

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: 18th October, 2016

ANSWER KEY

** literal meaning ; burnt in a fire

Idiom: when something is wasted; e.g when a plan that has taken years of hard work is wasted or spoiled or goes wrong

Cleaner air as festival gifts **go up in smoke

Hong Kong's Chung Yeung festival comes with cleaner air after ****furnace** changes.

****furnace**: a structure to burn things in

Lugging bags of food and offerings, families headed to the hills on Sunday to pay respects to their ancestors for the annual Chung Yeung Festival.

****columbarium**: a room or building or area with niches (small spaces) for funeral urns to be stored.

The main difference from previous years was markedly improved air quality at some ****columbarium** facilities. In many cemeteries paper offerings are now burned at centralised outdoor stations, and indoor furnaces have been **sealed off**. The aim was to improve the environment and cleanliness. People can still burn joss and incense sticks.

Earlier this year the managers of Hong Kong's Chinese permanent cemeteries decided to close off the furnaces on each floor of columbariums, moving them outdoors to a central spot.

On Sunday, grave-sweepers were seen queueing up to **load** their bags of "hell money" into the furnaces for their ancestors in the afterlife.

The board **urged** grave-sweepers to consider burning less **elaborate** objects. Hell money is a type of joss paper burnt as offerings of wealth to the **deceased** in Chinese religious custom. A standard bag of hell money is thought to have a "value" in the afterlife of up to HK\$800,000,000.

"Of course some people will want to do it themselves and watch all of it burn to ashes but it's OK for me," grave-sweeper Ho On said. "Maybe I lack that sort of **piety**. I just told the staff to be sure to do it properly and be respectful."

Others, such as Cindy Lau, believed the new arrangement improved the air around the entire facility

"I think the air is a lot better as columbarium facilities are partially indoor and the **ventilation** isn't always so good. It's also good for the environment, as people aren't burning stuff everywhere," Lau said.

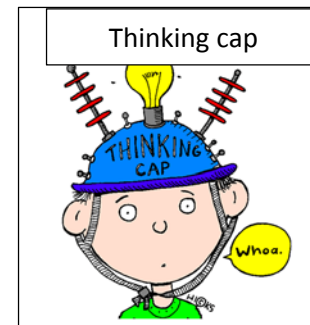
Meanwhile, food and health chief Dr Ko Wing-man on Sunday tried to **placate** concerns over the **dire** shortage of public spaces in columbariums, saying new supply was on the way.

Ko said members of the public should consider "green burials" such as having ashes **scattered** at sea, which the government was continuing to promote.

Adapted from the article in the South China Morning Post which appeared on Sunday, October 9th.

1. Questions to think about:

- Do you think it is important to maintain traditional customs?
 - Why or why not?
 - Think of a custom you usually follow and why.
- Do you think the burning of 'hell money' for the special festivals such as Chung Yeung and Ching Ming really add to the levels of pollution? Explain.
- What are some of the main causes of pollution in Hong Kong?



2. I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning

Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. lug(ging) (v)	D	A: fancy
2. seal(ed) off (phrasal verb)	H	B: spread out/thrown at random over an area
3. load (v)	E	C: the quality of being religious or reverent
4. elaborate (adj)	A	D: carry (with effort)
5. deceased (adj)	G	E: place/fill up a space with a large quantity of things
6. piety (n)	C	F: very bad
7. ventilation (n)	I	G: dead
8. placate (n)	J	H: close/deny access
9. dire (adj)	F	I: circulation of air in an enclosed space
10. scattered (v)	B	J: make someone less angry / calm someone down

II: Usage of vocabulary: The same word may be used in many different ways depending on its meaning and parts of speech. Use the correct form of the word from the list given in brackets to fill in the missing words of the sentences.

1. (**seal**) (a) Major roads were **sealed off** to traffic for security reasons when the Chinese president arrived for meetings. (b) The packages were tightly **sealed** in metal containers so that there was no risk of water damage on the cargo ship across the Atlantic. (c) The **seal** on the package tells you it is genuine and not a fake. (d) The two presidents **sealed** the deal to sell each other arms when they met last week. (f) When I approached by boss with a new plan, he gave me his **seal** of approval.
2. (**ventilation**) (a) The air in the room was stuffy because of poor **ventilation**, there are no windows. (b) It is important to **ventilate** a room if it has not been used for some time.
3. (**load**) (a) It was a **load** off my mind when I finally completed my exams. (b) What a heavy **load**! The poor man having to carry that all the way! (c) The delivery men had to **load** the boxes into the truck. (d) The poor mum has to do at least five **loads** of washing every week because she has so many children. (e) David has a light work **load** so he can leave early every day. (f) I have got **loads** of homework, I don't know how I will ever be able to finish it. Sigh!

Challenge of the week: (1) (a) What is another possible name for the Chung Yeung Festival? (b) What does this other name symbolize (mean)? (2) What is the origin of this festival? (c) What may you drink (a kind of tea), eat or wear at the festival? (3) For the challenge about a famous poem, come to the English Corner.

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 list hides the word based on the clue? A type of food: **piety** (*pie*)