The Close Connection between Our Country and Hong Kong from Economic Data: Taking Mainland Tourists as an Example

Read the following information and then answer the questions.

Source A: Brief introduction to relevant agreements for Mainland tourists visiting Hong Kong

> The tourism industry is one of the traditional pillar industries of Hong Kong. The Government continues to enhance Hong Kong's accessibility by visitors. In 2023, nationals of about 170 countries and territories may visit Hong Kong without a visa/entry permit for a period ranging from 7 days to 180 days.
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> As for Mainland visitors to Hong Kong, the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS), allowing residents of designated Mainland cities to visit Hong Kong as independent visitors without joining group tours, has been gradually extended since its introduction in July 2003. As at the end of April 2023, there were over 299 million visitor arrivals from the Mainland through the IVS since its implementation.
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> In August 2017, the Government and the then China National Tourism Administration (which merged with the national Ministry of Culture to form the national Ministry of Culture and Tourism in March 2018) signed the "Agreement on Further Enhancement of Tourism Co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong" to further strengthen mutual collaboration. Both sides are progressively taking forward the agreement, efforts including promoting Belt and Road countries/regions and Greater Bay Area cities to jointly develop "multi-destination" tourism products and itineraries with Hong Kong. The Outline Development Plan for the Greater Bay Area promulgated in February 2019, give a fresh impetus to the development of the tourism industry within the Area.

Source:
- Hong Kong Tourism Board. (2023). Hong Kong: The Facts—Tourism. Extracted from https://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/tourism.pdf
- Hong Kong Immigration Department. (2023). Visit/Transit official webpage. Extracted from https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/visit_transit.html

Source B: Per capita consumption of visitors to Hong Kong from 2016 to 2019 (in HKD)

Country/region of residence				The Americas	Europe, Africa and the Middle East	Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific	North Asia	South and Southeast Asia	The mainland of China	Taiwan	Macao/Not identified	Overall
		Type of visitors	Year									
Per capita spending	HK$	Overnight visitors	2016	6,196	5,999	6,636	3,839	5,638	7,275	4,585	3,886	**6,599**
			2017	6,184	5,862	6,500	3,978	5,687	7,010	4,758	3,979	**6,443**
			2018	6,215	6,739	6,726	4,354	6,026	7,029	5,233	4,240	**6,614**
			2019	6,008	5,981	6,200	4,272	5,732	5,990	4,813	4,481	**5,818**
		Same-day in-town visitors	2016	413	515	534	425	685	2,377	611	1,799	**2,122**
			2017	378	520	487	374	752	2,298	553	1,807	**2,059**
			2018	416	586	430	519	603	2,410	693	2,050	**2,202**
			2019	444	581	423	526	704	2,198	634	1,777	**2,004**
Length of stay	Nights	Overnight visitors	2016	3.9	4.1	3.8	2.3	3.5	3.2	2.6	2.2	**3.3**
			2017	3.8	4.0	3.8	2.2	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.2	**3.2**
			2018	3.8	3.9	3.8	2.2	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.2	**3.1**
			2019	3.9	4.0	3.8	2.3	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.3	**3.3**

（Figures from 2020 to 2022 are not available.）

Source C: Visitor arrival statistics from January to April 2023

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) announced that Hong Kong recorded provisional visitor arrivals of 2.89 million for April 2023. The daily average figure of the month is equivalent to about 58% of that before the pandemic (2017-2019 average). From January to April 2023, a total of around 7.3 million tourists visited Hong Kong.
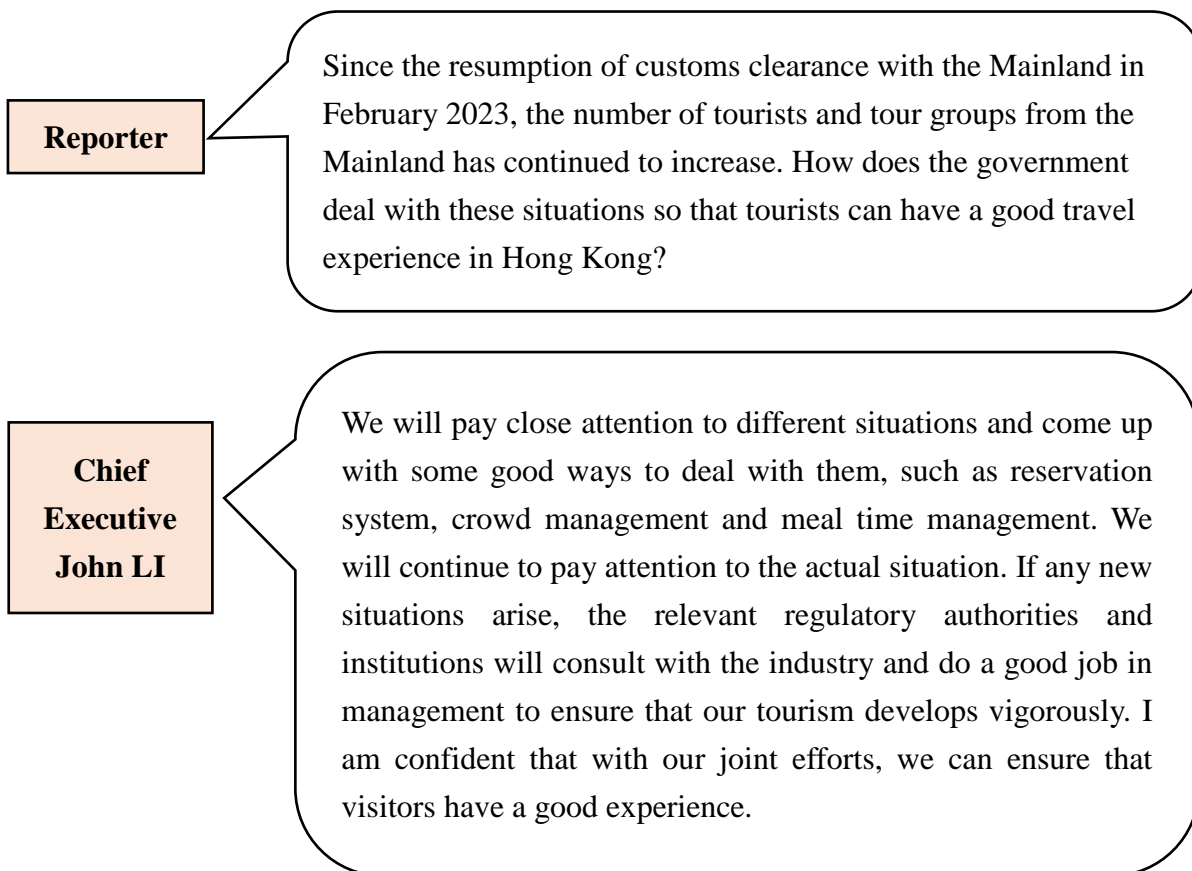
Visitor Arrival Statistics : from January to April 2023

	Jan 2023	**Feb 2023**	**Mar 2023**	**Apr 2023**	**Total (Jan-Apr)**
Mainland visitor	280,525	1,109,885	1,970,777	2,308,561	5,669,748
Non-Mainland visitor	218,164	352,084	483,316	583,695	1,637,259
Total	498,689	1,461,969	2,454,093	2,892,256	7,307,007

Source:

● Hong Kong Tourism Board. (2023). HKTB Announces Provisional Visitor Arrivals for April. Extracted from https://www.discoverhongkong.com/content/dam/dhk/intl/corporate/newsroom/press-release/hktb/2023/05-Apr-Visitor-Arrivals-E.pdf, accessed on November 20, 2023.

● Hong Kong Tourism Board. (2023). Monthly Report - Visitor Arrival Statistics: Apr 2023. Extracted from https://partnernet.hktb.com/filemanager/LatestStatistics/301/Tourism%20Statistics%2004%202023.pdf, accessed on November 20, 2023.

Source D: Chief Executive answering reporters' questions on the reception of Mainland tourists (translated version)

Reporter

Since the resumption of customs clearance with the Mainland in February 2023, the number of tourists and tour groups from the Mainland has continued to increase. How does the government deal with these situations so that tourists can have a good travel experience in Hong Kong?

Chief Executive John LI

We will pay close attention to different situations and come up with some good ways to deal with them, such as reservation system, crowd management and meal time management. We will continue to pay attention to the actual situation. If any new situations arise, the relevant regulatory authorities and institutions will consult with the industry and do a good job in management to ensure that our tourism develops vigorously. I am confident that with our joint efforts, we can ensure that visitors have a good experience.

Questions

1. According to Sources B and C, fill in the appropriate information on the line of questions A and B in the table below. (Question B requires simple calculations based on the numbers provided in the Sources)

A. From 2016 to 2019, the per capita consumption of tourists from __the Mainland of China__, except for overnight tourists in _____2019_____, was higher than that of tourists from other countries/regions.

B. The COVID-19 epidemic had subsided in 2023, and the number of Mainland tourists visiting Hong Kong continued to increase. The number of Mainland tourists visiting Hong Kong in April 2023 was around_____eight_____ times than that in January 2023 (expressed as an integer number); for the total number of tourists from January to April, Mainland tourists was accounted for approximately _____78__% (expressed as an integer number).

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2. According to Sources A to C and your answer in Question 1, explain the importance of Mainland tourists to Hong Kong's tourism industry.

- Tourism is one of the main economic pillars of Hong Kong, and Mainland tourists are the largest source of tourists to Hong Kong.

- Mainland tourists, whether staying overnight or not, are the group of tourists who spend the most in Hong Kong. Their consumption activities in Hong Kong are a very important source of economic income for the tourism industry.

- Since the COVID-19 epidemic subsided, tourists from the Mainland still account for the majority of tourist arrivals to Hong Kong.

3. According to Source D, how can the measures proposed by the Chief Executive to manage the tourism industry help enhance the travel experience of Mainland tourists in Hong Kong?

The measures proposed by the Chief Executive can help ease the situation that Mainland tour groups can arrange dining at certain times and areas, so that tourists can have more time for visiting and dining, which will help enhance their perception of Hong Kong, having a good travel experience.

4. With reference to the sources and based on your own knowledge, make two suggestions that can help attract Mainland tourists to travel to Hong Kong, so as to promote the development of Hong Kong's tourism industry.

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