

Reading — Article

Tommy is reading a feature article in the newspaper. Read the article.

Comic culture - Hong Kong style

[1] "Hong Kong artists are mostly **influenced** by Japanese manga. We can only think of drawing lines as the only way to draw hair," Siu Hak commented.

[2] He added that having new **inspiration** does not mean we should **abandon** our old habits; they **propel** us to reflect more on our original work. "French artists would feature forests as backgrounds in their comic strips, because they live in a natural environment and this is where they draw inspiration from," he said.

[3] "We won't draw a forest as the background in Hong Kong, but we would draw a '**concrete** jungle' as our inspiration." Perhaps this is the reason why the artist **dedicated** much of his work to personifying the **renowned** buildings in Hong Kong as a group of supermen - from the HSBC Main Building to the Bank of China Tower - in his popular comic book *Fake Forensic Science*. The concrete jungle may offer little space for **aspiring** artists to **pursue** their artistic dreams, but the densely compressed space has also pushed many of its artists to observe the smallest details in life and fit them into comic strips. Hong Kong may still have a long way to go in terms of comic development, but the city has much potential if we explore external inspiration and turn our own limitations into **opportunities** to be creative.

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences and blacken the correct circles.

1. What can new inspiration allow us to do?

- A. produce more manga B. abandon our old habits
 C. make changes to our original concept D. draw inspiration from old things

2. Which kind of artists is most likely to feature forests as backgrounds?

- A. Hong Kong artists B. young artists who love forests
 C. female artists who enjoy living in
forests D. artists who live in a natural
environment

3. Why would some artists feature forests as backgrounds in their comic strips?

- A. They live in forest-related places. B. They love forests a lot.
 C. The story is about forests. D. The comic culture is like that.

4. According to the writer, should we adopt completely the Japanese style in producing comics?

- A. Yes, because it gives us new inspiration.
 B. Yes, because that is a good practice.
 C. No, because we should not abandon our own habits.
 D. No, because we live in a natural environment.

5. Based on the information given in paragraph 3, decide whether the following statements are True or False. Write "T" for true and "F" for false.

(i) The concrete jungle destroys all artists' inspiration. _____

(ii) The concrete jungle is a two-edged sword for
Hong Kong's comic development. _____

(iii) All artists are able to observe the smallest details in life. _____

6. Fill in each blank with only ONE word using information from the passage. You may need to change the form of the word. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

- (i) When Hong Kong artists are drawing hair in their works, they usually follow the _____ style of the artists.
- (ii) The concrete jungle inspired Siu Hak to draw interesting comics. The _____ buildings in Hong Kong have been transformed into _____ in the story.
- (iii) To sum up, the concrete jungle can be seen as both a/an _____ and a/an _____ for Hong Kong's comic development at the same time.

7. "Abandon" (line 3) can be replaced by _____.

- A. accept B. introduce
 C. throw away D. change

8. According to the passage, Hong Kong has _____ in comic development.

- A. reached its best B. come to an end
 C. just started D. much room for improvement.

9. How does Fake Forensic Science make use of the concrete jungle?

- A. The supermen live in the buildings.
 B. The buildings are turned into heroes.
 C. The supermen use science to destroy the buildings.
 D. The concrete jungle is the power source of the supermen.

10. Should Hong Kong artists use forests as the only feature in their comic strips?

Why or why not?

11. According to the writer, can Hong Kong artists draw good comics? If yes, how can they do so? If no, why not?

B. Fill in the blanks by using the following vocabularies.

influence	inspiration	abandon	propel	concrete
dedicate	renowned	aspiring	pursue	opportunity

- Everyone is given an equal _____ to express their opinion.
- The region is _____ for its outstanding natural beauty.
- The house had been _____ for several years before they decided to demolish it.
- Albert is our class monitor. He always behaves himself and tries to _____ others.
- The train was _____ by steam in the 19th century.
- He decided to _____ a career in television.
- He has _____ his life to scientific research.
- Helping out at the animal rescue centre would be good experience for _____ vet like you.
- The bomb shelter has _____ walls that are three metres thick.
- What is your _____ for the new designs?

