

Text A**Would you believe it?**

This story combines all the great mysteries and exciting discoveries of the sea, conjuring up visions of ancient sailors and sailing ships laden with riches. A Korean fisherman, on a small fishing boat, caught an octopus which had ancient pottery attached to its tentacles. This chance discovery is being hailed as one of the great undersea treasure finds of modern times. Experts say the valuable pottery dates back to the 12th century.

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The extraordinary discovery took place on what was for 58-year-old Mr Kim Yong-Chul 'another day at the office'. It began when he took his boat out, desperately hoping for a good catch of webfoot octopus, which is a delicacy in the Republic of Korea. On this particular day, after days of fishing with no luck, he decided to try somewhere new, a few kilometres south of his regular fishing spot. Casting out a long line, he felt a familiar tug and hauled up his first octopus of the day. He was puzzled by several blue objects attached to its tentacles, and thought at first they were shells. A closer look revealed that they were pieces of pottery.

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Oblivious to the fact that he had made an incredible discovery, he cast out his line again and again, bringing in more octopus with fragments of pottery attached to them. Finally, he brought one up with a whole plate caught up in its tentacles. By now, Mr Kim realised that there had to be something important deep below. He had heard that divers had found several shipwrecks filled with ancient treasure, including pottery, along the coast. On his return to shore, he got in touch with a museum, which sent officials to examine the pieces.

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'You can imagine just how excited we were when we studied the remnants as well as the virtually perfect plate,' said one of the museum officials. 'We arranged for an urgent exploration of the seabed, and although we did not find a ship down there, we were able to find thirty 12th-century bowls.'

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His colleague added, 'It seems that a ship carrying pottery was wrecked. The ship must have been transporting the pieces when it went down. Although other ships have been found and pottery recovered, this is the first time a family of octopuses has located a wreck for us!'

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Mr Kim is to be rewarded by the museum for his discovery, but just what he will receive is being kept a secret for the time being.

Section A: Reading

Spend 30 minutes on this section.

Read **Text A**, a newspaper article, in the Insert, and then answer questions 1–8.

1 Why was the pottery so important?

Give **two** reasons.

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- [2]

2 Give **one** word from the first paragraph which tells you that Mr Kim found the pottery by accident.
..... [1]

3 Look at the phrase ‘another day at the office’ (lines 6–7).

(a) What does this phrase suggest about Mr Kim?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- Mr Kim expected to have a normal working day.
- Mr Kim used his fishing boat as his office.
- Mr Kim was not satisfied with his job.
- Mr Kim wished he worked in an office.

[1]

(b) Why has the writer put this phrase in inverted commas?
.....
..... [1]

4 What does the phrase ‘hauled up’ suggest about Mr Kim’s catch (line 10)?
.....
..... [1]

5 Explain in your own words the meaning of each of the following, as it is used in the text.

(a) 'Oblivious' (line 13)

.....
..... [1]

(b) 'examine' (line 18)

.....
..... [1]

6 Explain **two** ways in which the opening sentence ('This story combines ... ') tries to gain the reader's attention.

Support each explanation with a different word or phrase from the opening sentence.

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..... [4]

7 What is the main purpose of **Text A**?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

- to describe the hard life of a poor fisherman
- to explain how pottery was used in the past
- to inform you about an unusual discovery
- to teach you that honesty brings rewards

[1]