

**UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University**  
**Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)**  
**Daily English Practice**

Week 8

**#86 The Tang Dynasty (618AD – 960AD)**

**Skills/ Objectives: To train students' reading, listening and writing skills**

**PART 1: Before you read...**

**Preparatory questions**

See if you already know the answers to the following questions in English before you start reading the article posted on the web named below:

Qt 1: How was the status of women during the Tang Dynasty different from the previous dynasties?

Qt 2: What is the literal meaning of Chang'an, the ancient capital of Tang China?

**Vocabulary**

1. unrivaled (adjective): taking the leading position with no one to challenge.
2. urbane (adjective): appearing polite and confident.
3. efflorescence (noun): a period when high-quality art is produced in large quantities.
4. variegated (adjective): very colourful.
5. ethereal (adjective): light and delicate.
6. palpable (adjective): very obvious and observable.
7. a rogue (noun): a dishonest and bad person.
8. a pretender (noun): a person who wants to take the high position of another person.
9. ensued (verb): to describe the situation that something happens following an antecedent.
10. eclipsed (adjective): superseded by something else in importance.

Answer(s) to the relevant questions above will be provided in the next exercise.

**PART 2: Article for Reading**

Read the article posted by Khan Academy with the web-link below for an interesting summary of Tang Dynasty China:

An Introduction to the Tang dynasty (618–906)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-asia/imperial-china/tang-dynasty/a/an-introduction-to-the-tang-dynasty-618906>

### **PART 3: Listening Comprehension**

For your listening practice, press the following link to You Tube for a short description of the Tang Dynasty:

A brief history of the Tang Dynasty

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yguW\\_CsC4Qo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yguW_CsC4Qo)

### **PART 4: Writing Practice**

Now practice your English writing with the following exercise:

In the short article on the web, you can find a number of good expressions describing ideas in a lively manner. Did you see the sentence “Some writings or creative works express what might otherwise remain unclear ideas” in the article? This expression depicts the power of some creative works in presenting an abstract idea in a beautiful and clear form. In the article, it actually says:

“Creative works express what might otherwise remain theoretical or ethereal into palpable, understandable, and immediate terms.”

Modelling on this sentence pattern, can you write a sentence linking up the following loose ideas?  
invention of the computer – drawing of – design models which can only be vaguely imagined – clear visible forms

**Send your writing to: [see.u@cccu.edu.hk](mailto:see.u@cccu.edu.hk).**

**Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give feedback.**