

ANSWER KEY

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: 29th Nov, 2016

Hong Kong homeless raise awareness of their plight by snapping photos of daily life

Unique diary project hands cameras to street sleepers in face of rising numbers

On a bench underneath a footbridge you can find 68-year-old Peter Goh reading a newspaper. Cheerful and polite, he's well known by those who work nearby, with many stopping to chat during their **commute**. But when the day draws to an end and the streets empty, Goh remains.

"I take the cleanest papers and spread them out on the ground at about 8pm," he said.

"Around 3am I'll make my way to the Sikh Temple where they serve free food, and then come back to the bench at 7am."

Goh is one of eight homeless participants in a new photo diary project that aims to highlight homelessness in the city. Created by two Hongkongers and an expat, the "Our City, My Story" project involves giving **disposable** cameras to the homeless and encouraging them to take photos of their daily lives. The photos are shared on a website. The operation was **inspired** by London-based social enterprise Cafe Art, according to project leader Stephanie Lau Chi-woon, 27, a Hong Kong-based marketing professional.

"We want to give these individuals a chance to tell their side of the story. We want to humanise the homeless," she said.

Hong Kong street sleepers more than doubled from 229 in 2008 to 742 last year, according to a report this year by the Census and Statistics Department. As of last month, the number was 912. Yet in January, a citywide survey by local universities and NGOs found there were 1,614 homeless people last October – almost triple that of 2004.

Ng Wai-tung, a community organiser at non-profit Society for Community Organisation (SoCO), said the city's homeless population was growing because the local housing **crisis** kept worsening without affordable **options**. Ng said that although some homeless people have jobs and can afford low-income housing, many choose to live on the streets because of the **harsh** living conditions in such units and the city's lack of rent control.

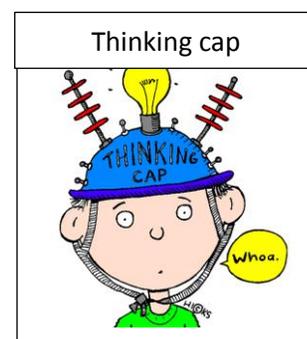
SoCO has pushed for the government to create more medium-term housing options enabling people to stay for at least three years, yet the government lacks policies or a specific department dealing with the homeless, he said.

Homeless individuals also face challenges when it comes to employment. Those who are unable to provide a phone number or home address often have trouble landing a job.

A Social Welfare Department spokeswoman said the government subsidises NGOs to provide street sleepers with services such as hostels, emergency shelter, employment guidance and personal care. She added the department has an emergency **fund** covering certain expenses like rental deposits and living costs for **eligible** users.

1. Questions to think about:

- Can you imagine being homeless?
- What have you learnt from reading this article?
- What can you do to help the homeless in Hong Kong?



2. 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. plight (n)	E	A: take
2. snap (v)	A	B: give people motivation to do something
3. commute (n)	H	C: very difficult/tough
4. disposable (adj)	G	D: a time of difficulty/a situation where there is a big problem
5. inspire(d) (v)	B	E: a dangerous, difficult, or unfortunate situation
6. crisis (n)	D	F: having the right to do or get something
7. option(s) (n)	I	G: throw-away
8. harsh (adj)	C	H: a regular journey to and from one's place of work
9. fund (n)	J	I: choice
10. eligible (adj)	F	J: an amount of money available for a particular purpose

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. You will not need one of the words.

1. Many people **snap** selfies of themselves.
2. To be **eligible** to vote, you have to be at least 18 years of age.
3. Too many people use **disposable** items such as cutlery and containers which is not an environmentally friendly practice. People use things once and throw them away. What a waste!
4. What **inspired** you to come up with such a creative idea?
5. Many people who live in big cities have a long **commute** to work.
6. Conditions in the desert can be **harsh**. It is not easy to survive.
7. The refugee **crisis/plight** in the world is getting worse. What a huge problem we face!
8. The government has set up a special education **fund** to help people who do not have enough money to get a basic education.
9. In the end, I did not have any **options**, so I had to take a job I did not really want.

Challenge of the week:

This week's challenge is easy as they get. Come to the English Corner Café to enjoy some early Christmas treats!