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Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary)
Preliminary Examination 2015
Secondary 4 Express / 5 Normal (A)

Subject : English Language

Date : 20 July 2015

Subject Code: 1128/01

Duration : 1h 50 min

Name : _____ ()

Class : _____

Instructions to candidate:

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

Write your name, class and register number on the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black ink.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided for Section A.

Detach Section A from Section B and C of this paper.

Hand in answers to Section A, B, C and Question Paper **separately**.

Information for candidate:

The number of marks is given in brackets [] for each of the sections.

The total marks for this paper is **70**.

This paper consists of **5** printed pages including the cover page.

• 109

Section A [10 marks]

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about artificial intelligence. The first and last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

I arrived to my destination at 2 pm.

at

My mother always wears sensible clothes.

✓

Until recently, artificial intelligence seemed to belong in the realms of sci-fi. Artificial intelligence has slipped into our lives despite most of us 1 noticing. Order something from Amazon or try to make Siri understand 2 you on your iPhone, and you are dealing with the form of artificial 3 intelligence. A recent survey within a team at Oxford University found 4 that most experts in the field pointed that by 2040, there can be a 5 realistic chance of production a human-comparable machine that could 6 actually outsmart humans. Investigations have go underway on how 7 future machines would be computerised for rogued behaviour to be 8 fixed. Converse, some experts have said that artificial intelligence 9 might accelerated the search for new drugs to fight cancer or help us 10 find new ways to generate carbon-free electricity.

Name : _____ ()

Class : _____

Section B [30 marks]

You are advised to write between 250 and 350 words for this section.

You should look at the poster on page 4, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

Singapore has experienced some poor air quality recently which has led people to believe that the city has not done enough to control it. Though Singapore's air quality may be cleaner than that of many Asian cities, it is not yet up to the World Health Organisation's exacting standards. Last week, the government introduced a slew of new standards and measures to improve the country's air quality.

As a member of the Environment Society, you know that poor air quality has many detrimental effects. Write a speech, to be delivered during the school's morning assembly, to raise awareness about the issue.

In your speech, state clearly:

- some sources of air pollution
- two effects of air pollution
- two steps the government will take to clean up the air
- what you think the school can do to help improve air quality.

Write your speech in clear, accurate English and in a persuasive tone to convince your school about your suggestions.

You should use your own words as much as possible.

CLEARING THE AIR

Singapore's air quality may be cleaner than that of many Asian cities, but it is not yet up to the World Health Organisation's exacting standards. Last week, Singapore introduced a slew of new standards and measures to improve its air quality. Here are some measures and challenges.

THE BIGGEST CULPRITS



Vehicles and engines STEPS TO CLEAN UP

- Minimum emission standards for imported off-road diesel engines (July 1, 2012) (for cranes, construction equipment etc)
- Near sulphur-free diesel (0.001% S) (July 1, 2013)
- Cleaner petrol for motor vehicles – sulphur content <0.005% S (Oct 1, 2013)
- Euro V emission standards for new diesel vehicles, up from Euro IV (Jan 1, 2014)
- Euro IV emission standards for new petrol vehicles, up from Euro II (April 1, 2014)



Refineries STEPS TO CLEAN UP

- Cleaner fuels such as natural gas
- Improve sulphur recovery processes
- Measures to cut emissions, such as sulphur dioxide scrubbing systems



Power stations STEPS TO CLEAN UP

- Increase use of natural gas and lower-sulphur fuel oil

Hot spots in the region STEPS TO CLEAN UP

- Asean agreement on transboundary haze pollution – all Asean countries are parties to this agreement except Indonesia
- Regular international meetings: two Asean meetings on Transboundary Haze Pollution are scheduled for next month in Bali
- In the past few years, Singapore has collaborated with the Indonesian province of Jambi to train officials and NGO staff to detect and monitor fire activity

Air pollution sources:

- Sulphur dioxide is a by-product of the burning of fossil fuels that contain sulphur. It also arises from industrial processes.
- Nitrogen dioxide is formed from a chemical reaction between nitrogen oxides and other chemicals; main sources include combustion of fossil fuels, especially petrol and refining of petrol.
- Carbon monoxide is a by-product of natural processes such as volcanoes and human activities such as incomplete burning of fossil fuels like petrol.

Air pollution effects:

- Health problems like respiratory problems such as bronchitis, irritation of nose, throat and lungs, increased risk of respiratory infection, poor lung function
- Reduction in the amount of oxygen that the body tissues receive, dizziness, and even death.
- Acid rain.

Taken from The Straits Times Online, 28th August 2012

Section C [30 marks]

Begin your answer on a fresh page.

You are advised to write between 350 and 500 words on one of the following topics.

At the head of your composition, write the number of the topic you have chosen.

1. 'Parents and teachers are partners in the education of children.' Write about some of the occasions when your parent worked together with the school in your education journey.
2. Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions to be made in life. What are the factors that would affect your choice?
3. Describe an occasion whereby you witnessed how Singapore celebrated the Golden Jubilee this year. How did the celebration take place and why was it significant to you?
4. Money cannot buy happiness. Do you agree?

----- END OF PAPER -----

Section A [10 marks]**ANSWERS**

Until recently, artificial intelligence seemed to belong in the realms of sci-fi. Artificial intelligence has slipped into our lives despite most of us noticing. Order something from Amazon or try to make Siri understand you on your iPhone, and you are dealing with the form of artificial intelligence. A recent survey within a team at Oxford University found that most experts in the field pointed that by 2040, there can be a realistic chance of production a human-comparable machine that could actually outsmart humans. Investigations have go underway on how future machines would be computerised for rogued behaviour to be fixed. Converse, some experts have said that artificial intelligence might accelerated the search for new drugs to fight cancer or help us find new ways to generate carbon-free electricity.

- 1 without (conj)
- 2 √
- 3 some/a (article)
- 4 by (prep)
- 5 √
- 6 producing (verb)
- 7 gone (tense)
- 8 rogue (adj)
- 9 Conversely (adv)
- 10 accelerate (tense)



Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Secondary)
Preliminary Examination 2015
Secondary 4 Express / 5 Normal (Academic)

Subject : English Language

Date: 22 July 2015

Subject Code : 1128/02

Duration: 1 hr 50 min

Name : _____

Class: _____

Centre / Index No: _____ / _____

Additional Material: INSERT

Instructions to candidate:

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

Write in dark blue or black ink.

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Information for candidate:

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

The total marks for this paper is **50**.

Section A [5 marks]

Refer to the poster (Text 1) on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1 - 4.

- 1 Refer to the pictures used in the advertisement. What purpose do they serve?

.....
.....[2]

- 2 Why does the advertisement list a number of ways to get involved?

.....
.....[1]

- 3 List one way Red Cross intends to generate additional publicity beyond what is provided by this advertisement.

.....
.....[1]

- 4 Refer to the section on 'ways to get involved'. How does the advertisement encourage people to be personally involved in the donation drive?

.....
.....[1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 on pages 3 - 4 of the Insert for Questions 5 - 15.

- 5 At the beginning of this text, the writer describes the weather conditions.

Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 emphasises that the weather conditions were chilly. Support your ideas with three details from the paragraph.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....[3]

- 6 In paragraph 1, the writer describes her first encounter with a skunk. Which phrase tells us that she was not in control of her situation?

.....[1]

- 7 In paragraph 2, the writer writes '... it did not smell all that bad, or perhaps it was just that I took shallow breaths in numb surprise'. What is unusual about the phrase 'numb surprise'?

.....

.....[1]

- 8 '... it trod out a spot for itself and then, with a serene little groan, curled up and lay perfectly still. That made two of us' (lines 9-11). What is ironic about this situation?

.....

.....[2]

- 9 'Carefully, making only the slightest of rustles, I drew the bag away from my face...' (lines 13-14). Why do you think the writer was being careful?

.....

.....[1]

10 Find words in paragraph 3 which suggest

(i) the grass has dried up[1]

(ii) the foul smell from the skunk[1]

11 In paragraph 4, the writer expounds on the topic of dreams. Explain what type of dreams the writer thinks a skunk might have. —

.....

[2]

12 Why is the phrase 'vile perfume' (line 35) ironic?

.....
[1]

13 What does the writer mean when she describes the odour from the skunk as 'powerfully *there*'?

.....
[1]

14 'I met no one – not a dog, not a squirrel, not even an early robin.' (lines 46 – 47)

(i) What tone does this line display?

.....
[1]

(ii) How is the tone emphasised in this line?

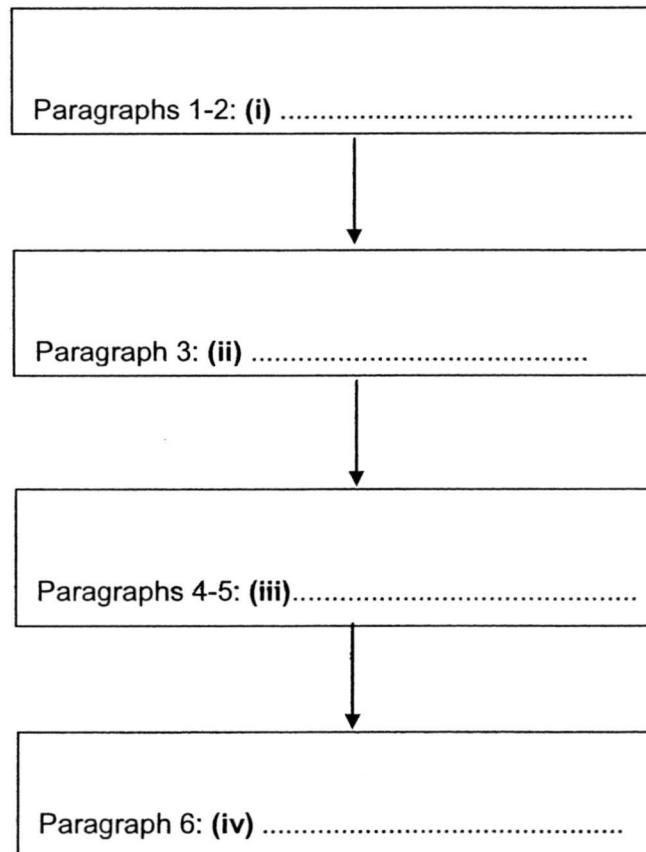
.....
[1]

- 15 The structure of the text reflects the main stages in the narrative. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the main focus of each stage of the narrative. There are some extra phrases in the box that you do not need to use.

Main focus in each of the stages

a frenzied struggle	a different approach	philosophical musings
a stoic acceptance of fate	a playful reflection	a peaceful resolution
meticulous preparation	an unlucky encounter	a stubborn refusal

Flow Chart



[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 5 - 6 of the Insert for Questions 16 - 22.

- 16 Why was Charles Edward Mudie feared by working novelists in the middle of the 19th century?

.....
[1]

- 17 Why does the writer say 'the story of Mudie comes to mind' (line 6) when referring to Le Guin's post at Book View Café. List two similarities between Mudie and the company, Amazon.

.....

[2]

- 18 Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Grace and Ben, who have read the article.

Grace: I feel that Amazon is to be blamed for the decline in Literature.

Ben: No, the writer says there are other reasons and Amazon is not the sole reason.

- (i) How would Ben explain his position with reference to lines 15 – 16? **Answer in your own words.**

.....

[2]

- (ii) Give an example from paragraph 4 that Grace can give to support her view.

.....
[1]

- 19 Le Guin warns of the effect of books we consume and states that it makes the mind obese. Explain why Le Guin chooses to describe the effect using the underlined phrase.

.....

[2]

- 20** What does the writer mean when he says book burning began 'as a bottom-up phenomenon' (lines 28 – 29)?

[1]

- 21 'As the demands of readers changed, the publishing market evolved to meet them.' (lines 47 – 48) What does the word 'evolved' reveal about the state of the publishing market?

.....[1]

- 22** Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the reasons for the decline of literature.

Use only information from paragraphs 4 to 7.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

The reasons for the decline of literature are

115

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

No. of words: [15]

————— **End of Paper** —————

**SEC 4EXP / 5NA ENGLISH 2015
PRELIMINARY EXAM, PAPER 2 ANSWERS**

Section A (5m)

Refer to the pictures used in the advertisement. What purpose do they serve?

1. They identify the **types of humanitarian services** that the Singapore Red Cross is **raising funds** for (1) and aid in **persuading people to help raise funds**. (1) [2]
X Depict the activities that they will be involved with – students need to be careful about the way they phrase their answer

Why does the advertisement list a number of ways to get involved?

2. It lists a number of ways so that people are **encouraged / compelled / will be inclined** to help out in any way they can / people can help out in a manner that best suits them. / To offer them a **choice** [1]
X Different backgrounds
X Ensure there are people helping

List one way Red Cross intends to generate additional publicity beyond what is provided by this advertisement.

3. By getting people to spread the word to **50 friends** on their social media networks **by using the hashtag #sgredcrossflagday**. [1]
X QR Code
X Rally 5 friends (Must focus on the words "additional publicity")

Refer to the section on 'ways to get involved'. How does the advertisement encourage people to be personally involved in the donation drive?

4. Through the use of **verbs like 'be', 'make', 'get'** to **directly address** the reader and call the reader to action – that is to contribute by spreading the word, donating or getting people to donate. / Through the use of **"your" and "our"** – signifies that they are already considered as being a part of the event. [2]
X Wrong section – "YOU can make a difference"
X Any of the ways listed such as "Be a tin bearer" as this looks at the entire section and not the individual activities

Section B (20m)

At the beginning of this text, the writer describes the weather conditions.

Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 emphasises that the weather conditions were chilly. Support your ideas with three details from the paragraph.

5. The phrase **'cold stars'** as stars are normally hot masses of gas and are unable to provide any warmth as felt by the writer in this instance. (1) [3]
'Fall progresses swiftly' indicates that it is coming to the end of fall and the start of winter. (1)
'Frost formed in the grass' shows that the weather is cold enough for ice to form. (1)
'Trailed a plume of steam' indicates that it is cold enough for condensation to occur when the skunk's odour was released into the air. (1)
(Any three from above).
X It is very cold because even the stars feel cold – style of language and contextual cues do not lead reader to understand that the stars have been personified
X Fall is coming soon
X Skunk – Fog / Mist

In paragraph 1, the writer describes her first encounter with a skunk. Which phrase tells us that she was not in control of her situation?

6. 'walked onto me with simple authority' [1]
 — X with simple authority – does not illustrate the skunk's course of action

In paragraph 2, the writer writes '... it did not smell all that bad, or perhaps it was just that I took shallow breaths in numb surprise'. What is unusual about the phrase 'numb surprise'?

7. It is unusual as it is an oxymoron - 'numb' indicates a lack of feeling and 'surprise' is a strong emotion. [1]

'... it trotted out a spot for itself and then, with a serene little groan, curled up and lay perfectly still. That made two of us' (lines 9-11). What is ironic about this situation?

8. The skunk found itself a comfortable position to rest in [1] but the writer was not at all content. (1) [2]
 X Skunk and writer were both comfortable even though the skunk was smelly – "I was wildly awake, trying to forget the sharpness and number... trying not to think of the high percentage..."

'Carefully, making only the slightest of rustles, I drew the bag away from my face...' (lines 13-14). Why do you think the writer was being careful?

9. She did not wish to rouse the skunk from its sleep / wake the skunk from its sleep. [1]
 X Stir up versus stir the skunk from its sleep
 X Afraid that the skunk would attack – "lay perfectly still", "did not stir at all" – the skunk is asleep.

the grass has dried up

10. (i) (harboured a) sere (dust) [1]
 X "along with my sleeping bag's smell, slightly mildewed, forever smoky"

the foul smell from the skunk

- (ii) rank tone of my bag-mate [1]
 X "the thick pungency of newly manured fields"

In paragraph 4, the writer expounds on the topic of dreams. Explain what type of dreams the writer thinks a skunk might have.

11. The skunk may have realistic dreams which it has physically experienced or it may be fantastical dreams, where a skunk dreams of being a human. [2]
 X It dreamt the writer's thoughts.

Explain the effect achieved by the juxtaposition in the phrase 'vile perfume'. (line 35)

12. A comical effect / humorous tone is achieved - It is ironic because 'perfume' is supposed to be sweet-smelling, but here it is described as 'vile', which means the smell is extremely unpleasant. [1]
 X the skunk smells nice

What does the writer mean when she describes the odour from the skunk as "powerfully there"?

13. The odour was so pungent that she could not escape it, and it could not be ignored. [1]
 Must have 2 parts – Very / extremely strong and it lingers

'I met no one – not a dog, not a squirrel, not even an early robin! (lines 46 – 47).

(i) What tone does this line display?

14. (i) The tone is matter-of-fact / desolate / one of acceptance / (the following are not as accurate but accepted) - despondent / dreary / depressed / cheerless / despairing [1]

X gloomy / melancholic / sarcastic / disappointment / sad / disbelief / defeated by skunk [1]

(ii) How is the tone emphasised in this line?

(ii) The **short phrases** in the line, where the phrases are separated by **punctuation**, emphasises the tone.

OR The **repetition of 'no' and 'not'** emphasises / depicts the tone.

15. Paragraphs 1-2 - an unlucky encounter
Paragraph 3 - a stoic acceptance of fate
Paragraphs 4-5 - philosophical musings
Paragraph 6 – a peaceful resolution

[4]



Section C (25 m)**Refer to Text 3 for Questions 16 – 22.**

16. He could make or break their careers / he could refuse to carry their books or the books they wrote [1]

Not accepted : he was powerful / he was the largest buyer of books

17. Like Mudie, Amazon is now the largest retailer in the United States. (1) It has the power to influence the writing careers of authors. (1) [2]

18. (i) Many popular works ('bestsellers') contain content that are similar ('much like') unhealthy ('junk') food. *comparison is needed

From the passage:

'The readability of many bestsellers is much like the edibility of junk food' (line 15 – 16). [2]

- (ii) Amazon rides on mass culture, which is the reason why serious literature is declining. [1]

19. When reading bestsellers, the mind is not fed with good writing / gorges on pre-packaged writing. (1) It therefore becomes unhealthy / unthinking / not discriminating / does not think critically. (any other reasonable answer) (1) and therefore becomes obese. *comparison is needed. [2]

20. It is the people / masses who start the episodes of book burning / a desire to rid the world of complexity. [1]

21. The publishing market is always changing / volatile / going with the flow of consumer demands. [1]

22. The reasons for the decline of literature are ...

	From the passage	In own words
1	(Le Guin is right) that the public's taste is changing [x difference in preference of books]	Consumers' choice is shifting / altering / varying
2	The mass culture has been convicted of killing off serious writing	The majority of people are to be blamed for the deterioration of good literature / texts
3	the decline of serious fiction damages our taste for serious argument.	The decrease / drop in the quality of good works has negatively affected our ability to critically debate / discuss issues.
4	We have developed the preference for the simplicity [simplistic not equal to simplicity]	We are more inclined towards / gravitate towards the easier options as
5	(and) a desire to rid the world of complexity	we wish for a world that is simple / more manageable / uncomplicated
6	the attention span is shorter. [x less attentive]	the amount of concentrated time spent on a task without becoming distracted is getting shorter
7	young people are reading less than before.[x lesser]	youth are reading less
8	The Internet...has dampened curiosity and altered what we mean by	the Internet...has diminished interest / curiosity and changed our perception of

	knowledge,	facts
9	it has also changed the way we consume writing	It has also transformed the way we look at writing
10	- pushing writers towards the short and quick. [x produces fast reading books / causing writers to be shorter and quicker – books are not short /quick]	forcing authors to produce works that can be easily read in the least possible time.

Content: 8m, language: 7m, total 15m

Note: Do not leave out articles *a*, *an* and *the*

Few vs less (No: 7)

What *is* Literature?? Eg. Many people prefer the simpler writing to literature???

