

Name: _____ () Date: _____
Class: _____

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (26 marks)

B1 level

No. of Words: 784

Elsie Tu dies aged 102

14 December 2015

- [1] With the passing of experienced politician and social activist Elsie Tu on 8 December 2015, Hong Kong lost one of the rarest of her citizens — one who had devoted over 60 years of her life serving the people of a place she has long considered home. Tu's legacy is visible in all aspects of public life in the city — from education and housing to transport and law. Her efforts in fighting for a fairer society and improving the situations in Hong Kong have earned her respect from the locals; some of them even considered her a representation of the 'Hong Kong spirit' despite her British origin.
- [2] Born to John and Florence Hume, a working-class couple, in northeast England in 1913, Tu had a humble upbringing. She went to China with her then husband, William Elliot, as missionaries in 1947 and arrived in Hong Kong in 1951, after they were expelled by the Chinese Communist Party.
- [3] Shocked by the poverty and injustice in Hong Kong, she grew increasingly frustrated with her church's refusal to work on social issues and she and her husband grew apart. The couple separated after leaving for England in 1955. Tu then returned to Hong Kong alone and settled down. Not many people then realized that that it was the beginning of Tu's long journey against the city's widespread inequality.
- [4] A remarkable contribution from Tu was that she set up a school dedicated to providing education to children from poor families. In 1954, she and her associates founded Mu Kuang English School, with only 30 pupils in an old army tent. Among the associates was a young Chinese man called Andrew Tu, who became her husband 31 years later. For about a year, she lived in a small hut next to the school and lived only on bread and water. These children would not have afforded an education if it had not been for Tu. It is Mu Kuang that is most representative of Tu's enduring strength and energy, with which she promoted education among the most vulnerable and underprivileged of Hong Kong.
- [5] Tu's special status as the only white woman among the local Chinese majority — the latter was frequently looked down upon by the British colonials — and her quest for fairness often seemed to have given her the freedom to be outspoken in her criticism against the wrongdoings she witnessed. Government officials, however unwilling they might be, listened to her. Understandably, this attracted a great deal of unwanted attention from the colonial government, who saw her as a troublemaker.

[6] In the 60s and 70s, Tu was actively involved in many important social movements in Hong Kong. She collected over 20,000 signatures against the colonial government's decision to increase the fares of the Star Ferry crossing by 25% in 1966 and organized massive teachers' strikes in protest against a 15% pay cut of certified teachers in the 70s. While the teachers' strikes paved way to the creation of the city's first teachers' union, the Star Ferry demonstrations grew into the Hong Kong 1966 Riots. As a result, Tu was persecuted and accused of provoking the riots but was never found guilty.

[7] Apart from her strong opposition to British colonialism and how ethnic Chinese were treated, Tu was also known for her antipathy towards corruption. Back then, people had to offer bribes to officials when applying for public services; and police would turn a blind eye to gang members. Tu took pictures of police supervising payoffs to criminals and sent the photos to the press, which had motivated citizens to pressure the government into ridding the city of flourishing corruption. In 1974, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was established under the governorship of Sir Murray MacLehose, who regularly consulted Tu for her views on the undesirable levels of corruption in Hong Kong.

[8] Tu was elected urban councillor in 1963 and remained in the position until 1995. Even before entering political life, she campaigned for better living conditions for the Chinese population in post-war Hong Kong by writing letters to the British administrators. Some of the elderly in Kwun Tong, where Tu had served for 32 years, may still remember the white-haired English lady who listened to their complaints about issues such as housing and education. It was this dedication, despite the cultural and language differences, which had won her the hearts of the common people of Hong Kong.

[9] Tu's guiding principle was 'to be good and useful in life', which she had followed very closely throughout her life. She will be remembered not only for all the selfless contributions she brought to our city but also for her enthusiasm in life, which had driven her to live life to the fullest.

Comprehension

1. What happened on 8 December 2015? _____
2. Who does 'the locals' (line 6) refer to? _____
3. Why was Tu considered a representation of the 'Hong Kong spirit' (line 6)?

4. What is the significance of Tu's return to Hong Kong after 1955?

5. Based on information in paragraphs 3–4, decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given**. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement. (4 marks)

	T	F	NG
i) Many people were poor and society was full of injustice in Hong Kong in the early 1950s.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Tu divorced her first husband in Hong Kong.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Children who went to Mu Kuang English School did not have to pay school fees.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iv) Tu could barely support herself in the first year of her teaching.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Find a word in paragraph 4 that has the same meaning as 'poor'.

7. Why did Tu found Mu Kuang English School?

8. What does 'which' (line 23) refer to?

9. According to paragraph 5, what made Elsie Tu special among other people?

10. Which of the following is true about paragraph 5?

A. Few people would fight for the Chinese's rights back then.				
B. Tu had the ability to influence government decisions.				
C. The colonial government looked down on Tu.	A	B	C	D
D. Tu often criticized other white people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Give TWO examples in the text that show that Elsie Tu was ‘a troublemaker’ (line 30) to the colonial government. (2 marks)

i) _____

ii) _____

12. What does the word ‘antipathy’ (line 39) suggest about Tu’s attitude towards corruption?

A. unconcerned

B. shameful

C. proud

D. disapproving

A	B	C	D
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Who set up the ICAC?

14. Put the following events in the order in Tu’s life. Put the numbers (1–4) in the spaces provided. The first one has been done for you.

Elected urban councillor

Came to Hong Kong

Campaigned against pay cut of teachers

Married her second husband

1

15. Based on the information given in paragraph 8, complete the text by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to word form, plurals, etc. (6 marks)

After being elected a (i) _____ in 1963, Tu served the residents in (ii) _____. Residents would (iii) _____ to her about issues such as housing and education. She was (iv) _____ to serving the local people even though she spoke a different (v) _____ and was from a different (vi) _____ background.

16. What had driven Tu to live life to the fullest?

17. Give ONE example of Tu’s ‘selfless contributions’ (line 54)?

Elsie Tu dies aged 102

Answer key

1. She died. (line 1)
2. Hong Kong people (line 5)
3. She had devoted her life serving the people in Hong Kong and she had put a lot of effort in fighting for a fairer society and improving the situations in Hong Kong. (lines 2–3, 4–5)
4. It was the beginning of her long journey against Hong Kong's widespread inequality. (lines 15–16)
5. i) T (line 12)
ii) F (line 14)
iii) NG
iv) T (line 20)
6. underprivileged (line 24)
7. To provide education to children from poor families (lines 17–18)
8. Enduring strength and energy (line 23)
9. She was the only white woman among the local Chinese majority. (line 25)
10. B (line 28)
11. (i) She collected over 20,000 signatures against the colonial government's decision in increasing the Star Ferry crossing fares by 25% in 1966 (lines 32–33)
(ii) She organized massive teachers' strikes in protest against a 15% pay cut of certified teachers. (lines 33–34)
12. D
13. Sir Murray MacLehose (line 44)
14.

Elected urban councillor (1963) (line 46)	2
Came to Hong Kong (1951) (line 10)	1
Campaigned against pay cut of teachers (1970s) (line 34)	3
Married her second husband (1985) (line 20)	4
15. i) councillor (line 46)
ii) Kwun Tong (line 49)
iii) complain (line 50)
iv) dedicated (line 51)
v) language (line 51)
vi) cultural (line 51)
16. Her enthusiasm for life (line 55)
17. She devoted over 60 years of her life serving people of a place far from where she came from. (lines 2–3) // She started Mu Kuang English School although she was not very rich. (lines 19–21) // Despite being persecuted as a result of the 1966 Riots, she continued to fight for the Chinese people, such as organizing massive teachers' strikes in the 1970s. (lines 33–37)