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A Quick Grasp

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With Teaching Videos



1

School life in Hong Kong



Let's Think

1. Do you have any relatives who live overseas?
2. What do you think about being a student in Hong Kong?

Listen!

You are Emily. You are reading a letter from your cousin, Ann, about her school life.

Dear Emily,

Thanks for your letter from Canada! I hope you are well with Aunt Mary and Uncle John. Your last letter is encouraging! You said you
5 aren't good at Maths, but you still think that you can go to medical school and be a doctor if you work hard. I also believe that I can improve my English if I put more effort into it.



10 Unlike you, I have a busier school life in Hong Kong as I have a lot of tests and assignments. I usually have homework every day, and tests every month. I always work hard to prepare for my tests and exams.

15 To Hong Kong students, not only academic performance but also extracurricular activities (ECA) are important. Every student has to join a school club or a kind of ECA in my school so as to develop our interests and potential. This year, I'm a member of Gardening Club. I enjoy its activities so much because I like growing flowers!

20 Have you joined any ECA in your school? Please tell me more about your school life in your next letter.

Love,
Ann

(185 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the letter. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

1. Ann's letter is mainly about _____.
 - ☐ A. her feelings about Emily's last letter
 - ☐ B. her school life in Hong Kong
 - ☐ C. tests and exams in Hong Kong
 - ☐ D. common extracurricular activities in Hong Kong
2. The word 'medical' in line 6 means '_____'.
 - ☐ A. associated with mathematics
 - ☐ B. linked to personal hygiene
 - ☐ C. related to the treatment of illnesses and injuries
 - ☐ D. connected with the study of languages
3. Which of the following is **TRUE** about Ann?
 - ☐ A. She has a lot of pressure from her studies.
 - ☐ B. She does not have time for her studies.
 - ☐ C. She needs to take part in many extra-curricular activities.
 - ☐ D. She is not satisfied with her English results.
4. According to Ann, _____ are important to students in Hong Kong.
 - ☐ A. test results
 - ☐ B. exam results
 - ☐ C. extra-curricular activities
 - ☐ D. all of the above
5. According to the letter, Emily's school life in Canada is probably _____.
 - ☐ A. more interesting
 - ☐ B. less interesting
 - ☐ C. busier
 - ☐ D. less busy

Grammar Corner

We can use **personal pronouns** to refer to nouns that have been mentioned or that are obvious from the context, or **possessive adjectives** to show that something belongs to someone.

e.g. *I hope you are well with Aunt Mary and Uncle John.*
(Lines 2-3)

e.g. *I enjoy its activities so much because I like growing flowers!*
(Lines 17-18)

Read every word in each option carefully. Then cross out the inaccurate options one by one.

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the letter. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Find a phrase in paragraph 1 which means 'to work harder'.

2. What academic subject(s) do Emily and Ann want to improve respectively?

3. How often does Ann have homework and tests?

4. What is the short form of 'extracurricular activities'?

5. Do you think Gardening Club is a suitable club for Ann? Find one reason from the letter to support your answer.

-  6. Decide whether each of the following statements is **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in the letter. Write T, F or NG in each box.

Statement	
(a) Ann always studies till midnight.	
(b) Emily is Ann's classmate.	
(c) Ann does not seem upset due to the heavy workload.	
(d) Ann is glad to have received Emily's previous letter.	
(e) Emily has decided to be a gardener in the future.	

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some of the subjects taught in secondary schools in Hong Kong. Match them with the correct pictures.

Geography Putonghua Physical Education Liberal Studies
Integrated Science Home Economics Chinese History
English Literature Information and Communication Technology



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

- Which subject do you think is the most practical? Why?
- Is there any subject that you think should be taught in secondary school? Explain your thoughts.

Revision 1

Listen!



You are Martin. You are reading a leaflet about a work and study programme.

OPUS Work and Study Programme

◆ Why should you join us?

Want to improve your English, gain work experience and broaden your horizons together at the same time? The OPUS Work and Study Programme is the best option for you!

◆ Where am I going to study and work and how long is the programme?

You can choose the place of study and work from these countries: Australia, New Zealand, England and Ireland. As for the programme length, there are two options available:

6-month programme: experiential and exploratory

12-month programme: training-based and goal-orientated

◆ How does the programme work?

During the first eight weeks, you will have classes of your choice and a two-hour language enhancement course every weekday. After that, you will be assigned to a company, café, hotel or farm, and start working! Businesses that work with us offer flexible working hours, so that you may arrange your time better.

◆ What are the criteria?

You should be 18-30 years old and have obtained at least Level 2 or above in HKDSE English Language. You don't need to worry about your living expenses because the earnings from the job that you will be assigned to should be enough to cover them.

Don't hesitate! Contact us today!

For further information, please visit our website www.opus.com.hk

(212 words)

Reading Made Easy

Targeted reading skill:
Locating specific information

Teaching
video



A Quick Grasp

To locate information, pay attention to:

1. **headings and subheadings**, i.e. brief summaries of the paragraphs, which give us a sense of what they are about in general.
2. **exact wording** or **synonyms** that are relevant to the keyword(s) in the questions or options.
3. detailed information including **amounts**, **statistic figures**, **years**, **dates and time**, etc. and **quotes** that give clues about one's opinion on a topic.

The word 'welcome' in the heading suggests that the content is to be read by newcomers. In this context, the newcomers are the S.1 students of Long River College, who will be introduced to school clubs.

This subheading presents the key concepts included in the following content—kinds of school clubs available for students.

Detailed information, such as examples of school clubs for students who like staying indoors, is given.

Welcome to Long River College!

In the coming months, you may be busy with your studies. Joining a school club is a good way to relax. It's important to strike a balance between work and play!



Which one should I join?

If you like **staying indoors**, you can join **Reading Club**, **Art Club** or **Chess Club** to take part in the activities you like. Students who are not fond of **arts subjects** can choose to join **Science Club**. You can do interesting research and join insightful workshops organised by our teachers.

Exercise 1

Tom has written a personal letter to his friend, Rachel.

Dear Rachel,

How are you? I hope everything is going well.

I have already been in London for two weeks. It has been an interesting experience so far. People here are very nice. It is not easy to catch up with other classmates on the schoolwork, but the teachers are very patient with me. And the classmates are very friendly, too. My roommate, Jeremy, offers help of all sorts to me in my daily life. I'm so grateful to him!

I'm trying my best to adapt to the new learning style here. The teachers encouraged us to develop independent thinking skills and to communicate more actively with our classmates. It was really a challenge for me at the very beginning, but I think I have now learnt the ropes as I have been making good progress.

The only thing I would like to complain about is the sullen weather. Can you believe that it actually rains five days a week here? The British often feel gloomy about it and are sometimes reluctant to go outside. So, as long as the sun is out, people are very likely to go outdoors hurriedly to enjoy a cozy sunbath.

I am looking forward to seeing you again. Write soon!

Cheers,
Tom

Choose the best answers.

1. The teachers treat Tom _____.
☐ A. fairly
☐ B. patiently
☐ C. politely
☐ D. badly
2. Which of the following about Tom's life in London is **NOT TRUE**?
☐ A. The teachers encouraged Tom to cultivate the habit of independent thinking.
☐ B. The teachers encouraged Tom to discuss questions with his classmates.
☐ C. Tom did not want to improve his communication skills.
☐ D. Tom thinks the teachers and classmates in London are nice and friendly.
3. In paragraph 3, 'learnt the ropes' means _____.
☐ A. known how to do something
☐ B. already completed something
☐ C. found something more interesting
☐ D. made a lot of progress in something
4. The rainy weather in London makes people feel _____. (Choose more than **ONE** answer.)
☐ A. sad
☐ B. bored
☐ C. depressed
☐ D. exhausted

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

5. Why does Tom feel grateful to Jeremy?

6. What are people there likely to do when it is sunny?

CLASSROOM

Reading Spotlight

for Junior Secondary Students



Self-study Vocabulary Booklet

- ☒ Essential vocabulary items with their Chinese definitions and parts of speech indicated
- ☒ More than 250 example sentences
- ☒ Synonyms, antonyms and collocations



S.1

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初中

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1 School life in Hong Kong

1. **encouraging** (adj.) 振奮人心的

A discouraging

*My father is one of the most **encouraging** people I know—he always listens to my worries patiently and guides me to regain my confidence.*

2. **medical** (adj.) 醫學的

C a medical team

*After the doctor's examination, it was confirmed that his injuries needed long-term **medical** care.*

3. **improve** (v.) 改善

C greatly improve

*Ann has been on a vegetarian diet for months and her skin condition has dramatically **improved**.*

4. **effort** (n.) [C/U] 努力·氣力

C put effort into something

*The party venue was impressively gorgeous. It was all prepared by Tim alone. You can tell he did put a lot of **effort** into the preparation of the party.*

5. **unlike** (prep.) 不像

S different from

***Unlike** most children, John doesn't enjoy watching cartoons or films. He is more interested in activities like playing with Lego.*

6. **assignment** (n.) [C] 功課

S task

*My sister studies French literature at university. She has a lot of reading **assignments**, which is why she always sits at her desk reading books.*

7. **prepare** (v.) 預備·為……作準備

C prepare for

*Jane will have a job interview next Thursday. She wants the job offer so badly that she now spends hours every day **preparing** for it.*