

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

**Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2019**



Nearly 3 million Hongkongers voted in Sunday's district council elections, the record-breaking **turnout** sending a peaceful but powerful signal of their demand for a say in the politics of their protest-rocked city.

Voter turnout was confirmed at 71.2 per cent of 4.1 million registered to vote, compared with 47 per cent in the 2015 polls, and far **surpassed** the record of 58 per cent set in 2016's Legislative Council elections, where at least 10 localist candidates were elected.

Ballots were being counted as soon as **polling** ended at 10.30pm, with final results expected in the early hours of Monday, although **disputes** could delay the outcomes in several keenly fought districts. But all indications were that there would be a significant **shift** away from the pro-establishment camp that had dominated the district council landscape for years. Shortly before 1am, it was announced that the overall turnout was 2.94 million.

Signs of a struggle to **retain** their vote share emerged as early as 11am when candidates in the camp often dubbed as pro-Beijing and allies of the government began issuing emergency calls for votes to **boost** their chances.

Voters joined snaking queues that **coiled** around housing blocks and neighbourhood markets and parks. Voting proceeded largely without incident.

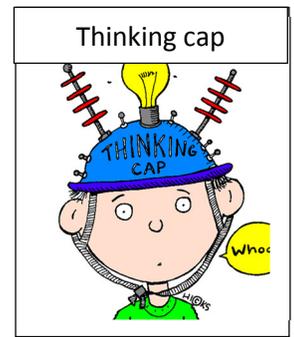
For many young people, a candidate's political **stance** – rather than community benefits and services a councillor could promise – was the most important factor in making a choice.

Either way, the record turnout would be seen as a signal from voters to have their say in politics, said analysts, who also suggested that the need to reopen discussion on political reform could not be **deferred** for much longer without fuelling people's frustrations.

*Source: Adapted from the South China Morning Post dated Nov 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

## Questions to think about:

- What are your views on the elections which took place in Hong Kong on Sunday?
- Why is the right to vote important? Would you vote once you are eligible to vote?
- In some countries, for example, in Australia it is compulsory for an adult to vote? Do you think it should be compulsory to vote?
- What are some of the problems with election campaigns?
- What are some possible problems once a candidate is elected?



### 1. I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning

Match the meaning and/or synonym to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. turnout (n)		A: increase / help or encourage (something) to increase or improve
2. surpass (verb)		B: put off, delay until a future date, postpone
3. polling (n)		C: disagreement / quarrel / argument
4. dispute (n/v)		D: viewpoint
5. shift (n)		E: change
6. retain (v)		F: recording the opinion or vote of
7. boost (v)		G: keep /continue to have
8. coil (v)		H: to go above / exceed / greater than
9. stance (v)		I: the number of people attending an event or occasion, especially the number of people voting in an election.
10. defer(v)		J: to wind around

**II: Usage of vocabulary:** Fill in the missing words of the sentences below using the vocabulary (1-10) from column A. The words in brackets or italics may help you. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

1. These days many young people graduating from school choose to \_\_\_\_\_ studying at university, *often for a year*, and take what they call a gap year. They want to get real life experience and *take a break from studying until a future date*.
2. Before the day of the elections, surveys are often conducted asking the public for their *viewpoint* or (a) \_\_\_\_\_. (b) \_\_\_\_\_ is one way of parties *finding out how many of the public may vote for their candidate*. *Changes* or (c) \_\_\_\_\_ in public opinions do happen so these surveys are usually done a number of times in the lead up to election day. *Keeping* or (d) \_\_\_\_\_ public confidence is never easy.
3. I couldn't believe the length of the *queue* for the concert, it (a) \_\_\_\_\_ around the whole stadium *weaving in and out*. I had not known the event would be so popular. Actually, ticket sales have surprised the organisers (b) \_\_\_\_\_ expectations, in other words, *the numbers being much greater than first anticipated*. The (c) \_\_\_\_\_, *the numbers attending*, for the event this year should be a record in the history of the event.
4. What a silly thing to *fight* over! However, the \_\_\_\_\_ between my parents and their neighbours seems to be long standing. How grown ups can be so petty amazes me!
5. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ my confidence with public speaking which is very low, I joined the Toastmasters as they give you lots of tips and practice.