Name: _____ (   )   Class: _____   Date: _____

Unit 2 Study and school life

Set A
No. of Words: 359

Read the following article and answer the questions on pages 2–3.

Should school textbooks be replaced by notebook computers?

[1] In recent years, there has been heated debate on whether students in Hong Kong should use notebook computers instead of printed textbooks in schools. There are always two sides to a coin. This article will explore the two opposing views in this debate.

[2] Those who are in favour of this argument, such as technological advocates, believe that
5   Hong Kong schools should follow this global trend. They believe that students can learn technology skills in this way. Environmentalists also believe that this is an environmentally friendly proposal as it can unquestionably save paper. Parents also welcome this decision because the replacement can help reduce the weight of their children's schoolbags. Although notebook computers still carry certain weight, they are no doubt lighter than a dozen textbooks.
10   This will be beneficial to the children's physical development.

[3] There are also criticisms to the use of e-books. Many teachers disagree to the use of notebook computers because they are worried that students may be distracted by this gadget. For instance, students may browse other sites or use software which is irrelevant to the teaching content. It then will be difficult for teachers to manage the classroom. 'I am concerned about the
15   learning attitude among students. From my experience, learning is more effective if students can use their pens and pencils and do highlighting on printed books rather than simply clicking a few buttons on the keyboard,' said Ms Ivy Tam, an experienced teacher. 'I am worried about teachers' readiness,' admitted Ms Kwan, a school principal. 'You know, we have a lot of experienced teachers who are in the field for over 20 years. They have been using printed books
20   since their first day of teaching. It will be a drastic change if printed books are replaced.'

[4] Obviously, there are pros and cons to this issue of concern. Having taken into consideration different parties' perspectives, there is still a way out. If schools can consider letting students use both e-books and printed books, both teachers and students can be allowed more time to get used to different modes of learning. After all, this change should not happen overnight but
25   gradually.

Skimming

1. What is the theme of the text?

    A. The benefits of using notebook computers in school

    B. Views on using notebook computers as a substitute for printed textbooks

    C. Learning language by using notebook computers

    D. The support scheme for e-learning in schools

A	B	C	D
O	O	O	O

Reference

2. What does 'this debate' (line 3) refer to?

    _____

    _____

Reference

3. What does 'They' (line 5) refer to?

    _____

Synonyms

4. Find a word in paragraph 2 that means 'plan'.

    _____

Reference

5. Read paragraph 2 and find out what the following pronouns refer to.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
this	6	
it	7	
they	9	
This	10	

Meaning of words

6. What does 'gadget' (line 12) mean?

    A. a small electronic device

    B. a piece of information

    C. a teaching tool

    D. a website

A	B	C	D
O	O	O	O

Scanning

7. Look at the following expressions from the text and match them with either school text books or notebook computers. Put a tick (✓) in the correct column.

	school text book	**notebook computer**
learn technology skills		
a new trend		
a distraction in class		
more effective in learning		

Scanning

8. How might students be distracted by their notebook computers in lessons?

_____

Scanning

9. What does Ms Tam prefer students to use in class? Why?

_____

_____

Reference

10. What does 'this change' (line 24) refer to?

_____

Scanning

11. What is Ms Kwan's major concern?

_____

Synonyms

12. Find a word in paragraph 4 that means 'views'.

_____

Scanning

13. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the article?

    A. Foreign schools' experience on using e-books

    B. The advantages of using e-books

    C. The drawbacks of using e-books   A   B   C   D

    D. Teachers' concerns on using e-books   ○   ○   ○   ○

End of Paper

Should school textbooks be replaced by notebook computers?
Answer Key (Set A)

Skimming

1. What is the theme of the text?
   A. The benefits of using notebook computers in school
   B. Views on using notebook computers as a substitute for printed textbooks
   C. Learning language by using notebook computers
   D. The support scheme for e-learning in schools

A	B	C	D
○	●	○	○

Reference

2. What does 'this debate' (line 3) refer to?

   The argument on whether Hong Kong students should use notebook computers instead of
   textbooks in schools. (lines 1–2)

Reference

3. What does 'They' (line 5) refer to?

   The technological advocates (line 4)

Synonyms

4. Find a word in paragraph 2 that means 'plan'.

   proposal (line 7)

Reference

5. Read paragraph 2 and find out what the following pronouns refer to.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
this	6	Replacing school textbooks with notebook computers
it	7	Using notebook computers
they	9	Notebook computers
This	10	Carrying lighter weight

Meaning of words

6. What does 'gadget' (line 12) mean?
   A. a small electronic device
   B. a piece of information
   C. a teaching tool
   D. a website

A	B	C	D
●	○	○	○

Scanning

7. Look at the following expressions from the text and match them with either school text books or notebook computers. Put a tick (✓) in the correct column.

	school text book	notebook computer
learn technology skills (lines 5–6)		✓
a new trend (line 5)		✓
a distraction in class (line 12)		✓
more effective in learning (lines 15–16)	✓	

Scanning

8. How might students be distracted by their notebook computers in lessons?

Students may browse other sites or use software which is irrelevant to the teaching content. (lines 13–14)

Scanning

9. What does Ms Tam prefer students to use in class? Why?

She prefers students to use pens and pencils to do highlighting on paper books because she thinks that it is a more effective learning strategy. (lines 15–16)

Reference

10. What does 'this change' (line 24) refer to?

The change from using printed books to e-books (line 24)

Scanning

11. What is Ms Kwan's major concern?

Teachers' readiness. (line 18)

Synonyms

12. Find a word in paragraph 4 that means 'views'.

perspectives (line 22)

Scanning

13. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the article?

A. Foreign schools' experience on using e-books
A. The advantages of using e-books (paragraph 2)
B. The drawbacks of using e-books (paragraph 3)
C. Teachers' concerns on using e-books (paragraph 3)

A   B   C   D
●   ○   ○   ○

Name: _____ (　　) 　　Class: _____ 　　Date: _____

Unit 2 Study and school life

Read the following article and answer the questions on pages 8–10.

> *Set B*
> *No. of Words: 613*

Should school textbooks be replaced by notebook computers?

[1] Notebook computers are becoming increasingly prevalent in higher education around the globe. A heated debate has been formed over whether Hong Kong schools should follow this global trend by switching from printed textbooks to digital textbooks on notebook computers. While some people think that the use of e-books will benefit both students and teachers, some
5　are concerned about a number of side effects it might bring. Obviously, there are two sides to a coin. Let's take a look at both sides of the argument.

[2] Those who are in favour of this argument believe that different parties will benefit from the use of notebook computers in the classroom. Proponents believe that utilizing portable computers in the classroom can equip students with technology skills, which can better prepare
10　them for a world immersed in technology. Some teachers advocate for the change as they find that the use of notebook computers can enrich the classroom and increase students' motivation to learn. Environmentalists also support substituting traditional textbooks with digital books on notebook computers as the latter can unquestionably save paper, which means that fewer trees need to be cut down. Parents also welcome this decision because the replacement can help
15　lessen the weight of their children's school bags.

[3] There are also criticisms to the use of e-books. Many teachers disapprove of the use of notebook computers because they are worried that students might be easily distracted by this gadget. It may shift the focus of learning from the teacher to the technology and this may affect students' learning effectiveness. For instance, students may browse other sites or use software
20　which is irrelevant to the teaching content in the lesson. It is therefore difficult for teachers to manage the class. 'I am also concerned about the learning attitude developed among students. From my experience, learning is more effective if students use their pens and pencils and do highlighting on printed books rather than simply clicking on a few buttons on the keyboard,' said Ms Ivy Tam, an experienced teacher. 'I am worried about teachers' readiness,' admitted Ms
25　Kwan, a school principal. 'We have a lot of experienced but less technologically-savvy teachers who are in the education field for over 20 years. They have been using printed books since their first day of teaching. It will be a drastic change for them if printed books are replaced. What if they cannot adapt to this change? This can affect students' learning in the end.' The principal pointed out that the implementation cost of e-textbooks on notebook computers is another major
30　concern. Additional and on-going operational costs associated with building Wi-Fi infrastructure, training teachers and administrators how to use the technology require a stable funding source.

It will be difficult for schools to implement e-learning programmes unless the government provides funding to help defray these expenditures.

[4] Another major criticism is raised by the physicians. Using e-books means that children have

35 to look at their monitors for a long period of time every day, which will result in a range of health problems, such as eyestrain, headaches and blurred vision.

[5] Obviously, there are pros and cons to this issue of concern. Having taken into consideration different parties' perspectives, there is still a way out. It might not be the right time to replace school textbooks with digital books on notebook computers completely, but schools should

40 consider letting students use both e-books and printed books. This allows more time for students and teachers to get used to different modes of learning. Students can then enjoy the benefits of learning with both tools; and teachers can prepare appropriate teaching and learning materials accordingly. After all, this change should not happen overnight but gradually.

Predicting

1. What might the text be about? Put a tick (✓) next to each possible content.

    _____   Why schools should use notebook computers as a substitute for printed

               textbooks

    _____   A review of the Hong Kong School Curriculum Reform

    _____   The support scheme for e-learning in schools

    _____   Teachers' concerns about using e-books in class

Meaning of words

2. Which of the following is similar in meaning to 'prevalent' (line 1)?

    A. widespread

    B. unusual

    C. stylish   A   B   C   D

    D. powerful   ○   ○   ○   ○

Reference

3. What does 'the argument' (line 6) refer to?

    _____

    _____

Synonyms

4. Find words in paragraph 2 that means the following. Use ONE word for each blank.

    i)   support   _____ _____ _____

    ii) making use of   _____

    iii) supporters   _____

Paraphrase

5. Based on the information given in paragraph 2, 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.

    Allowing notebook computers in the classrooms can (i) _____ students to

    learn, reinforce their (ii) _____ _____, (iii) _____ the

    amount of paper used and also help students to ease the burden of their (iv) _____

    _____.

Reference

6. What does 'the replacement' (line 14) refer to?

_____

Scanning

7. How might using notebook computers in the classroom affect students' learning?

_____

_____

Main idea

8. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

    A. Other uses of the e-book by students

    B. Worries concerning the change of printed books to e-books

    C. The readiness of teachers in using e-books in the classroom

    D. The costs related to the implementation of using e-books

A	B	C	D
O	O	O	O

Paraphrase

9. Based on the information given in paragraph 3, decide if the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given**. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement.

		T	F	NG
i)	Teachers' experience tells them that students will browse other sites in class if they use e-books in class.	O	O	O
ii)	Many teachers do not like the use of notebook computers in class.	O	O	O
iii)	Ms Tam believes that students learn better with printed books than e-books.	O	O	O
iv)	Ms Kwan's school has a lot of experienced teachers who are very good at working with technology.	O	O	O

Synonyms

10. Find a word in paragraph 3 that means the same as 'pay'.

_____

Scanning

11. What are Ms Kwan's major concerns about using e-books?

_____

_____

Reference

12. What does 'these expenditures' (line 33) refer to?

_____

_____

Synonyms

13. Find a word in paragraph 5 that means 'in a way suitable for the situation'.

_____

Paraphrase

14. Use the information given in the text and match each person with the correct speech bubble.
    Write the letter of the speech bubble on the line next to the person given.

A. I am not sure if our school has enough funding to support e-learning.

B. Using notebook computers is not as effective as using printed books in class.

C. I don't think schools should replace printed textbooks with notebook computers, but students can use notebooks computers to aid their study.

D. Why not? It's absolutely lighter than a dozen textbooks. My child will no longer have to carry a 4kg bag to school every day.

Parents: _____

Ms Ivy Tam: _____

The writer: _____

Ms Kwan: _____

Physicians: _____

E. What the children need least is another electronic gadget to hurt their eyes.

Purpose

15. This text is likely to be found in …
    A. a research paper.
    B. a newspaper.
    C. an online forum.
    D. a parenting book.

    A   B   C   D
    O   O   O   O

End of Paper

Should school textbooks be replaced by notebook computers?
Answer Key (Set B)

Predicting

1. What might the text be about? Put a tick (✓) next to each possible content.

    ✓   Why school should use notebook computers as a substitute for printed textbooks

    _____   A review of the Hong Kong School Curriculum Reform

    _____   The support scheme for e-learning in schools

    ✓   Teachers' concerns on using e-books in class

Meaning of words

2. Which of the following is similar in meaning to 'prevalent' (line 1)?

    A. widespread
    B. unusual
    C. stylish
    D. powerful

A	B	C	D
●	○	○	○

Reference

3. What does 'the argument' (line 6) refer to?

    The argument on whether Hong Kong students should use notebooks instead of textbooks in schools. (lines 2–3)

Synonyms

4. Find words in paragraph 2 that means the following. Use ONE word for each blank.

    i)   support   in favour of (line 7)

    ii) making use of   utilizing (line 8)

    iii) supporters   proponents (line 8)

Paraphrase

5. Based on the information given in paragraph 2, 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.

    Allowing notebook computers in the classrooms can (i) motivate (line 11) students to learn, reinforce their (ii) technology skills (line 9), (iii) reduce (line 13) the amount of paper used and also help students to ease the burden of their (iv) school bags (line 15).

Reference

6. What does 'the replacement' (line 14) refer to?

    Replacing printed textbooks with notebook computers

Scanning

7. How might using notebook computers in the classroom affect students' learning?

    Students may browse other sites or use software which is irrelevant to the teaching content
    in the lesson and it will be difficult for teachers to manage the class. (lines 19–21)

Main idea

8. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?
    A. Other uses of the e-book by students
    B. Worries concerning the change of printed books to e-books
    C. The readiness of teachers in using e-books in the classroom
    D. The costs related to the implementation of using e-books

A	B	C	D
○	●	○	○

Paraphrase

9. Based on the information given in paragraph 3, decide if the following statements are **True**,
    False, or the information is **Not Given**. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement.

		T	F	NG
i)	Teachers' experience tells them that students will browse other sites in class if they use e-books in class.	○	○	●
ii)	Many teachers do not like the use of notebook computers in class. (lines 16–17)	●	○	○
iii)	Ms Tam believes that students learn better with printed books than e-books. (lines 22–24)	●	○	○
iv)	Ms Kwan's school has a lot of experienced teachers who are very good at working with technology. (line 25)	○	●	○

Synonyms

10. Find a word in paragraph 3 that means the same as 'pay'.

    defray (line 33)

Scanning

11. What are Ms Kwan's major concerns?

    Teachers' readiness (line 24) and the implementation cost of e-textbooks on notebook
    computers (line 29)

Reference

12. What does 'these expenditures' (line 33) refer to?

Additional and on-going operational costs associated with building Wi-Fi infrastructure, training teachers and administrators how to use the technology require a stable funding source (lines 30–31)

Synonyms

13. Find a word in paragraph 5 that means 'in a way suitable for the situation'.

accordingly (line 43)

Paraphrase

14. Use information given in the text and match each person with the correct speech bubble. Write the letter of the speech bubble on the line next to the person given.

A. I am not sure if our school has enough funding to support e-learning. (lines 28–30)

B. Using notebook computers is not as effective as using printed books in class. (lines 22–23)

C. I don't think schools should replace printed textbooks with notebook computers, but students can use notebooks computers to aid their study. (lines 38–40)

D. Why not? It's absolutely lighter than a dozen textbooks. My child will no longer have to carry a 4kg bag to school every day. (lines 14–15)

E. What the children need least is another electronic gadget to hurt their eyes. (lines 34–36)

Parents: __D__

Ms Ivy Tam: __B__

The writer: __C__

Ms Kwan: __A__

Physicians: __E__

Purpose

15. This text is likely to be found in …
    A. a research paper.
    B. a newspaper.
    C. an online forum.
    D. a parenting book.

A   B   C   D
○   ●   ○   ○