

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 2004

USE OF ENGLISH AS-LEVEL SECTION C READING AND LANGUAGE SYSTEMS

Question-Answer Book

10.30 am – 12.00 noon (1½ hours)

Q.P. Code: 5013

INSTRUCTIONS

- Write your Candidate Number, Centre Number and Seat Number in the boxes provided on this cover **AND** on the multiple-choice answer sheet.
- Read carefully the instructions on the multiple-choice answer sheet and insert the information required (including the **Q.P. code**) in the spaces provided.
- ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.** This Question-Answer Book contains the questions for Parts 1 and 2.
- Answers to all of Part 1 Questions 1–16 and to Part 2 Questions 17–44 should be marked on the multiple-choice answer sheet. Answers to Part 2 Questions 45–96 should be written in this Question-Answer Book.**
- For multiple-choice questions, mark only **ONE** answer to each question. Two or more answers will score **NO MARKS**.
- Marks will not be deducted for wrong answers.
- Supplementary answer sheets will be supplied on request. Write your Candidate Number on each sheet and fasten them with string inside this book.
- You are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on Part 1 (Reading) and approximately 70 minutes on Part 2 (Language Systems).

Candidate Number						
Centre Number						
Seat Number						

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Total	

Checker's Use Only	
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Read the following article and then answer questions 1–16. From the four choices given, choose the option which best answers each question. You should mark your answers to questions 1–16 on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

The unromantic side of red roses from Ecuador

Roses from Ecuador, in South America, are as big and red as the human heart. In just five years, they have become the new status flower in the United States, thanks to the volcanic soil, perfect temperatures and abundant sunlight that help generate US\$240 million a year and tens of thousands of jobs in a once impoverished region north of the capital Quito. This Valentine's Day, thousands of American florists and catalogues are advertising the roses of this fertile valley. The Calyx & Corolla company, for example, bills it as a place 'where Andean mists and equatorial sun conspire to produce roses that quickly burst into extravagant bloom'.

But roses come with thorns. As Ecuador's colourful blooms radiate romance around the world, large growers there have been accused of misusing a toxic mixture of pesticides and fungicides to grow and export unblemished pest-free flowers. As in other industries, like garment production and diamonds, the poor worry about eating first and labour conditions later. They toil despite headaches and rashes for the wealthier of the world, who in turn know little of the conditions in which their desires are met. Doctors and scientists who have worked in the region say many of the industry's 50,000 workers, most of whom are women, suffer serious health problems.

Researchers say their work has been hampered by lack of access to flower farms because of reluctant growers. Nevertheless, studies that the International Labour Organisation published in 1999 and the Catholic University issued in Ecuador last year showed that women in the flower industry had more miscarriages than average in the region and that more than 60 percent of all workers suffered headaches, nausea or fatigue.

In the 20 years since the first flower farms were built, Ecuador has become the fourth largest producer of roses in the world. Last week, workers at RosaPrima, a plantation in the rose-growing region, moved at a dizzying pace to cut, wrap and box 70,000 stems a day. Computers help supervisors track each stem and each worker's productivity. The general manager, Ross Johnson, said he was proud of his business and especially his workers. He said that a doctor visited the farm several times a week and that all workers wore gloves and protective equipment, whether or not they handled chemicals.

'We have made a lot of improvements over the years,' said Johnson, who was born in Ecuador and who helped start the farm seven years ago. 'I think this is a noble business that does noble things for people here

and around the world.' He explained that roses are typically fumigated 24 hours before they are cut. Then they are soaked overnight in a chemical solution and shipped at near freezing temperatures.

Dr. Cesar Paz-y-Mino, of the Catholic University, said several pesticides used on a farm that was the setting for his research in the late 1990s were restricted as health hazards in other countries, including the United States, and labelled as highly toxic by the World Health Organisation. Paz-y-Mino refused to identify the flower farm under an agreement that he had with the owners. He recalled workers fumigating in their street clothes without protective equipment, pesticides stored in poorly sealed containers and fumes wafting over the workers' dining halls. When asked what government agencies monitor worker health and safety, Paz-y-Mino said, 'There are no such checks.' Neither the Labour Ministry nor the Health Ministry has an occupational health department.

In an interview, Labour Minister Felipe Mantilla said he intended to visit flower and banana plantations in a few weeks. Mantilla explained that the government planned to set up 'discussion tables' for workers and managers to discuss competitiveness and labour conditions. 'If there are violations,' he said, 'we will act firmly. We are drawing up a plan of action on the issue of workers' conditions and we are seeking help from international organisations.'

In the United States, where the roses retail for up to US\$6 a bloom, some industry representatives were quick to deny that there was a health problem or that unacceptable risks were taken. 'The growers we know are very conscious of environmental issues,' said Harrison Kennicott, a wholesaler in Chicago who is a former president of the Society of American Florists, a trade group. 'They go to great lengths to get certified environmentally,' he said. 'The growers take care of the people. They provide housing and medical care.'

Yet it is hard to erase images of workers like Soledad, 32, who has worked on flower farms for 12 years. When interviewed, she slowly turned her head from side to side and commented, 'If I move my head any faster, I feel nauseous.' She then pulled up her sleeves to show her skeletal limbs. 'There is no respect for the fumigation rules. They spray the chemicals even while we are working.' When asked whether the farm where she worked had a doctor, she rolled her eyes. 'He always tells us there is nothing wrong with us and sends us back to work. He works for the company. He does not help us.'

Source: Adapted from an article by Ginger Thompson in *The New York Times*, syndicated in the *International Herald Tribune*, 14 February 2003.

1. According to paragraph 1, Ecuadorian roses
 - A. affect the environment where they grow.
 - B. are bigger than any grown in the United States.
 - C. badly affect the economic situation in Ecuador.
 - D. are a relative newcomer to the U.S. flower business.
2. In paragraph 1, the writer seeks to create an image of flower farming in Ecuador which is
 - A. positive.
 - B. exaggerated.
 - C. disturbing.
 - D. improbable.
3. In line 11, 'it' refers to
 - A. the Calyx & Corolla company.
 - B. Ecuador.
 - C. the region north of Quito.
 - D. the United States.
4. The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to
 - A. promote the introduction of chemical-free agricultural cultivation.
 - B. compare working conditions in Ecuador and the United States.
 - C. show how the demand for perfection affects production methods.
 - D. relate flower farming to other industries in developing countries.
5. Which one of the following statements is FALSE? In paragraph 2, the writer states that
 - A. flower farms in Ecuador are allegedly poisoning workers with chemicals.
 - B. people who receive Ecuadorian roses are generally not aware of how they are grown.
 - C. people living in poverty in Ecuador have little choice about the work they do.
 - D. Ecuadorian roses cannot be produced without the use of dangerous chemicals.
6. In line 27 'hampered' means
 - A. misunderstood.
 - B. disrupted.
 - C. promoted.
 - D. tolerated.
7. The research cited in paragraph 3 shows that in Ecuador
 - A. the majority of workers in the flower industry have some kind of health problem.
 - B. flower farm employees are forced to work too fast and consequently become sick.
 - C. female workers are more affected by the chemicals used than male workers are.
 - D. regular farm visits by doctors reduce the likelihood of work-related illness.
8. In paragraph 4, the writer's main focus is on
 - A. the advanced computer technology in the picking process.
 - B. the high quality of roses exported each day from Ecuador.
 - C. the respect a farm manager has for his workers.
 - D. the working practices at a particular farm.
9. Ross Johnson believes that
 - A. his plantation needs a lot of investment.
 - B. the work done by his company is of value.
 - C. the speed of processing the flowers is vital.
 - D. his workers do not need protective clothing.
10. Dr. Paz-y-Mino does not identify the farm where he carried out his investigation because he.....
 - A. still has to visit the farm on a regular basis.
 - B. doesn't want to risk workers losing their jobs.
 - C. doesn't want to hurt the owners' pride.
 - D. is not free to reveal his research sources.
11. Dr. Paz-y-Mino gives evidence that
 - A. proves the flower farms in Ecuador behave responsibly towards workers.
 - B. supports the claims made by a worker towards the end of the article.
 - C. confirms the assumption that staff welfare is the main concern of managers.
 - D. contradicts Johnson's assertion that his farm workers are well protected.
12. The government in Ecuador
 - A. says it cannot improve working conditions.
 - B. has not established the proper institutions to safeguard workers' health.
 - C. is not aware of the health problems of workers in the flower industry.
 - D. believes only national bodies can tackle the situation.
13. In paragraph 8, the implication is that
 - A. profits made by sellers in the U.S. might reduce their desire to admit to any problems.
 - B. the majority of consumers in the U.S. do not care about environmental regulations.
 - C. there are disagreements between wholesalers in the U.S. and the growers in Ecuador.
 - D. U.S. trade associations give financial support to workers on flower farms.
14. In the last paragraph, Soledad indicates that she and her fellow workers
 - A. have no time to see the doctor.
 - B. do not believe male doctors.
 - C. have no faith in the company doctor.
 - D. think no doctor can help them now.
15. According to the article, it seems that there is a major difference of opinion between
 - A. doctors on flower farms and exporters in Ecuador.
 - B. the government of Ecuador and flower farm workers.
 - C. U.S. wholesalers and researchers in Ecuador.
 - D. researchers into workers' health problems and flower farm workers.
16. According to the article, to ensure perfect roses for Valentine's Day in the U.S.,
 - A. flowers are given a mixture of chemicals.
 - B. exporters break U.S. environmental laws.
 - C. doctors' lives are put at risk in Ecuador.
 - D. more research should be done.

From the four choices for questions 17–33, choose the option which would best complete the article if inserted in the blank. You should mark your answers to questions 17–33 on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

**Economics focus: Is Santa a deadweight loss?
Are all those Christmas gifts just a waste of resources?**

To many, economics has (17) been known as a gloomy science. But is any economist so dreary as to criticise Christmas? At first glance, the holiday season in western countries seems a treat for those concerned with uncertainties such as GDP growth. After all, everyone (18). In America, (19) make 25% of their yearly sales and 60% of their profits between Thanksgiving and Christmas. (20), economists find something to worry about in the kind of purchases being made.

(21) the holiday spending is on gifts for others. At the simplest level, giving gifts involves the giver (22) that the receiver would like. He tries to (23) her preferences, as economists say, and then buys the gift and delivers it. Yet this is no mean task. Even if a gift is enjoyed, it may not be what the receiver (24) had she spent the money herself.

Intrigued (25) this difference between wants and gifts, in 1993 economist Joel Waldfogel attempted to estimate the mismatch in dollar (26). His results were gloomy: on average, a gift was valued by the receiver (27) the price paid by the giver.

The most conservative (28) put the average receiver's valuation at 90% of the buying price. The missing 10% is what economists (29) a deadweight loss: a waste of resources that could be avoided without making anyone worse off.

Perhaps (30), the most efficient gifts (those with the smallest deadweight loss) were those from close friends and relations, (31) non-cash gifts from extended family were the least efficient. As the age difference between giver and receiver grows, so does the inefficiency. All of this (32) what many grandparents already know: when buying gifts for someone with largely unknown preferences, the best present is (33) is totally flexible (cash) or very flexible (gift vouchers).

Source: Adapted from an article in *The Economist*, 22 December 2001.

17. A. even
B. now
C. long
D. once
18. A. is spending
B. spend
C. is spent
D. has spent
19. A. retailers
B. economists
C. bargain-hunters
D. shoppers
20. A. Increasingly
B. Anticipating this
C. Even so
D. Besides
21. A. The majority
B. At most
C. Much of
D. Mainly for
22. A. thinking what thing
B. thinks about the thing
C. to think something
D. thinking of something
23. A. question
B. inform
C. search
D. guess
24. A. had bought
B. would have bought
C. may buy
D. will buy
25. A. from
B. by
C. to
D. of
26. A. bills
B. charges
C. terms
D. notes
27. A. much after
B. much beneath
C. well down
D. well below
28. A. estimate
B. value
C. vote
D. voice
29. A. mean
B. state
C. note
D. call
30. A. not surprisingly
B. to contradict this
C. subconsciously
D. less economical
31. A. as if
B. whereas
C. although
D. because
32. A. criticises
B. suggests
C. contradicts
D. determines
33. A. which
B. either one
C. one that
D. for what

The theme exercise, comprising questions 33 – 44, cannot be included in this booklet as permission to reprint the article was denied by the publishers of the source material.

The theme exercise, comprising questions 33 – 44, cannot be included in this booklet as permission to reprint the article was denied by the publishers of the source material.

You should write your answers to ALL the remaining questions (45–96) in this Question-Answer Book.

The article below has been produced in two versions. Version 2 has some missing words and phrases. Read Version 1 and then fill in the blanks in Version 2 for questions 45–64 in such a way that the meaning of Version 1 is preserved. You should also make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to tenses, plurals, etc.

Version 1

Japanese turn on to Chinese chic

All of a sudden, China is trendy. More Tokyoites are looking to China for style pointers, from fashion to food to dating partners. To think that just five years ago, China was a metaphor for everything cheap and tasteless: now Tokyo youth are talking about Shanghai in tones that they used to use for Paris. Mandarin conversation classes have cropped up all over the city, and the No.1 partner of choice in the ever-increasing trend of mixed marriages carries the People's Republic passport. And in a recent survey by a news magazine, China ranked among the top five destinations for young Japanese wishing to live and work abroad.

Hiromi Morishita, 29, who works at the Shanghai branch of a trading company and has a Chinese boyfriend two years her junior, says that she finds everything about China 'very appealing'. She says that she is always getting requests from her friends back in Tokyo for tailor-made Chinese dresses, 'like those Maggie Cheung wore in the film *In the Mood for Love*.' Indeed, the key word for the new China trend is 'glamour', very different from the traditional Mao collar look that had always defined Chinese fashion in the Japanese mind. Gone are the days when the Japanese prided themselves on being the trendsetters of Asia. 'It seems as if Chinese girls know things about fashion that we don't. The designs are bold and sexy.'

In Shanghai, 3,000 new skyscrapers have gone up in the past three years, compared with 250 in Tokyo. Japanese models drenched in expensive perfume stroll in Tiananmen Square and many Japanese celebrity

architects have abandoned Japan for well-paid restaurant design contracts in Shanghai, Suzhou and Beijing. 'A few years ago, everyone wanted to go to the States,' says Narihiro Kouyama, a planner at the advertising agency Dentsu. 'They still believed in the American dream. But after 9-11 and everything that followed, the United States doesn't seem that exciting any more. China, on the other hand, is full of anticipation. It's where anyone with a product to sell can strike gold, and that's what we all want.'

The fashion photographer Gen Motohashi says there is nothing new about the Japanese reverence for China. 'We've been doing it for the past 1,500 years. In fact, the Japanese have always had a kind of inferiority complex toward mainland China. But I think we've become very skilful at dealing with that, and imitate some things while discarding others. Japanese fashion and design has more individuality and sensitivity than Chinese.' Having said that, Motohashi notes that an increasing number of Tokyo model agencies are using models from China. 'Long-limbed Chinese girls are in high demand. They come with an attitude and a confidence that Japanese models just don't have.'

With all the indicators pointing towards China, it looks like the Japanese fashion for the country will stick around. Morishita sums it up: 'My parents were concerned at first that I was going to go and work in a Communist country. Now when I come back, it's Japan that feels Communist.'

Source: Adapted from an article by Kaori Shoji in the *International Herald Tribune*, 8–9 March 2003.

Use **ONE** word to fill in each blank for questions 45–64. Note that the most suitable word **MAY** or **MAY NOT** appear in Version 1. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to tenses, plurals, etc.

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Version 2

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45 Nowadays in Tokyo, the new place to look for (45) _____ to follow is China. Only a
46 few years ago, anything from China was perceived as poor (46) _____ and without
47 (47) _____. Now, young people in Tokyo favour cities like Shanghai more than Paris.
48 This is reflected in the fact that (48) _____ is a popular
pastime in the city. And, in a recently published survey of places in the world where young Japanese
would wish to live and work, China was among the first five. These days, as marrying someone from a
49 different (49) _____ becomes more common, fashionable Tokyoites are increasingly
50 likely to have Chinese (50) _____.

In the past, Japanese tended to look to the United States, but since the terrorist attacks in September 2001,
51 their view of the world has changed. America does not (51) _____ young Japanese any
52 more. Instead, China has become the place to go to make (52) _____.

Hiromi Morishita, who now lives in Shanghai and works for a trading company, says her family
53 expressed their (53) _____ when she moved to China because it was a Communist
54 country. However, whenever she (54) _____ to Japan these days, she finds that her
native land feels more Communist than her new home.

55 Her friends in Japan are always asking her to have (55) _____
56 for them in the Chinese style. The Japanese (56) _____ viewed Chinese style as rather
traditional and conservative; now it is typically perceived as very glamorous. The new designs are
57 (57) _____ and (58) _____ than in the past. Trends do not start in 57 58
59 Japan any more, but (59) _____. Model agencies in Tokyo
are increasingly using Chinese rather than Japanese models. They are popular because they have long
60 (60) _____, are (61) _____, and come with an 'attitude'. 60 61

Gen Motohashi, a Japanese photographer, believes that Japanese respect for China has actually been
around for a very long time. He says that the Japanese have become very good at choosing what to copy
62 and what to (62) _____. In his opinion, Chinese style is less 62
63 (63) _____ and (64) _____ than that of his own country. 63 64

S.4 Total

S.4 Total

For questions 65–76 the statements in Column A can be paired with those in Column B so that the second statement follows most naturally from the first. The two correctly-matched statements from Column A and Column B form a pair, but if all the statements in the exercise are put together, they **DO NOT** form a complete passage. Write the letters of the statements from Column B in the spaces provided in the Answers column as shown in example a. Each letter should be used **ONCE ONLY**.

Column A	Answers	Column B
a. If you like going on walks in the rural parts of Hong Kong as I do, you will know a New Territories village has a distinct look.	<u>M</u>	A. There, the inhabitants are still predominantly Chinese, though many of these outlying places have become expatriate ghettos.
65. On Monday the Secretary for Housing revealed that there were more than 240,000 villagers eligible for the right to build a house.	65. _____	B. There is no big strain on them if they cannot immediately find tenants. There are no land costs and this is cheaply built housing.
66. The buildings are in a style once referred to as 'Spanish villa'.	66. _____	C. Put this figure into perspective. At a rough guess, the total housing stock of Hong Kong is not much more than 800 million sq ft.
67. An enormous excess of potential housing has been created which will be subject to very little environmental regulation. This, of course, is a big problem.	67. _____	D. Instead of three-storey buildings restricted to 2,100 sq ft, we will get 40-storey tower blocks scattered all over country parks if this organisation gets its way, as it usually does.
68. The original village housing is awaiting redevelopment into three-storey blocks that can serve as housing for six families, as they do on Cheung Chau, for example.	68. _____	E. They are finished in shiny bathroom tiles, heavily tinted windows and chrome fittings.
69. Take 240,000 times 2,100 sq ft and you get 504 million sq ft of entitled floor space.	69. _____	F. The reason for this is that we cannot satisfy all 240,000 eligible people, so we might as well draw the line now with a firm 'no more'.
70. When it comes to the issue of building rights, officials are still reluctant to tackle the Heung Yee Kuk organisation.	70. _____	G. However, almost all of these men have long since left their villages, and their homes are overseas.
71. You may regret that once charming villages have been turned into an unplanned rural eyesore now spreading well past village boundaries.	71. _____	H. An example is the recent construction of a water line for a few people in Sai Kung. The entitled 'villagers' have been given this privilege and we must all pay up.
72. The Heung Yee Kuk organisation wants height and size restrictions on the buildings lifted.	72. _____	I. And how are we going to deal with it? Well, the policy is under review and the Secretary for Housing says he will resolve it within five years.
73. People who return to their home villages for a visit can readily build a house and try to rent it.	73. _____	J. However, you comfort yourself that there has to be a limit to this expansion soon. Not so.
74. Every indigenous male over 18 has a traditional right in his village to build a home for himself of up to 2,100 sq ft.	74. _____	K. The village housing policy has always been a taboo for the Government.
75. There can be only one solution: we have to withdraw the villagers' right to build.	75. _____	L. I would be careful about referring to them as 'villagers' as he did. Only a handful still live in their villages. The rest will never go back.
76. We face a massive bill to provide the services and roadways for all this remote housing.	76. _____	M. At the edge of abandoned fields now grazed by abandoned cattle, you find a collection of cramped three-storey residential buildings.

Source: Adapted from an article by Jake van der Kamp, 'Time to scrap outdated policy on village housing', in the *South China Morning Post*, 12 December 2002.

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S.5 Total

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Proofread the following article. Identify the correct lines and make corrections in the lines with errors. There is only one error in each incorrect line. Do not make unnecessary changes, or add or delete punctuation marks. For questions 77–96 you MUST mark the text EXACTLY as follows:

Correct line: put a tick '✓' at the end of the line (example d).

Wrong word: underline the wrong word and write the correct word above it (example a).

Missing word: mark the position of the missing word with a '^' and write the missing word above it (example b).

Extra word: delete the extra word with a 'X' (example c).

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7.30pm

Lim Por Yen Film Theatre – Double Bill

locally

As part of a season of local made documentaries on a wide range
of issues, the Lim Por Yen Film Theatre ^{is} screening
two recent works ~~from~~ by the controversial director Tammy Cheung,
including her award-winning short film Moving. ✓

Rice Distribution (2002) 34 minutes; in Cantonese with English subtitles

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The Festival of Hungry Ghosts takes place during
the seven lunar month. At this time the gates of hell are
opened to free the ghosts, then wander the world seeking food.
In Hong Kong, many Taoist organisations hold up ceremonies
to honour for the dead and give away rice to the elderly and the poor.
The rice distributed which is depicted in this film was scheduled to
last from 9am to about 6pm but, in order to be sure a place in the
line, most people arrived well before dawn.

Moving (2003) 55 minutes; in Cantonese with English subtitles

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Ngau Tau Kok Estate is one of oldest and largest
public housing projects in Hong Kong. Much of the residents
are either elderly people who live alone or working-class families.
Since 2001, when the government it formally announced
a detailed plan for redevelop the surrounding area,
residents gradually been relocated to new housing estates.
Following two social workers who work to help the residents
as they deal the difficulties of relocation, this revealing
documentary film, shot over several months, offered its
audience the glimpse into the lives of impoverished
old people. The film presents with a fascinating
group portrait showing of our parents and grandparents.

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Source: Adapted from film outlines in *Artslink*, June 2003.

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