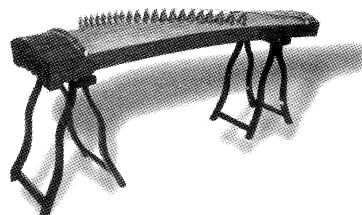


PART B1

Read Text 2 and answer questions 26-36 on pages 1-3 of the Question-Answer Book for Part B1.

Text 2

Master teaches a much-loved instrument



- [1] The guzheng has been a popular Chinese instrument since ancient times. It originated during the Warring States period and first became popular during the Qin Dynasty.
- [2] After surviving the turbulent times of the Cultural Revolution, its popularity was restored and today it is one of the most loved Chinese instruments, recognised as a representative of traditional Chinese culture around the world.
- [3] ‘Chinese people are attracted to [learning] the guzheng because they have been exposed to its sound since childhood,’ says Zou Lunlun, guzheng artist and founder of the *International Academy for Musical Arts*.
- [4] ‘Westerners are attracted to it because of its exotic and relaxing sound. The skills of playing the guzheng bring many benefits, such as artistic expression, sense of accomplishment, stress relief, social activity and physical activity.’
- [5] Zou, born into a family of guzheng musicians who go back four generations, has travelled the world as a master performer. She has played for celebrities and politicians who include the former prime ministers of Australia and New Zealand, and former president Jiang Zemin.
- [6] Now based in Hong Kong, Zou founded the *International Academy for Musical Arts* in North Point in 2006. The school offers guzheng classes to children and adults taught by Zou. Students can choose from a group class, one-to-one tuition or lessons available via Skype.
- [7] Group courses for beginners comprise eight weekly classes of 45 minutes and cost HK\$1,680. Each focuses on the basic skills of string plucking, correct body posture while playing and proper use of both hands.
- [8] One-to-one classes are available for beginner, intermediate and advanced students and cost HK\$420, HK\$480 and HK\$550, respectively. Skype lessons are available for people who would find travelling to the school difficult.
- [9] The music office of the *Leisure and Cultural Services Department* has courses at elementary, intermediate and advanced levels for students aged between six and 23. The beginners’ course runs for two years and involves weekly, one-hour lessons in a group setting and tuition costs HK\$1,650.
- [10] Acceptance is based on an interview and a music aptitude test with the next intake in August. All classes are conducted in Cantonese.
- [11] The *Gu Zheng Artist Association* offers two-month courses for elementary to professional level students. Each comprises eight, one-hour lessons and costs from HK\$680 to HK\$980 depending on student level.
- [12] The elementary course focuses on the basic fingering techniques for both hands and students learn to play traditional Chinese songs, ‘Swordsman’ and ‘Fengyang Flower’.
- [13] The association has designed a 10 grade-examination system in which the level 1 exam is suitable for elementary students and level 10 is for students able to perform at a professional level.

Text 3

What your updates say about you

[1] Social media is great for deepening bonds, making friends, or finding that special someone. Or is it?

[2] New research suggests that so-called power users, who contribute much more content than the average Facebook user, are unwittingly revealing undesirable personal traits to their peers. The recent study also suggests that Facebook is not good for those suffering from low self-esteem.

[3] 'We had this idea that Facebook could be a fantastic place for people to strengthen their relationships,' says Amanda Forest of the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

[4] This assumption seems fair when applied to most people, especially those with low self-esteem. However, the findings of Forest's research – titled 'When Social Networking Is Not Working' – suggest that isn't so.

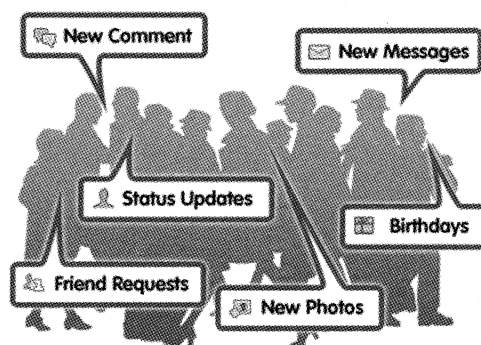
[5] The study revealed that people with low self-esteem were more negative than people with high self-esteem and liked less by strangers who rated the participants' status updates.

[6] The study also found that people with low self-esteem got more responses from their Facebook friends when they posted highly positive updates, compared to less positive ones. People with high self-esteem, on the other hand, used Facebook less and got more 'like' replies after posting something negative, perhaps because these responses are rarer for them.

[7] So people with low self-esteem may feel that Facebook is a risk-free forum for making personal disclosures, but they may not be helping themselves.

[8] 'If you're talking to somebody in person and you say something negative, you might get an indication that they don't like it,' says Forest.

40 But when people have a negative reaction to a post on Facebook, they seem to keep it to themselves. 'On Facebook, you don't see most of the reactions.'



[9] Is Facebook about popularity or desperation? It may often edge towards the latter, with evidence that Facebook is as addictive as cigarettes and alcohol. A study of the activities and desires of 200 adults by the University of Chicago showed that although the strongest desires were for sleep, checking work e-mails and updating a Facebook status are this generation's actual nocturnal activities.

[10] In theory, social networking websites like Facebook could be great for people with low self-esteem. Sharing is important for improving friendships. But in practice, people with low self-esteem seem to behave counterproductively, bombarding their friends with negative tidbits about their lives and making themselves less likeable.

END OF READING PASSAGES

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report* and *Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.