

## 8

## The extra days off



Level: 1



## Let's think!

1. What do you do when schools are closed due to bad weather?
2. How many public holidays are there in Hong Kong?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



## Text 1

## A Typhoon Night

Amelia Bailey

'Standby Signal No. 1 is now in force.

If the storm is not going to change its course,

It may become the strongest wind gust ever recorded,' 5

The weather presenter firmly reported.

I was somewhat elated at the prospect of a holiday.

I might skip the test and the blue Monday.

'Strong Wind Signal No. 3 is now in effect.

Make sure all the drains and outdoor structures are checked.' 10

Fierce gales made the windows rattle.

The thunders raged in a battle.

The rain was pounding against the roof.

This time I could escape school without any proof.

'Typhoon Signal No. 8 has finally arrived.' 15

My mood was totally revived.

Even in my bed I could not hide my grin.

But later I woke up with the sunlight streaming in.

My cat miaowed into my ear, 'Get up and face your fears.'

Then she nimbly jumped off my bed and left me in tears. 20

~160 words



Read Text 1 and answer questions 1–8. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (11 marks)

1. When do the events in the poem take place?

They take place from \_\_\_\_\_ night to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Which word is used to describe the sound of winds in stanza 2?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who / What does 'she' (line 20) refer to?

4. (i) Read lines 19–20. Which literary device is used?

- A. simile
- B. hyperbole
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia

4 hyperbole = exaggeration  
onomatopoeia = the use of words to imitate the sounds they describe

- A      B      C      D

(ii) Find ONE more line in the poem that uses the same literary device. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Number the following events in chronological order. Write 1–4 in the boxes provided.

The poet stayed up late at night.		The poet watched the weather report on the TV.	
The poet had to get up early to take a school test.		There were strong winds and heavy rain.	

6. What is the change of the poet's tone throughout the poem?

- A. surprised → worried → relieved
- B. surprised → scared → disappointed
- C. excited → hopeful → upset
- D. excited → scared → tired

6 The tone of a story is the poet's attitude towards the subject.

- A      B      C      D

7. Find a rhyming pair from each specified stanza below. Write the answers on the lines provided.

Stanza 1	force and (i) _____
Stanza 2	effect and (ii) _____
Stanza 3	grin and (iii) _____

8. Why did the poet cry?

The Typhoon Signal No. 8 was \_\_\_\_\_ so the poet had to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Text 2



Posted by Mary Barry

5 hours ago

**Progressive increase of statutory holidays**

One more statutory holiday (also known as labour leave) has been added every alternate year since 2022. By 2030, the number of statutory holidays will have increased from 12 days to 17 days to align with that of general holidays (also called bank leave). Since all employees will be entitled to 17 general holidays, this would definitely have a negative impact on Hong Kong's ability to compete economically.

5



5 comments

**BrainyBeast:** If you imagine yourself being in the position of a blue-collar worker, you might see a different picture regarding general holidays. While office workers enjoy time off during the Easter long weekend, people working in the construction industry have to go to work.

10

**Cosmos:** @BrainyBeast You have hit the nail on the head. The expansion of statutory holidays will greatly improve the welfare of blue-collar workers.

**Dream Big:** This proposal is actually standardising the number of holidays people can have. The difference can be seen as unfair treatment towards blue-collar workers.

15

**Mary Barry:** I see what you mean, but why do employers have to bear the burden?

**Tom Kyle:** Supposedly, the policy can help boost consumption. It encourages more people to go shopping, eat out, and do recreational activities. In other words, it might somewhat cancel out the financial cost. It has a positive impact on people's leisure spending, and will especially help stimulate business.

20

~230 words

**Looking into Grammar**

To give extra information about verbs, we use adverbs of manner. e.g. **whispered softly**

To strengthen or weaken an action, a quality or manner, use adverbs of degree. e.g. **very fast**

To show how often something happens, use adverbs of frequency. e.g. **sometimes, always**

To show when something happens, use adverbs of time. e.g. **yesterday, tomorrow**

✓ It may become the strongest wind gust **ever** (✗ never) recorded.

✓ The weather presenter **firmly** (✗ firm) reported.

? In Text 2, underline THREE adverbs in lines 18–21.

Read Text 2 and answer questions 9–15. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (15 marks)

9. Complete the table below by writing the correct numbers.

(i) Year	2020	2022	_____	_____	_____	_____
(ii) Number of statutory holidays	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(iii) Number of general holidays	_____					

10. Who does 'you' (line 9) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

11. According to BrainyBeast, 'people working in the construction industry' (line 11) is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.

12. What does 'have hit the nail on the head' (line 13) mean?

- A. have misunderstood someone's idea  
 B. have hurt someone's feeling  
 C. have given wrong information  
 D. have said something exactly right

12 Does 'Cosmos' agree with the views of 'BrainyBeast'?

- A      B      C      D

13. Decide whether each of the three people agrees or disagrees with the statement 'We should increase statutory holidays' by blackening the appropriate circle. Complete the main points made by the people by writing ONE word taken from the text in each blank.

Opinion towards the statement: 'We should increase statutory holidays'			
	Agree	Disagree	Main point
Cosmos	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Having more statutory holidays will have a positive (i) _____ on blue-collar workers.
Mary Barry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I understand that the proposal is (ii) _____ the number of statutory and general holidays, but this puts a (iii) _____ on employers.
Tom Kyle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	If people have more statutory holidays, they can take part in various (iv) _____ activities.

14. Read lines 17–21. What does 'the burden' refer to?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

15. What might be the economic benefits brought by the increasing number of statutory holidays?  
 It can increase \_\_\_\_\_ and improve the weak economy.

# Vocabulary

## GLOSSARY



A. Complete the travelogue below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

**Adjective:** elated fierce progressive

**Adverb:** nimbly

**Noun:** burden consumption prospect

**Verb:** entitle revive standardise



I am currently on holiday in Japan, and today was a special day. I went to Aoshima, also known as 'Cat Island'. It is home to hundreds of cats, so there was a very good (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for me to see an army of cats. Being a huge cat lover, I felt (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

I met my tour guide, Hiro, at the pier. The wind was so (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that I thought the ferry might be cancelled. Luckily, the wind weakened and we set sail towards Aoshima. Hiro handed me a travel pass. It (4) \_\_\_\_\_ me to round trips to and from the island.

Later, Hiro explained that local fishermen had brought cats to Aoshima many years ago to hunt mice. As residents gradually moved to cities, there was a / an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ decrease in the human population on the island. Caring for the cats became a / an (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for the few remaining locals. The cats' high food (7) \_\_\_\_\_ made it difficult for the locals to keep them fed. Some people suggested giving the cats to shelters, while others wanted to relocate all of the cats elsewhere. At last, the residents held a meeting to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their approach in addressing the problem. They agreed to spay and neuter the cats so that they could not have any more kittens. I was disappointed when I heard this.

However, my mood was instantly (9) \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as I arrived on Aoshima and was warmly welcomed by a group of cats. Then, an orange tabby leaped (10) \_\_\_\_\_ over a fence and ran towards me. It even rubbed its face against me!

This has become the most enjoyable day of my entire trip to Japan!



B. Look at the pictures. Complete the sentences with the given words.

### When a typhoon comes

bamboo scaffolding

evacuation

eye of the storm

flood

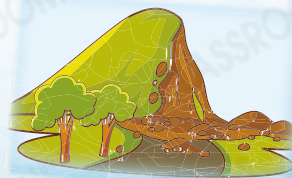
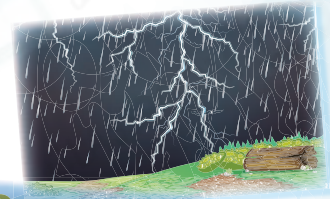
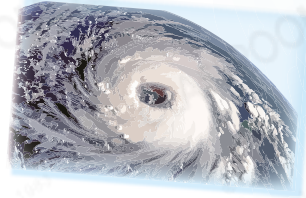
landslide

rescue

storm chasing

torrential rain

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is the calmest part of a typhoon.
- Some people went \_\_\_\_\_ next to the Star Ferry Pier. They wanted to feel the typhoon's strength.
- It was a stormy night, with \_\_\_\_\_ and strong winds.
- People in the seaside hut were in danger of drowning as the \_\_\_\_\_ approached rapidly.
- It is amazing that the \_\_\_\_\_ around the building has withstood the force of the typhoon.
- The government is preparing for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the villagers, as they may have to leave their homes and seek shelter.
- Many trees on that steep mountain were swept downhill during the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The firefighter who \_\_\_\_\_ the cat during the super typhoon was truly brave.



## Writing

If you had the opportunity to create a new public holiday, what would it be?

Write an article of about 150 words to describe this holiday and explain why you want to create it.