

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You are helping to organize a film festival at your school. You have found an interesting article about the portrayal of Hong Kong in Hollywood films. Read the article.

Text 1 Article

Hong Kong through Hollywood's eyes

① A shadowy figure is perched high atop 2IFC. As the camera pans around, revealing the familiar shimmering skyscrapers of Central, our hero leaps. He swoops swiftly downwards, crashing through a window so as to capture his opponent.



② This gripping scene from *The Dark Knight* demonstrates how Hollywood views modern Hong Kong. To them, it's a futuristic city of soaring buildings. Hollywood enjoys using Hong Kong as the setting for action and adventure films. Cameramen like to come here so that they can film our spectacular scenery. Producers find our city's pro-business attitude extremely welcoming. Stunt doubles can show off their martial arts expertise in the hometown of the legendary Bruce Lee. Costume designers get to dress actors in a fusion of Chinese and Western fashion.



The Dark Knight (2008)

③ It's always amusing to see your own city on the big screen. It gives us a thrill to know that the whole world is seeing the places so familiar to us. We feel a sense of pride when we see a Hollywood superstar racing past the shops or buildings we frequent. If you saw your city in ruins, you would be devastated, wouldn't you? Yet, somehow when we watch the adrenaline-filled action sci-fi flick *Pacific Rim*, we don't. Instead, we feel honoured that Hollywood has chosen to destroy our city with colossal monsters!



Pacific Rim (2013)

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④ There is a long history behind Hollywood's fondness for setting films in Hong Kong. In 1952's *Hong Kong*, the title city is seen as an exotic playground for adventurous Westerners. Back then, American audiences were

- 35 fascinated by this faraway and mysterious little city. They enjoyed seeing Western actors sailing about in bizarre-looking junks and struggling to master the use of chopsticks. To anyone familiar with the city from that era, these old films look
- 40 extremely fake. This is because they depict a highly romanticized fairy-tale version of old Hong Kong. However, for Hollywood directors back then, they would rather make exhilarating films than boring realistic ones. No one wants to watch a tedious documentary, do they?

*Hong Kong* (1952)

- 45 ⑤ In *Love is a Many-Splendored Thing*, a mediocre and forgettable romance from the 1950s, a character is shown walking from Yau Ma Tei to Aberdeen! We know how ridiculous this is. However, a majority of the Western audience from that time probably couldn't even find Hong Kong on a map! Because of this, Hollywood directors were given free rein to transform Hong Kong into anything they wanted.

- 50 ⑥ In Hollywood's interpretation of Hong Kong, anything is possible. James Bond can infiltrate an underwater spy headquarters in Victoria Harbour. Mammoth alien robots battle it out on top of buildings in Kowloon in the big-budget
- 55 yet hugely disappointing *Transformers: Age of Extinction*. A policewoman in a cyborg body hunts down villains in a frantic chase through Causeway Bay in the 2017 film *Ghost in the Shell*.

*Transformers: Age of Extinction* (2014)

- 60 ⑦ Hollywood creates a new vision of Hong Kong for each generation. In the 1950s, it was an exotic and traditionally Chinese place suited for romance and adventure. Later, it became an action hot spot, full of criminals, spies and
- 65 martial artists. Today, it is a futuristic city, home to superheroes, aliens and other sci-fi wonders. Who knows how Hollywood will envision Hong Kong in the future? Hong Kong is the perfect setting for any kind of film, so any type
- 70 of film set here will surely be a huge success!

*Ghost in the Shell* (2017)

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Comprehension 1 *Your classmate wants to know more about the portrayal of Hong Kong in Hollywood films. Answer her questions using information from the article. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

- 1 Why did the figure jump off the building?

- 2 According to paragraph 2, what are the reasons why the following groups of people like making films in Hong Kong?
Cameramen: _____
Producers: _____
Stunt doubles: _____
Costume designers: _____
- 3 Complete the sentence.
We like to see Hong Kong in Hollywood films because _____
_____.
- 5 Which word in paragraph 5 means 'not very good'?

- 6 What assumption does the author make about Western audiences in the 50s in paragraph 5? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

- 7 What is 'Mammoth alien robots battle it out on top of buildings in Kowloon' (lines 53 & 54) given as an example of?
☐ A how Hong Kong is a futuristic city
☐ B how Westerners think Hong Kong is exotic
☐ C how anything is possible in Hollywood's version of Hong Kong
☐ D how Hollywood likes setting action films in Hong Kong
- 8 Based on the information from paragraph 7, use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.
1950s: Hollywood viewed Hong Kong as a/an (i) _____ place that was (ii) _____ for (iii) _____ and adventure.
1970s & 80s: Hollywood started setting (iv) _____ films here, especially ones that featured martial artists, spies and people involved in (v) _____.
2000 onwards: Hollywood shows us a (vi) _____ Hong Kong, with skyscrapers and high-tech gadgets. More (vii) _____ films, featuring giant robots and aliens, are set here.

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- 9** Match the subheadings to the outline for the article. Write A–F in the box next to the number. I and VII have been given. One subheading is NOT used.

Subheadings

- A** Covered in mystery
- B** Limitless possibilities
- C** Your city on the world stage
- D** Time for a change
- E** Reasons to film here
- F** Entertainment beats accuracy

Outline A, B, C, D, E, F

I	Introduction
II	
III	
IV	
V	
VI	
VII	Conclusion

- 10** Which of the following is the best alternative title for this article?

- A Hong Kong is the new Hollywood
- B Hollywood constantly reinvents Hong Kong
- C The local film industry can learn from Hollywood
- D The best place in the world to make films

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- 11** Do you think the writer likes Hollywood studios making films in Hong Kong? Find evidence in the article to support your view.

- 12** Find words or expressions in the text with the following meanings.

- i) stood on the edge of (v., paragraph 1) _____
- ii) great skill (n., paragraph 2) _____
- iii) film (n., paragraph 3) _____
- iv) made more attractive or interesting (adj., paragraph 4) _____
- v) complete freedom to do something (idm, paragraph 5) _____