

Unit 1

A miniature Hong Kong

Learning focus

- Text type:** ★ Magazine article
- Grammar:** ★ Comparative and superlative adjectives ★ Comparing quantity and quality
- Vocabulary:** ★ Words about art exhibitions ★ Adjectives to describe culture
- Useful phrases:** ★ Phrases to describe an event

Text type in focus

Magazine article



TSA HKDSE

You are reading an article about ① an exhibition depicting life in Hong Kong. The article also features ② photographer Ric Tse, ① who tells stories using photos of LEGO pieces.

Title

LEGO characters around the city

Introduction

- What** is the focus of the article?
Who is it about?

There may be **fewer** people playing with old-fashioned toys nowadays, but LEGO pieces are still **the most popular** toy in the world. And when adult visitors visit the ① exhibition **organized** by the Affordable Art Fair, they are **as excited as** children when they see how ② photographer Ric Tse ① **depicts** our city using photos with LEGO figures in them.

Body

- What** does Ric do?
Why is his work special?
What is his most impressive work?
Why is this the most impressive?

Ric likes ③ taking pictures of **the most iconic** landmarks and events in Hong Kong, such as the Avenue of Stars and dragon boat racing. His work is **more creative than** just capturing beautiful scenes, though. You can see ④ LEGO characters **striking** poses in his pictures, which creates a **livelier portrayal** of the city.

⑤ **The most impressive** work in the exhibition that attracts **the most** visitors is the one with the Hong Kong skyline as the backdrop. It is ⑥ one of **the hardest** shoots Ric has ever done, and he spent **more time on it than** any of his previous works.

Conclusion

- What** impact does the exhibition have?

As any of the visitors will tell you, Ric's **masterpieces** ⑦ can help people appreciate our city from a **less conventional** angle.



Writing a magazine article

Blacken the circles next to the correct answers.



Step 1 Understanding the writing question

- 1 **What** is the focus of the article? An exhibition featuring (photography / popular toys)
- 2 **Who** is the article about? Ric Tse / Adults visiting the exhibition



Step 2 Brainstorming the main points

(i) About the artist:

- 3 **What** does Ric do?
He takes photos of (people / iconic Hong Kong landmarks and events).
- 4 **Why** is his work special?
 His photos have LEGO characters posing in them.
 Other photographers do not take photos of LEGO characters.

(ii) The artist's work:

- 5 **What** is his most impressive work?
The photo with (the Avenue of Stars / the Hong Kong skyline)
- 6 **Why** is this the most impressive?
It (took more time / cost more) than any of his previous works.
- 7 **What** impact does the exhibition have?
It helps people (appreciate Hong Kong / think about photography) from a different angle.



Step 3 What grammar will you use when writing a magazine article about an exhibition?

- ✓ **Comparative and superlative adjectives:**
to **compare** two things or people or to say something or someone is the **greatest** in some way
- ✓ **as ... as, more / less / fewer than, the most / least / fewest:**
to **compare** the **quantity** or **quality** of two or more things

Grammar in focus

Comparative and superlative adjectives

We use **comparative adjectives** to compare **two** things or people, and we use **superlative adjectives** to compare **more than two** things or people.

Adjectives	Comparative	Superlative
(i) Most short adjectives e.g. short	+ er e.g. shorter	the + est e.g. the shortest
(ii) Short adjectives ending in -y e.g. pretty	-y → ier e.g. prettier	the + -y → iest e.g. the prettiest
(iii) Short adjectives ending in -e e.g. strange	+ r e.g. stranger	the + st e.g. the strangest
(iv) Short adjectives ending in a vowel + a consonant e.g. big	double the consonant + er e.g. bigger	the + double the consonant + est e.g. the biggest
(v) Adjectives with three or more syllables e.g. expensive	more / less + e.g. more / less expensive	the most / the least + e.g. the most / the least expensive
(vi) Other adjectives e.g. bad, good	change the word e.g. worse, better	the + change the word e.g. the worst, the best

A Blacken the circles next to the correct answers.

- Life in the past was (interesting / more interesting / most interesting) than we think.
- The city's history was **brought to life** on a much (small / smaller / smallest) scale.
- The train model is (**impressive** / more impressive / the most impressive) of them all.

B Complete the article below using the correct comparative or superlative adjectives.

Guide for tourists — Explore Hong Kong's culture

The (1) _____ (fast) way to learn more about the **sophisticated** culture of Hong Kong is by **immersing** yourself in it. Here are a few recommendations for what you should do to get a (2) _____ (deep) understanding of one of (3) _____ (fascinating) cultures in the world.

Firstly, try some local dishes offered at small food stalls. It is even (4) _____ (good) if you can ask some local people for their advice. You will definitely enjoy (5) _____ (**authentic**) versions of the local delicacies. Secondly, take part in local **festivities**. The Fire Dragon Dance and Chinese New Year are two of (6) _____ (popular) events that may interest you. Through participating in the festivities, you can get (7) _____ (close) to the local people and their culture.

Vocabulary in focus

Words about art exhibitions



Glossary

A Match the pictures to the words. Put the letters in the spaces.

A. skyline

B. portray

C. miniature models

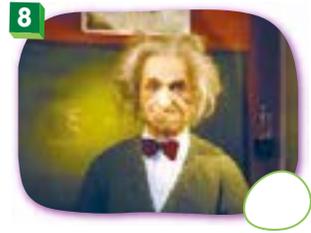
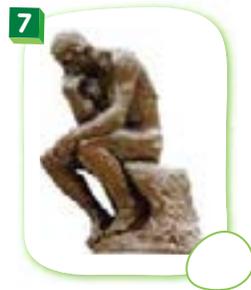
D. bring to life

E. organize an exhibition

F. immerse in culture

G. festivity

H. masterpiece



Adjectives to describe culture



Glossary

B Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

sophisticated

authentic

iconic

striking

conventional

- Arnold: 'The *cha chaan teng* down the road offers the most _____ egg tarts in this area.'
- Doug: 'Tokyo's traditional Shinto shrines are some of its most _____ landmarks.'
- Calvin: 'The _____ method of sketching with pencils and paper is quickly replaced with digital art.'
- Julie: 'The new Orange smartphone is hard to use because it is more _____ than previous versions.'
- Lenny: 'Our library is a very _____ building because it is the largest one on campus.'

Useful phrases

Phrases to describe an event

To introduce the focus of your article:

- ★ Today, chess is still one of the most popular games played worldwide.
- ★ The line of people waiting to get in was the longest the arena had ever seen.
- ★ The fireworks display at Victoria Harbour is a very iconic New Year's event in Hong Kong.

To explain why a person's work is special:

- ★ James Lee has sold more rap albums than any other rapper in Hong Kong.
- ★ Lee Wai-sze has won as many medals in major cycling events as other international athletes.
- ★ As one of Hong Kong's most famous authors, Jin Yong is the main focus of the exhibition.

To tell what the most outstanding part of the event was:

- ★ The parade ended with its most striking float, a giant statue of the park's mascot.
- ★ It cannot be argued that the prettiest performance of the night was the dance show.
- ★ The 100-metre sprint had more spectators than any other event at our Sports Day.

To explain the impact of the event :

- ★ The artist brings Hong Kong to life through her miniature arrangements.
- ★ The Manhua art exhibition teaches Hong Kong's history to visitors in an unconventional way.
- ★ Attendees realized the importance of conservation after hearing Professor Luk's talk.



Your turn!

Writing a magazine article

You are Chris, the editor of the school magazine. ① You visited the Sha Tin Miniatures Museum, which recently began to feature the work of ② Zoe Chan, one of Hong Kong's most well-known ③ miniature model artists. Write an article introducing Zoe Chan and her work to students.

Step 1 Understanding the writing question

Blacken the circles next to the correct answers.

- ① **What** is the focus of your article?
An exhibition featuring (photography / miniature models)
- ② **Who** is your article about?
 Zoe Chan / Ric Tse

Step 2 Brainstorming the main points

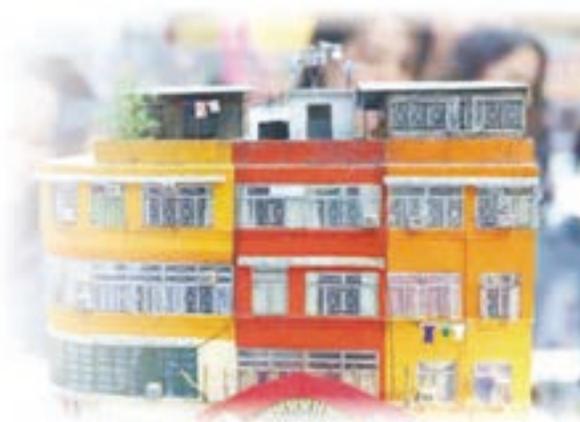
Blacken the circle next to the correct answer.

(i) **About the artist:**

- ③ **What** does this person do?
 Create miniature models / Take photos of Hong Kong landmarks

Blacken the circles next to what you want to write about, and fill in the blanks if you have other suggestions. You may refer to the sample magazine article or 'Useful phrases' for ideas.

- ④ **Why** is this person's work special?
 Her miniatures are **more detailed than** those of most other miniature model artists in Hong Kong.
 Her miniatures **portray** the lives of ordinary Hongkongers in incredible detail.
 Her miniatures have won multiple international modelling awards.



Complete your magazine article using information ① – ⑦ on pp.8–9 and the notes ① – ② on p.10.

① _____

When most people think about museums, they think of paintings and sculptures. ① _____
 _____ can also be beautiful art pieces, as visitors to the Sha Tin **Miniatures**
 Museum have realized. Recently, the museum began to feature the work of ② _____
 _____, adding this artist's **striking miniatures** to its collection.

② _____ ③ _____.

She is one of **the biggest** names in Hong Kong **miniature art** because ④ _____

_____. Not only this, ④ _____

_____. She **brings Hong Kong**
to life through her **miniature arrangements**.

② _____ **display** out of all her works is ⑤ _____

_____. This **masterpiece** stands

out **the most** because ⑥ _____

_____, and ⑥ _____

Capturing the hearts of visitors both young and old, the art of ② _____ ⑦ _____

_____.

