

Name: _____ () Date: _____
 Class: _____

B2 level

No. of Words: 895

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (23 marks)

Tsai Ing-wen elected Taiwan's first female president

20 January 2016

[1] The phrase 'not the "daughter of", "former partner of" or "wife of"' was used by the French newspaper *Libération* to describe one of Taiwan's most unusual president-elect, Tsai Ing-wen, in a report on the island's presidential election on 16 January. Political implications aside, this historic election marks not only a new age of female presidency but also the
 5 beginning of Taiwan's foray into the murky waters of the cross-strait relations.

[2] As presidential candidate and leader of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), the 59-year-old former law professor won a landslide victory, securing 56.2% of the votes against the 30.9% won by Eric Chu, who stood for the nationalist Kuomintang (KMT). This concluded the eight years of government of the pro-China KMT. The election also marks the
 10 first time the nationalist party has lost control of the island's legislature, with the Beijing-wary DPP taking 68 seats in the parliament and the nationalist party taking 35.

[3] On an island renowned for its unrestrained theatrics in the parliament and the occasional fiery standoffs with Beijing, Tsai's unassuming manner cannot be any more out of place. Those close to the softly spoken London School of Economics graduate say that she is far more at
 15 home poring over policy details in the company of her two cats, Think Think and Ah-Tsai, than going to campaign rallies.

[4] Tsai's moderation does not mean she lacks political conviction. A firm believer in Taiwan's democracy as its defining feature and that Taiwan's future should be determined by its people, the president-elect vows to defend Taiwan's democratic way of life. This poses a direct
 20 challenge to Beijing, which still considers the island a renegade province to be reunified. While she has pledged to uphold the uneasy 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 a meagre one per cent last year — desperately needs revitalizing, and an improved relationship with its largest trading partner across the strait will prove to be key to
 25 Taiwan's economic revival.

[5] Atypical among politicians in Taiwan are Tsai's quiet pragmatism and international perspective, which strikes a chord with many of those who cast their votes for a woman that spent years in deep academic pursuits. The youngest of 11 children born to the last of her father's four wives, she was brought up in an affluent family. After getting a bachelor of law at

30 National Taiwan University, she headed to New York's Cornell University for a master's and then London for a PhD. She 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 negotiation in the 1990s.

[6] In over two decades in politics and government, Tsai has built a reputation as a tenacious
35 negotiator and a flexible consensus-builder. 'She's not someone who will take the initiative to go on stage, but once she sits down at the meeting table, she's the leader,' said Ho Mei-yueh, a former economics minister who worked closely with Tsai. A leaked US diplomatic cable said that she was viewed as an 'extremely capable' and 'very persuasive' person. Compared to other DPP politicians, Tsai is deemed not as strongly ideological and is known to shun confrontation
40 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. As she has never formally expressed her support for it, Beijing will be in a position to decipher where exactly she stands on the issue and what her next move will be.

45 [7] 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 credited for the profound changes the party went through after its election defeat in 2008. The party was financially broke then while the outgoing president Chen Shui-bian was facing allegations of corruption. In a matter of two to three years, she was able to make the DPP once again a viable
50 party and stood for the 2012 race for president against the KMT incumbent Ma Ying-jeou. Tsai was defeated because she failed to appeal to business leaders — who favoured smoother ties with China — as well as young people. This defeat compelled her to work on her campaign skills and building a network of young activists.

[8] The turning point of her political career came in 2014 when students occupied the
55 Taiwanese parliament to protest against a trade deal with China the ruling KMT was trying to jam through. Tsai was quick to back the so-called Sunflower Movement and drew on the range of concerns Taiwan's young people had about Beijing's increasing political and economic influence on the island. Analysts said her ability to tap into these concerns proved decisive in this year's election as she succeeded in gathering support from young voters, while her
60 professional qualifications and pragmatic style appealed to those in the centre of Taiwan's political spectrum.

[9] Once the post-election euphoria is over, all eyes will be on the not-very-charismatic Tsai. Her biggest challenge will be to negotiate with Beijing while maintaining the support of those in the independence-leaning strand in her party and the young voters who rallied behind her.

Comprehension

1. According to *Libération*, what is so unusual about Tsai's election?

A. She is the first female president of Taiwan.	A	B	C	D
B. She is elected not because of her relations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C. Taiwan needs to start dealing with cross-strait relations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D. She was elected on 16 January.				

2. What does Kuomintang lose in this election? (2 marks)
 - i) _____
 - ii) _____

3. According to paragraph 3, Tsai ...

A. likes staying at home rather than going out.	A	B	C	D
B. was not welcomed in the parliament.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C. does not like catching media's attention.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D. feels uncomfortable confronting Beijing.				

4. What does 'an island' in line 12 refer to? _____

5. Based on paragraphs 4 and 5, 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) Beijing is likely to grant Taiwan its democratic way of life under its rule.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Beijing has the ability to boost the economy of Taiwan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Most politicians in Taiwan are pragmatic.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iv) Tsai's wealthy family background has shaped her current political perspective.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. From which university did Tsai get her PhD?

7. According to paragraph 5, Tsai's pragmatism and international perspective ...

A. has earned her support from people in Taiwan.	A	B	C	D
B. has attracted attacks from the critics worldwide.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C. has landed her the job with Taiwan's World Trade Organization.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D. is the result of her being brought up in a big family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. What is the main idea in paragraph 6?
- A. How Tsai deal with China-Taiwan relations.
- B. How Tsai built her reputation in politics.
- C. How Tsai survived in the last two decades in politics. A B C D
- D. How others see Tsai as a political figure. ○ ○ ○ ○
9. Find a word in paragraph 6 that means the same as ‘avoid’. _____
10. What does ‘it’ (line 42) refer to? _____
11. Give one example of Tsai’s tactfulness in talking about Taiwan’s independence.
- _____
12. Complete this summary of paragraph 7 by choosing a word from the ten options given below. Write the correct word in the space provided. Each word can be used ONCE only.

(4 marks)

broke	contributed	demonstrated	joined	mended
participated	showcased	sound	strengthened	transformed

Tsai (i) _____ the DPP in 2004. She (ii) _____ the party from one that is financially (iii) _____ to one that is viable. Her success in the 2016 presidential election (iv) _____ her ability to turn the table for the disadvantaged DPP.

13. How has the Sunflower Movement helped Tsai’s presidential election in 2016? (2 marks)

14. What is the ‘challenge’ mentioned in line 63? (2 marks)

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Answer key

1. B (line 1)
2. (i) The presidency (lines 8–9)
(ii) Control of Taiwan's legislature (line 10)
3. C (lines 12–13)
4. Taiwan (line 2)
5. (i) F (lines 19–20)
(ii) T (lines 24–25)
(iii) F (line 26)
(iv) NG
6. London School of Economics (lines 14, 31)
7. A (lines 26–28)
8. D
9. shun (line 39)
10. Taiwan's independence (line 42)
11. He has never formally expressed her support for it. (line 42)
12. (i) joined (line 46)
(ii) transformed (line 47)
(iii) broke (line 48)
(iv) demonstrated
13. She showed her understanding of the young people's concerns about Beijing's increasing political and economic influence on the island (lines 56–58) *(1 mark)*
and won their support in the election. (line 59) *(1 mark)*
14. The independence-leaning strand and the young voters do not like Beijing's increasing political and economic influence on the island (lines 57–58), *(1 mark)*
but Taiwan needs to have Beijing's help to revive its economy. (lines 24–25) *(1 mark)*