

PART A

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-20 on pages 1-4 of the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

Text 1

GAME BOYS GET UNPLUGGED

THE NATION 1st May 2011

At the Polar Cafe, the wired generation powers down with parlour games

5 [1] In what many people will greet with a huge sigh of relief, a cafe at the Crystal Design Centre is low-tech, switched off, unplugged. Patrons don't sit at computer terminals and race virtual hotrods – they sit at tables and play board games.

10 [2] Board games. You know – cardboard and little pieces of plastic you move around, maybe a pair of dice too. How about a guessing game with picture cards?

[3] What is the world coming to? (Or going back to?)

Polar Board Games & Cafe

15 [4] Pat Pornpiranon and Dee Sattarujawong opened Polar Board Games & Cafe one month ago to slow down the pace of life a little bit. They rescued some games from the dusty top of the wardrobe and found a few new ones, and now they've got customers enjoying their refreshments while chatting over their board moves.

[5] Face to face, no less.

25 [6] It's a suitably friendly and homey place – comfy chairs, wood floor. One wall has a painting of the busy pathways found in the *Kids of Carcassonne* game, which is popular here too. Shelves are stacked with other choices of pastimes.

30 [7] Cafes specialising in parlour games have caught on in South Korea and China. Sometimes there's a small admission fee that covers snacks, several hours of gaming and help from the staff.

35 [8] The drinks at Polar Cafe cost around Bt80 (approx HK\$20), and for that price you get to try out any game for an hour. Buy another drink and play for another hour. There are about 40 games to choose from at this point, most of them imported from Germany and the US. There's little foreign text to slow you down, and anyway you get Thai instructions and the staff can help with the rules.

45 [9] 'I played nothing but *Monopoly*, *Uno* and *Snakes & Ladders* when I was a child,' says Pat, a Thai University business-management graduate. 'There weren't that many games available in Thailand, but when I studied in the US, I found a lot of interesting board games that were more challenging than anything on the computer.'

50 [10] 'Germany is the pioneer when it comes to new and interesting board games,' says Dee. 'It has a prestigious award for creativity called the Spiel Des Jahres.'

55 [11] If you like a game so much you want to take it home, the prices range from Bt500 to Bt3,000 (HK\$130-720). They're great for parties, lazy afternoons or dreary family get-togethers where no one can think of what else to do except eat. It might also boost your strategic talents and your kids' maths scores.

Board games as a learning tool

[12] Pat and Dee also run a Chinese-language school called Learning East and use board games as teaching tools.

65 [13] '*Kids of Carcassonne*, for example, is a great game for little children,' explains Pat. 'You place tiles to form paths and then try to close them off with wooden tokens. The player with the most tokens when all the tiles are used wins. Kids learn to watch the tiles carefully and think twice before every move. It's good for teaching problem solving.'

75 [14] Customer Benson Tanattanachot, 29, says he became utterly bored with computer games. 'There's a lot more satisfaction in playing against human opponents,' he says. 'I prefer a game you can enjoy with friends and family. And in Thailand you don't usually see the wide selection of games that you get here.'

80 [15] Benson and a chum got so immersed in *Carcassonne* that they decided to buy it. 'It's fun, and the playing cards are beautifully illustrated,' he says. 'It promotes sharp wit and logic, skills which I can use in my marketing job.'

85 [16] Another cafe patron, Aey, says she was never big on games but she's really taken by the fun she's found here, and the intriguing effects on the brain. 'Thai children should get to play games like this to learn about teamwork and society,' says the 30-something working woman. 'Kids today have their computer games and console games, but they play alone. For board games you have to have a circle of friends. My friends and I love playing *Railways to the World*.'

95 [17] In *Railways to the World* you build railroads to deliver goods to cities. There is no board, so it's different every time you play.

100 [18] Pat points out that, while the chief appeal of parlour games is in the pleasant socialising – which usually trumps the drive to win – you can learn a lot about people by watching how they play, especially with games like *Dixit*, which won the Spiel Des Jahres last year.

105 [19] In *Dixit*, players receive cards with illustrations and take turns giving clues about them to the others. The other players choose the card in their own hands that they think best matches your clue. The trick is in choosing the perfect clue to share, not too specific or too vague.

110 [20] 'No matter what language you speak, you can play *Dixit*,' says Dee, 'and the more you play, the more you learn about the other players' perspectives on life. It can also improve children's vocabulary, especially when they play with their parents, and stretches their minds to think abstractly.'

120 [21] All very nice, but come on, girls – seriously – have you seen the latest *iPad* and *Xbox Kinect*? How can you compete with that?

125 [22] 'Parents want pastimes that will keep their children away from the TV and computer,' says Pat. 'They're trying to get back into more interactive things now. The way a child behaves reflects how his parents treat him. Activities like this that get families together can only be a good thing.'

130 [23] Polar Board Games & Cafe is in Phase 2 of the Crystal Design Centre on Ram Indra-Ekamai Road and is open weekdays from 1pm to 9pm and weekends from 11am to 10pm. Find out more at (083) 133 0743 or www.polarplaygames.com.

END OF READING PASSAGE

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report* and *Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.

Candidate Number

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**HKDSE 2012
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 this page.

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-20. (47 marks)

1. Look at the following expressions from the text and match them with either the Polar Cafe or Internet Cafes. Put a tick (✓) in the correct column. (4 marks)

Expressions	Polar Cafe	Internet Cafes
switched off		
race virtual hotrods		
play alone		
unplugged		

2. Why does the author write that many people will greet the cafe with 'a huge sigh of relief' (lines 1-2)?

- A. People love board games.
B. People love going to cafes.
C. The cafe doesn't have computers.
D. The cafe is a very friendly and homey place.

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3. The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to...

- A. provide a definition of board games.
B. introduce the main idea of the article.
C. connect the ideas in paragraphs 1 and 3.
D. grab the reader's attention.

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. In paragraph 3, 'going back to' refers to _____

5. When did the cafe open?

6. What was Pat's and Dee's life like before they opened the cafe?

7. Cafes specialising in board games are popular in...

- A. Germany and the USA.
B. China and South Korea.
C. Germany, the USA, China and South Korea.
D. Germany, the USA, China, South Korea and Thailand.

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



8. Decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in paragraphs **8-9**. Put a tick (✓) in the appropriate column. (4 marks)

Statement	True	False	NG
Customers can play board games for two hours if they buy two drinks.			
You need good English to play games imported from Germany or the US.			
Pat never played <i>Monopoly</i> , <i>Uno</i> or <i>Snakes & Ladders</i> as a child.			
Pat thinks computer games are not as challenging as some board games.			

9. Find a word in paragraph 10 that means 'originality'.

10. What does 'It' (line 52) refer to?

11. What is the meaning of 'dreary' (line 57)?

- A. fun
B. lazy
C. happy
D. boring

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

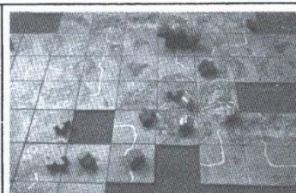
12. According to information given in paragraphs **12-17**, what do each of the following people say can be learnt from playing board games? (3 marks)

Pat _____

Benson _____

Aey _____

13. Match the following pictures with the name of the game that can be played at the cafe. Write the name under the picture. One game is **NOT** given in the text. Write (NG) under the picture. (4 marks)



Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

14. Use information given in paragraphs **15-21** and match each person with the correct speech bubble. Write the letter of the speech bubble on the line next to the person given. (5 marks)

A. It's not about winning but getting together with friends.

B. Who would have guessed that tiles and wooden tokens could go head to head with a keyboard and console?!

C. I didn't really like games very much until I started coming to the cafe.

D. These games have helped me to improve my skills in the workplace.

Benson: _____

Aey: _____

Pat: _____

Dee: _____

The writer: _____

E. Anyone can play, and learn new words at the same time.

15. What is the writer's tone in paragraph 21?

A. positive
B. worried
C. doubtful
D. neutral

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

16. According to Pat, why do parents want to keep their children away from the TV and computer?

17. Which of the following is the best alternative subtitle for this article?

A. Cafe patrons swap their high-tech games for old-fashioned ones.
B. Parlour games are more popular than computer games.
C. Board games are winning awards in the gaming world.
D. Parlour games are a hit in Thailand's cafes.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

18. Complete the following advertisement for Polar Cafe. Use **ONE** word to fill in each blank. (Hyphenated words count as one word.) (12 marks)

Polar Board Games & Cafe

Phase 2, _____
Ram Indra-Ekamai Road, Bangkok, Thailand

About us: We are a cafe _____ in parlour games. We have about _____ different games for patrons to choose from. Buy one _____ and play for one hour.

Ambience: Our cafe is very cozy, with _____ chairs, small tables and shelves stacked with books and games.

Equipment: To play our games, players roll a pair of _____ or shuffle a deck of picture _____. It's _____ compared to whizzy computer games, but still lots of fun.

Products: If you really like our games, you can buy them to play _____. Games cost between Bt500 and Bt3000.

Opening hours: Monday to _____ from 1pm to _____.
_____ and _____ from _____ to 10pm.

For more information: Call us on (083) 133 0743 or visit our _____:
www.polarplaygames.com.

19. Why are board games making a comeback? Give one reason from the text to support your answer.

20. Can board games compete with computer games? Give one reason to support each point of view. (2 marks)

Yes: _____

No: _____

END OF PART A

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.