

## 1

Hong Kong's  
animation industryLevel: 

## Let's think!

1. What is your favourite animation studio?
2. Can you think of an animated film made in Hong Kong?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG

Interview with a local animator<sup>1</sup>

**1** In recent years, there has been a growing interest in Hong Kong's local culture. Many individuals are opting to purchase locally made products and support shops that are owned independently. This trend raises the question of how it is going to impact the local animation industry. Are animation artists going to benefit from this? To explore this topic, we can consider the perspective of Kongkee, one of the few local animation artists in Hong Kong. 5

**2** Kongkee grew up in Tai Po and graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. While working as a graphic designer, he partnered with a few friends and began publishing a comic series. Later, he returned to school to pursue a degree at the School of Creative Media at City University of Hong Kong. 10

**3** 'I graduated with a Master's Degree in Media Design and Technological Art. My graduation project received a Special Mention at the Hong Kong Independent Film and Video Award,' Kongkee recalled.

**4** A few years ago, Kongkee started working on his feature-length animated film *Dragon's Delusion*, a cyberpunk animation set in a futuristic version of Hong Kong. Working in collaboration with other local creative forces, he managed to obtain partial funding for the film through crowdfunding. The project has raised over HK\$1.5 million so far, but it is still a long way from Kongkee's target of HK\$8 million. 15

**5** Despite being short on funds, Kongkee continues to work on the film one chapter at a time and releases each part as a short film. He is relieved that the response has been overwhelmingly positive. One of the films earned the Gold Mention of a short film competition in Japan, while a subsequent chapter garnered the prestigious Grand Prize of the same competition. 20

6 'Dragon's Delusion' is a story set in an imaginary world with reference to actual historical events. It talks about the conflict between humans and technology through the story of androids and humans who discover their souls during a big war,' Kongkee explained. 25

7 The story of *Dragon's Delusion* revolves around Qin Shi Huang, the first-ever emperor of China and a robot that carries the memory of Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet who lived over 2,000 years ago. Kongkee's version of events is set in an unspecified time in which Qin Shi Huang has become immortal. At its core, *Dragon's Delusion* is an exploration of history and identity. It tries to answer a hypothetical question: if ancient China were to possess the technology of the future, how would history be altered? 30

8 The film uses a bold style to depict Hong Kong's cramped urban space. It is bathed in shocking purples, greens, blues and reds. It is also full of cultural references: Hong Kong's distinctive red taxis, neon signs and the MTR make an appearance, as well as a legendary Cantonese opera star. 35

9 'One of the main things in my work is that the character of Hong Kong is somehow very traditional, yet also very futuristic, because it is both a local and international city,' said Kongkee. 35

10 Kongkee believes that the animation, in its completed form, is going to show the fusion of the two contrasting elements that Hong Kong embodies. 35

~520 words

### Looking into Grammar

We use **be going to** to talk about:

- Things that we are sure will happen very soon based on what we know
- ✓ This trend raises the question of how it **is going to impact** the local animation industry.
- Plans we made before speaking
- ✓ ... the animation ... **is going to show** the fusion of the two contrasting elements that Hong Kong embodies.

? Underline a sentence using **be going to** in paragraph 1.

Read the text and answer questions 1–13. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (21 marks)

1. Based on the information in paragraph 1, complete the sentence by filling in each blank with ONE word. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

To celebrate Hong Kong’s culture, a lot of people are choosing to buy (i) \_\_\_\_\_ items at (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ stores instead of chain stores.

2. In paragraph 1, what does ‘This trend’ (line 4) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Below is a timeline of some of the events experienced by Kongkee. Read paragraphs 2–3. Write the correct letters in the space provided. Use each letter ONCE only.

- A. He completed his undergraduate studies.
- B. He started creating a comic series.
- C. He was employed as a graphic designer.
- D. He completed a project that received recognition.
- E. He went to university to further his education.



4. Find a word in paragraph 4 which describes the amount of time that *Dragon’s Delusion* runs for.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. According to paragraphs 4–5, what was the major difficulty in making *Dragon’s Delusion*?

- |                                   |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| A. lack of time                   |  |  |  |  |
| B. lack of money                  |  |  |  |  |
| C. lack of creative inspiration   |  |  |  |  |
| D. plenty of video editing issues |  |  |  |  |

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. What international awards has *Dragon’s Delusion* received?

\_\_\_\_\_



# Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



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

**Adjective:** futuristic

**Adverb:** independently locally

**Phrasal verb:** revolve around

**Noun:** animator crowdfunding fusion

**Verb:** depict embody publish

## Warriors of Future: Hong Kong's groundbreaking sci-fi blockbuster

*Warriors of Future*, one of the highest-grossing films in Hong Kong history, set the record in Hong Kong-made films in terms of the amount and level of computer graphics it included. The film was not only distributed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ but also across various Asian countries.

This sci-fi film is set in a / an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ world, in which the development of technology has led to many problems. The story (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a few soldiers who try to protect the world against their superior's evil plan. The reason that *Warriors of Future* was such a success at the Hong Kong box office is because it is a / an (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of several elements popular with the Hong Kong audience. First of all, it (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in great detail the close bond among its main characters, a common trait in popular Hong Kong films. Additionally, its thrilling action sequences (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the things that have made Hong Kong films so special around the world.

The most impressive aspect of the film is its visual effects. They showcase the remarkable talent of the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ who created the stunning computer graphics. Most film reviews that were (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in magazines and newspapers praised this. Producer Louis Koo hopes that Hong Kong's local film industry can (9) \_\_\_\_\_ produce more sci-fi films without relying on external support. To achieve this, he plans to raise the money he needs through (10) \_\_\_\_\_.



B. Complete the poster below with the given words or phrases. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

### Words related to animation

atmosphere

character

motion

screening

sound effect

storyboard

visualise

voice-over

### Magic Animation School

Enrol in courses at our school to start your journey in the magical world of animation!

As a student at our school, you will have the opportunity to:

- Design (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that look real and are original.
- Learn how to make a / an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that shows the plot frame by frame. This will help you to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ how things happen.
- Understand how to create smooth (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for animated objects to move smoothly on the screen.
- Add (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and background music to enhance the moods of different scenes.
- Combine the animation with (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to make your characters talk and sing.
- Discover how to use colour to set the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of your scenes.
- Attend (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of new animated films to learn from your peers.



Apply now and animate your future!

## Writing

### My favourite animated film

Which animated film do you like the best? Why are you so obsessed with it? Write a review in about 180 words.

KEY FRAME

