

## PART A

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-24 on pages 1-3 of the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

### Text 1

#### **In from the cold among warm-hearted Koreans**

- 1 [1] Ten years ago, Oxford University graduate Daniel Tudor moved to Seoul, preferring the warmth of Korean society to “cold” Britain. The 31-year-old has since authored two books on his adopted home and has several other volumes in the pipeline. He speaks to **Charmaine Chan** about his latest title, *A Geek in Korea*, due out in June 2014.

- 5 **You started, like so many other Westerners in Korea, teaching English. When did you begin writing about Korea and why?**

[2] When I joined *The Economist* [2010-2013] I thought, “Eventually I’d like to write a book about Korea because nobody else is really doing it.”

#### **Why weren’t they?**

- 10 [3] Korea is a bit off the radar for most people in Western countries. In the 1980s Japan was the big story and people pay attention to China now because of its huge population and market. Korea has fallen in between these two countries.

#### **In your book, you write about *jeong* the invisible hug. Is that something exclusive to Korea?**

- 15 [4] A lot of Koreans say *jeong* – the warmth between people and mutual sacrifice – is uniquely Korean, as is *han*. It’s nonsense, but Korea has words to describe these things, which shows they are important. *Han* is a burden, oppression or an injustice you can’t correct. Its cause never goes away but you can temporarily forget about it by pursuing all-out, manic fun. This is where *heung* comes in. *Heung* is pure joy. The word isn’t as famous as *han*, but I think that it should be. Even traditional Korean funerals used to feature extreme alcohol consumption, raucous singing, and the like.

- 20 [5] Often when Westerners think of East Asians, the stereotypes of stoicism and self-control – the so-called “inscrutable oriental” – come to mind. But Koreans in fact tend to be very expressive and open with their feelings. Somehow, sadness and happiness both seem to be magnified in Korea.

#### **How is *A Geek* different from your first book?**

- 25 [6] It’s still about South Korea, but it’s aimed at a younger audience. Consider it a gateway for those who like K-pop or TV shows from Korea, but don’t know anything about the country.

#### **A few chapters are about K-pop. Are you into K-pop?**

- 30 [7] Generally K-pop is for teenagers. I’m not saying it’s wrong. It’s a good business. But I like music played by people who mean what they’re writing. Some people think all Korean music is K-pop, but there’s really good music in Korea that’s not superficial or played on the radio or on TV and doesn’t go outside of Korea. One of my favourite bands is 3rd Line Butterfly: these guys are not rich and famous; they’re ordinary guys you can be friends with. I am friends with them. There’s an interview with [Gangnam Style singer] Psy [in *Geek*]. He’s funny and cheeky, in a Robbie Williams kind of way, and making fun of Gangnam [an affluent district of Seoul], which is superficial and flashy.

#### **How about Korean soaps?**

- 35 [8] I don’t like the drama stuff. They’re trying to play with your emotions with Cinderella stories: beautiful girl from poor family marries rich guy. Korea’s probably not the best country in which to be a woman. If you’re a young woman in Korea, what’s the best way to become wealthy or to achieve status? Sadly, it’s to marry somebody.



**You also write about how Koreans are obsessed with success and education.**

40 [9] You find these mothers in Gangnam and they're scary. When I taught English I'd meet kids who, materially, led awesome lives and they'd show up in these big Mercedes with bags as big as they were. But if they didn't get an A grade in something, their parents would get mad and the next time you saw them they'd be crying. Wealthy families are obsessed with education. It's a status thing: preserve your status and show the rest of the world that you're preserving your status and your kids are doing well.

45 **Why do you continue to live in Korea?**

[10] This *jeong* stuff – that's the thing that keeps me in Korea. Korea made me a better friend to my friends. England's a cold society and, growing up, I suppose I always wanted this feeling of being connected to people. I thought English people were a bit too cynical and cold. Korea is a place where you say, "I like you. I love you. This is great." I really like that.

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*Read Text 2 and answer questions 25-31 on page 4 of the Question-Answer Book for Part A.*

Text 2

**Tudor's Book Covers Implausible, Impossible Korea**

October 15, 2012  
By Evan Ramstad

- 1 [1] Daniel Tudor is one of the most influential foreign correspondents in South Korea – and one of the least known. As the reporter for the Economist, which doesn't use bylines, most of his work is published anonymously. But Mr. Tudor's profile is about to take a sharp rise with the publication of his new book, "Korea: The Impossible Country".
- 5 [2] It's the first English-language book to cover the whole waterfront of South Korean society – historical, cultural, economic, social, political – since one by another influential British expat, Michael Breen, with "The Koreans," which was originally published in 1998 and revised in 2004. [Mr. Breen provided a recommendation on Mr. Tudor's book jacket.] "Korea: The Impossible Country" is also likely to get added to the list of must-read books for anyone from outside of South Korea who wants to do business or live in
- 10 the country.
- [3] That's a small canon, unfortunately. In addition to Mr. Breen's book, the other indispensables are "Diamond Dilemma" by Tariq Hussain, "Korean Dynasty" by Donald Kirk, Tom Coyner's guide to doing business in Korea and Robert Koehler's Seoul Selection guidebooks for places and sightseeing. Indeed, the list of must-read books about North Korea is far longer.
- 15 [4] Mr. Tudor pushes into new social and economic territory with his book, including the rising role of immigrants, multicultural families and even gay people in South Korea. He lays out some of the contradictory behavior one finds in South Korea, such as the unending desire for new and trendy gadgets and fashion and yet the tunnel-like view of what constitutes a successful life. At the end, he asks the question that nearly every visitor has after spending some time in South Korea: why aren't people happier
- 20 with what they've done?

**END OF READING PASSAGES**

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.

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**HKDSE 2015  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 1 PART A  
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**

**A**  
COMPULSORY

Please stick the barcode label here.

Write your Candidate Number and stick a barcode label in the space provided on this page.

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-24. (31 marks)

1. Who is Charmaine Chan?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How many more books is Daniel planning to write? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Order the following events in Daniel's life. Number the events (1-4). The first event has been done for you.

His career:

Started working for *The Economist*

Wrote his first book about Korea

Became an English teacher

Studied at Oxford University

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**1**  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Who does "they" refer to in line 9?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does Daniel mean by "off the radar" (line 10)?

- A. famous
- B. disliked
- C. exciting
- D. unknown

A      B      C      D  
☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

6. Which country does the writer suggest is currently the "big story" (line 10)?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why is *jeong* referred to as "the invisible hug" (line 13)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



8. What does Daniel think is “nonsense” (line 15)?

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9. Why did Koreans drink a lot and sing raucously at traditional funerals?

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10. According to paragraph 5, name one difference and one similarity between Koreans and Westerners, as seen by Daniel. (2 marks)

i) difference \_\_\_\_\_

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ii) similarity \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Why doesn't Daniel like K-pop?

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12. Who or what does the word “them” (line 31) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What opinion do both Daniel and Psy share?

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14. Based on the information given in paragraph 7, decide if the following statements are **True**, **False** or the information is **Not Given**. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement. (3 marks)

Statements	T	F	NG
i) Daniel is a friend of Psy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) 3rd Line Butterfly is a K-pop group.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Daniel thinks some good Korean music isn't well known internationally.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. What are “soaps” (line 34)?

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16. Why does Daniel think "Korea's probably not the best country in which to be a woman" (lines 36-37)?  


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17. Complete the summary of paragraph 8 by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. Each word can only be used once. You should make sure your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to tenses, plurals, etc.  

(5 marks)

Daniel doesn't like Korean (i) \_\_\_\_\_ because he thinks the stories are too emotional. The stories are often the same, with a (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ man meeting a (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ lady who comes from a (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ background and in the end they (v) \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Why does Daniel think that Gangnam mothers are "scary" in line 40?  


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19. What does Daniel mean by "materially" in line 41?  


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20. Why are wealthy Koreans obsessed with education?  


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21. According to paragraph 10, how has Daniel changed since he arrived in Korea?  


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22. Overall, what does Daniel feel is most attractive about Korea?  


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23. What does "In from the cold" in the title suggest about Britain?  


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24. Who or what does "Geek" in the title of Daniel's book refer to?  


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Read Text 2 and answer questions 25-31. (9 marks)

25. What is the irony in paragraph 1?

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26. Other than Daniel, which writer mentioned in Text 2 has definitely lived in Korea?

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27. What is the meaning of a "canon" (line 11)?

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28. What does Evan Ramstad's comment about North Korea in lines 13-14 imply?

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29. How does the content of Daniel Tudor's book differ from Michael Breen's?

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30. What is the contradiction between how Koreans see success and their love of trendy gadgets and fashion? (2 marks)

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31. What does the question Daniel poses at the end of his book suggest about his view of Koreans and their achievements? (2 marks)

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END OF PART A