

Name: _____ () Date: _____
Class: _____

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (22 marks)

B1 level

No. of Words: 798

Tsai Ing-wen elected Taiwan's first female president

20 January 2016

- [1] In Taiwan's presidential election on 16 January, the 56-year-old opposition candidate Tsai Ing-wen won a landslide victory, securing 56.2% of the voters against the 30.9% by Eric Chu, who stood for the nationalist Kuomintang (KMT). Her election not only suggests a new age for the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), but also a new era for the island's relationship with mainland China.
- [2] Tsai's victory in the presidential race also ended the eight-year rule of the pro-China KMT government. The change in leadership also marks the rise of the DPP as a strong competitor to the once-dominant KMT, with the DPP taking 68 seats and the nationalist party taking 35 in the parliament.
- [3] Known for her unassuming manner, Tsai is seen as an unusual politician, particularly on an island renowned for the unrestrained, dramatic behaviour in the parliament and occasional strong disagreement with the Chinese government. Those who are close to Tsai, the softly spoken scholar, describe her as someone who prefers examining policy details at home in the company of her two cats to going to campaign rallies.
- [4] Even so, it does not mean she lacks political conviction. 'Only Taiwanese can determine the nation's future,' said Tsai in an election campaign. In a speech as the president-elect, Tsai reiterated, in front of her supporters, her determination to defend Taiwan's democratic way of life.
- [5] Her speech is, unsurprisingly, a challenge to the Chinese government, as they still consider the island a province to be reunified. While she has promised to maintain the status quo between democratic Taiwan and one-party China, Tsai will also need to reshape relations with Beijing, as the island's flagging economy — which grew by merely one per cent last year — desperately needs revitalizing, and its economic revival largely depends on its relationship with China, its largest trading partner across the strait.

25 [6] Before entering the political field, Tsai has spent years in deep academic pursuits:
obtaining first a bachelor of law from National Taiwan University, then a master's degree from
New York's Cornell University and a PhD from the London School of Economics. She then
returned to her homeland and became a law professor. With her area of expertise and English
proficiency, she became a legal consultant for Taiwan's World Trade Organization (WTO) entry
30 negotiations in the 1990s.

[7] During her service in the government, Tsai has built a reputation as a tenacious negotiator
and a flexible consensus-builder. Ho Mei-yueh, a former economics minister who worked
closely with Tsai, commented that although Tsai would not take the initiative to go on stage, she
became the leader 'once she sat down at the meeting table'. A leaked US diplomatic cable said
35 that she was viewed as an 'extremely capable' and 'very persuasive' person.

[8] Compared to other DPP politicians, Tsai is not regarded as strongly ideological and is
known to shun confrontation and avoid seeking attention. She is also cautious when answering
questions, or when choosing which questions to answer. Since the election campaign, she has
been tactful about clarifying her stance on Taiwan's independence.

40 [9] Despite becoming one of the most powerful women in the Chinese-speaking world, Tsai
only formally entered politics in 2004 when she joined the DPP. She has been praised for
leading the party through great changes after its election defeat in 2008. The party was
financially broke then while the outgoing president Chen Shui-bian was being charged with
corruption. In a matter of two to three years, she was able to make the DPP once again a viable
45 party and stood for the 2012 presidential race against the still popular KMT president Ma
Ying-jeou. Tsai was defeated because she failed to gain the support of business leaders — who
wanted smoother ties with China — as well as young people. This defeat forced her to work on
her campaign skills and building a network of young activists.

[10] But it was not until 2014, when students occupied the Taiwanese parliament to protest
50 against a trade deal with China that she started to get the support of Taiwan's young activists.
Tsai was quick to back the so-called Sunflower Movement and drew on the range of concerns
they had about Beijing's increasing political and economic influence on the island. Analysts said
her ability to understand these concerns proved decisive in this year's election as she succeeded
in getting young people to vote for her, while her personality and professional qualifications
55 have attracted the votes from people in the centre of Taiwan's political spectrum.

[11] Once the post-election excitement is over, all eyes will be on the not-very-charismatic Tsai.
She has declared her determination of maintaining the status quo of the Taiwan Strait. Her
biggest challenge will be to negotiate with Beijing while maintaining the support of those who
still hope to fight for Taiwan independence and the young voters who supported her.

Comprehension

1. When did Tsai Ing-wen won the presidential election?

2. Which of the following is true according to paragraph 1?

- A. The relationship between China and Taiwan is poor.
B. Tsai supports the unification of China and Taiwan.
C. Tsai belongs to the Democratic Progressive Party.
D. Eric Chu is the current president of Taiwan.

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

3. What does 'the island' (line 4) refer to?

4. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

(2 marks)

By the time Tsai becomes the _____, the KMT will have ruled Taiwan for eight years and taken up the majority of the seats in the _____.

5. According to paragraph 3, Tsai ...

- A. is an unrestrained politician in the parliament.
B. has strong disagreement with the Chinese government.
C. does most of her work at home.
D. does not like attending political events.

A	B	C	D
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6. What does 'it' (line 15) refer to?

7. Why is Tsai's speech a challenge to the Chinese government?

(2 marks)

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

- i) To Tsai, Taiwan is not a part of China.
ii) The Chinese government has great influence on Taiwan's economy.
iii) Taiwan lies on the border of China.

T	F	NG
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Find an expression in paragraph 5 that means the same as 'the present situation'.

10. Match the main points (A–D) with one of the corresponding paragraphs on the left. Write the correct letter (A–D) on the line next to the paragraph number. ONE main point is NOT used. (3 marks)

Paragraph No.	Main Point
i) Paragraph 6 _____	A. Tsai is seen to be very good at her job.
ii) Paragraph 7 _____	B. Tsai has a very solid educational background.
iii) Paragraph 8 _____	C. Tsai's performance in the government
	D. Tsai knows what to say and what not to say in politics.

11. Do you think Tsai will tell the public clearly what she thinks about Taiwan's independence? Give a reason from the text.

12. Based on the information in paragraph 9, complete the summary 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. (4 marks)

Tsai has been (i) _____ for her work in the DPP. She successfully turned the (ii) _____, which had been bankrupt in 2008, into a viable one by 2012. In the same year, she competed (iii) _____ Ma Ying-jeou for the presidency but she (iv) _____.

13. How does Tsai get the support of the majority of the voters in 2016's presidential race? Give TWO reasons from the text. (2 marks)

- i) _____

ii) _____

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Answer key

1. 16 January (line 1)
2. C (lines 3–4)
3. Taiwan (line 1)
4. president (line 6); parliament (line 9)
5. D (lines 13–14)
6. Her dislike for attending campaign rallies (line 14)
7. The Chinese government still considers Taiwan a province to be unified (lines 19–20)
(1 mark)
but Tsai said that only Taiwanese can determine the nation's future (lines 15–16). (1 mark)
8. (i) NG
(ii) T (line 23)
(iii) F (lines 23–24)
9. the status quo (line 20)
10. (i) B
(ii) A
(iii) D
11. No. She has been tactful about clarifying her stance on Taiwan's independence since the election campaign. (lines 38 – 39) //
No. She is known to shun confrontation (line 37) and speaking publicly about what she thinks may bring confrontation with the Chinese government or people who support Taiwan independence.
12. (i) praised (line 41)
(ii) party (line 42)
(iii) against (line 45)
(iv) lost
13. (i) She understands the concerns young people had about Beijing's increasing political and economic influence on Taiwan. (lines 51–52)
(ii) People in the centre of Taiwan's political spectrum like her personality and professional qualifications. (lines 54–55)