



ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

PART A

Reading Passages

8.30 am – 10.00 am (1½ hours)
(for both Parts A and B)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) There are two parts (A and B) in this paper. All candidates should attempt Part A. In Part B, you should attempt either Part B1 (easier section) OR Part B2 (more difficult section). Candidates attempting Parts A and B2 will be able to attain the full range of levels, while Level 4 will be the highest level attainable for candidates attempting Parts A and B1.
- (2) After the announcement of the start of the examination, you should first write your Candidate Number and stick barcode labels in the spaces provided on the appropriate pages of the Part A Question-Answer Book and the Part B Question-Answer Book which you are going to attempt.
- (3) Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question-Answer Books. Answers written in the margins will not be marked.
- (4) For multiple-choice questions, you are advised to blacken the appropriate circle with a pencil so that wrong marks can be completely erased with a clean rubber. Mark only **ONE** answer to each question. Two or more answers will score **NO MARKS**.
- (5) Supplementary answer sheets will be supplied on request. Write your Candidate Number, mark the question number box and stick a barcode label on each sheet and fasten them with string **INSIDE** the Question-Answer Book.
- (6) No extra time will be given to candidates for sticking on barcode labels or filling in the question number boxes after the 'Time is up' announcement.
- (7) The two Question-Answer Books you have attempted (one for Part A and one for Part B) will be collected together at the end of the examination. Fasten the two Question-Answer Books together with the green tag provided.
- (8) The unused Question-Answer Book for Part B will be collected separately at the end of the examination. This will not be marked. Do not write any answers in it.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PART A

- (1) The Question-Answer Book for Part A is inserted in this Reading Passages booklet.
- (2) Attempt ALL questions in Part A. Each question carries ONE mark unless otherwise stated.

PART A

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-24 on pages 1-3 of the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

Text 1

In from the cold among warm-hearted Koreans

1 [1] Ten years ago, Oxford University graduate Daniel Tudor moved to Seoul, preferring the warmth of Korean society to “cold” Britain. The 31-year-old has since authored two books on his adopted home and has several other volumes in the pipeline. He speaks to Charmaine Chan about his latest title, *A Geek in Korea*, due out in June 2014.

5 **You started, like so many other Westerners in Korea, teaching English. When did you begin writing about Korea and why?**

[2] When I joined *The Economist* [2010-2013] I thought, “Eventually I’d like to write a book about Korea because nobody else is really doing it.”

Why weren’t they?

10 [3] Korea is a bit off the radar for most people in Western countries. In the 1980s Japan was the big story and people pay attention to China now because of its huge population and market. Korea has fallen in between these two countries.

In your book, you write about *jeong* the invisible hug. Is that something exclusive to Korea?

15 [4] A lot of Koreans say *jeong* – the warmth between people and mutual sacrifice – is uniquely Korean, as is *han*. It’s nonsense, but Korea has words to describe these things, which shows they are important. *Han* is a burden, oppression or an injustice you can’t correct. Its cause never goes away but you can temporarily forget about it by pursuing all-out, manic fun. This is where *heung* comes in. *Heung* is pure joy. The word isn’t as famous as *han*, but I think that it should be. Even traditional Korean funerals used to feature extreme alcohol consumption, raucous singing, and the like.

20 [5] Often when Westerners think of East Asians, the stereotypes of stoicism and self-control – the so-called “inscrutable oriental” – come to mind. But Koreans in fact tend to be very expressive and open with their feelings. Somehow, sadness and happiness both seem to be magnified in Korea.

How is *A Geek* different from your first book?

25 [6] It’s still about South Korea, but it’s aimed at a younger audience. Consider it a gateway for those who like K-pop or TV shows from Korea, but don’t know anything about the country.

A few chapters are about K-pop. Are you into K-pop?

30 [7] Generally K-pop is for teenagers. I’m not saying it’s wrong. It’s a good business. But I like music played by people who mean what they’re writing. Some people think all Korean music is K-pop, but there’s really good music in Korea that’s not superficial or played on the radio or on TV and doesn’t go outside of Korea. One of my favourite bands is 3rd Line Butterfly: these guys are not rich and famous; they’re ordinary guys you can be friends with. I am friends with them. There’s an interview with [Gangnam Style singer] Psy [in *Geek*]. He’s funny and cheeky, in a Robbie Williams kind of way, and making fun of Gangnam [an affluent district of Seoul], which is superficial and flashy.

How about Korean soaps?

35 [8] I don’t like the drama stuff. They’re trying to play with your emotions with Cinderella stories: beautiful girl from poor family marries rich guy. Korea’s probably not the best country in which to be a woman. If you’re a young woman in Korea, what’s the best way to become wealthy or to achieve status? Sadly, it’s to marry somebody.

You also write about how Koreans are obsessed with success and education.

40 [9] You find these mothers in Gangnam and they're scary. When I taught English I'd meet kids who, materially, led awesome lives and they'd show up in these big Mercedes with bags as big as they were. But if they didn't get an A grade in something, their parents would get mad and the next time you saw them they'd be crying. Wealthy families are obsessed with education. It's a status thing: preserve your status and show the rest of the world that you're preserving your status and your kids are doing well.

45 **Why do you continue to live in Korea?**

[10] This *jeong* stuff – that's the thing that keeps me in Korea. Korea made me a better friend to my friends. England's a cold society and, growing up, I suppose I always wanted this feeling of being connected to people. I thought English people were a bit too cynical and cold. Korea is a place where you say, "I like you. I love you. This is great." I really like that.

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Read Text 2 and answer questions 25-31 on page 4 of the *Question-Answer Book for Part A*.

Text 2

Tudor's Book Covers Implausible, Impossible Korea

October 15, 2012
By Evan Ramstad

1 [1] Daniel Tudor is one of the most influential foreign correspondents in South Korea – and one of the least known. As the reporter for the *Economist*, which doesn't use bylines, most of his work is published anonymously. But Mr. Tudor's profile is about to take a sharp rise with the publication of his new book, "Korea: The Impossible Country".

5 [2] It's the first English-language book to cover the whole waterfront of South Korean society – historical, cultural, economic, social, political – since one by another influential British expat, Michael Breen, with "The Koreans," which was originally published in 1998 and revised in 2004. [Mr. Breen provided a recommendation on Mr. Tudor's book jacket.] "Korea: The Impossible Country" is also likely to get added to the list of must-read books for anyone from outside of South Korea who wants to do business or live in
10 the country.

[3] That's a small canon, unfortunately. In addition to Mr. Breen's book, the other indispensables are "Diamond Dilemma" by Tariq Hussain, "Korean Dynasty" by Donald Kirk, Tom Coyner's guide to doing business in Korea and Robert Koehler's Seoul Selection guidebooks for places and sightseeing. Indeed, the list of must-read books about North Korea is far longer.

15 [4] Mr. Tudor pushes into new social and economic territory with his book, including the rising role of immigrants, multicultural families and even gay people in South Korea. He lays out some of the contradictory behavior one finds in South Korea, such as the unending desire for new and trendy gadgets and fashion and yet the tunnel-like view of what constitutes a successful life. At the end, he asks the question that nearly every visitor has after spending some time in South Korea: why aren't people happier
20 with what they've done?

END OF READING PASSAGES

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report and Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.