**Assessment Task for Reading**

**Topic: Air Pollution, Travel and Health**

This assessment task focuses on developing senior secondary students’ reading skills.

This set of materials contains the following:

* **4 reading texts**
* **4 set of questions**
* **Suggested answers**

**Reading Text**

**Text 1**

**Air pollution in Hong Kong**

Hong Kong's air pollution is mainly caused by motor vehicles and power plants. The two greatest challenges are local street-level pollution and regional smog. Diesel vehicles, particularly trucks, buses and light buses, are the main source of the former. Smog is caused by a combination of pollution mainly from motor vehicles, industry and power plants in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

The Government has a number of initiatives to reduce pollution. Since 2009, a programme to reduce street-level pollution has lowered the roadside levels of two major pollutants in the air by 33% and 31% respectively compared with 1999. The Environmental Protection Department completed a study to review the Air Quality Objectives and to develop a long-term strategy for air quality management. The Department is now considering the best way to update the Air Quality Objectives and how the new Objectives could be achieved.

The Government is also working with the authorities in Guangdong to reduce regional pollution. Leading such efforts is the Regional Air Quality Network, which is coordinating individual initiatives in different cities to ensure that everyone in the Pearl River Delta benefits. The Regional Air Pollution Index is monitoring the results, which can advise you on the general level of pollution in the region.

The Environmental Protection Department releases hourly information to inform the public about air pollution levels in Hong Kong. The air quality data measured at monitoring stations is converted into a single number ranging from 0 to 500. Higher values indicate higher levels of pollution. This is particularly useful for the young, the elderly and those with heart or breathing illnesses who need to take precautions when air pollution levels are high.

Adapted from: <http://www.gov.hk/en/residents/environment/air/airquality.htm>

**Questions**

**Read the article *Air Pollution in Hong Kong* and answer questions 1-5. Blacken the circle when appropriate.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | What is the main function of this text? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  | A. | To warn of the dangers of pollution |
|  |  |  |
|  | B. | To explain what the Government is doing to fight pollution |
|  |  |  |
|  | C. | To explain the dangers of pollution |
|  |  |  |
|  | D. | To identify the sources of pollution |  | A | B | C | D |
|  |  |  |  | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.  | Complete the table below with the words or phrases used by the writer that match the meanings given.  |
|  | *(4 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  | **Word or expression used by the writer** | **Meaning** |
|  |
|  |  | cars and trucks (Paragraph 1) |
|  |
|  |  | projects (Paragraph 2) |
|  |
|  |  | the Government (Paragraph 3) |
|  |
|  |  | safety measures (Paragraph 4) |
|  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 3. | What did the Environmental Protection Department do to develop an air quality management strategy? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 4.  | What is the role of the Regional Air Quality Network? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 5.  | Complete the notes in the table below to indicate the differences between the Regional Air Pollution Index and the data released by the Environmental Protection Department. |
|  | *(2 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  |  | **Areas covered** | **Pollution levels identified** |
|  |
|  | **Regional Air Pollution Index** | *Pearl River Delta region* |  |
|  |
|  | **Environmental Protection Department data** |  | *Specific level of pollution* |
|  |
|  |  |

**Reading Text**

**Text 2**

# Kabul's air pollution putting people's health at risk

Air pollution in Afghanistan’s capital, Kabul, is "seriously" threatening the health of its estimated three million residents, Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) has said. Over 70 percent of diseases in Kabul are linked to air pollution, unclean water and solid waste. Children are particularly affected by the air pollution.

Severe air pollution causes breathing problems, eye and nose problems, and is one of the major causes of lung cancer, public health experts say. When you blow your nose on a handkerchief after a short walk in Kabul you can see clear evidence of the polluted air.

Cars and lorries are major contributors to air pollution. Every month, over 8,000 new vehicles registered with the Kabul traffic department are added to Kabul's one million vehicles. Most vehicles in Kabul are over 10 years old and they are more polluting than modern ones. This problem is made worse by the use of substandard car fuel and old engines.

Many households use wood, coal and heating oil for cooking and heating. Moreover, some brick factories, public baths and small businesses burn old tyres, plastic and other waste to run their businesses more cheaply. This leads to more pollution, NEPA experts say.

Poor waste management – both solid and otherwise - is yet another major problem in Kabul.

The new environmental protection agency faces great problems in improving air quality. NEPA’s Deputy Director has stated that there is a need to act fast and begin a series of projects such as planting new forests and promoting greenery, banning the import and use of substandard fuel, and improving waste management.

Adapted from: <http://www.afghan-web.com/health/air_pollution.html>.

**Questions**

**Read the article *Kabul's air pollution putting people's health at risk* and answer questions 1-5. Blacken the circle when appropriate.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.  | According to the writer, air pollution is a major cause of what deadly disease? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 2. | What “clear evidence of the polluted air” (line 7) can you possibly see? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3. | What are the three main reasons cars and lorries in Kabul add to city’s air pollution? Use a maximum of six words for each answer. |
|  | *(3 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  | (i)  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | (ii) |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | (iii) |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 4.  | How do some businesses add to the problem of air pollution in Kabul? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
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|  |  |
| 5. | Complete the table below with the words or expressions used by the writer that match the meanings given.  |
|  | *(4 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | **Word or expression used by the writer** | **Meaning** |
|  |
|  |  | connected (Paragraph 1) |
|  |
|  |  | indication (Paragraph 2) |
|  |
|  |  | poor quality (Paragraph 3) |
|  |
|  |  | results in (Paragraph 4) |

**Reading Text**

**Text 3**

**India Travel Advisory**

Local medical facilities in India, including doctor’s clinics and hospitals, are not comparable to those in Hong Kong, especially in more remote areas outside the major cities. In major cities, in addition to public clinics and hospitals, private medical care is available, but it is expensive and the quality varies. Specialised treatment may not be available outside major cities. The treatment of illnesses that require long-term hospital treatment may be very expensive, and insurance companies do not always cover such costs.

Take care with what you drink and eat – particularly outside big hotels. Drink only boiled or bottled water, and avoid ice in drinks. If you suffer from stomach problems seek immediate medical attention. Diseases spread by mosquito bites, such as malaria and dengue fever, affect most of the country, and so you should also try to avoid being bitten.

In the 2010 UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, it was estimated that 2,300,000 adults aged 15 or over in India were living with HIV, which represents around 0.3% of the adult population compared to the percentage in adults in Hong Kong of approximately 0.1%. Exercise normal precautions to avoid exposure to HIV/AIDS. See our [HIV and AIDS](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe/health/hiv) page for further details.

Seek medical advice before travelling, ensure vaccinations are up-to-date and that you have sufficient health insurance cover. For further information on vaccination requirements, disease outbreaks, and general disease protection and prevention visit the Travel Health Network website, or call Health Direct on 2222 0000.

Adapted from:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/india#localtravel>

**Questions**

**Read the article *India Travel Advisory* and answer questions 1-6. Blacken the circle when appropriate.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | The writer states that medical facilities in India are “not comparable to those in Hong Kong” (lines 1 and 2). This means that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  | A. | the facilities in India are better |
|  |  |  |
|  | B. | the facilities in India and Hong Kong are very similar |
|  |  |  |
|  | C. | the facilities in India are worse  |
|  |  |  |
|  | D. | it is not possible to compare the facilities in India to those in Hong Kong | A | B | C | D |  |
|  |  |  | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |  |
|  |  |
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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2. | What do the following words and phrase refer to in the text? |
|  | *(3 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  | “those” (line 2) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
|  | “it” (line 3) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
|  | “such costs” (line 6) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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|  |  |
| 3.  | What are the three major threats to health that the writer identifies? |
|  | *(3 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  | (i) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  |
|  | (ii) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  |
|  | (iii)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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|  |  |
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|  |  |
| 4.  | Why do you think the writer compares the HIV statistics for India and Hong Kong in paragraph 3?  |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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|  |  |
|  |  |
| 5.  | What aspect of travel safety do the Travel Health Network and Centre website and Health Direct not offer information about? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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|  |  |
| 6. | What is the main topic of each paragraph? |
|  | *(3 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  | Paragraph 1 |  |
|  |
|  | Paragraph 2 |  |
|  |
|  | Paragraph 3 | *Comparison of AIDS statistics in India and Hong Kong* |
|  |
|  | Paragraph 4 |  |
|  |

**Reading Text**

**Text 4**

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor

As we celebrate our success in fighting HIV/AIDS, it is time for us to take a critical look at what makes women at particular risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Improved access to effective treatment is now giving hope and longer lives to people with HIV, and yet sexual transmission still causes women to have a very high rate of infection. We need to address women’s HIV/AIDS health needs together with their sexual and family planning needs in order to ensure that they do not remain so vulnerable to this deadly disease.

Since more than eighty percent of new HIV cases in women occur in marriage, for many women the risk of HIV infection can increase significantly when they get married. Although many researchers have recognized the particular dangers of HIV to women, the major issue is that prevention policy often continues to emphasize not having sex rather than, for example, using a condom that would better protect women’s health. The very large amount of funding for HIV/AIDS prevention is rarely integrated with family planning programmes that provide vital services to women and their families.

Only when there is integration of HIV/AIDS and family planning services will we be able to give women and girls a better chance of survival. If we could do that, we would then be able to congratulate ourselves on truly addressing and beginning to overcome one of the greatest health-related challenges of the modern age.

**Questions**

**Read the article *Letter to the Editor* and answer questions 1-4. Blacken the circle when appropriate.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Complete the following paragraph based on the information in the text. |
|  | *(2 marks)* |
|  |  |
|  | Overall, the situation for people with HIV has improved as it is now \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  |
|  |  |
|  | to get effective treatment. However, women become infected with HIV at a very high  |
|  |  |
|  | rate. There is a need to consider women’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as  |
|  | well as their health needs. |
|  |  |
| 2. | According to the writer, what is the main reason for the high rate of HIV infection in women? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  | A. | Lack of funding |
|  |  |  |
|  | B. | Marriage |
|  |  |  |
|  | C. | Insufficient condom use |
|  |  |  |
|  | D. | Lack of effective treatment | A | B | C | D |
|  |  |  | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |
|  |  |
| 3.  | What do the following words and phrase refer to in the text? |
|  | *(3 marks)* |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| “they” (line 7) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|
| “this deadly disease” (line 7) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|
| “that” (line 12) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|
|  |

 |
|  |  |
| 4. | What is the weakness of the present way of funding HIV/AIDS prevention according to the writer? |
|  | *(1 mark)* |
|  |  |
|  |  |

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**Suggested Answers**

**Reading Task: Air pollution, Travel and Health**

**Text 1: Air pollution in Hong Kong**

|  |
| --- |
| **Answer Keys** |
| 1. | B. To explain what the government is doing to fight pollution (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 2. | motor vehicles (line 1) (1 mark)initiatives (line 6) (1 mark)authorities (line 13) (1 mark)precautions (line 21) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 3. | It completed / conducted / carried out a study (lines 9 and 10) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 4. | to coordinate individual initiatives in different cities (in the region) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 5. | Hong Kong (1 mark)general/overall level of pollution (1 mark) |
|  |  |

**Text 2: Kabul's air pollution putting people's health at risk**

|  |
| --- |
| **Answer Keys** |
| 1. | lung cancer (line 6) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 2. | dirt / black on handkerchief (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 3. | the large number of vehicles / so many vehicles (lines 8 and 9) (1 mark)(most) vehicles are (over 10 years) old / the age of (most) vehicles (lines 9 and 10) (1 mark)substandard car fuel (line 11) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 4. | they burn waste (to run their businesses more cheaply) (lines 13 and 14) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 5. | linked to (1 mark)evidence (1 mark)substandard (1 mark)leads to (1 mark) |
|  |  |

**Text 3: India Travel Advisory**

|  |
| --- |
| **Answer Keys** |
| 1. | C. (1 mark) |
| 2. | local medical facilities (line 1) (1 mark)private medical care (line 3) (1 mark)costs for (the treatment of illnesses that require) long-term hospital treatment (lines 4 and 5) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 3. | what a traveler eats and drinks (lines 7 and 8) (1 mark)diseases spread by mosquito bites (lines 9and 10) (1 mark)AIDS (lines 11 to 15) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 4. | to encourage travelers to take precautions to avoid catching AIDS // exposure to HIV/AIDS or students’ own answers that display a similar understanding of the purpose of the writer (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 5. | (health / travel) insurance (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 6. | Paragraph 1: (local) medical facilities (in India) (1 mark)Paragraph 2: eating and drinking / taking care with what you drink and eat (1 mark)Paragraph 4: travel advice (1 mark) |

**Text 4: Letter to the Editor**

|  |
| --- |
| **Answer Keys** |
| 1. | easier / less difficult (1 mark)sexual and family planning needs (1 mark)  |
|  |  |
| 2. | C. Insufficient condom use (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 3. | women (1 mark)HIV/AIDS / AIDS / HIV (1 mark)a condom (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 4. | funding/services for HIV/AIDS and family planning are not integrated (1 mark) |

**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS**

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