

Cross-Text Connections Exercise 2

Answer all 4 questions – group exercise

Q1

Text 1:

On Thailand's east coast, durian exporter Somchai Boonrit has seen his farm's profits triple in two years. He credits this success to livestream selling: farmers now film themselves picking durians and sell directly to buyers in China through live video apps. Somchai believes this new sales method has completely changed the durian business for small Thai farmers.

Text 2:

Business researcher Nattaya Wong studied the durian livestream trend across 200 farms in eastern Thailand. She found that farms using livestream selling earned 45% more per kilogram than farms selling only through traditional exporters. She also found that livestream sellers could reach buyers directly, cutting out costly middlemen.

Which finding from the second text most directly supports the claim made by Somchai in the first text?

- a) Farms using livestream selling earned significantly more money per kilogram than those using traditional methods.
- b) Nattaya studied 200 farms across eastern Thailand.
- c) Traditional exporters have existed in Thailand for many decades.
- d) Some durian buyers in China prefer certain varieties over others.

Q2

Text 1:

Ride-hailing apps have transformed how people get around Bangkok. Driver Prasert Chaiyasit says the apps let him choose his own hours and work only when he wants to. He values not having a boss checking on him every day, even though his income changes from week to week.

Text 2:

A study of 500 app-based drivers in Bangkok found that most drivers reported enjoying the freedom to set their own schedules. However, the study also found that 68% of drivers said their weekly income was unpredictable, making it hard to plan for expenses like rent.

Based on the texts, both Prasert and the study would most likely agree with which statement?

- a) App-based driving guarantees a stable income every week.
- b) Most drivers dislike having flexible working hours.
- c) Drivers value the freedom of choosing their own schedule, despite unstable pay.
- d) Ride-hailing apps have replaced all traditional taxi services in Bangkok.

Q3

Text 1:

Engineer Kanya Srisuk is optimistic about electric tuk-tuks becoming common in Thai cities within five years. She points to falling battery prices and growing government support as reasons the switch will happen quickly, benefiting both drivers and city air quality.

Text 2:

Transportation analyst Wichai Somboon is less certain. He notes that most Thai cities still lack enough charging stations outside major tourist areas, and many tuk-tuk drivers cannot afford the upfront cost of a new electric vehicle, even with lower running costs over time.

Which choice best describes a difference between how Kanya and Wichai view the future of electric tuk-tuks?

- a) Kanya believes the shift to electric tuk-tuks will happen faster than Wichai believes.
- b) Kanya believes electric tuk-tuks are worse for the environment than Wichai believes.
- c) Kanya believes tuk-tuk drivers earn more money than Wichai believes.
- d) Kanya believes government support for electric vehicles has ended, unlike Wichai.

Q4

Text 1:

The rapid growth of coffee shops in Chiang Mai's Old City has surprised many local business owners. New cafes open almost every month, often with unique designs and creative menus. Some observers believe this boom is driven entirely by rising tourist numbers, as visitors search for Instagram-worthy places to relax and take photos.

Text 2:

Business consultant Areeya Suthin has studied Chiang Mai's cafe industry for three years. She argues that while tourists play a role, the real driver is local demand: young Thai professionals now treat coffee shops as informal offices and meeting spaces, visiting several times per week regardless of the tourist season.

Based on the texts, what would Areeya most likely say about the underlined claim in the first text?

- a) The coffee shop boom is driven by more than just tourism, including strong demand from local residents.
- b) Tourist numbers in Chiang Mai have decreased significantly in recent years.
- c) Coffee shops in Chiang Mai mainly serve foreign visitors rather than local customers.
- d) Local professionals rarely visit coffee shops during the work week.

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