

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report

Answer Key

Full potential of Hong Kong's harbourfront not achieved, experts say

Broadcast Date: 11th October, 2016

Designers and urban planners **lament** '**regimented**' designs, saying officials need to ****think outside the box**.

** to think in an original and creative way

Victoria Harbour has long been one of Hong Kong's ****crown jewels** – a rare, natural, deep-water harbour that provides shelter for vessels.

**something special, valuable or prized: in this case, a special asset for Hong Kong/unique tourist attraction

The government recently **touted** its efforts to develop the nearly 73km-long waterfront into a “world-class harbourfront”, highlighting the completion of the 1km-long Kwun Tong **promenade** as an example of creating “an attractive and **vibrant** waterfront for citizens”.

While urban planners and designers welcome the open space created, they believe the government is not the solution, but the problem. The management by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department [LCSD] limits the variety and different uses of the harbourfront.

Zimmerman, CEO of urban design NGO Designing Hong Kong, believes the government needs to let the public decide the best use for the open space naturally. He cited the Western District public cargo working area as the best example of the natural use of the waterfront. The popular area is used by Kennedy Town residents despite there being no **amenities**. The site is **abuzz** with various activities, all without government rules or regulations.

“On many occasions, we asked whether we could have some coffee shops or restaurants along our waterfront; [the LCSD] said they cannot do that because of the ****mandate** they have.

**an official order or commission to do something, a law or ruling or regulation

Pleasure craft activity along the harbourfront is consistently absent from waterfront development plans because of the strict mandates of the LCSD and the Marine Department for harbour planning not including ways for pleasure craft to use the waterfront.

Much like waterfronts in the US and Europe, Hong Kong could have restaurants and cafes along the boardwalks that would service those with pleasure craft and those without them, allowing for maximum use of not only the harbourfront, but also the waters along it.

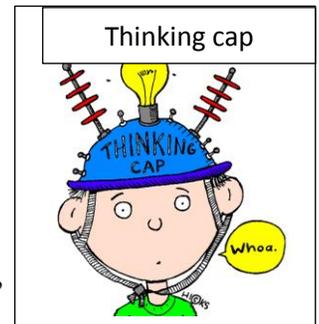
Despite waterfront development not being **optimised**, the government has been active in reserving land along the harbourfront for public use. The Central Harbourfront is a multi-use area that has been the site of several events, as well as an open space for **spontaneous** use by the public.

Adapted from the article in the South China Morning Post which appeared on Monday, October 3rd.

Zimmerman believes these are signs that make him **optimistic** about the harbourfront's future.

1. Questions to think about:

- What do think of urban planning in Hong Kong?
 - What do you think is missing for this city's residents?
- What do you think is the best use of the waterfront?
- Do think Hongkongers attitude towards leisure and recreation has changed in recent years, or is changing? If yes, how? If no, why not?



2. I: Understanding meaning of vocabulary from context: Choose the word or phrase which most closely matches the meaning of the word in the article. Circle the correct letter.

Word from article	Meaning		
1. lament (v)	A. to express grief or sorrow	B. to express disappointment	C. to express anger
2. regimented (adj)	A. disciplined	B. strictly controlled and organised	C. free and creative
3. tout(ed) (v)	A. to sell something	B. to blame	C. to boast about the merits (good points) of something
4. promenade (n)	A. a road	B. a bridge	C. a public walkway
5. vibrant (adj)	A. lively	B. bright and striking	C. strong sound
6. amenity(ies) (n)	A. facilities	B. toilets	C. accommodation
7. abuzz (adj)	A. humming sound	B. alive	C. full of life
8. optimize (v)	A. rearrange or rewrite	B. make the best use of	C. change
9. spontaneous (adj)	A. unplanned	B. open and natural manner	C. planned
10. optimistic (adj)	A. feel neutral	B. feel positive	C. feel negative

II: Usage of vocabulary: Fill in the missing words of the short paragraphs below using the vocabulary (1-10) from column A. Not all of the words will be needed.

On Sundays, the (a) **promenade** along the waterfront is (b) **abuzz/vibrant** as people take time out from the stresses of work to enjoy themselves with families and friends. There are plenty of (c) **amenities** as the government have built places for people to sit and eat as well as for children to play in. The planners have really (d) **optimized** the use of the space, making the best use of it, with well-thought out designs. It is indeed promising to see the government moving away from (e) **regimented** and unoriginal plans and designs of the past. Although people used to (f) **lament** the governments poor planning, now they can feel (g) **optimistic** that things are changing for the better.

Challenge of the week: (1) Victoria Harbour is one of Hong Kong's major tourist attractions – a crown jewel. Which one of Hong Kong's major tourist attractions along the harbourfront was moved in 2007? Why? What other modern attraction can tourists and locals enjoy now on the reclaimed land? What is the name of the tourist attraction in the UK which looks similar to the one in Hong Kong, but is bigger?

First three students to answer at least 2 of the questions win a prize & there is a bonus prize for the first student who can answer all the questions.

PRIZES & MORE PRIZES to be won!

(2) **Brain Teasers:** Come to the English Corner today to enjoy this week's news fun vocab challenge for prizes. Example brain teaser: Which word from the vocab list makes the name of a drink when you take away the front part of the word & add the name of a sour fruit?