



READ ALONG



Let's think!

1. What qualities should a volunteer have?
2. If you have to be a volunteer, what kind of volunteer work would you like to do? Why?

PLAYLIST

Level: 

## My First Volunteer Experience— Reciprocal Giving

Hayden Lee

1 As a member of our school's community service team, I had the incredible opportunity to partake in a gratifying experience today. Miss Chan, the coordinator of the team, led us on a mission to provide much-needed assistance to the impoverished residents of Sham Shui Po. Being a recent addition to the team, I was eager to serve our community in any way possible. 5

2 Miss Chan shared with us that Sham Shui Po is one of the poorest districts in Hong Kong, with a significant number of homeless individuals. Our meeting point was a cha chaan teng called Pei Ho Counterparts, where we had the honour of meeting the owner, Ming Gor. We worked alongside Ming Gor to distribute free boxed meals to street people, elderly individuals living alone and other people in need. 10

3 'Ming Gor's restaurant went through some tough times during the last global recession. Fortunately, he was able to weather the storm with the help of many generous friends from the community. He felt a great sense of gratitude for the support he had received and 15



felt compelled to give back to society by providing affordable food and distributing free boxed meals to those in need.

4 After listening to his instructions and heartfelt story, we headed off to parks, housing estates and nursing homes in the neighbourhood. At one park, I handed out boxed meals and bottled water to a

few middle-aged homeless men. It was disheartening to know that they had to

scavenge for leftovers or discarded food from rubbish bins and refuse collection points.

However, their smiles and genuine gratitude reminded me of the power of small acts of kindness. This volunteer activity was truly meaningful! While we may come across adversities in life, it is reassuring to know that there are people willing to reach out.

5 After distributing all the boxed meals, we noticed a long line of people waiting outside Ming Gor's restaurant to receive the free boxed lunches. Amongst the crowd were both young and old faces, which gave me mixed feelings.



6 After all the hard work, Ming Gor treated us to a tasty lunch. He is a genuine and easy-going person with a big heart. I am grateful to him for giving us the opportunity to take part in his campaign. It was definitely a rewarding experience, and now I fully understand the saying 'it is more blessed to give than to receive'.

~390 words

### Looking into Grammar

We use the linking word **and** to link two or more similar ideas or closely related actions. We use **or** to indicate choices or alternatives.

- ✓ ... distribute free boxed meals to street people, elderly individuals living alone **and** other people in need.
- ✓ It was disheartening to know that they had to scavenge for leftovers **or** discarded food from rubbish bins **and** refuse collection points.

? Circle all instances of 'and' in paragraph 4 of the text.

20

25

30

35

Read the text and answer questions 1–13. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (20 marks)

1. According to paragraph 1, why did the writer join the school’s volunteer team?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. According to paragraph 2, which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. Many people in Sham Shui Po are low-income earners.
- B. There are a lot of homeless people in Sham Shui Po.
- C. Ming Gor’s only job is to hand out free boxed meals.
- D. Pei Ho Counterparts is located in Sham Shui Po.

A B C D

3. Free boxed meals were given to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the poor
- B. the elderly
- C. the homeless
- D. all of the above

A B C D

4. Read paragraph 3. What would most likely have happened if Ming Gor had not received any help?

- A. His restaurant might have closed down.
- B. He might have turned to making free meals full time.
- C. He might have asked the government for money.
- D. He might have become homeless.

4 What difficulty did Ming Gor face?

A B C D

5. According to paragraph 3, what did Ming Gor decide to do to give back to the community?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_

6. According to paragraph 4, how did the writer feel after his service at the park? Tick (✓) the correct boxes.

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> sincere | <input type="checkbox"/> upset     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wanted  | <input type="checkbox"/> comforted |





7. The middle-aged homeless men in paragraph 4 felt \_\_\_\_\_ when they received the boxed meals and bottled water.

- A. abandoned
- B. despaired
- C. appreciative
- D. enthusiastic

A B C D

8. According to paragraph 6, tick (✓) the picture that best illustrates the writer’s impression of Ming Gor.

8 Find the adjectives the writer used to describe Ming Gor.

A.  B.  C.  D. 

9. Complete the alternative title of the recount by writing ONE word in each blank.

My First Volunteer Experience—Bringing joy to (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and finding joy in (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.

10. What does 'campaign' (line 36) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_



11. How would the writer explain his feelings when seeing young people in the queue outside the restaurant? Write ONE word in each blank.

The writer would probably explain that he felt a blend of (i) \_\_\_\_\_ upon seeing young people struggling financially. He might have felt (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ for their situation, while also feeling thankful for his own circumstances.

12. Look for words or phrases in the text to match the following definitions.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 3) (*adj.*) feeling it is necessary to do something

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 4) (*phr. v.*) to offer help and support to someone

13. Based on the information in the text, match the people (A–D) mentioned in the text with one of the following comments. Write the correct letter in each blank. Each letter can be used ONCE only.

A. Miss Chan

B. Hayden Lee

C. Ming Gor

D. The homeless man

I really appreciate that my friends helped me with my business.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

I now understand why people feel happy to help others.

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

Look! This time he has come to the park with some young people.

(iii) \_\_\_\_\_

The information will help them understand the conditions of the district.

(iv) \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-DSE Level Up

**Q11:** Based on our own knowledge and contextual clues from the text, we can make predictions about the writer's feelings when observing people of his age standing in line for free food hand-outs.

# Vocabulary

## GLOSSARY



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

### Adjective:

blessed    generous    genuine    gratifying    impoverished  
reciprocal

### Idiom:

weather the storm

### Verb:

distribute    partake    scavenge

## The Power of Giving: Caring for Our Seniors



In Hong Kong, there is a significant number of elderly individuals who live by themselves and struggle with daily life. Fortunately, in this city, we have many kind-hearted people who have stepped forward to help them. Below is a heartwarming story which highlights the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ relationship between an elderly woman and a young volunteer.

80-year-old Mei Ying lives alone in a small flat in Shek Kip Mei. She participates in a companionship programme that partners her with a young volunteer named Emily, who visits Mei Ying twice a week to chat with her and help her with household chores. Emily is always friendly towards Mei Ying. This (2) \_\_\_\_\_ attitude makes Mei Ying feel (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that Emily has come into her life. Over time, they have developed a close bond and they both find it (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to spend time together. They even (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in activities together at the community centre.

Mei Ying and Emily's story is just one example of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ acts of kindness that the people of Hong Kong have shown to the elderly. Many regularly donate and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ groceries to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ elderly people. This ensures that they do not have to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for necessities and food on the street.

As a community, we should all watch out for elderly individuals around us and help them (10) \_\_\_\_\_ when they face challenges in life.



B. Complete the crossword puzzle below with the given words.

### Helping vulnerable groups in society

disabilities

donate

education

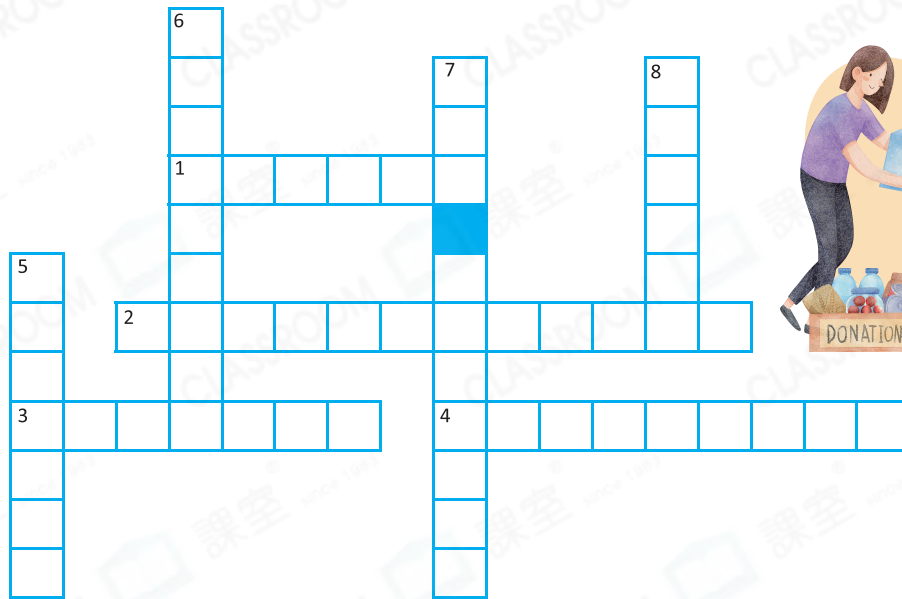
fundraise

income

poverty

support

the elderly



#### Across:

- We can \_\_\_\_\_ clothes and food to local shelters to support people in need.
- Workplaces must be made accessible to people with \_\_\_\_\_, for example, by installing wheelchair ramps.
- Affordable housing can be a crucial help for families living in \_\_\_\_\_.
- We should empower disadvantaged people with knowledge and skills through \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Down:

- We should strive to provide emotional and practical \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are less fortunate in our society.
- We can organise a charity event to \_\_\_\_\_ for the needs of the less privileged.
- Regular visits or phone calls can help brighten the day of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Food banks and living allowances can support the needs of families surviving on a low \_\_\_\_\_.

## Writing

### My volunteer experience

Write an article of about 150 words to share your experience of doing volunteer work.