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Name: _____ ()

21 August 2023

Class: Primary 6 SY



SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023

PRIMARY 6

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 (LANGUAGE USE AND COMPREHENSION)

BOOKLET A

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

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write your Index No. 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).

This booklet consists of 10 printed pages.

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 Although the basketball team met with many obstacles, they managed to win the championship _____ all odds.
- (1) amidst
 - (2) despite
 - (3) against
 - (4) through
- 2 My colleagues and _____ treated our new colleague, Amy, to a scrumptious meal to welcome _____ to the team.
- (1) I...she
 - (2) I...her
 - (3) me...she
 - (4) me...her
- 3 "William never came over again after you picked a quarrel with him, _____ he?" Mother asked.
- (1) did
 - (2) had
 - (3) didn't
 - (4) hadn't
- 4 If Siti _____ her work, she would have gone to the party.
- (1) completes
 - (2) completed
 - (3) has completed
 - (4) had completed
- 5 "The boys _____ for over an hour under the sun. Let's give them a 10-minute break," said Mrs Lee.
- (1) work
 - (2) will be working
 - (3) had been working
 - (4) have been working

- 6 ~~Neither Mary nor her siblings~~ _____ where the party will be held.
- (1) know
 - (2) knows
 - (3) has known
 - (4) have known
- 7 The generous emperor donated _____ sacks of rice to the commoners when famine struck.
- (1) few
 - (2) a lot
 - (3) much
 - (4) many
- 8 The students' eagerness _____ palpable as they prepare for their upcoming learning journey to the nursing home for the elderly.
- (1) is
 - (2) are
 - (3) was
 - (4) were
- 9 Many Singaporeans have taken to _____ their own vegetables in their HDB flats.
- (1) grow
 - (2) grows
 - (3) growing
 - (4) are growing
- 10 "_____ it is perfectly normal to feel happy when we have done well in our examinations, we should not boast about our achievements and be too proud," advised Mr Ang.
- (1) As
 - (2) While
 - (3) Unless
 - (4) However

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 Pat has fond _____ of the times she vacationed with her family, and they bring a smile to her face whenever she thinks of them.
- (1) testimonies
 - (2) descriptions
 - (3) recollections
 - (4) compositions
- 12 No matter how formidable her opponent was, she fought _____ and never once thought of giving up.
- (1) finally
 - (2) effortlessly
 - (3) relentlessly
 - (4) conclusively
- 13 Adam was shocked when his usually friendly neighbour gave a _____ reply when he asked her about her weekend.
- (1) curt
 - (2) charge
 - (3) expressive
 - (4) sentimental
- 14 The disgruntled customer tried to _____ the reputation of the restaurant by posting negative comments on social media.
- (1) belittle
 - (2) tarnish
 - (3) withdraw
 - (4) admonish
- 15 The new initiatives from the students _____ positive changes to their school.
- (1) brought up
 - (2) brought off
 - (3) brought about
 - (4) brought down

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

Singaporeans are keeping isopods as pets. They are catching up on this new and bizarre hobby. Isopod enthusiasts mentioned that there has been a spike in interest in these creatures during the circuit breaker. People were cooped up at home and many of them were bored. Since then, the number of hobbyists has been increasing bit by bit. Some isopod enthusiasts breed thousands of them in their homes. In the wild, isopods function as natural decomposers. In captivity, isopods require minimal maintenance, and they can be fed simple food such as vegetable scraps. Some breeders attempt to breed them and find it very gratifying when they succeed. However, environmentalists warn against keeping isopods as pets.

*Isopods are animals without backbones but have exoskeletons.

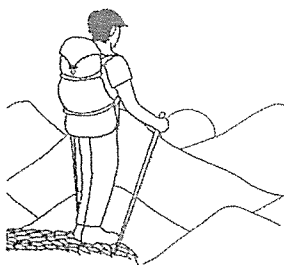
Adapted from The Straits Times, 'Nature's cleanup crew, Man's pets, 2023

- 16 (1) erratic
(2) peculiar
(3) unstable
(4) extraordinary
- 17 (1) encased
(2) confined
(3) sheltered
(4) enveloped
- 18 (1) unevenly
(2) gradually
(3) uniformly
(4) drastically
- 19 (1) care
(2) effort
(3) application
(4) preservation
- 20 (1) alluring
(2) rewarding
(3) productive
(4) entertaining

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

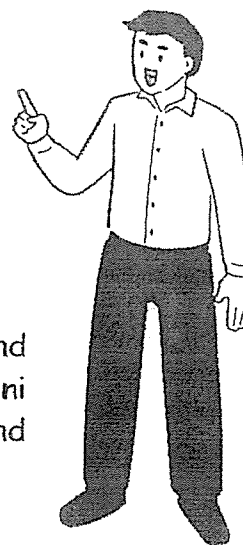


If you do not have any plans for the school holidays, you may want to consider embarking on an outdoor adventure. How about doing some hiking in a forest? Or perhaps going on a camping trip with your family or friends? Such activities offer you excellent opportunities to have fun and get close to nature at the same time, but safety needs to be your number one priority. Whatever you do, make sure you pick up essential survival skills and 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 always worthwhile. 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 personal 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 personal survival kit!



Examples of items in a survival kit



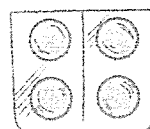
pencil



strip and
matches



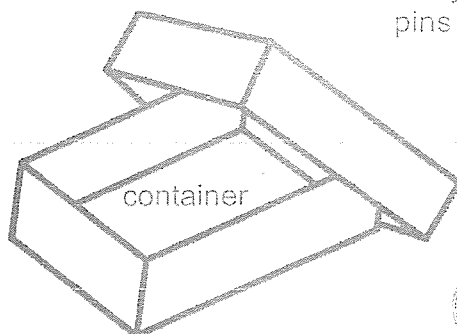
safety
pins



water
purification
pills



mini tubes
of liquid



container



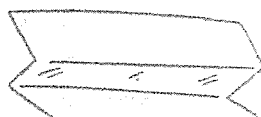
plasters



wire



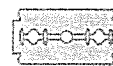
flat whistle



aluminium foil



rubber bands



razor
blade

Check this out!

Camp Leap

Dates: 4 to 7 December 2023

Venue: Sunny Forest Campsite

Fee: \$120 per participant

For children
aged 10 to 12

Early Bird Offer

Register by

31 October 2023

and pay only \$100!

Camp Leap is back by popular demand! Organised by Team Leap, 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. Registration will close early if all places are filled, so leap into action to avoid disappointment!

Safety Precautions:

- ✓ First aid kits will be readily available, and instructors are trained to deal with emergencies. However, take note that they are not allowed to administer medication.
- ✓ Participants must declare all medical conditions during registration. Those with medical conditions may be asked to sit out strenuous camp activities.

For each question from 21 to 28, shade your answer (1, 2, 3 or 4) on the Optical Answer Sheet.

- 21 The purpose of the questions in the first paragraph is to _____.
- (1) tell readers about hiking and camping
 - (2) let readers know what the article is about
 - (3) give readers suggestions for outdoor adventures
 - (4) ask readers about their plans for the school holidays
- 22 According to the article, it is important to carry survival kits in the great outdoors because we _____.
- (1) can bring along useful everyday items
 - (2) can foresee problems and prepare for them
 - (3) must make full use of the space in the containers
 - (4) must prepare ourselves for unexpected situations
- 23 According to the instructions on assembling a personal survival kit, which of the following items should be placed inside such a kit?
- (1) a box of matches
 - (2) a metal container
 - (3) some rubber bands
 - (4) some antiseptic cream
- 24 According to the instructions on how to assemble a personal survival kit, we should _____.
- (1) pack the basic items into the container last
 - (2) try to make use of all the space inside the container
 - (3) measure how much space is available in the container
 - (4) choose a container that can hold all the items we want to include
- 25 Which statement is **not** true about Camp Leap?
- (1) Not all children will be able to participate in it.
 - (2) Up to 100 children can participate in it every year.
 - (3) Registration may close before the stated deadline.
 - (4) The registration fee is reduced for more than a month.

26 Why is the exclamation mark used in the sentence, "Camp Leap is back by popular demand!"?

- (1) to emphasise that the camp was held before
- (2) to show that only repeat campers can register
- (3) to draw attention to the name of the camp, Camp Leap.
- (4) to convey excitement that the sought-after camp is back

27 Which of the following will the organiser **not** do? The organiser will not _____.

- (1) allow instructors to administer medication
- (2) ensure that the first-aid kits are always on hand
- (3) request that participants declare all their medical conditions
- (4) allow some participants with medical conditions to join the camp

28 What is the **main** purpose of the article?

- (1) to attract readers to sign up for an outdoor adventure camp
- (2) to emphasise the importance of following safety precautions.
- (3) to share tips on how to select items for a personal survival kit
- (4) to offer readers advice on having outdoor adventures in safety

Refer to the passage below when you answer questions 71 to 80 in Booklet B.

(20 marks)

Benny was trekking alone in the woods when something caught his eye. Spotting something shiny at a distance, Benny's curiosity was piqued, and he approached the strange-looking object that was crinkled and entangled in a fallen tree. Upon closer inspection, Benny realised that it was a weather-worn balloon. He also noticed that there was something attached to it – a child's Christmas wish list.

5

The note, written in the sloppy handwriting of a child, read, "My name is Laura. I am six years old. This year I have been good. I would like chocolates, a doll and a dog. Love, Laura."

Reading the wish list stirred up old memories for Benny. As a child, he had always written similar lists to Santa, hoping to find his presents under the Christmas tree, but those hopes had been dashed each year when Santa never responded. Holding Laura's note excitedly, a plan sparked in Benny's mind. He wanted to find Laura and make her wishes come true, so she would not experience the same disappointment he had. However, he did not know where to begin. Just as Benny was about to put the balloon and note back where he had found them, a notification appeared on his phone. An idea struck him.

10

"That might work!" he exclaimed. He remembered hearing stories of many people finding their long-lost relatives through social media. Filled with renewed hope, Benny posted a picture of the balloon and the Christmas list on social media. To ensure that his efforts would bear fruit, he even posted a video of him appealing to the online community to help him locate Laura. At first, he was not confident that the strategy would work. Gradually, he saw the number of people sharing his post creep into the hundreds. Benny felt whatever he was feeling turn to optimism in his attempt to trace Laura. Despite the **positive start**, Benny's hopes of finding Laura without any details grew dimmer with each passing day. It did not help that some users played pranks on him by pretending to be Laura, and it was not easy having to identify the "real" Laura. He felt like he was looking for a **needle in a haystack**.

15

20

Fortunately, he saw a glimmer of hope when he received a message from Diana, a friend of Laura's mother. Diana shared that Laura's family had been struggling to make ends meet and her mother wanted to bring some cheer to their home, so she suggested sending a letter to Santa by balloon. "So glad to have chanced upon your post and I immediately recognised Laura's handwriting! Many netizens have spread your post. I can't believe a complete stranger would go to great lengths to help fulfil Laura's wish," Diana added. Together, Benny and Diana hatched a plan to surprise Laura and bring her wishes to fruition. Benny found a puppy from an animal shelter, while Diana prepared homemade chocolates and made a doll for Laura. However, Diana was apprehensive about giving Laura the doll as the ⁸⁷⁰stitches were not perfect, and the chocolates might not be to Laura's liking.

25

30

Soon, the day of the surprise finally arrived. Decked in a Santa's suit, Benny was a bundle of nerves as he did not know if Laura would like the surprise. Laura squealed in delight when she saw Benny and Diana entering her house with the gifts that she had wished for. Benny heaved a sigh of relief. "I like the yummy chocolates! I really love this beautiful doll!" Laura exclaimed as she embraced Santa. Even though it was a simple gesture, being able to help Laura fulfil her wishes warmed Benny's heart. At that moment, it was as if through Laura, he was experiencing the joyous Christmas morning he had always yearned for as a child.

35

40

"I'm glad I made that decision," Benny smiled.

Story idea adapted from <https://www.rd.com/article/this-man-fulfilled-a-childs-christmas-wish/>

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) and	(D) from	(G) have	(K) my	(N) who
(B) are	(E) his	(H) how	(L) or	(P) which
(C) during	(F) has	(J) is	(M) the	(Q) upward

In one of Ms Kawano's classes, more than a dozen students held mirrors to their faces. They were stretching the sides of their mouths _____ with their fingers. The students were practising _____ to smile. It is not something most people would think to pay for but Ms Kawano's services as a smile instructor _____ seeing a surge in demand in Japan, where mask-wearing was mandatory _____ the COVID pandemic. Many people have forgotten what a smile is.

(29)

(30)

(31)

(32)

Miss Yoshida is one of the students _____ took the class. It was part of her school's courses to prepare her for _____ job market. She explained that she needed to work on her smile. "I hadn't used _____ facial muscles much in the midst of the pandemic so it's a good exercise," she said.

(33)

(34)

(35)

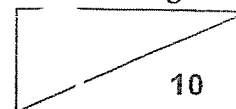
Ms Kawano's company, Egaoiku, which literally means "Smile Education" _____ seen a more than four-fold jump in demand _____ the previous year. An hour-long one-on-one lesson costs 7,700 yen (S\$74). Her trademarked "Hollywood Style Smiling Technique" method incorporates "crescent eyes", "round cheeks" _____ shaping the edges of the mouth to bare eight pearly whites in the upper row. Students can try out these techniques on a tablet to get a score on their smiles.

(36)

(37)

(38)

<https://www.todayonline.com/world/japanese-get-trained-hollywood-smiles-masks-slowly-come>



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

(39)

It was the year-end holidays! Siti was in seventh heaven. She and her family be going

(40)

to Korea for a ten-day holiday. It was her first time flying and she was absolutely thrried.

Siti was still busy packing on the day of her departure. She wanted to make sure that she

(41)

had put everything she needed in her lagauge. She double-checked against her packing list

(42)

and was totally satisfy that she did not miss out anything.

(43)

Her elder sister felt that she was excess cautious and laughed at her. Her parents

(44)

(45)

simply looked on indulgentee. All too soon, it was time to leave for the airport. Just as we

(46)

were about to board the taxi to the airport, Siti realised that she had forget to pack in her

(47)

favourite teddy bear. She could not sleep without it! Without hairseation, her father

(48)

dashed into her bedroom and grab the bear. Siti heaved a sigh of relief.

(49)

Finally, they reached the airport. There was a snaking cuje to check in but that did not

dampen Siti's spirits. She just wanted to reach Korea to start her holiday. In the twinkling

of an eye, they were in front of the check-in counter. Siti's father reached into his bag to

(50)

get the passports. He let out an awdeedle gasp when he could not find them. Just then, he

realised that he had left them on the dining table at home!

Everyone was flabbergasted!

-Teacher-created-

12

Fill in each blank with a suitable word.

(15 marks)

Bread Run is a programme by Food from the Heart, a food charity that feeds the needy in Singapore. It was born from a newspaper article about bakeries discarding their unsold bread. Upon reading that article, the founders of Food from the Heart, Christine and Henry Laimer, spotted an _____ to make the most out of the situation – to channel unsold bread to the needy (51) instead of letting them go to waste. Although it was an uphill _____ to convince the bakeries to donate their unsold bread at the end of the day, the couple persevered. Eventually, some bakeries, _____ incurring additional work and staff duties, agreed. Involvement in the the Bread Run programme _____ steadily from only a few bakeries and 120 volunteers to 111 bakeries and 1,700 volunteers today. (52) (53) (54)

The typical Bread Run involves bakery staff setting _____ the unsold items at the end of the day before _____ them individually to ensure food safety. These are passed to the volunteer Bread Runner _____ comes around at closing time. The bread is _____ immediately delivered to the location where the bread will be distributed the following day for consumption within 24 hours for food safety reasons. (55) (56) (57) (58)

The delivery of the bread _____ completed by volunteers every day of the year, be it rain or _____. Each volunteer is assigned a delivery route that _____ the pick-up of bread from the Bread Run partners and the drop-off of bread at various bread distribution points in Singapore. Due to this programme, 28000 kg of bread is _____ from the bins every month, which works out to 1350 trolleys worth of bread! (59) (60) (61) (62)

Over _____, the Bread Runs did encounter disruptions in their daily operations. Some bakeries did not have enough bread to donate _____ they were sold out for the day and in some cases, the volunteers were unable to make it for their routes. A few of the bakery partners had also _____ operations due to the economic slowdown. Nevertheless, Food from the Heart hopes to continue to engage more bakeries to come on board so that it can continue feeding the needy. (63) (64) (65)

<https://www.foodfromtheheart.sg/highlights/bread-run-programme-113>

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 David can only go to the park to play after he completes his homework.

_____ must _____

67 Frustrated, Betty sighed. She lamented that she was making little progress in her project.

Sighing in _____

68 "Why did you break your brother's toy car?" Mother questioned me.

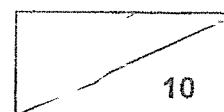
Mother wanted to know _____

69 Starting next Monday, the shopping mall will extend its opening hours.

With effect _____

70 The police assured the flood victims that help would arrive soon.

The flood victims were given the _____



Read the passage on page 10 of Booklet A and answer questions 71 to 80.

71 Based on lines 1-5, why was Benny curious? [1m]

Cur

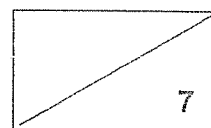
72 Based on lines 8-14, how did Benny show that he had given up executing his plan? [2m]

73 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]

feeling

Word(s) from the passage	What the word(s) refer(s) to
a) wish list (line 5)	
b) a plan (line 10)	
c) the positive start (line 21)	

74 From lines 15-23, pick out a three-word phrase that tells us that Benny believed that his plan would work again. [1m]

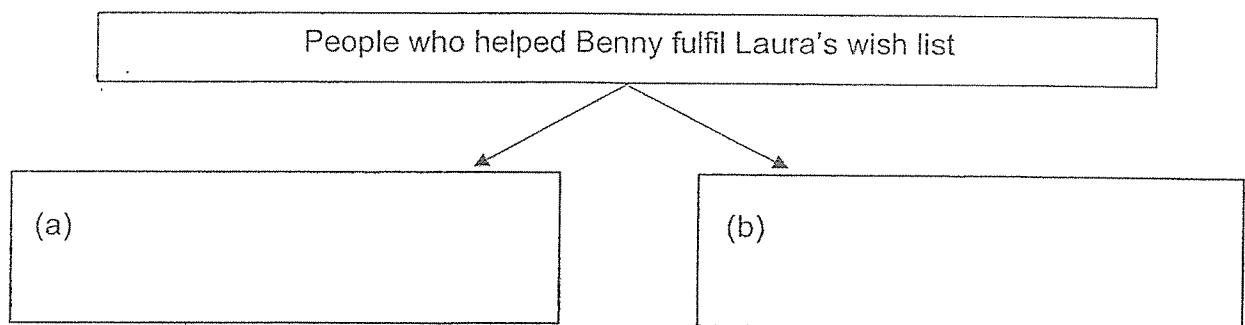


75 Why did Benny feel like “he was looking for a needle in a haystack”? (line 23) [2m]

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

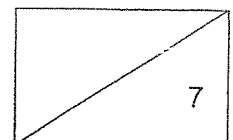
	True/ False	Reason
Benny went the extra mile to get the online community to find Laura.		
Diana did not expect anyone to reply to Laura's note.		

77



[2m]

78 “Benny heaved a sigh of relief.” (lines 35-36). How is this different from how he felt before he entered Laura's house? [1m]



79 Fill in the following table with information from lines 24-39. [4m]

	What Diana thought of it	What Laura thought of it
The doll	(a)	(b)
Chocolates	(c)	(d)

80 (a) Based on lines 34-40, what was "that decision" (line 40)? [1m]

(b) Why did Benny choose to make "that decision" in the first place? Support your answer with evidence from the passage. [1m]

End of Paper

