Knowledge Power
The Imperial Examination System of the Qing Dynasty

Educational Pamphlet
我們從小就聽過用「狀元」一詞
來形容考試拿取第一名，
究竟「狀元」這個身份從哪裡來呢？
原來它來自「科舉」的考試制度。
讓我們來認識科舉制度吧！

The word zhuangyuan (狀元)
means the principal graduate of palace examination.
It originated from the imperial examination.
Let's discover more about
the imperial examination system！
清科舉考試有許多常用詞語，試填填看！
There are many vocabularies related to imperial examination of the Qing dynasty. Let's try to find them out!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>考試類別 Levels of examination</th>
<th>時間 Schedules</th>
<th>考試地點 Examination venues</th>
<th>所獲資格 Qualifications acquired</th>
<th>成績最優者 Top candidates</th>
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<tr>
<td>童試 Preliminary Examination</td>
<td>三年兩試 two rounds every three years</td>
<td>府、縣 prefecture, county</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>廩生 linsheng</td>
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<tr>
<td>( ) 試 Examination</td>
<td>( ) 年一次 once every ______ year</td>
<td>省城 provincial capital</td>
<td>舉人 juren</td>
<td>解元 jiyuan</td>
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<tr>
<td>會試 Metropolitan Examination</td>
<td>於鄉試翌年舉行 held in the year following the provincial examination</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( ) 元 yuan</td>
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<tr>
<td>( ) 試 Examination</td>
<td>會試後 after the metropolitan examination</td>
<td>樂禁城內宫殿 palace in the Forbidden City</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( ) 元 yuan</td>
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Kui Xing (魁星, Champion Star) is one of the gods in Chinese mythology. People worshipped him in the hope of achieving good examination results. As the character ao (鯤, dragon fish) denotes leadership, principal graduate of provincial examination, 13 (魁), was called Kui Jie (魁解) while the principal graduate of palace examination, 14 (甲), was called Kui Jia (魁甲).
Tsui Shing Lau Pagoda in Ping Shan is the most famous monument associated with Kui Xing in Hong Kong. A statue of Kui Xing is worshipped on the upper floor of the pagoda. As such, the monument is also known as Pagoda of Kui Xing or Ping Shan Academics' Pavilion. Statues of Kui Xing are also worshipped in Man Ancestral Hall in San Tin, Man Mo Temple in Tai Wo Market, Tai Po and Man Tai Temple in Tai Hang.
The picture depicts a scene of the imperial examination in the Qing dynasty.

Who is sitting at the centre?

A. 皇帝 The Emperor    B. 内阁大臣 Government Grand Secretary
C. 尚書 Government Minister

Answer: ____________

Which kind of examination does the picture depict?

A. 會試 Metropolitan Examination    B. 殿試 Palace Examination
C. 鄉試 Provincial Examination

Answer: ____________

The imperial examination was a kind of public examination. Under the current Senior Secondary School Curriculum, commonly known as ‘334’, which public examination are Hong Kong students required to sit before they are admitted to a university?

Answer: ____________________________________________________________________
圖中為清代武舉考試的場景:
This picture depicts a scene of the military examination in the Qing dynasty.

18. 考生們正接受武舉中的甚麼考核？
What kinds of tests are the candidates taking during the military examination?

答：Answer: __________________________

展覽也展出了考生練習用的關刀和練武石，請寫上它們的重量。
The exhibition also shows a guan dao (a long-handled broadsword) and a stone for martial arts practice. Please mark down their weights.

19. 關刀: _______公斤   練武石: _______公斤

20. Guan dao: ______kg   A stone weight for martial arts practice: ______ kg

21. 您認為武舉的要求與現今投考紀律部隊的體能測試的要求相似嗎？
Do you think the requirements of the military examination are similar to those of today’s physical fitness tests for the discipline services?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
News of victory and certificates

In the imperial examination system, announcements of merit were made in every stage of examinations: the provincial examination, the metropolitan examination and the palace examination. Messengers would announce the merits of successful candidates to their families.

The format of merit report was quite simple: it contained the name of the successful candidate together with the rank achieved. Sometimes, the native province of the successful candidate was also mentioned.

The merit report was usually posted in prominent locations in the main hall of a house to honour the ancestors of the successful candidates as well as to catch the eyes of visitors when they entered into the main hall. Do you think the merit report is similar to today’s certificate of merit?

Merit Report

Your family member Mr. Weng Daquan is admitted to the Jiangsu Academy by the authorisation of the Vice-Minister of the Board of Public Works. The candidate passed the imperial examination and ranked number two for admission.

請翻至下一頁，製作一張屬於您自己的捷報吧！

Please turn to the next page to create your own merit report!
Your family member is admitted to the Jiangsu Academy by the Board of Public Works. The candidate passed the Imperial examination and ranked number two for admission.
“An Enlightening Encounter: Examinations and Life”

After visiting the exhibition, what do you think about the imperial examination and the current examination system? Which exhibits impress you most?

We are now organizing the Essay Writing and Sharing Competition. You are welcome to join us and share your thoughts and feelings about the exhibition with your friends on a social network!

參觀展覽後，您對科舉和現今的考試有甚麼看法？哪些展品令您留下深刻印象？

博物館現正舉辦「鑑古知今，考試人生」分享徵文比賽，快來參加比賽，把您所見、所思、所想寫下來，並在社交網站與您的朋友分享！
Entry form of the competition can be downloaded from the Museum’s website http://hk.history.museum