

Section 1: Reading Comprehension

You are reading a blog about family relationships online. Read the blog entry below, and answer the questions on page 3 of this Question-Answer Book. Write in full sentences unless told not to. (16 marks)

My Family Life

I was always jealous of my brother. My mother trusts him to make his own decisions. He has been very independent since he was young. He can take care of himself for most of the time. He takes responsibility for himself and others. On the other hand, my mother was really strict with me when I was younger. I had to be home before 10. If I broke my curfew, she would grind me for the whole weekend. My brother never even had a curfew. He enjoyed so much freedom at home.

We often have family dinners because my parents like to keep in touch with everyone in our extended family. When I was younger, I always picked a fight with my brother over the dinners. It could be about anything — I just wanted to make a scene and embarrass my brother. But he would be as calm and patient as always and wouldn't argue with me. In the end, it was me who would get embarrassed. I wish someone had told me how immature I was back then.

Now that I am more mature, I understand why my mother was so strict with me and that there's no reason to be jealous of my brother. I don't really have arguments with my family now. While I was writing this, I tried to recall the last time I argued with my family and realized that I haven't argued with them for a year. I've learned that all problems can be solved if they are shared and if everyone gets the chance to say what they think.

Everyone should have a happy family life with a home that is stable and calm. If you seldom have arguments with other people in your family, you are fortunate. If people feel that something is very wrong, they can get furious and shout at each other but this should not happen every day. If children are naughty, their parents may scold or punish them – and I can agree with this statement from my experiences! I now trust my parents' advice and usually try to do what they say. They always tell me to take responsibility for myself and be more mature.

It has taken time, but I guess I try to do it now and I have slowly become more thoughtful about my actions and interactions with my family.

1. Find a word in paragraph one which means the opposite of 'lenient'? (1 mark)

2. The phrase 'grind me for the whole weekend' in line 4 means? (1 mark)
 - A. The writer will be forbidden to go out all weekend.
 - B. The writer will be sleeping on the ground for the whole weekend.
 - C. The writer will have a lot of homework to do.
 - D. The writer will create reasons to stay away from home on the weekends.

3. Why was the writer jealous of his brother? (1 mark)

4. Why did the writer want to pick a fight with his brother? (2 marks)

5. Which phrase in paragraph 2 means contact someone regularly? (1 mark)

6. According to the writer, how should problems be solved? (1 mark)

7. Find an adjective to describe the writer in lines 11-15. (1 mark)

8. Are the statements true (T), false (F), or not given (NG). Tick (✓) the correct box. (5 marks)

	T	F	NG
The writer likes his brother			
The writer's family share their problems with each other			
The writer is the older brother			
The writer takes care of his brother			
The writer thinks naughty children should be punished.			

9. Why is the writer more understanding of why his mother was strict when he was a child? (1 mark)

10. According to the writer, how is a happy family life achieved and why are some people fortunate? (2 marks)

Section 2: Writing

Write an article.

You work for Tourism Hong Kong and have been asked to write an article on ways to avoid problems in Hong Kong. You may suggest solutions and/or ways in which local people may solve their own travel problems to your readers. Be sure to include a title. Your article should be around 150 words and can contain information about:

- typhoon/rainy season
- traffic jams
- rude taxi drivers
- long queues
- anything else that is important

Achievement Level	Level Descriptor
1-2	The student: i. uses a limited range of vocabulary ii. uses a limited range of grammatical structures with many errors which often hinder communication iii. organizes some information in a recognizable format using some basic cohesive devices iv. communicates limited relevant information with some sense of audience and purpose to suit the context.
3-4	The student: i. uses a basic range of vocabulary ii. uses a basic range of grammatical structures with some errors which sometimes hinder communication iii. organizes information in a recognizable format using a range of basic cohesive devices iv. communicates some relevant information with some sense of audience and purpose to suit the context.
5-6	The student: i. uses a range of vocabulary ii. uses a range of grammatical structures with a few errors which do not hinder communication iii. organizes information in an appropriate format using simple and some complex cohesive devices iv. communicates most relevant information with a sense of audience and purpose to suit the context.
7-8	The student: i. uses a wide range of vocabulary ii. uses a wide range of grammatical structures generally accurately iii. organizes information effectively and coherently in an appropriate format using a wide range of simple and complex cohesive devices iv. communicates all or almost all the required information with a clear sense of audience and purpose to suit the context.