

# Assessment 1 Reading

 Alice is writing a leaflet about how people lived in the past. Read the leaflet.

## What was life like in the 1950s in Hong Kong?

(i)

Offices in the 1950s looked very different from those we have nowadays. There were no laptops or smart devices on people's desks. In fact, not every company had a computer back then. Even if it had one, the computer would be very complicated to use and be a lot bigger. Workers relied on more traditional methods to do business, such as using **typewriters** and sending letters instead of e-mails.



(ii)

What people enjoyed doing after work was also very different. As there were no smartphones or tablet computers, people could not play video games in their free time. Besides, the Internet was not invented until the 1980s. So, people would not surf the Net like we do today. Activities which people did for fun back then were a lot simpler. In their leisure time, they would go to parks, exercise, read books, and chat with friends and family. Sometimes, they would just sit outdoors and look at things happened in the neighbourhood.

(iii)

During the 1950s, phones were not popular. Phone calls were expensive, so not many people were able to afford them. People often connected with one another through letters, or simply by paying a visit to one another. When people gathered around, they treasured the time they spent together.

(iv)

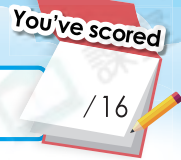
How people travelled around in the past was not the same, too. The low-income groups relied on bikes to get to farther places. There were buses and taxis, but only wealthier people might take them as **they** were too expensive for the general public. Taking the tram was a more **affordable** option for most people. There was no MTR until 1979.





10 mins

DATE



**Choose the best answers by blackening the circles. (16 marks @ 2 marks)**

- Computers in the past were \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. as small as laptops
  - B. not very expensive
  - C. essential in offices
  - D. difficult to operate
- People \_\_\_\_\_ when they were free in the 1950s. (Choose more than one answer.)
  - A. met friends
  - B. played video games
  - C. sat in a nearby park to relax
  - D. did exercise
- How did people normally contact others in the 1950s?
  - A. by e-mail
  - B. by mail
  - C. by phone
  - D. by text message
- In paragraph 4, the word '**they**' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. bus rides
  - B. bus and taxi rides
  - C. wealthier people
  - D. bike rides
- Which of the following is TRUE about life in the 1950s?
  - A. Many offices did not have typewriters.
  - B. Most people travelled by bus.
  - C. People seldom communicated face-to-face.
  - D. People often observed what happened around their neighbourhood.

**Answer the questions in complete sentences.**

6. How did the low-income groups get to farther places in the 1950s?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why did many people like to travel to places by tram?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Match the following headings to paragraphs (i) to (iv) of the leaflet. Write A, B, C and D in the correct boxes.**

8. Headings

- A. Entertainment
- C. Communication

- B. Transportation
- D. The workplace

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)