INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write your Candidate Number in the space provided on Page 1.

2. Stick barcode labels in the spaces provided on Pages 1, 3 and 5.

3. Read carefully the instructions on the multiple-choice answer sheet and insert the information required (including your Candidate Number, Seat Number, Centre Number and the Q.P. code) in the spaces provided.

4. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. This Question-Answer Book contains the questions for Parts 1 and 2.

5. Answers to all of Part 1 Questions 1–16 and to Part 2 Questions 17–46 should be marked on the multiple-choice answer sheet. Answers to Part 2 Questions 47–99 should be written in this Question-Answer Book.

6. For multiple-choice questions, mark only ONE answer to each question. Two or more answers will score NO MARKS.

7. Marks will not be deducted for wrong answers.

8. Supplementary answer sheets will be supplied on request. Write your Candidate Number and stick a barcode label on each sheet and fasten them with string inside this book.

9. You are advised to spend approximately 20 minutes on Part 1 (Reading) and approximately 70 minutes on Part 2 (Language Systems).
PART 1
READING
(6% of the subject mark)

Read the following article and then answer questions 1 – 16. From the four choices given, choose the option which best answers each question. You should mark your answers to questions 1 – 16 on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

The labour situation in China

[1] One of the oddest sights for visitors to Dongguan, an industrial city in Guangdong Province in China, is the bright red banners proclaiming labour shortages at many massive, modern factories. "Our company has vacancies for unskilled workers," says a banner outside the Dongguan Lighting Decoration Factory. Next door, at a huge glassware factory, a red and yellow sign reads: "Our company is expanding and needs unskilled workers as well as glass technicians, supervisors and quality controllers."

[2] Nine months ago, the government of Guangdong Province first acknowledged an acute shortage of workers. Since then, the situation has hardly improved: in February, one million workers were said to be needed in this highly industrialised part of China that makes everything from speakers to mobile phones. Indeed, figures released by the Provincial Statistics Office show 70 percent of the 329 companies surveyed were having difficulties recruiting workers.

[3] Experts say China's labour shortage has many causes, one of which concerns employers' preference for a certain kind of worker: unmarried women aged 18 to 26, whom managers consider more dexterous, less troublesome and more willing to work longer hours. As migrants, these female workers live in dormitories close to the plant, and without families, are ready to work overtime to obtain extra pay. However, this supply of desired labour is declining, even though China's overall population growth has yet to peak.

[4] Another cause of the labour shortage may be the improved media and communication: newspapers have reported cases of activist lawyers suing employers after workers were injured on the job. Also, more people are telling friends about poor working conditions, something that has become easier with cellphones. The number of mobile phone users in China rose sharply from 85 million in 2000 to 329 million in 2004.

[5] Yet another cause of the labour shortage concerns pay packets. The minimum wage that employers are supposed to pay workers is often only a nominal figure, as official enforcement of it is sporadic and cannot be guaranteed. The actual wages that workers do receive are the ones they agree on with their bosses, regardless of any official figure. The reality is that wages have barely increased over the last decade for workers who toil ten hours or more a day, six or seven days a week. At around 300 yuan a month, they are too low to lure workers from far-off provinces. This, coupled with the fact that food prices and government subsidies for farmers have risen, means that there is not much incentive for farm workers to find jobs in the city.

[6] Many economists believe that higher wages are an easy solution to the labour problem. There are approximately 85 million country people belonging to the working age group who, if the gap between urban and rural incomes remains high and growing, would opt to work in factories for the extra money. Indeed, Guangzhou has upped the minimum wage from 510 yuan a month in 2003 to 684 yuan. This rate is the highest in China, followed by Shanghai at 635 yuan, Suzhou and Hangzhou at 620 yuan, Shenzhen at 610 yuan and Chengdu at 450 yuan.

[7] However, in the long run, manufacturers may not be able to rely solely on paying workers the minimum wage to survive in the world market. As a case in point, the Pearl River Delta is experiencing a labour shortage of about 10 percent whereas in the Yangtze River Delta, the percentage is much lower. The reason for the difference is that most firms in the Pearl River Delta, mainly run by Taiwanese and Hong Kong companies, pay workers only the minimum wage, whereas those in the Yangtze River Delta, especially the European and North American companies, pay substantially above the minimum wage and provide better conditions.

[8] Whatever the reasons for the shortage of workers, the labour situation in this part of the world is significant in that it exemplifies the myth, still very popular in Europe and the USA, that China has a bottomless pool of people who will work anywhere at any price. As Arthur Kroeber, the managing editor of China Economic Quarterly, said, "There isn't a vast labor pool that flows like a liquid to wherever side China is tilting."

[9] Meanwhile, efforts to attract workers continue. In many neighbourhoods of Guangzhou, posters are plastered on nearly every available wall. A typical sign reads: "We have orders and we need workers. We offer room and board. Enjoy our excellent canteen." During a recent visit to Guangzhou, a striking image was the sight of Wang Kong, a jobless 24-year-old migrant from Jiangxi, who said he had nine years of experience in the textile industry. He sat on a bridge above a fetid, murky and blackened waterway, chewed a piece of sugar cane and looked contemplatively at a long line of factory recruiters stationed along the riverbank. Why was he not interested in taking a job from them? "They're not offering enough," he said. He was holding out for 1,500 yuan, nearly three times the minimum wage, an example of the bargaining power that the labour shortage has given workers.

[10] One thing seems certain about China's labour situation: the days of talking about millions upon millions of jobless peasants scouting the nation for any work they can find are probably over. Just ask Wang; he is happy to sit on the bridge until someone offers him the right money.

Source: Adapted from two articles, one by Mark O'Neill in the South China Morning Post, 28 March 2005, the other by Thomas Fuller in the International Herald Tribune, 30 March 2005.
1. The main idea expressed in paragraphs 1 and 2 is that...
   A. visitors to Guangdong Province can expect to see colourful banners everywhere.
   B. Guangdong Province is a manufacturer of speakers and mobile phones.
   C. there is a serious shortage of workers in Guangdong Province.
   D. workers are required for certain jobs only in Guangdong Province.

2. According to paragraph 3, many factories in China prefer to employ unmarried migrant women because...
   A. they are good at using their hands and are cooperative.
   B. they are prepared to work overtime without extra payment.
   C. they do not require accommodation.
   D. they accept lower wages than men.

3. In line 28, "this supply of desired labour" refers to...
   A. staff who are willing to work overtime.
   B. young, unmarried women.
   C. workers recruited from Guangdong Province.
   D. workers willing to accept less than the minimum wage.

4. According to paragraph 4, how have mobile phones contributed to the problem in the labour market?
   A. The number of people using mobile phones to talk to friends at work has increased.
   B. Mobile phones make it easier for workers to warn others about bad conditions.
   C. Lawyers are suing employers using mobile phones.
   D. The increased availability of mobile phones has made it easier for workers to find jobs.

5. According to paragraph 5, ...
   A. there has been a general increase in wages during the past ten years.
   B. the workers and their bosses agree with government officials.
   C. many workers work long hours and receive low wages.
   D. farmers in China want to look for work in the city.

6. In line 41, what does the author mean when he says "official enforcement of it is sporadic"?
   A. The government always tries to guarantee the minimum wage.
   B. The government is too slow to introduce the minimum wage.
   C. The government forces employers to pay the minimum wage.
   D. The government does not always enforce the minimum wage.

7. In line 48, "This" refers to the fact that...
   A. there are many causes of China's labour shortage problem.
   B. workers agree with bosses that the minimum wage is too low.
   C. workers who come from far-off provinces receive low wages.
   D. wages are not sufficiently attractive for workers from far-off provinces.

8. According to paragraph 6, the minimum wage in Shanghai is...
   A. one of the lowest in China.
   B. higher than that in Guangzhou.
   C. the second highest in China.
   D. higher than it was in 2003.

9. According to paragraph 7, which of the following statements best describes the labour situation in the Yangtze River Delta?
   A. Most of the employers there are European and American companies.
   B. Working conditions and wages there are superior to those in the Pearl River Delta.
   C. There is no labour shortage.
   D. Companies from Taiwan and Hong Kong have invested heavily in the area.

10. In line 78, the expression "explodes the myth" means...
    A. confirms a theory.
    B. provides dramatic new evidence.
    C. disproves a widely held belief.
    D. destroys a dream.

11. In lines 79 and 80, "China has a bottomless pool of people" means that...
    A. China has a population problem.
    B. China has a larger population than Europe and the USA.
    C. China has a lot of very deep pools.
    D. China has an unlimited supply of workers.

12. In lines 88 and 89, "We offer room and board" means that...
    A. the company provides workers with a room and a hard bed.
    B. the company offers good wages and career opportunities.
    C. the company offers a spacious and pleasant working environment.
    D. the company provides accommodation and food.

13. In line 94, "fetid" means...
    A. smelly
    B. faulty
    C. faded
    D. shiny
14. According to paragraph 9, Wang Kong has not accepted any job offer because...
A. the employers are not offering enough jobs.
B. he believes he can find a better-paid job.
C. he already holds a job paying 1,500 yuan.
D. he prefers to bargain for a job in Jiangxi.

15. According to the article, one solution to the labour situation in China is to...
A. offer higher salaries to the workers.
B. encourage more investment from European and American companies.
C. improve communication between employers and workers.
D. expand the Pearl River Delta further.

16. According to the article, which one of the following statements about China’s labour shortage is FALSE?
A. The workers will work anywhere at any price.
B. Farmers are less willing to move to cities for work.
C. Companies need to rely less on cheap labour.
D. Many employers ignore the minimum wage.

PART 2 LANGUAGE SYSTEMS

(12% of the subject mark)

From the four choices for questions 17 - 34, choose the option which would best complete the article if inserted in the blank. You should mark your answers to questions 17 - 34 on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

“A friend fur life”

There are many people in Hong Kong who are animal lovers, and Sally Andersen is one of them.

Sally lives on an outlying island in Hong Kong and has been rescuing dogs (17) the past 19 years. A couple of days a week, she (18) a sampan specially to go to Hong Kong Island. There, she visits stray and abandoned dogs that are temporarily housed in the government kennels.

At the kennels, Sally selects the most suitable dogs for adoption and takes them back (19) Lamma. She keeps as many as 60 dogs in two (20) houses - one for small dogs and the other for big dogs and puppies. She looks after them until she finds them homes. Those she leaves behind at the kennels are destroyed (21) four days.

In the past years, Sally has saved over (22) dogs, but (23) this is only a drop in the ocean when you consider that about 40,000 dogs are abandoned in Hong Kong (24) year. Since it is difficult to find new homes for such a large number of dogs, at least 35,000 of them get (25) down. The fact is that many of the abandoned animals (26) in good faith by caring families who like dogs but who had no experience of keeping any as a pet. They simply did not (27) how much of a commitment looking after an animal would be. In some cases, people chose a breed that turned out to be unsuitable for their domestic situation and eventually had to give it up.

In many (28) the pressure to get a pet comes from the children. The begging and pleading starts the moment your (29) friend gets a pet and ends only when an animal is settled in your home. (30) parents do not always stop (31) the responsibility a pet brings.

SPCA’s deputy director of welfare, Fiona Woodhouse, says the decision (32) a pet is a big one. “A pet is for life,” she says. “It’s not a toy. And with pets comes responsibility (33) time, space and financial commitment. This responsibility becomes even greater (34) your pet becomes sick. Some animals live upwards of 15 years, so it’s the same commitment as having a child.”

If you really care about dogs, think twice before you adopt one as a pet!

Source: Adapted from an article by Rosheen Rodwell in the South China Morning Post, 10 March 2005.
17. A. in  
B. since  
C. at  
D. for  

18. A. sails  
B. takes  
C. travels  
D. drives  

19. A. in  
B. in the  
C. to  
D. to the  

20. A. near  
B. next  
C. neighbouring  
D. close to  

21. A. for  
B. until  
C. during  
D. within  

22. A. hundred  
B. hundreds  
C. a hundred  
D. two hundreds  

23. A. sadly  
B. incidentally  
C. fortunately  
D. additionally  

24. A. every  
B. last  
C. next  
D. all  

25. A. run  
B. put  
C. taken  
D. shut  

26. A. bought  
B. had bought  
C. will be bought  
D. were bought  

27. A. knew  
B. know  
C. knowing  
D. known  

28. A. aspects  
B. times  
C. cases  
D. problems  

29. A. children  
B. childish  
C. child's  
D. childhood  

30. A. Similarly  
B. Unfortunately  
C. By the way  
D. On the other hand  

31. A. to consider  
B. considering  
C. and considered  
D. for considering  

32. A. getting  
B. for getting  
C. get  
D. to get  

33. A. in terms of  
B. as much as  
C. regards  
D. concerned  

34. A. even  
B. while  
C. then  
D. if
The following article is in eight paragraphs. The beginning of each paragraph is indicated by ¶. From each set of four choices given, choose the most suitable option so that the article makes sense as a whole. You should mark your answers to questions 35 – 46 on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

A waste of time for now

Hong Kong is facing a dilemma. The city produces 7,400 tons of domestic waste a day, in addition to commercial and construction waste. At this rate, our three landfills will be full in six to ten years. To meet our needs until 2050,

35. A. we shall have to develop extra landfill sites
   B. the government needs to re-think its strategy
   C. no more landfills should be used
   D. we should reduce spending on waste

at a cost of $63 billion to the taxpayer. Money aside, there is also the issue of where to find land to bury Hong Kong’s ever growing mountain of rubbish.

¶ The government has not been idle. Since recognising the problem in 1998, it has expanded our existing landfills and

36. A. has created additional problems.
   B. is reducing government spending on waste.
   C. has done little to improve the situation.
   D. is searching for new sites.

It has put more than $20 million into setting up about 27,600 sets of recycling bins in housing estates, transport stations and public areas. In conjunction with Wellcome supermarkets, it has set up collection points for recycling plastic bags

37. A. 24 hours a day
   B. 24 times
   C. in 24 Wellcome stores
   D. at 24 landfill sites

and 90 7-Eleven outlets. It has created voluntary schemes to reduce waste from batteries and electronic equipment. It has also enticed 673 businesses into more environmentally friendly practices through its Wastewise logo scheme. In general, such kinds of voluntary schemes assume that people have a sense of environmental responsibility. However, despite the initiatives, we recycle only a miserable 14 percent of household waste. At this rate, it seems inevitable that Hong Kong will eventually have to resort to incineration, the burning of waste.

¶ A government pilot study conducted recently has cast some light on the attitude of the average Hong Kong resident. Recycling bins were installed on all floors, rather than just the ground floor, of 13 housing estates. The study found that in these estates, the government was able to recover 40 percent more paper, 10 percent more plastic and an amazing 20 times more metal than in those estates where bins were available only on the ground floor. Such promising results indicate a potentially viable solution to our waste problem. However, the study also screams out an undeniable truth: when it comes to recycling,

39. A. we take our environmental responsibilities seriously.
   B. we cannot even be bothered to take a lift.
   C. nobody in Hong Kong cares about recycling.
   D. people generally use recycling bins.

¶ Some analysts say that there should be a tax on bottles and cans of soft drinks and beer. In Hong Kong, some wholesalers in fact already operate a deposit system which requires customers to pay a small amount of extra money when they buy drinks in glass bottles. The customers get the deposit back when they return the empty bottles. Surprisingly, our government has no plans to make use of the money generated to further expand the reusable bottle scheme.

40. A. Obviously,
   B. Yet,
   C. Moreover,
   D. Unfortunately,

similar schemes are already in place on the mainland and in Europe.

¶ The current debate on environmental protection and waste disposal has focused much of its attention on introducing a tax on plastic bags. However, to tax plastic bags without considering what to do about

41. A. paper bags
   B. re-usable bags
   C. other types of waste
   D. other taxes

is basically a piecemeal plan and will not solve all our waste problems. Implementing this tax would also be a problem, as it is bound to face public opposition. The public is also likely to start a debate on what kind of plastic bags should be taxed. Should it include just
bags used for newspapers, bread and groceries, or should other types of packaging materials be taxed as well? For example, if you get a plastic bag when you buy fish at a wet market, should you have to

42. A. pay for it?
   B. re-use it?
   C. return it to the market?
   D. implement it?

Personally, I do not oppose such a tax for the sake of argument. Indeed, I agree that

43. A. this tax will answer all our waste problems.
   B. this tax is urgently needed.
   C. this tax will be unpopular with most people.
   D. this tax should be implemented eventually.

However, I do not think that it should be an immediate priority for the government to introduce it straight away.

† Other types of waste, in particular used tyres from vehicles, take up a large amount of space in landfills and produce air pollution if they are incinerated. Some people have in fact proposed a tax on car tyres, which seems to make a lot of sense because it involves fewer people and is therefore much simpler to implement.

44. A. If the proposed tax on tyres fails,
   B. Following on from the tyre tax,
   C. To solve the waste problem once and for all,
   D. Since computers do not cause so much pollution,

the government might want to consider a similar levy on computers and electronic goods. If a tax is added to the price of these products, consumers may think twice before replacing them quite so often. The revenue collected could be deposited into a fund used to dispose of or recycle the waste. An independent committee could be established to oversee the fund and to produce an annual report on how the money was spent, whether the Environmental Protection Department hired a contractor to handle the waste, and how much that cost.

† In order to bring about improvement, different parties will have to work together to minimise waste. Citizens need to realise that the environment will continue to degrade unless we commit ourselves to action. Companies should be required to contribute to reducing waste. Businesses should learn

45. A. social responsibility;
   B. to be more profitable;
   C. to respect the law;
   D. to listen to the public;

they must not wait for non-government organisations or the public to speak up before they do something. The government should take responsibility for the many recycling schemes that have been delayed for years.

† To conclude, our current practice of dealing with waste cannot continue. We can ill afford to wait until a law is in place – that attitude has to change. More importantly, we need the co-operation of three parties:

46. A. the schools, the public and the government.
   B. supermarkets, car owners and the public.
   C. wholesalers, companies and the government.
   D. businesses, the public and the government.

Without their concerted effort, the quality of life can only go down and the damage to our city and the next generation will be immense.

Source: Adapted from two articles, one by Donald Asprey in the *HK Magazine*, 13 May 2005, the other by Howard Liu in the *South China Morning Post*, 28 March 2005.
Scientists say dinosaur cloning possible from DNA

Scientists in the US have caused concern throughout the world after extracting what looks like blood vessels and intact cells from a recently discovered Tyrannosaurus rex. The well-preserved fossil skeleton of a T-rex was unearthed in 2003 from Hell Creek, Montana, in the US. Tests on the 70 million year-old samples continue and scientists have not ruled out the possibility of extracting DNA, which might eventually lead to the cloning of dinosaurs.

The discovery of the T-rex has raised the possibility of re-creating dinosaurs, as in Steven Spielberg’s popular film Jurassic Park, based upon a bestselling novel written by Michael Crichton. In the story, DNA was the starting point for the cloning of dinosaurs, and scientists managed to develop a means of bringing dinosaurs back to life using DNA that came from an ancient insect.

In reality, samples from the T-rex unearthed in Montana are still being studied. When the researchers analysed one of the thigh bones, broken during its recovery, they found a flexible, stretchy material containing what appeared to be transparent and hollow blood vessels. These looked like real blood vessels, and some of them contained red and brown structures that looked like cells. Within these, the team of scientists discovered smaller objects similar in size to the nuclei of blood cells in modern birds. Mary Schweitzer, who led the team from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, told the journal Science: “The vessels and contents are similar in all respects to blood vessels recovered from the bones of modern ostriches. It was totally shocking. I didn’t believe it until we’d done the analysis 17 times.”

The researchers’ next step is to determine whether the soft tissue found inside the bone might be original T-rex material. However, this may not be easy as the proteins in the tissue could have been replaced by other chemicals over the centuries, which would then make the analysis difficult. So far, Dr. Schweitzer’s group has succeeded in identifying some protein fragments that still responded to tests. Other experts are hopeful. In the UK, David Martill, a biochemist at the University of Portsmouth, said: “There’s a very real chance that there may be intact proteins.” He speculated that it might even be possible to extract DNA. Lawrence Wiener, a specialist at Ohio University in the US, agreed: “If we have tissue that’s not fossilised, then we can potentially extract DNA. It’s very exciting.”

If the cells do contain original biological material, the scientists claim that they would be able to investigate everything from dinosaur physiology to how the creatures evolved into birds. However, they believe that cloning one of the creatures would be far more difficult. As pointed out by Duane Kraemer, a cloning expert who leads a project called Noah’s Ark at Texas A&M University where tissue samples from animals close to extinction are stored, current cloning techniques need hundreds of nuclei from living cells. Any dinosaur DNA remaining in the cells would probably be damaged or degraded, making it impossible to use for cloning. However, this has not stopped people from trying to re-create an extinct animal. In fact, several groups have made unsuccessful attempts to clone the woolly mammoth using genetic material recovered from a frozen carcass.

In the fictional Jurassic Park, scientists repaired damaged genetic material using frog DNA. In reality, they would need to know the complete dinosaur genome. To determine what has been damaged, you need to know what the original DNA sequence was,” said Dr. Kraemer. Alex Greenwood, a biologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, has compared trying to clone an extinct animal from damaged DNA to throwing all the parts needed to make a car down the stairs of a building in the hope that a Porsche 911 sports car will emerge.

Source: Adapted from an article by David Adam in The Guardian, 25 March 2005.
Use ONE word to fill in each blank for questions 47 – 66. Contracted words and acronyms (e.g. NATO) count as one word. Note that the most suitable word MAY or MAY NOT appear in Version 1. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to tenses, plurals, etc.

Version 2

Steven Spielberg’s film, Jurassic Park, is based on an exciting story in which dinosaurs are cloned and exhibited in a theme park. Recent scientific discoveries have encouraged speculation that it might, in fact, be possible for scientists to clone dinosaurs. In 2003, in Montana in the US, the (47)________________________of a Tyrannosaurus rex was discovered. Tests carried out on the well-preserved, 70 million-year-old samples found a flexible, stretchy material which appears to contain (48)________________________of the T-rex. However, what the scientists really hope to extract eventually is (49)________________________, which might allow them to clone a dinosaur.

Mary Schweitzer of North Carolina State University is the (50)________________________of the team of scientists who analysed material from the T-rex. She explained in an interview with a journalist that she was (51)________________________when she first saw the samples. The vessels are (52)________________________those found in the bones of present-day ostriches.

The next stage for the researchers is to analyse the (53)________________________inside the bone to find out whether this is really from a T-rex. However, it is possible that other chemicals may have replaced the original (54)________________________.

David Martill, who works as a specialist in (55)________________________at a UK university, believes that the (56)________________________of DNA from the samples might be possible. Lawrence Witmer of Ohio University agrees with him, but points out that it will be necessary to obtain tissue that is not (57)________________________.

Scientists think that provided the (58)________________________contained in the cells is original, they would be able to investigate many features of the dinosaurs, such as learning about dinosaur physiology and studying the creatures’ (59)________________________into birds. However, they admit that it would be much more difficult to (60)________________________a dinosaur. Duane Kraemer, who works at Texas A&M University which stores tissue samples from animals that are (61)________________________, explained that modern cloning techniques required large numbers of (62)________________________from living cells.

In the story of Jurassic Park, scientists repaired damaged dinosaur DNA using DNA from (63)________________________. However, in practice it is necessary to know the complete (64)________________________of a dinosaur in order to clone it. So far, no attempt to re-create extinct animals has been (65)________________________because the available genetic material is (66)________________________.
For questions 67 – 80 the statements in Column A can be paired with those in Column B so that the second statement follows most naturally from the first. The two correctly-matched statements from Column A and Column B form a pair, but if all the statements in the exercise are put together, they DO NOT form a complete passage. Write the letters of the statements from Column B in the spaces provided in the Answers column as shown in example a. Each letter should be used ONCE ONLY.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Answers</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. “Hungry for Success” is Scotland’s two-year-old healthy eating initiative for school meals, which aims to reduce the amount of chips eaten by pupils.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>A. About 50% of the cost is subsidised and the rest is borne by parents according to a means-tested five-tier scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67. The actual cost of a school meal in France averages around the equivalent of HK$60, but fortunately pupils do not need to pay the full cost.</td>
<td>67.</td>
<td>B. Classes end at about 1.30 pm and students are then left to get their own lunches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68. School meals in France consist of well-balanced three or four courses and are taken by half of all school children.</td>
<td>68.</td>
<td>C. Under the scheme, chips are still on the menu, but no more than twice a week, and there are strict nutritional guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69. With more and more councils in France asking private companies to supply meals, some voluntary guidelines have been drawn up by some health and nutrition institutes.</td>
<td>69.</td>
<td>D. This means that only wealthier regions such as Moscow, the Urals and Krasnodar can maintain reasonable standards of school meals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70. Pupils in Japan take home a menu for the coming month containing notes on nutrition, fat and salt content, and calorific value.</td>
<td>70.</td>
<td>E. Options include introducing a swipe card for all pupils to use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71. Lunch is prepared on the premises and eaten in the classroom during the lunch break, with children expected to clean up afterwards.</td>
<td>71.</td>
<td>F. Upper secondary institutions offer free lunches, although some can charge parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72. The standards for nutrition are based on the federal government’s dietary guidelines, which recommend that no more than 30% of an individual’s calories come from fat and less than 10% from saturated fat.</td>
<td>72.</td>
<td>G. Twice a year parents are invited to taste-test the food described in the monthly menus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73. Fast food such as meat pies, sausage rolls and hotdogs have been traditional items in Australian school tuck shops.</td>
<td>73.</td>
<td>H. On other days you might find omelettes, salads, chick pea stew and pasta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74. In Australia, children from families with incomes below 130% of the poverty level are entitled to free meals.</td>
<td>74.</td>
<td>I. However, as the nation battles childhood obesity, healthier alternatives have forced their way onto the school menu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75. Many schools in New South Wales have adopted a traffic light system.</td>
<td>75.</td>
<td>J. This system limits the sale of red-labelled foods that are high in fat, sugar and salt to only twice a term while healthier green-labelled foods are available every day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76. The vast majority of South Africa’s schools do not serve meals at all.</td>
<td>76.</td>
<td>K. Teachers check that the desks and floor are tidy before starting the afternoon lessons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77. Two years ago the federal government in Russia ceased funding school meals from the central budget, leaving regions to find the money for themselves.</td>
<td>77.</td>
<td>L. School lunches must also provide at least one-third of the recommended dietary allowance of protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, iron, calcium, and calories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78. Hamburgers are on the menu in Catalonian schools, but only once a week.</td>
<td>78.</td>
<td>M. These are used by many councils to check on the private caterers supplying meals until some official guidelines eventually become available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79. Primary and secondary schools are forbidden to charge for meals.</td>
<td>79.</td>
<td>N. Those with incomes between 130% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for meals at reduced prices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80. Officials are trying to find ways to conceal the identity of pupils who get free school meals.</td>
<td>80.</td>
<td>O. Descriptions of those healthy meals are posted on school notice boards and websites every week so that parents can plan appropriate evening meals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adopted from “School meals around the world” reported in the Education Guardian, 30 March 2005.
The buzzword of pre- and primary school education in many countries over the last 20 years has been "accountability". It is often suggested that income from taxes should be spent only on programmes that are effective.

However, one of the less-noticed effects of movement for greater accountability has been that children opportunities for free time and to interact their peers, especially during breaks, have been eliminated or diminished in many system in countries such as the United States, Canada and the Britain. While it may seem like common sense that reducing break time would have a positive effect on pupils' achievement, it is no evidence to support this. On a contrary, although many educators recognise the important of teaching skills and maximising the efficient use of class time, they also recommend breaks to allow children to relaxing.

There can be common ground between this two positions. Indeed, far too many policies recommended for primary schools have none scientific basis. I am unaware of any data supporting the idea that eliminate breaks maximises children's attention to classroom tasks. A fact, experimental research supports the argument that children more attentive to classroom tasks after a break.

Some studies conducted are suggest that students' attention to classroom work is maximised when study periods are short and following by breaks. In most East Asian primary schools, for examples, children are given a 10-minutes break regularly every 40 minutes or so. When these children had come back, they seem more attentive and are more ready to work.