

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*You have found a letter to the editor in a newspaper. Read the letter to the editor.*

**Text 3 Letter to the editor**



① I am writing to respond to the article 'Meat consumption at all-time high', which appeared in *The Hong Kong Times* yesterday. To promote sustainability, I believe we must stop consuming  
5 meat in such excessive amounts and start adopting a vegetarian diet.

② The environment is suffering from our insatiable appetite for meat, and beef in particular. I found myself in shock that millions of acres of  
10 forests have already been cleared for livestock rearing. The Amazon Rainforest produces an estimated 20% of the world's oxygen, and yet much of this forest has been levelled for cattle ranching. The Brazilian government estimates that  
15 more than 60% of deforested land is used for rearing cows, and these cows produce large amounts of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. The trees, which absorb these harmful gases, release the  
20 carbon that they have stored back into the atmosphere once they are cut down. To cut a long story short, the livestock industry and global warming are closely connected.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (   ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

③ Likewise, we ourselves are also suffering from a meat-  
25 based diet as research has confirmed that high  
consumption of red meat is linked to a greater risk of heart  
disease, which is the number one cause of death in many  
countries around the world. Another unsettling health  
concern is that these animals are often treated with steroid  
30 hormones to increase their growth rates. Antibiotics are  
also given regularly to protect them from insanitary living  
conditions or to prevent the adverse effects of hormone  
treatments. Humans, in turn, ingest these chemicals, which  
scientists believe may lead to other serious illnesses such  
35 as cancer and dementia in the long term.



④ The United Nations warns that ‘livestock’s contribution  
to environmental problems is on a massive scale’, and that  
the issue ‘needs to be addressed with urgency’. And  
according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, meat-  
40 eating is the second-most pressing environmental problem,  
after fossil fuel vehicles. As far as cost, health and morals  
are concerned, there is no benefit—besides possibly  
taste—to eating meat. Our environment is on the brink of  
disaster, and there is no longer time to delay. In recent years, natural disasters such as  
45 superstorms, floods and droughts have become more frequent and severe because of  
climate change. If having a little less meat can help save the planet and improve our  
health at the same time, it is undeniably worth our effort.



Trevor Henderson, *Sai Kung*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension 3** *Your mum wants to know more about the problems of meat consumption. Answer her questions using information from the letter to the editor. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

- 1 The writer of the letter writes 'I am writing to respond to the article "Meat consumption at all-time high"' (lines 1 & 2) to \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ A agree with the newspaper  
☐ B indicate which article he is responding to  
☐ C ask readers to read the article  
☐ D inform the editor
- 2 Which word in paragraph 1 suggests that Trevor thinks people eat too much meat?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What type of meat does the writer think has the greatest impact on the environment?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Why is the Amazon Rainforest important for people?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Which of the following is NOT the reason why deforestation for cattle ranching leads to climate change?  
☐ A Cows produce methane.  
☐ B Trees release carbon dioxide when they are cut down.  
☐ C Cows only eat plants.  
☐ D There are fewer trees to absorb greenhouse gases.
- 6 Which of the following health concerns is NOT linked to eating too much meat?  
☐ A cancer      ☐ C heart disease  
☐ B dementia      ☐ D influenza
- 7 Find a word in paragraph 3 that means 'worrying'.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Name TWO treatments that are often given to animals.  
 i) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 What does 'it' (line 47) refer to?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Decide whether the following statements are **True (T)**, **False (F)** or the information is **Not Given (NG)** in paragraph 4. Write the letter(s) in the boxes.  
**Statements**  
 i) Fossil fuels produce more pollution than animal rearing. ☐  
 ii) There are more natural disasters happening in Hong Kong. ☐  
 iii) Eating meat could lead to poverty. ☐  
 iv) The writer will start eating less meat. ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 11 Which of the following are mentioned as reasons not to eat meat in paragraph 4? Tick (✓) all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/>	it costs a lot of money
<input type="checkbox"/>	it is not moral
<input type="checkbox"/>	it leads to poverty
<input type="checkbox"/>	it is not healthy
<input type="checkbox"/>	it is bad for the environment

- 12 Match the missing subheadings to the correct paragraph of the letter to the editor. Write the number corresponding to each paragraph (2–4) on the lines next to the subheadings. One is NOT used and should be marked with an 'X'.

<u>Subheading</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
Damaging our health	_____
A small sacrifice for the environment	_____
An important lesson	_____
Destruction of the environment	_____

- 13 Complete the summary of the letter to the editor. Use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure the words are grammatically correct.

The writer wants people to have a diet that is mostly (i) \_\_\_\_\_ because meat-eating is damaging the (ii) \_\_\_\_\_. To slow down climate change, we should leave (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ as they are, rather than cutting down trees to raise (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ for human consumption. Also, eating meat is bad for people's (v) \_\_\_\_\_ and there are other sources of (vi) \_\_\_\_\_ that do not lead to diseases. Climate change is resulting in more natural (vii) \_\_\_\_\_, so it is important for people to put in more (viii) \_\_\_\_\_ to solve this problem.

- 14 Complete the sentences below with words from Text 2. Use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

- Most doctors recommend \_\_\_\_\_ (*eating*) more fruit and vegetables, and less red meat for a healthy diet.—paragraph 1
- There is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ (*limitless*) demand for powerful smartphones.—paragraph 2
- This drug can control the illness, but it also has \_\_\_\_\_ (*negative and unpleasant*) side effects.—paragraph 3
- Many believe that there is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ (*urgent*) need to improve the current waste management facilities.—paragraph 4