

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

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Booing Chinese national anthem a 'serious issue' about respect and identity, Hong Kong leader says

The boos come from hard-core fans who worry that Hong Kong's **autonomy** and unique identity are being **undermined** by Beijing. A few even hold up signs **advocating** independence, an idea that mainland and local officials **denounce** as illegal.

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam has **hit out** at local fans who boo the Chinese national anthem at football matches, saying the issue was "a very serious" one despite it being only a small minority of fans that were doing so.

Lam largely steered clear of **contentious** political issues in her **maiden** policy address on Wednesday, but in a press conference afterwards she was asked to comment on **jeers** heard for *March of the Volunteers* before the Hong Kong football team defeated Malaysia on Tuesday.

Lam said, "Some people said: 'Don't boo, otherwise the next game is going to be played behind closed doors,'" she said. "But I think that shows the wrong focus. I must make it clear that this is an issue of respect for the nation and whether you recognise you are Chinese."

Lam did not use the phrase "Hong Kong independence" throughout her 88-page policy blueprint, a marked contrast to her **predecessor** Leung Chun-ying who referred to it a number of times. The former chief executive made full use of the same platform to **lash out** at young separatists.

But Wu Chi-wai, chairman of the Democratic Party, was unhappy with the **scant** reference to political reform.

"From what we saw with the recent jailing of young activists and the legal bids to disqualify lawmakers, it is clear that social divisions have not been eased even though Lam has placed her focus on livelihood issues."

Wu was referring to prison sentences handed down in August to Joshua Wong, Nathan Law Alex Chow, three key leaders of 2014's Occupy pro-democracy protests, for their part in an illegal protest in the run-up to the sit-ins that shut down parts of the city.

But Lam said: "Social division cannot be healed by me writing a hundred words about it, but by actual action and work, and that action can be seen in every chapter and section of my address."

* *promised*

Meanwhile, Lam attempted to reach out to the city's youth, including by announcing an effort to recruit 20 to 30 young people on a non-civil service basis to a government think tank. Lam **pledged* not to consider political affiliation in the appointments. A Youth Development Commission, which would enable holistic examination of young people's concerns, would also be set up next year, Lam said.

Questions to think about:

- What is your opinion on the issue or issues raised in this article?
- Why are some Hong Kong football fans jeering? – What are the underlying issues, how may some of the young people in society be feeling, and why?
- What may this issue do to Hong Kong's image abroad?
- How does this issue compare with what has been happening at American football games with respect to the playing of the American national anthem and some athletes' response?



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. autonomy (n)	C	A: publicly recommend or support
2. undermine (v)	G	B: a person who held an office, a position of power before the current leader
3. advocate (v)	A	C: self-governing country or region, not being controlled by other powers, being independent
4. denounce (v)	J	D: the first of something
5. hit out/lash out (phrasal verbs)	F	E: a rude or mocking remark, yelling out for example 'boo' at something you do not like
6. contentious (v)	H	F: criticise or speak up against something or someone strongly
7. maiden (v)	D	G: lessen the power or effectiveness of someone or something (negative meaning)
8. jeer (n)	E	H: controversial, causing arguments or disagreements
9. predecessor	B	I: barely sufficient, adequate or enough
10. scant (adj)	I	J: publicly declare wrong or evil

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

1. The Titanic sank on its **maiden** voyage. Its first trip was one of high hopes but it ended in disaster.
2. The crowd erupted in loud **jeers** when the player who scored an own goal came on to the football pitch. He had lost the country the chance of qualifying for the world cup.
3. Trump **denounced** the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas as an act of pure evil.
4. I am lucky because my boss gives me a large degree of **autonomy** at work. She does not look over my shoulder and gives me freedom to make decisions.
5. People cannot agree on the issue, it is quite **contentious**. People have differing viewpoints. The situation is tense.
6. He was so angry with the situation he **lashed out/hit out** without thinking through things clearly. He spoke up strongly and said things he should not have and regretted it later.
7. The information on the topic is so **scant**, it is hard to prepare well for the debate.
8. Many people **advocate** change as they think the situation can be improved rather than accepting things for what they are. They recommend action over inaction.
9. Tom is always trying to **undermine** my authority in the workplace. He speaks badly of me behind my back.
10. My **predecessor** in my job left because of ill feeling in the office. He had been in the job before me for only 6 months.

Challenge of the week: Listen to Ms Roberts



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

See Ms Roberts for prizes if you know the answers!