

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART B1

Reading Passages

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

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART B1

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

PART B1

Read Texts 2-3 and answer questions 20-41 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

Text 2

<http://www.nationalkitemonth.com/professor-kite-and-the-secret-of-kites/>



National Kite Month

1st – 30th April

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How to fly a kite

- 1 [1] Kite flying is great fun and it's easy if you know some of Professor Kite's secrets. So grab your kite and join in the fun, the sky is big enough for everyone!

Professor Kite's rules for picking the best days for flying a kite

[2] Because we don't control the wind, we learn to watch for the right kite-flying conditions.



5 Wind

[3] Wind that is too strong or too light is nearly impossible to fly in. A flag or windsock is handy to help you see the wind. About 8-40 kph is best for most kites (when leaves and bushes start to move, but before it really starts to blow). Diamond and dragon kites are the best to fly in light to medium winds while box kites fly better when the winds get a little stronger. [CLICK HERE](#) to find a store.

- 10 [4] Flying is most fun when the wind is medium so you can do more than just hold on. You can make your kite dance across the sky by pulling in and letting out the line. Be sure your kite is put together correctly, or it may not fly at all. [DOWNLOAD](#) a handy step-by-step guide here to help you build your own kite.

Flying space

- 15 [5] This should be a clear, open area. Stay away from roads, power lines and airports. Open fields, parks and beaches are great for flying kites. The more room you have, the more line you can let out.

[6] Remember that as the wind goes over and around trees and buildings, it gets bumpy and difficult to fly kites in. Watch out for 'kite-eating' trees!

Beware

[7] Never fly in rain or lightning. Electricity in clouds is attracted to damp kite lines and foolish kite fliers.

20 Professor Kite says:

[8] "Never be a danger to yourself or others. Most of all... slow down, take it easy, and enjoy!"

[9] "Many wonderful people, just like you, enjoy the pleasures and fellowship to be found at the end of a kite line. Try sharing the experience to make the fun even greater. See you in the sky!"



Text 3

THE GROUNDING OF HONG KONG'S KITES

Kite-flying culture falls victim to urbanisation and regulation

- 1 [1] It is a Sunday morning and Thomas Shum and his daughter have spent an hour travelling to Tai Mei Tuk where the primary school student will experience her first kite-flying experience with her dad. Shum holds the string while his daughter pulls the kite, running as fast as she can to get it to take off. As the kite soars towards the sky, father and daughter share an unspoken happiness.
- 5
- 10 [2] Kites have a special place in Shum's heart, as they were one of the few toys he had during his childhood. It is a different story for his daughter, whose leisure hours are filled with television and electronic games. Now, he wants her to know more about this fading culture in Hong Kong.
- 15 [3] "Flying kites was quite a fun activity back then," says Shum, "when I was a child, there would always be at least eight to ten kites flying together at the same time."
- 20 [4] Kite flying was one of the most popular leisure activities for children in Hong Kong in the 1950s and 1960s. Back then, there were no restrictions on kite flying and kites could be seen in every corner of the city's sky and even beyond — from the rooftops of Sham Shui Po to the corridors of Shek Kip Mei Housing Estate.
- 25 [5] Shum says kite flying was popular because it was so easy to do. Kids could assemble a few bamboo sticks and pieces of paper to make a kite that could be flown in the neighbourhood. "We didn't have to go as far as the countryside to fly kites. We could always go kite flying in our housing estates instead," Shum says.
- 30 [6] Recalling those days, So Chi-chiu, 59, the vice-chairman of Hong Kong Kite Fighting Club, who has flown kites for more than 30 years, says most people aged 50 years or over must have flown kites in their childhood.
- 35 [7] However, as Hong Kong's economy started to boom in the 1970s, kite flying started to fade. The rapid urban development and bustling air traffic led to the implementation of the Articles of the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) in 1970. This limited the space where people could fly kites to areas at least 60 metres away from any vehicle or building. It made flying kites unfeasible in a city cramped with skyscrapers and crowded with vehicles.
- 45 [8] Currently, the Civil Aviation Department only recommends three main spots for flying kites. They are Shek O, Tai Au Mun and Tai Mei Tuk. Mr So says these restrictions limit the development of kite culture.
- 50 [9] As interest in kite flying fades, businesses that make and sell kites also face a gloomy future. We collected the details of the kite manufacturers listed in Hong Kong and tried to contact them by telephone or in person. We discovered most of the factories have either ended their business in Hong Kong or will end their business very soon.
- 55 [10] Kite enthusiast Haiven Woo Ka-hei started an online kite shop with his brother a few years ago. Although the shop, HK Kite, is still up and running, Woo says selling kites has now turned into a niche market and they can only run their business on a part-time basis.
- 60 [11] "Occasionally we used to go kite flying with some of our regular customers, but now there are only one to two people," Woo says. "When we wanted to look for people with similar interests, there were really not many."
- 65 [12] It seems kite flying may only survive in Hong Kong as a niche interest, or an occasional outdoor activity. Woo says even his own son and daughter have little interest in it. "When I ask my son to go flying kites, he turns me down and prefers to sit at home and play computer games," laments Woo. "Children are rarely 'educated' to fly kites as a kind of collective activity."
- 70 [13] As for So, his kite-flying days may not be over but he has low expectations of the future for this tradition in Hong Kong. All he can do, he says, is "hope for a miracle."
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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.