

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

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ANSWER KEY

Ying Wa College's So Kwun-wai takes his shot

Winning the Nike All Hong Kong Schools Jing Ying Basketball Tournament against defending champions Diocesan Boys' School felt like making a slam dunk, says the 17-year-old basketball player.

Ask most athletes who their idols are, and they'll give you a list and why they wish to follow in their footsteps. That's not so much the case for So Kwun-wai, who is a shooting guard for Ying Wa College's basketball team.

"I want to develop my own style," says the basketball player. "And I'll do that by learning from the **techniques** of different basketball stars and creating my own."

Kwun-wai, 17, is well known for scoring baskets on court, but even when he's on the **offensive**, Kwun-wai places a lot of emphasis on defence.

"San Antonio Spurs' Kawhi Leonard manages to stop his **rivals** from scoring," Kwun-wai says. "He prevents people from passing the ball to whoever he is guarding. You need both, not just offence, to be an all-rounded basketball player."

What is it about Kwun-wai that makes him such a **formidable** shooting guard?

"I train hard," he says immediately. "During practice I shoot more than 10 times in each position. That **diligence** helped before the tournament, but to win against DBS, the team needed more than just his improved shooting, so they developed a number of **strategies**."

Kwun-wai's hard work was rewarded when he was named Most Valuable Player in the tournament, and his team defeated the defending champions DBS 72-70 in the final. The victory was sweet. The shooting guard **attributes** their success to toughness of the mind too.

"Even though we were **trailing** DBS by 10 points after the third set, we didn't panic and focused on scoring."

Bench Notes

If you could have the abilities of any animal for one competition, which one would you choose and why?

The poisonous snake – it's so **agile** and fast, and it has a deadly attack. One bite from it and its **prey** is dead. I'd love to have the ability to be super quick (so that I could score) and super deadly (so that I could win).

Which fictional character would you choose as your teammate?

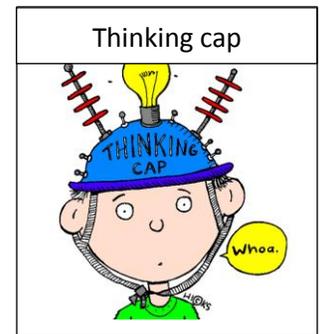
I would want Hanamichi Sakuragi from the Japanese manga *Slam Dunk*. He has great rebounding and jump shooting skills, and he could help our team score lots.

What song title best describes you when you're playing your sport?

Shakira's *Try Everything*, which is also a feature song of the film *Zootopia* because of lyrics like: "Birds don't just fly, they fall down and get up/Nobody learns without getting it wrong."

Questions to think about:

- Success comes in many forms. However, why do you think parents in Hong Kong typically focus on their children achieving academic success? Why is sport not encouraged as much? Would you be different as a parent?
- Sports stars (much like movie or pop stars) are often chosen to advertise products or to be ambassadors for charities etc. What are some important considerations in choosing a star to be a role model?
- Why do you think So Kwun-wai chose the song *Try Everything* and its lyrics to best describe him? What animal, fictional character or song would best represent you? Why?



I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning

Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. technique(s) (n)	D	A: hard work
2. offensive (n)	H	B: regard something as being caused by/say something is the reason for
3. rival(s) (n)	I	C: ability to move quickly or easily
4. formidable (adj)	F	D: skill
5. strategy(ies) (n)	J	E: an animal that is hunted and killed by another for food
6. diligence (n)	A	F: inspiring fear or respect through being powerful, very good at something
7. attribute(s) (v)	B	G: to be behind/to be losing (e.g in a game)
8. trail(ing) (v)	G	H: attack
9. agile (adj)	C	I: opponent
10. prey (n)	E	J: a plan of action designed to achieve an aim

II: Usage of vocabulary: Using the vocabulary from the table in Part I, fill in the missing words of the paragraph below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Our school basketball team were looking forward to the finals as we had been practising a lot of new (a) **strategies**, in other words, plans of attack to improve our game. We had upped our (b) **offensive** tactics, especially shooting as this has been weaker than our defence. The way we shoot, our (c) **technique** is a lot better now. Lots of fitness work and running has also improved our (d) **agility** in recent weeks. The players move round the court much better – certainly quicker. We knew we were up against a (e) **formidable** team, a strong, skilful team that commands a lot of respect in the league. Our coach (f) **attributes** their success to their teamwork, silky skills and physical strength. They have been our (g) **rivals**, our main opponent for many years, and we were desperate to beat them. Hopefully our (h) **diligence**, our weeks of hard work, will pay off. In last year's final, unfortunately, we (i) **trailed** from the start, never catching up, so we lost, and lost quite badly. This year we did not want to be like (j) **prey**, or in other words, hunted animals, but be predators, the hunters ourselves.

Challenge of the week: Fun sports trivia with prizes to be won

ENGLISH CORNER CAFÉ IS ALWAYS OPEN ON A TUESDAY FOR DRINKS, SNACKS, CONVERSATION & GAMES