



# Feng shui



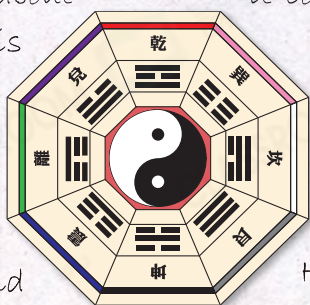
## Let's Think

1. Do you know what feng shui is?
2. Do you believe in feng shui?

You are Sunny. You are reading an excerpt from *Chinese Culture You Should Know*, a book written by a local scholar of Cultural Studies.

## FENG SHUI

The ancient Chinese were very concerned about whether a good place was chosen to establish a village, a town or even a capital. They believed that a well-chosen place could bring wealth and success, while wars and disasters could be the mishaps brought about by a poorly chosen one. This sacred task was usually carried out by a knowledgeable person who exhibited expertise in feng shui, whom we call a 'feng shui (literally wind and water) master' today.

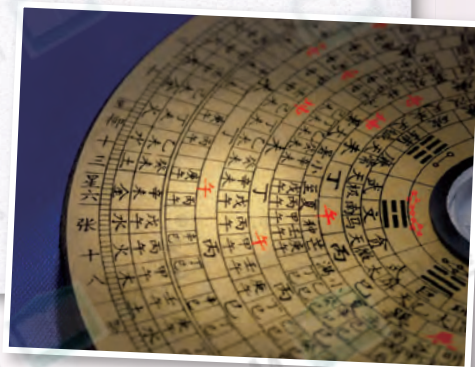


Historically, the aim of practising feng shui was to balance the interacting energies of humans and their environments to help people improve their lives. Till now, feng shui masters still believe that if a structure is positioned in harmony with the energy field of the universe, people will eventually be surrounded by good things and good deeds. Therefore, feng shui is still widely believed and practised by people of all backgrounds.

Positioning is of great importance in feng shui. Therefore, people need a feng shui master to help them find the optimal locations to reposition their things, which would help to restore their general well-being. When it comes to purchasing a flat or founding an institution, a feng shui master is usually consulted to make sure that the best place is chosen.

However, it is often difficult to tell whether a feng shui master is truly qualified. There is one essential clue though: an effective feng shui master should be able to bring about not only human-nature harmony but also harmony between people. If a feng shui master fails to do so, he or she will be deemed unprofessional.

(260 words)



## Part A

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

1. Ancient Chinese believed that a poorly-situated place could result in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. wars  B. deaths  
 C. disasters  D. all of the above
2. Read lines 8-9. 'This sacred task' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. establishing a capital  
 B. applying feng shui  
 C. locating the ideal place for something  
 D. initiating a war
3. Feng shui masters would probably suggest that a house should be built \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. at a popular place liked by many  
 B. to the right of a river or a mountain  
 C. at a place with wind and water  
 D. at a place in harmony with the energy field of the universe
4. In line 36, what does 'consulted' mean?  
 A. paid a high salary  
 B. given problems to solve  
 C. contacted and met in person  
 D. asked to give advice to someone
5. Which of the following is **TRUE**?  
 A. Feng shui is little known nowadays.  
 B. Feng shui aims to bring harmony and improvements to people's lives.  
 C. It is easy to test whether a feng shui master is in fact professional or not.  
 D. People started to believe in feng shui not long ago.

## Grammar Corner

We use the **Type 1 conditional** to talk about a possible condition and its probable results.

**e.g.** *If a structure is positioned in harmony with the energy field of the universe, people will eventually be surrounded by good things and good deeds.*  
(Lines 20-24)

**e.g.** *If a feng shui master fails to do so, he or she will be deemed unprofessional.*  
(Lines 44-46)

What are the professional duties that feng shui masters are expected to perform?

## Part B

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

1. If an emperor in ancient China wanted to find the right place for a new town, who might he assign this task to?

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2. Find a word in the book excerpt which means ‘with the meaning of each word given exactly’.

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3. According to the third paragraph, why is a good location important to feng shui?

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4. In what situations would feng shui be applied in the past and present? Use the information from paragraphs 1 and 3 to complete the table.

	Past	Present
Purpose	to choose a good place which would attract harmony, wealth and success	
Example	when looking for a spot for a village, (a) _____ or (b) _____	when picking a (c) _____ or when (d) _____ an institution

5. What should a good feng shui master be able to do?

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6. How can people benefit from feng shui?

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# Vocabulary Bank

The following are some Chinese terms which have been incorporated into the English language. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

wok      kung fu      Wing Chun      tai chi      yin yang  
yum cha      dim sum      dai pai dong      junk boat



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



## Let's Discuss

1. Do you think feng shui is a kind of science?
2. Do you think feng shui is a system of aesthetics?