

12 Beans to brew

Level: 

Let's think!

1. Where is coffee grown?
2. If you could invent a new flavour of coffee, what would it be?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



Text 1

The evolution of Hong Kong's coffee culture

1 Hong Kong, which is traditionally known for its tea culture, has experienced a remarkable rise in its coffee scene. Today, the city boasts an array of unique and award-winning caffeinated beverages, brewed by talented baristas. So, how did this transformation come about? 5

2 Hong Kong only has a brief history of coffee consumption. It was not until the 19th century that coffee was brought to the territory by the British. At that time, very few local people drank it. However, things changed in the 1950s. With the arrival of the first wave of Hong Kong's indigenous coffee culture, locals got into the habit of drinking coffee at cafés known as 'cha chaan tengs'. 10

3 During the 1980s and 1990s, the second wave of coffee culture swept through the city. As Hong Kong people became more well-off, their taste in coffee became more sophisticated. 15

4 Major international coffee shop chains—Starbucks and McCafé from the United States as well as UCC from Japan—seized this opportunity and entered the Hong Kong market. These chains introduced people to coffee beans that were imported from exotic countries like Colombia and Kenya, further refining their tastes. Thus, coffee evolved from a drink associated with the grassroots cha chaan tengs to one that represented style and a higher social status. 20

4 In recent years, a third wave has brought new dimensions to Hong Kong's coffee scene. It emphasises experimentation and craftsmanship, with small independent cafés taking centre stage. Baristas in these cafés play around with ingredients and portions to come up with specialty coffees that cannot be found anywhere else. Coffee fanatics hunt for baristas whose expertise they prize. Benefitting from the influence of social media, some cafés have gained a sizeable following. These trends are sure to captivate more coffee lovers and continue to shape the ever-changing coffee scene in East Asia. 25

~300 words



Read Text 1 and answer questions 1–7. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (18 marks)

1. Based on the information in paragraph 1, list ONE evidence to show the increasing popularity of coffee in Hong Kong. Fill in each blank with ONE word.

Baristas in the city (i) _____ many different special coffee (ii) _____.

2. The word ‘sophisticated’ (line 12) suggests that Hong Kong people’s coffee taste _____.

- A. became simpler C. stayed the same A B C D
 B. became more advanced D. was linked to their wealth ○ ○ ○ ○

3. What does ‘this opportunity’ (line 14) refer to?

_____ of Hong Kong people as they became wealthier


4. Who or what do the following pronouns from paragraph 4 refer to?

(i) ‘It’ (line 19) _____ (ii) ‘they’ (line 23) _____

5. According to paragraphs 3–4, determine whether the following statements are True (T), False (F), or Not Given (NG).

	T	F	NG
(i) UCC is a major American coffee shop brand.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Coffee drinkers in the 1990s could be seen as belonging to a higher class.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) In the third wave, some cafés promote themselves by placing ads on social media.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Based on the information in paragraphs 2–4, complete the timeline by filling in each blank with a word or a phrase. Note that the suitable word or phrase may not appear in the text. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.



PAST **19th century:** The British (i) _____ coffee to Hong Kong, but (ii) _____ locals did not drink it.

The first wave: Starting in the (iii) _____, Hong Kong people went to (iv) _____ to enjoy coffee.

The second wave: Foreign coffee chains (v) _____ people’s taste for coffee. Coffee beans were (vi) _____ from unfamiliar places.

NOW **The third wave:** Baristas carry out (vii) _____ to invent new drinks. They have become highly (viii) _____ for their skills.

7. What is the tone of this article?

- A. negative C. informative A B C D
 B. funny D. argumentative ○ ○ ○ ○

7 What is the tone in the writer’s choice of words?

Fair Grounds Café

About us:

We have been located at Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island for over two decades. We serve homemade pastries as well as fairtrade coffee: the beans are sourced from buyers who pay hardworking growers a fair price for their produce.

5

Our signature treats:

- ‘Double Trouble’, our Italian-inspired dessert, features two handmade vanilla ice cream balls and a double shot of espresso. 10
- Our delectable croissants and doughnuts are freshly made daily. 15

Canvas & Coffee

Our mission:

Situated in the heart of Central, we aim to provide a contemporary art experience paired with sustainable coffee: it is grown in a way that minimises environmental damage. Our space contains an art gallery, which features a different local artist each month.

20

What’s new:

Jen Li—a rising painter—will have her latest works on display in our gallery until the end of this month. Come join us and meet new friends!

Our signature products:

Our much-loved flat white is made with homemade almond milk. The coffee is rich and nutty with a strong kick. For those who can’t consume dairy products, we offer vegan coffee creamer as an alternative. Why not drop by today and enjoy a hearty cup of joe?

25

~200 words

Looking into Grammar

We use a **dash (—)** to give extra information about something that is mentioned in a sentence. The example below tells readers what the major international coffee chains are.

✓ Major international coffee chains—Starbucks and McCafé from the United States as well as UCC from Japan—seized this opportunity ...

We use a **colon (:)** to introduce an explanation in a sentence. In the example below, the text following the colon explains what fair trade coffee is.

✓ ... fairtrade coffee: the beans are sourced from buyers who pay hardworking growers a fair price for their produce.

? In Text 2, underline the dashes (—) and the extra information that is given. In the same text, underline a colon (:) and the explanation that follows it.

Read Text 2 and answer questions 8–14. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (10 marks)

8. Why do you think Fair Grounds Café serves ‘fairtrade coffee’ (line 6)?

Because it wants coffee growers _____
_____.

9. Find a word in lines 9–15 that has a similar meaning to ‘delicious’.

10. Based on the information in lines 1–15, complete Fair Grounds Café’s menu by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Menu			
At Fair Grounds, our bakery makes		Based on a recipe from (ii) _____, our	
(i) _____ homemade pastries		signature dessert combines two balls of vanilla ice	
every day.		cream with strong (iii) _____.	
Croissant	\$35 each	Double Trouble	\$50
Doughnut	\$45 each		

11. What is the benefit of drinking ‘sustainable coffee’ (line 19)?

12. Which statement is NOT true about the coffee shop Canvas & Coffee?

- A. It changes the artwork it displays every month.
- B. Jen Li’s most up-to-date works are now on display.
- C. The flat white coffee is a popular product.
- D. It buys almond milk to make the flat white.

- A B C D

13. Below are comments made by two coffee lovers. Which coffee shop is more suitable for each of them? Write the name of the appropriate coffee shop in each blank.

I love to have some sweet treats with my coffee.

(i) _____

I don’t eat or drink anything made from animals.

(ii) _____

14. What is the tone of Canvas & Coffee’s profile?

- A. sad
- B. hopeful
- C. formal
- D. friendly

14 What does the writer want readers of the profile to do?

- A B C D

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



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

Adjective: sophisticated

Noun: beverage craftsmanship expertise fanatic ingredient
social status

Phrase: gain a following

Verb: refine source

The rise of coffee: from discovery to global fame



It is believed that a goat herder in eastern Africa was the first to drink coffee as a / an

(1) _____ over 1,200 years ago. His goats ate some fruit from an unknown plant, and a few minutes later, they all became unusually excited. What was the (2) _____ that led to this outcome?

It turned out to be the powerful coffee beans, and coffee has eventually become a popular drink worldwide. So how exactly did coffee (3) _____ so quickly?

In due course, clever farmers learnt how best to extract the coffee bean from the fruit, and how to (4) _____ it into a delicious drink. The entire process required excellent (5) _____.

Soon, coffee was spread to the Middle East, where it became popular among nobles and other people with high (6) _____. By the 17th century, it spread to Europe and wealthy people drank it to appear (7) _____ to their friends.

At that time, however, Europeans had to (8) _____ all of their coffee beans from the Middle East. This made them extremely expensive. Therefore, European merchants tried hard to gain the (9) _____ in growing coffee plants on their own. Dutch merchants eventually succeeded and they were able to grow coffee in Indonesia.

Today, coffee is one of the most widely consumed drinks in the world. Millions of coffee (10) _____ will drink several cups of it every day.



B. Complete the flow chart below with the given words and phrases.

How to make a cup of coffee

boiled

coffee beans

filter

funnel

kettle

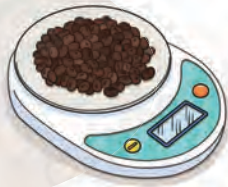
powder

spill over

stir

Step 1

Add (1) _____
_____ on a scale
until you get 50 g.



Step 2

Grind the coffee beans
into (2) _____
_____.



Step 3

Boil about 800 ml of
water in a (3) _____
_____.



Step 4

Get a paper (4) _____
_____ and place it in a
(5) _____.



Step 6

When you see a lot of
bubbles on your ground
coffee, stop and wait. If
you don't, the water will (7) _____
_____. Once the bubbles
are gone, start pouring again.



Step 5

Add the ground coffee
in and then put everything
on top of a pot. Pour
the (6) _____
_____ water slowly.

Step 7

Pour yourself a cup of coffee. Add milk
and sugar as you please. Remember
to (8) _____.



Writing

Changes in the coffee culture

Write an article of about 180 words to share what you think about cafés.