

Candidate Number

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**HKDSE 2016  
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 Texts 1-2 and answer questions 1-18. (41 marks)

**Text 1**

1. Match the superstition with the pictures below. Write the number of the superstition in the box. The first one has been done for you. (2 marks)



2. Answer the following questions by writing the number of the superstition in the box. (4 marks)

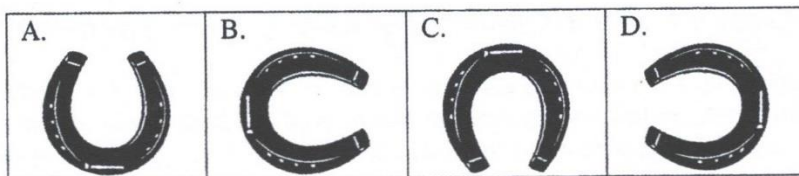
- i) Which bad luck superstition can you undo?
- ii) Which superstition is the season important for?
- iii) Which superstition will bring bad luck for a long time?
- iv) Which superstition do some people consider lucky while some think the opposite?

3. Which of the following is a bad luck superstition?

- A. catching a leaf  
B. seeing a magpie  
C. holding a closed umbrella  
D. finding a three leaf clover

A B C D  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. In order to bring good luck, how should a horseshoe be placed over a door?



A B C D  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

## Text 2

5. Find one example of a superstition in Section 1. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False** or the information is **Not Given** in Section 1.  
(3 marks)

### Statements

- i) Superstitions have existed for hundreds of years.
- ii) Superstitions are only found in some countries.
- iii) Superstitions are becoming less popular.

T	F	NG
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Why do people believe in superstitions?

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8. What does the sentence 'At least it doesn't work in the way most people think it does' (lines 16-17) imply?

- A. Superstitions are outdated.
- B. Superstitions bring bad luck.
- C. Most people don't use superstitions.
- D. Most people don't understand how superstitions work.

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

9. What does the phrase 'magical rituals and bizarre behaviours' (lines 20-21) suggest about the writer's attitude towards superstitions?

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10. According to Section 2, tests by researchers found that superstitions...

- A. didn't bring luck.
- B. didn't need testing.
- C. were more common than thought.
- D. did indeed have magical properties.

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

11. According to Section 3, how does the study explain how luck works? Luck depends on...

- A. random chance.
- B. being born lucky.
- C. our beliefs and actions.
- D. individual circumstances.

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

12. Complete the following notes on the luck study described in Section 3. Answers should be grammatically correct. **You may write more than one word on each line.** (7 marks)

**Title:** The Luck Study

**Aim:** (i) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Method:**

(ii) Used a \_\_\_\_\_ to divide people into lucky and unlucky groups.

(iii) Gave a \_\_\_\_\_ to both the lucky and the unlucky group to look at.

(iv) Asked both groups to count \_\_\_\_\_

(v) Waited to see if participants responded to the \_\_\_\_\_ that told them to stop.

**Result:**

(vi) Lucky people were able to \_\_\_\_\_ because

(vii) \_\_\_\_\_

13. What does the example of the Olympic Games in Section 4 illustrate?

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14. According to the research, are lucky people more like the silver medal winners or bronze medal winners? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

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15. What does 'It...' (line 87) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

16. According to Section 5, what three things could someone do to improve their luck? (3 marks)

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

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

iii) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



17. Complete the summary below by choosing the best answer that will complete the missing information. Blacken ONE circle only for each question. (6 marks)

Professor Wiseman's study into the nature of luck has revealed that, to a large extent, people (i) their own good and bad fortune. He suggests that we should be aware that there are good opportunities out there for us, and that we should (ii) such events. To have good or bad luck depends a lot on (iii). Whether we become luckier or not is mostly a matter of the (iv). Even though we can't change the world around us, the way we look at it matters (v). For Wiseman, luck is based largely on psychological principles that can be learned and improved. So, the crucial question is: (vi)

- |       |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|-------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (i)   | A. are afraid of<br>B. don't notice<br>C. understand<br>D. make  | A<br><input type="radio"/> | B<br><input type="radio"/> | C<br><input type="radio"/> | D<br><input type="radio"/> |
| (ii)  | A. ignore<br>B. take advantage of<br>C. believe in<br>D. organize  | A<br><input type="radio"/> | B<br><input type="radio"/> | C<br><input type="radio"/> | D<br><input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) | A. external circumstances<br>B. scientific research<br>C. ourselves<br>D. self-confidence  | A<br><input type="radio"/> | B<br><input type="radio"/> | C<br><input type="radio"/> | D<br><input type="radio"/> |
| (iv)  | A. body<br>B. mind<br>C. heart<br>D. spirit  | A<br><input type="radio"/> | B<br><input type="radio"/> | C<br><input type="radio"/> | D<br><input type="radio"/> |
| (v)   | A. hardly<br>B. slightly<br>C. virtually<br>D. tremendously  | A<br><input type="radio"/> | B<br><input type="radio"/> | C<br><input type="radio"/> | D<br><input type="radio"/> |
| (vi)  | A. Can we train ourselves to be luckier?<br>B. Should we learn to depend more on luck?<br>C. Is luck a phenomenon we should look into more?<br>D. Have we learned everything we need to know about luck? | A<br><input type="radio"/> | B<br><input type="radio"/> | C<br><input type="radio"/> | D<br><input type="radio"/> |

18. Match the missing subheadings to the correct Section of the article. Write the number corresponding to each Section (1-4) in the box next to the subheadings. One is **NOT** used and should be marked with an 'X'. (4 marks)

<u>Subheading</u>	<u>Section</u>
i) Luck and the Importance of Hard Work	<input type="text"/>
ii) Misconceptions about Superstition	<input type="text"/>
iii) Dealing with Bad Luck	<input type="text"/>
iv) The Power of Superstition	<input type="text"/>
v) Chance Opportunities	<input type="text"/>

**END OF PART A**

## PART A

Read the following texts and answer questions 1-18 in the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

### Text 1

#### **10 COMMON SUPERSTITIONS**

**1. FOUR LEAF CLOVER**

Finding a clover with four leaves is lucky because clovers usually only have three leaves.

**2. CAREFUL WITH THAT MIRROR**

If you break a mirror, you will have seven years of misfortune.

**3. KEEP THEM CROSSED**

Crossing your index and middle finger is lucky because it symbolizes the support between two friends.

**4. FALLING LEAVES**

If you catch falling leaves in autumn, every leaf you catch means a lucky month next year.

**5. BLACK CATS**

You're in luck if you meet a black cat. However, that depends on who you ask – some say it's a sign of good things to come, but for others, it's a terrible warning.

**6. DON'T WALK UNDER A LADDER**

This superstition is practical because walking under a ladder, possibly with someone on it, is already a risky thing to do.

**7. HORSESHOE**

Hanging a horseshoe over a door is lucky. But the horseshoe needs to be the right way up with the two ends pointing down so that the good fortune will shower upon you.

**8. NO UMBRELLAS INSIDE**

Opening an umbrella indoors brings bad luck and danger – you might just poke someone's eye out.

**9. MIND THE SALT**

Spilt the salt? Oh, no! If you have, you must throw some over your shoulder to counteract the bad luck, but make sure it is the left one.

**10. THERE GOES A MAGPIE**

It's bad luck to see one magpie, but it's lucky to see two.



## Text 2

### 1 The Scientific Study of the Lucky Mind

By Professor Richard Wiseman

#### Section 1.

5 People have searched for an effective way of improving the good fortune in their lives for many centuries. Lucky charms, such as keeping a rabbit's foot, have been found in virtually all civilizations throughout recorded history. The pagan ritual of 'knocking on wood' was designed to elicit the help  
10 of benign and powerful tree gods. Superstition represents people's attempts to control their destiny by warding off bad luck while enhancing the good.

#### Section 2.

15 There is just one problem. Superstition doesn't work. At least it doesn't work in the way most people think it does. Superstition is based on outdated and incorrect thinking. It comes from a time when people thought that luck was a strange force that  
20 could only be controlled by magical rituals and bizarre behaviours. Several researchers have tested these age-old beliefs and found them wanting.

#### Section 3.

25 Ten years ago, I started to examine why some people consistently encounter chance opportunities whereas others do not. In my experiment, I first asked volunteers to complete a questionnaire to determine if they considered themselves lucky or unlucky. Then I gave each group a newspaper, and  
30 asked them to look through it and tell me how many photographs were inside.

On average, the unlucky people took about two minutes to count the photographs whereas the lucky people took just seconds. Why? Because the  
35 second page of the newspaper contained the message "Stop counting – There are 43 photographs in this newspaper." This message took up half of the page and was written in text that was over two inches high. It was staring everyone straight in the  
40 face, but the unlucky people tended to miss it and the lucky people tended to spot it.

Personality tests revealed that unlucky people are generally much more tense and anxious than lucky people, and research has shown that anxiety  
45 disrupts people's ability to notice the unexpected. The harder they looked, the less they saw. And so it is with luck – unlucky people miss chance opportunities because they are too focussed on looking for something else.

50 The experiment I conducted revealed that luck is not a magical ability or the result of random chance. Nor are people born lucky or unlucky. Instead, although lucky and unlucky people have almost no insight into the real causes of their good and bad luck, their  
55 thoughts and behaviour are responsible for much of their fortune. My research revealed that lucky people are more skilled at creating and noticing chance opportunities.

#### Section 4.

60 But a lucky life is not just about noticing chance opportunities. Another important principle revolved around the way in which lucky and unlucky people dealt with the ill fortune in their lives. Imagine competing in the Olympic Games. You do very well, and win a bronze medal. How happy do you think  
65 you would feel? Most of us would, I suspect, be overjoyed and proud of our achievement. Now imagine we did even better and won a silver medal. Most of us think we would feel even happier with a silver medal.  
70

But research suggests that athletes who win bronze medals are actually happier than those who win silver medals. And the reason for this has to do with the way in which the athletes think about their  
75 performance. The silver medalists focus on the notion that if they had performed slightly better, then they would have perhaps won a gold medal. In contrast, the bronze medalists focus on the thought that if they had performed slightly worse, then they  
80 wouldn't have won anything at all. This is "counterfactual" thinking and it is often associated with perceptions of luck.

#### Section 5. *Positive Scepticism*

85 After ten years of scientific research, my work has revealed a radically new way of looking at luck and the vital role that it plays in our lives. It demonstrates that much of the good and bad fortune we encounter is a result of our thoughts and behaviour. More importantly, it represents the  
90 potential for change, and has produced an effective way of increasing the luck people experience in their daily lives. The research is not simply about debunking superstitious thinking and behaviour. Instead, it is about encouraging people to move  
95 away from a magical way of thinking and toward a more rational view of luck. Perhaps most important of all, it is about using science and scepticism to increase the level of luck, happiness, and success in people's lives.