

# 1

# Working holiday makers

## Warm Up

1. Have you ever thought about taking a gap year before university? How would you spend your gap year?
2. If you had a chance to live and work abroad for two years, which country would you choose?



**Text Type**  
Interview-based  
feature article

*Since the youth mobility scheme (YMS) was launched in 2014, thousands of young people in Hong Kong have taken the opportunity to work and travel in the UK. Would you like to know more about the scheme?*

*Here is an interview-based feature article about two people who are currently travelling in the UK with a special visa.*

## Josephine Chan

The 25-year-old has **settled in** at her new job as a teacher at a local nursery school and looks forward to starting a family with her fiancé.



### 5 Why did you pick the UK?

I thought it'd be a great opportunity to brush up my English. And I was hoping that the two-year work experience abroad would **give me an edge** in job seeking when I come back.

### Is it difficult to apply for the visa? Are there any special requirements?

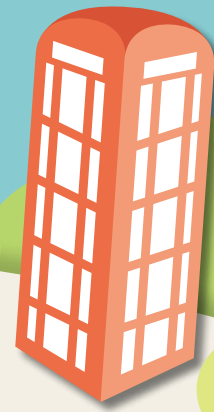
- 10 There is **red tape** involved in applying for the visa, but not too much and it's easily sorted out. You need a valid passport and at least HK\$18,257 (or £1,890) in your bank account.

### How did you find the job you are doing? What do you think about it?

- 15 A **recruitment agency** set me up for an interview with the school. It suits me well and my colleagues are great. I couldn't ask for more.

### Have you taken advantage of the holiday part? What was your best adventure?

I've been to a few European countries, but my favourite was the 10-day trip I spent with my fiancé in Romania. It changed my views on Romanian cuisine, and the tour to Dracula's castle was a big tick off the **bucket list**!



20 **Do you have any advice for those who want to join the scheme?**

Try to make the most of your years abroad; don't just see it as a break from the **hustle and bustle** of Hong Kong, or a way of financing your travel.

### Steven Lam

25 Eager to experience western culture first-hand, the young accountant quit his job to join the scheme. He has since visited Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and many small towns in the UK.



30 **How did you apply for the scheme?**

I **enrolled on** it with my HKSAR passport. Unlike BNO passport holders, I had to get a Certificate of Sponsorship from the Hong Kong government before booking an appointment with the visa application centre to drop my application form and the required documents.

35 **Was it difficult to find jobs?**

Well, there are always side jobs in coffee shops and retail outlets, but full-time and **permanent** roles are rare. I was lucky enough to land a full-time accounting job at a local firm. The same cannot be said for all working holiday makers.

**What do you think is the best part of the scheme?**

Definitely the weekend getaways in Europe. A flight to Barcelona can cost as little as £60. Even if you don't scoop up those amazingly cheap deals, you can still **criss-cross** the continent on Megabus for a reasonable price, as fares rarely top £20.

40 **Would you recommend other young people to join the scheme?**

I think it's a brilliant opportunity for those who have a burning desire to travel and live abroad. It will take you out of your comfort zone and give you a new **perspective** on not just the country you are visiting, but on life in general.

## Reading Skill

### Understanding referencing (I)

References are words used to substitute other words or phrases in reading texts. The table below helps you work out the answers to different reference words.

When you see ...	Look for ...
personal pronouns (e.g. <i>I, hers, him, ours</i> )	nouns
demonstrative pronouns (e.g. <i>this, that, these, those</i> )	nouns, phrases, or sentences referring to a fact / idea
<i>there, then</i>	adverbials of place or time
<i>the former, the latter, the same</i>	previously mentioned person, thing or idea

Try to apply this skill when attempting questions 1 and 5 in this unit.

### Note

The HKDSE Exam also tests students' ability to paraphrase an idea. Do NOT always copy the exact words in the texts.

## Comprehension

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

Reference

- ⚠ 1. Who does 'the 25-year-old' (line 2) refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

Specific factual

2. Why did Josephine apply for the UK working holiday visa?

- i) \_\_\_\_\_  
ii) \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary

3. Which of the following words can best replace 'red tape' (line 10)?

- A. recordings  
B. procedures  
C. questions  
D. criteria

- A   B   C   D

### Tips

'The 25-year-old' is a noun phrase.

Specific factual

4. What do applicants of the working holiday scheme need to prepare?

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

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

Reference

5. What does 'It' (line 14) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tips**

Remember to change the pronoun 'you'.

Implicit information

6. Based on lines 16–19, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)?

- |  | <b>T</b>              | <b>F</b>              | <b>NG</b>             |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| i) Josephine's fiancé is Romanian.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| ii) Josephine and her fiancé tried some local food during their trip to Romania. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| iii) Josephine did not want to visit Dracula's castle.                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

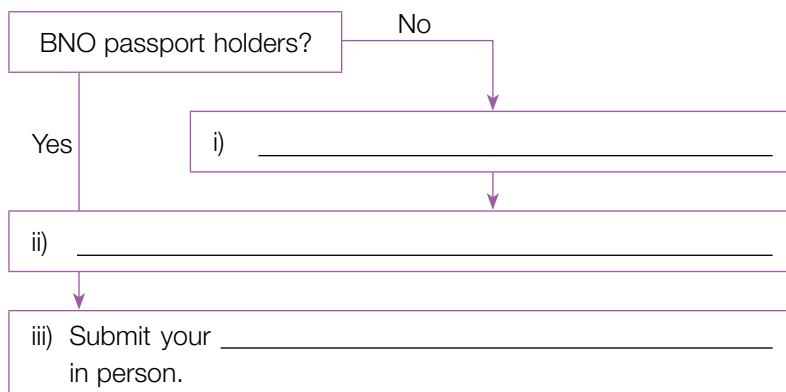
Specific factual

7. Why did Steven join the working holiday scheme?

\_\_\_\_\_

Specific factual

8. Using information given in lines 27–31, complete the following flow chart showing the application process for the UK working holiday visa.



Implicit information

9. Which of following jobs will people holding working holiday visas be most likely to find? Put a tick (✓) in the box.


waiter

accounting manager

school teacher

shop assistant

Inference

 10. What does Steven mean when he says 'the same cannot be said for all working holiday makers' (line 35)?

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**Tips**

Read the preceding sentence.

Vocabulary

11. Find a word or phrase in lines 36–39 that means 'get something quickly'.

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Implicit information

12. How can people travel around Europe without breaking their budget?

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Implicit information

13. According to Steven, what kind of people should join the scheme?

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Thematic

 14. What is the main purpose of the article?

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**Tips**

What is the article mainly about?

Thematic

15. This article can be found in the \_\_\_\_\_ section of a newspaper.

A. business

B. technology

C. news

D. travel and leisure

A   B   C   D

## Word Bank



A. Match the words in the boxes with the meanings below. Write the words in the spaces provided.

bucket list (n phr)

criss-cross (v)

enrol on (v phr)

give somebody an edge (v phr)

hustle and bustle (n phr)

permanent (adj)

perspective (n)

recruitment (n)

red tape (n phr)

settle in (phr v)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
to become familiar with a new way of life, place, or job
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
official rules and processes that seem unnecessary
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
to go across a place and back again many times, taking a different path each time
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
the process of finding people to work for a company or an organization
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
a way of thinking about something
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
a lot of noisy activity
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
happening or existing for a long time
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
a list of things you want to do before you die
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
to put yourself or someone else onto the official list of members of a course
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
to make someone more successful than other people

**B. Complete the sentences with the words in Part A. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.**

1. Jane suffered \_\_\_\_\_ brain damage as a result of the car accident.
2. We should definitely cut through the \_\_\_\_\_ to make things more efficient.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ the modern Japanese culture course.
4. Margret seems to have \_\_\_\_\_ at her new company.
5. France has been on my \_\_\_\_\_ for years. There are so many places I want to visit!
6. The book is about a teenager's \_\_\_\_\_ on the role of religion in society.
7. There are a number of interstate highways that \_\_\_\_\_ the area.
8. Not many people love living among the \_\_\_\_\_ of megacities.
9. She thought studying abroad would \_\_\_\_\_ in the job market.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ talks are held to familiarize students with the procedures in job application.

**C. Yasmeen is writing a webpage introducing the school buddy programme. Fill in the blanks with the words in Part A. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.**

**What is it? How does it work?**

The school buddy programme aims to help exchange students **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_. It matches incoming exchange students with current students at Athens College.

**Who can be buddies? What do buddies do?**

All senior form students are welcome to join the programme. Students will act as ambassadors for Athens College and provide a helping hand to exchange students in the coming school year. Buddies will also help plan field trips and social activities.

**How do students benefit from the programme?**

It's a great opportunity to make friends with students from different countries. It will **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ in applying for the summer educational field trips.

**Can students apply for the programme this year?**

Yes, **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ for 2018 is now open and will run till 15 July. Interested parties can **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ the programme online. Eligible applicants will be invited for interview.

## Text Appreciation

### Interview-based feature article

#### About the text type

Interview-based feature articles are mainly published in magazines and newspapers. This type of article focuses on the opinions or experiences of a particular group of people.

#### Structure

Interview-based feature articles can be written in many ways. The writer considered the questions on the right when writing the article in this unit.

##### Introduction

Introduce the topic.

- ◆ What is the article about?
- ◆ Who were interviewed?

##### Interviews

Give details about the topic.

- ◆ Who are the interviewees? What do they do?
- ◆ What is special about their working holiday experiences?
- ◆ Do they have any advice for readers interested in the scheme?

#### Techniques the writer used

- 1 Including short profiles of the subjects
  - ◆ The young accountant quit his job to join the scheme. He has since visited Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and many small towns in the UK.
- 2 Asking open-ended questions to elicit as much information as possible
  - ◆ Why did you ...? What do you think about ...?
- 3 Offering different perspectives on the topic
  - ◆ Do you have any advice ...? Would you recommend ...?

#### Language features

- 1 Use of the past tense when talking about past experiences
- 2 Use of informal language, e.g. It's

### Now, you write!

You joined the school reporter scheme. You were asked to interview a student who had taken part in the school's summer exchange programme. Write an interview-based feature article for your school magazine.