

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: 21st Mar, 2017

Judges shouldn't be targeted for their ruling against police officers convicted of assault

Despite the uproar caused by the ruling against the seven police officers, Hong Kong's independent judiciary remains a **beacon* for the mainland

**a source of light or inspiration*

We live in strange times. Supposedly well-trained law enforcement officers beat up a zip-tied suspect at an electricity substation in Admiralty. Although the assault was filmed and widely circulated, the seven officers repeatedly denied the **accusations** in court. They were sentenced to two years in prison.

A supposedly well-paid government official has been found guilty of misconduct in public office. Former chief executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen was sentenced to 20 months in prison in a case related to a luxury flat on the mainland.

***relating to or denoting an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one*

Amid the chorus of outrage and **triumph**, fears of Hong Kong descending into a ***dystopian society* are virtually non-existent. The fact that we can confidently say this can be attributed to one thing – an independent ****judiciary*. In Hong Kong, protesters who take to the streets don't have to worry about police violence, for they know that the courts would punish those who **abuse** their powers. Businesses can **flourish** here because there is very little corruption. Those who accept **bribes** or other advantages will be dealt with by the courts.

****the judicial authorities of a country; judges collectively / a system of courts of*

This is why it saddens me that British judge David Dufton, who handed down the sentence on the seven police officers who were convicted of assaulting Occupy Central protester Ken Tsang Kin-chiu, has been heavily criticised.

In addition to the wave of online insults, which included calling Dufton a “dog”, a WeChat account run by the mainland newspaper *People's Daily* questioned whether the judge was affected by his political **stance**.

Hong Kong lawmaker Wong Kwok-kin, of the Federation of Trade Unions, made things worse by branding Dufton a “white skin with yellow heart”. Yellow is the symbolic colour of the Occupy Central pro-democracy movement.

Such **derogatory** comments denigrate our judges and the sanctity of our legal system.

I believe that our judges have had sufficient training to realise the importance of setting aside their personal preferences when dealing with a court case. I believe they use careful reasoning and strictly **adhere** to *the letter of the law* in their rulings. The situation is somewhat similar to police officers who are trained to withstand pressure and **provocations** when carrying out their duties.

***** action or speech that makes someone angry, especially deliberately*

I agree that Hong Kong is a divided society. Depending on one's political beliefs, one may be saddened or encouraged by Dufton's ruling. But either way, we should not easily dismiss the **impartiality** of our **judiciary*. After all, it forms the backbone of Hong Kong's future development and prosperity.

Questions to think about:

- What do you understand to be the purpose of our judiciary? Why is the system of law in a country so important? What can happen if the system is not fair?
- What are your views on what happened with the conviction of the seven police officers?
- What has the reaction to the case shown you (about Hong Kong)? Do you think it is fair to ‘attack’ the judge?
- Would you think of a career in law? What difficulties could you have as a judge? Why is it such an important position? Who could try to influence you?



I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. accusation (n)		A: stick to / follow or believe in something
2. triumph (n)		B: fairness
3. abuse (v)		C: action or speech that makes someone angry, especially deliberately
4. flourish (v)		D: misuse (e.g use your position to influence others)
5. bribe (n)		E: : point of view / standing / the attitude of a person or organization towards something
6. stance (n)		F: a charge or claim that someone has done something illegal or wrong.
7. derogatory (adj)		G: a sum of given (under the table) to do something for you / to get a favour
8. adhere (v)		H: a great victory/win or achievement
9. provocation (n)		I: to do very well/develop rapidly or successfully
10. impartiality (n)		J: showing a critical or disrespectful attitude (nasty comments which people make to hurt others)

II: Usage of vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.

- The world of politics can be a dirty one in which politicians may use (a) _____ comments to (b) _____ and insult others. The use of (c) _____, in other words, sums of money to influence people is another example of the misuse of power. Therefore, it is important to take a strong (d) _____ to ensure corruption does not take place.
- We as a society rely on the _____ and fairness of the judiciary to maintain law and order.
- The defendant stands _____ of committing many a heinous (awful) crime.
- Despite all odds, Donald Trump _____ in the last US elections. Nobody expected him to win.
- His business is _____, it is really doing well despite the tough economic climate.
- If people do not _____ to the laws and regulations of a country, it could result in chaos.
- The reason the dog attacked the young boy was because the boy _____ it by throwing stones at it. The dog is normally harmless.

ENGLISH CORNER CAFÉ IS ALWAYS OPEN ON A TUESDAY FOR DRINKS, SNACKS, CONVERSATION & GAMES