

PSLE
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MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

2023 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 1 (WRITING)

17 August 2023 (Thursday)

1 hour 10 minutes

55 marks

NAME : _____ ()
CLASS : PRIMARY 6 _____

Instructions

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Answer all questions.
3. Write your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE : _____

Part 1: Situational Writing (15 marks)

- 1 The picture below shows Kelly and her sister, Tammy, discussing a notice that they saw in the newspaper on 21 October 2023. Study the picture carefully.

Jolly Animal Shelter


Dogs



Adoption Drive

Saturday, 11 November 2023
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

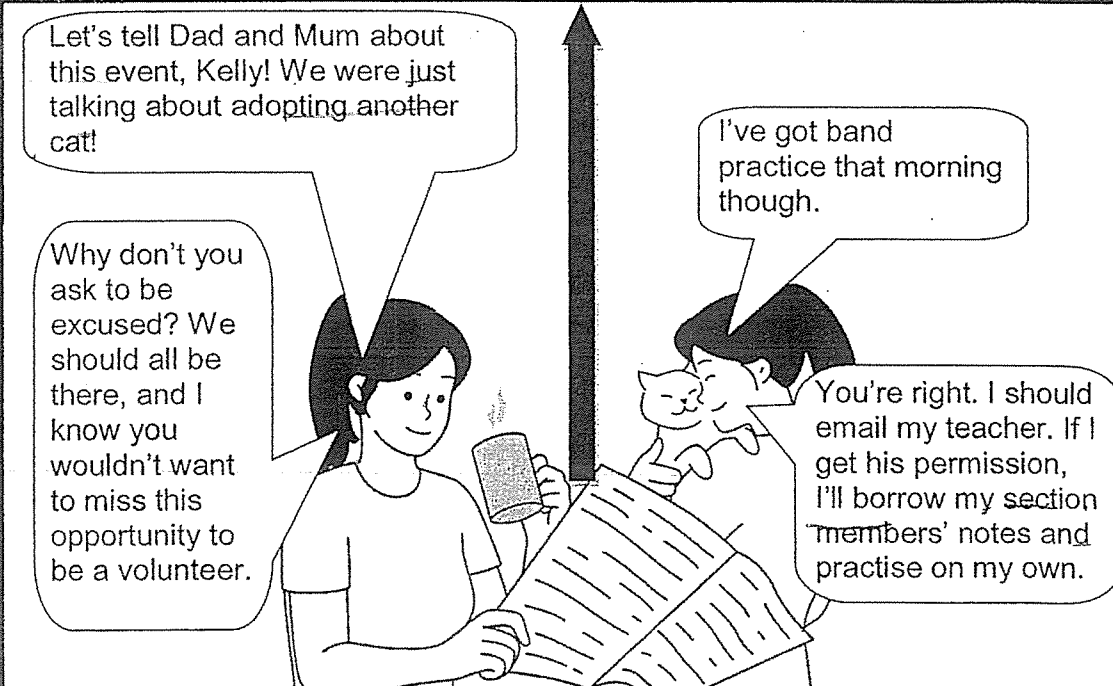
Cats



We strongly recommend that every member of your household is present at the adoption as we want to ensure that we match up the right pet with the right owners.

We need volunteers too!

If you love animals and have first-hand experience of looking after them, approach our manager, Ms Ebby, for a face-to-face interview!



Let's tell Dad and Mum about this event, Kelly! We were just talking about adopting another cat!

Why don't you ask to be excused? We should all be there, and I know you wouldn't want to miss this opportunity to be a volunteer.

I've got band practice that morning though.

You're right. I should email my teacher. If I get his permission, I'll borrow my section members' notes and practise on my own.

Your task

Imagine you are Kelly.

Write an email to Mr Tan, teacher-in-charge of your school band, asking if you could be excused from band practice.

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

In your email, include the following key information:

- ☐ the date you wish to be excused from band practice
- ☐ the event you wish to attend and the time it will be held
- ☐ two reasons you need to attend the event
- ☐ what you intend to do if you are excused from band practice

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

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MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

2023 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)

BOOKLET A

17 August 2023 (Thursday)

28 marks

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 h 50 min

NAME : _____ ()
CLASS : PRIMARY 6 _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write your Index number in the boxes at the top right-hand corner.
2. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
3. Follow all instructions carefully.
4. Answer all questions.
5. Use a 2B pencil to shade your answers on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).

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) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet.
(10 marks)

1. Neither Tim nor his sisters _____ how to play the piano.
- (1) know
 - (2) knows
 - (3) known
 - (4) knowing
2. There were _____ scenes in the movie that made us chuckle non-stop.
- (1) any
 - (2) little
 - (3) much
 - (4) some
3. Those cupcakes on the tray were not baked by the instructor, but by the children _____.
- (1) himself
 - (2) yourself
 - (3) ourselves
 - (4) themselves
4. Mrs Yap brought along a mat _____ the intention of spreading it on the ground so that she could sit on it when having a picnic.
- (1) in
 - (2) on
 - (3) for
 - (4) with
5. "Mr and Mrs Bala have a new car, _____ they?" my neighbour asked.
- (1) do
 - (2) don't
 - (3) have
 - (4) won't

6. If I had known that Jacob was hospitalised, I _____ him today.
- (1) will visit
 - (2) am visiting
 - (3) would be visiting
 - (4) would have visited
7. She continued to pursue her dreams _____ many people doubted her abilities.
- (1) as
 - (2) but
 - (3) although
 - (4) nonetheless
8. Simon _____ father is a Science professor emerged as the champion of the Science Olympiad this year.
- (1) who
 - (2) which
 - (3) whom
 - (4) whose
9. The students were able to share on the given topic as they _____ the notes provided by the teacher.
- (1) have read
 - (2) had read
 - (3) reads
 - (4) read
10. When the police arrived at the coffee shop, they saw an angry man _____ on the ground.
- (1) lying
 - (2) lain
 - (3) lies
 - (4) lay

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) and shade your answer on the Optical Answer Sheet.

(5 marks)

11. After much thought, she finally _____ to face her fears and pursue her dream of becoming an astronaut.
- (1) obliged
 - (2) pressed
 - (3) resolved
 - (4) compelled
12. The commuters shrieked when they spotted a rat _____ across the MRT platform.
- (1) strolling
 - (2) scurrying
 - (3) scattering
 - (4) sashaying
13. The scouts decided to carry on with the hike even though there was an _____ storm.
- (1) imminent
 - (2) inevitable
 - (3) unforeseen
 - (4) unpredictable
14. The small boat _____ up and down in the choppy water, causing passengers to feel queasy.
- (1) jiggled
 - (2) bobbed
 - (3) wobbled
 - (4) quivered
15. After losing the first half of the match, the coach spoke to the players and their confidence was _____.
- (1) restored
 - (2) refreshed
 - (3) revamped
 - (4) recharged

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

Simon and his CCA teammates alighted from the bus at Gardens Primary School. Simon, who was seated at the front, got down the bus (16)hastily. They were greeted by the prefects, who (17)ushered them to the hall on the third floor. Students from different schools were there to participate in the zonal chess competition.

There was an air of excitement in the hall. The participants waited (18)with bated breath for the competition to start. "Good afternoon, everyone. The competition will commence in five minutes," the emcee announced. Simon proceeded to fish for his glasses in his bag and realised that they were missing. He needed his glasses for the competition. Just as he was feeling (19)worried and anxious, Miss Phua, his CCA teacher, handed him his pair of glasses. That certainly (20)boosted his morale. "Your mother just dropped this off. Now do your best," she said reassuringly.

16. (1) rapidly
(2) instantly
(3) speedily
(4) hurriedly
17. (1) guided
(2) signalled
(3) prompted
(4) instructed
18. (1) eagerly
(2) hopefully
(3) dreadfully
(4) impatiently
19. (1) discouraged
(2) sorrowful
(3) annoyed
(4) troubled
20. (1) raised
(2) elevated
(3) increased
(4) advanced

Why is Science Important?

by Max Kang

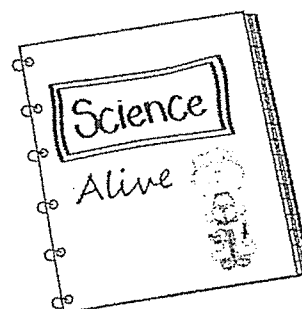
The learning of science allows us to be curious about the world around us. Scientists have made extensive use of the knowledge gained through their inquisitiveness to improve our quality of life. Many marvellous things we use are the result of years of scientific research. The amazing thing is that scientists are still coming up with all sorts of ingenious inventions! Why not get started on your learning journey with our book recommendation this month? You might just become one of the greatest scientists of our time!



RECOMMENDED

Science Alive

Available at bookstores for the price of \$16.90.



An excellent book that allows children to have fun!

Choose Science Alive!

- ✓ Learn about science from hands-on experience and careful observation!
- ✓ Thirty interesting science experiments to do at home!
- ✓ Clear instructions and detailed diagrams make it easy to set up the experiments!
- ✓ Simple explanations for the key concepts demonstrated by the experiments!
- ✓ Only everyday objects found in most households are used, so no further purchases of tools and materials are required!

Get it online at
www.books.sg and
receive a 10% discount.
You will receive an
additional 5% discount
if you purchase it before
1 September 2023.

Get it at Book Fair 2023,
and stand a chance to win
a set of children's books
worth more than \$20
if you make a purchase
on the first day of the fair.

Venue: Expo Centre
Dates: 1–5 September 2023

A perfect book for the December school holidays. Get it now!

*Check out an extract from Science Alive on the next page,
and get a glimpse of what you can expect to find inside the book!*

Tornado in a Bottle

What are tornadoes?

Also known as twisters, tornadoes are violently spinning, funnel-shaped columns of air that sometimes form during thunderstorms. The wind from a tornado can reach 400 kilometres per hour - faster than a race car - and cause a lot of damage. Tornadoes are capable of ripping apart buildings and bridges and sending trains and cars flying!

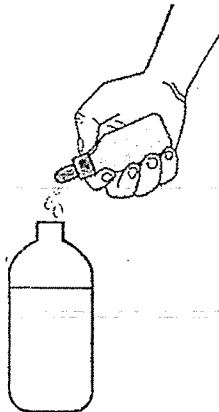


What causes tornadoes?

Before you try to understand the explanation found at the end of this chapter, create your own tornado with just two clear plastic bottles, water, food colouring and strong adhesive tape! Doing this experiment and watching closely to see what happens will help you get a better grasp of the concept!

Step 1

Clean the bottles and remove any labels so that you can see through the plastic clearly. Pour water into one of the bottles until it is about three-quarters full, then add a few drops of food colouring to give colour to the water.



Step 2

Screw the cap back on the bottle tightly. Mix the liquids together by giving the bottle a good shake.



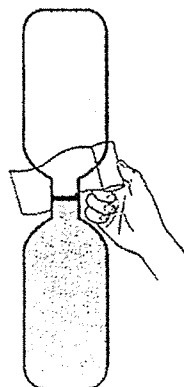
Step 3

Remove the cap and fill the bottle to the brim with water. Then dry the rim with a piece of cloth.



Step 4

Place the empty bottle upside down on top of the full bottle and tape them firmly together, making sure the joint is carefully sealed so that no water can leak out.



*Eager to know the other steps needed to create a tornado with the above experiment set-up and learn about what causes tornadoes?
Get a copy of Science Alive today!*

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

(8 marks)

21. What was the tone used by the writer in the section, "Why is Science Important?"?
- (1) witty
 - (2) caring
 - (3) persuasive
 - (4) authoritative
22. Refer to the section "Choose Science Alive". Which of the following words tells you that the items used for the experiments can be found easily?
- (1) simple
 - (2) detailed
 - (3) everyday
 - (4) hands-on
23. The purpose of the exclamation marks found in the section "Choose Science Alive!" is to _____.
- (1) give children a surprise
 - (2) get children excited about the book
 - (3) show the importance of learning Science
 - (4) encourage children to try out the experiments
24. Mr Tan wants to buy the book as a gift for his nephew who is celebrating his birthday in August 2023. To get the book at the lowest price, Mr Tan should buy it _____.
- (1) online in September 2023
 - (2) on the first day of Book Fair 2023
 - (3) at a bookstore in September 2023
 - (4) online during his nephew's birthday month
25. An extract from the book is included in the article for the following possible reasons **except** _____.
- (1) to get readers to be interested in the book
 - (2) to let readers have a brief look at the book's contents
 - (3) to tell readers the steps to create their own tornadoes
 - (4) to assure readers that materials required are easily available

26. According to the extract, which statement is **not** true about tornadoes?
- (1) They are also referred to as twisters.
 - (2) Their violent spinning causes thunderstorms to form.
 - (3) The wind from some of them travels faster than race cars.
 - (4) Buildings, bridges, trains and cars have been damaged by them.
27. Which of the following statements is **not** true about the materials required for making the Tornado in a Bottle?
- (1) Food colouring is used as it is safe for consumption.
 - (2) A piece of cloth is used to remove water from the rim.
 - (3) Clear plastic bottles are used to allow for a clear view.
 - (4) Strong adhesive tape is used to ensure no leakage of liquid.
28. What is the **main** aim of the article in the magazine?
- (1) to teach children about creating tornadoes
 - (2) to introduce Science Alive as a useful resource
 - (3) to explain how readers can learn science concepts
 - (4) to inspire children to come up with ingenious inventions

Nigel peered at the photograph that had faded with age. It was a picture of his mother, looking much younger than she was now, standing proudly in front of her noodle stall. Every time he looked at it, it would trigger a rush of memories from his childhood.

His mind wandered to the time he was seven years old. He recalled vividly that his mother had started putting in long hours at work, and he resented that. He could not understand why she did not have time for him anymore. Looking at the throng of people, he was often envious of his friends whose mothers would be waiting eagerly for them at the school gate at dismissal time. Sadly, he could count the number of times she came to pick him up on the fingers of one hand.

On the day Nigel won a creative writing competition, he tried hard to **mask his disappointment** when he saw his grandmother at the school gate. He managed to force a smile, but inwardly, he chided himself for his **unrealistic expectation**. He had been eager to share the good news with his mother but now it had to wait.

His grandmother, **nevertheless**, sensed he was downhearted. She understood why he was feeling that way, and gave him a warm hug. That made Nigel feel better, and he shared the good news with his grandmother. Beaming with pride, she declared, "We must have a small celebration for you tonight." Nigel nodded half-heartedly as his thoughts drifted. That night, as Nigel had anticipated, his mother missed the celebration.

To fulfil **her dream**, Nigel's mother toiled day and night without sufficient rest. Her pay as a cook was not much, but after many arduous months of hard work, she managed to save enough and could finally open her own noodle stall.

The red-letter day arrived. A few relatives had turned up to show support for Nigel's mother's new business. "Ready? One, two, three ... smile," Second Uncle cued, as he clicked on the camera. Her beaming smile lit up the entire place. After that, she showed off her culinary skills, working up a storm at the stove and tossing the ingredients up into the air with finesse. Nigel was mesmerised as he watched his mother in action, his heart swelling with pride. He whispered to himself, "I want to be a great cook just like Mum when I grow up." He had not realised it, but at that moment, in his heart he had made peace with his mother.

Nigel made it a point to help out his mother at the stall, not just to learn cooking from her, but more so to just be with her. It was on **one such occasion** that he learnt what a kind person she was. An elderly man had placed his order and after fumbling around in his pockets, managed to produce only a few coins. Those were not enough. Understanding his **predicament**, Nigel's mother handed him his order when it was ready, and reassured him that no payment was needed. Nigel saw the elderly man's eyes glisten with tears, obviously moved by her kind gesture. As the elderly man thanked her profusely, Nigel noticed the generous portion on the elderly man's plate.

Nigel was brought back to the present when he heard his mother's movements in the house. He placed the photograph back on the shelf, went to his mother and told her the **surprises** he had for her, "Mum, I have just been accepted by a prestigious culinary school! I also have a special present for you and Grandma for Mother's Day! Guess what it is ... I want to take both of you for a holiday overseas."

Upon hearing those words, Nigel's mother gave him a big hug and said, "Son, you are my greatest gift!"



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MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL (PRIMARY)

2023 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)

BOOKLET B

17 August 2023 (Thursday)

67 marks

Total Time for Booklets A and B: 1 h 50 min

NAME : _____ ()
CLASS : PRIMARY 6 _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Follow all instructions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use a dark blue or black ballpoint pen to write your answers in the space provided for each question.
5. Do not use correction fluid/tape or highlighters.

MARKS OBTAINED

BOOKLET A : _____ / 28

BOOKLET B : _____ / 67

TOTAL : _____ / 95

PARENT'S SIGNATURE : _____

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 to avoid confusion during marking. (10 marks)

EACH WORD CAN BE USED ONLY ONCE.

(A) are	(D) could	(G) however	(K) these	(N) where
(B) besides	(E) has	(H) in	(L) through	(P) while
(C) between	(F) have	(J) is	(M) to	(Q) whom

"Hic! Hic!" You may have let out these distinctive sounds after a heavy meal at one time or another. They are known as hiccups and they feel like jumpy gulps in the back of your throat. Have you wondered what causes hiccups? The structure responsible for hiccups in our complex body system (29) _____ our diaphragm. This is a dome-shaped muscle at the bottom of your chest and is (30) _____ all hiccups begin.

When a person inhales, the diaphragm pulls down to help draw air into the lungs. When one exhales, it relaxes and air flows out of the lungs (31) _____ the nose and mouth into the surroundings. (32) _____ are actions which take place automatically, whether you are awake or asleep. (33) _____, there are times when the diaphragm becomes irritated. When this happens, the air rushes into your throat, hits your voice box and your vocal cords close suddenly, resulting (34) _____ a big hiccup.

There are many reasons as to why the diaphragm (35) _____ be irritated. Stress, eating too much or too quickly and feeling nervous are a few common reasons that may lead (36) _____ hiccups.

There are lots of suggestions out there on how you can get rid of hiccups, and you might (37) _____ even tried one or two of them. One way is to hold your breath and count to ten (38) _____ another one is to sip water. Luckily, most hiccups are not harmful and will stop by themselves after a while.

Score: / 10

(Go on to the next page)

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

Koalas are native to Australia. How much do you know about them? There is

(39)

a lot more to these antrawling living 'teddy bears' than their cuddly size and laid-

(40)

(41)

back lifestyle that they are fame for. Is your curiauscity piqued?

(42)

When the Europeans first settled in Australia, they mistaking these tree

(43)

dwellers for a type of bear. However, koalas are similar with kangaroos, both of

(44)

which are marsupials - mammals that nurcher their newborn in a pouch. Of all

(45)

the marsupials, its closest relatives are the wombats.

Koalas live and feed on the eucalyptus trees. They climb up to the

(46)

branches to munch on the leaves, voraycously eating up to a kilogram of them

(47)

daily. Did you know that the leaves of these trees were poisonous? Furthermore,

(48)

they are tough to digest and provide few nutrition. Koalas have a specially

(49)

adapted digestive system that not only tharaghyly extracts nutrients from the

(50)

leaves but newtralises their toxins. How amazing they are!

Score: / 12

(Go on to the next page)

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

Intelligence is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. Human intelligence is a unique quality that consists of the abilities to learn from experience and (51) _____ to new situations. When a computer or a robot is able to (52) _____ a problem, it may seem intelligent. However, this type of intelligence is different (53) _____ a human's intelligence. It is called artificial intelligence or A.I. The term A.I. was (54) _____ in 1955 by John McCarthy, a computer scientist working on making computers intelligent.

The process of teaching computers to be intelligent involves researchers training the systems to play video games. Games provide a boundary with a set of rules. Computers play the games and based on (55) _____ and error, different ways to win are figured out. They (56) _____ on their stored memory to build on successes and learn from (57) _____ made.

You might also be familiar with "Siri" on iPhone. It is an intelligent personal assistant who responds to your request, provides information and (58) _____ tasks when told. You might ask "Siri", for example, to schedule an (59) _____ in your calendar for your next visit to the dentist or dial your mother's phone number.

A.I. robots known as chatbots* are being (60) _____ in online shops and the websites of government agencies to answer common (61) _____ that customers may have. These chatbots have advanced to the stage where they possess (62) _____ conversational abilities than ever before. Amazingly, A.I. has enabled these "deep learning" machines to learn from human behaviour, and (63) _____ human knowledge and skills. For instance, chatbots can take the (64) _____ of a doctor and start prescribing medicines to people. These expert systems can provide more advanced services which are typically carried out by highly (65) _____ professionals – those that take many years of learning - such as doctors, lawyers and accountants.

Despite all the benefits, there is fear that artificial intelligence may take over our jobs. Whether artificial intelligence is good or bad, it is an advancement that is here to stay.

* A chatbot is a computer program designed to send messages back to a human user, as if it is having a conversation with the person.

Score: / 15

For each of the questions 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. The twins know how to cycle. Joe knows how to cycle.

_____ as well as

67. Tim was thoughtful. He bought a cake for his grandmother's birthday.

It was thoughtful _____

68. George adjusted his school tie before going on stage.

George made _____

69. Everyone was having a good time. The exception was Daniel.

With the _____

70. "Can you explain this difficult problem to me?" John asked Miss Sim.

John asked Miss Sim _____

Score: / 10

(Go on to the next page)

Read the passage on page 9 in Booklet A and answer questions 71 to 80.

(20 marks)

Do not
write
in this
space.

71 Nigel "tried hard to mask his disappointment" (lines 10-11).

(a) What did Nigel do to mask his disappointment? [1m]

(b) What does the word "nevertheless" (line 14) tell us about his attempt at masking his disappointment? [1m]

72 Nigel had an "unrealistic expectation" (line 12).

(a) What was Nigel's expectation? [1m]

(b) What evidence was there in the passage to indicate that Nigel's expectation was unrealistic? Refer to information from an earlier part of the text. [1m]

73 Based on lines 4-18, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [2m]

	True/False	Reason
(a) Nigel wished his mother could pick him up at the school gate.		
(b) Nigel was excited when his grandmother said that she was holding a celebration for him.		

Do not
write
in this
space.

- 74 Based on lines 19-21, how can we tell that it was not easy for Nigel's mother to save up money? [2m]

- 75 From lines 22-28, pick out one word and one phrase that tell us Nigel's mother was good at cooking. [2m]

(a) a word:

(b) a four-word phrase:

- 76 From lines 29-36, pick out a four-word phrase which tells us that Nigel put in effort to bond with his mother. [1m]

- 77 Fill in the table below to explain how Nigel's feelings had changed. [2m]

	When Nigel was seven years old	When Nigel's mother opened her stall
How Nigel felt about his mother	Resentful	(a)
Why Nigel felt this way	(b)	He saw his mother cooking with great skill.

- 78 Look at 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(s) from the passage	What the word(s) refer to
(a) her dream (line 19)	
(b) one such occasion (line 30)	
(c) predicament (line 33)	

Do not
write
in this
space.

- 79 In what ways did Nigel's mother show kindness to the elderly man? [2m]

- (a) _____

 (b) _____

- 80 What were the "surprises" mentioned in line 39? [2m]

- (a) _____

 (b) _____

END OF PAPER

Score: / 20