

Text Type: Interview
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins



Listen!

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

Let's think!

1. Do you like being interviewed?
2. Have you ever been impressed by someone's interview?

More to Take Away

Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese method for treating various illnesses. In acupuncture treatments, thin needles are penetrated into the skin at certain points around the body.

What was the purpose of this interview?

- Think about why the interviewer decided to interview Victoria. What is so special about her?
- A. to know why Victoria sat the exam (irrelevant to the content ➤ ✗)
- B. to get some insights from Victoria (not given in the text ➤ ✗)
- C. to learn about the story of Victoria's grandma (not true ➤ ✗)
- D. to learn about Victoria's story behind her success in the exam (congruent with all the questions asked ➤ ✓)

Interviewer:

Here with us is Victoria Lau, one of the top scorers in this year's HKDSE. Victoria, you must already have answered this a hundred times: can you tell us if you've expected to get 5** in eight subjects?

Victoria:

No, never in my wildest dreams. Although I had worked very hard, I had spent more time on my hobbies than a top scorer should probably have. So, it might well have been pure luck that I scored so high.

Interviewer:

How did your family and friends react to the news? And how did you take their reactions?

Victoria:

Parents are naturally proud of their children. But my parents are especially so—they spoke as if I were already rich and famous. I was amused! But I was glad too: is there anyone who doesn't like to be praised after prolonged, arduous periods of hard work? And though most of my friends, teasingly, accused me of having feigned laziness all along, they congratulated me very kindly with words such as 'how I wished I were in your position'. In return, I wish they knew how much I owe my success to their unflinching support.

Interviewer:

I want to follow up on one thing you mentioned earlier—your hobbies. Before the interview, you told me something that surprised me greatly. You said you are experienced in Tai Chi and acupuncture.

Victoria:

'Experienced' is too big of a word to use. I'd say they are my hobbies, my passions, and a part of me. While others might bury themselves in past papers after dinner, I would very probably be reading books about different styles of martial arts or systems of restoring health—books written by





both local and foreign specialists. Much as I seem to only like to read, I do take pleasure in putting what I've learnt into practice. I think I can trace my interest in these hobbies ultimately to my past experience. When I was a kid, I lived with my grandma in a village. As the village doctor, she would go on visiting trips to her patients while bringing me along. I would listen attentively to her instructions to them about things like what herbs to get and what not to eat. Her encyclopedic knowledge in the area dazzled me, enough to get my exploration in Chinese culture started. Tai Chi was one of the first things I asked her to teach me. I wanted to move on to acupuncture from that, but she wouldn't let me: she said I was too young and my lack of patience would fail me.

Interviewer:

So, is your grandma's influence the only reason behind your decision to study Chinese Medicine? Most of the other top scorers have chosen to study Medical Sciences or Law at university. Aren't you interested in the careers these subjects prepare you for? If you want to become a doctor, practitioners of medical science seem to be more in demand than practitioners of Chinese medicine.

Victoria:

I used to think there was another reason, and that's my sense of mission to help people in need. I used to think that sense is wholly my own—unrelated to anyone else. Only now, talking to you, do I realise the two reasons are one and the same. If they were not, Medical Sciences should've been an equally good choice for me, as you said. Witnessing my grandma's role in her patients' recovery was a revelation: it gave me the feeling that a practised Chinese medicine practitioner might be able to guide one to a healthy life in the same way that a western doctor may. I have to thank you for reminding me again to be grateful to my beloved grandma.

Interviewer:

Your grandma is definitely a heroine to those villagers! No wonder she has been such a huge inspiration, if not a spiritual figure, for you. Thanks for sharing your story with us, Victoria. It does inspire us a lot. I'm sure you'll do very well in your study of Chinese Medicine.

~670 words

Moral

Tai Chi is thought to represent the spirit of Chinese civilisation—the unwillingness to attack one's enemies unless self-defense is involved, and the avoidance of confrontation.

Read lines 47-55. Decide whether the following information is True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

'Victoria decided to study Medical Sciences at university because she has a sense of mission to help people in need.'

Answer: False (Victoria chose to study Chinese Medicine because she developed a sense of mission to help people under the influence of her grandma.)

Looking into Grammar

The present perfect tense is used to refer to an action that is completed by now and whose finishing time is unknown or not stated.

✓ I **have visited** England twice (✗ in July 2015).



It is also used to illustrate a state that started in the past and continues up to the present.

✓ Sue **has been** (✗ was) a nurse for nearly 20 years.

? Underline a sentence in which the present perfect tense is used in the interviewer's words.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

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

1. The interviewer thought that Victoria _____.
- A. did not want to be interviewed
 - B. spent all her time on her studies
 - C. would be shy to share her story
 - D. had been interviewed many times
2. In line 12, the word 'take' can best be replaced by '_____'.
 A. reply to
 B. deal with
 C. think about
 D. talk about
-  3. Which of the following is NOT true about Victoria?
- A. She thought that she had had a tough time preparing for the exam.
 - B. Her parents are very appreciative of her success.
 - C. She is in fact grateful to her friends.
 - D. Her friends really thought that she had pretended to be lazy.
4. When asked about her knowledge of Tai Chi and acupuncture, Victoria gave _____.
- A. an ill-mannered response
 - B. a humble response
 - C. an uncertain response
 - D. an emotional response
5. Victoria _____ that a Chinese medicine practitioner is _____ than a western doctor.
- A. argued...worse
 - B. thought...not worse
 - C. thought...much better
 - D. argued...better
6. Victoria _____ interested in Tai Chi and acupuncture if her grandma had not brought her along to _____.
- A. would not have been...gather herbs
 - B. would have been less...explore the village
 - C. would not have been so...her meetings with patients
 - D. would have been more...her workplace
-  7. The purpose of the interview is to gather information about a top scorer _____.
- A. who is obsessed with Chinese culture
 - B. whose grandmother was very experienced in acupuncture
 - C. who did not study hard
 - D. who is extraordinarily passionate about Chinese medicine

4 Think about why she thought the interviewer should not have used the word 'experienced'.

7 Think about why Victoria was interviewed.



Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

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

1. How does the title of the passage relate to Victoria's story? Explain your answer.



2. Determine whether each of the following statements is true (T) or false (F). Write the correct symbols 'T' or 'F' in the spaces provided.

2 Do not base your answers on the appearance of the exact wording alone.

Statement	T/F
(i) Victoria read books written by professionals from around the world.	
(ii) Victoria learnt Tai Chi and acupuncture from her grandma.	
(iii) People in the village saw Victoria's grandma as a heroine.	

3. Look for words in the interview to match the definitions below.

(i) _____ (lines 1-22)	(<i>adj.</i>) difficult and needing a lot of effort
(ii) _____ (lines 1-22)	(<i>v.</i>) pretended to have a particular problem
(iii) _____ (lines 42-55)	(<i>adv.</i>) completely



4. Complete the summary of the interview by filling in ONE word in each blank.

Victoria, one of the (i) _____ performers in HKDSE this year, expressed the view that she never (ii) _____ to score 5** in eight subjects. (iii) _____ most candidates, she did not devote all her time to the (iv) _____ of the exam because she always (v) _____ time for reading books concerning her passions.

4 Consider words that change the meaning of the whole sentence, like 'never' and 'not'.

5. Match each of the following quotes with its most likely speaker. Put the correct letters in the boxes.

A. Victoria's grandma B. Victoria C. Victoria's friends

- (i) 'We're happy for you. You totally deserve this!'
- (ii) 'No cold drinks permitted for two months!'
- (iii) 'Breathe slowly, push both hands to the front... Oh no, I should be studying!'

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of leisure activities from the word box.

martial arts

knitting

gardening

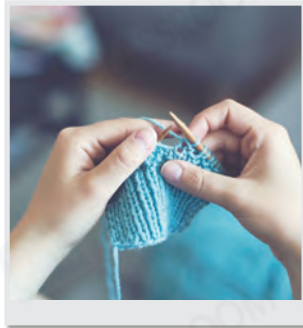
photography

painting

yoga

golfing

calligraphy

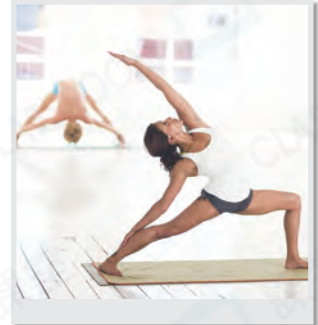
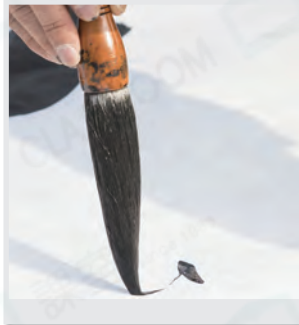


1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Word Craft

University (Refer to P.67.)

- e.g. go to **university**
 leave **university**
 graduate from **university**
 study Russian literature at **university**
 do a law degree at **university**

Let's Discuss!

1. What would you like to study at university?
2. In your opinion, why does Chinese medicine seem to be less popular than western medicine?

Reminder

Capitalise the initials of club names.

Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the posters below with the appropriate nouns introduced on the previous page.

(1) _____

Club

- Improve your handwriting
- Cultivate noble sentiments

Come and join us!

(2) _____

Club

- Make scarves and gloves
- Become ingenious

Don't miss the chance!

(3) _____

Club

- Capture the moment
- Find beauty in life

Let's get started!

(4) _____

Club

- Take care of plants
- Embrace nature
- Preserve the environment

Be one of us!

(5) _____

Club

- Train your balance
- Relieve stress
- Boost metabolism

Relax and be free!

(6) _____

Club

- Become physically fit
- Increase body flexibility
- Grow to your full potential

Come visit our counter!

(7) _____

Club

- Goal orientation
- Keep fit safely and mildly
- Be one with nature

Swing your stress away!

(8) _____

Club

- Colour your world
- Be creative
- Reflect your universe

You won't regret this!