

## **Section A: Comprehension**

### **Read the article and choose the best answer to the question**

1. An overwhelming majority of homeowners at three upmarket estates in Hong Kong are suspected to have enlarged their properties on public land without approval for years, a Post investigation has found, exposing the scale of the malpractice in the land-scarce city. Nearly 90 per cent of the 50 houses in Block B of Flamingo Garden on Kowloon Peak, Villa Rosa in Tai Tam and Seaview Villas in Tai Po studied by the Post – valued at between HK\$50 million and HK\$119 million each – are suspected of having unauthorised additions at or near their properties. Some of these additions were built on government-owned slopes, sparking safety concerns among industry professionals.
2. The secret land grab by Hong Kong’s wealthy was thrust into the spotlight in September, 2023 when landslides triggered by a record-breaking downpour exposed extensive illegal additions --- ranging from swimming pools to basements on public slopes --- at Tai Tam’s Redhill Peninsula.
3. Liber Research Community, an NGO focusing on land and development issues, released a report after the Redhill scandal studying the latest satellite images and government maps. It found 173 luxury houses citywide had occupied government land without approval.
4. Based on the findings, the Post investigated three estates to study the extent of such works, comparing drone footage with the government’s lot boundaries on the Lands Department database while cross-checking whether the owners had short-term tenancies that would allow them the extra space at full market rent. The Post went through Buildings Department’s records to check whether the owners in question had applied for authorities’ consent on additions and alterations for the visible extra structures seen outside their properties, and checked the findings with two building professionals. The months-long investigation found that such an apparent deviation from building and land rules was a common practice among many owners in these estates rather than an isolated case.
5. Veteran surveyor Ho Kui-yip raised concerns over unauthorised add-ons beyond the lot boundaries after studying the Post’s findings, saying they could increase pressure on government-owned slopes and posed a huge danger. “Extra loading may cause instability not only to their buildings but also the adjoining ones ... it may also cause landslides or instability on the adjoining slopes,” Ho said, adding the risk could be made worse given the escalating frequency of extreme weather.

6. “It would have a huge, or consequential impact, on an area that we cannot assert.”  
Veteran structural engineer Ngai Hok-yan also said such works, which had not passed through the approve-and-consent stage, could be substandard because there had been no proper scrutiny.
7. Wong Shiu-hung, a member of the Liber Research Community, said unauthorised extensions found at luxury residences were much more common than those detected in densely populated urban areas. “It happens in every major prestigious neighbourhood in Hong Kong,” he said. “The government needs to show to the public that it is dealing with all the cases in every luxurious neighbourhood.”

1. The word, ‘overwhelming’ in the first sentence in paragraph (1) implies that
- A. the unauthorised additions are really bad.
  - B. there are a great many of houses having the unauthorised additions.
  - C. the unauthorised additions are intolerable.
  - D. there is an increasing trend of houses having the unauthorised additions.
2. Unauthorised additions refer to
- A. illegal extensions inside the houses.
  - B. illegal extensions built on government-owned slopes.
  - C. illegal extensions either inside the houses or built on government-owned slopes.
  - D. None of the above.
3. According to paragraph (2), which of the following is INCORRECT?
- A. The secret land grab was discovered because there were landslides.
  - B. The landslides were caused by a downpour that is so great that it surpasses all previous records.
  - C. Illegal additions were discovered in summer last year.
  - D. It had long been known that there were illegal extensions at Tai Tam’s Redhill Peninsula.
4. Which is true about Liber Research Community?
- A. It is an organisation that does not accept any funding from Hong Kong government.
  - B. It has found 173 houses in Redhill Peninsula built illegal additions.
  - C. By analysing satellite imagery and government planning documents, the organisation found illegal extensions at luxury housing estates.
  - D. The organisation has written a report about Redhill scandal.

5. What does the underlined word in paragraph (4), ‘them’, refer to?
- A. the owner of the illegal extensions
  - B. the short-term tenancies
  - C. the findings
  - D. government’s lot boundaries

6. How did SCMP investigate the three estates?
- I. By interviewing two building professionals
  - II. By drone photography
  - III. By questioning the owners

The correct combination is

- A. All of them
  - B. I and II only
  - C. I and III only
  - D. II and III only
7. What has Mr. Ho in paragraph (5) said about the unauthorised add-ons beyond the lot boundaries?
- A. They have potential danger not only to the building themselves but also the neighbouring ones.
  - B. If there is no escalating frequency of extreme weather, the extensions should be safe.
  - C. Owners of the illegal add-ons should be charged.
  - D. Illegal structures built on government-owned slopes may only cause landslides to their own slopes.
8. The meaning of the underlined word, ‘scrutiny’ in paragraph (6) is
- A. construction
  - B. approval
  - C. understanding
  - D. examination
9. Wong Shiu-hung commented that
- A. unauthorised extensions were less found in densely populated city areas.
  - B. the government should do more checking on illegal add-ons in urban areas.
  - C. owners of unauthorised extensions should be fined.
  - D. all houses in major prestigious neighbourhood were having extensions without approval.

10. The main theme of this article is to

- A. show us the findings by SCMP's investigation will affect the government's decision on dealing with illegal extensions of buildings.
- B. tell us the widespread unauthorised extensions of luxury residences and their potential dangers.
- C. counter-attack the rumours about unauthorised add-ons of upmarket estates.
- D. find out the truth about Redhill Peninsula scandal.

### **Section B: Error Identification**

Your task is to identify which part of the question (as underlined) contains a language error.

11. Most internationally traded goods are transported via cargo ships, since air travel is a much more cost effective way to transport large items or huge amounts of goods.
- A. internationally
  - B. via
  - C. more
  - D. items
12. The Police College Headquarters are responsible for formulating strategic training plans, quality assurance, administrative and human resources matters.
- A. are
  - B. strategic
  - C. assurance
  - D. matters
13. Aspiring customs officers face less rigorously academic requirements but must fulfil most of the same criteria as those applying to become police inspectors.
- A. Aspiring
  - B. rigorously
  - C. fulfil
  - D. those
14. In China, he is a teens' idol, frequently attracting mobs of screaming girls while attending his concerts.
- A. teens'
  - B. frequently
  - C. mobs
  - D. while

15. As bewilderment turned into panic, the soldiers got out of control and the battlefield became chao.

- A. bewilderment
- B. into
- C. control
- D. chao

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**Section C: Sentence Completion**

Your task is to choose an option that can appropriately be inserted in the blank.

16. X: How do you do?

Y: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. I am sick. I have a flu.
- B. How do you do?
- C. I do it all by myself.
- D. I will do it right now.

17. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ suicide after he knew that he would be sent to prison.

- A. did
- B. made
- C. committed
- D. created

18. He'd apply for being a policeman after graduation, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- A. had he
- B. hadn't he
- C. would he
- D. wouldn't he

19. Humid and foggy conditions are expected to \_\_\_\_\_ today and tomorrow.

- A. persist
- B. resist
- C. consist
- D. insist

20. The police inspector asked the owner of the shop \_\_\_\_\_ the robbers had gone.

- A. what
- B. where
- C. how
- D. why

21. For many professionals, \_\_\_\_\_ insufficient level of proficiency is \_\_\_\_\_ obstacle to career advancement.
- A. a, a
  - B. a, an
  - C. an, a
  - D. an, an
22. \_\_\_\_\_ they are inexperienced, they have done a good job.
- A. Given that
  - B. Until
  - C. Providing that
  - D. Unless
23. These drugs are detrimental \_\_\_\_\_ your health.
- A. on
  - B. for
  - C. to
  - D. in
24. The apartment \_\_\_\_\_ to me.
- A. belong
  - B. belongs
  - C. is belonging
  - D. is belonged
25. My study in United Kingdom for two years proves to be a/an \_\_\_\_\_ experience to me, which really helps me a lot on my career advancement.
- A. valueless
  - B. valuable
  - C. valued
  - D. invaluable
26. Significant efforts to increase birthrates elsewhere \_\_\_\_\_ for years.
- A. has tried
  - B. has been tried
  - C. have tried
  - D. have been tried



27. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ goes to the cinema, perhaps once or twice in a year.
- A. regularly
  - B. frequently
  - C. hardly ever
  - D. never
28. A policeman \_\_\_\_\_ heavy equipment while on duty.
- A. gets used to carry
  - B. gets used to carrying
  - C. used to carry
  - D. used to carrying
29. The suspect suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ for a few minutes.
- A. passed out
  - B. passed away
  - C. died out
  - D. died away
30. \_\_\_\_\_ about the way to Central Station, the policeman points to the south.
- A. Asks
  - B. Asked
  - C. Asking
  - D. To ask
31. There is \_\_\_\_\_ milk left. Please don't drink it.
- A. few
  - B. a few
  - C. little
  - D. a little
32. When Jenny graduated with First-Class Honours Degree, she felt \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. butterflies in her stomach.
  - B. on top of the world.
  - C. hopping mad.
  - D. on pins and needles.

33. A number of policemen \_\_\_\_\_ working hard since this early morning.
- A. have been
  - B. has been
  - C. were
  - D. was
34. X: Whose book is it?  
Y: \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. It is on the shelf.
  - B. Peter Anderson is the author.
  - C. It belongs to mine.
  - D. I find it interesting.
35. Ice Palace at Tai Koo Shing is a popular ice skating \_\_\_\_\_ in Hong Kong.
- A. court
  - B. pitch
  - C. rink
  - D. ring

### **Section D: Paragraph Improvement**

Your task is to read the two passages and choose the best option for the questions followed.

#### **Passage A**

A) 1. To raise public awareness of anti-money laundering, the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau rolled out an anti-money laundering programme, the "Project AccFencers" in 2021. 2. The project rallied away the efforts of all sectors and the public to combat money laundering and safeguard Hong Kong's status as one of the safest and healthiest international financial centres in the world. 3. In 2023, three mascots, namely, "Don't Rent", "Don't Lend" and "Don't Sell", was there to remind the public not to rent, lend or sell their accounts to others as these may be abuse for unlawful purposes. 4. \_\_\_\_\_ with seminars and workshops, promotional videos and leaflets were published and released on various platforms to disseminate the message of anti-money laundering.

B) 1. Over HKD 470 million of suspected crime proceeds were confiscated. 2. As a result, 458 persons were arrested and 314 money laundering cases were detected. 3. In the operation, police seized loads of bank documents, bank cards, mobile phones, computers, cash and valuables. 4. On the other hand, police mounted \_\_\_\_\_ arrest operation over the territories in the "Anti-Money Laundering Month" between 7 and 25 August 2023.

36. Which can replace the underlined word, 'raise', in sentence 1 in paragraph (A)?

- A. decrease
- B. enhance
- C. consolidate
- D. update

37. Which word in sentence 2 in paragraph (A) should be deleted to make it grammatically correct?

- A. away
- B. all
- C. as
- D. one

38. Which of the underlined word/words in paragraph (A) is/are incorrect and how should it/they be corrected?
- A. 'was' is incorrect and the correct word is 'were'.
  - B. 'abuse' is incorrect and the correct word is 'abused'.
  - C. 'was' is incorrect and the correct word is 'were' and 'abuse' is incorrect and the correct word is 'abused'.
  - D. both two words, 'was' and 'abuse' are correct.
39. Which is best to be filled in the blank in sentence 4 in paragraph (A)?
- A. Besides
  - B. In addition
  - C. Except
  - D. Alongside
40. Which is the correct sequence for the four sentences in paragraph (B)?
- A. 4→3→1→2
  - B. 4→2→1→3
  - C. 3→4→1→2
  - D. 2→4→1→3
41. The phrase, 'and prevented the dissipation of over HKD 16 million of crime proceeds' can be added after \_\_\_\_\_ in paragraph (B).
- A. Sentence 1
  - B. Sentence 2
  - C. Sentence 3
  - D. Sentence 4
42. Where should the word, 'related', be inserted in sentence 2 in paragraph (B)?
- A. Between 'a' and 'result'.
  - B. Between '458' and 'persons'.
  - C. Between '314' and 'money'.
  - D. Between 'laundering' and 'cases'.
43. Which is best to be filled in the blank in sentence 4 in paragraph (B)?
- A. a large scale
  - B. a number of
  - C. plenty of
  - D. a sizeable

Passage B

A) 1. My son is studying in primary three. 2. I give him healthy snacks for his school break. 3. Sometimes I give him home-made cookies, but he would rather have candies or chips. 4. I have been terrifying at the snacks, which his school-mates bring to school. 5. They are often \_\_\_\_\_ food. 6. I just wonder who \_\_\_\_\_ their snack boxes.

B) 1. With proper guidance from me, my son gradually likes eating fresh fruit. 2. It seems difficult to insist that my son eats healthy food while he is surrounded by friends who keep eating unhealthy food. 3. However, he still takes in sweets and crisps if given by his peers. 4. I have told my son that his peers will develop \_\_\_\_\_ teeth by the time they are teenagers.

44. If sentences 1 and 2 in paragraph (A) are combined together, which is correct in terms of grammar and tone?

- A. I give my son, studying in primary three, healthy snacks for his school break.
- B. My son who is studying in primary three gives healthy snacks for his school break.
- C. I give healthy snacks for my son's school break who is studying in primary three.
- D. Studying in primary three, I give my son healthy snacks for his school break.

45. Which of the underlined word/words in paragraph (B) is/are incorrect and how should it/they be corrected?

- A. 'terrifying' is incorrect and the correct word is 'terrified'.
- B. 'which' is incorrect and the correct word is 'who'.
- C. 'terrifying' is incorrect and the correct word is 'terrified' and 'which' is incorrect and the correct word is 'who'.
- D. Both two words, 'terrifying' and 'which', are correct.

46. Which is correct to be filled in the blank in sentence 5 in paragraph (A)?

- A. wasted
- B. nutritious
- C. junk
- D. quick

47. Which is the correct sequence for the four sentences in paragraph (A)?
- A. 2→1→4→3
  - B. 1→2→3→4
  - C. 4→2→3→1
  - D. 2→4→1→3
48. Which can replace the underlined word, 'proper' in sentence 1 in paragraph (B)?
- A. useful
  - B. appropriate
  - C. advanced
  - D. strict
49. Where should the preposition, 'on', be inserted in the sentence 2 in paragraph (B)?
- A. Between 'insist' and 'that'
  - B. Between 'surrounded' and 'by'
  - C. Between 'keep' and 'eating'
  - D. Between 'eating' and 'junk'
50. Which is correct to be filled in the blank in sentence 4 in paragraph (B)?
- A. mouldy
  - B. decayed
  - C. spoiled
  - D. decent

\*\*\* End of Paper \*\*\*

## KEY (Test 4)

### Section A: Comprehension Passage 1

Total: 20 marks (2 marks @)

1. B	2. C	3. D	4. C	5. A
6. B	7. A	8. D	9. A	10. B

### Section B: Error Identification

Total: 10 marks (2 marks @)

11. C	12. A	13. B	14. A	15. D
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### Section C: Sentence Completion

Total: 40 marks (2 marks @)

16. B	17. C	18. D	19. A	20. B
21. D	22. A	23. C	24. B	25. D
26. D	27. C	28. B	29. A	30. B
31. C	32. B	33. A	34. C	35. C

### Section D: Paragraph Improvement

Total: 30 marks (2 marks @)

36. B	37. A	38. C	39. D	40. B
41. C	42. D	43. A	44. A	45. A
46. C	47. D	48. B	49. C	50. B