

15

Eco tour



Let's Think

1. What kinds of off-campus activities have you joined?
2. How would students benefit from off-campus activities?

You are Megan. You are reading a proposal letter written by a Secondary 3 student.

To: Principal Ma
From: Leanne Cheung (S.3A)
Date: 26th April, 20xx

Subject: A proposal to arrange eco tours for the students of Elite Secondary School

5 In view of the recent survey conducted by the Students' Union, which looked into the stress levels of our school's students, I would like to propose that the school should arrange at least two eco tours for students in both junior and senior forms. To us as students, joining eco tours is not only an excellent way of relaxing our overworked minds, but also a golden opportunity to appreciate and learn about the rare wildlife in Hong Kong. As a result, I

10 believe tours in the wild will be beneficial to us in many ways.

It is unquestionable that we often get inundated with assignments, group projects, quizzes or exams, which are the major stressors. According to the survey I mentioned, 85% of our school's students expressed that they had experienced feelings of anxiety, disrupted sleep and abnormal changes in weight. When asked about the activities they did in their

15 spare time, the majority of them said that they were very often forced to either go to extracurricular classes or do revision. In light of this, it can be understood that most students do not have much time for relaxation, whether in the classroom or after school.

Regarding the locations that the school may consider, I have done some research and learnt that there are a number of hot spots for eco tours, including Lamma Island, Mai Po Marshes,

20 Tai Tam Country Park and Hong Kong Wetland Park. These four spots have received a lot of positive feedback from both travel writers and netizens, so I believe they will be excellent choices.

To sum up, these green excursions, which allow students to loosen up and to learn in peaceful settings, will be of tremendous benefit to our overall well-being. It is my sincere

25 hope that my ideas will be reviewed and thought over. Thank you very much.

(329 words)

Part A

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

1. Leanne wrote the letter mainly to _____.
 A. promote the importance of having enough rest
 B. argue that students are given too much schoolwork
 C. suggest that the school should arrange eco tours for students
 D. provide information that she learnt from the survey of the Students' Union
2. Based on what Leanne said, students may **NOT** _____ by taking part in eco tours.
 A. relax their overworked minds
 B. have a restful time
 C. improve their academic performance
 D. learn about the rare animals that can be found in Hong Kong
3. In line 11, the word 'inundated' can best be replaced by '_____'.
 A. overwhelmed
 B. frightened
 C. upset
 D. annoyed
4. In line 21, the word 'they' refers to _____.
 A. country parks
 B. the locations mentioned
 C. all the spots recommended by travel writers
 D. places that netizens thought highly of
5. The tone of the letter **CANNOT** be described as _____.
 A. conversational
 B. serious
 C. proper
 D. sincere

Grammar Corner

We use the preposition 'regarding' to introduce the subject that you are about to talk or write about. Note that 'regarding' is usually used in formal English.

e.g. *Regarding the locations that the school may consider, I have done some research and learnt that there are a number of hot spots for eco tours.*
(Lines 18-19)

Part B

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

1. Find two words that mean ‘tried to discover the facts about something such as a problem’.

2. What hinted that most students at Elite Secondary School had high stress levels?

3. Find words in the letter that mean the following. Fill in each blank with only one word.

helpful, useful, or good	(a)	(adj.)
obvious and impossible to doubt	(b)	(adj.)
things that cause stress	(c)	(n.)
quiet and calm	(d)	(adj.)
very great	(e)	(adj.)

4. Why did Leanne think that Lamma Island, Mai Po Marshes, Tai Tam Country Park and Hong Kong Wetland Park would be excellent choices for eco tours?



5. The school has agreed with Leanne that the great amount of schoolwork is a major source of stress and decided to do something about it. What may the school do?

Vocabulary Bank

The following are different activities of an eco tour. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

observe wildlife study rocks and landforms experience farming
 attend lectures go camping go snorkelling
 go trekking do volunteer work visit heritage sites



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. What is the difference between regular tourism and ecotourism?
2. How can a place and the inhabitants there benefit from local ecotourism?