for the article. I don't feel weird anymore.

Leo 19 Aug 2017 20:06

Who knows? I can usually focus on my homework with music playing but I can't revise like that.