

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

**Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**MTR chaos blamed on ‘rogue computers’**

Rail operator at loss to explain uncontrolled transfer of large amounts of information that brought chaos to city on Tuesday morning

The worst breakdown to ever hit Hong Kong’s railway was caused by **rogue** computers operating without orders, the MTR Corporation’s chief engineer said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the signalling system on four major stopped working shortly before rush hour causing **chaos** for the city’s **commuters** on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Alan Cheng, deputy chief of operating, said MTR staff had found out about the signal failures at about 5.30am on Tuesday, and tried to conduct emergency repairs before the first train was **scheduled** to run at 6am, but given the situation was **pessimistic**, the problem was reported to the Transport Department. A code red **alert** was issued at around 6.20am

Tony Lee, the rail operator’s top engineer, said he still did not know why the system failure had happened. It appeared to start with the Tsuen Wan line, where they had been carrying a test of a new signaling system. “They were doing something we called ‘**synchronisation**’. It occupied large amounts of computing resources and made the computers **unstable**. We believe this was related to [problems in] programmes and setting. He went on to say, “We have never seen this kind of data synchronisation before. By 4.30pm on Tuesday, we had successfully switched back to the existing system.”

According to the service performance agreement between the MTR Corp and the government, introduced in 2013, the railway operator can be subject to a fine for service **disruptions** that last for more than 31 minutes.

*Adapted from The South China Morning Post dated 18<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2018.*



**Questions to think about:**

- What is the impact of the use of mass transit systems on our quality of life? Analyse the question from a social, environmental and economic perspective.
- “Students should make all possible transportation arrangements for arriving at school on time.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
- What does this incident reveal (show) about both the importance and potential dangers of technology?

**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. chaos (adj)	<b>E</b>	A: a person or thing that behaved in an unexpected way usually with a negative or damaging result
2. blame (v)	<b>H</b>	B: arrange or to plan something
3. rogue (adj)	<b>A</b>	C: the operation of two or more things at the same time
4. commuter (n)	<b>J</b>	D: when a situation is uncertain or imbalanced
5. schedule (v)	<b>B</b>	E: complete disorder and confusion
6. pessimistic (adj)	<b>G</b>	F: a signal of warning or danger
7. alert (n)	<b>F</b>	G: when something looks like it is not going to go well, to describe someone who thinks the worst will happen
8. synchronisation (n)	<b>C</b>	H: feel or say that someone or something is the reason for a problem or failure
9. unstable (adj)	<b>D</b>	I: when a problem interrupts or stops something from happening
10. disruption (n)	<b>I</b>	J: a person who travels to work on a regular basis, a person who uses the public transport to get to work

**II: Usage of vocabulary:** Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the passage below making sure your answers are grammatically correct. Use the words in italics to help you.

Luckily, Hong Kong has strong (1) **alert** or *warning* systems in place in the event of a typhoon hitting this city. Therefore, the loss of life and damage caused is minimised. Even with the most severe typhoon to hit us in September, there were no deaths. However, the typhoon did cause (2) **disruptions** to *flights in and out of Hong Kong*. Any flights (3) **scheduled** to land or take off had to be cancelled. In other words, they *could not run to plan*.

On the day following the eye of the storm, (4) **commuters** had trouble *getting to work* because of the damage the storm had caused. The situation was (5) **chaotic** to say the least, *a mess*, and people took much longer than normal to reach their workplace. Schools were shut down for two days following the typhoon as the EDB felt the situation was too (6) **unstable** or *uncertain* for students to return to school safely.

Following the typhoon, some people (7) **blamed** the government for being too slow in cleaning up after the typhoon. They say it is the *government's fault* for not acting sooner to make sure everything is up and running again. However, it is not something that can be done overnight. It takes time to (8) **synchronise** various departments to make sure they *work together coordinate various clean-up plans*.

Fill in the missing words of the following sentences.

(9) Do not be **pessimistic**, always look on the bright side of life.

(10) The spy went **rogue** and worked against his own government.

*This Tuesday, the film, Wonder, will be shown in the Salesian Youth Catholic Centre in a joint project with the English Corner. Please come and watch. There are rewards for questions answered. Note, the MMLLB will be closed.*