

1

School life in Hong Kong



Let's Think

1. Do you have any relatives who live overseas?
2. What do you think about being a student in Hong Kong?

Listen!



You are Emily. You are reading a letter from your cousin, Ann, about her school life.

Dear Emily,

Thanks for your letter from Canada! I hope you are well with Aunt Mary and Uncle John. Your last letter was encouraging! You said you aren't good at Maths, but you still think that you can go to medical school and become a doctor if you work hard. I also believe that I can improve my English if I put in more effort.



Unlike you, I have a busier school life in Hong Kong as I have a lot of tests and assignments. I usually have homework every day, and tests every month. I always work hard to prepare for my tests and exams.

To Hong Kong students, it is not only academic performance but also extracurricular activities (ECA) that matter. Every student has to join a school club or a kind of ECA in my school so as to develop our interests and potential. This year, I'm a member of the Gardening Club. I enjoy the activities so much because I like growing flowers!

Have you joined any ECA in your school? Please tell me more about your school life in your next letter.

Love,
Ann

(187 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the letter. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- Ann's letter is mainly about _____.
 - A. her feelings about Emily's last letter
 - B. her school life in Hong Kong
 - C. tests and exams in Hong Kong
 - D. common extracurricular activities in Hong Kong
- The word 'medical' in line 6 means '_____'.
 - A. associated with mathematics
 - B. linked to personal hygiene
 - C. related to the treatment of illnesses and injuries
 - D. connected with the study of languages
- Which of the following is **TRUE** about Ann?
 - A. She has a lot of pressure from her studies.
 - B. She does not have time for her studies.
 - C. She needs to take part in many extra-curricular activities.
 - D. She is not satisfied with her English results.
- According to Ann, _____ are important to students in Hong Kong.
 - A. test results
 - B. exam results
 - C. extra-curricular activities
 - D. all of the above
- According to the letter, Emily's school life in Canada is probably _____.
 - A. more interesting
 - B. less interesting
 - C. busier
 - D. less busy

Grammar Corner

We can use **personal pronouns** to refer to nouns that have been mentioned or that are obvious from the context, or **possessive adjectives** to show that something belongs to someone.

e.g. *I hope you are well with Aunt Mary and Uncle John.*
(Lines 2-3)

e.g. *Every student has to join a school club or a kind of ECA in my school so as to develop our interests and potential.*
(Lines 14-16)

Read every word in each option carefully. Then cross out the inaccurate options one by one.

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the letter. Write your answers in the spaces provided.


1. Find a phrase in paragraph 1 which means ‘to work harder’.

2. What academic subject(s) do Emily and Ann want to improve respectively?

3. How often does Ann have homework and tests?

4. What is the short form of ‘extracurricular activities’?

5. Do you think the Gardening Club is a suitable club for Ann? Find one reason from the letter to support your answer.

-  6. Decide whether each of the following statements is **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given** in the letter. Write T, F or NG in each box.

Statement	
(a) Ann always studies till midnight.	
(b) Emily is Ann’s classmate.	
(c) Ann does not seem upset due to the heavy workload.	
(d) Ann is glad to have received Emily’s previous letter.	
(e) Emily has decided to be a gardener in the future.	

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some of the subjects taught in secondary schools in Hong Kong. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

Geography Physical Education Citizenship and Social Development
Putonghua Integrated Science Home Economics Chinese History
English Literature Information and Communication Technology



1.



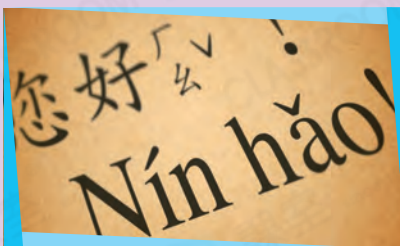
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

Let's Discuss

- Which subject do you think is the most practical? Why?
- Is there any subject that you think should be taught in secondary school? Explain your thoughts.