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**HKDSE 2024  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 1 PART A  
QUESTION-ANSWER BOOK**



Write your Candidate Number and stick a barcode label in the space provided on this page.  
Read Texts 1 and 2 and answer questions 1-23. (42 marks)

**Text 1**

1. Based on the information in paragraph 1, complete the sentence by selecting the best option from the choices below. (2 marks)

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ banyan trees were removed while several others (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of heavy rainfall.

- (i) A. Eight
- B. One hundred
- C. Four-year-old
- D. Four hundred-year-old

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

- (ii) A. loosened
- B. fell down
- C. were crushed
- D. were cut down

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

2. According to paragraphs 1 and 2, why was the 'decision' (line 2) considered 'controversial' (line 2)?

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3. According to paragraph 5, how did the wall become a problem?

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4. Who or what does 'them' (line 17) refer to?

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5. According to Text 1, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

**Statements**

- (i) Two government departments had the same view towards the tree felling decision.
- (ii) The trees in Sai Ying Pun were taken down after experts were upset.
- (iii) No one was hurt by the fallen trees.

|                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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"/> |

6. What is the text type of Text 1?

- A. A news report
- B. Health and safety advice
- C. A profile of banyan trees in Hong Kong
- D. A leaflet promoting Hong Kong's heritage

|                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A                     | B                     | C                     | D                     |
| <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.



**Text 2**

7. With reference to paragraph 1, complete the sentence below.

Over 70 years ago, Lam installed a shrine, which has been \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What does the phrase 'these behemoths' (line 4) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What does Jim imply when he says 'If Hong Kong was abandoned it would be taken over by banyans in a few hundred years' (line 6)?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Find a word in paragraph 2 which can be replaced by each word or phrase given below. (2 marks)

(i) 'seen everywhere' \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) 'significant' \_\_\_\_\_

11. Below is a summary of paragraph 3. In five of the lines there is ONE mistake. If you find a mistake, underline it and replace the word with one that expresses the correct idea. Write the word in the Correction column. Both grammar and spelling must be correct. In one of the lines, there is no mistake; put a tick (✓) in the Correction column. One has been done for you as an example. (5 marks)

| Summary                                                                    | Correction |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Thin airborne branches seek food; making banyan trees easily identifiable. | (i)        |                 |
| Over 1,100 banyans growing out of stone walls on Hong Kong Island          | (ii)       |                 |
| were recorded by Jim Chi-yung. Finding protection from another             | (iii)      |                 |
| tree or the soil enables it to produce a thin trunk. Since banyans         | (iv)       |                 |
| grow in few situations they are the most dominant form of greenery         | (v)        |                 |
| even in areas that have very little space or are very <u>flat</u> .        |            | hilly (example) |

12. Complete the notes about paragraph 4 by writing ONE word taken from the paragraph in each blank below. (4 marks)

Jim shows the writer trees growing out of a stone wall built according to a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ method.

This type of wall needs no (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ in the gaps between each stone. He explains that birds let

go of banyan (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ or they are carried by the wind and fall into these gaps. It is here that

very long roots (iv) \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

13. Complete the summary of paragraph 5 by selecting the best option from the choices below. (3 marks)

Jim is impressed by the way that the trees create a green (i) \_\_\_\_\_ that covers the road. He says that he once suggested creating a (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ street with restaurants for people to eat outside under the banyans. The government reacted in (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ way to the idea.

- (i) A. banyan  
B. umbrella  
C. backdrop  
D. destination
- A B C D

- (ii) A. traffic-free  
B. driver-friendly  
C. pedestrian-free  
D. environmentally-friendly
- A B C D

- (iii) A. a warm  
B. a negative  
C. a sarcastic  
D. an optimistic
- A B C D

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

\_\_\_\_\_

15. In paragraph 6, what is Jim's attitude towards people who concrete over roots: Positive, negative or neutral? Give one reason from Text 2 to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. What does 'an unnecessary overreaction' (line 27) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. According to paragraph 7, why did local residents in Bonham Road attach balloons to the tree roots?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. According to paragraph 8, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

- | Statements                                                                          | T                     | F                     | NG                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Visitors to Lam Tsuen buy prepared wishes to put on the tree.                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) Since 2005 there has been a decline in the number of worshippers at Lam Tsuen. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) Shrines are frequently built in the branches of trees.                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

19. Why did the 'lack of useful properties' (line 39) ensure the survival of banyans?

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

20. Provide ONE example of how the behaviour of banyans can be seen as 'a symbol of love' (line 41).

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21. According to paragraph 11, give ONE example of how the government is protecting banyan trees.

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22. According to Text 2, what quality of banyan trees does the writer have in mind when he says 'There is a reason they are worshipped, after all' (line 52)?

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23. Use the information in Text 2 to match each of the following comments with a person/organisation mentioned in the text. Write the letter of the comment in the Answer column. One comment is NOT used. One has been done for you as an example. Use each letter ONCE only. (5 marks)

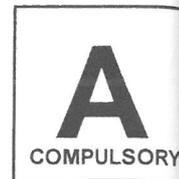
| Person/organisation     | Answer             | Comments                                                                              |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Li Yu                   | <u>A (example)</u> | <del>A. Banyan trees represent love.</del>                                            |
| Mr Lam                  | (i) _____          | B. There are too many trees growing out of walls.                                     |
| P. Y. L. Ng             | (ii) _____         | C. We needed to play it safe. We just had to be cautious.                             |
| Jim Chi-yung            | (iii) _____        | D. This tree has been part of my life for so long now.                                |
| Visitor to Lam Tsuen    | (iv) _____         | E. I don't mind if it's artificial as long as my wishes are heard.                    |
| The Highways Department | (v) _____          | F. It's useless. The wood is not smooth enough to make anything out of.               |
|                         |                    | G. My nickname is accurate. I can tell you everything there is to know about banyans. |

END OF PART A

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.



## 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. Use separate supplementary answer sheets for Part A and Part B. Write your Candidate Number, mark the question number box and stick a barcode label on each sheet, and fasten them with string **INSIDE** the relevant 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.

Not to be taken away before the  
end of the examination session

## PART A

Read Texts 1 and 2 and answer questions 1-23 in the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

### Text 1

#### Government defends axing century-old banyans on safety grounds

- 1 [1] Four trees collapsed in Hong Kong on Monday morning following a night of heavy rain. This comes after the government's controversial decision to cut down four century-old Chinese banyans after several similar trees fell from stone walls during recent storms.
- 5 [2] The report of the fallen trees comes days after experts expressed anger over the Highways Department's controversial felling of four century-old banyan trees in Sai Ying Pun, without consulting a panel advising the government on tree management.
- [3] The government cited 'unforeseen' circumstances and considerations of public safety, after a giant banyan tree growing out of a masonry wall in Sai Ying Pun collapsed on 22 July. A neighbouring tree was cut down immediately as cracks were found in the wall behind it.
- 10 [4] The Head of the Developments Bureau's Tree Management Office said the trees in Sai Ying Pun were rooted in old stone masonry walls on a slope of almost 80 degrees.
- [5] Following the collapse on 22 July, the Highways Department's contractor inspected the remaining trees and carried out major trimming work. But by midweek last week, cracks were found in the wall behind the trees and were seen to have worsened.
- 15 [6] "Since the trees were growing on this wall, we could not evaluate the trees and the wall separately," said the Head of the Tree Management Office. "We agree with the department that the trees had to be removed immediately. They could have collapsed and pulled the wall with them."

### Text 2

#### A Tree Worthy of Worship: Hong Kong's Banyans

- 1 [1] Mr Lam was a teenager when he installed a shrine to the local earth god under a banyan tree in Tai Hang. "That was over 70 years ago," he says. After World War II, he received permission from the government to transform the shrine into a temple.
- 5 [2] It is no coincidence that Lam's temple started with a banyan tree. These behemoths are ubiquitous in Hong Kong, growing in parks, street planters and even between the cracks of stone walls. Their imposing presence defines the cityscape. "If Hong Kong was abandoned it would be taken over by banyans in a few hundred years," says Jim Chi-yung, chair of the University of Hong Kong's Department of Geography, who is popularly known as the Tree Professor for his arboreal enthusiasm.
- 10 [3] Banyan trees are immediately recognisable for their spindly aerial roots, which cast outwards in search of water and nutrition. When a root finds a suitable source, either in the soil or another tree, it becomes a thick, woody trunk. This is what allows the banyan to grow in varied conditions, which is why they are the most prominent forms of greenery in the hilliest and most densely packed parts of Hong Kong. Jim has counted more than 1,100 trees growing from the sheer surfaces of masonry walls on Hong Kong Island. "They can become 20 metres tall, as big as trees growing out of the ground, except they are growing out from the wall," he says.
- 15 [4] When I first met Jim, in 2009, he took me to Forbes Street in Kennedy Town, where 22 banyans grow out of the surface of a 12-metre-high stone wall, which was built using a traditional Hakka technique that does not require mortar between stone joints. Seeds carried by the wind or dropped by birds find their way into the cracks. As the tree grows, its roots plunge dozens of metres into the soil behind the wall.
- 20 [5] Jim loves the way the banyans form a lush green canopy across Forbes Street. He sits on a number of government committees, and he told me he once proposed pedestrianising the street to make it a destination for *al fresco* dining, a place where people could sit and relax under the shade of the banyans. The government's reception was frosty.

[6] “See what’s happening here?” he asks, touching a root that had been concreted over to stop it from growing. “The people who do this, they don’t understand trees. They’re defacing heritage. Imagine doing this to an ancient monument.”

25 [7] Last summer, after days of heavy rain, a wall tree collapsed onto Bonham Road, which led the Highways Department to surreptitiously chop down four healthy banyans nearby. Their sudden removal was defended by the government as a precautionary measure, but experts like Jim said it was an unnecessary overreaction. It sparked outrage from local residents, who tied balloons and messages of support to the trees’ roots, which still clung to the wall that had supported them for 100 years.

30 [8] Respect for banyans runs deep in southern Chinese culture. Banyan trees are considered to have excellent *feng shui*, symbolising longevity, fecundity and perseverance. They are also believed to be home to earth gods, the indigenous deities that protect each village, and shrines are often built at their base. In many cases, people worship the trees themselves, not just the earth gods. That is the case in Lam Tsuen, where a pair of banyans known as the Wishing Trees have become a tourist attraction. Visitors write their wish on a piece of yellow paper, tie it to an orange and toss it onto one of the trees’ branches. After the weight of all the wishes caused a branch to collapse in 2005, worshippers were instructed to tie their wishes to a plastic tree instead.

35 [9] Anthropologist P.Y.L. Ng notes that banyan trees were worshipped because they were often the only surviving trees in a landscape that had been steadily deforested over hundreds of years. “Its wood is gnarled and so cannot be used as timber. It will not flame and so cannot be used for firewood. Its very lack of useful properties ensures its invincibility and survival,” he wrote in a 1983 study of the New Territories.

40 [10] The 17<sup>th</sup> century playwright Li Yu saw the banyan tree as a symbol of love. “Anytime a smaller tree grows before a banyan tree, this banyan will sooner or later lean its body towards the smaller tree. After a time, it wraps its branches around the smaller tree’s body, and the smaller tree gradually falls into the banyan’s embrace. The two trees become one, so that even if you cut them with an axe you would not be able to separate them.”

45 [11] Modern Hong Kong has found ways to accommodate banyan trees. To Yuen Street near City University forks around a particularly large banyan, an accommodation also made on Dragon Road near Victoria Park. Nearly two-thirds of the 481 trees on the government’s Register of Old and Valuable Trees are banyans. According to the government, there are 29,000 banyans under maintenance in city parks and streets, though many more exist undocumented in the wild. A total of 3,491 new banyans have been planted in the city since 2011.

50 [12] And while the future of many old and prominent banyans is contentious you can count on banyans to find a way to survive even in the most difficult conditions. New sprouts are already growing from the stumps of the severed banyan trees on Bonham Road. There is a reason they are worshipped, after all.

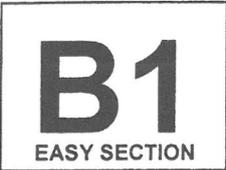
### END OF READING PASSAGES

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

Candidate Number

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**HKDSE 2024  
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 and 4 and answer questions 24-42. (42 marks)

**Text 3**

24. Find ONE word in paragraph 1 which has a similar meaning to 'goods'.  
\_\_\_\_\_
25. Where did Uncle Tang learn to make flour dolls?  
\_\_\_\_\_
26. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraphs 2-4?
- A. children's interests
  - B. Uncle Tang's children
  - C. where Uncle Tang works
  - D. the age of Uncle Tang's craft
- A   B   C   D
27. Who or what does 'them' (line 18) refer to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
28. Find a phrase similar in meaning to 'wasteful attitude' in paragraph 6.  
\_\_\_\_\_
29. What does the phrase 'without him Peel Street will never be the same' (lines 19-20) suggest?
- A. Peel Street would be safer.
  - B. Peel Street would be widened.
  - C. Peel Street would attract more tourists.
  - D. Peel Street would have a different character.
- A   B   C   D
30. Why does Uncle Leung 'not really need to work' (line 27)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

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Answers written in the margins will not be marked.



Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

31. Read the statements below and match each with ONE of the hawkers in Text 3. Write the letter in the corresponding blank on the right. Use each letter ONCE only. ONE statement is NOT used. (3 marks)

| Statements                                                | Hawkers                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. He wants people to replace broken things.              |                         |
| B. He wants people to have broken things fixed.           | Uncle Tang (i) _____    |
| C. Children these days don't want to buy what he sells.   | Uncle Ho (ii) _____     |
| D. He found out that earning a living was very difficult. | Uncle Leung (iii) _____ |

32. What is the text type of Text 3?

- |                           |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. A profile              |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| B. A book review          |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| C. An advertisement       | A                     | B                     | C                     | D                     |
| D. A career advice column | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Text 4**

33. With reference to paragraph 1, complete the following sentence with a phrase.

Because the government in the 1970s was concerned about busy streets and public health and safety, it introduced \_\_\_\_\_.

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

| Statements                                                           | T                     | F                     | NG                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) In future, hawking in Hong Kong may disappear.                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) The number of hawkers has increased.                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) The government has a policy to purchase licences from hawkers. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iv) Hawking is a tourist attraction in many cities of the world.    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

35. Find a word in paragraphs 2 and 3 which has a similar meaning to each word given below. (3 marks)

- (i) existing (paragraph 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) attract (paragraph 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) harsher (paragraph 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

36. Complete the following sequence of events from paragraph 3 with ONE word taken from the paragraph. (6 marks)

**In the 1950s**  
 A lot of hawker stalls were in crowded, working-class (i) \_\_\_\_\_. The government (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ that many stall holders worked with no licence. Therefore, there was a need for regulations for (iii) \_\_\_\_\_.



**In the 1970s**  
 The government considered hawking a (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ activity. Hawking could be a threat to the safety of (v) \_\_\_\_\_.



**Today**  
 Shopkeepers may feel that competition from hawkers is (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ as hawkers pay no rent.

37. Complete the summary of paragraph 4 below with ONE word taken from the paragraph. (3 marks)
- Some hawkers do not take part in the day-to-day (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and often it is the assistant who does the actual work although the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ states that the person who has the licence has to be at the stall. Assistants are unable to legally (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ a licence and so they illegally rent a stall from a licence holder.

38. According to paragraphs 5 and 6, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

| Statements                                                                    | T                     | F                     | NG                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) The aim of buying back the licences was to make the streets less crowded. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) A hawker died in the fire on Fa Yuen Street.                             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) The government is not thinking about giving out any new licences.       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

39. Who does 'we' (line 36) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

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.

40. Below are comments made by the people in Text 4. Match each person with ONE comment that best represents each person mentioned in the text. Each letter can be used ONCE only. ONE comment is NOT used. One has been done for you as an example. (3 marks)

A. I understand that hawking is an important part of Hong Kong culture and there is no intention to destroy it.

B. Our number will continue to get smaller.

C. I'd like to get my own licence but I don't mind working this way as I can still make a living.

D. I think the government believed that hawking was a suitable welfare activity for the poor, even in the 1970s.

E. We do have legal hawker businesses but at the same time, we need to have good environmental hygiene.

- An FEHD spokesperson \_\_\_\_\_ E (example)
- Veteran hawker Lee Tai-wing (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- Hawker 'assistant' Wong Tai-ming (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- An official of the Food and Health Bureau (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

41. Below are summary headings for each paragraph of Text 4. Match the most appropriate heading with each paragraph by writing the letters (A-G) in the Answer column. Each letter can be used ONCE only. One has been done for you as an example. (6 marks)

| Paragraph Number | Answer      | Subheadings                     |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1                | (i) _____   | A. New sites?                   |
| 2                | D (example) | B. Buying back                  |
| 3                | (ii) _____  | C. An illegal trade             |
| 4                | (iii) _____ | D. A change of heart            |
| 5                | (iv) _____  | E. More restrictions            |
| 6                | (v) _____   | F. Being hopeful                |
| 7                | (vi) _____  | G. Decreasing number of hawkers |

42. Do you think hawking should be preserved in Hong Kong? With reference to Text 4, give ONE reason to support your view.

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END OF PART B1

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.

## 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.

Not to be taken away before the  
end of the examination session

## PART B1

Read Texts 3 and 4 and answer questions 24-42 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

### Text 3

## Some Old Hawkers are Still Here

- 1 [1] Hong Kong hawking is the age-old practice of selling cheap food and wares from stalls and street carts. Three hawkers talk about their experiences.

### Flour Doll Seller – Uncle Tang

- 5 [2] Uncle Tang has been selling his flour dolls in Hong Kong since 1978 and he sells each flour doll for HK\$50. He learnt the thousand-year-old craft of making dough figures in his native village in Fujian province.



- 10 [3] Embracing changing times, Uncle Tang also sells plastic toys and figurines. Even with the added variety he says that children today are not interested in buying his goods and are turning towards their mobile devices.

- [4] You can find Uncle Tang every day sitting quietly on Paterson Street, Causeway Bay. However, he avoids setting up his hawker pitch on rainy days.

### Umbrella Mender – Uncle Ho

- 15 [5] Uncle Ho is an umbrella mender, who has practised his unique profession for over 60 years on Peel Street in Central.

- 20 [6] Uncle Ho explains that in the 1950s umbrellas were considered luxury items and he found that he could earn a living repairing them. He strongly believes that the throw-away culture of people today should be replaced by an attitude of repair and restore. Uncle Ho vows to keep working every day until he dies. It is safe to say that without him Peel Street will never be the same.

### Chestnut Roaster – Uncle Leung

- 25 [7] Uncle Leung is a 76-year-old chestnut roaster in Wan Chai. As a child, Uncle Leung had little education and saw chestnut roasting as a profession in which he could earn a good living. As a teen, he would watch experienced chestnut roasters practising their craft, hoping to catch a glimpse of the tricks of the trade. He also learnt that earning a living was hard work. These days, he does not really need to work as he has three children – all are successful doctors and pharmacists – who support him financially. Still, he sets up his stall every day.



## Text 4

1 [1] Hong Kong’s hawkers have faced a struggle to survive since officials in the 1970s took steps to limit hawking  
due to worries about hygiene, safety and street congestion. Those rules – a ban on new licences and severe limits on  
their transfer – have reduced the number of legal hawkers from 50,000 in 1974 to about 6,000 today, city records  
show. In 2013, the city started a programme to buy back licences, further shrinking the numbers. With the  
5 implementation of this scheme and a shift of consumer activities to big shopping arcades, hawking may cease to exist,  
depriving Hong Kong of an iconic tourist attraction.

[2] Perhaps realising this, the government has begun exploring changes to its policies. “We recognise the cultural  
significance of hawking and we are not trying to kill it off. However, licence restrictions such as not allowing hawker  
licences to be bought and sold are necessary,” said an official of the Food and Health Bureau. “The current hawker  
10 policy strikes a balance between allowing legal hawking activities and maintaining environmental hygiene,” a  
spokesperson from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) said.

[3] In the 1950s, the government realised that hawkers needed to be regulated, and enforced a licensing system. There  
were 150 stalls for every 10,000 people, with most stalls in high-density, low-income districts. City officials believed  
there were many hawkers who operated without licences. By the 1970s, the city was concerned that residential areas  
15 dense with hawking could pose hygiene and safety hazards. Hawking was no longer viewed as a ‘welfare’ activity,  
but a commercial one, which could draw larger numbers if the city did not have tighter policies. “For residents living  
nearby, on-street hawking activities might cause obstruction, environmental nuisance or even hazards relating to  
hygiene and fire risks,” according to a recent government paper. “Shopkeepers in commercial premises nearby might  
consider on-street hawking activities as unfair competition because hawkers do not have to pay rent.”

[4] Many hawkers who are licence holders have assistants, and by law the licence holder must be present at the stall  
for it to be open for business. The truth is licence holders are often too old to work on the streets all day, and some  
are not involved in the business at all. Therefore, many ‘assistants’ are the real hawkers. Some assistants have worked  
this way for decades but cannot obtain their own licences. Wong Tai-ming, who began his hawker life in the 1970s  
as a *jau gwai* – an ‘on-the-run’ illegal hawker – is now working as an assistant to an elderly fixed-pitched hawker.  
25 “It’s a business arrangement,” said Wong sitting on the short ladder outside his stall, keeping an eye on a customer  
rummaging through his clothes pile. “Most of the licence holders are too old to work. So we work as their assistants  
and get a salary.”

[5] The latest blow to the hawking trade came in 2013, when the government offered lump sums of HK\$120,000 to  
hawkers willing to return their licences. The aim was to decongest the denser tourist-heavy streets after a deadly fire  
30 on Fa Yuen Street. However, it killed off hawker streets catering to locals instead.

[6] The FEHD spokesperson said the government is considering issuing new hawking licences, given the wide  
community support hawkers have gained in recent years. He said that the government is open to suggestions of  
suitable locations for hawker markets, but said it is extremely hard to find such spots, given Hong Kong’s tight land  
issues and expensive real estate.

[7] Veteran hawker Lee Tai-wing, who has been a hawker trading clothes and selling cart noodles and homemade  
snacks for over 40 years, remains optimistic about Hong Kong hawking. “Yes, we’ll shrink in numbers, but will we  
35 disappear altogether? I don’t think so,” he said. “Without hawkers, society would be quiet and empty.”

### END OF READING PASSAGES

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

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**HKDSE 2024  
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 Text 5 and answer questions 43-62. (42 marks)

**Text 5**

43. Using the information from paragraph 1, complete the table below. (4 marks)

| Bad Science by Ben Goldacre                                                    |                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Author's background                                                            | Doctor and science writer                   |
| Target audience                                                                | (i) _____                                   |
| Summary                                                                        |                                             |
| Goldacre identifies problems with science and medicine:<br>(ii) _____<br>_____ | The desired outcome:<br>(iv) _____<br>_____ |
| problems with advertising and the media:<br>(iii) _____<br>_____               |                                             |

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

44. What does the phrase 'in a special "sciencey" way' (line 8) tell us about Goldacre's attitude towards the Brain Gym programme?

\_\_\_\_\_

45. (i) What do 'these beliefs' (line 10) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

(ii) What has contributed to the spread of 'these beliefs' (line 10)? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

46. According to paragraph 4, why might the mainstream media and the general public be held responsible for the current situation? (2 marks)

(i) mainstream media: \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) the general public: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers written in the margin will not be marked.



Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

47. In paragraph 5 what does the metaphor 'outnumbered and outgunned' (line 16) tell us about the situation with scientists and doctors?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

48. Complete the summary of paragraphs 6 and 7 using a word or phrase taken from the paragraphs for each gap. (6 marks)

It is said that the public is (i) \_\_\_\_\_ about their physical well-being. This is reflected in the fact that 50% of all science news items are to do with (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ and people are constantly exposed to (iii) \_\_\_\_\_.

Medicine that is driven by evidence is the (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ form of applied science as it has saved millions of lives. However, the problem is that there is a huge (v) \_\_\_\_\_ in society when it comes to understanding science-based medicine. The difficulty exists because it is likely that those who (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ at school probably did not convey to you such information.

49. What does 'the territory' (line 28) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

50. Which phrase does Goldacre use in paragraph 11 to refer to 'alternative therapists'?  
\_\_\_\_\_

51. Complete the table by finding an example from paragraphs 6-11 for each of the following. (5 marks)

|                                                         | Example from the text |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. An important concept that is not sufficiently taught | (i) _____<br>_____    |
| B. A positive outcome                                   | (ii) _____<br>_____   |
| C. An unreliable source of information                  | (iii) _____<br>_____  |
| D. An example of pseudo-science                         | (iv) _____<br>_____   |
| E. A fatal outcome                                      | (v) _____<br>_____    |

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.

52. What makes the errors 'more dangerous' (line 40)?

- A. It is possible that some clients might die.
- B. The public's understanding of evidence is eroded.
- C. Alternative therapists brand themselves as nutritionists.
- D. Alternative therapists claim to be men and women of science.

A    B    C    D  
        

53. Find an expression in paragraph 12 that can be replaced by 'deceive'.

\_\_\_\_\_

54. What has contributed to the popularity of 'commodifiable solutions' (line 47)?

\_\_\_\_\_

55. Below is a summary of paragraph 13. In five of the lines, there is ONE mistake. If you find a mistake, underline it and replace the word with one that expresses the correct idea in the Correction column. Both grammar and spelling must be correct. In one of the lines, there is no mistake; put a tick (✓) in the Correction column. One has been done for you as an example. (5 marks)

| Summary                                                            |       | Correction    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Ben Goldacre has in his sights <u>three</u> important groups;      |       | two (example) |
| those who reject great power and authority and those in the        | (i)   |               |
| mainstream media. He considers the former more prevalent           | (ii)  |               |
| as their pointless mistakes have serious outcomes. He believes the | (iii) |               |
| latter doggedly support meaningful stories about science           | (iv)  |               |
| with such a fundamental misconception of the facts.                | (v)   |               |

56. Why does Goldacre find 'people in positions of great power' (line 54) most worrying?

\_\_\_\_\_

57. Provide an example of 'the tools to win – or at least understand – any argument' (line 59).

\_\_\_\_\_

58. Which of the following best summarises the idea in the sentence, 'You cannot reason people out of positions they didn't reason themselves into.' (line 58)?

People cannot be persuaded to change their point of view...

- A. by intuition; they need reason and logic.
- B. when their point of view is based on logic.
- C. when their point of view is not based on logic.
- D. by logic alone; they need emotional intelligence.

A    B    C    D  
        

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.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

59. What is Goldacre referring to when he says 'along the way' (line 61)?

\_\_\_\_\_

60. What does Goldacre mean when he says 'you'll be wrong with a lot more style and flair' (line 67)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

61. Below are some quotes from a radio interview given by Goldacre. Match the quotes with the groups of people he is talking about. Each letter can be used ONCE only. ONE comment is not used. ONE has been done for you as an example. (5 marks)

A. This group are raking in the money hand over fist by duping us all.

B. This group struggle to be heard above all the 'noise' regarding science today.

C. They're being drilled in such nonsense yet someone in authority allows this to happen.

D. It's nuts because they exploit a nugget of truth to present themselves as experts.

E. How can they be getting things so wrong and yet be getting things so right?

F. They're currently incapable of communicating the true picture to us.

G. This group needs to be steered away from political solutions.

| Groups of people in the text  |       | Letter      |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| The food supplements industry |       | A (example) |
| British children              | (i)   |             |
| The media                     | (ii)  |             |
| Some alternative therapists   | (iii) |             |
| Scientists and doctors        | (iv)  |             |
| British universities          | (v)   |             |

62. Is Goldacre optimistic or pessimistic about the future regarding science and medicine? Use evidence from Text 5 to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

END OF PART B2

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.

Not to be taken away before the  
end of the examination session

## PART B2

Read Text 5 and answer questions 43-62 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B2.

### Text 5

## Bad Science

1 [1] *In his seminal book 'Bad Science', physician and science writer Ben Goldacre uncovers some of the flaws in science and medicine that have led to widespread misconceptions. From the techniques employed by advertisers and the media, he shows how little veracious scientific evidence there is to be found in their seemingly bodacious claims. Goldacre's book, catering to the general reader, shows us the need to be critical of what we read.*

5 [2] *Below is the introduction excerpted from the book.*

[3] Let me tell you how bad things have become. Children are being routinely taught in thousands of British schools that if they wiggle their head up and down it will increase blood flow to the brain, thus improving concentration; that rubbing their fingers together in a special 'sciencey' way will improve energy flow through the body, and that holding water on their tongue will hydrate the brain directly through the roof of the mouth, all as part of a special exercise programme called Brain Gym. We will devote some time to these beliefs and, more importantly, the fools in our education system who endorse them.

10 [4] But this book is not a collection of trivial absurdities. It follows a natural development from the foolishness of 'experts', via the credence they are given in the mainstream media, through the tricks of the £30 billion food supplements industry, the evils of the £300 billion pharmaceutical industry, the tragedy of science reporting, and on to the poor understanding of statistics and evidence that pervades our society.

[5] Today, scientists and doctors find themselves outnumbered and outgunned by vast armies of individuals who feel entitled to pass judgement on matters of evidence, an admirable aspiration, without troubling themselves to obtain a basic understanding of the issues.

20 [6] At school, you were taught about chemicals in test tubes, equations to describe motion, and maybe something on photosynthesis, but in all likelihood you were taught nothing about death, risk, statistics, and the science of what will kill or cure you. The hole in our culture is gaping: evidence-based medicine, the ultimate applied science, contains some of the cleverest ideas from the past two centuries. It has saved millions of lives, but there has never once been a single exhibit on the subject in London's Science Museum.

25 [7] This is not for a lack of interest. We are obsessed with health – half of all science stories in the media are medical – and are repeatedly bombarded with sciencey-sounding claims and stories. But as you will see, we get our information from the very people who have repeatedly demonstrated themselves to be incapable of reading, interpreting and bearing reliable witness to the scientific evidence.

[8] Before we get started, let me map out the territory.

30 [9] Firstly, we will look at what it means to do an experiment, to see the final results with your own eyes, and judge whether they fit with a given theory, or whether an alternative is more compelling. You may find going through these steps childish and patronising. The examples we look at are certainly absurd but they have all been promoted credulously and with great authority in the mainstream media. We will look at the attraction of sciencey-sounding stories about our bodies, and the confusion they can cause.

35 [10] Interestingly our next focus is homeopathy, which Wikipedia declares as a pseudo-science that 'works'. We will look at this not because it's important or dangerous – it's not – but because it is the perfect model for teaching evidence-based medicine and how we can be misled into thinking that any intervention is more effective than it really is.

40 [11] Then we will move onto bigger fish. Some alternative therapists claim to be nutritionists and have somehow managed to brand themselves as men and women of science. Their errors are interesting because they have a grain of science to them, and that makes them not only more interesting, but also more dangerous, because the real threat is not that their customers might die (there is the odd case) but that they systematically undermine the public's understanding of the very nature of evidence.

45 [12] We will see the rhetorical slights of hand and amateurish errors that have led to you being repeatedly misled about food and nutrition. This new industry acts as a distraction from the genuine lifestyle risk factors for ill health, as well as its more subtle and alarming impact on the way we see ourselves and our bodies. This arises from the widespread move to medicalise social and political problems, to conceive of them in a reductionist, biomedical framework, and push commodifiable solutions, particularly in the form of pills and faddish diets. I will show you evidence that a vanguard of startling wrongness is entering British universities, alongside genuine academic research into nutrition. In the field of medicine, we see similar tricks used by the pharmaceutical industry to pull the wool over the eyes of doctors and patients.

50 [13] Next, we will examine how the media promote the public misunderstanding of science, their single-minded passion for pointless non-stories, and their basic misunderstandings of statistics and evidence, which illustrate the very core of why we do science: to prevent ourselves from being misled by our own atomised experiences and prejudices. Finally, in the part of the book I find most worrying, we will see how people in positions of great power, who should know better, still commit basic errors, with grave consequences, and we will see how the media's cynical distortion of evidence in two specific health scares reached dangerous and frankly grotesque extremes. It's your job to notice, as we go, how incredibly prevalent this stuff is, but also, to think what you might do about it.

55 [14] You cannot reason people out of positions they didn't reason themselves into. But by the end of this book you'll have the tools to win – or at least understand – any argument you choose to initiate, whether it's on miracle cures, the evils of big pharma, the likelihood of a given vegetable preventing cancer, and more. You'll have seen the evidence behind some very popular deceptions, but along the way you'll also have picked up everything useful there is to know about research, levels of evidence, bias, statistics, the history of science and anti-science movements, as well as falling over just some of the amazing stories that the natural sciences can tell us about the world along the way.

60 [15] It won't be even slightly difficult, because this is the only science lesson where I can guarantee that the people making the stupid mistakes won't be you. And if, by the end, you reckon you might still disagree with me, then I offer you this: you'll still be wrong, but you'll be wrong with a lot more style and flair than you could possibly manage right now.

### END OF READING PASSAGE

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