

Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge open for business

- [1] The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge was opened to the public yesterday by Chinese president Xi Jinping, a day after its opening ceremony on 23 October 2018. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, or HZMB for short, is a 55-kilometre long bridge-tunnel system consisting of three overseas bridges and an undersea tunnel. About 400,000 tonnes of steel were used during its construction. The HZMB connects three major cities on the Pearl River Delta in south-eastern China—Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai. It is the world’s longest sea crossing and the sixth longest bridge on Earth.
- [2] Hong Kong businessman Gordon Wu first put forward the idea of a bridge-tunnel connecting Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau in the 1980s. Wu had been inspired by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge project in San Francisco, which connects the Eastern and Western shore of Maryland.
- [3] Though the full scheme had not been approved by either Beijing or Hong Kong, the government of Zhuhai built a bridge between the mainland and Qi’ao Island in the mid-1990s. This was intended to be the first part of a bridge connecting the mainland with Hong Kong. In the early 2000s, the government of Hong Kong began to discuss the possibility of such a project. Studies were conducted and eventually agreements were reached between all three parties.
- [4] Construction of the HZMB began on 15 December 2009. Although the original plan was for the bridge to be opened in late 2016, construction was not completed until 6 February 2018. It is currently estimated that the cost of the project was 126.9 billion RMB, or about 18.77 billion US dollars.
- [5] Shuttle buses are the primary means of transport for the public and are available 24 hours a day. They take around 40 minutes to cross the HZMB and depart up to every five minutes. Only 10,000 permits are currently available for private vehicles wishing to use the HZMB to travel from Hong Kong to Zhuhai.
- [6] Supporters of the HZMB see it as an economic benefit for the Pearl River Delta region. Travel times between the mainland and Hong Kong should be greatly reduced. It is hoped that this will make it easier to transport goods and boost tourism in the region.
- [7] Indeed, Beijing sees the HZMB as an important part in its plans to develop the Greater Bay Area. They hope to integrate eleven cities in the south of China into an economic and business centre.
- [8] However, the HZMB has not been without its fair share of critics. Opponents of the bridge-tunnel system accuse China of building it as a political statement. They feel that Beijing is using the HZMB to apply control over the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau. They see it as another example of the government in Beijing’s tightening control, as the Special Administrative Regions are meant to have a high amount of autonomy.
- [9] Besides this, the HZMB has also faced a number of other controversies. Ten deaths were reported on the Hong Kong side of the construction project, as well as up to 600 injuries. The Labour Party along with several workers unions demonstrated at the Central Government Complex in April 2017. They insisted that the government do more to protect its citizens. Lawmaker Fernando Cheung said, “The project is known as the “bridge of blood and tears” and we are only talking about the Hong Kong

Current Affairs Archive Core



Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

side. We don't even know what is happening in China. I suppose the situation could be ten times worse than that in Hong Kong.'

40 [10] The construction of the HZMB has also raised environmental concerns. According to WWF Hong Kong, between April 2015 and March 2016, the number of white dolphins in Hong Kong dropped by a quarter. Dolphins found in the northern waters of Lantau, an area heavily affected by the construction, were worst hit, with numbers dropping by 60 per cent. Conservation experts at WWF Hong Kong blame the bridge construction for these falling numbers.

Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

Answer the following questions using information from the text. Write your answers in the spaces provided. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.

1 On what day was the article published?

- A 22 October 2018
- B 23 October 2018
- C 24 October 2018
- D 25 October 2018

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

2 Read paragraph 1 and decide if the following statements are **True (T)**, **False (F)** or the information is **Not Given (NG)**. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement.

- i) The bridge-tunnel system has more undersea tunnels than oversea bridges.
- ii) More steel was used for the HZMB than for the IFC tower.
- iii) The HZMB is the world's longest sea-crossing bridge.

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"/>

3 Find a phrase in paragraph 2 that means 'suggested for discussion'.

4 What does 'This' (line 11) refer to?

5 What is the purpose of paragraphs 2 and 3 in the article?

- A to explain the reasons for building the HZMB
- B to show support for building the HZMB
- C to show the planning stages of the HZMB
- D to describe the appearance of the HZMB

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

6 When was the HZMB finally completed?

7 What is the most common means of crossing the HZMB?

8 How long does it take to go across the HZMB?

9 According to the article, how many private vehicles are allowed to use the HZMB?



Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

10 What are the benefits of the HZMB?

- i) _____
- ii) _____

11 Find a word in paragraph 7 that means ‘to join together’.

12 Find words in paragraph 8 that mean the opposite of the following:

- i) allies _____
- ii) dependence _____

13 Why did workers decide to protest in April 2017?

14 According to the article, how have white dolphins been affected by the construction of the HZMB?

15 Which of the following is the best alternative title for the article?

- A Another bridge for Hong Kong
- B Tourists rejoice as new bridge opens
- C 400,000 tonnes of steel used in new bridge
- D Pearl River Delta mega bridge opens to the public

- A
- B
- C
- D



Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

Useful sentence patterns

Introducing acronyms: Noun/noun phrase + *or (acronym) for short*

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, or HZMB for short, is a 55-kilometre long bridge-tunnel system consisting of three oversea bridges and an undersea tunnel.

Talking about having a decent amount of something: Possessive adjective + *fair share of*

However, the HZMB has not been without its fair share of critics.

Make sentences using the sentence patterns above.

Noun/noun phrase + *or (acronym) for short*

1 _____

2 _____

Possessive adjective + *fair share of*

1 _____

2 _____

Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

Useful vocabulary

agreement (n.)	connect (v.)	expert (n.)	insist (v.)
protect (v.)	public (n.)	region (n.)	situation (n.)
tunnel (n.)	union (n.)		

A Read the sample sentences below.

- 1 We finally shook hands after we had reached an **agreement**.
- 2 The new railway will **connect** these two cities with each other.
- 3 Many **experts** agree that climate change is a pressing concern for our world.
- 4 Our teacher **insists** that we raise our hand before we speak in class.
- 5 Be careful! The mother bear will **protect** her cubs fiercely.
- 6 Members of the **public** are encouraged to get involved with local politics.
- 7 This **region** of the country is known for producing fine wine.
- 8 The **situation** in the war-torn country has grown quite bad.
- 9 The prisoners tried to escape by digging a **tunnel** under the prison fence.
- 10 If you want to have a job in construction, you need to join a **union**.

B Complete the following paragraphs using the words in the box above. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

The government held an open forum last night to discuss their new project. They plan to build a new (1) _____ which will (2) _____ Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. They hope this new roadway will ease traffic between the two (3) _____ of the city by providing an alternate route to cross.

The forum was open to the (4) _____, so citizens were allowed to make their voices heard. Many people voiced their displeasure over the (5) _____. A common theme on the night was anger at the government's failure to (6) _____ wildlife in the area around construction projects in the past. People are worried that the same thing will happen with this project. After all, many (7) _____ warn that this new project will have a dramatic effect on local sea life.

Several workers' (8) _____ also spoke up. They are unhappy with the current (9) _____ and feel that the workers deserve greater compensation. Despite the negative feedback, the government has (10) _____ that the project will move forward as planned.

Useful phrases from the passage

ten times worse	24 hours a day
consisting of	environmental concerns
intended to be	the idea of
the primary means of	worst hit



Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

Writing topic

Write a report about the world's longest bridge. Write your report in around 200 words. You may use the planner below to help you.

What is the world's longest bridge? Where is it located? How long is it?
How long did it take to build the bridge? How much did it cost? Any other interesting facts?
Are there any other record-breaking bridges you could mention in your report? What makes them special?

Name: _____ () Form: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key

Comprehension

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 D</p> <p>2 i) F
ii) NG
iii) T</p> <p>3 put forward</p> <p>4 the construction of the bridge between the mainland and Qi'ao Island (in the mid-1990s) by the government of Zhuhai</p> <p>5 C</p> <p>6 It was completed on 6 February 2018.</p> <p>7 The most common means of crossing the HZMB is by shuttle bus.</p> <p>8 It takes about 40 minutes to cross the HZMB.</p> | <p>9 10,000 private vehicles</p> <p>10 i) easier to transport goods
ii) boost tourism</p> <p>11 integrate</p> <p>12 i) opponents
ii) autonomy</p> <p>13 They decided to protest because many workers were injured and some even died, and they wanted the government to do more to protect them.</p> <p>14 Their numbers have fallen in the northern waters of Lantau.</p> <p>15 D</p> |
|--|--|

Useful Vocabulary

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 tunnel | 5 situation | 9 agreement |
| 2 connect | 6 protect | 10 insisted |
| 3 regions | 7 experts | |
| 4 public | 8 unions | |

Model Writing

The world's longest bridge is the Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge in the Jiangsu province of China. It is 164.8 kilometres in length. It was built as part of the Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway. It is located on the rail line between Shanghai and Nanjing.

The Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge was constructed in just four years' time. It was built by approximately 10,000 workers, at a cost of about 8.5 billion US dollars. The bridge was completed in 2010 and opened to the public in 2011.

Interestingly, three of the top five longest bridges in the world are part of the same Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway. Furthermore, six of the top ten longest bridges in the world are located in mainland China.

In terms of the world's longest road bridge, that honour falls to the Bang Na expressway in Thailand. It is a 54-kilometre-long six-lane elevated roadway that only crosses a small bit of water, the Bang Pakong River.

The world's longest continuous bridge over water is the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in the United States in the state of Louisiana. It actually consists of two parallel bridges, the longest of which measures 38 kilometres in length.