



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2023)
PRIMARY SIX
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)
BOOKLET A

Name: _____ ()

Class: Primary 6 _____

21 August 2023

28 Questions
(28 Marks)

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

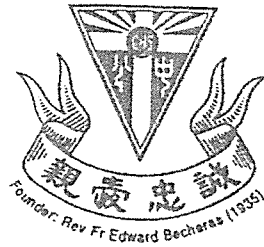
Answer all questions.

Write your answers in this booklet.

Components		Marks Awarded	Max Marks
Situational Writing			15
Continuous Writing			40
Language Use & Comprehension	A	28	95
	B	67	
Listening Comprehension			20
Oral	Reading	10	30
	SBC	20	
TOTAL			200
			100

Parent's Signature: _____

This booklet consists of 12 printed pages excluding the cover page.



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2023)
PRIMARY SIX
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 1 (WRITING)

Name: _____ (-)

Class: Primary 6 _____

21 August 2023

55 marks

1 hour 10 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.

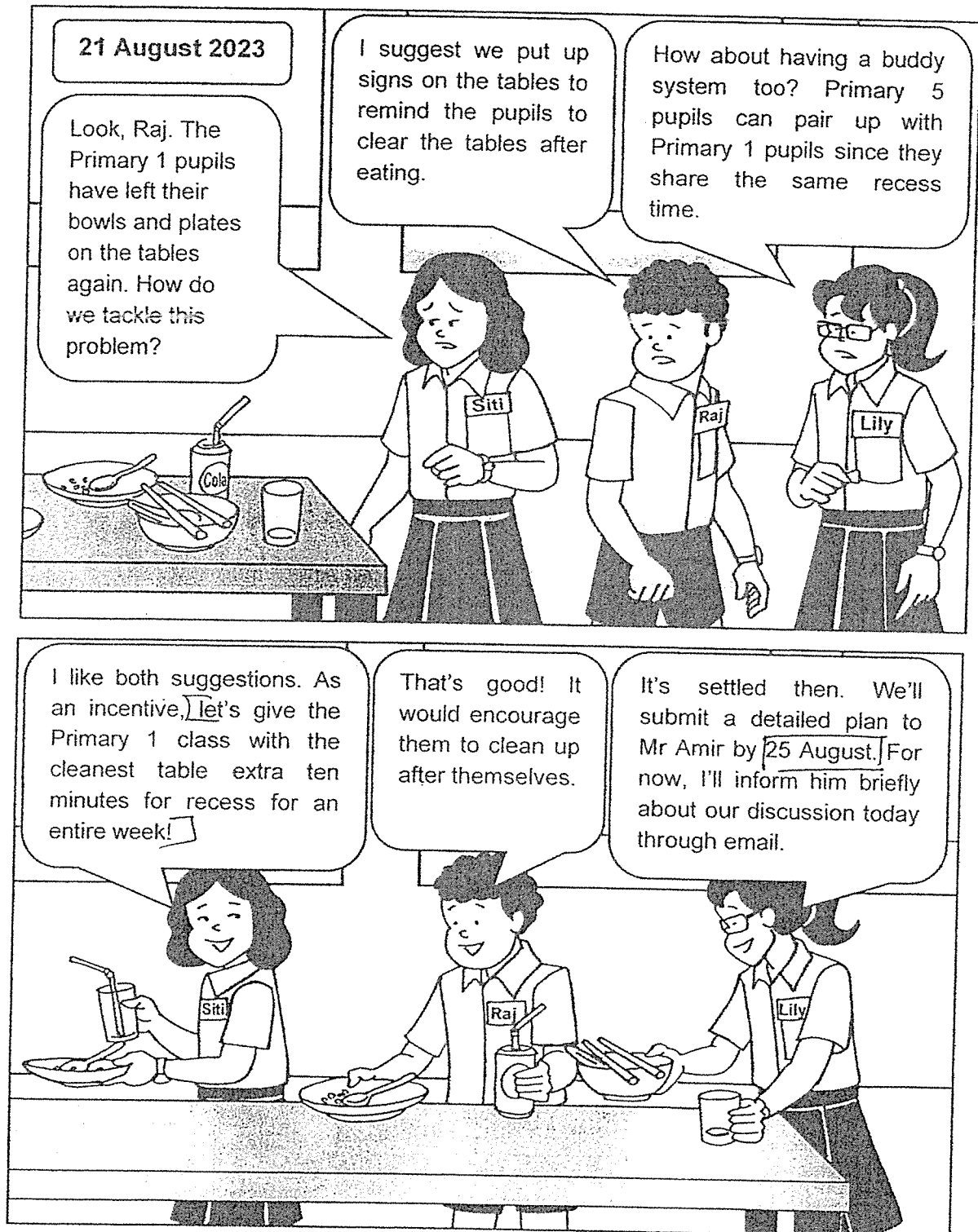
There are two parts to this paper - Part 1 and Part 2.

Answer both questions.

This booklet consists of 3 printed pages excluding the cover page.

Part 1: Situational Writing (15 marks)

1. The pictures below show three prefects at the school canteen. Study the pictures carefully.



Your Task

Imagine you are Lily.

Write an email to your discipline master, Mr Amir, to inform him about what you observed at the canteen and the suggestions you and your fellow prefects have come up with to solve the matter.

You are to refer to the pictures and information on page 1 for your email.

In your email, include the following key information:

- who were present at the discussion
- what was observed at the canteen
- what two suggestions were given
- how else to motivate the pupils to keep the tables clean
- when you plan to submit the detailed plan to Mr Amir

You may reorder the points. Remember to write in complete sentences.

Part 2: Continuous Writing (40 marks)

2. Write a composition of at least 150 words about **trying something new**.

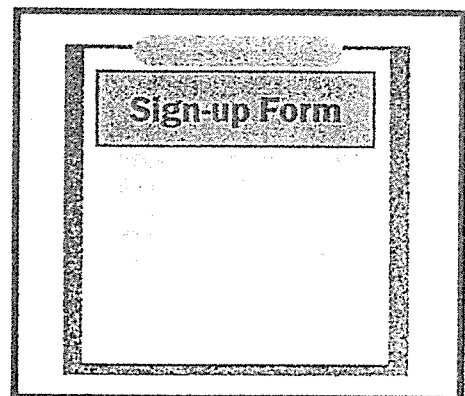
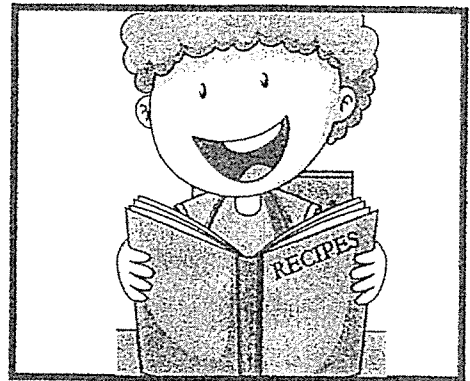
The pictures are provided to help you think about this topic.

Your composition should be based on one or more of these pictures.

Consider the following points when you plan your composition:

- What was the new thing?
- What happened in the end?

You may use the points in any order and include other relevant points as well.



End Of Paper

For each question from 1 to 10, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (10 marks)

1. She called the police as soon as she saw the burglar _____ over the fence.
 - (1) climb
 - (2) climbs
 - (3) climbed
 - (4) had climbed

2. If Lisa _____ about the toy sale, she would have informed us about it.
 - (1) know
 - (2) knew
 - (3) knows
 - (4) had known

3. The collection of rare coins, as well as a few antique stamps, _____ currently on display at the exhibition.
 - (1) is
 - (2) are
 - (3) was
 - (4) were

4. _____ of the guests at the party was given a welcome pack.
 - (1) All
 - (2) Both
 - (3) Each
 - (4) Some

5. _____ from being an accomplished pianist, Azman is a skilled painter.
 - (1) Apart
 - (2) Despite
 - (3) Besides
 - (4) Although

6. "She's been playing the guitar since she was young, _____?" asked Mrs Lee.
- (1) isn't she
 - (2) hasn't she
 - (3) doesn't she
 - (4) haven't she
7. Neither Rahim nor his siblings _____ playing badminton with their father every Thursday.
- (1) enjoy
 - (2) enjoys
 - (3) has enjoyed
 - (4) are enjoying
8. The determined hiker made a beeline _____ the summit, eager to conquer the world's highest peak.
- (1) at
 - (2) for
 - (3) from
 - (4) along
9. By the time she called me last night, I _____ my dinner.
- (1) finish
 - (2) finished
 - (3) has finished
 - (4) had finished
10. Louis is one of the many boys who _____ in the Mathematics Olympiad every year.
- (1) participate
 - (2) participates
 - (3) was participating
 - (4) were participating

For each question from 11 to 15, four options are given. One of them is the correct answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

11. The manager had to _____ a plan to boost the sales of the company's products.
- (1) invent
 - (2) devise
 - (3) concoct
 - (4) fabricate
12. The pupils made an agreement to _____ their differences and work together to complete their project.
- (1) put off
 - (2) put down
 - (3) put aside
 - (4) put away
13. Even after being caught cheating during the examination, William failed to _____ the seriousness of the situation.
- (1) seize
 - (2) admit
 - (3) grasp
 - (4) grapple
14. The teacher _____ important information about the upcoming excursion to all her pupils.
- (1) dispersed
 - (2) distributed
 - (3) dispatched
 - (4) disseminated
15. The government officials warned the residents of the city that an earthquake was _____ and could strike the area at any moment.
- (1) eminent
 - (2) pertinent
 - (3) imminent
 - (4) prominent

For each question from 16 to 20, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word(s). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (5 marks)

It all started as a small influenza in China. We thought we were safe. We thought it was nothing serious – a small virus could not cause much trouble, could it? We made guesses about its origin, laughing about it as we went, until it hit us.

(16)

It came harder than anything we had faced. The virus claimed lives by the thousands. Our economy was smashed like a wrecking ball leaving nothing but mass destruction in the wake of the coronavirus. We thought it was all over.

(17)

(18)
In Singapore, the number of cases rose to 60 000. It was 14 January 2020.

(19)

That week, I went to work as usual despite not being in the pink of health. However, to my dismay, my condition seemed to worsen with each passing hour. Heat pulsated

(20)

through my body, almost knocking me down. Popping a mint, I boarded a taxi to the nearest clinic, hoping for the best.

Adapted from Inspire Magazine's 'A Survivor of COVID-19'

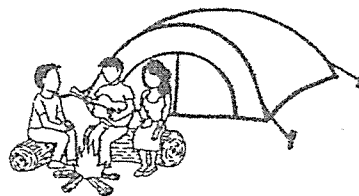
16. (1) mulled
(2) considered
(3) questioned
(4) speculated
17. (1) ruthlessly
(2) carelessly
(3) cautiously
(4) effortlessly
18. (1) in the midst of
(2) in the event of
(3) in the effects of
(4) in the aftermath of

19. (1) climbed
(2) elevated
(3) expanded
(4) ascended
20. (1) horror
(2) frustration
(3) annoyance
(4) disappointment

Study this article from a magazine, Youth Vibes, and then answer questions 21 to 28.

Outdoor Adventures: Good Safety Tips

by James Liew
22 September 2023

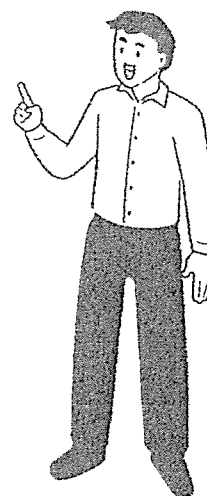


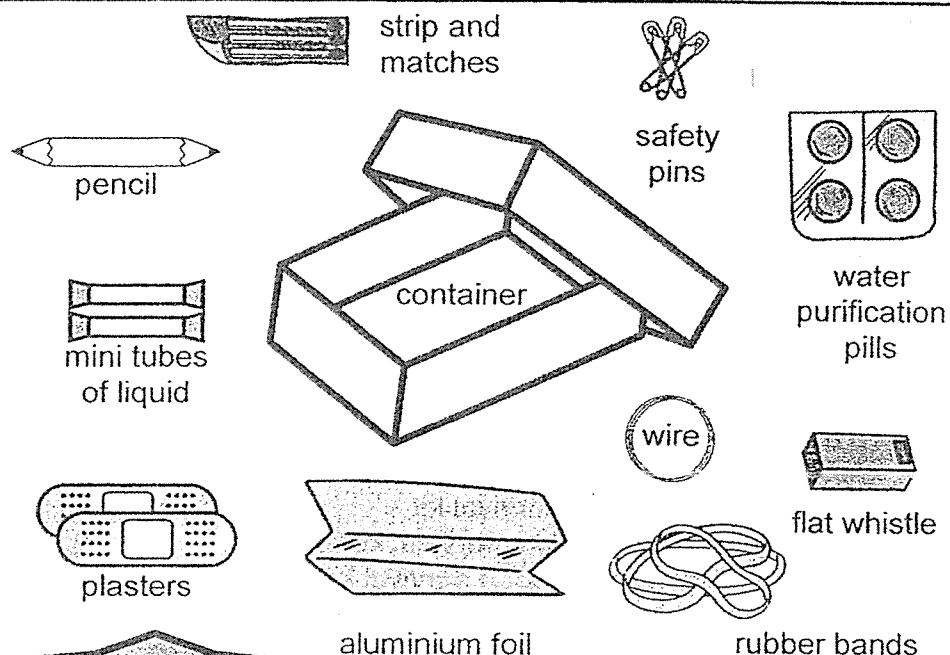
If you do not have any plans for the school holidays, you may want to consider embarking on an outdoor adventure. How about hiking with your friends? Or perhaps going on a camping trip with your family? Such activities offer you excellent opportunities to have fun and get close to nature at the same time, but always remember safety needs to be your number one priority. You may not have sufficient time to pick up all the basic survival skills. However, to ensure your safety, make sure you pack wisely before setting off.

Unexpected things can sometimes happen in the great outdoors. Since you can never anticipate exactly what might go wrong, carrying a survival kit in your pocket is of utmost importance. It can even be shared among family members or friends! Let's look at how we can find ways to utilise every tiny bit of space inside a small, lightweight and waterproof container and include as many useful everyday items as possible!

How to assemble a survival kit:

- Find a pocket-sized plastic or metal container.
- Cut out the rough strip at the side of a matchbox. Bundle the strip and a few matches together in plastic wrap to keep them dry.
- Snap a pencil in two, making sure one of the pieces can fit into your container. Sharpen both ends of that piece.
- Cut plastic straws into pieces that can fit into your container and tape up one end of each piece. After filling each handmade mini tube with small amounts of liquid, especially hand sanitiser and antiseptic cream, tape up the other end.
- Find some plasters of different sizes.
- Fold up a few large sheets of aluminium foil as small as you can.
- Place the above basic items inside your container first. Estimate how much space you have left, then think of other items that might come in handy and fit as many as possible into your survival kit!





Check this out!

Camp Leap

Date: 4 to 7 December 2023

Venue: Sunny Forest Campsite

Fee: \$120 per participant

Register in
groups of 5 &
enjoy 10 percent
off!

For children
aged between
12 & 16

Looking for an unforgettable outdoor adventure? Look no further than Camp Leap! Camp Leap is the ultimate destination for thrill seekers and nature lovers alike. Our exhilarating activities, including rock climbing and kayaking, will have your heart racing with excitement. Unleash the inner explorer in you as you hike through scenic trails, discovering hidden wonders along the way. At Camp Leap, we believe in the power of teamwork, fostering lifelong friendships and creating memories that will last a lifetime. With expert guides and top-notch safety measures, you can relax and fully immerse yourself in the joy of the great outdoors.

This outdoor adventure camp will cater for up to 100 participants this year – the largest number thus far! Visit www.teamleap.sg from now until 15 November 2023 to register and pay the fee online. For further enquiries, please email us at teamleap@gmail.com. Registration will close early when all places are filled, so leap into action to avoid disappointment! Remember to bring your survival kit along!

For each question from 21 to 28, four options are given. One of them is the answer. Make your choice (1, 2, 3 or 4). Shade the correct oval (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet. (8 marks)

21. What should be the top priority when planning an outdoor adventure?

- (1) having fun
- (2) getting close to nature
- (3) learning basic survival skills
- (4) packing the necessary items

22. Why is the colon (:) used in "How to assemble a survival kit:"?

- (1) to emphasise the importance of a survival kit
- (2) to list the steps on how to assemble a survival kit
- (3) to simplify facts and information about a survival kit
- (4) to give more information about the survival kit in a specific order

23. Which of the following item is **not** one of the basic recommended items found in the survival kit?

- (1) a sharpened pencil
- (2) sheets of aluminium foil
- (3) matchbox with matches
- (4) plastic straws filled with liquid

24. Which of the following is true about the survival kit?

- (1) It should not be shared among family and friends.
- (2) It should not be filled to the brim with items.
- (3) It should be able to fit in one's pocket.
- (4) It should only include the basic items.

25. What is the focus of Camp Leap's activities?
- (1) encouraging solo exploration to discover hidden wonders
 - (2) providing thrilling experiences for children of all ages
 - (3) promoting teamwork and building friendships
 - (4) offering a serene environment for relaxation
26. In "This outdoor adventure camp will cater for up to 100 participants this year – the largest number thus far", the dash is used here to _____.
- (1) present additional information
 - (2) highlight the total number of participants
 - (3) emphasise that the information is important
 - (4) indicate that the information is the main idea
27. Mrs Raja wants to register her child for Camp Leap. What must she do?
- (1) register via the website
 - (2) register by 4 December 2023
 - (3) register by emailing teamleap@gmail.com
 - (4) register in person at Sunny Forest Campsite
28. What is the main purpose of the article?
- (1) to attract readers to attend Camp Leap
 - (2) to encourage readers to go on outdoor adventures
 - (3) to recommend possible school holiday activities to the readers
 - (4) to remind readers on important safety tips for outdoor adventures

(Go on to Booklet B)

Please note that the passage for Comprehension questions 71 to 80 in Booklet B is on the next page. You may now go on to Booklet B.

Ben, a bright-eyed twelve-year-old, stood bewildered before Mr Lim. "I find it hard to understand, Mr Lim. Are you suggesting that I return the pigeon to the very place I discovered it?"

Sighing softly, Mr Lim nodded wearily. "Indeed, that is precisely what I meant," he replied, his voice carrying the weight of exhaustion. Meanwhile, Ben, driven by empathy and concern, continued to make his plea. "But Mr Lim," he implored, his voice tinged with earnestness. "It is injured. Shouldn't we show empathy to the vulnerable?"

At that very moment, the pigeon nestled within the confines of a cardboard box that Ben held stirred, fluttering its unharmed wing while emitting a soft coo. Mr Lim, looked nonchalantly, his gaze lingering for a few reflective moments before returning his attention to Ben. He went on to address the young boy's genuine desire to save the wounded bird.

I understand your noble **intention**, and I must admit that having such empathy for animals is indeed commendable," Mr Lim began, his tone laced with sincerity. "However, truth be told, there is little that can be done for this poor creature. If we had time, we could take it to the SPCA. Even if we were able to do so, all they would do is put it down." Ben stared at Mr Lim, his eyes widened in disbelief upon hearing that. "But, Mr Lim," he interjected, full of optimism, "surely a broken wing can be easily mended. Wouldn't the SPCA be able to provide the necessary care?"

"Do you have even the slightest idea about the staggering multitude of pigeons in this world?" Mr Lim inquired, his voice tinged with a subtle hint of exasperation. Ben, caught off guard, merely shrugged in response, realising he could not rely on another shrug to convey his uncertainty. Summoning his courage, he replied, "Perhaps a million?"

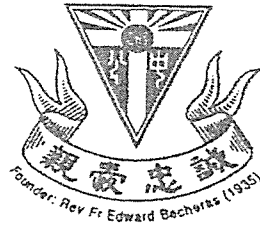
"Multiply that by four hundred times," Mr Lim retorted, his impatience thinly veiled in his words. Ben gazed at his teacher in confusion. However, the expression etched upon Mr Lim's face revealed his intent to convey an important point.

"That amounts to an astonishing four hundred million pigeons," Mr Lim clarified, his tone laced with urgency. "I've got a class to teach in..." he paused, his gaze drifting to his watch, "...seven minutes and thirty-one seconds. Therefore, I cannot possibly take this pigeon, just one among four hundred million, to the SPCA, only for them to inevitably end its life. My guess is you have lessons after recess?"

English lesson with Mrs Marie. But I could skip it and catch up later. We're **only** doing poetry today," said Ben. "That's hardly the point. Neither you nor I possess the luxury of time. Consider the reality of four hundred million pigeons coexisting with us. Would the

absence of one make a big difference? Return the pigeon to its original place. By then, it shall be time for your English lesson. Okay?"	35
<p>"But Mr Lim..." Sensing Ben's persistence, Mr Lim immediately gave a dismissive wave and Ben's words hung in mid-air. Without waiting for Ben to finish his sentence, Mr Lim headed back into the staffroom. Ben's heart sank. Left with no choice, he did what Mr Lim had instructed him to do.</p> <p>The talk with Mr Lim on that fateful day continued to stir a lasting guilt within Ben, even to this day. As he grew older and embarked on a career as an educator, it became a story he would share time and again to emphasise something that Mr Lim had failed to teach him. Ben hoped to instil in his pupils a profound virtue that had been absent in his encounter with Mr Lim years ago. He would ask his pupils a question that had weighed heavily upon his conscience: "What if it were you in the cardboard box?"</p>	40
	45
<i>Adapted from Salt and Vinegar by Mike Gayle</i>	

END OFF BOOKLET A



**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023
PRIMARY SIX
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)
BOOKLET B**

Name: _____ ()

Class: Primary 6 _____

21 August 2023

52 Questions
(67 Marks)

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 hour 50 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Follow all instructions carefully.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in this booklet.

This booklet consists of 7 printed pages excluding the cover page.

There are 10 blanks, numbered 29 to 38, in the passage below. From the list of words given, choose the most suitable word for each blank. Write its letter (A to Q) in the blank. The letters (I) and (O) have been omitted in order to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

(A) across	(D) at	(G) behind	(K) in	(N) when
(B) among	(E) been	(H) being	(L) into	(P) which
(C) as	(F) before	(J) from	(M) upon	(Q) with

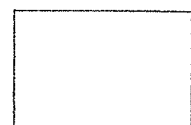
Travellers acquainted with Singapore will probably already know of our city's national icon - the mythical Merlion. There are seven authorised Merlion statues (29) _____ the island, the most well-known (30) _____ the one found at Merlion Park, a popular Singapore landmark.

Before you visit this tourist spot, you may want to learn more about the symbolism (31) _____ the Merlion, and how it intertwines (32) _____ our nation's history. According to legend, Sang Nila Utama, a prince, landed on our shores amidst a storm. He spotted a strange creature which he identified as a lion. He saw this (33) _____ a good omen and decided to name the island "Singapura", (34) _____ means Lion City in Sanskrit.

Today, the Merlion continues to be a beloved symbol of Singapore. You can glimpse echoes of this legend, embodied (35) _____ the statue at Merlion Park. Spouting water (36) _____ its mouth, the Merlion statue stands (37) _____ 8.6 metres and weighs 70 tonnes. Originally located at the mouth of the Singapore River, it was built by Lim Nang Seng, designed by Kwan Sai Kheong, and unveiled on 15 September 1972 by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

(38) _____ completion of Esplanade Bridge in 1997, the statue could no longer be viewed clearly from the waterfront and was relocated to the Merlion Park. As you travel around Singapore, try to spot other statues of our city's national icon!

Adapted from <https://www.visitsingapore.com/>



Each of the underlined words contains either a spelling or grammatical error. Write the correct word in each of the boxes. (12 marks)

Being adventurous, Tom decided to explore the dense woods. After hiking for an

39.

hour, he stumbled upon a hiding cave. Excited by the prospect of discovering something

40.

new, Tom entered the cave. He maneuvered his way along the winding pathway. Little did

41.

42.

he knew of the danger that was awaiting him. As he vancheræd deeper into the cave, he

soon found himself stuck in a narrow passageway.

Tom tried to wriggle his way free, but the rocks around him were too tight packed.

44.

With heartbeat racing and panicked rising within him, he started screaming for help.

45.

46.

Filled with dispare, Tom was about to give up hope. Then, he rimambered

something his grandfather had told him - there was always a way out if one stayed

47.

vigilant. With a renewed cence of determination, Tom began to scour the walls of the

48.

49.

cave, searched for any crack or opening. When looking for two hours, he finally found a

hole big enough for him to squeeze through. Tom pushed through the hole and finally

50.

emregeæ into the light. A wave of relief washed over him as he took in a deep breath of

fresh air.

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

Do you know that 8 February is National Kite Flying Day? It is a day to encourage people to get out and enjoy the process of making a kite and flying it. On this day, kite enthusiasts mark the day by (51) _____ together to showcase their individual kites and flying them. While the exact origin of kite-flying is unknown, it is believed to have originated in China thousands of years ago. It has since gained (52) _____ as a recreational activity all over the world, bringing joy and excitement to people of all ages and walks of (53) _____.

The first kite was (54) _____ of simple materials like wood and cloth. Gradually, kite designers have experimented with new materials and designs have evolved (55) _____ the years, with modern kites made from nylon fabric which is tear resistant, lightweight and durable. In the early years, kites were often made to (56) _____ the shape of birds. Today, they come in elaborate and unique designs. Some kites even have LED lights attached (57) _____ them to allow for night flights and fun light shows.

Kite (58) _____ are organised in many countries where enthusiasts come together to showcase their creativity. These competitions are a delight to spectators, as they witness the sky decorated with colourful kites that can (59) _____ intricate tricks.

Kite-flying offers (60) _____ than just entertainment. You can learn important (61) _____ through the experience of kite-flying. For example, patience is required as you (62) _____ for the wind to pick up and carry the kites. Perseverance is also needed when a kite fails to launch immediately. Launching the kite in the air may require some running. You can exercise while having fun and may not even realise how (63) _____ exercise you have done. (64) _____ you finally get your kite up, the thrill of seeing something in motion and tossed about by the wind can be a truly uplifting (65) _____. So, if you want to get out and about with a novel activity with your family, try kite-flying!

Adapted from <https://www.nationalkitemonth.org/kite-history-overview/kite-history/>



For each of the questions from 66 to 70, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s). (10 marks)

66. "Did you go for the choir rehearsal yesterday?" Andy asked me.

Andy asked me _____

67. The company is launching a new product this year.

A _____

68. Lisa was shocked by how deep the pool was.

The _____

69. All of us do not want to go to Bishan Park for a picnic.

None of _____

70. The chefs prepared for the cooking competition. They were enthusiastic about it.

It was with _____



Read the passage on pages 11 and 12 of Booklet A and answer questions 71 to 80.
(20 marks)

71. Why did the pigeon need help? [1m]

72. Pick out a word from lines 8 -11 which tells us that Mr Lim did not care about helping the pigeon. [1m]

73. Based on lines 12-18, pick out two separate phrases to show Ben's feelings and explain why he felt that way. [4m]

Four-word phrase that shows Ben was shocked	Reason for his feeling
a)	b)
Three-word phrase that shows Ben was hopeful	Reason for his feeling
c)	d)

74. In line 27, why was Mr Lim's tone laced with urgency? [1m]

75. What does "only" (line 31) suggest about Ben's attitude towards poetry? [1m]

76. According to Mr Lim in lines 31-35, why did he not want to help the pigeon? [2m]

77. Based on lines 19-39, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [2m]

Statement	True / False	Reason
a) Ben's estimation of the number of pigeons in the world was accurate.		
b) Ben did not help the pigeon in the end.		

78. a) How do you know that Mr Lim was no longer interested in continuing the conversation with Ben? [2m]

b) How did Ben feel when his conversation with Mr Lim ended? [1m]



79. Look at the table below. What do the words in the left column refer to in the passage?
Write your answers in the column on the right. [3m]

Word from the passage	What the word refers to
intention (line 12)	
that (line 23)	
it (line 31)	

80. "What if it were you in the cardboard box?" (line 45)

a) Why did Ben ask his pupils this question? [1m]

b) What virtue was Ben trying to teach his pupils by asking this question? [1m]

END OF PAPER

