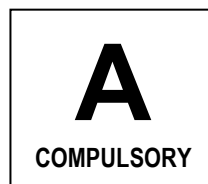


Candidate Number						
Candidate Name						

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HKDSE MOCK EXAM (2019)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1
PART A
Reading Passages

1 hour 30 minutes
(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 write your Candidate Number and your name and stick barcode labels in the spaces provided on the first page of the Part A Question-Answer Book and the Part B Question-Answer Book which you are going to attempt. Also, write your Candidate Number and your name on the first page of the remaining Part B Question-Answer Book and Reading Passages.
- (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 and your name, and mark the question number box on each sheet. Fasten them with a green tag **INSIDE** the Question-Answer Book.
- (6) No extra time will be given to candidates for sticking on the 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 and Reading Passages will be collected separately at the end of the examination. They will not be marked. Do not write any answers in them.

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 1–23 in the Question-Answer Book for Part A.

Text 1

- 1 [1] “The plain truth,” author Jon Krakauer wrote, “is that I knew better but went to Everest anyway.”
- [2] It was 1996. Krakauer, a correspondent for *Outside* magazine, was to hike to Mount Everest’s base camp and write a story for the publication. Instead, he met the guides who helped pioneer the commercial climbing business on the world’s highest peak and convinced the magazine to let him climb to the top. His editors obliged.
- 5 [3] By the end of his trip, eight climbers had died during a storm. At the time, it was the deadliest attempted ascent on the mountain. Eleven people have died on Everest this year, in large part because of the vast contingent of unqualified and unguided alpinists who now flock to the mountain during climbing season, the very phenomenon Krakauer went to document. Three years before his trip, life on Everest changed, but to understand that, you have to understand the mountain’s history.
- 10 [4] British climbers made early attempts to reach the peak on the northern side of the summit in Tibet in the early 20th century. George Mallory and Andrew Irvine were spotted within hundreds of feet of the top in 1924, but the two never returned to camp to relay whether they had made it. Mallory’s body was found in 1999. Irvine’s remains missing. Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay made the first official ascent in 1953 on the mountain’s southern side, in Nepal. The first Americans summited in 1963. The group included Barry Bishop,
- 15 who wrote about and photographed the trip for *National Geographic*.
- [5] But amid the Cold War, access to the mountain was severely restricted. China closed the Tibetan portion of Everest from 1950 to 1980. Nepal for years did not allow foreigners into the country to climb Everest unless they were accompanied by scientists, and when it finally opened its border in 1985, it issued one Everest permit per season per route. By the 1990s, international tensions had eased and more qualified alpinists began showing up at
- 20 the mountain, hoping to gain access to climb.
- [6] “Everest, you could always get a permit, but you had to be sponsored by your country’s climbing agency,” Todd Burleson, founder and president of guide service *Alpine Ascents International*, said in a phone interview. He has led two guided journeys to Everest’s summit, and he said aspiring climbers used to wait several years until their turn for a permit arrived. [...]
- 25 [7] Sensing opportunities for revenue and fresh off an economic modernization, China began granting more permits. Then Nepal liberalized the permitting process, too, to keep up. Fewer than 2,000 people attempted to climb the mountain in the 1980s, according to the *Himalayan Database*, but nearly 4,000 have tried each of the past two decades.
- [8] “In 1993 the world changed completely,” said Eric Simonson, director at *International Mountain Guides* and a multiple-time Everest summiter. Guiding agencies such as *Adventure Consultants* and *Mountain Madness*, the subjects of Krakauer’s 1997 book *Into Thin Air*, began leading trips up Everest. Local Sherpas, who experienced mountaineers say are excellent climbers but sometimes unqualified guides, established companies that offered trips at less than half the cost, but not every agency did a thorough vetting of clients to see whether they were physically capable of scaling Everest.
- 30 [9] And so larger and larger crowds arrived at the mountain as the services at base camp improved, aided by technology and more precise weather tracking that allowed climbers to reach the peak in more predictably safe conditions. But the cluster of people on the mountain is dangerous, too, sometimes preventing swift evacuations and cramming climbers together on perilous slopes.
- [10] By 1996, one of the world’s most remote locales was becoming a tourist attraction. Krakauer, an avid climber, arrived to tell that story. He summited the mountain on May 10, then returned to a forward base camp. As he descended, the weather turned, and dozens of climbers from three groups were stuck in a traffic jam and exposed to the hurricane-strength storm. So many climbers assaulted the summit at once—even after delays in
- 40

securing ropes along the treacherous “death zone” at elevations over 26,000 feet—that they couldn’t turn around in a timely fashion and retreat for cover. Eight climbers died, including three guides.

45 [11] “The commercialized trips and the overcrowding were what caused the tragedy [in 1996],” Hillary, who died in 2008, told Time magazine in 2003. “It was inevitable. I’ve been forecasting a disaster of that nature for some time. And it will happen again. You see, with so many climbers on the mountain, climbers are practically queuing up for the difficult parts. What happens then, quite a few don’t get to the top till 3 or later in the afternoon. And then, like in this instance, the late weather comes sweeping in.” [...]

50 [12] “I walked off of that mountain,” said Burleson, who was awarded the American Alpine Club’s most prestigious honor for his part in the 1996 rescue effort, “and I had phone calls from all over the world asking: ‘Can I climb Everest? Can I climb Everest?’ Before that, there were only a few of us, and we knew what we were doing. But now everybody wanted to do it.”

[13] “The ’96 tragedy, Jon Krakauer’s book, the Mallory expedition [when Mallory’s body was found in 1999],
55 blogging, it crossed over from just climbers being interested to everybody being interested,” Simonson said. “The audience exponentially increased.”

[14] The new demand for Everest expeditions outpaced the supply, especially from the mostly Western guide agencies that had offered such services, said Alan Arnette, an Everest expert, summit coach and blogger. Those firms typically took small groups, often no more than 10 clients, and brought along up to four guides with several
60 more Sherpas, who help fasten ropes and haul gear. Since acclimatizing to Everest’s elevation can take days and the climbing is slow going, the average Everest quest takes close to two months and costs around \$70,000.

[15] Other guide agencies emerged and began leading larger trips at lower prices without requiring climbers to have certain requisite experience, experts said, and the mountain got even more crowded. And as more underqualified adventurers attempted to summit the peak, Everest was normalized as a tourist destination. “If you
65 have the money, you can go,” Burleson said. “That’s pretty much what’s happened.”

[16] To Krakauer, who declined an interview for this story, the allure of climbing one of the world’s most dangerous mountains has always defied logic. “Attempting to climb Everest is an intrinsically irrational act—a triumph of desire over sensibility,” he wrote in the introduction of *Into Thin Air*. “Any person who would seriously consider it is almost by definition beyond the sway of reasoned argument.”

END OF READING PASSAGES

Sources of the materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the Mock Exam Report released by Oxford University Press (China) Ltd. at a later stage.

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