

ANSWER KEY

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: 7th Mar, 2017

Fugitive tycoon Joseph Lau turns up to work, quashing rumours of his death

Fugitive tycoon Joseph Lau Luen-hung appeared at his company's headquarters with his wife, 37-year-old Chan Hoi-wan, at around lunchtime on Thursday, **quashing** speculation that the former Chinese Estates Holdings chairman had died.

Lau, 65, was seen arriving by limousine in Wan Chai, bodyguards **in tow** and escorted by Chan, now Hong Kong's richest woman after he transferred HK\$11.3 billion worth of assets to her.

Rumours of Lau's **demise** began spreading after the property magnate Wednesday transferred all his shares in the company to Chan and his son, Lau Ming-wai, citing his poor health.

The tycoon, who has been suffering from renal failure, heart disease and diabetes, underwent a kidney transplant in November.

On Wednesday, he announced he had transferred his entire controlling stake in Chinese Estates, worth an estimated HK\$16.99 billion, to his wife and son. Some analysts questioned the **motive** behind the move. All his moves, including the announcement of the new marriage (in December last year) and the latest share transfer, were too **hasty**.

One analyst said. "It's too high profile ... The possibility can't be ruled out that the rich man is playing financial tricks and trying to transfer the assets."

However, the company in its stock exchange filing cited "Lau's very unstable health" and a need to restructure "during his lifetime".

Joseph Lau has long drawn media attention for his wealth and high-profile romantic relationships with multiple women.

He married Chan, a former **celebrity** journalist and his long-time partner, after announcing in November last year his break-up with then-girlfriend Dr Yvonne Lui Lai-kwan through several full-page newspaper statements.

The businessman became a fugitive from the law after he was **convicted** by a Macau court for his part in a bribes-for-land **scandal** involving a business partner and former Macau public works chief Ao Man-long.

Lau was **sentenced** to five years and three months in jail in absentia, but remains free in Hong Kong because of the lack of a ***rendition agreement* between the two cities.

"surrender" or "handing over" of persons or property, particularly from one jurisdiction (area) to another

Questions to think about:

- Why is the law so important? Do you think people should be treated any differently before the law because of their social status or wealth? How are some people who break the law able to get away with it?
- Are there any high profile cases of people in Hong Kong or the world who have been convicted? Do you think it was justified?
- Do you think marriage between two people of very different ages can work? Why or why not? What do you think makes a successful marriage? Why are there more divorces nowadays than in the past?
- Lau's wife is now the richest woman in Hong Kong. Do you think she 'earned' or deserved this money? What would you do if you were given such a large sum?



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. fugitive (n)	J	A: put a stop to / suppress
2. in tow (phrase)	C	B: someone famous
3. quash(ing) (v)	A	C: accompany or follow someone
4. demise (n)	H	D: an event or action which causes people to be shocked
5. motive (n)	I	E: to declare the punishment (e.g. time to be spent in jail) for doing something illegal (wrong/breaking the law)
6. hasty (adj)	G	F: declare someone guilty of wrong doing/ doing something criminal
7. celebrity (n)	B	G: too quick
8. convict(ed) (v)	F	H: a person's death / reason for someone's downfall
9. scandal (n)	D	I: reason for doing something
10. sentence (v)	E	J: a person (usually a criminal) who is hiding from the law

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 man (a) **was sentenced** to life imprisonment because of his horrendous crime. He (b) **was convicted**, in other words, found guilty of murdering a number of people. However, his true (c) **motive** for committing the murders, in other words, why he did so, remains perplexing (puzzling/hard to decide on or determine). His (d) **demise** or the reason why he was caught was his use of social media to boast about his crimes.
- The price of being a (a) **celebrity** is the lack of privacy as you are often in the media spotlight. You cannot go anywhere without photographers (b) **in tow**. Everyone knows what you are doing and you cannot hide. Often there is also (c) **scandal**, shocking stories about such stars which may or may not have much truth in them. It is difficult to (d) **quash** such rumours once they start spreading especially nowadays with the existence of social media.
- The man was now a **fugitive** and cannot return to his home country. He is on the run and on the world's most wanted list. He has taken on a different identity to try and hide from law enforcement agencies.
- The decision was reached too **hasty** and as a result the plan did not succeed.

Challenge of the week: Watch a TV crime show

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