

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

**B2 level**

No. of Words: 901

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (28 marks)

## Elsie Tu dies aged 102

14 December 2015

- [1] On 8 December 2015, Hong Kong lost one of the rarest of her citizens — one who devoted over 60 years of her life serving the people of a place she had long considered home. Thanks to her fight for a fairer society and tireless efforts to right the wrongs our city has seen throughout the years, her legacy is visible in all aspects of public life in Hong Kong, and shall remain so for the years to come. Her passing marks not only the death of a veteran politician but also the departure from life of a much-beloved lady, who has been lauded by some as the embodiment of the ‘Hong Kong spirit’, despite her British origin.
- [2] Elsie Tu, born Elsie Hume to John and Florence Hume in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England in 1913, had a humble, working-class upbringing. She went to China with her then husband, William Elliot, as missionaries in 1947 and came to Hong Kong in 1951 after being swept into the territory, joining the tide of refugees fleeing upheaval in Communist China.
- [3] Overwhelmed by the rampant 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. In 1955, after divorcing her husband, she settled in Hong Kong. Little did anyone know that it was the beginning of a one-woman campaign against the city’s widespread inequality.
- [4] One of Tu’s earliest contributions to Hong Kong was to set up a school dedicated to providing education to children from impoverished families. In 1954, she bought an old army tent and founded Mu Kuang English School with her associates, among whom was Andrew Tu, the young Chinese man who would become her husband some 30 years later. The school started with only 30 pupils and for about a year, she was living in dismal conditions — in a tiny shack adjacent to the tent school and subsisted on nothing more than 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 vigour, with which she promoted education among the most vulnerable and underprivileged of Hong Kong.
- [5] Tu’s special status as the only white woman in the midst of local Chinese majority — the latter was frequently seen as inferiors by the British colonials — and her quest for fairness often seemed to have given her the carte blanche to be outspoken in her criticism against the wrongs she witnessed. Government officials, however unwilling they might be, listened to her. Understandably, this attracted a great deal of unwanted attention from the ruling elites, who saw her as a troublemaker.
- [6] Strongly antipathetic towards British colonialism and how ethnic Chinese were treated, Tu

was actively involved in many of Hong Kong's game-changing social movements in the 60s and 70s. She managed to collect over 20,000 signatures against the government's decision to increase the fare of Star Ferry harbour 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 escalated into the Hong Kong 1966 Riots. As a result, Tu was persecuted and accused of instigating the riots but was never convicted of any charge.

[7] Tu was a fierce opponent of corruption — then pervasive across all social strata in Hong Kong — and the growing influence of the Triads. People had to offer bribes to officials when applying for public services; and police would turn a blind eye to gang members. Standing at the forefront of the anti-graft campaigns and making use of her privilege as a white person, Tu took pictures of police supervising payoffs to criminals and sent the photos to the press, which had galvanized residents into pressing for the government to rid the city of flourishing corruption. It all culminated in the Peter Godber case, where the Chief Police Superintendent was suspected of amassing over \$4.3 million from corrupt means and was still able to board a plane for London. Godber was subsequently extradited to Hong Kong and served a four-year sentence in prison. More importantly, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was established in 1974 under the governorship of Sir Murray MacLehose, who regularly consulted Tu for her views on the undesirable levels of corruption in Hong Kong.

[8] As early as in 1963, Tu was elected urban councillor 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 through incessant 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 more than abided by throughout her life. She will be remembered not only for all the selfless contributions she brought to our city but also for her admirable fervour for life, which had driven her to live life to the fullest.

## Comprehension

1. According to paragraph 1, how did Hong Kong lose one of her rarest of citizens on 8 December 2015?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does 'her legacy' (line 4) refer to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Find a word in paragraph 1 which means the same as 'praised'. \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Tu do before coming to Hong Kong?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does 'impoverished families' suggest about the children?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. 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. (5 marks)

	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>NG</b>
i) Nobody expected Tu would start fighting against inequality in Hong Kong in 1951.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Tu ate bread and water only in the first year of her teaching.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Tu single-handedly started Mu Kuang English School.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iv) Tu became the first principal of Mu Kuang English School.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
v) School fees at Mu Kuang in the 1950s were comparable to other schools at that time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Which of the following can best replace 'dismal' in line 20?

A. miserable				
B. extravagant	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
C. comfortable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D. barely tolerable				
8. What does 'which' (line 23) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What were seen as inferiors by the British colonials? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Suggest one word to replace 'wrongs' in line 27. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What does 'this' (line 29) refer to?  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. In what way was Tu a 'troublemaker' (line 30) in the eyes of the ruling elites? (2 marks)

i) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. The word 'game-changing' (line 32) suggests that these movements were ...

A. massive

B. significant

C. destructive

D. shocking

A

B

C

D

☐

☐

☐

☐

14. Find a phrase in paragraph 7 which suggests that corruption is everywhere in Hong Kong.

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Based on the information given in paragraph 7, 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. (4 marks)

Tu was a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ fighter against corruption. She did not (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the corrupt officials but took pictures and had the photos published in the (iii) \_\_\_\_\_. Hong Kong residents then acted together to (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ the government into taking action.

16. Where was Peter Godber caught for his corruption? \_\_\_\_\_

17. What was Tu's role in the ICAC?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. 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

Campaign against rise in Star Ferry fare

Founded Mu Kuang

1

19. What does 'this dedication' (line 56) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Do you think Tu had lived up to her guiding principle? Support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Elsie Tu dies aged 102

### Answer key

1. Through death (title)
2. A fairer society and fewer wrongs in Hong Kong (line 3)
3. Lauded (line 6)
4. She served as a missionary with her then husband in China. (line 10)
5. They were very poor. // They were from very poor families.
6. (i) T (lines 14–15)  
(ii) T (line 21)  
(iii) F (lines 18)  
(iv) NG  
(v) F (lines 22–23)
7. A
8. Tu's enduring vigour (line 23)
9. Local Chinese (line 25)
10. Unfairness // Inequality // Injustice
11. Tu's outspokenness in her criticism against the wrongs she witnessed.
12. (i) The government planned to increase the fare of Star Ferry harbour crossing by 25% but Tu collected over 20,000 signatures against the decision. (lines 33–34, 36–37)  
(ii) The government planned to cut the pay of certified teachers by 15%, but Tu organized massive teachers' strikes in protest. (lines 34–35)
13. B
14. Pervasive across all social strata in Hong Kong (lines 39–40)
15. (i) fierce (line 39)  
(ii) confront  
(iii) press (line 43) // newspaper  
(iv) pressure
16. In London / England (line 47)
17. The governor who set up ICAC regularly consulted her for her views on corruption (lines 49–50)
18.

Elected urban councillor (1963) (line 51)	3
Came to Hong Kong (1951) (line 10)	1
Campaign against rise in Star Ferry fare (1966) (line 34)	4
Founded Mu Kuang (1954) (line 18)	2
19. She campaigned for better living conditions for the Chinese population through writing incessant letters to the British administrators, and listened to complaints of people in Kwun Tong for 32 years. (lines 52–56)
20. Yes, she did. She was 'good' in fighting against unfairness / corruption and had been 'useful' through listening to and helping people in poverty and those who are underprivileged.