

Venture into Learning

Text Type: Newsletter
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins

Let's Think!

1. Can you imagine learning in nature?
2. Is outdoor learning as important as indoor learning?

Seashore City Secondary School Newsletter

Autumn 20XX

Learning in the Wild—*Words from the Principal*

Nothing makes me happier than to learn that my students are keen learners. Whenever I hear that a student has conquered an exploration trip, I know my time here has been well spent. Recently, Oliver (3A) and Jasmine (3B) have been awarded the Certificate of Bronze Level Expeditions by AYE (the Hong Kong Award for Young Elites). While this certificate bears witness to their determination and perseverance despite risk of failure, it also speaks to their pioneering spirit of curiosity, which I am most thrilled to see in students.

10 I hope all of you will take the initiative to cultivate your curiosity. If you are in doubt as to where to begin, I encourage you to travel the same road. This summer, AYE will, as



usual, offer a kayaking training course as the first part of Bronze Level Expeditions. With around 20 team members, you will kayak for 7 kilometres between two islands—from Pak Sha Chau to Ah Kung Wan. The remaining four parts of the scheme, which include some more difficult tasks like orienteering and treasure hunts, will, too, present you with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in your student

20 days to challenge yourself in nature, together with your peers. Having witnessed the growth of generations of students who accepted this challenge, I can assert that the ability to solve problems and to complete tasks confidently is inseparable from participating in activities that require teamwork. Therefore, I would be truly pleased to see students step out of their comfort zone to learn outside the classroom.

Most of us are not born adventurers, and joining the scheme will not make you one. However, it is what you should challenge yourselves to, since what you will have experienced by the end of the journey is not only rewarding, but also invaluable. On the next two pages, the comments your own schoolmates have on the programme may give you a deeper insight into how you, too, may benefit from it.

What would other participants probably be rewarded with?

➤ What can participants gain from the scheme?

- A. money
- B. certificates
- C. free meals
- D. invaluable experiences

In line 38, the word 'as' can best be replaced with _____.

- A. owing to B. due to C. since D. though

Replace the word with a cohesive device that connects the cause to the effect.

◆ Feedback from distinguished participants ◆

35 *Oliver Cheung (3A)*

The Expeditions was definitely the best thing I did last summer. The coaches were supportive and inspiring. One of the participants wanted to give up, as she thought it was too tough to train for the whole day. This somehow left some others
40 feeling discontented and dispirited. With a few simple tasks, the coach managed to reignite our team spirit, and everyone soon started making every possible effort to achieve our common goal. Now I've come to realise how being supportive and empathic is crucial to a team as a unit and everyone in it. I
45 hope your experience will be as wonderful as mine!



Jasmine Lai (3B)

Before the Expeditions, many people saw me as a quiet and reserved girl. That's why I struggled for nearly a week when the opportunity to join the scheme had arisen. Now, I'm very glad that I followed my mum's advice to give it a try. In the
50 very beginning, I was hesitant about getting involved in tasks requiring teamwork. Under the guidance of the coaches, however, I saw a gradual but powerful change in myself. Towards the end, I even took the initiative to make friends
55 with my teammates! I have finally overcome self-distrust, gained confidence, and stepped out of my comfort zone. All in all, the whole experience has shown me that beyond the walls of the classroom or home exists another world where I can learn what I cannot learn within them, like the importance of courage. This is AYE's greatest gift, a
60 lifelong benefit to me.

More to Take Away

RTC Gaia School, located in Tuen Mun, is a private primary school in Hong Kong that advocates alternative education. The school offers curriculums that accentuate creativity as well as embrace its nature-affective and people-oriented core values.

~610 words

Looking into Grammar

The modal verb 'can' may be used to express ability, while the modal verb 'will' may be used to talk about certainty in the future. Sometimes, they can be used interchangeably when expressing possibility and talking about offers. Note that a modal verb is followed by a verb in its base form.

✓ If you would like to cancel the booking, I **can** (or **will**) **tell** (✗ to tell) the staff about it.

? Circle TWO verbs, one used with 'can' and the other with 'will', in paragraph 2.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the newsletter. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. The newsletter was published by _____.
- A. Oliver Cheung and Jasmine Lai
 - B. the Hong Kong Award for Young Elites
 - C. a principal
 - D. Seashore City Secondary School
2. Participants of the Expeditions will NOT _____.
- A. learn kayaking
 - B. travel to outlying islands
 - C. visit historical buildings
 - D. take part in challenging tasks
3. To join the course, participants must _____.
- I. be keen learners
 - II. have a spirit of curiosity
 - III. know how to kayak well
 - IV. be great adventurers
- A. III only
 - B. I and II
 - C. I, II and IV
 - D. none of the above



5. The third page of the newsletter would probably be about _____.
- A. the principal's views on AYE
 - B. Oliver and Jasmine
 - C. other students' feedback
 - D. teachers' feedback
6. What Oliver and Jasmine have in common is that both of them have learnt more about _____ through _____ during the Expeditions.
- A. survival skills...outdoor training
 - B. team spirit...group activities
 - C. empathy...various challenges
 - D. their own limits...the coaches' guidance

6 Note that Oliver is supposed to have participated in the same activities as Jasmine has.



4. The principal thinks that students should take part in the scheme to _____.
- A. have an exciting journey
 - B. gain a valuable experience
 - C. be better adventurers
 - D. get deeper insights into kayaking

4 Pay attention to the cohesive devices.

Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/✗)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

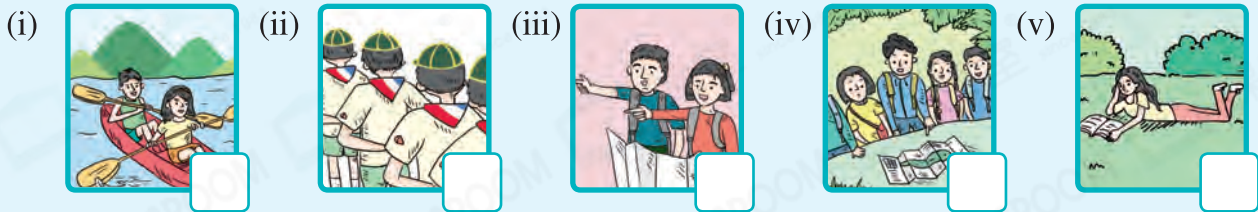
Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the newsletter.
For question 1, answer in a complete sentence.

1 Identify the keywords 'in students' and 'most' in the passage.

1. Which quality in students does the principal appreciate the most?

2. Mark each photo with a tick (✓) in the box if it is shot at the Expeditions.



3. What are some of the expected traits in AYE participants who have completed the course? Complete the summary below. Some of the details have been completed to help you.

Trait	Indication	Example
(i) _____	Learning things	Going on an (ii) _____
Fearlessness in face of (iii) _____	Challenging yourself by doing something you are not good at	Participating in (iv) _____
Courage	Moving out of your (v) _____	Making new friends in a new setting even if you are shy

3 Skim through 'Words from the Principal' and the students' feedback for relevant information.



4. Which of the following could probably be the comments left by Crystal after she had completed the Expeditions? Mark your answer with a tick (✓) in each appropriate box if it is mentioned and a cross (✗) if it is not.

- (i) 'This course has definitely helped me learn to solve difficulties step by step.'
- (ii) 'Having worked with a group of people has taught me how important it is to stay positive and confident despite risk of failure.'
- (iii) 'I've learnt about the history of the outlying islands in Hong Kong.'
- (iv) 'We should not think that knowledge is something obtainable only at school.'
- (v) 'Running a 7-km marathon is never easy for beginners.'

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of the items for outdoor activities from the word box.

kayak sunscreen first aid kit paddle
 life jacket towel sports sandals waterproof clothing



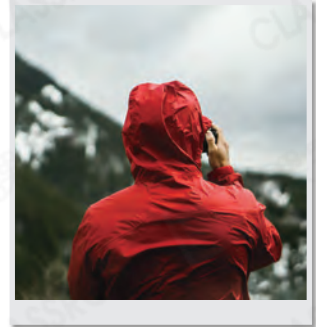
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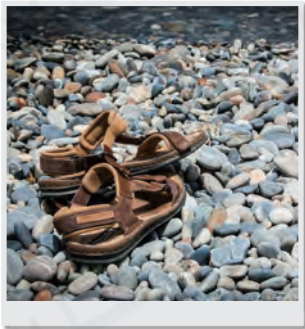
2. _____



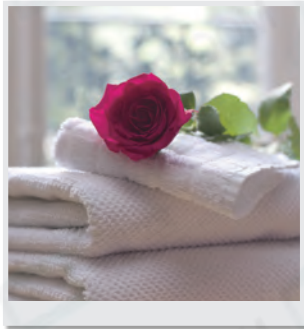
3. _____



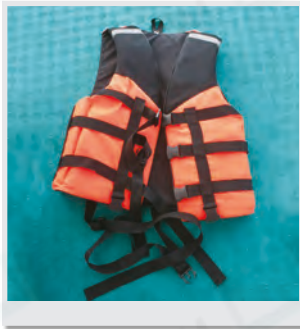
4. _____



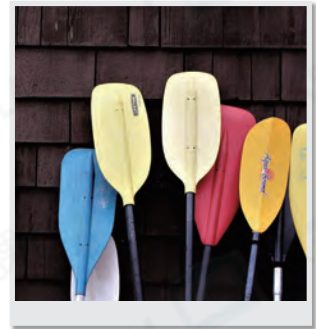
5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

Word Craft

Other than being the plural form of the countable noun 'sport', 'sports' is also an adjective that means 'relating to sport'.

- e.g.** Sports **sandals**
 Sports **centre**
 Sports **equipment**

Let's Discuss!

- Do you want to join the Expeditions? Why or why not?
- Can you suggest one or more activities that can be added to the scheme? Explain your suggestions with reasons.

Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the e-mail from the coach below with the names of the items for outdoor activities introduced on the previous page.

To Noel Hui; Jenna Chim; Chris Ng +15

From kayakcoach@bmail.com

Reminder



Change the nouns to their plural form when needed.

Hi all,

I am writing to talk about the things you will need for the 'Close to Nature' trip on 15th November, as well as other things you need to take note of.

On that day, we will be rowing from Pak Sha Chau to Ah Kung Wan on a light narrow canoe called a (1) _____. You and your teammates will be working together to move the canoe forward with (2) _____, and it won't be as easy as you imagine. So, for the sake of safety and convenience, make sure you wear a pair of (3) _____ instead of a pair of leather shoes. They dry quickly and can prevent you from spraining your ankles.

Open water is fraught with dangers. Don't worry though: I will be there with you, and you will be safe as long as you put on a (4) _____. You will also be provided with a helmet that protects your head from whitewater. Noticing that it will be a long day and that many previous participants had caught a cold during the trip, you'll need a (5) _____ to dry yourselves and help you stay warm.

For the time being, we are still unsure about the weather. It may rain, so don't forget to come in (6) _____. Still, you'll need your (7) _____—no one wants to get sunburnt.

Last but not least, if anyone gets hurt or feels unwell during the trip, do inform me—I have a (8) _____ to handle the situation.

Regards,
Fred Ho