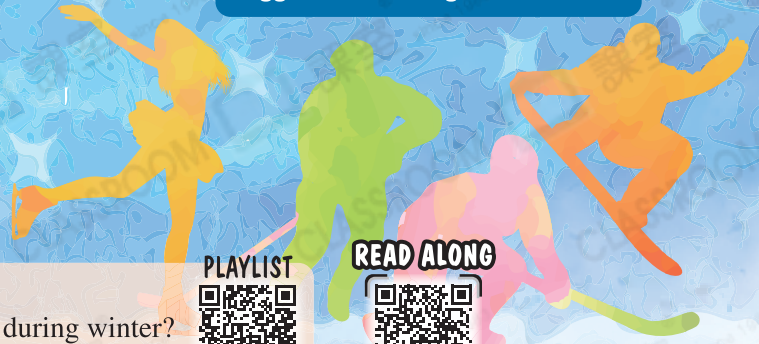


9

Embrace the chill DSE



Level: 
Level: 



Let's think!

1. What outdoor activities do people play in Hong Kong during winter?
2. What are some sports that people do on snow or ice?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



China's winter wonderland awaits you

1 Winter sports in China have surged in popularity since the country's record-breaking performance at the Winter Olympics in Beijing. More and more people are flocking to the growing number of ski resorts, ice rinks, as well as ice and snow theme parks. If you are interested in winter sports, we have the ultimate guide for you. So, grab your thermos, limber up and get ready to have fun! 5

2 Most resorts are located in the northern and western parts of China, such as areas near Beijing, Harbin, and in Xinjiang. The mountainous geography and stunning scenery at these locations have made them perfect spots to enjoy sports like skiing. Depending on snow cover, a typical season lasts from early November to late March, with the highest number of holidaymakers hitting the slopes between Christmas and the few days after New Year's Day. Therefore, book your room a few months in advance if you plan to visit during this period. 10

3 Although the first historical record of skiing in China dates from the Han dynasty, the sport did not become widespread until the late 20th century. However, it has been all the rage after the Winter Olympics and there are now around 700 ski resorts across the country. At the best resorts, you will get the opportunity to float through breathtaking snowscapes while the wind sings and snowflakes fly around you. For novices, it is advisable to begin by exploring the bunny slopes with the assistance of an instructor. 15

4 After a full day of sports, you are bound to feel thoroughly exhausted, which is why some ski resorts like the Changbaishan International Ski Resort in Jilin feature hot springs. This resort offers the perfect combination of sport and relaxation. If you are seeking to refresh your body, don't forget to take a pleasant break in one of China's most picturesque hot springs. There's no better way to relieve stress and fatigue. 20

25



5 Ice hockey used to be a little-known sport in China, but its popularity has been steadily rising. Professional Chinese hockey players like Zachary Yuen and Song Andong have returned from overseas to promote the sport. Not only are people watching more ice hockey matches, an increasing number of them are also playing it as a recreational sport. More ice rinks have therefore been built to satisfy this growing demand. Enthusiasts have formed leagues—groups of teams that play against each other. If you enjoy this fast-paced team sport, don't hesitate to join one of these teams!

6 Last but not least, there's ice skating. In China, people usually skate on frozen lakes and rivers in northern provinces or at ice rinks, many of which are located in shopping malls. The enormous ice rink at China World Mall in Beijing is highly recommended. This rink is the official training facility for figure skaters. Additionally, it uses an eco-friendly freezing system to maintain its world-class ice surface year-round, even during the hottest summer days. Your skating experience is sure to be fun, comfortable and safe. Most major rinks also offer lessons, so if you don't know how to skate, why not sign up for one and hone your skating skills?

~510 words



Looking into Grammar

We can use linking words:

- to give additional information

✓ *More and more people are flocking to the growing number of ski resorts, ice rinks, **as well as** ice and snow theme parks.*

- to show the result of a situation

Many people stay at ski resorts between Christmas and New Year's Day. (situation)

✓ ***Therefore**, book your room a few months in advance ... (result)*

- to introduce a distinctly different or opposite idea

✓ ***Although** the first historical record of skiing in China dates from the Han dynasty, the sport did not become widespread until the late 20th century.*

? Complete the table below. Find linking words in paragraphs 3–6 that ...

show the result of a situation	give additional information	introduce a distinctly different or opposite idea

Read the text and answer questions 1–12. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (25 marks)

1. Find a word in paragraph 1 that describes a large number of people moving.

2. Which of the following is the closest in meaning to 'limber up' (line 5)?

A. become excited

B. watch the Winter Olympics

C. stay at home

D. do warm-up exercises

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

 3. What likely caused more Chinese people to take part in winter sports?

4. During which of the following time periods should you book your room in advance? Put a tick (✓) next to the correct dates. Tick TWO boxes only.

20–25 December

28–30 December

1–3 January

2 November–29 March

5. The phrase 'all the rage' (line 15) suggests that _____.

A. some people in China used to hate skiing.

B. skiing has become very popular in China.

C. skiing is only popular in certain parts of China.

D. ski resorts are opening at a fast pace.

5 Pay attention to the linking words in paragraph 3 to help you answer this question.

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

6. In paragraph 3, the writer describes skiing as _____ on snow.

7. Below is a summary of paragraphs 2–4. In four of the lines, there is ONE mistake. Underline the mistake and replace it with a word that expresses the correct idea. Both grammar and spelling must be correct. If there is no mistake in the line; put a tick (✓) in the Correction column.

Summary	Correction
(i) Ski resorts tend to be in the southern and western parts of the	
(ii) country, where there is lots of ice to do winter sports. While	
(iii) skiers can challenge themselves on steep hills, it is advised that	
(iv) professionals keep to gentle slopes at first. At some resorts, there	
(v) are hot springs for guests to warm their bodies after skiing.	



8. Find TWO pieces of evidence from paragraph 5 to support that more people are playing ice hockey 'as a recreational sport' (line 32).

(i) _____

(ii) _____

9. According to paragraphs 5–6, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

	T	F	NG
(i) Song Andong played ice hockey outside China.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Chinese people love sports that are easy to pick up.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) The ice rink at China World Mall is closed during summer.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. How many winter sports are mentioned in the text?

11. Below are comments made by tourists. Match each comment with the activity they most likely want to take part in. Each letter can be used ONCE only.

11 What are the key words in each comment?

A. Compared to travelling a long distance to a resort, I prefer staying in the city.

B. I'm not a sporty person. I just want to feel less stressed.

C. I enjoy making friends with people I do sport with.

D. I love to admire the beautiful scenery as I go down the hill.

Activity

Comment

Skiing (i) _____

Relaxing in a hot spring (ii) _____

Playing ice hockey (iii) _____

Ice skating (iv) _____

12. Refer to paragraphs 2–6. For each paragraph, what would be the best heading? Match the headings on the right with paragraphs 2–6. One heading is NOT used.

(i) paragraphs 2–3: _____

(ii) paragraph 4: _____

(iii) paragraph 5: _____

(iv) paragraph 6: _____

Heading

- A. From minor to major
 B. Connecting with nature through sport
 C. Climbing up snowy mountains
 D. Finding warmth in winter
 E. An excellent venue

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



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

Adjective: fast-paced picturesque record-breaking recreational

Idiom: be all the rage

Noun: fatigue league novice resort

Verb: hesitate

Get your snow boots on

In recent years, tourism in the Arctic Circle (1) _____, as people seek to explore the Earth's northernmost region. Parts of it are covered in snow all year round and are known for their (2) _____ low temperatures. In this month's issue, we will walk you through some of the most popular activities in Finland's Arctic region.



One of the must-see attractions in Finland is the (3) _____ northern lights, or aurora borealis. Many tourists have described it as the most beautiful sight they have ever seen. What's more, whether it is feeding reindeer or driving your own sled dog team, there is a wide range of (4) _____ activities for you to enjoy. At the end of the day, in order to relieve (5) _____, you can relax your muscles in Finland's famous saunas at one of the region's luxurious (6) _____.

If you prefer exciting and (7) _____ activities, consider taking a thrilling snow scooter ride through the snow-covered pine forest. The views are breathtaking. For those who are interested in team sports, try out ice hockey by joining one of the amateur (8) _____. If you are a (9) _____ and lack experience, you should practise your skating first.



So what are you waiting for? Do not (10) _____! Go to Finland now!

B. Look at the pictures. Label the circled equipment below with the given words.

Skiing equipment

boots

glove

goggles

guard

helmet

skis

ski pole

suit



Writing

My favourite winter sport

Which winter sport do you like best? Why? Write an article in about 180 words.