

第 1 篇 牛津大學

The University of Oxford is one of the UK's and the world's greatest schools. It is nearly a thousand years old, and hundreds of famous national leaders, writers, actors, and teachers, have graduated from there over the years. Since it's so rich in history and also very beautiful, people come to visit it every year, and many parts of the school have even found their way into many *Harry Potter* movies!

The school is also known for its wonderful traditions. Many of these, though as old as the hills, are an important part of student life and are still practiced today. A good example of this is the starting time for all classes. At Oxford, it is not on the hour like that at most universities around the world, but at five minutes past the hour. The students also need to wear very smart black and white clothes to their final exams. Most dress up in special white ties or bows and carry around special black caps. These hats are taken into every exam, but it's usually not a good idea for students to try and wear them on their heads until they graduate.

This brings us to “trashing,” another Oxford graduation tradition that not everybody agrees is a good idea. For many of the school's students in the past, this happened just after their final exams. To celebrate their graduation, friends and classmates would throw all kinds of trash over each other. They sometimes used small, shining pieces of paper, but it was usually things one could eat or drink. On exam day, therefore, you might see students covered from head to toe in things from honey and soda to milk and cold noodles. And, even though they were all dressed in a smart jacket and tie, or a long dress, they didn't mind the mess! However, more and more people started to mind the mess that “trashing” brings, so it might not be around forever. Not all Oxford traditions, after all, can stand the test of time as well as Oxford has.

* The University of Oxford 牛津大學

📖 graduate / graduation 畢業於……／畢業 tradition 傳統 exam 考試 mess 混亂

- () 1. What is this reading about?
- (A) Why some people in Oxford hate “trashing.”
 - (B) The traditions at an old and famous UK university.
 - (C) When the best time is to wear black and white in Oxford.
 - (D) Watching *Harry Potter* movies can help you with your final exam.
- () 2. Which of the following is the closest to the meaning of “practiced” in the reading?
- (A) To be done regularly. 📖 regularly 規律地
 - (B) To be trained.
 - (C) To be found out.
 - (D) To be prepared.
- () 3. According to the reading, what is true about “trashing”? 📖 according to 根據
- (A) This is how Oxford students describe “throwing a party.” 📖 describe 形容
 - (B) Oxford students never “throw out the trash” on the hour.
 - (C) It’s the only time students can “throw” black caps at each other.
 - (D) This tradition might day be “thrown out” one day.


第 2 篇 文字故事

Mrs. Wang's students once had trouble with two new words: the nouns "final" and "funeral." "A final," she explained, "is the last game in a competition. If you win the final, in other words, you win first place. A funeral, on the other hand, is very sad. It's a special ceremony, and we only have it when somebody dies. People usually cry at a funeral, but it's a good way to say goodbye to the dead person." The students, however, still couldn't remember these two words, so the teacher decided to tell a joke to help them. Here is the joke she told...

Today is the Soccer World Cup Final. George is a big soccer fan. He has a ticket for the big game and has just arrived. He's a bit late, but it's not hard to find his expensive seat. There it is: 5C. It's right next to the field. It's a great seat, and George is very excited. He makes his way past all the other fans and sits down because the final is about to start. Suddenly, he notices the seat next to him. Nobody is sitting on it. He turns to the man two seats away on 5A.

"Can you believe it, my friend?" he says. "It's the World Cup Final, and this person is not here to see it!" "Yes, I booked this seat for my wife," answers the man. "Sadly, she passed away just days ago, so she won't be able to come today." "Oh, my goodness, I'm so sorry," says George. "That's so sad." "I know," says the stranger. "Very sad." "But, still, my friend," says George. "This is the World Cup Final, the biggest game of the year! Was there no one else to watch the game with you? You know, a friend or someone in your family. Someone in your wife's family?" "No," says the man. "Not one. I'm afraid they're all at the funeral."

📖 competition 比賽 champion 冠軍 ceremony 儀式 a bit 一點點 stranger 陌生人

- () 1. What subject does Mrs. Wang teach at school?
- (A) Science.
 - (B) English.
 - (C) PE.
 - (D) Social studies.  social studies 社會
- () 2. What does the joke tell us about George?
- (A) His seat for the big game was 5A, a very expensive seat.
 - (B) He wanted to invite a friend to take the seat next to his.
 - (C) He was very surprised to see nobody sitting in Seat 5B.
 - (D) He was surprised to see someone sitting in 5C, his seat.
- () 3. Whose funeral was the man on 5A talking about?
- (A) His friend's funeral.
 - (B) George's funeral.
 - (C) His wife's funeral.
 - (D) George's friend's funeral.

第 3 篇 豆豆先生

I was born on the 6th of January 1955 in North East England. That makes me more or less seventy years old and my hair is already pretty gray. My father, Eric Atkinson, was a successful English farmer, so my two brothers, Rodney and Rupert, and I grew up feeding chickens and driving tractors. This was great fun for me, and much better than school. It's not that I didn't like learning or anything. I was just very shy at school because I had a bit of a stutter and found it very difficult to speak in front of others.

Another thing I liked doing as a boy was fixing things. I usually walked around with a screwdriver in my back pocket and was interested in all kinds of machines. In fact, by the time I was a teenager, I thought I would be an engineer. At around the same time, however, I also started to really enjoy acting. I don't know why but, although I was very quiet in class, I just loved being in plays or shows.

I finished high school and did go on to study electrical engineering in Newcastle and then at Oxford. I joined some theater groups and acting clubs there and loved to make my friends and classmates laugh. More and more people started to find me very funny and this gave me a lot of confidence. Before I knew it, I was working on different radio and TV programs for the BBC!

Some of these were very popular but my big break came in 1990. They were making a new TV show about a strange man and his little teddy bear, and they wanted me to play the main part. Although I didn't say much at all in these shows, I was able to use my face and my actions to make the story very funny. Soon, it was famous not only in the UK but also all over the world. I guess this is why, though my real name is actually Rowan, most people just know me as Mr. Bean.

📖 tractor 拖拉機 a bit 一點點 stutter 口吃 screwdriver 螺絲起子 electrical 電學的

- () 1. What does the reading NOT tell us about the speaker?
- (A) The age of this person.
 - (B) Which country this person is from.
 - (C) Who first taught this person how to act.
 - (D) Whether this person is a woman or a man.
- () 2. What does the word “confidence” most likely mean in this reading? 📖 likely 可能
- (A) Time to spend on just yourself.
 - (B) A large meeting open to many people.
 - (C) Chances to make people laugh.
 - (D) The feeling of believing in yourself.
- () 3. Who is the actor who plays Mr. Bean?
- (A) Rowan Bean.
 - (B) Eric Atkinson.
 - (C) Rowan Atkinson.
 - (D) Eric Bean’s son.

Clearing the Books After 119 Years

by R.E. Porter

Toowoomba Grammar School is the largest school in the town of Toowoomba, Australia. In 1903, Arthur Lamb was a student there and decided to borrow a book from the school library. The book he borrowed was *Great Expectations*, a famous 1861 novel by the English writer Charles Dickens. This was Dickens's thirteenth novel, and it tells the tale of a young orphan boy named Pip. He grows up very poor in the home of his older sister and her husband Joe, but he is later given lots of money by a rich person so that he can live as a gentleman in London. Since he doesn't know who the rich person is, it's a big surprise when he later finds out. Readers are also never quite sure what is going to happen to dear Pip and how his life will change next, and this makes it a wonderful story. The young Arthur Lamb must have thought so too because he never returned the book!

Fast forward to 2022 when the Lamb family were looking through a box full of their grandfather's old things. In it, they found a copy of *Great Expectations*. Although well over a hundred years old, it still looked pretty good. Another surprise was that it didn't really belong to Grandpa Arthur. It was, in fact, a school library book, and was 119 years overdue!

Well, you know what they say, better late than never. Arthur Lamb's son's son, John Lamb, finally returned the copy of *Great Expectations* to Toowoomba Grammar School's library last week. Although they had to part with such a good book, the Lamb family is thus finally back in the library's good books!

* Australia 澳洲

 novel 小說 tale 故事 orphan 孤兒 gentleman 紳士 thus 因此

- () 1. What is this reading most likely to be? 📖 likely 可能
- (A) A newspaper story about a long-forgotten library book.
 - (B) A letter to a school library about a famous novel.
 - (C) A school report about a famous Charles Dickens book.
 - (D) A story about a poor boy becoming a rich young man.
- () 2. According to the reading, which of the following is true? 📖 according to 根據
- (A) Toowoomba Grammar School finally built a library in 2022.
 - (B) Dickens wrote *Great Expectations* for Arthur Lamb.
 - (C) The Lambs had to return *Great Expectations* twice.
 - (D) Arthur Lamb was John Lamb's grandfather.
- () 3. Which of the following would be the closest in meaning to “overdue”?
- (A) Long. (B) Late. (C) Slow. (D) Missing.

第 5 篇 走路的益處

In most cases, to stay healthy is a walk in the park. All you need to do is to put on those walking shoes and really go for a stroll. This may sound too simple. But, research has actually shown that just one 30-minute walk every day is wonderful for your body. It not only keeps your weight down but also lowers the risk of developing heart trouble. On top of this, one walk a day keeps other serious conditions like diabetes away!

If you wish to help your body even more, walk faster. Thanks to studies, we now know that walking at four miles an hour instead of two makes a big difference. People who walk over 3 km/h cut their risk of getting diabetes by 15%. For those who walk over 6 km/h, this number shoots up to 39%! Take twice as many steps a minute, in other words, and you'll double your chances of staying diabetes free. Walk more and make it quick, and you can worry less about being sick!



📖 stroll 散步 research 研究 lower 降低 on top of 除此之外 condition 疾病
diabetes 糖尿病 difference 不同之處 shoot 衝刺 double 加倍

- () 1. What is the main message of this article?
- (A) The best way to stay healthy is to worry less.
 - (B) Good research is the first step to stopping diabetes.
 - (C) A park is the best place to take more steps a day.
 - (D) Walking more often and faster is good for your health.
- () 2. Which of the following is the closest in meaning to a walk in the park?
- (A) Something that needs a lot of time to do.
 - (B) Something that is easy to do and usually pleasant. 📖 pleasant 令人愉快的
 - (C) Something that is difficult and possibly would fail.
 - (D) Something that keeps people away from diseases. 📖 disease 疾病
- () 3. According to the reading, which of these will help most to keep diabetes away?
- 📖 according to 根據
- (A) Walking slowly for half an hour.
 - (B) Walking a kilometer in 30 minutes.
 - (C) Walking 3 kilometers in 30 minutes.
 - (D) Walking a kilometer in 39 minutes.

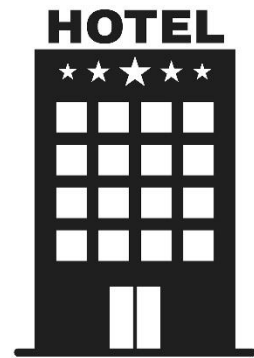
第 6 篇 最窄的飯店

Many of us dream of having a skinny figure. But, just how many people are there who dream of building a skinny tourist business?

Believe it or not, this is exactly what Ary Indra did when he created his PituRooms hotel in Salatiga, Indonesia. In this city was a small piece of land that nobody wished to buy. The reason no one else wanted it is because it's 2.8 meters wide. That's only about the size of a large sofa. So how on earth could anyone build a house on that?

Indra, however, didn't stop at a house. He built a hotel with a lobby, five floors, seven rooms (each with its own bathroom), stairs, a small elevator, and a restaurant on the roof! Each room is full 2.8 meters wide, 3 meters long, and decorated with different colors and art. Inside each, there's also room for a bed for two, a TV, a shower, and a toilet.

At the time of writing, this amazing dream has finally come true!



📖 skinny figure 纖瘦的身形 tourist 旅客 exactly 完全地 lobby 大廳 roof 屋頂
decorate 裝飾

- () 1. What is this reading mainly about?
- (A) A special place to stay.
 - (B) A special person's life story.
 - (C) A special way to build hotels.
 - (D) A special room in a hotel.
- () 2. What can we infer about Indra's business?
- 📖 infer 推論
- (A) To spend a night in this hotel is very expensive.
 - (B) Though it is skinny, this hotel is a perfect square. 📖 square 正方形
 - (C) Each hotel room comes with a big sofa to sit on.
 - (D) A total of 14 people can stay at this hotel at once. 📖 total 總數
- () 3. Who or what does the “dream has finally come true” in the last line of this reading refer to?
- 📖 refer to 意指
- (A) Ary Indra.
 - (B) PituRooms.
 - (C) A bed for two.
 - (D) A skinny figure.

第 7 篇 學校應該有手機禁令嗎？

Beth: Mr. Lin asked our class an interesting question today, “Should schools ban cellphones?”
What do you think?

Allen: In my opinion, students are not allowed to use their phones at school.

Beth: Do you mean just during class, or for the whole school day?

Allen: I think the whole day. Students should hand over their phones in the morning and only get them back when they go home.

Beth: Why?

Allen: I think they’ll be able to focus better during lessons. They’ll also interact more face to face during breaks.

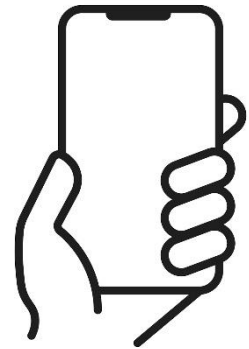
Beth: But, what if they need to get hold of their parents?

Allen: Then they have to get special permission. If it’s really important, teachers can send a message, or make a call, for them.

Beth: Isn’t it better to treat students more like grown-ups? After all, they should learn to control themselves. Then real grown-ups won’t need to watch them every minute of the day.

Allen: Well, in a perfect world everyone would control themselves. But, I think it’s just too tempting to game or check social media!

Beth: I see what you mean. I guess it’s not an easy call to make!



📖 ban 禁止 focus 專注 interact 互動 permission 許可 control 控制
tempting 吸引人的 social media 社群媒體

- () 1. Which sentence best sums up this dialogue? 📖 sum up 作結
- (A) Allen and Beth see things the same way.
 - (B) Allen and Beth are both missing the point.
 - (C) Allen and Beth are not listening to each other.
 - (D) Allen and Beth don't seem to fully agree. 📖 seem 似乎
- () 2. What does “get hold of” mean in the dialogue?
- (A) To get in touch with someone.
 - (B) To catch in one's hand.
 - (C) To keep something for later.
 - (D) To report something to the authorities. 📖 the authorities 當局
- () 3. What does Allen think about social media?
- (A) It's easy for students to stay away from it.
 - (B) It makes students forget their cellphones.
 - (C) It's hard for students to not keep following it.
 - (D) It helps students interact more face to face.

第 8 篇 最貴的城市

Life in a big, rich city can be expensive. Groceries, entertainment, clothes, and eating out can cost a lot, and even water and power aren't cheap. In some places, you pay through your nose for a house or just a small apartment. If you drive a car, the gas and parking could cost an arm and a leg, too!

Every year, over a hundred and fifty cities in the world are compared to see which ones are the most expensive. In 2023, two cities, one in Asia and one in Europe, shared the first place. They were Switzerland's Zurich, and the "City of Lions", Singapore.

Another pricy Asian metropolis, Hong Kong, came in at number five. As for North America, three US cities, New York, LA, and San Francisco, were very high up on the list as well. Can you guess the rest of the top ten?

* Asia 亞洲

* Europe 歐洲



📖 groceries 食品雜貨 entertainment 娛樂 compare 比較 pricy 價格高的
metropolis 大城市

() 1. Which of the following would be the best title for this reading? 📖 title 標題

- (A) Why Switzerland Isn't Cheap
- (B) Pricy Places Around the World
- (C) How to Live in Expensive Cities
- (D) Cars that Cost an Arm & a Leg

() 2. According to the reading, which of these is most likely to be the Top 5 Most Expensive Cities in 2023? 📖 according to 根據 likely 可能

(A)

1	New York
	Zurich
3	Singapore
	Geneva (Switzerland)
5	Hong Kong

(B)

1	Singapore
	Hong Kong
3	New York
	Geneva (Switzerland)
5	Zurich

(C)

1	Hong Kong
	Singapore
3	New York
	Zurich
5	Geneva (Switzerland)

(D)

1	Singapore
	Zurich
3	New York
	Geneva (Switzerland)
5	Hong Kong

() 3. What can we learn from the reading?

- (A) Although everything is expensive in a big city, water and power are relatively cheap.
📖 relatively 相較
- (B) Every year, over two hundred cities are compared to find out the most expensive ones.
- (C) Another name for Singapore is the “City of Lions.”
- (D) There are no Asian cities on the list of 2023 except for Singapore.

第 9 篇 印尼的童工問題

“Over 1.5 million kids in Indonesia work in unsafe places like tobacco factories,” says a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW). It also says that the government isn’t doing enough to protect these kids.

Many young farm workers, for example, get sick from handling tobacco factories,” leaves, which have harmful toxins. The leaves can make them feel dizzy, throw up, and get headaches, and sometimes children even die. Even though it’s against the law for kids to work in Indonesia, some have to because their families need the money. They give up going to school to work on these farms and get paid very little, sometimes just \$3 a day.

The HRW report also states that parents and employers need to learn more about why it’s not good for young children to work in the tobacco industry. Many families and farm owners don’t know about the dangers involved. The government should tell people more about child labor dangers and risks, and make sure labor laws are always followed.

Besides fixing things inside the country, Indonesia should also do more to be in line with the World Health Organization’s guidelines for controlling tobacco use and production. This would help Indonesia a great deal to take even better care of its people, especially the kids. For all of this to work, the government and big companies in Indonesia need to put kids’ rights and safety first. It’s their job to act fast and stop kids from working, and to make working environments safer for everyone.

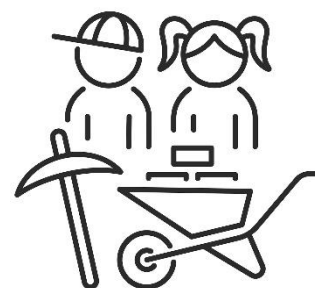
* Indonesia 印尼

Human Rights Watch (HRW) 人權觀察組織

labor law 勞工法條

World Health Organization (WHO) 世界衛生組織

guidelines for controlling tobacco use and production 控管菸草使用及製造之準則



📖 tobacco 菸草 government 政府 protect 保護 handle 處理 harmful 有害的 toxin 毒素
dizzy 頭暈目眩的 employer 雇主 industry 產業 danger 危險 involve 牽涉
especially 尤其是

- () 1. What is this reading mainly about?
- (A) The HRW's reporting staff. 📖 staff 員工
 - (B) Child labor in Indonesia.
 - (C) Asian tobacco production.
 - (D) Government guidelines in Indonesia.
- () 2. Which of the following is the closest in meaning to states as it is used in the reading?
- (A) To tell somebody that he or she is doing a good job.
 - (B) To take action and do something urgent. 📖 urgent 急迫的
 - (C) To say something clearly.
 - (D) To do something wrong.
- () 3. Which of the following does the HRW report NOT tell us?
- (A) How schools are stopping their students from working on farms.
 - (B) Why everyone should fully understand the dangers of child labor.
 - (C) That the local government should be helping more to protect kids. 📖 local 當地的
 - (D) How many Indonesian children are working in dangerous environments.