

**IEC**

**Application of  
Independent Learning /  
Study Skills**

**(Self Access II)**

Revised Edition 1999  
Education Department  
Hong Kong

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Back to Self-Access: Introduction [SA2.INT.Li.1]						Pg 1	
Skills ↓	Equipment						 30
<b>Reading</b>	<p>Welcome back to the self-access component of the Intensive English Course (IEC). As with Unit 1 the introduction is based on a listening tape, so you will need to find the self-access tape and look for SA2.INT.Li.1. You will also need a pen, your learner contract and a notebook.</p>						
<b>Writing</b>							
<b>Speaking</b>							
<b>Listening</b>							
☆☆							
<b>Next?</b> SA2.INT.Re.1							

### Pre-Listening 1

Before you listen to the start of SA2, have a look back at what you did in SA1. Did you manage to complete all the work? Did you manage to complete the evaluation and the learner contract? Did you enjoy the unit?

I will assume that you enjoyed the unit as you are back doing unit 2. If you didn't manage to complete all the work, it doesn't matter too much except that you may need to refer to SA1 at some stage through this unit. If you didn't manage to complete the learner contract, then you should really go and do that before you go on to attempt new work.

### Listening 1

While you listen to the tape, you should complete the tasks below. They involve taking notes, completing a diagram and completing a cloze. Before you turn the tape on, you should look through the tasks to see what is expected of you.

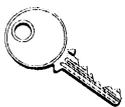
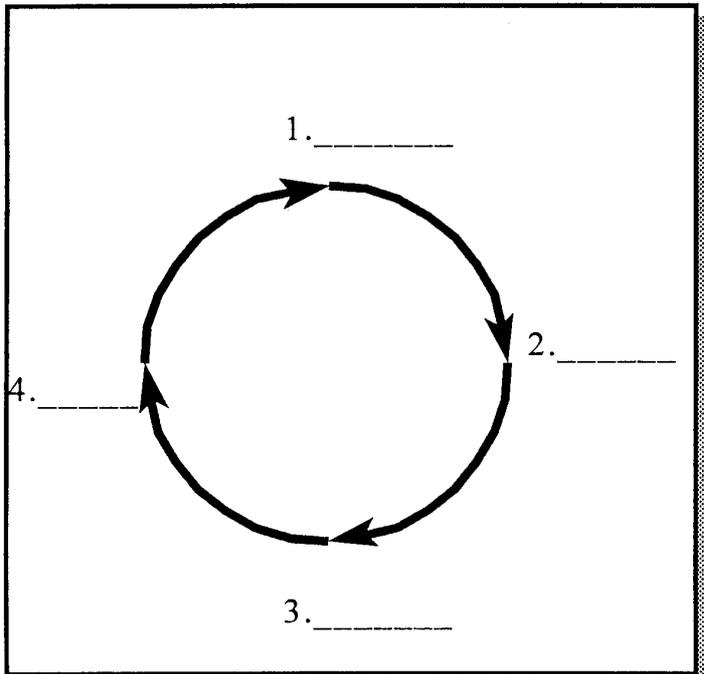
What are the reasons given for doing the first self-access unit before this one?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the gaps in the following extract from the tapescript.

The first unit began with an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to self-access and the features of the materials. You were asked to answer a few questions about (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and listened to some of the ideas behind (3) \_\_\_\_\_ study. We then looked at the idea of planning your route through the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ - that was called plotting a (5) \_\_\_\_\_. We looked at what your (6) \_\_\_\_\_ areas were in English and tried to plan your (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with these (8) \_\_\_\_\_ areas in mind.

Complete the diagram by adding the four stages in the cycle.



Back to Self-Access: Introduction [SA2.INT.Re.1]					Pg 1
Skills ↓	Equipment 				30
<b>Reading</b>					
<b>Writing</b>					
<b>Speaking</b>					
<b>Listening</b>					
☆☆☆					
<b>Next?</b> SA2.INT.Li/Re.1					

## Listening 2: Needs Analysis 1

A needs analysis is looking at what someone needs. As far as the IEC is concerned, we will look at what you need to improve your English. How can you tell what you need? Well, you should take a look at the work you did during SA1 and see what sort of marks you gave yourself. You should also look at how well you are doing with the other units in the IEC. What you are looking at is whether you need to work harder at certain skills than others. Do you find reading difficult or easy? Do you find writing difficult or easy? Do you find speaking difficult or easy? And so on.

Look at the needs analysis form below. It asks you to give priority to certain skills. Read through the instructions and then complete it.

### Needs Analysis Form For: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form as truthfully as possible.

#### A) MAIN SKILLS

Rank the following skills areas 1-4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

Speaking       Listening       Writing       Reading

Now rank them in order, with 1 being your strongest and 4 being your weakest.

Speaking       Listening       Writing       Reading

Are the rankings the same? In order to strengthen your weaknesses, you will need to concentrate on those areas the most.

## Needs Analysis Form For: \_\_\_\_\_ (Cont.)

**B) SUB-SKILLS**

Rank the following reading sub-skills areas 1 - 4 with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

Skimming       Scanning       Intensive       Extensive

Now rank them in order, with 1 being your strongest and 4 being your weakest.

Skimming       Scanning       Intensive       Extensive

Are the rankings the same? In order to strengthen your weaknesses, you will need to concentrate on those areas the most.

Rank the following listening sub-skills areas 1 - 4, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

General Understanding       Specific Information

Every Detail       Pleasure

Now rank them in order, with 1 being your strongest and 4 being your weakest.

General Understanding       Specific Information

Every Detail       Pleasure

Rank the following speaking sub-skills areas 1-3, with 1 being the most important and 3 being the least important.

Pronunciation       Presentations       Discussions

Now rank them in order, with 1 being your strongest and 3 being your weakest.

Pronunciation       Presentations       Discussions

Finally rank the following writing sub-skills areas 1 - 3, with 1 being the most important and 3 being the least important.

Notes       Letters       Essays

Now rank them in order, with 1 being your strongest and 3 being your weakest.

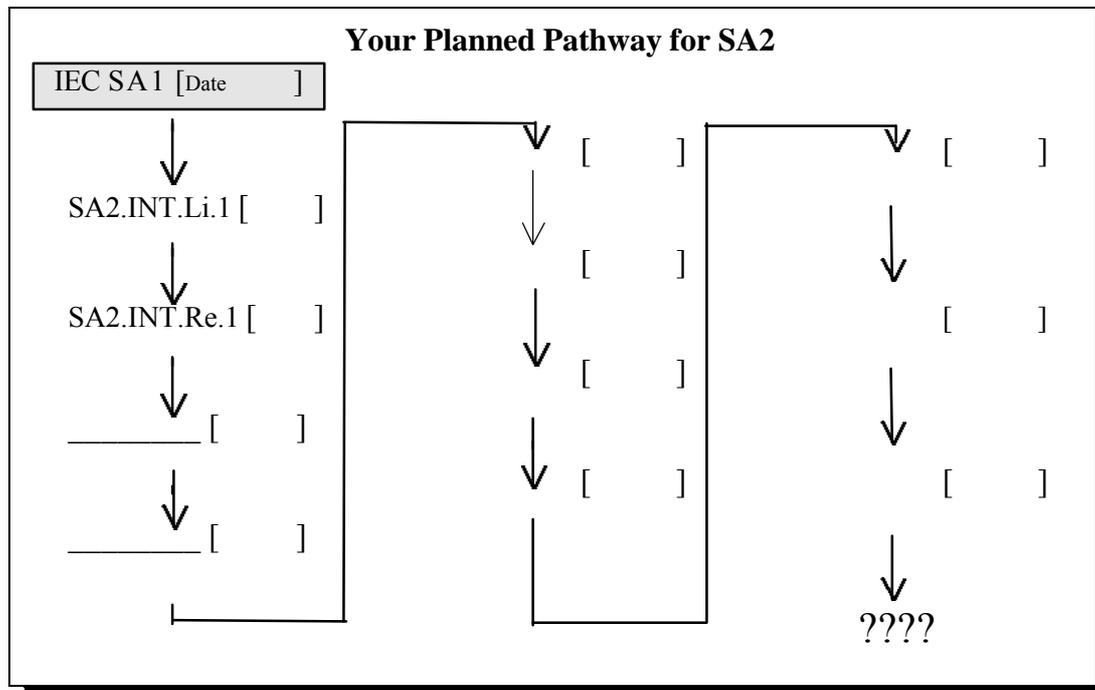
Notes       Letters       Essays

Needs Analysis Form For: \_\_\_\_\_ (Cont.)

You should now have a list of skills and sub-skills that you feel confident with and a list of skills and sub-skills that you are not so confident with. Now you need to rank those individual items as to which you need to improve first and which you need to improve last. With 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important, write a skill or sub-skill area next to the corresponding number. You may not have ten items on your list, in which case you won't need 1 - 10. You may have more than ten and so the list can include numbers higher than 10.

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1 | 2  |
| 3 | 4  |
| 5 | 6  |
| 7 | 8  |
| 9 | 10 |

These are the areas you will need to concentrate on and practise. You should now check this list with the learner contract you finished at the end of the last self-access unit. Is it similar? If not, you may need to adjust it with your new thinking on what you need to improve.

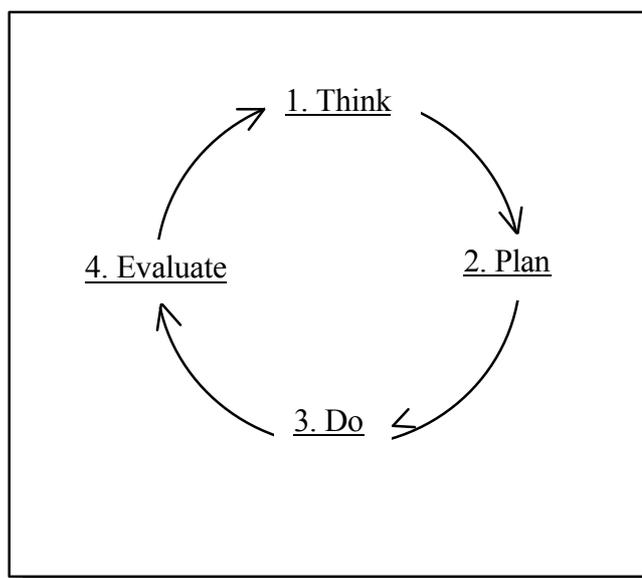


Back to Self-Access: Introduction [SA2.INT.LiRe.1]						Pg 1
Skills ↓						30
<b>Reading</b>						
<b>Writing</b>						
<b>Speaking</b>						
<b>Listening</b>						
☆☆						
<b>Next?</b> <small>SA2.FILE.ReLi.1</small>						

## Listening 1

- 1 It introduces you to the ideas behind self-access.
- 2 It helps you with planning what to do in your self-access time.
- 3 It introduces you to some of the skills you need to use the self-access material.
- 4 It tells you what all the different symbols mean.
- 5 It shows you how to evaluate your performance in self-access.

The first unit began with an (1) introduction to self-access and the features of the materials. You were asked to answer a few questions about (2) self-access and listened to some of the ideas behind (3) self-access study. We then looked at the idea of planning your route through the (4) materials - that was called plotting a (5) pathway . We looked at what your (6) weak areas were in English and tried to plan your (7) pathway with these (8) weak areas in mind.





## Tapescripts

### Listening 1

Welcome to the second unit of self-access in the Intensive English Course, IEC. Before you go any further, I have to ask you one question. Have you done the first self-access unit yet? If not, then you really should do that first. There are several reasons but here are the main ones:

- 1 It introduces you to the ideas behind self-access.
- 2 It helps you with planning what to do in your self-access time.
- 3 It introduces you to some of the skills you need to use the self-access material.
- 4 It tells you what all the different symbols mean.
- 5 It shows you how to evaluate your performance in self-access.

These are five very good reasons for doing the first self-access unit first.

In this unit you will be practising the skills you learnt in the first unit and start to make some choices about how to exploit materials you have.

We will begin with a little bit of revision though, looking back at what was covered and introduced in the first unit.

The first unit began with an introduction to self-access and the features of the materials. You were asked to answer a few questions about self-access and listened to some of the ideas behind self-access study. We then looked at the idea of planning your route through the materials - that was called plotting a pathway. We looked at what your weak areas were in English and tried to plan your pathway with these weak areas in mind.

Something which is as important as planning your pathway is keeping accurate records of what work you have done and we looked at possible ways of doing that. The rest of the unit was divided up into "So what is..." sections looking at vocabulary, listening, reading, grammar and so on. To provide you with a bit more material to use, there was a "So what is a reading file?". This provided some articles that were originally in the South China Morning Post for you to practise some of your newly acquired skills on.

The unit ended with a long evaluation of the work you had done and thinking about the way forward. If you managed to do all of the evaluation, you should have a pretty good idea of what you want to do.

So, the cycle is THINK, PLAN, DO, EVALUATE. This is not a terribly new idea, but it is still true for many things, self-study being one of them.



## Listening 2: Needs Analysis 1

It is now time to look forward to this unit and what you will be doing. The main idea behind unit 2 of self-access is to practise the skills you have learnt in SA1. So perhaps the next thing you need to do is to look at your evaluation of SA1. What did you do well at, what did you do not so well at? By looking at this and the rest of your work in the IEC, you should be able to formulate a plan for the work in SA2. Take a few minutes to do that now. There is a copy of a form to complete on page one of SA2.INT.Re.1. Have a look at it and then think about how you will fill it in. You will need to turn the tape off now.

Welcome back. Have you completed your needs analysis form? If not, you should really do that before you continue. Once you have completed the form, you should look at the menu of materials available in SA2. You will see that they are categorised under skills headings. You should now plan your pathway through the materials using the needs analysis and the menu. Remember you can always change your mind while you are working through the materials as Chris Wong did in SA1.

Take a few minutes to think about your pathway now. You should turn the tape off while you are doing this.

So, have you made up your mind as to what to do for the second self-access unit? Good.

The final thing I want to do here is to explain a little about the organisation of this unit. In SA1, you had specific tasks to do with specific texts and listenings. In this unit, there is less of that type of activity. With some texts, there are specific tasks, like comprehension questions, summary writing, note-taking and so on. However, with many of the texts, you are given suggested tasks and suggestions as to the skills you should practise with them. You may decide that you do not want to do the suggested task. If that is the case, then you will have to use the general reading or listening menus or devise a task of your own. Obviously if you devise a task of your own, you will have to know what the expected answers are. This is often true when you are researching a subject. You need to decide how to understand the text, how to organise the information you are reading or listening to, and what you will do with that information. This is more like true self-access, or self-study.

You will hear from me again later in the unit. But now you should start on your planned pathway through SA2. Good luck!

Pollution 1 [ SA2.FILE.Re/EI.1 ]				Pg 1	
Skills ↓	Equipment 				 60
<b>Reading</b>	 <p><i>This is a combined reading/listening exercise. You will need to do some of each before you finish the task sheet. You will obviously need the tape, a pen and paper and about an hour of free time. You can always split the task up into short segments if you want to.</i></p>				
<b>Writing</b>					
<b>Speaking</b>					
<b>Listening</b>					
☆☆☆☆					
<b>Next?</b> University?					

## Reading 1

Read the headline, sub-headline and first paragraph of this 1994 newspaper article. What do you think the article is about? Why? What do you think you will learn after reading this article?

### In search of some fresh air

Jason Gagliardi looks for a pollution solution for Hong Kong

If just the thought of a stroll down Hong Kong's polluted streets is enough to leave you wheezing and gasping, you are certainly not alone.

Now read the next three paragraphs and note down any words or phrases to do with breathing or health problems.

Both in Hong Kong and abroad, evidence of links between rising asthma levels and growing traffic pollution is mounting in tandem with calls for a radical rethink on traffic policies.

In London, a recent report by chest physicians, public health doctors and transport and environmental researchers said cars and lorries should be banned from cities on days of the highest risk to health.

The researchers cited increasing evidence that respiratory problems and heart disease were linked to traffic pollution. The report followed an asthma "epidemic" in June, when poor air quality, high ozone levels and thunderstorms led to hospital emergency departments being inundated by people with severe breathing difficulties.

In the United States, studies that looked at fine particles produced by diesel and petrol vehicles found that death rates from heart and lung diseases were 37 per cent higher in the most polluted cities than in the least.

## Listening 1

Now you will need to find the tape for this section. You are going to hear the next paragraph read to you. Look at the matching exercise below. On the left are pollutants which can damage health and are emitted from vehicles exhaust or can be found in the air we breathe. On the right are the health problems they can cause. As you listen, try to match up the pollutants with the health problems.

1	nitrogen dioxide	A) irritates eyes and air passages
2	sulphur dioxide	B) can impair brain function and can be lethal
3	fine particles	C) impairs children's intellectual development
4	acid aerosols	D) can exacerbate asthma and increase susceptibility to infection
5	carbon monoxide	E) can cause leukaemia
6	ozone	F) may provoke wheezing, worsen asthma and chronic bronchitis
7	lead	G) can carry cancer-causing substances into lungs
8	benzene	H) worsen asthma

## Listening 2

You are now going to hear the whole of the article read to you. Here are five questions that you should think about while you are listening. You should read through them now.

It would be a good idea to make notes as you are listening under the following headings:

Problems

People Affected

Possible Solutions

Action taken

These notes will help you answer the questions below.

- 1 This article suggests a link between two things. What are they?
- 2 Which group of people are mentioned most often with reference to the problem highlighted by this article?
- 3 Has anything actually been done to help solve the problem?
- 4 What could be done to help solve this problem?
- 5 Which group of people in Hong Kong do not need to worry too much about this problem?

## Reading 2

Below are a list of words from the article you have just heard. It is a good idea to keep a record of words selected from each article that you want to learn. Remember the different ways of storing vocabulary that were introduced in “So What Is Self-Access Vocabulary?” You may wish to choose other words from this article as well as the ones below.

wheezing and gasping

particles

canyon-like

respiratory

pollutants

non-interventionist

inundated

respirable

gridlocked

Try to put these words and phrases into categories or groups that are connected in some way.

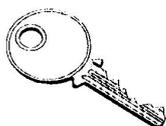
## Listening 3 – Pronunciation

You are going to hear the words in the box read to you. The first time you hear them, just listen. You will need to listen carefully to the stress in some of the words.

The second time you listen, try to repeat the word or phrase you hear. You can do this activity as many times as you like.

## Reading 3

In the answer key, you will find the entire article. You should read through it now to check the answers you wrote for the listening comprehension. You should also remember that you can examine the article for grammar and other vocabulary items.



Pollution 2 [ SA2.FILE.Re/LL2]		Pg 1			
Skills ↓	Equipment 				60
Reading	 <p><i>This is a combined reading/listening exercise. You will need to do some of each before you finish the task sheet.</i></p> <p><i>You will obviously need the tape, a pen and paper and about an hour of free time. You can always split the task up into short segments if you want to.</i></p>				
Writing					
Speaking					
Listening					
☆☆☆☆					
Next? University?					

## Reading 1

Read the headline, sub-headline and first four paragraphs of this 1996 newspaper article. What do you think the article is about? Why? What do you think you will learn after reading this article?

### Fouling Our Fragrant Harbour

Hong Kong was named after its pristine waters. Now it is battling to stem the tide of waste littering the sea, **Simon Buerk** reports.

Before glass towers and neon lights appeared in Central and Wan Chai, this territory was famed for its sweet-smelling incense trees.

During the Ming dynasty, the wood was harvested, exported and burned during festivals all over southern China.

The bay near modern day Aberdeen, from which junks sailed loaded down with incense, was known as the Fragrant Harbour or Hong Kong.

When the British arrived, they used the name to describe the whole of the island.

## Reading 2

Now read the next paragraph. There is one question to answer for this section.

What does the paragraph mean?

But Fragrant Harbour might not be the first name to spring to the mind of anyone taking a whiff of harbour air today, despite the efforts of marine inspector Chan Hoo-ling to keep the water clean.

**Listening 1** 

You are now going to hear the introduction to a talk on pollution in the harbour and the work of the Marine Department's Pollution Control Unit. While you are listening, try to make notes on the following:

Size of the Marine Department's fleet and type of boats used

Where the rubbish comes from

Services the Marine Department offers

Whether the situation is improving or not and evidence for the situation

**Listening 2** 

You are now going to hear five people who are involved with the use of Victoria Harbour. As you listen, try to complete the following table:

Speaker's Name	Represents Who?	Particular Point Raised
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

### Listening 3

Now listen to the final section of the article. You are going to listen to Dr Maxwell, a lecturer at the Open Learning Institute talking about where the rubbish that is not collected often ends up.

As you are listening, try to answer the following questions:

- 1 What subject does Dr Maxwell lecture in?
- 2 Where does Dr Maxwell come from?
- 3 Which beach does he give as an example?
- 4 When did he first visit the beach?
- 5 When was his most recent visit to the beach?
- 6 What is his feeling about the future of Victoria Harbour?

### Listening 4

Now listen to the complete section again. This time, make a list of the types and amounts of rubbish mentioned both in the water and washed up on land. It will be a long list as there is a lot of rubbish.

### Reading 3

Below are a list of words from the article you have just heard. It is a good idea to keep a record of words selected from each article that you want to learn. Remember the different ways of storing vocabulary that were introduced in “So What Is Self-Access Vocabulary?” You may wish to choose other words from this article as well as the ones below.

pristine

dumped

cavalier

whiff

peak

eyesore

scooped

accumulated

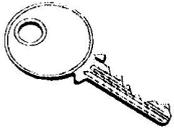
choked

Try to put these words and phrases into categories or groups that are connected in some way.

## Listening 5 – Pronunciation

You are going to hear the words in the box read to you. The first time you hear them, just listen. You will need to listen carefully to the stress in some of the words.

The second time you listen, try to repeat the word or phrase you hear. You can do this activity as many times as you like.



<b>Skills</b> 	<b>Equipment</b>      <b>60</b>
<b>Reading</b>	 <p><i>This is a combined reading/writing exercise, making use of the information obtained in previous exercises.</i></p>
<b>Writing</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	<p><i>You will obviously need a pen and paper and about an hour of free time. You can always split the task up into short segments if you want to.</i></p>
<b>Listening</b>	
	
<b>Next?</b> <i>University?</i>	

## Writing

The situation in Victoria Harbour seems to be quite serious. What are your thoughts on the condition of the Frangrant Harbour? Should anything be done to clean it up or should it just be filled in as part of the overall reclamation of land in Hong Kong?

Write a letter to an English language newspaper stating your views. Remember it is important to back up your ideas with supporting evidence.

Pollution 1 [ SA2.FILE.Re/Li.1]				Pg 1	
Skills ↓					 60
Reading		<i>There is quite a lot to do in this section and so you may need to break it up into smaller tasks. If you do that, then make sure you only check the answers for the segments that you have done and not for the segments you are about to do.</i>			
Writing					
Speaking					
Listening					
☆☆☆☆					
Next? University?					

## Reading 1

Well, what do you think it is about? Certainly it is about pollution and Hong Kong. By the use of the words 'wheeze' and 'gasp', it would seem to be something about people with breathing difficulties too. I imagine that we will learn something about air pollution in Hong Kong - the title suggests that fresh air is not to be found easily.

Breathing - respiratory, chest, heart, lung  
 Health Problems - asthma, respiratory problems, heart disease, severe breathing difficulties, lung disease

## Listening 1

1 D, 2 F, 3 G, 4 H, 5 B, 6 A, 7 C, 8 E

You can check in the tapescript for these answers, but don't do that until you have finished all of the exercises in the section.

## Listening 2

Problems rising level of air pollution in Hong Kong, levels of illnesses related to air pollution, increasing traffic using diesel

People affected general public, mainly children, asthma sufferers

Possible solutions restrict traffic flow, raise road licence fees, close roads, impose restrictions on pollutants in vehicle exhaust fumes, change from diesel to petrol (gasoline) engines

Action taken in 1992 Government imposed lower sulphur dioxide exhaust emissions



## Listening 2 (cont)

- 1 Air pollution and respiratory illnesses.
- 2 Children are mentioned specifically as sufferers.
- 3 Yes, in 1992 the Government imposed controls on the amount of sulphur dioxide permitted in exhaust fumes from vehicles.
- 4 Many things could be done to solve the problems. The Government could impose further restrictions on exhaust emissions, they could impose higher fees for road licences and reduce the number of vehicles on the road. They could close roads and restrict traffic flow on days where atmospheric conditions were bad.
- 5 Smokers. The article says that smokers and people who live with smokers are already high risk candidates for respiratory illnesses.

## Tapescripts

### Listening 1

Announcer: Pollution 1, Listening 1. You will hear a short section of the article read to you. As you listen, try to match up the pollutants with the symptoms they can cause. Remember you can listen to this as many times as you like.

Voice: Scientists say at least 10 pollutants from vehicles can damage health, including nitrogen dioxide, which can exacerbate asthma and increase susceptibility to infections; sulphur dioxide, which may provoke wheezing and worsen asthma and chronic bronchitis; and fine particles, which cover a variety of air-borne particles that can carry cancer-causing substances into the lungs.  
Other hazards include acid aerosols, which can worsen asthma; carbon monoxide, which can impair brain function and is lethal at high doses; ozone, which irritates eyes and air passages and increases sensitivity to allergies; lead, which impairs children's intellectual development and volatile compounds like benzene, which can cause leukaemia.

Announcer: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

### Listening 2

Announcer: Pollution 1, Listening 2. You will now hear the complete article read to you. As you listen, try to make notes under the headings suggested. When the article ends, answer the questions on page 3 of Pollution 1.

Voice: In search of some fresh air  
Jason Gagliardi looks for a pollution solution for Hong Kong

If just the thought of a stroll down Hong Kong's polluted streets is enough to leave you wheezing and gasping, you are certainly not alone. Both in Hong Kong and abroad, evidence of links between rising asthma levels and growing traffic pollution is mounting in tandem with calls for a radical rethink on traffic policies.



Voice: In London, a recent report by chest physicians, public health doctors and transport and environmental researchers said cars and lorries should be banned from cities on days of the highest risk to health. The researchers cited increasing evidence that respiratory problems and heart disease were linked to traffic pollution. The report followed an asthma "epidemic" in June, when poor air quality, high ozone levels and thunderstorms led to hospital emergency departments being inundated by people with severe breathing difficulties. In the United States, studies that looked at fine particles produced by diesel and petrol vehicles found that death rates from heart and lung diseases were 37 per cent higher in the most polluted cities than in the least.

Scientists say at least 10 pollutants from vehicles can damage health, including nitrogen dioxide, which can exacerbate asthma and increase susceptibility to infections; sulphur dioxide, which may provoke wheezing and worsen asthma and chronic bronchitis; and fine particles, which cover a variety of air-borne particles that can carry cancer-causing substances into the lungs.

Other hazards include acid aerosols, which can worsen asthma; carbon monoxide, which can impair brain function and is lethal at high doses; ozone, which irritates eyes and air passages and increases sensitivity to allergies; lead, which impairs children's intellectual development and volatile compounds like benzene, which can cause leukaemia.

Last weekend in Hong Kong, representatives of the Government, industry and transport groups met at a forum organised by the legislator Christine Loh to focus attention on air pollution.

"I think, people in Hong Kong are finally starting to become worried about pollution - if not from harm to the environment then because they are realising it can affect their health," Loh said.

The prognosis for Hong Kong is not good. We need to focus on densely populated, heavily polluted areas like Kwun Tong and start coming up with some solutions.

"You mention closing roads or restricting the number of vehicles and people yell, but if we are not open-minded about measures to reduce pollution, there will be a substantial deterioration in air quality - which is poor to start with."

Measures mooted by the Government to reduce pollution and congestion, which will be debated by the Executive Council include raising the cost of licences, limiting the number issued and electronic road pricing.

Professor Tony Hedley, head of Hong Kong University's Department of Community Medicine, has done extensive research into air pollution and its links to respiratory problems. He said the situation improved somewhat after the Government introduced lower exhaust sulphur dioxide emission limits in 1992, but the overall growth in traffic meant there was still a big problem.



Voice: "In a study we conducted last year, we found there had been an improvement in children living in areas of high pollution in terms of coughs and wheezes," he said.  
"But we did find there is a residual risk for children in areas of high pollution and that is possibly linked to high levels of air pollution.  
"There is a lot of circumstantial evidence that traffic pollution is responsible for an increase in what we call asthma. In our study, we found the number of children with respiratory problems, which may have been early features of what goes on to become asthma, was higher in areas with higher pollution."  
Hedley said a big problem in Hong Kong was the high percentage of diesel vehicles, which produced more tiny, dangerous respirable particles than petrol vehicles.  
"Of course, it follows that a reduction of road vehicles or a change from diesel to gasoline powered vehicles is an option [to reduce respiratory problems]," he said.  
"The canyon-like streets in areas like Mong Kok are very high in particles from diesel exhausts. Hong Kong has a lot of trucks, taxis and mini-buses which all run on diesel.  
"Hong Kong is a very non-interventionist society, so I doubt anyone will want to do anything to hamper commerce and industry [by closing roads or barring traffic from highly polluted areas].  
"However, public opinion against pollution and medical evidence of the risks, especially to children, are mounting. We are getting gridlocked and it is not for nothing the Government has suggested limiting licences."  
Hedley said he had a note to add where smokers were concerned: "For anyone who smokes or lives in a home with people smoking, you need not worry about air pollution because your risk of respiratory disease is so much higher that traffic fumes will not make much difference."  
Eastern Express 8/11/94

Announcer: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

### Listening 3

Announcer: Pollution 1, Listening 3. You are going to hear the words from the vocabulary activity. The first time you hear them, just listen. Listen carefully to the stress. The second time you hear the words, try to pronounce the words you hear. You can do this activity as many times as you want.

Voice 1: wheezing and gasping [pause], particles [pause], canyon-like [pause]

Voice 2: respiratory [pause], pollutants [pause], non-interventionist [pause]

Voice 3: inundated [pause], respirable [pause], gridlocked [pause]

Announcer: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

Pollution 2 [ SA2.FILE.Re/Li.2]					Pg 1
Skills ↓					 60
Reading	 <p><i>There is quite a lot to do in this section and so you may need to break it up into smaller tasks. If you do that then make sure you only check the answers for the segments that you have done and not for the segments you are about to do.</i></p>				
Writing					
Speaking					
Listening					
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Next? University?					

## Reading 1

It must be about pollution in Victoria Harbour because it says “fouling our fragrant harbour” - fouling usually means making something bad. The sub-headline mentions “battling the tide of littering the sea”. Littering means throwing rubbish away carelessly. I think I might learn something about the history of Victoria Harbour and the problems it is facing today.

## Reading 2

It means that anyone smelling Victoria Harbour would not think of fragrant as a word to describe it. Fragrant usually means something that smells really good, like a fragrant flower, or a fragrant dish in a restaurant. Fragrance is often used to describe perfume.

## Listening 1

Size of fleet and type of boats:  
nine fleets, three major types of boats, the “water witch”, the “disfloater” and motorised sampans

Where the rubbish comes from:  
from boats using the harbour, blown into the harbour from land, eg. construction sites and reclamation sites

Services offered:  
rubbish collection from ocean-going vessels, rubbish clean-up in the harbour, helicopter surveillance to look for “black spots”

Improving or not:  
seems to be improving as less waste was collected recently, but could be due to weather patterns, general public expect cleaner seas

**Listening 2**

Speaker's Name	Represents Who?	Particular Point Raised
1 Dr Brian Darvell	Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society	Suffering from accumulated garbage. HK attitude to rubbish cavalier. Government must spend money to educate the population.
2 Mr Lam	Marine Department Senior Marine Inspector	Their unit uses TV and radio announcements to change public behaviour. They are especially targeting the fishing and construction industries. Fines - up to \$10,000 and 6 months in jail good but not used by judges. Average fine last year was \$450, this is not a deterrent.
3 Mr Chan	Marine Department Inspector	Fishing and construction industries still heavy polluters. Tuen Mun bad recently, their staff had to work very hard.
4 Captain Lai	Far East Hydrofoil	Their ferries sometimes suffer delays because of rubbish being trapped in propulsion units. 26 of 4093 scheduled services delayed. Usually only short delays but 10 vessels per month need to be inspected by divers.
5 Hubert Wong Yuk-lun	Discovery Bay Ferry Service	10 trips a day are delayed because of rubbish. Usually only a few minutes, but sometimes it is much longer.



### Listening 3

- 1 Dr Maxwell lectures on environmental studies.
- 2 He comes from New Zealand. He mentions that the rubbish on the beach horrified his "Kiwi sensibilities". Kiwis are New Zealanders.
- 3 Tai Long Sai Wan beach in Sai Kung.
- 4 In 1980.
- 5 In September 1996.
- 6 He is pessimistic. He says that the harbour is heading for its demise - death - which is a shame.

### Listening 4

- Types of rubbish: plastic bags, lunch boxes, bits of wood, empty gas cylinders, refrigerators, discarded mahjong tables, polystyrene boxes, plastic waste, construction rubbish, broken glass, discarded hypodermic needles
- Amount of rubbish: 60 tonnes in September 1996, 3,800 tonnes in 1995, 26 tonnes removed from beaches and breakwaters in September 1996, 5,700 tonnes in 1990, 75kg of plastic waste, 22kg of construction rubbish, 1kg of glass and 18 hypodermic needles

### Tapescripts

#### Listening 1

- Announcer: Pollution 2, Listening 1. You are going to hear the introduction to a talk on pollution in Victoria Harbour and the work of the Marine Department's Pollution Control Unit. While you are listening, try to make notes under the headings given on page 2.
- Voice 1: Before glass towers and neon lights appeared in Central and Wan Chai, this territory was famed for its sweet-smelling incense trees. During the Ming dynasty, the wood was harvested, exported and burned during festivals all over southern China. The bay near modern day Aberdeen, from which junks sailed loaded down with incense, was known as the Fragrant Harbour or Hong Kong. When the British arrived, they used the name to describe the whole of the island. But Fragrant Harbour might not be the first name to spring to the mind of anyone taking a whiff of harbour air today, despite the efforts of marine inspector Chan Hoo-ling to keep the water clean. For 20 years, Mr Chan has helped run the Marine Department's Pollution Control Unit, nine fleets of boats which roam Hong Kong's waters collecting rubbish floating on the surface.



The Central fleet, which patrols the waters off the north side of Hong Kong Island, scooped 60 tonnes of refuse from the water in September. The nine fleets combined collected more than 3,800 tonnes last year, ranging from plastic bags and lunch boxes to bits of wood from construction sites, empty gas cylinders, refrigerators and even discarded mahjong tables.

Some of the boats the unit uses attract curious stares. The two-man "water witch" looks like a bulldozer, zipping around the harbour collecting rubbish in its scoop and tipping it into a following cargo ship. The "water witch" is joined by the "disfloater", a 10-metre-long catamaran which collects rubbish floating between its hulls and which can store up to two tonnes of waste in its hold.

Then there are the more conventional motorised sampans, from which crew collect refuse in a net.

One of the fleets works jointly with the Urban and Regional Services departments to clean beaches and breakwaters removing more than 26 tonnes of rubbish in September.

But the refuse fleets face a huge task, an uphill battle against the thousands of tonnes of rubbish that end up in Hong Kong's waters every year.

Three-quarters of it is dumped on land and carried in streams or blown by the wind into the sea, according to senior marine inspector Stephen Lam Wai-ming.

The other quarter comes from the crews of boats and ships tipping their rubbish overboard, despite a free rubbish collection service offered by the unit to the territory's shipping.

In September, more than 11,000 local boats and 540 oceangoing vessels took advantage of the service to get rid of more than 75 tonnes of rubbish. The amount of refuse the fleets have collected from the sea each year has decreased since the most recent peak in 1990, when 5,750 tonnes were collected.

But it is difficult to tell if the decrease signals that the unit is winning the war against rubbish, said Mr Lam, because the weather affects how much land-dumped waste ends up in the sea.

The unit provides the same amount of vessels and yet we are collecting less. Every week they have a helicopter flight to monitor floating rubbish and find black spots. Mr Lam says that from his own observations, the situation has been improving. One slight problem is that people are expecting more and more. They want a cleaner sea.

The Finance Branch has allocated \$50 million for six new rubbish collecting vessels.

The specially designed craft will combine the best qualities of the current vessels, with a scoop to collect rubbish like the "water witch", and a large hold to store it like the "disfloater", according to Mr Lam.

The first of the new boats will be delivered at the end of 1997 and the Finance Branch is to double the annual operating budget of the rubbish collecting unit to \$40 million within three years.



Announcer: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

## Listening 2

Announcer: Pollution 2, Listening 2. You are now going to hear five people comment on the situation in Victoria Harbour as it affects them. As you listen, complete the table on page 2.

Voice: I would now like to ask some of our guest speakers to share their experience of the Harbour with us. First we have Dr Brian Darvell who is the chairman of the Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society.

Dr Darvell: Our group believes more should be done to tackle the source of the litter. The problem is very serious and getting worse. We are suffering considerably from the problem of accumulated garbage [in the water]. In Hong Kong, the attitude to rubbish is cavalier, to say the least. If they are not in their own living room, then people will not even walk five feet to put it in the bin and people still think an open window is a garbage can. It's up to the Government to take a stand and spend some money because the cost of educating six million people is too much for one green group.

Voice: Thank you, Dr Darvell. Our next guest is Mr Lam who is a Marine Department Senior Marine Inspector. Mr Lam.

Mr Lam: Our unit is already using television and radio announcements in an effort to change public behaviour, and we are particularly targeting the construction and fishing industries, who we believe to be heavy polluters. Our refuse teams recover many polystyrene boxes used to store frozen fish, so notices and rubbish bins have been placed at fishing docks. It is now also mandatory for land reclamation sites to have a boom on the water surface to catch any rubbish before it floats away.

But perhaps the most powerful weapon against those who litter the sea - a maximum fine of \$10,000 or six months in prison for convicted offenders - I feel this is often squandered.

53 people were convicted last year, with an average fine of only \$450. I don't think that will have a deterrent effect.

Nevertheless, that's the decision. I think the maximum fine is good enough, but the judge sometimes thinks that this is very minor.

Voice: Thank you, Mr Lam. Mr Chan is an Inspector with the same department.

Mr Chan: Despite all of these measures, the fishing and construction industries are still major sources of floating rubbish. This year was quite bad in the Tuen Mun area in June and July because there were some construction works going on. Quite a lot of debris from construction floats on to the surface of the sea, so our cleaning teams worked like dogs.



Voice: Thank you, Mr Chan. Our next two speakers are from companies that use the harbour every day. For them, the rubbish is not just an eyesore, but it is a hazard. Captain Lai is from Far East Hydrofoil.

Captain Li: Far East Hydrofoil operates ferries between Hong Kong and Macau. It is only ocean-going vessels like container ships, with large propellers, that are immune to the effects of rubbish.

Most high-speed passenger ferries in Hong Kong use a water jet system of propulsion, similar to the jet engines used on airliners, sucking water into a tunnel and squirting it out under high pressure, making them particularly vulnerable to floating refuse.

Small particles will just jet out the stern, but large or solid objects will get stuck inside the tunnel. Debris blocks the tunnel and causes a loss of propulsion, so the ferry then has to stop.

In October, 26 of our 4,093 scheduled services were delayed by rubbish. Most delays lasted only for a few minutes, while crew members used a compressed air system to blow rubbish out of the jet tunnel. But on average, 10 ferries each month have to limp back to the terminal for inspection by a diver. Occasionally the vessel has to be dry-docked for repairs. We've seen no improvement in recent years, we continue to suffer. Last year, floating rubbish cost the company \$260,000 in passenger refunds and repairs.

Voice: Thank you, Captain Lai. Our last guest is Hubert Wong Luk-lun from Discovery Bay Ferry Services.

Mr Wong: We use various kinds of boats, and they are delayed 10 times each day on average by floating rubbish. It's mostly only for a few minutes, but sometimes it holds the boat up for a long time. If something gets stuck in the propeller, then we need a diver. Nothing has been designed for this problem and nobody can overcome it.

Voice: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

### Listening 3

Announcer: Pollution 2, Listening 3. You are going to hear Dr Maxwell, a lecturer at the Open Learning Institute talk about where the rubbish that is not collected often ends up.

Voice: I would now like to introduce Dr Maxwell, a lecturer in environmental studies at the Open Learning Institute.

Dr Maxwell: Thank you. I would like to talk a little about where the rubbish that evades capture by Mr Chan and his very hardworking team ends up. Eventually, though, much of the rubbish is deposited back on shore by the sea.



Dr Maxwell: The remote Tai Long Sai Wan beach in Sai Kung East Country Park, Which is only accessible by boat or on foot, has become steadily more choked with refuse since I first visited the site in 1980. Even then, there was stuff on the beach which would horrify my type of Kiwi sensibilities for a clean beach, though nothing like today. On my most recent trip to the beach in September to monitor the situation, on one 80-metre stretch of sand, I found 75 kilograms of plastic waste, 22 kilograms of construction rubbish, more than a kilogram of broken glass, and 18 discarded hypodermic syringes. A lot of stuff dumped in the harbour ends up on the beautiful beaches of Hong Kong. It shouldn't really end up there in the first place. I am sorry to say that I think the harbour is heading for its demise and it's a shame because it's one of the most spectacular in the world.

(Freely adapted from an article in the SCMP 12/11/96)

Announcer: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

#### Listening 4

Announcer: Pollution 2, Listening 4. Now listen to the whole article again. This time, try to make a list of the types and amounts of rubbish mentioned both in the water and washed up on land.  
[Repeat section]

Announcer: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

#### Listening 5

Announcer: Pollution 2, Listening 5 - Pronunciation. You are going to hear the words from the vocabulary exercise. The first time you hear them, just listen. Be careful to make a note of where the stress is. The second time you hear them, try to repeat the words each time. Remember you can do this exercise as many times as you want.

Voice 1: pristine [pause], dumped [pause], cavalier [pause]

Voice 2: whiff [pause], peak [pause], eyesore [pause]

Voice 3: scooped [pause], accumulated [pause], choked [pause]

Announcer: That is the end of this section. Look back at the worksheet to see what to do next.

Pollution 3 [ SA2.FILE.Re/Wr.1 ]					Pg 1
Skills ↓					 60
<b>Reading</b>		<i>This is a combined reading/writing exercise, making use of the information obtained in previous exercises.</i>			
<b>Writing</b>		<i>You will obviously need a pen and paper and about an hour of free time. You can always split the task up into short segments if you want to.</i>			
<b>Speaking</b>					
<b>Listening</b>					
☆☆☆☆					
<b>Next?</b> <i>University?</i>					

## Writing

**Style:** You need to follow the correct style of writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper. Before you try to write this letter, it might be a good idea to find the letters page in an English language newspaper and check the format.

You should remember that although you are writing directly to the editor of the newspaper, you actually want the letter to be published and read by everyone who reads the newspaper.

**Content:** Whether you are for filling in the harbour or against it, you will need to comment on the amount of rubbish found in the harbour and the problems it causes. You might want to mention other forms of pollution as well.

**Against filling in the harbour:** Your letter should include some or all of these points. HK heritage - The Fragrant Harbour. If no harbour, surely the name should change. Traditional break between HK island and Kowloon. The amount of shipping that uses the inner harbour each day. The number of jobs involved in work on the harbour. The harbour is a major tourist attraction. The cost of reclaiming the harbour would be enormous. Already enough building in Central and Kowloon. Loss of business for MTR, why take the train when you can walk? Change in water system, currents, perhaps weather patterns on a micro-climate level.

**For filling in the harbour:** Your letter should include some or all of these points. Harbour very polluted and would cost a lot to clean up. Always high demand for land in Central and Kowloon. Project would be a major source of jobs both during and after. Hong Kong at leading edge of reclamation technology, the project would receive worldwide attention. It would attract business to Hong Kong. The reclaimed land would have a very high value. Port facilities could be moved further out, say to Lantau island by Discovery Bay or new airport. Could build a theme park to attract tourists.

Obviously you will have your own ideas but you must remember to back up your arguments with evidence.

Good Luck!

Self-Access Unit 2 Reading/Listening File [SA2.FILE.1]						Pg 1
Skills ↓	Equipment 				 240	
Reading	 <p><i>This is a self-access pack of reading and listening materials for you to practise your self-study skills on. This pack contains eight newspaper articles. Each article has a suggested task to perform with it. Some are quite simple and some more complex. However, it is up to you what you do with each article. Remember you can exploit each one for vocabulary, pronunciation, listening, reading, writing, grammar or speaking. Use the general reading and listening worksheets to help you. Obviously there are NO answers to these tasks as you will have decided what to do with each article. All eight articles have been recorded on the SA tape so that you can hear them read as well as read them for yourselves.</i></p>					
Writing						
Speaking						
Listening						
☆☆☆☆☆						
Next? University?						

*The articles range from business-related to health-related articles. They all come from the South China Morning Post. I expect that if you exploit the articles to their full potential, this section will take about 4 hours to complete. Obviously you should not try to do it all at once, but spread it over several days or even weeks.*

*Good Luck!*

## Article 1

The first article is about the efforts made to rid the world of malaria, which is a disease spread by mosquitoes.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Scanning: Scan the article and make a note of all the numbers you can find. Remember that numbers can be written like this '195' or like this 'one hundred'.
- 2 Scanning: Scan the article and make a note of all the different countries that are mentioned.
- 3 Read through the article carefully making notes on the important dates mentioned in the battle against malaria and what happened at those times. When you have completed your notes, draw up a history of the battle to eradicate malaria showing the important dates, events and people involved.
- 4 Listen to the article being read to you and make notes. Later you can use these notes to write a summary of the article.

### The killer that science can't destroy

Scientists said malaria would be eradicated by the 1960s. It now kills up to three million people a year and most drugs are failing to keep it at bay, **Liz Hunt** reports.

Forty years ago, an American malariologist, Dr Paul Russell, wrote: "This is a unique moment in the history of man's attack on one of his oldest and most powerful enemies. Failure to proceed energetically might postpone malaria eradication indefinitely." Four decades on, malaria is still a danger and what is more, the disease is once again gaining the upper hand.

The aim of eradicating malaria, which Dr Russell worked towards as part of an ambitious scheme in the 1950s, remains a dream.

Malaria is one of the world's worst health problems. More people contract the illness - 300 to 500 million clinical cases a year - than any other disease. Control measures have all but broken down in certain areas and there is a growing threat of epidemic malaria in some tropical zones.

Now doctors are facing a new crisis - a dwindling range of drugs to treat a disease which kills up to three million people a year. The World Health Organisation warned recently against the global spread of bacteria resistant to antibiotics, but the spread of

resistance to anti-malarial drugs arguably poses a greater threat.

Man's ability to stay one step ahead of the mosquito-borne malaria parasite is in doubt. In some parts of Southeast Asia, resistance to all conventional drugs is occurring and the spread to Africa and South America is underway.

Ironically, it is the humble mosquito net, first used more than 100 years ago, which made headlines this year. Research showed that the lives of up to half a million African children could be saved each year by the use of bed nets treated with biodegradable pyrethroid insecticide.

Tropical Third World countries are hardest hit by malaria - 90 per cent of deaths occur among African children - but its impact in developed countries is no longer negligible. People are travelling further and more frequently, while publicity over the alarming side-effects of one drug, mefloquine (Lariam), has persuaded some to dispense with prophylaxis, putting their lives at risk.

(Cont.)

In the former Soviet Union, the collapse of public health services has seen the disease return to once malaria-free zones, most notably, Azerbaijan.

Malaria is spread by the bloodsucking, female *Anopheles* mosquito. Its adaptability and breeding potential are responsible for the ubiquitous nature of the disease. For example, the tsetse fly, which spreads sleeping sickness, is restricted to African rivers and rain forests, but 2,200 million people in 90 countries are exposed to malarial infections by the mosquito.

When a mosquito infected with a protozoan malaria parasite of the genus *Plasmodium* bites a human, it transmits the infection in its saliva. The parasite passes into the blood and on to the liver where it multiplies over five to 10 days but causes no symptoms.

It then breaks free from liver cells, flooding the blood and invading red blood cells where it multiplies again and again. The invasion/multiplication cycle is repeated, with the victim suffering fever each time.

Four species of *Plasmodium* infect man. Three (*P. vivax*, *P. ovale* and *P. malariae*) cause severe illness but are rarely fatal. The fourth, *Plasmodium falciparum*, the most common malaria parasite in Africa, can lead to death within days. This form of the disease is known as cerebral malaria.

A vaccine against malaria has long been the holy grail of modern malariologists, but *Plasmodium* is a moving target. A synthetic vaccine was developed in the 80s by Dr Manuel Patarroyo, an immunologist at the National University of Colombia in Bogota, and is undergoing trials at the Medical Research Council's laboratories in the Gambia. Although it has not lived up to Dr Patarroyo's claims, it may be useful in giving some protection to children in some areas.

More effective vaccines will no doubt follow, but no one expects them to provide the complete answer and novel approaches to malaria management are being investigated in the light of the drug resistance problems.

The "mosquito as flying hypodermic" is the latest idea. It would involve a genetically

engineered mosquito which would transmit selected proteins in its saliva into the blood of its victim. The proteins would act as an antigen, generating the production of antibodies against *Plasmodium* which would, in theory, protect the individual against malaria and/or halt transmission of the disease.

Bob Sinden, Professor of Parasitology at Imperial College, London, and Julian Crampton, Professor of Molecular Entomology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, have been granted a patent on their proposed technique which has the potential for immunising people and animals against a range of diseases.

Another scheme for malaria control involves the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. It would mean releasing billions of male mosquitoes rendered sterile by irradiation with gamma-rays. This was tried in the 1970s in India and El Salvador, and is under scrutiny again because of its success in controlling other pests.

In the 1950s, malaria had seemed a disease waiting to be conquered. Chloroquine and quinine were safe, effective drugs and the new chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, such as DDT, killed adult mosquitoes and larvae. Although DDT-resistant mosquitoes had been reported, it had taken five years for resistance to develop and scientists believed they would be able to beat the clock.

They said malaria would not reappear in an area if transmission was interrupted and all cases in humans aggressively treated for three years. This approach, demanding time and money, would pay off in the long term. Eradication programmes had been successful in Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Guyana and Venezuela.

In 1955, the Eighth World Health Assembly announced a programme for global eradication, with every country affected by the disease mobilised under the direction of the World Health Organisation.

(cont.)

The United States bore the brunt of the costs because politicians, such as Senator John F Kennedy and President Dwight Eisenhower, believed that triumph over infectious diseases was as achievable as victory over Nazi Germany.

The project aimed to eradicate malaria by 1963, when the US Congress had decided that funding would end because it was so confident of success. As Pulitzer prizewinning journalist Laurie Garrett wrote in her book "The Coming Plague", there was no reason to suspect failure: "The stage was set. The scientists had everything going for them - political support, money, DDT and chloroquine. So certain were they of victory that malaria research came to a virtual halt. Why research something that will no longer exist?"

Eradication was achieved in many places. Sri Lanka had one million cases of malaria in 1955 and 18 in 1963, but funds from the US Government were stopped. For the developed world, where malaria was less problematic and there was more money to spend on it, the consequences were insignificant.

By 1970, malaria had been eradicated in Europe, the then Soviet Union, most of North America, several Middle Eastern countries, parts of South America and the Caribbean, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore.

However, in developing countries where malaria was a greater problem because of geography, the withdrawal of US dollars from the programme had dire consequences. Because of near-eradication, millions of people now lacked all immunity to malaria - premunition, a form of partial immunity, develops after repeated infections and there was a relentless increase in cases and deaths from the mid-1960s onwards as control programmes deteriorated and the populations in these countries grew.

The growth of air travel added to the numbers at risk everywhere and cases of imported malaria brought back by travellers from endemic areas shot up.

Man has created an epidemic of iatrogenic (drug-induced) malaria, through careless prophylactic use of drugs and their routine use to treat any fever, malaria or not, in endemic areas. This created the perfect conditions for the highly adaptable Plasmodium parasite to develop resistance.

In 1961, two people in South America taking chloroquine, the first-line treatment,

developed malaria. As anti-malarial drugs were developed and introduced, the pattern became depressingly familiar - the drug would have a major impact followed by the appearance of resistance.

Chloroquine is increasingly ineffective in Latin America and parts of Africa, and the rate of spread on both continents is causing great concern. Alternative drugs are more expensive and more toxic. Already multi-drug resistant strains are being reported in Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Gabon and Kenya.

It is in Southeast Asia that most cases of drug resistance first appear and there is speculation that it is due to the use of anti-malarial drugs by US forces in the 1960s and 1970s.

Along Thailand's borders, there is only one drug that is effective against malaria, a Chinese herbal remedy called Quinghaosu or artemisinin derived from the shrub *Artemisia annua* (wormwood). Chemists have produced synthetic analogues, arteflene and artemether, from it.

After these, there are only one or two potential candidates in the pipeline.

Millions of dollars invested in drug development have yielded no more than 20 effective and safe anti-malarials this century. It is the oldest treatment, quinine, first used in Europe in the 17th century, which remains effective in most areas of the world. But for how long? Around half of the world's production of quinine is used to flavour tonic waters and this, according to the Wellcome Trust, exposes the malaria parasite to low levels of it - ideal conditions for fostering resistance.

As resistance to one drug develops, second-line drugs are called upon but their wider use increases the chance of resistance developing to them, too, and this is occurring.

It may be that the safe, reliable malaria prophylaxis which travellers have come to rely on is a thing of the past and soon personal protection against mosquito bites - nets and repellents - will be all that we have left. (Sunday Morning Post 8/9/1996)

## Article 2

The second article is based on an article from the Property section of the SCMP.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Skimming: Skim through the article to find out what it is about.
- 2 Scanning: Scan the article for names of property companies.
- 3 Writing: Imagine you are the owner of a small property company. Write a letter to the newspaper complaining about the large companies merging and trying to put you out of business.
- 4 Listen to the article being read to you. Make notes and then write a brief summary of the main points of the article.

### Agent alliances threaten smaller players

The rise of big chains and tie-ups with developers may drive weaker rivals out of business.

Recent corporate tie-ups, most noticeably, the link between Land Power International and Cheung Kong (Holdings), are the latest in a series of signs that the property agency market is undergoing a major shake-out.

A number of agents said these new alliances, driven by the lure of larger advertising budgets and greater market share, would speed up the decline of small and less well-known agents.

Even in today's market, where housing prices have risen 20 to 25 per cent since the beginning of the year, small agencies have complained that their market share is decreasing.

The reason is that market leaders such as Centaline Property Agency are gobbling up more market share by opening an average of one new outlet every seven days.

Midland Realty is not far behind, having opened 40 new outlets so far this year, according to agents.

The real estate landscape in Hong Kong is dominated by Centaline and publicly listed

Midland, which between them control about 40 per cent of the business, catering to people in the second-hand mass flat market. They have blanketed the territory, operating more than 300 store fronts between them and employing more than 2,000 sales agents and staff.

Both companies reported more than \$100 million in profit for the first half of the year as a result of increased transactions.

Behind them in market share are Ricacorp Properties, Ong's Properties, Fortune Realty, Land Power and New L&D.

It is estimated that there are 4,000 to 5,000 real estate operators employing about 20,000 people in the territory.

Small agencies specialising in residential deals rely on street-front outlets.

Besides the increase in competition, the industry will be subject to tighter regulations with the planned licensing of estate agents next year, which is aimed at raising professionalism and enhancing consumer protection. (Cont.)

There is no doubt that estate agencies have proved a lucrative business.

An agent now charges 1 per cent each from seller and buyer for a transaction.

As long as the market is active enough, even if prices are falling, estate agents can gain.

According to Shih Win-ching, managing director with Centaline, there is now a real fear among some of these smaller players that they will have to close their doors because they cannot compete.

Some agents are even predicting that the market will become dominated by 10 or so mega-agents controlling the vast majority of business with the crumbs left to the neighbourhood operators.

Whether Hong Kong consumers will benefit in the long run from this trend remains to be seen.

Spending more money on television and newsprint advertising, shopping centre promotions and a plethora of new suburban shop fronts did not necessarily guarantee better service, agents said.

In order to succeed, the remaining operators would have to emphasise better quality and more professional services, they believed.

To date, there have been two other important tie-ups which have bemused some agents.

Ong's Properties and Fortune Realty, which have a solid reputation in the Sha Tin area, announced they had developed a sister company relationship which many agents characterised as a "gimmick" and said would not amount to much.

More intriguing was a third bonding involving Ricacorp Properties and publicly listed Chi Cheung Investment, a joint owner of New L&D.

Chi Cheung proposed to take control of Ricacorp. Some agents said Chi Cheung would fold New L&D into Ricacorp, effectively ending a chapter in the Hong Kong property scene - the legacy of the old, troubled L&D.

There is also speculation that Centaline or Midland will get a knock on the door from other developers keen to get a deal similar to

Land Power's arrangement with Cheung Kong. While Midland denies being approached by any developers, Centaline officials said they had held talks with a few developers but nothing had happened so far. According to Mr Shih and others, if the Cheung Kong tie-up with Land Power bore fruit, all the other major developers in town could be expected to follow suit.

The attraction for developers is better sales exposure for their new flats and market intelligence about the second-hand market, where many buyers come from.

The Land Power-Cheung Kong affiliation, which is called Hong Kong Property Services (Agency), plans to offer potential clients more than 80 customer outlets around the territory. Many would be so-called telephone hotlines in Park'N Shop supermarkets, which would allow customers to get instant property information from a central location, whether they want to buy or sell.

Hong Kong Property was also refurbishing a former 4,000-square-foot Park'N Shop in Repulse Bay which would cater exclusively to the high end of the market, said Michael Choi Ngai-min, major shareholder with Land Power and now director of Hong Kong Property.

He saw such service enhancements, including a new preliminary mortgage approval process worked out with Hongkong Bank, as an integral part of ensuring a higher level of service and the ultimate success of the joint venture with Cheung Kong.

While agents disagree on whether service may improve, there is concern that a tie-up between a developer and an agent could lead to higher prices.

"The agent might advise sellers not to drop below a certain price, to keep the prices high so as to create bullish sentiment," one agent said.

"Not only will this have an influence on the second-hand market, this would also influence the pricing of new flats." (SCMP 30/10/96)

### Article 3

The third article is about advertising and American sports.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Before you read the article, make a note of all the American sports you know about. Are these sports only played in America? One sport mentioned here is baseball. Do you know any other countries that baseball is popular in? What do you think about famous sports stars being involved in advertising certain products?
- 2 Skimming: Skim through the article to see what it is all about.
- 3 Scanning: Scan the article to find which sports are mentioned.
- 4 Listen to the article and make notes. When your notes are completed, answer these questions. Why has baseball become less popular with advertising agencies? Which sports are more popular with advertising agencies?

### Baseball players no longer big hit with America's advertising men

Will the Yankees' victory parade include a phalanx of pitchers in pinstripes marching up Madison Avenue? That seems as likely as Ted Turner agreeing to sell the Atlanta Braves to Rupert Murdoch.

Decades ago, the World Series transfixed America and a Yankee championship was almost as predictable an autumnal occurrence as the leaves turning red and gold or Vermont voting Republican.

As a result, agency executives, many of them Yankee fans because the industry was so concentrated in New York, turned players like Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford into endorsement mainstays for products including Camel cigarettes, Jell-O jelly and White Owl cigars.

But now times are so different in so many ways and the Yankees, being honoured today after their victory, have little chance to score off the field beyond personal appearances in the New York market.

"Unfortunately, there are too many factors in the minus column to make this an exceptional occasion for the players," said Marty Blackman, president of Blackman & Raber, a sports and entertainment marketing and consulting company in New York.

The primary reason the Yankees may be relegated to the minor leagues of advertising is that Major League Baseball's recent setbacks have damaged its standing among marketers as much as among consumers.

"You have a sport where, until there's labour peace, you're subject to disruption of advertising and sales promotion programmes," Mr Blackman said, referring to the strike that cancelled the 1994 World Series. "Agencies are scared to recommend spending major bucks on baseball, because something may go wrong."

Bob Williams, president of the Burns Sports Celebrity Service in Chicago, which helps match athletes with advertisers, agreed.

Baseball is "very sick," he said, because "there's no collective bargaining agreement, no commissioner. Attendance is 15 per cent below pre-strike levels and ratings are way down. So we just don't get the calls for baseball players", he said. "We get many more calls for football and basketball players. "Baseball is down to hockey's level," Mr Williams said. "That's a long way down - and a long way up." (Cont.)

Sean Brenner, editor of Team Marketing Report, a sports newsletter in Chicago, cited other difficulties. Because of free agency, he said: "The players keep moving around; it's hard to identify a player with a team or a city any more. A lot of Yankees aren't longtime Yankees." And some players had experienced personal problems that were likely to "cause advertisers to stay away".

Bob Dorfman, author of the Marketers' Professional Scouting Report, which assesses the appeal of athletes to advertisers, said: "The Yankees have more interesting personalities. But Major League Baseball is not really focusing on the players, which is what succeeded for the National Basketball Association.

"The NBA focused on stars, and made them bigger stars."

Another problem for the Yankees, according to Dorfman, a senior copywriter at the Foote, Cone & Belding unit of True North Communications in San Francisco, is that the nation is no longer rivetted by the World Series. "Everything has fractured as the seasons overlap," he said, which had contributed to baseball's "falling out of favour". Also falling out of favour among agencies and clients is the practice of rushing to sign sports stars based on short-term performance. That is attributable in part to fear of wasting money on one-shot wonders and in part to a belief that consumers are more impressed by consistency.

"It takes more than one winning moment to win the interest of advertisers," Brenner said. (SCMP 30/10/96)

**Article 4** 

The next article is about an interesting discovery in India.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Skimming: Skim the article and write one sentence to describe what it is about.
- 2 Now read the full article. Have you ever heard of similar things?
- 3 Listen to the article. Choose five or six words and listen out specifically for their pronunciation.

**Thousands throng to talking tree**

JOHN ZUBRZYCKI

A talking tree believed to possess healing powers is attracting thousands of worshippers every day.

The 50-year-old mahua tree, in an orchard on the outskirts of New Delhi, was discovered by a middle-aged man about two weeks ago and a rumour began that the tree could communicate with people and exorcise evil spirits.

Since then, up to 5,000 pilgrims a day have flocked to the tree, many of them pressing their ears against the trunk.

The crowds are causing a headache for police and angry orchard owner Swaroop Singh, who says there is no question of his tree talking. "Someone has been fooling these gullible people," he said.

Sceptics believe the rumour was spread by local traders eager to cash in on the crush of worshippers, some of whom travel from miles away to seek cures for diseases such

as dengue fever, which is still raging in and around New Delhi.

Stalls selling incense, prasad or holy food, flowers and trinkets have sprung up around the six-hectare guava and mango orchard to cater for pilgrims curious to witness for themselves the tree's powers.

Certain species of tree, such as the banyan, are held to be sacred by the majority of the Hindu population, but the mahua is not normally considered auspicious.

"If you believe strongly enough, you will hear what you want to," said Dev Kumar, a merchant from nearby Karol Bagh.

The talking tree has been burned by incense sticks and has had its bark stripped by over-zealous pilgrims wanting to take a souvenir back to their families.

A makeshift shrine has been built at the base of the tree. (SCMP 1/11/96)

## Article 5

The next article is from Bangkok.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Skimming: Skim the article and write one sentence to describe what it is about.
- 2 Have you ever heard of anything like this before? Write a letter to the paper giving your thoughts on the case and suggest what could be done to speed things up.
- 3 Listen to the article. Choose five or six words and listen out specifically for their pronunciation.

### Defendants dying off as trial drags on

**SIMON HOLT** in Bangkok

A court case has taken so long that four defendants are dead, many witnesses are too old to testify and, if the current pace is maintained, it will take more than 100 years to complete.

The case involves former monk Phra Rajapanyakosol, 70, and 15 other people accused of colluding to forge documents which allowed a group of businessmen to receive royal decorations from King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The honour is held in great regard in Thai society and boosts the standing of businessmen.

The accusations date back to the early 1980s, but since 1989, when prosecutions were handed down, only 49 out of more than 500 witnesses have been questioned.

Lawyer and human rights activist Thongbai Tongpao said yesterday four defendants

were already dead, including former education minister Khunthong Phupiewduan.

Mr Thongbai, who represents six defendants in the case, said the case would last more than a century at its current pace.

He said many of the witnesses and suspects were now too old to testify.

"I have promised that I will defend these people for the rest of my life. Maybe my son will have to take over," he said yesterday.

"One of the suspects is poor and has been in jail for 10 years. The judge has asked me why I do not bail him out. I have to say I do not have enough money to do so. I hope the prosecutor will eventually drop the case."

Mr Thongbai said many cases dragged when lawyers and witnesses were ill and could not attend court. (SCMP 1/11/96)

**Article 6** 

The next article is from Australia.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Skim through the article and write a one-sentence summary.
- 2 Do you know anything about any other religions? How many religions are there in the world? Find an encyclopaedia and look up the answer. How many religions are practised in Hong Kong?
- 3 Listen to the article. Choose five or six words and listen out specifically for their pronunciation.

**Religion ‘oldest in the world’**

Aborigines have the longest established religious beliefs in the world, according to a new analysis of rock paintings by archaeologists.

An image of a mythical being called the Rainbow Serpent, loosely based on the seahorse family, first appeared in such paintings 6,000 years ago, they claim. Today, aborigines regard it as a symbol of unity, creation and destruction, and the core of a spiritual system that tells of the creation of the world out of chaos.

Paul Tacon of the Australian Museum in Sydney, Christopher Chippindale of

Cambridge University and Meredith Wilson of the Australian National University in Canberra, argue that it was a religious icon from the beginning, making it the oldest religious symbol.

Writing in “Archaeology in Oceania”, they base their conclusions on a statistical analysis of 107 Rainbow Serpent paintings across Australia, most common in Arnhem Land in the northwest of the country. They believe that the first images were inspired by sightings of the ribboned pipefish, a type of seahorse. (SCMP 1/11/96)

**Article 7** 

This article is from Hong Kong.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Skimming: Skim through the article and write a one-sentence summary of it.
- 2 What do you know about the AIDS virus? Have you read any leaflets or other articles about AIDS? Does your school have a sex education programme?
- 3 Look at the first eight paragraphs and make a note of which tenses are used most. Try to write out a table with all of the verbs used in the article. Try to write out the present simple tense, the past tense and the past participle of each verb.
- 4 Listen to the article. Choose five or six words and listen out specifically for their pronunciation.

### **70pc believe a kiss can lead to AIDS**

Jane Moir

Seven out of 10 people believe they can contract AIDS through kissing, a survey has revealed.

And 40 per cent of the 15,000 people surveyed believe they can catch AIDS from a toilet seat. The same number said they thought the virus could be transmitted through coughing or sneezing.

The survey - carried out by the Centre for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research - will be presented at the territory's first AIDS conference next week. The centre's director, Dr Joseph Lau Takfai, said that despite improvements in AIDS awareness among the public, "Some aspects are not ideal".

"The main misconception seems to be everything surrounding body fluid, even among doctors and social workers.

"They understand how AIDS is transmitted, but they don't understand how it can't be," he said.

The survey is conducted each year by telephone, post and face-to-face interviews.

One improvement seen over the past year was the realisation the virus could not be transmitted over a meal, Dr Lau said.

Eighty-five per cent of those polled said they understood they could not contract AIDS by having dinner with a sufferer, compared to 68 per cent last year.

Department of Health AIDS consultant Dr Lee Shui-shan said: "People's awareness has been improving, but not to the extent that they know exactly their own risks." AIDS Concern spokesman Bella Luk Tochu said "the ignorance and stigma [of AIDS] have not improved".

"A lot of people don't even think of getting tested, because they worry if they have the test, it means they are admitting to various sexual activities or needle sharing.

"You can easily promote awareness, but not the level of knowledge needed," she said. (SCMP 1/11/96)

## Article 8

This article is also from Hong Kong and is the last article in the reading file.

Suggested tasks:

- 1 Skimming: Skim through the article and write two or three sentences to summarise it.
- 2 Scanning: Scan through the article to find the positive points about self-access in Hong Kong.
- 3 Scanning: Scan through the article and make a note of the places that have self-access centres in Hong Kong.
- 4 Listen to the article. Make notes about the important points brought out about self-access centres and the ideas on self-study.
- 5 With your experience of self-access, write a report to your school principal on self-access. You should include whether you think it is a good idea or not and any suggestions as to setting up a centre or a programme of self-access study.

### Costly centres 'set up poorly'

Experts criticise lack of managers in self-learning schemes.

EXPERTS have criticised the administration of self-access teaming schemes, on which universities have spent millions of development dollars.

All six local universities and Lingnan College have self-access facilities such as videos, CD-ROM and exercise books catering for students at various levels to improve their language proficiency.

Self-access learning allows students to decide what languages they learn and how they go about studying them.

Funded by the University Grants Committee and using their own financial resources, universities spend a part of their expenses each year on self-access, or independent learning.

The University of Hong Kong allocated \$3 million from the committee's University Block Grants (1991-1992) to set up its three

self-access centres while the University of Science and Technology allocated \$2 million for its centre.

David Gardner, president of the Hong Kong Association of Self-Access Learning and Development and senior language instructor at the English Centre at the University of Hong Kong, said that in most cases, there were still no "identifiable" managers to run the centres.

"Most of the centres do not have full-time permanent managers even though they have full-time staff, who also have administrative tasks, teaching duties and research to handle.

"This is not the way to run an expensive centre because they are not libraries. They have to be run by qualified teachers who have experience in self-access learning and are able to produce material for students."

(Cont.)

If students were successful in self-access learning, Mr Gardner said, they might have a system to learn on their own after they graduated from university.

The self-access centre at Hong Kong Polytechnic University was the only such centre which had a full-time manager.

He said students could become "stuck at a level and stop learning when they quit school or university".

In June, Campus Post reported that local employers, especially those in the technology field, criticised graduates who were unable to learn new technologies after a few years because "they simply were not taught how to learn on their own".

Lindsay Miller, an assistant professor at the City University of Hong Kong said that the education system did not encourage students to learn independently.

"Universities and faculties all have mission statements indicating their students should be 'creative, individual thinkers', but we can't achieve that if everyone is doing the same thing.

"We have got to have a system [self-access learning] whereby people find out how they

learn and make language learning decisions accordingly."

He stressed it had not yet been proved by research whether self-access in language learning had a "knock-on" effect to the other areas students study in.

But both Mr Gardner and Mr Miller believed students who were independent and responsible for their own learning were better off because they had better knowledge of how to learn on their own. However, Mr Miller said: "We are not saying that self-access is going to dramatically increase students' standard of English or Mandarin but it is an alternative approach.

"If we don't offer that, we will never know whether it will work."

The two experts coedited "Tasks for Independent Language Learning", a book compiling works on self-access from authors from Europe, the United States, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Spain to allow teachers to help students know more about learning and to tailor their learning with that in mind. (SCMP 5/10/95)

Self-Access Unit 2 Reading/Listening File [SA2.FILE.1]					Pg 1
Skills ↓					 240
Reading		<i>This section contains the tapescripts to the articles you have been reading. Although they are the same as the article, also included are the announcements before each item.</i>			
Writing					
Speaking					
Listening					
☆☆☆☆☆					
Next? University?					

Announcer: This is SA unit 2 reading file. You will hear all of the articles in the reading file read to you. You can use them for straight listening/note-taking practise, pronunciation practise or for listening pleasure. Each article will be introduced and then read. Remember you have control of the tape and can stop and start it as you please.

## Article 1

The first article is about malaria.

### The killer that science can't destroy

Scientists said malaria would be eradicated by the 1960s. It now kills up to three million people a year and most drugs are failing to keep it at bay, **Liz Hunt** reports.

Forty years ago, an American malariologist, Dr Paul Russell, wrote: "This is a unique moment in the history of man's attack on one of his oldest and most powerful enemies. Failure to proceed energetically might postpone malaria eradication indefinitely."

Four decades on, malaria is still a danger and what is more, the disease is once again gaining the upper hand.

The aim of eradicating malaria, which Dr Russell worked towards as part of an ambitious scheme in the 1950s, remains a dream.

Malaria is one of the world's worst health problems. More people contract the illness - 300 to 500 million clinical cases a year - than any other disease. Control measures have all but broken down in certain areas and there is a growing threat of epidemic malaria in some tropical zones.

Now doctors are facing a new crisis - a dwindling range of drugs to treat a disease which kills up to three million people a year. The World Health Organisation warned recently against the global spread of bacteria resistant to antibiotics, but the spread of

resistance to anti-malarial drugs arguably poses a greater threat.

Man's ability to stay one step ahead of the mosquito-borne malaria parasite is in doubt. In some parts of Southeast Asia, resistance to all conventional drugs is occurring and the spread to Africa and South America is underway.

Ironically it is the humble mosquito net, first used more than 100 years ago, which made headlines this year. Research showed that the lives of up to half a million African children could be saved each year by the use of bed nets treated with biodegradable pyrethroid insecticide.

Tropical Third World countries are hardest hit by malaria - 90 per cent of deaths occur among African children - but its impact in developed countries is no longer negligible. People are travelling further and more frequently, while publicity over the alarming side-effects of one drug, mefloquine (Lariam), has persuaded some to dispense with prophylaxis, putting their lives at risk.

(Cont.)



In the former Soviet Union, the collapse of public health services has seen the disease return to once malaria-free zones, most notably, Azerbaijan.

Malaria is spread by the bloodsucking, female *Anopheles* mosquito. Its adaptability and breeding potential are responsible for the ubiquitous nature of the disease. For example, the tsetse fly, which spreads sleeping sickness, is restricted to African rivers and rain forests, but 2,200 million people in 90 countries are exposed to malarial infections by the mosquito.

When a mosquito infected with a protozoan malaria parasite of the genus *Plasmodium* bites a human, it transmits the infection in its saliva. The parasite passes into the blood and on to the liver where it multiplies over five to 10 days but causes no symptoms.

It then breaks free from liver cells, flooding the blood and invading red blood cells where it multiplies again and again. The invasion/multiplication cycle is repeated, with the victim suffering fever each time.

Four species of *Plasmodium* infect man. Three (*P. vivax*, *P. ovale* and *P. malariae*) cause severe illness but are rarely fatal. The fourth, *Plasmodium falciparum*, the most common malaria parasite in Africa, can lead to death within days. This form of the disease is known as cerebral malaria.

A vaccine against malaria has long been the holy grail of modern malariologists, but *Plasmodium* is a moving target. A synthetic vaccine was developed in the 80s by Dr Manuel Patarroyo, an immunologist at the National University of Colombia in Bogota, and is undergoing trials at the Medical Research Council's laboratories in the Gambia. Although it has not lived up to Dr Patarroyo's claims, it may be useful in giving some protection to children in some areas.

More effective vaccines will no doubt follow, but no one expects them to provide the complete answer and novel approaches to malaria management are being investigated in the light of the drug resistance problems.

The "mosquito as flying hypodermic" is the latest idea. It would involve a genetically engineered mosquito which would transmit selected proteins in its saliva into the blood of its victim. The proteins would act as an antigen, generating the production of antibodies against *Plasmodium* which would, in theory, protect the individual against malaria and/or halt transmission of the disease.

Bob Sinden, Professor of Parasitology at Imperial College, London, and Julian Crampton, Professor of Molecular Entomology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, have been granted a patent on their proposed technique which has the potential for immunising people and animals against a range of diseases.

Another scheme for malaria control involves the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. It would mean releasing billions of male mosquitoes rendered sterile by irradiation with gamma-rays. This was tried in the 1970s in India and El Salvador, and is under scrutiny again because of its success in controlling other pests.

In the 1950s, malaria had seemed a disease waiting to be conquered. Chloroquine and quinine were safe, effective drugs and the new chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, such as DDT, killed adult mosquitoes and larvae. Although DDT-resistant mosquitoes had been reported, it had taken five years for resistance to develop and scientists believed they would be able to beat the clock.

They said malaria would not reappear in an area if transmission was interrupted and all cases in humans aggressively treated for three years. This approach, demanding time and money, would pay off in the long term. Eradication programmes had been successful in Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Guyana and Venezuela.

In 1955, the Eighth World Health Assembly announced a programme for global eradication, with every country affected by the disease mobilised under the direction of the World Health Organisation.

(cont.)



The United States bore the brunt of the costs because politicians, such as Senator John F Kennedy and President Dwight Eisenhower, believed that triumph over infectious diseases was as achievable as victory over Nazi Germany.

The project aimed to eradicate malaria by 1963, when the US Congress had decided that funding would end because it was so confident of success. As Pulitzer prizewinning journalist Laurie Garrett wrote in her book "The Coming Plague", there was no reason to suspect failure: "The stage was set. The scientists had everything going for them - political support, money, DDT and chloroquine. So certain were they of victory that malaria research came to a virtual halt. Why research something that will no longer exist?"

Eradication was achieved in many places. Sri Lanka had one million cases of malaria in 1955 and 18 in 1963, but funds from the US Government were stopped. For the developed world, where malaria was less problematic and there was more money to spend on it, the consequences were insignificant.

By 1970 malaria had been eradicated in Europe, the then Soviet Union, most of North America, several Middle Eastern countries, parts of South America and the Caribbean, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore. However, in developing countries where malaria was a greater problem because of geography, the withdrawal of US dollars from the programme had dire consequences.

Because of near-eradication, millions of people now lacked all immunity to malaria - premunition, a form of partial immunity, develops after repeated infections and there was a relentless increase in cases and deaths from the mid-1960s onwards as control programmes deteriorated and the populations in these countries grew.

The growth of air travel added to the numbers at risk everywhere and cases of imported malaria brought back by travellers from endemic areas shot up.

Man has created an epidemic of iatrogenic (drug-induced) malaria, through careless prophylactic use of drugs and their routine use to treat any fever, malaria or not, in endemic areas. This created the perfect

conditions for the highly adaptable Plasmodium parasite to develop resistance.

In 1961, two people in South America taking chloroquine, the first-line treatment, developed malaria. As anti-malarial drugs were developed and introduced, the pattern became depressingly familiar - the drug would have a major impact followed by the appearance of resistance.

Chloroquine is increasingly ineffective in Latin America and parts of Africa, and the rate of spread on both continents is causing great concern. Alternative drugs are more expensive and more toxic. Already multi-drug resistant strains are being reported in Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Gabon and Kenya.

It is in Southeast Asia that most cases of drug resistance first appear and there is speculation that it is due to the use of anti-malarial drugs by US forces in the 1960s and 1970s.

Along Thailand's borders, there is only one drug that is effective against malaria, a Chinese herbal remedy called Quinghaosu or artemisinin derived from the shrub *Artemisia annua* (wormwood). Chemists have produced synthetic analogues, arteflene and artemether, from it.

After these, there are only one or two potential candidates in the pipeline.

Millions of dollars invested in drug development have yielded no more than 20 effective and safe anti-malarials this century.

It is the oldest treatment, quinine, first used in Europe in the 17th century, which remains effective in most areas of the world.

But for how long? Around half of the world's production of quinine is used to flavour tonic waters and this, according to the Wellcome Trust, exposes the malaria parasite to low levels of it - ideal conditions for fostering resistance.

As resistance to one drug develops, second-line drugs are called upon but their wider use increases the chance of resistance developing to them, too, and this is occurring.

It may be that the safe, reliable malaria prophylaxis which travellers have come to rely on is a thing of the past and soon personal protection against mosquito bites - nets and repellents - will be all that we have left. (Sunday Morning Post 8/9/1996)



## Article 2

Announcer: The second article is based on an article from the Property section of the SCMP.

### Agent alliances threaten smaller players

The rise of big chains and tie-ups with developers may drive weaker rivals out of business.

Recent corporate tie-ups, most noticeably, the link between Land Power International and Cheung Kong (Holdings), are the latest in a series of signs that the property agency market is undergoing a major shake-out.

A number of agents said these new alliances, driven by the lure of larger advertising budgets and greater market share, would speed up the decline of small and less well-known agents.

Even in today's market, where housing prices have risen 20 to 25 per cent since the beginning of the year, small agencies have complained that their market share is decreasing.

The reason is that market leaders such as Centaline Property Agency are gobbling up more market share by opening an average of one new outlet every seven days.

Midland Realty is not far behind, having opened 40 new outlets so far this year, according to agents.

The real estate landscape in Hong Kong is dominated by Centaline and publicly listed

Midland, which between them control about 40 per cent of the business, catering to people in the second-hand mass flat market. They have blanketed the territory, operating more than 300 store fronts between them and employing more than 2,000 sales agents and staff.

Both companies reported more than \$100 million in profit for the first half of the year as a result of increased transactions.

Behind them in market share are Ricacorp Properties, Ong's Properties, Fortune Realty, Land Power and New L&D.

It is estimated that there are 4,000 to 5,000 real estate operators employing about 20,000 people in the territory.

Small agencies specialising in residential deals rely on street-front outlets.

Besides the increase in competition, the industry will be subject to tighter regulations with the planned licensing of estate agents next year, which is aimed at raising professionalism and enhancing consumer protection. (Cont.)



There is no doubt that estate agencies have proved a lucrative business.

An agent now charges 1 per cent each from seller and buyer for a transaction.

As long as the market is active enough, even if prices are falling, estate agents can gain.

According to Shih Win-ching, managing director with Centaline, there is now a real fear among some of these smaller players that they will have to close their doors because they cannot compete.

Some agents are even predicting that the market will become dominated by 10 or so mega-agents controlling the vast majority of business with the crumbs left to the neighbourhood operators.

Whether Hong Kong consumers will benefit in the long run from this trend remains to be seen.

Spending more money on television and newsprint advertising, shopping centre promotions and a plethora of new suburban shop fronts did not necessarily guarantee better service, agents said.

In order to succeed, the remaining operators would have to emphasise better quality and more professional services, they believed.

To date, there have been two other important tie-ups which have bemused some agents.

Ong's Properties and Fortune Realty, which have a solid reputation in the Sha Tin area, announced they had developed a sister company relationship which many agents characterised as a "gimmick" and said would not amount to much.

More intriguing was a third bonding involving Ricacorp Properties and publicly listed Chi Cheung Investment, a joint owner of New L&D.

Chi Cheung proposed to take control of Ricacorp. Some agents said Chi Cheung would fold New L&D into Ricacorp, effectively ending a chapter in the Hong Kong property scene - the legacy of the old, troubled L&D.

There is also speculation that Centaline or Midland will get a knock on the door from other developers keen to get a deal similar to

Land Power's arrangement with Cheung Kong. While Midland denies being approached by any developers, Centaline officials said they had held talks with a few developers but nothing had happened so far. According to Mr Shih and others, if the Cheung Kong tie-up with Land Power bore fruit, all the other major developers in town could be expected to follow suit.

The attraction for developers is better sales exposure for their new flats and market intelligence about the second-hand market, where many buyers come from.

The Land Power-Cheung Kong affiliation, which is called Hong Kong Property Services (Agency), plans to offer potential clients more than 80 customer outlets around the territory. Many would be so-called telephone hotlines in Park'N Shop supermarkets, which would allow customers to get instant property information from a central location, whether they want to buy or sell.

Hong Kong Property was also refurbishing a former 4,000-square-foot Park'N Shop in Repulse Bay which would cater exclusively to the high end of the market, said Michael Choi Ngai-min, major shareholder with Land Power and now director of Hong Kong Property.

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While agents disagree on whether service may improve, there is concern that a tie-up between a developer and an agent could lead to higher prices.

"The agent might advise sellers not to drop below a certain price, to keep the prices high so as to create bullish sentiment," one agent said.

"Not only will this have an influence on the second-hand market, this would also influence the pricing of new flats." (SCMP 30/10/96)



### Article 3

Announcer: The third article is about advertising and American sports.

#### Baseball players no longer big hit with America's advertising men

Will the Yankees' victory parade include a phalanx of pitchmen in pinstripes marching up Madison Avenue? That seems as likely as Ted Turner agreeing to sell the Atlanta Braves to Rupert Murdoch.

Decades ago, the World Series transfixed America and a Yankee championship was almost as predictable an autumnal occurrence as the leaves turning red and gold or Vermont voting Republican.

As a result, agency executives, many of them Yankee fans because the industry was so concentrated in New York, turned players like Joe Dimaggio, Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford into endorsement mainstays for products including Camel cigarettes, Jell-O jelly and White Owl cigars.

But now times are so different in so many ways and the Yankees, being honoured today after their victory, have little chance to score off the field beyond personal appearances in the New York market.

"Unfortunately, there are too many factors in the minus column to make this an exceptional occasion for the players," said Marty Blackman, president of Blackman & Raber, a sports and entertainment marketing and consulting company in New York.

The primary reason the Yankees may be relegated to the minor leagues of advertising is that Major League Baseball's recent setbacks have damaged its standing among marketers as much as among consumers.

"You have a sport where, until there's labour peace, you're subject to disruption of advertising and sales promotion programmes," Mr Blackman said, referring to the strike that cancelled the 1994 World Series. "Agencies are scared to recommend spending major bucks on baseball, because something may go wrong."

Bob Williams, president of the Burns Sports Celebrity Service in Chicago, which helps match athletes with advertisers, agreed.

Baseball is "very sick," he said, because "there's no collective bargaining agreement, no commissioner. Attendance is 15 per cent below pre-strike levels and ratings are way down. So we just don't get the calls for baseball players," he said. "We get many more calls for football and basketball players. "Baseball is down to hockey's level," Mr Williams said. "That's a long way down - and a long way up." (Cont.)



Sean Brenner, editor of Team Marketing Report, a sports newsletter in Chicago, cited other difficulties. Because of free agency, he said: "The players keep moving a round; it's hard to identify a player with a team or a city any more. A lot of Yankees aren't longtime Yankees." And some players had experienced personal problems that were likely to "cause advertisers to stay away".

Bob Dorfman, author of the Marketers' Professional Scouting Report, which assesses the appeal of athletes to advertisers, said: "The Yankees have more interesting personalities. But Major League Baseball is not really focusing on the players, which is what succeeded for the National Basketball Association.

"The NBA focused on stars, and made them bigger stars."

Another problem for the Yankees, according to Dorfman, a senior copywriter at the Foote, Cone & Belding unit of True North Communications in San Francisco, is that the nation is no longer rivetted by the World Series. "Everything has fractured as the seasons overlap," he said, which had contributed to baseball's "falling out of favour". Also falling out of favour among agencies and clients is the practice of rushing to sign sports stars based on short-term performance. That is attributable in part to fear of wasting money on one-shot wonders and in part to a belief that consumers are more impressed by consistency.

"It takes more than one winning moment to win the interest of advertisers," Brenner said. (SCMP 30/10/96)



## Article 4

Announcer: The next article is about an interesting discovery in India.

### Thousands throng to talking tree

JOHN ZUBRZYCKI

A talking tree believed to possess healing powers is attracting thousands of worshippers every day.

The 50-year-old mahua tree, in an orchard on the outskirts of New Delhi, was discovered by a middle-aged man about two weeks ago and a rumour began that the tree could communicate with people and exorcise evil spirits.

Since then, up to 5,000 pilgrims a day have flocked to the tree, many of them pressing their ears against the trunk.

The crowds are causing a headache for police and angry orchard owner Swaroop Singh, who says there is no question of his tree talking. "Someone has been fooling these gullible people," he said.

Sceptics believe the rumour was spread by local traders eager to cash in on the crush of worshippers, some of whom travel from miles away to seek cures for diseases such as dengue fever, which is still raging in and around New Delhi.

Stalls selling incense, prasad or holy food, flowers and trinkets have sprung up around the six-hectare guava and mango orchard to cater for pilgrims curious to witness for themselves the tree's powers. Certain species of tree, such as the banyan, are held to be sacred by the majority of the Hindu population, but the mahua is not normally considered auspicious.

"If you believe strongly enough, you will hear what you want to," said Dev Kumar, a merchant from nearby Karol Bagh.

The talking tree has been burned by incense sticks and has had its bark stripped by over-zealous pilgrims wanting to take a souvenir back to their families.

A makeshift shrine has been built at the base of the tree. (SCMP 1/11/96)



## Article 5

Announcer: The next article is from Bangkok.

### Defendants dying off as trial drags on

#### SIMON HOLT in Bangkok

A court case has taken so long that four defendants are dead, many witnesses are too old to testify and, if the current pace is maintained, it will take more than 100 years to complete.

The case involves former monk Phra Rajapanyakosol, 70, and 15 other people accused of colluding to forge documents which allowed a group of businessmen to receive royal decorations from King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The honour is held in great regard in Thai society and boosts the standing of businessmen.

The accusations date back to the early 1980s, but since 1989, when prosecutions were handed down, only 49 out of more than 500 witnesses have been questioned.

Lawyer and human rights activist Thongbai Tongpao said yesterday four defendants

were already dead, including former education minister Khunthong Phupiewduan. Mr Thongbai, who represents six defendants in the case, said the case would last more than a century at its current pace.

He said many of the witnesses and suspects were now too old to testify.

"I have promised that I will defend these people for the rest of my life. Maybe my son will have to take over," he said yesterday.

"One of the suspects is poor and has been in jail for 10 years. The judge has asked me why I do not bail him out. I have to say I do not have enough money to do so. I hope the prosecutor will eventually drop the case."

Mr Thongbai said many cases dragged when lawyers and witnesses were ill and could not attend court. (SCMP 1/11/96)

**Article 6**

Announcer: The next article is from Australia.

**Religion ‘oldest in the world’**

Aborigines have the longest established religious beliefs in the world, according to a new analysis of rock paintings by archaeologists.

An image of a mythical being called the Rainbow Serpent, loosely based on the seahorse family, first appeared in such paintings 6,000 years ago, they claim. Today, aborigines regard it as a symbol of unity, creation and destruction, and the core of a spiritual system that tells of the creation of the world out of chaos.

Paul Tacon of the Australian Museum in Sydney, Christopher Chippindale of

Cambridge University and Meredith Wilson of the Australian National University in Canberra, argue that it was a religious icon from the beginning, making it the oldest religious symbol.

Writing in “Archaeology in Oceania”, they base their conclusions on a statistical analysis of 107 Rainbow Serpent paintings across Australia, most common in Arnhem Land in the northwest of the country. They believe that the first images were inspired by sightings of the ribboned pipefish, a type of seahorse. (SCMP 1/11/96)



## Article 7

Announcer: This article is from Hong Kong.

### 70pc believe a kiss can lead to AIDS

Jane Moir

Seven out of 10 people believe they can contract AIDS through kissing, a survey has revealed.

And 40 per cent of the 15,000 people surveyed believe they can catch AIDS from a toilet seat. The same number said they thought the virus could be transmitted through coughing or sneezing.

The survey - carried out by the Centre for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research - will be presented at the territory's first AIDS conference next week.

The centre's director, Dr Joseph Lau Takfai, said that despite improvements in AIDS awareness among the public, "Some aspects are not ideal".

"The main misconception seems to be everything surrounding body fluid, even among doctors and social workers.

"They understand how AIDS is transmitted, but they don't understand how it can't be," he said.

The survey is conducted each year by telephone, post and face-to-face interviews.

One improvement seen over the past year was the realisation the virus could not be transmitted over a meal, Dr Lau said.

Eighty-five per cent of those polled said they understood they could not contract AIDS by having dinner with a sufferer, compared to 68 per cent last year.

Department of Health AIDS consultant Dr Lee Shui-shan said: "People's awareness has been improving, but not to the extent that they know exactly their own risks."

AIDS Concern spokesman Bella Luk Tochu said: "The ignorance and stigma [of AIDS] have not improved".

"A lot of people don't even think of getting tested, because they worry if they have the test, it means they are admitting to various sexual activities or needle sharing.

"You can easily promote awareness, but not the level of knowledge needed," she said. (SCMP 1/11/96)



## Article 8

Announcer: This article is also from Hong Kong and is the last article in the reading file.

### Costly centres 'set up poorly'

Experts criticise lack of managers in self-learning schemes

EXPERTS have criticised the administration of self-access teaming schemes, on which universities have spent millions of development dollars. All six local universities and Lingnan College have self-access facilities such as videos, CD-ROM and exercise books catering for students at various levels to improve their language proficiency.

Self-access learning allows students to decide what languages they learn and how they go about studying them.

Funded by the University Grants Committee and using their own financial resources, universities spend a part of their expenses each year on self-access or independent learning.

The University of Hong Kong allocated \$3 million from the committee's University Block Grants (1991-1992) to set up its three self-access centres while the University of Science and

Technology allocated \$2 million for its centre.

David Gardner, president of the Hong Kong Association of Self-Access Learning and Development and senior language instructor at the English Centre at the University of Hong Kong, said that in most cases, there were still no "identifiable" managers to run the centres.

"Most of the centres do not have full-time permanent managers even though they have full-time staff, who also have administrative tasks, teaching duties and research to handle.

"This is not the way to run an expensive centre because they are not libraries. They have to be run by qualified teachers who have experience in self-access learning and are able to produce material for students." (Cont.)



If students were successful in self-access learning, Mr Gardner said, they might have a system to learn on their own after they graduated from university.

The self-access centre at Hong Kong Polytechnic University was the only such centre which had a full-time manager.

He said students could become "stuck at a level and stop learning when they quit school or university".

In June, Campus Post reported that local employers, especially those in the technology field, criticised graduates who were unable to learn new technologies after a few years because "they simply were not taught how to learn on their own".

Lindsay Miller, an assistant professor at the City University of Hong Kong said that the education system did not encourage students to learn independently.

"Universities and faculties all have mission statements indicating their students should be 'creative, individual thinkers', but we can't achieve that if everyone is doing the same thing.

"We have got to have a system [self-access learning] whereby people find out

how they learn and make language learning decisions accordingly."

He stressed it had not yet been proved by research whether self-access in language learning had a "knock-on" effect to the other areas students study in.

But both Mr Gardner and Mr Miller believed students who were independent and responsible for their own learning were better off because they had better knowledge of how to learn on their own.

However, Mr Miller said: "We are not saying that self-access is going to dramatically increase students' standard of English or Mandarin but it is an alternative approach.

"If we don't offer that, we will never know whether it will work."

The two experts coedited "Tasks for Independent Language Learning", a book compiling works on self-access from authors from Europe, the United States, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Spain to allow teachers to help students know more about learning and to tailor their learning with that in mind. (SCMP 5/10/95)

## A Questionnaire for IEC Self-Access [SA.Qu]

<b>Skills</b> ↓	<b>Equipment</b>				 15
<b>Reading</b>	<p>Below is a short questionnaire about your feelings on the Self-Access Units of the Intensive English Course. It should only take about 15 minutes to complete. Please fill in the questionnaire on your own. Your comments will help us make decisions about the material.</p> <p>Please say whether you                      Strongly Agree (SA)             Agree (A)             Neither agree or disagree (N)             Disagree (D)             Strongly Disagree (SD) with the following statements.</p>				
<b>Writing</b>					
<b>Speaking</b>					
<b>Listening</b>					
☆					
<b>Next?</b> <i>SMILE_2</i>					

	SA	A	N	D	SD
1    The self-access units of the IEC are useful.					
2    The self-access units of the IEC are interesting.					
3    It was easy to use the self-access units of the IEC.					
4    The Introduction Section was easy to follow.					
5    The Evaluation Section was useful.					
6    The layout of the units was easy to follow.					
7    The skills I practised in the units have been useful.					
8.    I will use the skills I have practised in other subjects.					
9    I will continue to practise self-access study.					
10    I enjoyed doing the self-access units.					
11    Write a sentence about the self-access units of the IEC.					
12    How would you improve the self-access units of the IEC?					