



福建中學

FUKIEN SECONDARY SCHOOL

S6 Mock Examination (2020-2021)

English Language Paper 1

Reading

Reading Passages

(1 hour 30 minutes)

Date: 4th January 2021

Time: 8:30a.m.-10:00a.m.

Name: _____

Class: _____ No.: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write all your answers in the Question-Answer Book.
2. DO NOT write any answers in the booklet because they will not be marked.

PART A

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1–23 in the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

Text 1**The Vertical City: How Hong Kong Grew Up**

[1] Imagine this scenario. You wake up in your flat on the 36th floor of an apartment building, brush your teeth, get dressed and take a lift to the shopping mall below. You grab a steamed bun for breakfast before descending to the MTR, which whisks you to the district where you work. Now you complete the same process in reverse, re-emerging from the underground, riding escalators through floors of shopping malls, taking a lift to your office on the 55th floor of an office tower. After work, you join your friends at a restaurant on the 22nd floor of a building filled with nothing but eateries. This is everyday life for hundreds of thousands of middle-class Hongkongers.

[2] The numbers speak for themselves. According to real estate data company Emporis, Hong Kong has an estimated 7,827 buildings that stand more than 35 metres tall. This figure is more than the total for any city in the world (except Moscow). Hong Kong is even more exceptional for the average height of its buildings. The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) says that Hong Kong has 315 buildings that are taller than 150 metres, besting New York's 243 and more than double the tally of the next-closest contender, Dubai, which has 153.

[3] What makes Hong Kong even more distinct is just how common its towers are, and how many of them are residential. Even in New York, the city that pioneered the skyscraper, most high-rises are concentrated in a few large chunks of Manhattan, while the rest of the city's neighbourhoods are as low-rise as anywhere else. In Hong Kong, you are as likely to live in a high-rise apartment tower in the far-flung suburbia of Ma On Shan as you are in the heart of Central.

[4] What's especially remarkable is the way that Hong Kong has used high-rises to create a truly vertical urban life. In most places, skyscrapers are gated communities with a ground-level entrance. In Hong Kong, there is nearly as much public space inside buildings as there is outside them. You can find restaurants, public seating areas and even lush gardens in tucked-away spaces well above street level. It is something that architects Jonathan Solomon, Adam Frampton and Clara Wong call a 'condition of groundlessness' in their book *Cities Without Ground*.

[5] 'In a normal city, streets have an axis,' explains Solomon. 'And if you look down the street, there is something important. Really important buildings stand out.' This isn't the case in Hong Kong, where buildings are mashed together with incredible density, and the path from A to B might pass up and down through a number of unexpected spaces.

[6] How did Hong Kong become a vertical city? If you take a look at any historic photo, you will see a low-slung city of densely-packed tenements. Central Kowloon was an expanse of broad avenues and suburban villas. Things began to change after World War II. Hundreds of thousands of refugees poured in from mainland China, fuelling an industrial boom. There was just one problem: lack of space. Kowloon and the northern part of Hong Kong Island span just 88 square kilometres. There was more room in the New Territories, but no way to get there — other than a few narrow mountain roads and the slow trains of the Kowloon-Canton Railway. So the urban areas grew denser and denser.

[7] The first high-rises were known as composite buildings, which had no restrictions on their internal use. ‘Composite equals domestic uses plus plus — it could be anything,’ says architect Eunice Seng, an associate professor at The University of Hong Kong. Two famous examples are Mirador Mansions (1959) and Chungking Mansions (1961). Initially billed as luxury residences, they soon became filled with guesthouses, small factories, nightclubs, and so on.

[8] Many of these buildings were so enormous that they blocked out sunlight to the streets below. To solve this issue, the government started regulating new buildings, which required upper floors to be set back. This created the distinctive tapered shape seen in the buildings of Ferry Point, a neighbourhood that is filled entirely with 20-storey composite buildings. Eventually, it became clear that it was impossible to go much higher without building something that looked like a pyramid. ‘So the building regulation experienced another change,’ says Seng.

[9] Enter pencil towers. ‘In the 1970s, there was a wave of micro-development — smaller-scale developers who could build a 20-storey building if they bought two shophouses together,’ says architect and author Jason Carlow. Five-storey tenements on narrow parcels were knocked down to make way for skinny towers many times taller.

[10] Meanwhile, another trend was playing out. In 1954, a massive fire ripped through Shek Kip Mei and left more than 53,000 mainland refugees homeless. The government responded by quickly building resettlement housing for the victims. Eventually, these temporary estates were replaced by permanent high-rise public housing like Choi Hung Estate, a landmark complex that opened in 1964 and housed roughly 43,000 residents. The units in these estates were functional but small, ranging from 280 to 450 square feet. This set a bar for private developments. ‘In response to how dense and compact the original public housing was in Hong Kong, private housing followed in its coattails,’ says Carlow. ‘There were minimum standards of how small a room could be, how low the ceiling could be; private developers and architects had a hand in shaping those because of the need for more housing.’

[11] Hong Kong’s first private housing estate was Mei Foo Sun Chuen, which opened between 1968 and 1978. Though its accommodations were better appointed and more spacious than public housing, Mei Foo Sun Chuen adopted the core characteristics of estates like Choi Hung, and then enhanced them, creating a self-contained community complete with supermarkets, recreational facilities and 99 high-rise apartment towers — home to 80,000 people.

[12] With each square metre of land worth tens of thousands of dollars, developers build as big and tall as they can to make a profit — which is why the average price of a 430-square-foot shoebox in the sky is now HK\$4.3 million, and why sky-high retail rents mean you are more likely to find a restaurant on the fifth floor of a building than on the street level.

End of Reading Passage (Part A)

PART B1

Read Texts 2–3 and answer questions 24–48 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

Text 2

STARGAZER


[HOME](#)
[STARGAZING TIPS](#)
[EVENTS CALENDAR](#)
[FORUM](#)
[EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE](#)
[CONTACT US](#)

Stargazing tips

[1] The Milky Way is filled with stars, planets and comets — just to name a few space objects that stargazers like to seek out in the night sky. Stargazing is fun and educational. Here are some tips to make your next stargazing experience a success.



Pick a good time and place

[2] Many people like to stargaze in summer. However, this is when the sky is haziest due to heat in the air. It is better to stargaze on crisp, clear winter nights.

[3] Also, you should pick a night when the moon is very small, or better yet, when it isn't visible at all. As it reflects sunlight, it can get in the way of stargazing.

[4] You can use your phone to determine your GPS coordinates. Knowing exactly where you are on Earth will help you identify what objects will be visible in the sky.

[5] It is best to go to high ground. If you live in a city, stargaze from the rooftops of buildings. In the countryside, hike to the top of a hill or mountain. The objective is to have as much of the sky in view as possible, without any obstructions.

Avoid light pollution

[6] This is difficult in cities, but not impossible. Going to the top of a tall building, late at night, takes you above most light sources. This gives you the best chance of avoiding light pollution.

[7] In the countryside, it is easier to get away from streetlights and other light sources. Be sure to buy (or make) a red filter for your torch, as this will provide a light source without disrupting your eyes' 'night vision' abilities.

Use your eyes first

[8] You should start by becoming familiar with the night sky using only your eyes. After that, you can use a pair of binoculars to zoom in further. When you're ready to take your stargazing to the next level, why not get a telescope?



pandavector. 123rf.com

Get a star chart or app

[9] Find out what you're gazing at by downloading star charts from the Internet or find them in books about stargazing. Another option is to download apps that map out the night sky for you — many of them only require you to point your smartphone camera at the sky.

Text 3

Study finds Hong Kong to be world's light pollution capital

- [1] Like any modern city, Hong Kong glows all through the night. Its countless buildings, streetlights and neon signs all work together to wash out the natural darkness of night. Many tourism brochures refer to Hong Kong as the 'City of Light', but a recent study is less complimentary — naming it the most light-polluted urban area on the planet.
- [2] The study was carried out by scientists at The University of Hong Kong. Over a three-year period, the team collected more than 5 million night-sky brightness measurements, creating the largest database on night-sky brightness in the world.
- [3] According to Jason Pun Chun-shing, the leader of the study, Hong Kong is about 1,000 times brighter at night than other major cities around the world. In fact, the team couldn't find any other city on the planet with such high levels of night-sky brightness.
- [4] The results are obvious to anyone who has looked up at the night sky in Hong Kong. Even on the clearest winter evenings, only a handful of stars are visible from within the city's limits, and even this tiny selection usually requires a rooftop viewing spot.
- [5] Stargazing is still possible in the Hong Kong countryside, where night brightness levels are roughly thirty times lower than those in urban areas. However, the constant urbanisation of Hong Kong is putting even the countryside at risk of light pollution, promising a dim future for local stargazers.
- [6] 'When I was a kid, I used to spend hours and hours looking up at the night sky from a small park near my family's flat in North Point. I'd never even heard of the term *light pollution* in those days,' says Robert Hung, a retired primary schoolteacher and highly experienced stargazer. 'My grandson has become interested in stargazing lately as well, but to enjoy it, we have to go all the way to an outlying island. It takes more than an hour each way.'
- [7] Gemma Lee, a local Secondary 6 student, agrees that Hong Kong's light pollution problem is in need of urgent attention. 'When I joined the Astronomy Club at my school, we could stargaze from the roof of the school using telescopes,' she recalls. 'On clear nights, we could see a lot — planets, passing comets, craters on the moon. It's only been a few years, but now we have to take a bus up to Plover Cove.'
- [8] Other cities around the world are filled with skyscrapers and neon signs, but light pollution tends to be much worse in Hong Kong. Why? One reason is lack of government regulation. Unlike Sydney, London or Paris, Hong Kong has no laws regulating urban light use. This leads to a general overuse of lighting — from ad signs that are left on all night long to spotlights that beam columns of bright light into the sky for dramatic effect and floodlights that light up streets and car parks for security purposes.
- [9] The other thing working against Hong Kong is its density. With a population of about 7.5 million and a land area of 1,106 square kilometres, the city is the fourth-densest in the world. This means about 6,780 people reside in every square kilometre of space. There are much more populated cities in the world, but they have the advantage of being more spacious, which greatly lessens the amount of light pollution they create.
- [10] So what can be done? First, the government should implement laws to help reduce the light pollution being created in Hong Kong. Fines could serve as punishment for companies and people that refuse to follow the new laws. Next, the government should lead by example by turning down the lighting in excessively bright public spaces. Finally, the government should fund a team to record night-sky brightness levels regularly in order to monitor the issue.
- [11] Lee believes that these would all be steps in the right direction, and emphasises that time is of the essence. 'If something isn't done right away, a starry night will become a thing of the past in Hong Kong,' she warns.

PART B2

Read Texts 4-5 and answer questions 49–75 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B2.

Text 4**Higgins present Eliza**

- Higgins: Well? Is Eliza presentable?
- Mrs Higgins: You silly boy, of course she's not presentable. She's a triumph of your art and of her dressmaker's: but if you suppose for a moment that she doesn't give herself away in every sentence she utters, you must be perfectly cracked about her.
- 5 Pickering: But don't you think something might be done? I mean something to eliminate the bloodthirsty element from her conversation.
- Mrs Higgins: Not as long as she is in Henry's hands.
- Higgins: Do you mean that my language is improper?
- Mrs Higgins: No, dearest, it would be quite proper – say on a canal barge; but it would not be proper for her at
10 a garden party.
- Higgins: Oh, well, if you say so, I suppose I don't always talk like a bishop.
- Mrs. Higgins: Colonel Pickering, will you tell me what is the exact state of things in Wimpole Street?
- Pickering: Well, I have come to live there with Henry. We work together at my Indian dialects; and we think is more convenient...
- 15 Mrs Higgins: Quite so. I know all about that: it's an excellent arrangement. But where does this girl live?
- Higgins: With us, of course. Where would she live?
- Mrs Higgins: But on what terms? Is she a servant?
- Higgins: Well, no. I've had to work at the girl every day for months to get her to her present pitch. I never stop thinking about the girl and her confounded vowels and consonants, watching her lips and
20 her teeth and her tongue.
- Mrs Higgins: You certainly are a pretty pair of babies, playing with your live doll.
- Higgins: Playing! The hardest job I ever tackled: make no mistake about that, Mother. But you have no idea how frightfully interesting it is to take a human being and change her into quite a different human being by creating a new speech for her. It's filling up the deepest gulf that separates class
25 from class and soul from soul.

English: A most fascinating language

A. _____

[1] *Pygmalion* is one of George Bernard Shaw's best-loved plays. It has twice been made into a film, the most famous being the 1964 version, which was called *My Fair Lady*. The play centres on Higgins, a phonetics professor, and his attempts to teach Eliza, a poorly educated flower seller, to speak English like the upper classes.

5 When we first meet Eliza, she speaks with a strong cockney accent, cockney being the primary accent of London's working class. The script for Eliza's part was written phonetically and it is practically unrecognisable as English. One of her first utterances was: 'Ow, eez ye-ooa san, is e? Wal, fewd dan y' de-ooty bawmz a mather should, eed now bettern to spawl a pore gel's flahrzn than ran awy athaht pyin.' In Standard English this is: 'Oh, he's your son, is he? Well, if you'd done your duty by him as a mother should, he'd know better than to spoil a

10 poor girl's flowers then run away without paying.' Just this one simple sentence is enough to exemplify the gulf between two different forms of English.

B. _____

[2] I used the term 'Standard English' above but there is in fact no such thing. English is spoken as a native or official language in many countries, and has developed in different ways in different countries and even within

15 countries, especially in the UK, where there can be significant differences between accents or dialects. The origins of English in the UK can be traced back to the fifth century. Up until then, a Celtic language was spoken, but various Germanic tribes then invaded, bringing with them their own languages which developed into what is now known as Old English. This would be more or less unintelligible to a modern-day speaker of English, although around half of the most common English words (the verb 'to be', for example) have their roots in Old

20 English. Subsequently, Celtic was pushed back to the geographical fringes, although Celtic influences can still be found in English.

C. _____

[3] The French-speaking Normans conquered Britain in the 11th century and a linguistic divide developed: the upper classes spoke French while the lower classes spoke English. By the 14th century, English had re-established

25 its dominant position, although, inevitably, many French words had been incorporated by then. The form of English used during the period from the Norman Conquest until 1500 is known as Middle English. Towards the end of this period, the next great change in English, known as the Great Vowel Shift, began. Before the shift, vowels tended to be longer, like their continental counterparts, but during the shift, vowels became diphthongs (where two vowels are pronounced quickly together, as in 'wave') or were shortened. For example, the vowel in

30 'blame' was, in Middle English, pronounced in the same way as the vowel in 'harm'.

D. _____

[4] The printing press was introduced in Britain in the late 15th century and was one of the underlying reasons for the standardisation of English spelling at that time. However, this occurred before the vowel shift, so spelling was based on Middle English rather than Modern English (as English is known from the 16th century onwards) and

35 this accounts for some of the peculiarities of English spelling. Another big influence on the English language was the British Empire, which, at its peak, covered a quarter of the earth's surface. It is hardly surprising, therefore,

that words from many foreign countries were adopted into the English language. The Industrial Revolution also had an influence, as new words were needed to describe the various technological developments.

E. _____

40 [5] Starting in the 17th century, the colonisation of North America began a process where a distinct form of American English was produced. Some forms of pronunciation and certain vocabulary were frozen once they arrived in the North American colonies, and modern American English is more akin to the English of Shakespeare's time than modern British English is. Some words, commonly assumed to be Americanisms, like 'trash' or 'fall' (autumn) were in fact previously used in Britain, but had fallen into disuse.

45 [6] Linguists nowadays generally divide English into three broad categories, based on geographical location – the British Isles, North America and Australasia, and there are many dialects within these three groups. Dialects are basically sub-forms of a language and differ from one another in accent and vocabulary while still, to a greater or lesser extent, being mutually comprehensible. However, that does not necessarily mean that a son of Mexican immigrants in Texas can easily understand a construction worker from Glasgow in Scotland. But this has more to
50 do with class, as there is a marked tendency for working class people to speak less clearly irrespective of their particular regional accent. As such, it is not unknown for British films to be shown with English subtitles in American cinemas.

[7] There is nowhere else which offers such a wide range of dialects in such a small area as does the UK. This brings us back to Eliza and Professor Higgins. The form of English that Eliza spoke was cockney, the traditional
55 dialect of East London's working class people, although nowadays the term is often used to describe a more general London accent. Apart from the peculiarities of its pronunciation – with, among other things, the initial 'h' of words dropped, the 't' in the middle or end of a word becoming a glottal stop (whereby the sound is swallowed) and the 'th' sound becoming 'f' or 'v', and that's before we talk about vowels – cockney also has its own rich vocabulary, known as 'rhyming slang'. In this, a Standard English word is replaced by something that
60 rhymes with it, and then is often shortened. Thus 'nose' is replaced by 'garden hose', which in turn is shortened to 'garden'. 'Face' is given a similar treatment and becomes 'boat' from 'boat race'. From here, you can work out what 'she has a lovely boat with a tiny garden' means.

[8] It was George Bernard Shaw, author of *Pygmalion*, who famously said that England and America are two countries separated by a common language. But the truth is actually far more complicated. Because English is
65 used in many different countries, whether as a native, official, second or foreign language, there are thus endless varieties of it. This is what makes English the most fascinating language in the world.

End of Reading Passages (Part B2)