



## 106 INVESTIGATORS TO PROBE TERROR FLIGHT

Senior air staff will today launch an investigation after a flight from Hong Kong with 300 passengers on board suffered severe damage to its nose cone and cockpit windscreens during an electrical storm. Dragonair Flight KA330 turned back shortly before landing at Beijing airport on Saturday after encountering atrocious weather.

In similar situations investigators are asked to satisfy themselves that conditions along the route were adequate when the plane took off; whether evasive action could not have been taken sooner; whether the plane was fully airworthy to return to Hong Kong; and whether people's lives were put at risk unnecessarily.

The TriStar's nose cone, which houses its radar system, was torn open, one windscreen was shattered and another was damaged. An aviation expert said it was rare for such damage to occur. Usually, he said, lightning was discharged by special conductors around the outer skin of the plane.

Among those on board was the British Ambassador to Beijing, Sir Robin McLaren, who was returning to the Chinese capital for more Sino-British talks. Simon Heale, chief operating officer for Dragonair, said a review of how the pilot handled the problem would be conducted.

**This** would be carried out by experts from Cathay Pacific, a 43 per cent shareholder of Dragonair and supplier of the pilot for Flight KA330. He said he could see no reason to prepare a report for the Civil Aviation Department (CAD).

Mr Heale added that the weather forecast was perfectly acceptable when the pilot took off. When he approached Beijing, eight Chinese aircraft were being diverted to other airfields. "The pilot decided to return to Hong Kong where he could do an auto-land. He had enough

fuel to return. I think the issue for the pilot was visibility. His windscreen was cracked."

"We only have an agreement to land the TriStars at Beijing or Shanghai. Once you decide to divert, there's not a major difference between Hong Kong and Shanghai. I have not heard that the plane was unsafe." The director of the CAD, Mr P. K. N. Lok, and an assistant director in the CAD Safety Regulation Division, Mr P. J. Birkett, said they had heard nothing about the incident.

Passengers gave harrowing accounts of the six-hour journey on Saturday which left them shaken and fearing for their lives. Several of them **questioned the wisdom of allowing** the flight to take off at all. Meike Laesch, 24, a production manager for an advertising company in Germany, wished she had taken the train. "I saw people praying and I got really scared. Passengers were screaming," she said.

Flight KA330 carrying about 300 passengers took off late from Kai Tak airport at 4.10 pm. At about 7.10 pm the pilot announced that the plane would be landing at Beijing in 17 minutes. "All of a sudden we ran into turbulence. It was like a roller coaster ride," one passenger said.

After half-an-hour, the pilot announced that he was heading back to Hong Kong. "As we came in to land at Hong Kong we could see fire engines lined up on standby. Everyone clapped their hands when we came down. It was a smooth landing," a passenger said.

1. This passage is about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a mid-air investigation
  - B. a mid-air disaster
  - C. a mid-air collision
  - D. a mid-air incident
2. According to the passage \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the plane was not airworthy
  - B. the plane did not have enough fuel
  - C. the plane was slightly damaged
  - D. the pilot performed poorly
3. According to the passage after the problem occurred \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the plane lost height
  - B. the plane lost fuel
  - C. the plane landed at the nearest airport
  - D. the plane changed direction
4. The main point of paragraph 2 is to tell the reader \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. what the investigators are going to do
  - B. what the investigators usually do

- C. about the conditions along the route  
D. whether people's lives were put at risk
5. In paragraph 3 the reader is NOT told about which of the following:  
A. the damage to the plane  
B. a survey on the safety of Tristars  
C. what an aviation expert thinks  
D. how such problems are usually dealt with
6. In paragraph 6 it is suggested that Mr Heale thinks \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the pilot should never have taken off in the first place  
B. a report should be prepared for the Civil Aviation Department  
C. the pilot couldn't see properly  
D. the pilot could have landed in Beijing
7. Which of the following is the writer implying in paragraph 7?  
A. the pilot made the right decision  
B. the plane was unsafe  
C. the pilot made the wrong decision  
D. Shanghai was closer than Hong Kong
8. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraph 9?  
A. the attitude of the passengers  
B. eye witness accounts  
C. criticisms of the passengers  
D. what people did on landing
9. In paragraph 5 "**This**" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a review  
B. a Civil Aviation Department report  
C. a Dragon Air report  
D. a Cathay Pacific report
10. The phrase "**questioned the wisdom of allowing**" in paragraph 8 is similar in meaning to which of the following \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. strongly criticised the decision of allowing  
B. queried the sense of letting  
C. implied it was crazy to allow  
D. were angry at the decision to let



**GIA SU CHUNG CU**

## **107**

In the sixteenth century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service to the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally they found the passage they sought near a latitude of 50 degrees South. Magellan named this passage the Strait of All Saints, but today we know it as the Strait of Magellan.

One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian we now call the

International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after ninety-eight days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease.

Later Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and seventeen sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

1. The sixteenth century was an age of great \_\_\_\_\_ exploration.  
A. cosmic            B. land            C. mental            D. common man
2. Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. entanglement            B. discussion  
C. negotiation            D. problems
3. The Pope divided New World lands between Spain and Portugal according to their location on one side or the other of an imaginary geographical line 50 degrees west of Greenwich that extends in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction.  
A. north and south  
B. easterly  
C. south east  
D. north and west
4. One of Magellan's ships explored the \_\_\_\_\_ of South America for a passage across the continent.  
A. coastline            B. mountain range  
C. physical features            D. islands
5. Four of the ships sought a passage along a southern \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. coast  
B. inland  
C. body of land with water on three sides  
D. border
6. The passage was found near 50 degrees South of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. Greenwich    B. the equator    C. Spain            D. Portugal
7. In the spring of 1521, the ships crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ now called the International Date Line.  
A. imaginary circle passing through the poles  
B. imaginary line parallel to the equator  
C. area  
D. land mass

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## GIA SU' CHUNG CU'

### 108

Rock, or rock-and-roll, is a form of music that was invented in the United States in the 1950s. It has become popular in the United States, Europe, and many other parts of the world. African American performers like Little Richard, Fats Domino, Ray Charles, and Big Joe Turner were among the first people to come out with true rock-and-roll, a combination of various elements from country and western, gospel, rhythm and blues, and jazz. The influences of early performers like bluesman Muddy Waters, gospel performer Ruth Brown, and jazz musician Louis Jordan on rock-and-roll are still felt today. For example, the songs of early country legend Hank Williams affected musicians from early rock star Buddy Holly to '80s rocker Bruce Springsteen.

In the segregated 1950s, African American musical forms were not considered appropriate for white audiences. Much of the U.S. population had not been exposed to them. All that changed, when, in 1953, Cleveland disc jockey Alan Freed began to play rhythm and blues to a largely non-African American audience. Freed was successful, and a lot of records were sold. The music spread, and the term that Freed had adopted for the music – rock-and-roll – began to spread as well.

Teenagers, and the money they were willing to spend on records, provided an impetus for rock-and-roll. On their way to becoming rock stars, many performers copied songs from the original artists. For instance, Pat Boone scored a hit with a toned-down version of Little Richard's song, "Tutti Frutti," prompting Little Richard to comment, "He goes and outsells me with my song that I wrote." In 1955-56, Chuck Berry, Bill Haley and the Comets, and particularly Elvis Presley became famous for their version of traditional rhythm and blues. Elvis Presley's first television appearance in January 1956 marked rock-and-roll's ascendancy into the world of pop music.

1. What is the main topic of this passage?
  - A. American popular music
  - B. the careers of successful rock musicians
  - C. the musical elements that distinguish pop from classical music
  - D. the origins of the music that came to be called "rock-and-roll"
2. Who is NOT mentioned as an African American performer who was among the first to come out with rock-and-roll?
  - A. Fats Domino
  - B. Little Richard
  - C. Elvis Presley
  - D. Ray Charles
3. According to the passage, true rock-and-roll is characterized by a combination of which of the following?
  - A. the music of Bruce Springsteen and Hank Williams
  - B. musical influences from Europe and Asia
  - C. forms of music heard on most radio stations in the early 1950s
  - D. country and western, gospel, rhythm and blues, and jazz
4. In the 1950s rock-and-roll \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. was invented
  - B. was not considered appropriate for white audiences
  - C. sold few records
  - D. was the property of Buddy Holly
5. Many performers copied songs from \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. classical music
  - B. Pat Boone
  - C. original artists
  - D. "Tutti Frutti"
6. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as being a factor in the commercial success of early rock-and-roll?
  - A. the purchasing power of early rock enthusiasts
  - B. the charismatic personality of disc jockey Alan Freed
  - C. the exposure of a non-African American audience to African American musical forms
  - D. rock's popularity with teenage audiences

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