



ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART A

Reading Passages

8:30 am – 10:00 am (1½ hours)
(for both Parts A and B)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) There are two parts (A and B) in this paper. All candidates should attempt Part A. In Part B, you should attempt either Part B1 (easier section) OR Part B2 (more difficult section). Candidates attempting Parts A and B2 will be able to attain the full range of levels, while Level 4 will be the highest level attainable for candidates attempting Parts A and B1.
- (2) After the announcement of the start of the examination, you should first write your Candidate Number and stick barcode labels in the spaces provided on the appropriate pages of the Part A Question-Answer Book and the Part B Question-Answer Book which you are going to attempt.
- (3) Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question-Answer Books. Answers written in the margins will not be marked.
- (4) For multiple-choice questions, you are advised to blacken the appropriate circle with a pencil so that wrong marks can be completely erased with a clean rubber. Mark only **ONE** answer to each question. Two or more answers will score **NO MARKS**.
- (5) Supplementary answer sheets will be supplied on request. Write your Candidate Number, mark the question number box and stick a barcode label on each sheet and fasten them with string **INSIDE** the Question-Answer Book.
- (6) No extra time will be given to candidates for sticking on barcode labels or filling in the question number boxes after the 'Time is up' announcement.
- (7) The two Question-Answer Books you have attempted (one for Part A and one for Part B) will be collected together at the end of the examination. Fasten the two Question-Answer Books together with the green tag provided.
- (8) The unused Question-Answer Book for Part B will be collected separately at the end of the examination. This will not be marked. Do not write any answers in it.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART A

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part A is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Attempt ALL questions in Part A. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.

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

[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

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

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.

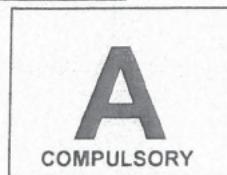
END OF READING PASSAGES

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

Candidate Number

Please stick the barcode label here.

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



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...

- (i) states the monthly fees.
(ii) mentions the teacher's personality.
(iii) indicates that the teacher will travel to the student.

Ad	Ad	Ad	
1	2	3	X
<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



3. Some of the comments below are from the music teachers in the classified ads in Text 1. 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)

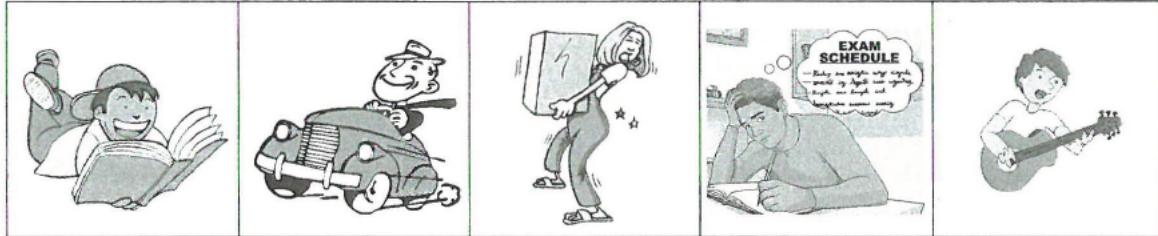
A

B

C

D

E



Activity and activity .

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

Please stick the barcode label here.

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.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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

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

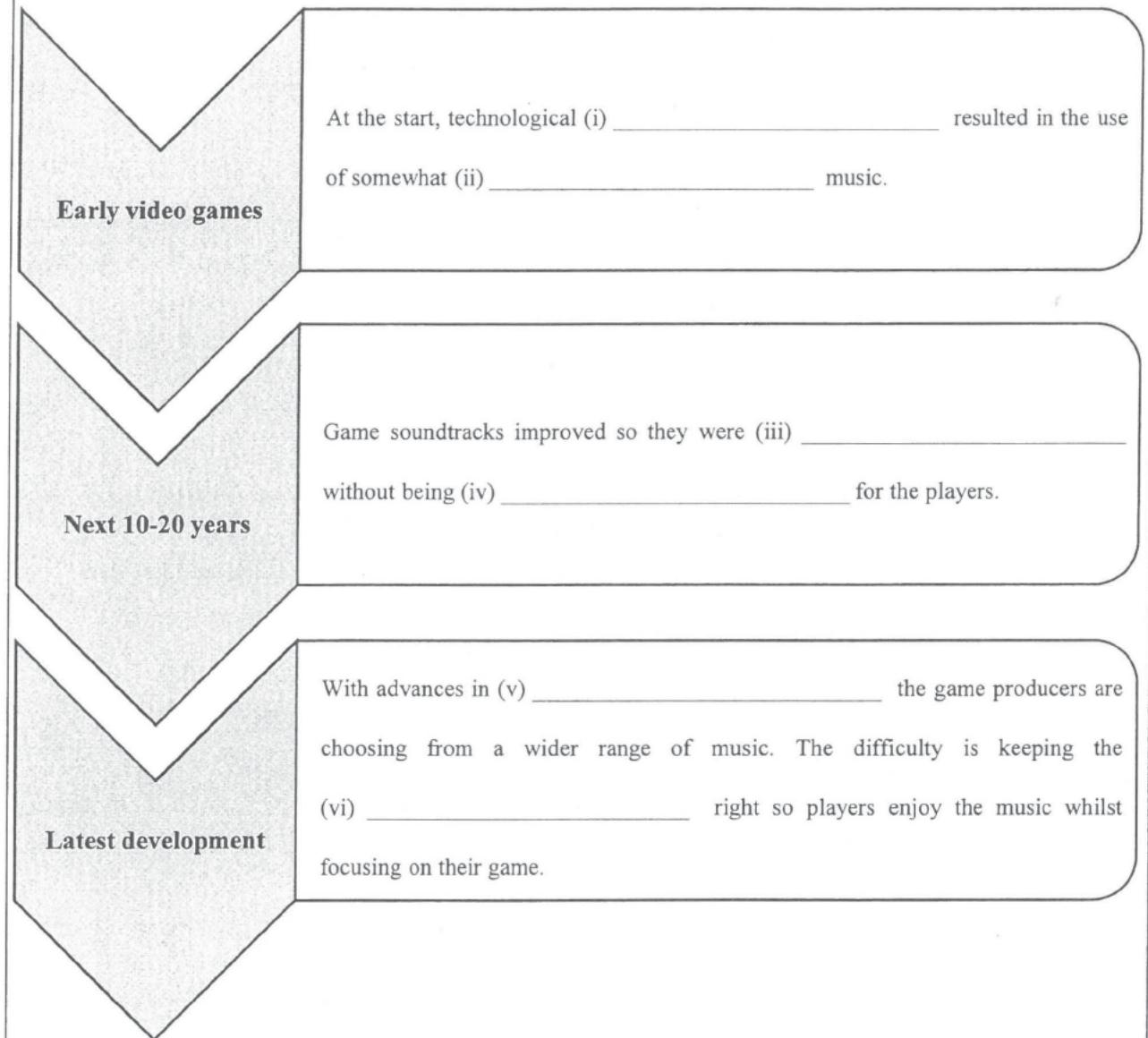
14. Find a word in paragraph 8 which can be replaced by 'reduces'.

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

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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)



18. Describe the irony in paragraph 12.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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

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

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

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)

(i) Laura

Agrees	Disagrees	Neither agrees nor disagrees
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(ii) Sandy

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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(iii) John

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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(iv) Leo

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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END OF PART A

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART B1

Reading Passages

8:30 am – 10:00 am (1½ hours)
(for both Parts A and B)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Refer to the General Instructions on Page 1 of the Reading Passages booklet for Part A.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART B1

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part B1 is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Candidates who choose Part B1 should attempt all questions in this part. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.
- (3) Hand in only ONE Question-Answer Book for Part B, either B1 or B2, and fasten it with the Question-Answer Book for Part A using the green tag provided.

PART B1

Read Texts 3-4 and answer questions 23-45 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

Text 3

A Guide to Bee Stings

Have you ever been stung by a bee? Don't panic! Here's what to do.



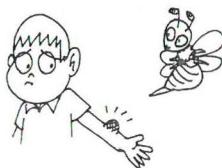
- 5 [1] Bees are known for their role in producing honey and pollinating flowers to produce fruit. They can however become a threat to people when they build their hives near or inside homes. Bees are considered less dangerous than other stinging insects like wasps. In Hong Kong, honey bees and carpenter bees seldom sting unless they are provoked. However, there are aggressive species such as the Africanised honey bees that will sting humans. Fortunately they haven't been spotted in Hong Kong yet.

Insect Stings and Insect Bites

- 10 [2] Insect stings should not be confused with insect bites.
[3] An insect uses its sting as a form of defence when it perceives a threat either to itself or its colony. It stings by injecting poison into or under the skin. The effect is immediate and results in a sharp, burning sensation.
[4] While some insects sting as a form of defence, some bite to draw blood. To give such insects time to feed, insect bites have evolved so that the pain is not as sharp as a sting and is usually felt only minutes later.

Insect Stings

- 15 [5] The most common insects that sting are wasps (including hornets) and bees. Wasps are the most aggressive and may sting with little provocation.
[6] Bees are much less likely to sting, most commonly stinging when they are stood or sat on. The key sign of a bee sting is that the bee leaves its stinger lodged inside the skin and a venomous sac will continue to pump poison for more than a minute. In contrast, the only sign of a wasp sting is likely to be a small puncture hole in the skin.
20 [7] If one is stung by a wasp or bee, the area around the sting will quickly redden and swell. The swelling will reduce after a few hours, but it may remain itchy for more than a day.



Treatments for Stings

- 25 [8] Some people are much more sensitive to insect stings than others, and young children tend to be particularly sensitive. There are practical steps that can be taken.
[9] If stung by a bee, the pain will be reduced significantly if the stinger is removed promptly. This should be done carefully using sharp fingernails, tweezers or a knife – take great care not to squeeze the sting sac as this will inject more poison into the wound.
30 [10] To clean the wound, wash it with soap and water and then reduce swelling by bathing in cold water or by covering it with a cold compress such as ice in a cloth (but never hold ice directly on the skin).
[11] To relieve itching, apply an anti-histamine cream for bites and stings or take an oral anti-histamine tablet (a hay fever tablet).
[12] Calamine lotion can also be applied to cool the wound and ease the itch. If the itching is severe, consult your pharmacist about steroid creams.

Allergies to Insect Stings

- 35 [13] Bee stings have the potential for an allergic reaction, resulting in anaphylactic shock, a serious medical condition that requires immediate medical assistance and can even cause death.
[14] However, the people at risk are the three percent of the population who are allergic to the poison in stings. An allergy to insect stings can develop in a person at any time, even if they have not reacted to a previous sting.
40 [15] Call an ambulance immediately if someone has a severe reaction to an insect sting.

Text 4

Hong Kong's First Urban Beekeeper Keeping local traditions alive



Michael Leung inspects a frame of bees – notice, no protective clothing! Don't try this at home!



Rooftop beehives set up by HK Honey, a key feature of urban beekeeping.

[1] On the rooftops of Hong Kong amongst the high-rise apartments, a local product designer, Michael Leung, has created his own space and is bringing nature back into the city, one beehive at a time.

5 [2] Michael Leung is the founder and creative director of HK Honey, an organisation that links local beekeepers with city dwellers by providing locally produced honey products. But the organisation's ultimate goal is to help sustain bee populations, which have been declining, while raising awareness by keeping a vital relationship between people and bees alive.

[3] According to the HK Honey website, Leung is Hong Kong's first urban beekeeper, although beekeeping has been around in the outlying areas of Hong Kong for some time. In fact, Leung was trained by Mr. Yip, who has had a bee-farming operation in Shatin since the 1980's.

10 [4] After they met in early 2010, an enthusiastic Leung had HK Honey up and running by that summer. Now it's uniting Hong Kong urban beekeepers from all walks of life. It links a network of local bee farms and offers workshops, organises tours on urban beekeeping and makes honey products. Its online shop also offers handmade products such as the usual candles and bottled honey, but honey cakes made from local ingredients are only available during their workshops.

15 [5] Of course, it's interesting to know that there are slight differences between the western and Chinese ways of beekeeping, not to mention behavioural variances between Chinese and western bees.

20 [6] There is a wide range of bee species kept by beekeepers in China, unlike in the west where commercial beekeepers usually rely on a single species. In contrast to the west, the Chinese approach to beekeeping uses no protective clothing – no gloves and no head nets. 'This gives us a closer connection to the bees. When we work with them, we make sure we move very slowly and try not to disturb them too much.' Leung says.

25 [7] Hong Kong is an incredibly dense high-rise city. Leung wasn't 100% sure if bees could sustain themselves in Hong Kong's urban environment. Surprisingly and fortunately they did sustain themselves in the city, and continue to amaze him with each new location that he sets up a beehive in. The honey in Hong Kong is an eclectic mix of wild and seasonal flowers. But when we taste it, we also taste all the hard work that has gone into producing it. The honey is priceless and a real treat to harvest and eat.

[8] Leung is a driven individual and is also channelling his energies into similar projects. He has established HK Farm, collaborating with communities and organisations within the city to grow food on the rooftops of Hong Kong.

END OF READING PASSAGES

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

Candidate Number

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**HKDSE 2018
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1 PART B1
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**



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

Read Texts 3-4 and answer questions 23-45. (42 marks)

Text 3

23. Complete the following sentence using the information in paragraph 1.

Bees are useful because they help with _____.

24. According to paragraph 1, which type of bee is NOT found in Hong Kong?

- A. Honey bee
- B. Carpenter bee
- C. Africanised honey bee

A B C

25. According to paragraph 1, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (4 marks)

Statements

T F NG

- (i) Honey bees in Hong Kong are unlikely to sting.
- (ii) Bees are more dangerous than wasps.
- (iii) Bees prefer to build hives near people's homes.
- (iv) Africanised honey bees are more likely than other bees to attack humans.

26. Complete the following table. Fill in each blank with ONE word found in paragraphs 2-4. (5 marks)

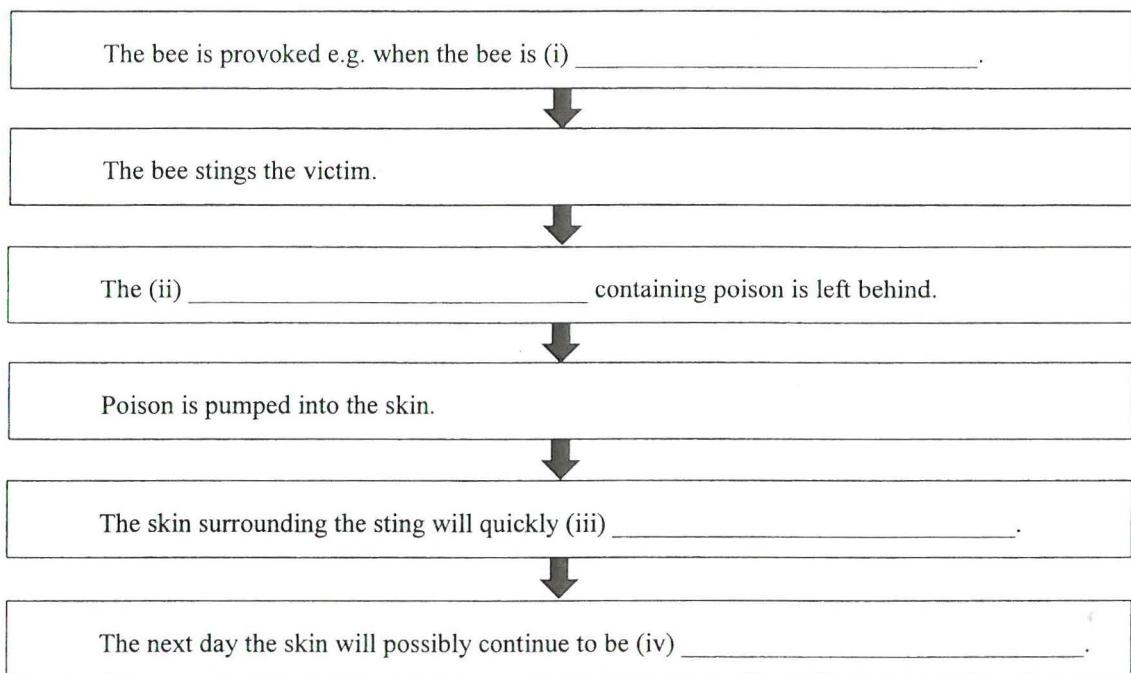
	an insect STING	an insect BITE
Reason for...	A form of defence	Able to draw blood in order to (i) _____
Speed of reaction to...	The victim will feel an (ii) _____ effect	The victim will feel it several (iii) _____ later.
Reaction in the victim to...	The victim will experience a (iv) _____ feeling.	The victim will experience less (v) _____.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



* A 0 2 0 E 1 B 1 *

27. This flow chart shows the sequence of events described in paragraphs 5-7 when a bee stings its victim. Fill in each blank with a word or phrase from paragraphs 5-7. (4 marks)



Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

28. Find a word in paragraph 6 that has a similar meaning to 'most important'.
- _____

29. Which paragraph describes how a wasp sting looks different from a bee sting?

Paragraph _____

30. What does 'it' (line 22) refer to? _____

31. According to paragraphs 8-12, which of the following actions should NOT be taken to relieve the symptoms of a bee sting?

- A. Removing the stinger quickly.
- B. Applying an anti-histamine cream.
- C. Putting ice straight on the swelling.
- D. Using calamine lotion on the wound.

A B C D

32. According to paragraph 9, why should you be careful when removing the stinger?
- _____
- _____

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

33. According to paragraphs 13-15, what evidence does the writer provide to suggest that anaphylactic shock is uncommon?

34. Why does the writer suggest calling an ambulance if someone has a severe reaction to an insect sting?

Text 4

35. What does ‘one beehive at a time’ (line 2) imply?

- A. Keeping bees on rooftops is inappropriate.
- B. Using only one beehive is an effective method.
- C. Bringing nature back into the city is a slow process.
- D. Producing a unique local beehive is an important goal.

A B C D

36. Complete the following summary of Michael Leung and HK Honey with a word or phrase found in paragraph 2. (4 marks)

Michael Leung, has more than one job. He set up HK Honey and is also its
 (i) _____, in addition to being a product designer. HK Honey
 links Hongkongers with (ii) _____ through the products from
 its bees. HK Honey’s priorities are to maintain (iii) _____
 and to increase people’s (iv) _____ of the importance of
 bees.

37. With reference to paragraphs 1-4, indicate when the following events took place. (4 marks)

	The 1980s	2010	Not Stated
(i) Beekeeping started in Hong Kong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) HK Honey founded	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Mr Yip started his bee farm in Shatin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) Mr Leung became a product designer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

38. Who/What does ‘they’ (line 10) refer to? _____

39. According to paragraph 4, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

Statements

HK Honey...

(i) arranges visits to rooftop beehives.

(ii) sells cakes online.

(iii) runs workshops monthly.

T F NG

40. According to paragraphs 5-6, what are the TWO differences between western and Chinese beekeeping methods? (2 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

41. Who/What does ‘they’ (line 23) refer to? _____

42. Why is Leung continually surprised by the bees in the beehives he sets up?

43. Find ONE factor in paragraph 7 that makes Hong Kong honey ‘priceless’ (line 26).

44. Find a word in paragraph 8 which means ‘highly motivated’. _____

45. Which of the following is the best alternative title for this article?

- A. Nature comes to the city
- B. How to keep bees in the city
- C. HK Honey is the best in the city
- D. Declining bee population affects the city

A B C D

END OF PART B1

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART B2

Reading Passages

8:30 am – 10:00 am (1½ hours)
(for both Parts A and B)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Refer to the General Instructions on Page 1 of the Reading Passages booklet for Part A.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART B2

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part B2 is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Candidates who choose Part B2 should attempt all questions in this part. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.
- (3) Hand in only ONE Question-Answer Book for Part B, either B1 or B2, and fasten it with the Question-Answer Book for Part A using the green tag provided.

PART B2

Read Texts 5-6 and answer questions 46-71 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B2.

Text 5

Farmers Resort to Hand Pollination

[1] The story begins in central China, in an apple-growing region called Maoxian County, near Chengdu. In the mid-1990s, the bees that regularly showed up there every spring suddenly didn't. Apple farmers, obviously, need bees. Bees dust their way through blossoms, moving from flower to flower, pollinating, which helps produce apples in September. The farmers had to do something, and do it quickly. So they decided to replace bees with humans. They pollinated by hand.

[2] In 1997, Maoxian apple growers, using brushes made from chopsticks and chicken feathers, went from blossom to blossom – just as bees do, to spread pollen. Hired hands worked full shifts, moving up the hillsides as each orchard hit blossom-time. News stories were written about this, with the obvious conservation moral: see, biologists said, this is what happens when we don't take care of the little creatures like the pollinators. When they disappear, the work they did for free suddenly becomes expensive. That was the moral of this story – until some economists took a second look.

The Economists' Version of the Bee Story

[3] The economists arranged interviews in Maoxian County with the local farmers – first early in the 2000s, and again in 2011. What they learned was a shocker. First, the apple farmers reported that apple production was not hurt by the absence of bees. In fact, the apple harvest was 30 to 40 percent greater when humans did the pollinating. Human pollinators were better at getting to every blossom, performed cross-pollination more efficiently, and could work in windy, rainy weather.

[4] Bees, you should know, are less dependable. They don't like working when it's wet, they sleep a lot and they don't like the cold. The economists seemed to turn the moral of this story on its head. They argued that destroying and replacing the free gifts of nature could be an economic benefit.

[5] Woah! Well, you can imagine what the biologists must have thought. The economists said there are some critters we humans don't really need to have around to lead a good life. So let's not get hung up on biological diversity, because we can live fairly well – maybe even be better off – in a less diverse, biologically shrunken world.

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[6] Even though people outperformed bees in apple orchards, that should not argue for their elimination. On the contrary, the conservationists said, the Maoxian case study illustrated the danger of allowing the logic of the market to drive conservation policy. Those missing bees weren't valuable in Maoxian County, but that doesn't mean they don't have value. These decisions are much more complex.

Text 6

Sweetness and Light

[1] Willie Robson drives his lorry up to his beehives on the heather moor at Hangwell Law in the north of England. Beekeepers have brought their hives onto these starkly beautiful moors for at least a millennium, and some still do. Heather honey, with its unique gel-like texture and room-filling fragrance, is one of the most prized in the world. In the pot, it glows fox-red, often beaded with little silver bubbles.

[2] Willie takes off his hairy tweed cap and kits up in his bee-suit. Honey bees left alone do not sting; stinging might harm the intruder but it also kills the bee. The barbed lancets dig into the skin, pump poison into human flesh, and then cannot withdraw. Instead, the sting rips the centre from the bee's abdomen so the insect straggles towards death, its insides ripped out, pink and pulsing. But bees will die to protect the hive, just as they will fly ceaselessly to collect nectar and pollen so the hive's colony can live.

[3] The armour of the apiarist is a bee-suit. Willie has a sort of khaki-green nylon flying suit, which zips across the body and then across the neck to close up the net-fronted hood. The legs are tucked into wellies and the arms into gloves, elasticated at the wrists. In his suit, he walks around like a spaceman. Boots and gloves restrict some movement, but he goes slow-mo for another reason. 'You go with a quiet tread, or all hell breaks loose,' he says. 'It's a matter of weighing up the form. If trouble starts, you bail out.'

[4] After finding a piece of hessian sacking among the bric-a-brac on the back of the lorry, Willie lights the cloth with a match and puts it in a smoker formed like a pair of miniature bellows. The smoke can help lull the bees. They think there is an emergency, eat their fill of honey as if ready for flight and become less aggressive, perhaps because less able to bend and sting. Willie takes the top off the first hive. Pfffff, pfffff, pfffff, goes the smoke. After a short pause, he heaves off the top box. Immediately, its weight reveals the exact extent of the haul. Honey is half as heavy again as water and a full box tells on your muscles. Beekeeping, in some aspects, is like fishing: some years you get next-to-nothing, in others you crop gold. This year everything worked, both skill and luck came together, and it is boom time; the weather was good over the year. Willie and his family have kept bees here for over fifty years, and he is now reaping the rewards of knowing his turf and keeping bees that are well adapted to their environment. This trip to Hangwell Law comes after a run of collecting a bumper harvest of heather honeycomb in ten days. It does not happen every year, or even often. Some years he gets nothing at all. But today he gets 2,500 pounds of honey. Such is the drama of harvest.

[5] The bees, in the meantime, go purposefully berserk. Zinging, small, aggressive atoms, gold in the late afternoon sun, attack again and again from different angles, trying to find a way into the bee-suit. Their persistence is unrelenting. Bees in the wild can burrow into the fur of an attacking bear, to sting the animal where it will hurt them hopping mad. In the same way, they seek the vulnerable chink in the beekeeper's second skin. A hole in the finger-tip of a glove, a stray stitch on the seam, will not go unpunished. You feel like a character within a video game, surrounded by flying attackers. The bee-suit is slightly claustrophobic, limiting your vision but not the sounds, nor the sudden sight of bees flying onto the net visor, inches from your eyes. Willie says the bees can get to people mentally. 'They get you on the shake,' he says. 'They undermine your confidence and go dab, dab, dab.' When a bee stings, a banana-like odour spreads in the air, attracting others to sting the same spot, like sharks drawn to blood pulsing through water.

[6] Some beekeepers lose bees by carelessly crushing them under boxes as they work under the pressure of time and the bee-blitz. Willie knows that bees matter more than honey. He brushes insects off each box with gentle sweeps of bracken and the triumph he feels at the haul is as much about the bees as anything else. Man makes use of bees but only by respecting their nature.

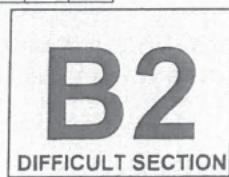
END OF READING PASSAGES

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

Candidate Number

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1 PART B2
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**



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

Read Texts 5-6 and answer questions 46-71. (42 marks)

Text 5

46. Which word in paragraph 1 does the writer use to suggest how bees move around flowers?

47. What is the meaning of the phrase 'hit blossom-time' (line 8)?

48. What is the 'moral of this story' (line 11)?

We should...

- A. look after bees.
- B. pay more money to replace bees.
- C. listen to economists' opinions on bees.
- D. stop bees from changing their behaviour.

A B C D

49. Why does 'the work' (line 10) become more expensive than before?

50. Find a word in paragraph 3 that can be replaced by 'affected negatively'.

51. Why did the writer use the word 'Woah!' (line 21)?

The writer wants to...

- A. argue that a statement is incorrect.
- B. express happiness for a new discovery.
- C. make an important argument more persuasive.
- D. get the reader to stop and think about a surprising statement.

A B C D

52. Suggest ONE word to replace 'critters' (line 22).

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



53. Based on the information in paragraphs 3-5, complete the summary by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct. (5 marks)

After a decade of study, economists released a (i) _____ report about a hike in crop yields. This was in spite of the (ii) _____ bees. It turns out that, for the farmers of Maoxian County, bees are superfluous as their human replacements can be depended upon far more. This is because they are able to access each (iii) _____, boosting productivity. Bees, it appears, are fussy workers preferring warm and (iv) _____ weather. The message economists took from this was that we should spend less time and energy worrying about the (v) _____ of life on Earth.

54. What is ‘the logic of the market’ that the writer refers to in line 28?
-
-

Text 6

55. Why does Willie keep beehives on the heather moor?
-
-

56. According to paragraph 1, how is heather honey different from other honey?
-
-

57. What does the writer mean when he writes, ‘Honey bees left alone do not sting’ (line 6)?

- A. Bees leave intruders alone.
- B. Bees might not die when left alone.
- C. Bees don’t sting without good reason.
- D. Bees only sting when they want to die.

A B C D

58. ‘Instead, the sting rips the centre from the bee’s abdomen’ (lines 8-9). The writer used the word ‘instead’, but instead of what?

Instead of ...

- A. stinging an intruder.
- B. digging into the skin.
- C. pumping poison into human flesh.
- D. withdrawing the sting from the skin.

A B C D

59. Why does the writer compare Willie to 'a spaceman' (line 14)?
-
-

60. Based on the information in paragraph 3, complete the summary by writing ONE word in each blank. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct. (4 marks)

In order to avoid any trouble when dealing with bees, beekeepers should protect their
 (i) _____ like a warrior wearing a suit of armour. Instead of a helmet, they
 wear a (ii) _____ along with something like a flying suit. The result of all
 this gear is that beekeepers are somewhat (iii) _____ in what they can do.
 However, this is not such a bad thing as they must not move too (iv) _____.

61. According to paragraph 4, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

Statements	T	F	NG
------------	---	---	----

- (i) Smoke makes bees more likely to sting.
- (ii) As soon as Willie lifts the first box he knows how successful the harvest is.
- (iii) Willie and his family have always been successful with their honey harvest.

62. What does 'heaves' (line 22) suggest about the top box?
-

63. The writer believes 'skill and luck' (line 25) contributed to Willie's success with his bees this year. What 'skill' and 'luck' is the writer referring to? (2 marks)

Skill: _____

Luck: _____

64. Why does the writer describe the harvesting of honey from beehives as a 'drama' (line 30)?
-
-

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

65. What does 'it' (line 34) refer to? _____
66. What is the writer referring to when he says 'the beekeeper's second skin' (lines 34-35)?

67. Find ONE thing the writer compares 'beekeepers' to in paragraph 5.

68. Find ONE metaphor for 'bees' the writer uses in paragraph 5.

69. Why is 'a stray stitch' (line 35) a problem for a beekeeper?

70. According to paragraph 6, complete the following summary by writing ONE word in each blank. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct. (2 marks)
- Some beekeepers are (i) _____ when handling bees. Unlike these beekeepers, Willie feels that bees are more (ii) _____ than the honey itself.
71. Below are comments made by some of the people mentioned in Texts 5 and 6. Match each person with one comment. Use each letter ONCE only. One comment is not used and you should select 'Not Applicable'. (6 marks)
- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| A. Apple farm owner | B. Hand pollinator | C. Economist |
| D. Willie Robson | E. Conservationist | F. Not Applicable |
- | Comments: | Person |
|---|--------|
| (i) Stings are just an occupational hazard. | |
| (ii) The bees always arrive in time to pollinate our apple farms. | |
| (iii) The bees themselves are irreplaceable and they are part of a bigger picture. | |
| (iv) It's exhausting and the pay is not really that good. Some days I get home soaked to the skin. | |
| (v) Hand pollination in Maoxian county is all about the numbers. Perhaps the world doesn't need bees any more. | |
| (vi) Our window is so short that there are only five days before the blossoms drop, so we need all our available hands on deck. | |

END OF PART B2

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.