

# Students' Top Ten News Election

# The 33th Candidate News Briefs

	North Korea Fires Trash-Laden Balloons at South Korea, Raising Tensions
1	In retaliation for South Korea's drone-aided leaflet drops, North Korea began launching balloons filled with manure and trash toward Seoul and other areas in South Korea in May. South Korean authorities increased airspace surveillance and warned the public to report falling debris, while resuming border loudspeaker broadcasts. This incident further heightened tensions between the two nations.
2	Ho Family Scandal Grabs Headlines
	In May, 76-year-old Mr. Ho sparked a family inheritance feud after marrying a mainland Chinese woman over 30 years his junior. His five children allegedly transferred HK\$4.5 million from a joint account with him. After being featured in a TV infotainment program, the story became a hot topic across Hong Kong. Mr. Ho and his wife frequently live-streamed, gaining widespread attention online and becoming internet celebrities.
3	Pok Oi Hospital's Mistaken Hysterectomy Sparks Outcry
	A 59-year-old female patient at Pok Oi Hospital had her uterus mistakenly removed in February after a biopsy sample got mixed with that of a cancer patient. Pok Oi Hospital later released an analysis report on the incident. The hospital pledged to follow up and implement measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future.
4	Mainland "Meisun" Mooncakes Involved in False Advertising, Fined and Ordered to Cease Operations
	Before Mid-Autumn Festival, celebrity Eric Tsang and a few mainland Douyin influencers sold mooncakes resembling the famous Hong Kong brand "Maxim's" under the name "Meisun". Sales reached 50 million yuan, but it was later revealed that the product was a mainland brand produced in Guangzhou. Authorities in Hefei fined the company 69 million yuan for false advertising and ordered it to cease operations.
5	First Citizenship and Social Development Exam Held for Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education
	The subject of Citizenship and Social Development had its first exam in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) this year. The subject is graded only as "Attained" or "Unattained", with "Attained" students meeting the basic university admission requirement. The curriculum includes a mainland study tour, aimed at helping students understand topics related to Hong Kong, China and the contemporary world.
6	New Lucky House Fire Kills 5, Highlights 16-Year-Old Fire Safety Neglect
	In April, a fire broke out in Jordan's New Lucky House, killing 5 and injuring over 40 people. The Buildings Department revealed that it had issued fire safety instructions to the building's management in 2008, but safety equipment had not been updated when the fire occurred. Chief Executive John Lee Ka Chiu expressed sadness over the incident and extended condolences to the victims' families. The Fire Services Department launched an investigation.
7	Tombstone of Beyond's Lead Vocalist Damaged, Two Men Charged with Vandalism
	In May, the tombstone of Wong Ka Kui, the late lead vocalist of Hong Kong band Beyond, was damaged by a 15-year-old male student who poured soda on it and struck it with a hammer, while a 23-year-old air-conditioning technician filmed the act. Both were charged with criminal damage. The student claimed he committed the crime to gain online attention. The judge condemned their actions as shameful, sentencing them to a rehabilitation center and a detention center, respectively.
	Increase in Deepfake Cases Raises AI Misuse Concerns
8	In South Korea, deepfake technology was used to create pornographic images from photos of women posted on social media, with victims including students from several schools. In Hong Kong, a deepfake scam occurred where someone impersonated a superior during a video conference, leading to a fraudulent HK\$4 million transfer. Public concern over the illegal use of artificial intelligence has grown.



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	Typhoon Yagi Hits Southern China, Affects Over One Million People
9	In early September, super typhoon Yagi made landfall three times along the coasts of Hainan, Guangdong and Vietnam, causing catastrophic damage across South China, Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Yagi, the strongest typhoon to hit China since Typhoon Rammasun in 2014, brought winds exceeding Beaufort number 17, affecting over 1.2 million people in Hainan and the Guangxi region.
10	Controversial Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme Indefinitely Postponed
	Originally set for August 2024, the implementation of the municipal solid waste charging scheme was postponed indefinitely in May due to public concerns over its complexity and the lack of significant waste reduction. The government had planned to launch a pilot program in April but faced widespread opposition.
	Safeguarding National Security Ordinance Comes into Effect
11	The Safeguarding National Security Ordinance, which passed its third reading in the Legislative Council, took effect in March. The ordinance covers crimes such as treason and espionage, filling gaps in national security law. It signifies Hong Kong's constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security, marking a new phase in Hong Kong's governance.
12	"Black Myth: Wukong" Launches to Global Acclaim, Marks New Era for China's Gaming Industry
	In August, "Black Myth: Wukong", China's first AAA single-player game, was officially released. Based on the classic novel Journey to the West, the game features advanced technology and stunning visuals, rapidly gaining popularity. Within two weeks, global sales reached 20 million copies, making it one of the fastest-selling games and showcasing the rise of China's gaming industry.
	Schools' Names Pranked on Google Maps, Prompting Concerns
13	In mid-September, several Hong Kong schools had their names altered as part of a prank on Google Maps, mimicking a similar incident in Taiwan. The edited names spread on social media. Some schools reported the issue to the Education Bureau and requested Google to rectify the changes. Most of the school names were restored within a few days.
	Messi's Absence from Exhibition Match in Hong Kong Causes Fan Uproar
14	In February, Argentine football star Lionel Messi's absence from an exhibition match between Inter Miami and the Hong Kong team at the Hong Kong Stadium led to widespread discontent among fans. Despite the stadium being packed with 40,000 spectators, Messi remained on the bench. Fans chanted for his appearance and later expressed their dissatisfaction with boos and calls for refunds. The Hong Kong government expressed disappointment and considered reducing sponsorship payments due to Messi's absence.
	7.2-Magnitude Earthquake Hits Taiwan's Hualien, Causing Deaths and Injuries
15	In April, Taiwan experienced its strongest earthquake in 25 years, with a magnitude of 7.2. The epicenter was located offshore near Hualien, causing widespread damage. More than 900 people were injured and several buildings collapsed. Thousands were stranded in Taroko National Park and a rockslide on the Central Cross-Island Highway damaged over a dozen vehicles, injuring more than 20 people.
	Microsoft Global Blue Screen Crash Affects Multiple Industries
16	In July, a botched update by cybersecurity software company CrowdStrike caused approximately 8.5 million Microsoft Windows devices worldwide to experience blue screen crashes. This affected industries such as aviation, banking and healthcare, resulting in flight delays, cancellations and data loss. The incident sparked discussions on cybersecurity and system stability.



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	Policy Address Introduces Measures to Tackle Housing Issues, Advocates "Tourism is Everywhere in Hong Kong"
17	In October, Chief Executive John Lee Ka Chiu delivered his third Policy Address, proposing various measures to address housing problems and stimulate the economy. These include legislative measures to deal with subdivided flats and a commitment to shortening public housing waiting times. He also promoted the idea of "tourism is everywhere" to attract tourists from the Middle East and ASEAN, while expanding unique tourism products.
18	Strengthening Mental Health Support for Schoolchildren: Enhancing the Three-Tier Crisis Response Mechanism
	In November, the government announced improvements to the school-based three-tier crisis response mechanism, implemented through collaboration between the Education Bureau, the Health Bureau and the Social Welfare Department. This aims to identify and support students at higher risk of suicide early on. The government also enhanced measures for children and adolescent mental health in the October Policy Address.
	Schizophrenic Man Fatally Shot, Family Accuses Police of Excessive Force
19	In September, a 38-year-old schizophrenic man attacked his mother and wife on Kam Ping Street in North Point. Wielding a kitchen knife and scissors, he charged at police officers who fatally shot him in the chest after warnings went unheeded. Following the incident, the man's family protested outside the Hong Kong Police Headquarters in Wan Chai, accusing the police of using excessive force and calling for different strategies to handle mentally ill individuals.
20	Plastic-Free Law Enacted, Raising Public Awareness of Plastic Reduction
	In April, Hong Kong implemented its "plastic-free" environmental policy aimed at reducing single-use plastics. The first phase banned the sale and provision of foam and disposable plastic tableware, allowing a six-month adjustment period. While some residents supported the policy by switching to reusable utensils, others expressed concerns over the inconsistent quality of alternative paper products, finding them inconvenient.
21	Japanese Boy Killed in Shenzhen, Reigniting Attention on Sino-Japanese Relations
	In September, a 10-year-old Japanese boy was stabbed outside the Japanese school he attended in Shenzhen by a 44-year-old Chinese man. Despite emergency medical treatment, the boy did not survive. The Japanese government expressed shock over the incident, urging China to conduct a thorough investigation and ensure the safety of Japanese nationals in the country. China described the incident as isolated and called on Japan to avoid politicizing the issue, once again bringing Sino-Japanese relations into the spotlight.
	Israel-Hamas Conflict Continues Amid Growing Protests
22	The Israel-Palestine conflict has been ongoing for over a year. Israel launched a full-scale offensive in Palestinian territories and assassinated Hamas leaders, including Ismail Haniyeh. The war has forced 800,000 people to flee the Gaza Strip, creating a humanitarian crisis. Protests have erupted worldwide. In the U.S., soldier Aaron Bushnell self-immolated in front of the Israeli embassy in protest, dying from his injuries.
	Indian Female Doctor Raped and Murdered, Nation Outraged
23	In August, an Indian female doctor, after working a continuous 36-hour shift, was raped and murdered during her rest period. The autopsy revealed that she had been gang-raped and beaten before being strangled to death. Medical and women's rights groups in India staged numerous protests, demanding better protection for women and greater rights. More than 300,000 doctors participated in a nationwide 24-hour strike to protest the crime.
	The Central Government Gifts Hong Kong More Pandas; Ocean Park's Ying Ying Gives Birth to Twin Cubs
24	In September, the Central Government gifted Hong Kong two more pandas, "An An" and "Ke Ke", who moved into Ocean Park. Meanwhile, Ocean Park's panda Ying Ying successfully gave birth to twin cubs in August, the first panda twins born in Hong Kong. Ying Ying, the oldest panda on record to give birth for the first time, sparked hopes of boosting the "panda economy" and promoting Hong Kong tourism.



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Hong Kong Team Wins 2 Gold, 2 Bronze Medals at Paris Olympics, Achieving Historic Success  In August, the Hong Kong team won 2 gold and 2 bronze medals at the Paris Olympics, marking a historic achievement. Vivian Kong Man Wai won the first-ever gold medal for Hong Kong in the women's individual
epee event. Edgar Cheung Ka Long claimed another gold in the men's individual foil event, becoming the first Hong Kong athlete to defend an Olympic title successfully. Siobhan Bernadette Haughey took home two bronze medals in the 100m and 200m freestyle swimming events, making her the most decorated Olympian in Hong Kong history with four Olympic medals in total.
Donald Trump Elected U.S. President Again, Injured During Campaign Rally
Republican candidate Donald Trump won the U.S. general election, securing a return to the presidency as the 47th president. During the campaign, Trump was injured when he was attacked at a rally in Pennsylvania, suffering an injury to his right ear. He also survived an assassination attempt at his Florida golf course, where a gunman ambushed him, though he was unharmed.
Hezbollah Pager Explosions Kill and Injure Many in Lebanon
In September, thousands of pagers, walkie-talkies and mobile phones held by Hezbollah members in Lebanon and Syria exploded in two waves, causing widespread chaos and panic. The incident resulted in at least 42 deaths and 3,500 injuries. It is suspected that the attacks were orchestrated by Israel's Mossad (The Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations).
Taxi Fare Increase Sparks Public Concern
In July, taxi fares across Hong Kong were adjusted, with an additional HKD 2 for the initial fare and HKD 0.10 to HKD 0.20 for each subsequent increment. This sparked significant public debate, with some criticizing the poor service quality and inconsistency within the taxi industry. The Transport and Housing Bureau explained that the fare increase was due to rising costs, hoping the higher driver income would improve service quality.
U.S. Presidential Election: Democratic Party Changes Candidate, Biden Bows Out to Support Kamala Harris
The U.S. presidential election took place in November. In July, 81-year-old Joe Biden announced his withdrawal from the race and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic candidate against former president Donald Trump. Reports suggest that after Biden's poor performance in the first debate with Trump, the Democratic Party saw his chances of victory diminish, prompting the last-minute change. Biden later admitted in an interview that party pressure led to his decision to step down.
Physical Fitness Chain Suddenly Closes, Founders Arrested
In September, the Physical Fitness chain of gyms abruptly announced a temporary closure. Customs officials arrested founders Luk Ngai Keung and his wife, accusing them of violating the Trade Descriptions Ordinance. The chain had long sold memberships through long-term contracts and many customers had signed up for lifetime memberships. As of September, the Consumer Council had received over 4,000 complaints involving over HKD 100 million.

The above candidate news is randomly sorted, with news up to 31st October, 2024. The election results will be announced in early January 2025.