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Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace among men with whom he is well pleased. Luke:2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace among men with whom he is well pleased. Luke:2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace among men with whom he is well pleased. Luke:2:14

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Reading Practice 8 (high level)



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Part B2

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-18 in the Question-Answer Book for Part B2.

建議時間：

S5-S6: 50 minutes

S3-S4: 60 minutes

Text 1

The Theatrics of Productivity: Inside China's Illusory Offices

[1] Across mainland China, a curious enterprise is quietly flourishing, one that sits on the hazy border between economic necessity and performance. In dense urban centres from Shenzhen to Shanghai, so-called 'pretend-to-work' or 'pseudo-co-working' offices invite unemployed graduates, under-employed freelancers, and early-stage founders to inhabit a corporate scene without a corporate contract. For a modest daily fee, participants step into rooms. Nothing here is illegal. Much here is theatrical. The product being sold is not employment but plausibility — the appearance of a working life at a moment when the labour market is unforgiving and social scrutiny is relentless.

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[2] The model is disarmingly simple yet shrewdly tuned to anxious times. For roughly thirty to fifty yuan a day, a client receives a workstation, reliable Wi-Fi, and hot drinks that arrive with the reassuring regularity of office culture. Some venues add a boxed lunch, as if to complete the 9-to-5 ritual. The first promotion of such offices appeared in a viral online ad from Hebei, featuring neatly dressed young people tapping at laptops in a sunlit room, captioned with the promise of "a place to keep your day in shape." The staging continues in small but telling touches: laminated 'team rules' on the wall; name tags at shared tables; a friendly attendant who drifts past like a manager on a light patrol. A few operators lean into the theatre, offering 'executive' chairs for staged photographs, or mock task lists. Most, however, provide a neutral environment in which people can type, talk softly, and be left alone. The sensation of belonging — of entering a space where one's presence makes sense — is the real amenity.

[3] Behind this niche lies a broader structural backdrop. China's youth labour market has slipped into disequilibrium: record cohorts of degree-holders graduate each year, while several once-buoyant sectors have cooled or restructured. The classic path from campus to cubicle no longer feels guaranteed. Even where headline unemployment looks moderate, the first job is harder to secure, probation periods are longer, and entry-level salaries flatter. That friction creates both emotional strain and practical problems. Apartment leases, family expectations, and university paperwork often assume continuous employment. The pseudo-office answers those pressures by providing a setting strong enough to sustain an explanation — to parents, to landlords, to oneself — that work, in some form, is continuing.

[4] Consider three vignettes that trace the range of motives. In Guangzhou, a twenty-eight-year-old former finance associate, having resigned to restore work-life balance, expected to move quickly into a new role. Months later she remains between jobs. A rented desk allows her to preserve outward markers of professional identity; she sends the occasional photograph to her parents — blazer, laptop, whiteboard behind — and spends her hours revising a CV, finishing short online courses, and tracking vacancies. The room supplies structure without shame.

[5] In Shanghai, a recent graduate discovered that her university would not release a diploma until she could document post-graduation work experience. Lacking an internship, she joined a pretend-to-work space for a month and assembled the necessary record: time-stamped entry slips, a few staged images, and a courteous letter from the operator describing 'project-based work'. Meanwhile, she wrote short fiction for online platforms to pay her rent. Her case is not emblematic of everyone, but it reveals how bureaucratic rules can collide with a tight hiring cycle and push students into improvised solutions that look neat on paper and fragile in life.

[6] A third case comes from Shenzhen. A start-up founder with a prototype but no office uses a pseudo-co-working site as a venue for investor meetings. He reserves the glass-walled room with a city view, prints a discreet logo, and rehearses slides with two friends who stand in as a 'product team'. The scene is meant to project seriousness without the expense of a lease. In his telling, the performance is not deception; it is a bridge between a credible idea and a credible institution. Whether one approves or not, the space is doing exactly what it promises: selling the architecture of appearance so that early conversations can take place.

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[7] Motivations for using these rooms are layered. The first is face. In a collectivist setting, unemployment is not just a private gap in income; it is a public status that invites questions and advice. A neutral office address provides a buffer against awkward enquiries and grants the user a socially acceptable sentence — 'I'm at work' — that is not entirely false. The second is psychological stabilisation. Joblessness disrupts the daily clock; nights stretch, mornings shrink, and self-discipline frays. A place that opens at ten and closes at six restores rhythm without surveillance — a kind of self-imposed cognitive scaffold that supports the working day. The third is strategic image management. In the era of ubiquitous screens, the ability to present a consistent working identity — online and offline — carries its own form of value, protecting networks and occasionally attracting genuine opportunities.

50 [8] Scholars read the trend through different lenses. Zhang Youlang, a public-management specialist, argues that these venues could evolve into career development platforms, suggesting that targeted services and networking could extend their role beyond appearance. An anthropologist, Xiang Biao, sees something more subversive: a soft rebuttal to the country's entrenched culture of extreme overtime. By performing the form of work without its punitive tempo, participants reclaim a measure of autonomy and use gentle self-mockery to endure a harsh cycle. Sceptics, meanwhile, warn that the rooms may
55 entrench avoidance, allowing young people to delay difficult decisions and normalise a version of occupational theatre that never resolves into a contract.

[9] Operators, sensitive to those critiques, are nudging the model toward function. Several sites now host weekly sessions on interview cadence, portfolio curation, and the etiquette of professional platforms. Others have evolved into freelancer commons where short collaborations arise naturally: a designer meets a copywriter over coffee; a coder joins a fledgling e-commerce experiment; a photographer tests a studio corner and barter hours for product shots. In these rooms the line between simulation and production grows porous. A day purchased for appearance yields a prototype, a pitch deck, or a paid micro-task. The illusion becomes a workshop. The workshop becomes a bridge.

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65 [10] International echoes exist, although the Chinese iteration is unusually candid about its dramaturgy. In Tokyo, business cafés have long offered white-collar job seekers a desk, a deadline, and a neutral backdrop. In London or Toronto, conventional co-working often doubles as identity maintenance for the self-employed, providing a community and an address. What distinguishes the current phenomenon is its frank embrace of appearance as service. Users are not merely buying a chair; they are renting narrative plausibility. That candour reflects both the pressure of the graduate bulge and the modern reality that reputations travel quickly and require upkeep.

70 [11] The ripple effects extend beyond the individual. Families quietly recalibrate expectations when they see children keeping hours, producing tangible work, and assembling portfolios that lead to contracts, if not contracts of employment. Universities, confronted with ornate fictions produced to satisfy blunt placement rules, may reconsider how they verify early career outcomes. City managers, watching small rooms with short leases absorb friction in the labour system, might see a low-cost layer in the skills ecosystem: a place to hold people steady while the market catches up.

75 [12] It would be easy to dismiss these spaces as frivolous. Yet their popularity hints at practical utility. They mitigate the loneliness of searching, offer light structure without heavy supervision, and convert idle square metres into bridges between stages of life. At their best, they dignify effort when effort lacks an immediate reward. At their worst, they risk embalming people in routines that do not lead anywhere. Design choices matter: a room with programming, mentoring, and pathways out becomes a launching pad; a room without those elements risks becoming a loop.

80 [13] In the end, the story operates as a mirror. It reflects a cohort negotiating the distance between credentials and opportunity, and a society testing new definitions of 'good work' after a decade of easy growth. Whether these theatrics of productivity remain a curious footnote or mature into a recognised part of the urban labour landscape will depend on macro-economic tides and micro-choices by operators and users alike. For now, each weekday morning, a subset of young Chinese dress for roles they do not yet hold, scan a card at doors they do not own, and sit at desks that give shape to the day. The simulation of stability is not a cure for joblessness, but in precarious times it can be stabilising — an organised pause between what was and
85 what might yet be.

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END OF READING PASSAGE

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Questions

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-18. (42 marks)

Text 1

1. Below is a summary of paragraph 2. In five of the lines, there is ONE mistake. If you find a mistake, underline it and replace the word with one that expresses the correct idea in the Correction column. Both grammar and spelling must be correct. In one of the lines, there is no mistake; put a ✓ in the Correction column. One has been done for you as an example. (5 marks)

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Summary		Correction
The pseudo-office requires a <u>high</u> daily fee from its clients.		modest (example)
Some venues serve a buffet lunch to imitate real office life.	(i)	
Most operators provide a busy environment in which people	(ii)	
talk softly. A few spaces allow clients to pose in senior roles	(iii)	
for photos. Some rooms display laminated maps on the wall.	(iv)	
An attendant drifts past like a guard on a light patrol.	(v)	

2. According to paragraph 2, give one example of a feature or detail that helps create a sense of belonging for pseudo-office users.

3. In paragraph 2, where did the first viral promotion of such offices originate?

4. Find one word in paragraph 3 with a similar meaning to 'imbalance'.

5. According to paragraph 3, name one factor that has contributed to the rise of pseudo-offices.

6. According to paragraphs 2 and 3, are the following statements True (T), False (F), or Not Given (NG)?

(4 marks)

Statements	T	F	NG
(i) The daily fee for these offices is between thirty and fifty yuan.	☐	☐	☐
(ii) The youth labour market has improved in recent years.	☐	☐	☐
(iii) Sectoral contraction includes technology and real estate.	☐	☐	☐
(iv) Clients receive hot drinks as part of the service.	☐	☐	☐

7. Find a phrase in paragraph 4 similar in meaning to 'keeping up appearances'.

8. Complete the summary of paragraph 5 using one word or phrase taken from the paragraphs for each gap. (2 marks)

Her case shows how bureaucratic rules can clash with a tight (i) _____ cycle and lead to solutions that seem neat on paper but (ii) _____ in life.

9. Find one word in paragraph 5 similar in meaning to each item: (3 marks)

- i) well-mannered _____
ii) delicate _____
iii) collected _____

10. Using the information from paragraph 4-6, complete the table below. (3 marks)

Case	Purpose of Using Pseudo-office
Guangzhou finance associate	
Shanghai recent graduate	
Shenzhen start-up founder	

11. In paragraph 6, why does the Shenzhen founder use a pseudo-office?

12. What does the phrase “self-imposed cognitive scaffold” (line 44) suggest?

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| A. A legal requirement for all students to follow study guidelines | A | B | C | D |
| B. A personal structure that supports discipline | | | | |
| C. A government-mandated framework for employment applications | | | | |
| D. Coursework supervision provided by universities | | | | |

13. According to the public-management specialist (paragraph 8), in what way can pseudo-offices help jobseekers? Use one piece of evidence from the passage.

14. Using paragraph 9 of the text, complete the chain of developments below by writing one word taken directly from the paragraph in each blank. (6 marks)

Over coffee, a designer strikes up a conversation with a (i) _____



Later, a coder becomes involved in a (ii) _____ e-commerce experiment



A photographer tries out a studio corner and (iii) _____ hours in return for product shots



A day bought for appearances results in a (iv) _____



That (v) _____ is transformed into a workshop



The workshop ultimately becomes a (vi) _____

15. Below are some comments made by different people mentioned in Text 1. Match the following comments with the corresponding person by using the information in the text. Each letter can be used ONCE only. ONE person is not a match. Write the letter (A–D) in the Person/Organisation column. (3 marks)

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Comment	Person/Organisation
(i) These spaces could offer skills workshops to improve employability.	
(ii) The practice represents symbolic resistance to harsh work culture.	
(iii) Such venues may encourage avoidance of real employment.	

- A – An anthropologist
B – A public-management specialist
C – Sceptics
D – Start-up founder in Shenzhen

16. What is the most accurate description of the passage's text type?

- A. A fictional narrative story
B. A journalistic feature article
C. A personal opinion blog
D. An academic research paper

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

17. Match each group with the quote that best reflects their perspective. Use each letter ONCE only. ONE quote is not used. (5 marks)

Group	Answer	Quotes
(i) Start-up founder in Shenzhen	—	A. By performing the form of work without its oppressive demands, we can resist the harshness of office life.
(ii) Anthropologist Xiang Biao	—	B. These spaces should evolve into hybrid platforms that include career development resources.
(iii) Professor Zhang Youlang	—	C. If people linger here too long, they may fall into avoidance behaviours instead of finding real jobs.
(iv) Sceptics	—	D. For me, a pseudo-office is a bridge between a credible idea and a credible institution.
(v) Guangzhou finance associate	—	E. Renting out unused desks is simply a smart way to cover overhead costs.
		F. These rooms help me maintain a sense of professional identity and daily routine while I search for new work.

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18. According to the writer, what factor decides whether a pseudo-office is helpful or harmful? Answer in your own words. (2 marks)

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END OF PART B2

Answers with paragraph numbers:

1. (i) boxed [2]
(ii) neutral [2]
(iii) ✓ [2]
(iv) rules [2]
(v) manager [2]
2. Laminated 'team rules' on the wall / name tags at shared tables / a friendly attendant like a manager on patrol / neutral environment with desks, Wi-Fi, and soft chatter. [2]
3. Hebei [2]
4. disequilibrium [3]
5. Record graduate numbers each year / cooling or restructuring of once-buoyant sectors / disequilibrium in the youth labour market / decline of the campus-to-cubicle path (any one) [3]
6. (i) T [2]
(ii) F [3]
(iii) NG [3]
(iv) T [2]
7. preserve outward markers of professional identity [4].
8. (i) hiring [5]
(ii) fragile [5]
9. (i) courteous [5]
(ii) fragile [5]
(iii) assembled [5]
10. Guangzhou finance associate → Preserve professional identity / reassure parents [4]
Shanghai recent graduate → Produce records to satisfy university diploma requirement [5]
Shenzhen start-up founder → Impress investors / signal legitimacy [6]
11. To project seriousness without the expense of a lease. [6]
12. B [7]
13. They can improve employability / support career development. [8]

14. (i) copywriter [9]
(ii) fledgling [9]
(iii) barter [9]
(iv) prototype [9]
(v) illusion [9]
(vi) bridge [9]

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15. (i) B – A public-management specialist [8]
(ii) A – An anthropologist [8]
(iii) C – Sceptics [8]

16. B. A journalistic feature article [Whole text]

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17. (i) D [6]
(ii) A [8]
(iii) B [8]
(iv) C [8]
(v) F [4]

18. The outcome depends on the design choices of the room. If it includes programming, mentoring, and pathways out, it can become a launching pad; if it lacks these elements, it risks turning into a loop. [12]

1 mark — Identifies the deciding factor: design choices / programming / mentoring / pathways out.

1 mark — States both contrasting outcomes: launching pad (helpful) and loop (harmful).



Practical Vocab and Usage List

1. **theatrics** [1] /θi'ætriks/ 戲劇化、誇張表演 [n] 同義詞: **dramatics, showmanship**
e.g. The piece explores the *theatrics* of productivity in pseudo-offices.
文章探討假辦公室入面「生產力嘅戲劇化」。
2. **hazy** (on the hazy border) [1] /'heizi/ 朦朧的、模糊不清的 [adj] 同義詞: **vague, nebulous**
e.g. The industry sits on a *hazy* border between need and performance.
呢個行業處於需求與表演之間嘅「模糊地帶」。
3. **pseudo-** (e.g., pseudo-co-working) [1] /'su:du/ 偽、類（前綴） [prefix] 同義詞: **quasi-, ersatz**
e.g. *Pseudo-*co-working spaces offer the look of office life.
「偽」共用辦公空間提供辦公生活嘅外觀。
4. **inhabit** (a scene) [1] /ɪn'hæbit/ 進駐、（在某場景中）活動 [v] 同義詞: **occupy, populate**
e.g. Unemployed graduates *inhabit* a staged corporate scene.
失業畢業生「進駐」經過布置嘅公司場景。
5. **plausibility** [1] /'plə:zə'bɪləti/ 可信性、貌似合理 [n] 同義詞: **credibility, believability**
e.g. These venues sell *plausibility*, not actual employment.
呢啲場所賣嘅係「可信性」，而唔係真正嘅工作。
6. **unforgiving** (labour market) [1] /ˌʌnfə'gɪvɪŋ/ 嚴苛的、毫不寬容的 [adj] 同義詞: **harsh, relentless**
e.g. In an *unforgiving* job market, appearance can matter.
喺嚴苛嘅就業市場，外觀有時相當重要。
7. **scrutiny** [1] /'skru:təni/ 嚴格審視、審查 [n] 同義詞: **inspection, examination**
e.g. Pseudo-offices help users withstand social *scrutiny*.
假辦公室幫助使用者承受社會嘅「審視」。
8. **disarmingly** [2] /dɪ'zɑ:rmɪŋli/ 出其不意地；令人放下戒心地 [adv] 同義詞: **surprisingly, winningly**
e.g. The model is *disarmingly* simple yet effective.
呢個模式「出奇地」簡單但有效。
9. **shrewdly** [2] /'fru:dlɪ/ 精明地、老練地 [adv] 同義詞: **astutely, cannily**
e.g. Operators *shrewdly* tune the service to anxious times.
營運者「精明」地按焦慮時代調校服務。
10. **reassuring regularity** [2] /ˌri:ə'sʊrɪŋ rɛɡjə'lərəti/ 令人安心的規律 [n phr] 同義詞: **comforting routine**
e.g. Hot drinks arrive with *reassuring regularity*.
熱飲按「令人安心嘅規律」送到。
11. **captioned** [2] /'kæpsənd/ 配有標題／字幕的 [adj] 同義詞: **titled, subtitled**
e.g. A viral ad *captioned* "a place to keep your day in shape."
一條爆紅廣告「加咗標題」：讓你嘅每日有形有款。

12. **laminated** [2] /'læməˌneɪtɪd/ 覆膜的、護貝的 [adj] 同義詞: **plastic-coated**
e.g. *Laminated* 'team rules' hang on the wall.
牆上掛住「護貝」嘅團隊規則。
13. **attendant** [2] /ə'tendənt/ 服務員、接待員 [n] 同義詞: **staffer, aide**
e.g. A friendly *attendant* drifts by like a manager.
一位友善嘅服務員經過，好似經理巡場。
14. **drift past** [2] /drɪft pæst/ 輕輕走過；飄過 [v phr] 同義詞: **glide by, waft past**
e.g. Staff *drift past* to maintain the ambience of work.
員工「輕輕走過」，維持在職氣氛。
15. **lean into** (the theatre) [2] /li:n 'ɪntu:/ 全力投入；刻意強化 [phr v] 同義詞: **embrace, amplify**
e.g. Some venues *lean into* the theatre with executive chairs.
有啲場地「刻意強化」戲劇感，放行政椅畀人影相。
16. **mock** (as adj., e.g., mock task lists) [2] /mɔ:k/ 仿製的、假的 [adj] 同義詞: **simulated, faux**
e.g. Users can pick up *mock* task lists for photos.
用家可以攞「假」任務清單影相。
17. **amenity** [2] /ə'mi:nəti/ 便利設施；舒適配備 [n] 同義詞: **facility, convenience**
e.g. The true *amenity* is a sense of belonging.
真正嘅「設施」其實係歸屬感。
18. **structural backdrop** [3] /'strʌktʃərəl 'bækdrɒp/ 結構性背景 [n] 同義詞: **underlying context, framework**
e.g. A *structural backdrop* of youth-job mismatch drives the trend.
青年就業錯配嘅「結構性背景」推動咗呢個趨勢。
19. **cohorts** [3] /'kəʊhɔ:rts/ 同屆群體；（統計）群組 [n] 同義詞: **groups, batches**
e.g. Record *cohorts* of graduates enter the market each year.
每年都有破紀錄嘅畢業生「群體」入市。
20. **once-buoyant** [3] /'bɔɪənt/ 曾經景氣的、活躍的 [adj] 同義詞: **formerly thriving**
e.g. *Once-buoyant* sectors have cooled or restructured.
「曾經景氣」嘅行業已經轉冷或重組。
21. **headline unemployment** [3] /'hedlɑɪn ˌʌnem'plɔɪmənt/ 整體（標題）失業率 [n] 同義詞: **overall jobless rate**
e.g. Even when *headline unemployment* looks moderate, entry jobs are scarce.
即使「整體失業率」溫和，入門工仍然難搵。
22. **probation (period)** [3] /prəʊ'beɪʃn/ 試用期 [n] 同義詞: **trial period**
e.g. First jobs now have longer *probation* periods.
而家第一份工嘅「試用期」更長。

23. **friction** [3] /'frɪkʃn/ 阻力；摩擦 [n] 同義詞: **drag, impediment**

e.g. Bureaucratic *friction* makes transitions harder.

官僚「阻力」令過渡變得困難。

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24. **outward markers** (of professional identity) [4] /'aʊtwərd 'mɑ:kərz/ 外在標識 [n] 同義詞: **external signs, visible cues**

e.g. She preserves *outward markers* of professional identity.

佢維持住專業身份嘅「外在標識」。

25. **time-stamped** [5] /'taɪm stæmpt/ 有時間戳記的 [adj] 同義詞: **timestamped, dated**

e.g. She assembled *time-stamped* entry slips as proof.

佢整理咗「有時間戳」嘅入場單據作為證明。

26. **courteous** [5] /'kɜ:rtiəs/ 彬彬有禮的 [adj] 同義詞: **polite, civil**

e.g. The operator issued a *courteous* letter.

營運方發出一封「彬彬有禮」嘅信件。

27. **emblematic** (of) [5] /,ɛmblə'mætɪk/ 具象徵性／代表性 [adj] 同義詞: **representative, symbolic**

e.g. Her case isn't *emblematic* of everyone.

佢嘅情況唔「具代表性」。

28. **bureaucratic** [5] /,bjʊərə'krætɪk/ 官僚的 [adj] 同義詞: **red-tape, administrative**

e.g. *Bureaucratic* rules collided with a tight hiring cycle.

「官僚」規條同緊湊嘅招聘周期發生衝突。

29. **collide (with)** [5] /kə'laid/ 衝突；相抵觸 [v] 同義詞: **clash, conflict**

e.g. Placement rules *collide* with job-market timing.

安置規定同就業時機「相抵觸」。

30. **improvised** [5] /'ɪmprəvaɪzd/ 臨時湊合的；即興的 [adj] 同義詞: **makeshift, ad-hoc**

e.g. Students resort to *improvised* solutions that look neat on paper.

學生會用「臨時湊合」嘅方案，紙上好睇。

31. **fragile** (in life) [5] /'frædʒaɪl/ 脆弱的 [adj] 同義詞: **tenuous, delicate**

e.g. Solutions neat on paper can be *fragile* in life.

紙上完美嘅方案，生活中可能「脆弱」。

32. **prototype** [6] /'prəʊtə,taɪp/ 原型、雛形 [n] 同義詞: **model, mock-up**

e.g. He presented a *prototype* of his product to investors.

佢向投資者展示產品嘅「原型」。

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33. **discreet** (logo) [6] /dɪ'skri:t/ 低調的、不顯眼的 [adj] 同義詞: **subtle, unobtrusive**

e.g. He printed a *discreet* logo for the meeting room.

佢印咗一個「低調」嘅標誌擺喺會議室。

34. **rehearse (slides)** [6] /rɪ'hɜːrs/ 排練、演練 [v] 同義詞: **practice, drill**
e.g. The founder *rehearsed* his slides before investors arrived.
創辦人喺投資者到場前「排練」佢嘅簡報。
35. **project (seriousness)** [6] /prə'dʒekt/ 展現、表現出 [v] 同義詞: **convey, present**
e.g. The space helped him *project* seriousness to others.
呢個地方幫助佢向人「展現」專業。
36. **credible** [6] /'krədəbl/ 可信的、有說服力的 [adj] 同義詞: **convincing, reliable**
e.g. The founder used the office as a bridge between a *credible* idea and institution.
創辦人用假辦公室作為「可信」想法同機構之間嘅橋樑。
37. **collectivist (setting)** [7] /kə'lektɪvɪst/ 集體主義的 [adj] 同義詞: **group-oriented, communal**
e.g. In a *collectivist* society, unemployment affects family honour.
喺「集體主義」社會，失業會影響家庭榮譽。
38. **buffer (against)** [7] /'bʌfər/ 緩衝、減少衝擊 [n/v] 同義詞: **shield, cushion**
e.g. A pseudo-office provides a *buffer* against awkward questions.
假辦公室為避免尷尬問題提供「緩衝」。
39. **self-imposed** [7] /,self ɪm'pəʊzd/ 自我施加的 [adj] 同義詞: **voluntary, self-inflicted**
e.g. The daily routine is a *self-imposed* structure.
呢個日常規律係「自我施加」嘅。
40. **cognitive scaffold** [7] /'kɔːgnətɪv 'skæfəld/ 認知支架、思維支撐 [n phr] 同義詞: **mental framework**
e.g. The office acts as a *cognitive scaffold* for discipline.
辦公室提供「認知支架」嚟維持自律。
41. **strategic image management** [7] /strə'tiːdʒɪk 'ɪmɪdʒ 'mænɪdʒmənt/ 策略性形象管理 [n phr] 同義詞: **reputation control**
e.g. Pseudo-offices help with *strategic image management* online.
假辦公室幫助網上「策略性形象管理」。
42. **anthropologist** [8] /,ænthrə'pɔːlədʒɪst/ 人類學家 [n] 同義詞: **social scientist, ethnographer**
e.g. An *anthropologist* saw the spaces as soft resistance.
一位「人類學家」認為呢啲空間係溫和反抗。
43. **subversive** [8] /səb'vɜːsɪv/ 顛覆性的 [adj] 同義詞: **rebellious, disruptive**
e.g. Using these offices is a *subversive* way to resist harsh overtime culture.
使用呢啲辦公室係「顛覆性」嘅方式去抵抗加班文化。
44. **punitive (tempo)** [8] /'pjuːnətɪv/ 嚴厲的、懲罰性的 [adj] 同義詞: **harsh, severe**
e.g. They mimic work without its *punitive* tempo.
佢哋模仿工作，但有咗「嚴苛」嘅節奏。

45. **entrench** (avoidance) [8] /ɪn'trentʃ/ 鞏固、使根深蒂固 [v] 同義詞: **establish firmly, embed**
e.g. Critics warn these rooms may *entrench* avoidance.
批評者警告，呢啲房間可能「鞏固」逃避行為。
46. **freelancer commons** [9] /'fri:lænsər 'kɑ:mənz/ 自由工作者共享空間 [n phr] 同義詞: **co-working hub**
e.g. Some sites evolve into *freelancer commons*.
有啲場所演變成「自由工作者共享空間」。
47. **collaboration** [9] /kə,læbə'reɪʃn/ 合作、協作 [n] 同義詞: **teamwork, partnership**
e.g. Short *collaborations* arise naturally in these rooms.
呢啲房間自然形成短期嘅「合作」。
48. **fledgling (experiment)** [9] /'fledʒlɪŋ/ 初創的、未成熟的 [adj] 同義詞: **nascent, budding**
e.g. A coder joins a *fledgling* e-commerce experiment.
一個程式員加入咗「初創」電商實驗。
49. **barter** (hours) [9] /'bɑ:rtər/ 以物易物、以服務交換 [v] 同義詞: **trade, exchange**
e.g. The photographer *bartered* hours for product shots.
攝影師用時間「以物易物」，換取產品照片。
50. **porous** (line) [9] /'pɔ:rəs/ 可滲透的；界線不清的 [adj] 同義詞: **permeable, blurred**
e.g. The line between simulation and production grows *porous*.
模擬同生產之間嘅界線變得「模糊」。
51. **iteration** (Chinese iteration) [10] /,ɪtə'reɪʃn/ 版本、變體 [n] 同義詞: **variant, version**
e.g. The Chinese *iteration* is unusually candid.
中國嘅「版本」特別坦率。
52. **candid** [10] /'kændɪd/ 坦率的、直白的 [adj] 同義詞: **frank, outspoken**
e.g. Their *candid* embrace of appearance makes them unique.
佢哋「坦率」接受表面化，令佢哋與眾不同。
53. **dramaturgy** [10] /'dræmə,tʃ:rdʒi/ 戲劇結構；舞台效果 [n] 同義詞: **theatricality, staging**
e.g. These spaces are unusually candid about their *dramaturgy*.
呢啲空間對自己嘅「戲劇性」特質異常坦率。
54. **narrative plausibility** [10] /'nærətɪv plə:zə'bɪləti/ 敘事可信性 [n phr] 同義詞: **believable storyline**
e.g. Users rent *narrative plausibility*, not just a chair.
用戶租嘅唔止係椅子，而係「敘事可信性」。
55. **reputation upkeep** [10] /,rɛpjʊ'teɪʃn 'ʌpkɪ:p/ 名譽維持 [n phr] 同義詞: **image maintenance**
e.g. Modern careers demand constant *reputation upkeep*.
現代職場要求持續嘅「名譽維持」。

56. **recalibrate (expectations)** [11] /ˌriːˈkæləˌbreɪt/ 重新調整 [v] 同義詞: **readjust, reset**
e.g. Families *recalibrate* expectations when they see children keeping hours.
家庭見到子女保持規律後會「重新調整」期望。
57. **ornate fictions** [11] /ɔːrˈneɪt ˈfɪkʃnz/ 精雕細琢的虛構 [n phr] 同義詞: **elaborate fabrications**
e.g. Universities are confronted with *ornate fictions* students create.
大學面對學生編造嘅「精雕細琢嘅虛構」。
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58. **verify** [11] /ˈverəˌfaɪ/ 驗證、核實 [v] 同義詞: **authenticate, confirm**
e.g. Schools must *verify* early career outcomes more carefully.
學校必須更謹慎咁「驗證」畢業生早期就業情況。
59. **absorb friction** [11] /əbˈzɔːrb ˈfrɪkʃn/ 吸收摩擦／緩解矛盾 [v phr] 同義詞: **ease tension, cushion conflict**
e.g. Small rooms with short leases can *absorb friction* in the labour system.
短期租約嘅細房間能「緩解」勞動市場摩擦。
60. **ecosystem (skills ecosystem)** [11] /ˈiːkəʊˌsɪstəm/ 生態系統 [n] 同義詞: **environment, network**
e.g. Pseudo-offices may form part of the *skills ecosystem*.
假辦公室可能成為技能「生態系統」嘅一部分。
61. **frivolous** [12] /ˈfrɪvələs/ 輕浮的；無意義的 [adj] 同義詞: **trivial, superficial**
e.g. It would be easy to dismiss these spaces as *frivolous*.
呢啲空間好容易被視為「輕浮」。
62. **mitigate** [12] /ˈmɪtɪˌgeɪt/ 緩和、減輕 [v] 同義詞: **alleviate, ease**
e.g. These spaces *mitigate* the loneliness of job searching.
呢啲空間「緩和」咗搵工孤單感。
63. **supervision** [12] /ˌsuːpərˈvɪʒn/ 監督、管理 [n] 同義詞: **oversight, monitoring**
e.g. They offer light structure without heavy *supervision*.
佢哋提供輕規律，而有嚴格嘅「監督」。
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64. **dignify** [12] /ˈdɪɡnɪfaɪ/ 使高貴、賦予尊嚴 [v] 同義詞: **ennoble, elevate**
e.g. At best, these offices *dignify* effort even without reward.
最理想情況下，呢啲辦公室「賦予尊嚴」畀冇即時回報嘅努力。
65. **embalm (people in routines)** [12] /emˈbɑːm/ 使停滯不前、使固定不變 [v] 同義詞: **stagnate, preserve artificially**
e.g. At worst, they may *embalm* people in empty routines.
最差情況下，佢哋會令人成日困喺「僵化」嘅日常。
66. **launching pad** [12] /ˈlɔːntʃɪŋ pæd/ 發射台；起步點 [n] 同義詞: **springboard, starting point**
e.g. With mentoring, a pseudo-office becomes a *launching pad*.
有指導嘅話，假辦公室就會變成「起步點」。

67. **loop** (becoming a loop) [12] /lu:p/ 循環、迴圈 [n] 同義詞: **cycle, repetition**

e.g. Without direction, the space risks becoming a *loop*.

冇方向嘅話，呢個空間可能變成「死循環」。

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68. **mirror** (operates as a mirror) [13] /'mɪrər/ 鏡子；反映 [n/v] 同義詞: **reflection, representation**

e.g. The story operates as a *mirror* of youth struggles.

呢個故事作為「鏡子」，反映青年嘅掙扎。

69. **credentials** [13] /krə'denʃlz/ 資格、資歷 [n] 同義詞: **qualifications, certifications**

e.g. Graduates negotiate the gap between *credentials* and opportunities.

畢業生要喺「資格」同機會之間周旋。

70. **macroeconomic** (tides) [13] /,mækrou,i:kə'nɑ:mɪk/ 宏觀經濟的 [adj] 同義詞: **large-scale economic, broad-market**

e.g. Success depends on *macroeconomic* tides and micro choices.

成敗取決於「宏觀經濟」潮流同微觀選擇。

71. **simulation** [13] /sɪmjə'leɪʃn/ 模擬、仿真 [n] 同義詞: **imitation, representation**

e.g. The *simulation* of stability is not a cure for joblessness.

「模擬」穩定唔係失業嘅真正解決方案。

72. **precarious** (times) [13] /prɪ'keəriəs/ 不穩定的、危險的 [adj] 同義詞: **uncertain, unstable**

e.g. In *precarious* times, stability can feel like a cure.

喺「不穩定」嘅時代，穩定感就似乎係一種治療。

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73. **organised pause** [13] /'ɔ:rgənaɪzd pəʊz/ 有組織嘅停頓 [n phr] 同義詞: **structured break**

e.g. Pseudo-offices provide an *organised pause* between what was and what might be.

假辦公室提供「有組織嘅停頓」，連接過去同未來。



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