

### Part 3

**Read the article on Doraemon and answer Questions 26 - 45.**

#### **The Cat That will Always Stay**

In 2013, the world famous robot cat Doraemon was announced to be the first special ambassador in support of Tokyo's bid to hold the 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. The newly appointed ambassador would appear at promotional events, host the Tokyo's bid committee's official Facebook page, and chat online with visitors. According to a committee member, they chose Doraemon due to his worldwide popularity. He also represents the Japanese values of "respect" and "friendship" which reflect the same values at the Olympic Games too.

It might be the first time Japan has chosen an anime character for an Olympic ambassadorship. However, this is not his first job experience as an ambassador. In 2008 he was appointed by the Foreign Ministry to be their "anime ambassador." No one really remembers exactly what Doraemon did while in charge at that time, which at least means he did nothing scandalous.

So why Doraemon?

Apart from being the main character of the globally watched anime and read manga - the term used for Japanese comic books - Doraemon relates to Japanese culture more than we would envision. The character itself spans generations as a cultural totem, a beloved character that is as much a part of Japanese childhood as birthday parties and bug hunting in summer. The blue robot cat from the future has always been around since he was created 50 years ago by Fujiko Fujio, the pen name of the manga duo Hiroshi Fujimoto (1933-96) and Motoo Abiko.

The storyline of Doraemon is about a robot cat sent from the 22nd century via a time machine to aid Nobita Nobi who is infamous for being lazy, weak and clumsy. He is an easy target for the bully duo, Takeshi "Gian" Goda and Suneo Honekawa. Nobita also has a huge crush on Shizuka Minamoto, a kind and pretty classmate. Countless episodes would revolve around Nobita getting in trouble at his study or being bullied and asking for help from Doraemon.

As a brand, "Doraemon" makes money and it is one of the most lucrative Japanese franchises. To date, the film series has earned around ¥187 billion (\$1.7 billion). Parents who were into "Doraemon" as children can now go with their own children to enjoy the movies — it's a truly generation-spanning franchise.

Unlike heroes in typical comics, Doraemon is not endowed with superpowers. Instead, he would introduce a lot of quick-fix items or his secret tools to solve problems. But Doraemon's tools from the future frequently backfire. They are often faulty, and much of the time, cause more problems. In fact, that makes sense because it keeps the story going with new problems to rise and new tools to be introduced.

Among many of Doraemon's secret tools, take-copter, a suction cup with mini bamboo heli-blades, and anywhere door which allows its users to make a swift travel are the two most commonly seen and much loved. Mastery over the skies as well as the ability to go places in a blink of an eye makes Doraemon pretty smart. Another tool which is quite famous and normally appears in film series is translation jelly which enables anyone who eats it to understand foreign languages.

Doraemon also mirrored Japan's culture and society 50 years ago. When the series first appeared in 1970, it was the arrival of the technological age in Tokyo. Japan witnessed the beginning of mass production of household electric appliances such as televisions, refrigerators and washing machines with affordable prices. It brought great transformation to people's daily lives in Tokyo. Without a doubt, "Doraemon" was a reflection of this modernity.

Another interesting fact about this manga is the different socio-economic classes being represented. Nobita is an ordinary child and his family life isn't anything special; his mother stays at home, his father commutes to work on the train. By comparison, the mother of Takeshi Goda or Gian owns a local store, while Suneo Honekawa comes from a well-off family. The contrast in socio-economic status is clear. However, there is the harmony the children have formed. Fights and misunderstandings happen, but for the most part the children get along well despite differences in class because they are neighbours.

If asked whether Doraemon would stay this popular for many more years to come, the answer is absolutely yes. The manga as well as its characters can be appealing to different people. Children will always love Doraemon and his secret tools the way they love their toys while the manga will unquestionably provoke the nostalgia they have in childhood.

*adjusted from 'Back to the future: The world celebrates the 50th anniversary of Doraemon' by Russel Thomas, 'Doraemon Named Ambassador for Tokyo's Olympic Bid' by Lynzee Loveridge and 'Doraemon and His Imaginative Gadgets' by Astra W*

**Questions 26 - 30**

Read the statements below. Decide whether they are TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN according to the text.

Mark a cross for the correct answer ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

	True	False	Not Given
<b>26</b> Doraemon was chosen to be an anime ambassador because he was known worldwide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
<b>27</b> People are aware of how much Doraemon presents about the Japanese culture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
<b>28</b> Parents would often bring their children to watch Doraemon at the cinema.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
<b>29</b> There are three secret tools that are quite famous.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
<b>30</b> Doraemon portrays an equal socio-economic class of its main characters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)

**(Total for Questions 26 - 30 = 5 marks )**

**Questions 31 - 40**

**Complete the following sentences using no more than THREE words that must be taken from one point in the text.**

- 31 Doraemon ..... its national as well as the Olympic core values. (1)
- 32 An example to remind Japanese people of their ..... is bug hunting in summer. (1)
- 33 A weak and clumsy boy, Nobita has become ..... of bullying. (1)
- 34 Doraemon is among those profitable ..... in Japan. (1)
- 35 The way Doraemon solves problems is not normally seen in ..... (1)
- 36 Translation jelly .....a better communication when conversing with those speaking in foreign languages. (1)
- 37 The setting in Doraemon showed how Japan was like ..... (1)
- 38 During the technological age, people in Tokyo underwent ..... with affordable household electric appliances. (1)
- 39 The main characters in Doraemon come from different .....and one of them is richer than the others. (1)
- 40 Although the children in the manga fight all the time, ..... among them is strong. (1)

**(Total for Questions 31 - 40 = 10 marks)**

**Questions 41 - 45**

**Complete this summary of the text using words from the box below. Each word may be used once or not used at all**

Doraemon was **(41)** ..... to represent Japan in 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The character is not only popular worldwide but he also shares the same values with the Olympic spirit. Besides, he is considered **(42)** ..... of Japanese childhood memories.

Introduced during the time when electric appliances such as washing machines are affordable at home, the setting in this manga reflects the beginning of the **(43)** ..... life in Tokyo where and there are neighbours from different socio-economic classes.

The brand Doraemon is very **(44)** ..... because both children and adults can enjoy its film series. Without **(45)** ....., this blue robot cat will always exist to entertain people of all ages.

area	selected	intensive	lucrative	question
found	concern	modern	moment	part

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**(Total for Questions 41 - 45 = 5 marks)**

**TOTAL FOR PART 3 = 20 MARKS**