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Class	Index Number	Name

BUKIT MERAH SECONDARY SCHOOL

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2019
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1128/01**

Paper 1 Writing

6 May 2019

INSERT **1 hour 50 minutes**

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains **Section A** and the visual stimulus for **Section B.**

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Hand in the completed **Section A** Insert **separately**.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Setter: Ms Adeline Kong **[Turn over**

Section A [10 marks]

Question 1

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about the food we eat. 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 2pm. ……..at……..

My mother always wears sensible clothes. ……..√……..

For most people across the world, life is getting better but diets are getting worse. This is the bittersweet dilemma of eating this days. Unhealthy food, **1** .....
ate in a hurry, seems to be the price we pay for living in liberated modern **2** .....
societies. Our free and comfortable lifestyles are undermine by the fact that **3** .....
our food is killing us, not through lack of it but through its abundance – the **4** .....
hollow kind of abundance. What we eat now is a great cause of disease and **5** .....
death in the world than either tobacco or alcohol. In 2015, 12 million deaths **6** .....
could be attributed with "dietary risks" such as diets low in vegetables, nuts **7** .....
and seafood or diets high in processed meats and sugary drinks. This is **8** .....
paradoxical and sad, however good food used to be the test by which we **9** .....
judge the quality of life. Hence it should be logically impossible to have a good **10** .....
life without good food.

Adapted from https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/mar/16/snack-attacks-the-toxic-truth-about-the-way-we-eat

Create Memorable Experiences!
Whether the activity is cultural, sporty or adventurous, the choice is yours! Submit your class proposals to your Year Head for approval.

https://www.bukitmerahsec.com

https://www.bukitmerahsec.com

ArtScience Museum

- Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* books come alive in this interactive exhibition 'Wonderland'.
- Visitors can expect props, theatrical sets and audiovisual artwork.
- At the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, visitors can participate in an "audiovisual feast" as the room transforms in real time.
- Each visitor will choose one of four characters to uncover unique stories.

Bounce Trampoline Park

- Trampolining is a low-impact activity that simultaneously improves co-ordination and boosts cardio fitness.
- A fun and challenging activity for participants of any skill level.
- The programme ensures maximum group and individual participation.
- The team of highly-skilled instructors will ensure safety

Forest Adventure

- Participants will discover the thrill of height and the joy of physical outdoor activity.
- Activities ensure personal achievement
- All challenges end with a giant zip line to bring participants back to ground.
- The facility is right on the edge of the beautiful Bedok Reservoir.

Class	Index Number	Name

BUKIT MERAH SECONDARY SCHOOL

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2019
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1128/01**

Paper 1 Writing **6 May 2019**

1 hour 50 minutes

Additional materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and register number in the spaces provided on the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **Section A**, **Section B** and one question from **Section C**.

The Insert contains **Section A** and the visual stimulus for **Section B**.
For **Section A** write your answers in the spaces provided on the Insert.
For **Section B** and **Section C** write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question Booklets.

At the end of the examination, hand in **Section A**, **Section B** and **Section C** **separately.**

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the head of each section.

This document consists of **8** printed pages and **1** insert.

Setter: Ms Adeline Kong **[Turn over**

Section B [30 marks]

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

Question 2

You should look at the printout of a webpage in the Insert, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

Your Upper Secondary Year Head is offering the graduating classes an incentive activity during the June holidays. The activity is meant as a reward for all the hard work the cohort has put in so far, and as a form of motivation before the national exams. The three possible activities have been posted on the school website and each class will get to select the activity they like best. As Class Chairperson, your form teacher has asked you to submit your class proposal to the Year Head.

In your proposal you should explain:

- which activity your class likes best
- why the activity suits the needs of your class
- how you intend to organise the trip
- how the trip would be a good reward and motivation for the class.

You may add any other details you think will be helpful.

Write your proposal in clear, accurate English. Your tone should be persuasive, enthusiastic to convince your Year Head that the needs of your class have been considered.

You should use your own words as much as possible.

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Class	Index Number	Name

Section C [30 marks]

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

Questions 3 - 6

3 Describe the neighbourhood you live in. What are some things in your neighbourhood you will miss greatly if you have to move away?

4 'The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future'. How has this been true based on your experiences?

5 Young people are becoming more impatient these days. Do you agree?

6 Globalisation has seen more people working abroad for short periods of time. What are some advantages and disadvantages of working abroad?

Please write your chosen question number (**3**, **4**, **5** or **6**) here: …….

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Class	Index Number	Name

BUKIT MERAH SECONDARY SCHOOL

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2019
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS/ 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1128/02**

Paper 2 Comprehension **7 May 2019**

1 hour 50 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains Text 1, Text 2 and Text 3.

This document consists of **6** printed pages.

Setter: Leow Ser Leng **[Turn over**

Section A

Text 1

Study the webpage below and answer Questions 1-4 in the Question Booklet.

TECHSPO Singapore 2019 - Techs

https://techsposingapore.sg

TECHSPO SINGAPORE 2019 | SINGAPORE SEPTEMBER 18 - 19, 2019 | HOME | VISIT | EXHIBIT | TRAVEL | CONTACT | BUY TICKETS

Where Business, Technology and Innovation Collide in Singapore!

TECHSPO SINGAPORE 2019 is a 2-day large scale technology exhibition taking place from September 18 to 19 2019 at the luxurious Marina Bay Sands Expo and Conference Centre in Singapore. It brings together, technology designers, providers and innovators looking to set the pace in our advanced world of technology.

Seize this golden opportunity to enjoy these experiences:

Exhibition Booths

Check out our exhibition booths which showcase a myriad of next-generation technological advancements and innovation. This includes Internet and mobile technologies. Learn about how these evolving technologies will impact your business for greater growth and be inspired and amazed by the power of technology and innovation! Get ready to soak in the vibrant atmosphere!

Training Sessions

Discover the best innovations and case studies in the Technology Training Theatre, TECHSPO Hall. 3 presentation session recordings ranging from 30 to 45 minutes will be played to kick-start your training which will enable you to gain more in-depth understanding of the latest technologies. This is where theory and application come together to make learning relevant and meaningful. Get your thinking caps ready!

Networking

Interact with fellow technology enthusiasts attending the event to exchange views and ideas over Networking Luncheon. Better yet, download **Bizzabo**, our official event networking mobile app. Supported on iPhone and Android, it's a breeze to join the community to stay connected with others, be it for business or social purposes. Experience the power of a strong support network!

Register today for your *FREE Visitor Pass and Early Bird Discounts!

Limited to 1 free Visitor Pass per company

Click Here to Register NOW!

AS FEATURED IN:

CNN | FOX NEWS | NBC | CBS | abc | CW | Daily Herald | Mashable | DIGITAL JOURNAL | boston.com

Adapted from https://techsposingapore.sg/

Section B

Text 2

The account below describes the writer's experience of being lost in the Borneo jungle. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5-15 in the Question Booklet.

1 My destination was a secluded beach at the end of an 18 kilometre path winding through equatorial rainforest. The plan was to arrive at the beach around sundown, camp out and return the next morning to catch a rowboat back to the nearest city. I visualised myself arriving at the beach after a leisurely five or six hours.

2 However, the gruelling path was uphill, requiring me to clamber all the way and, at times, crawl on all fours. After two intense and energy sapping hours, a fourth of my 4-litre water store had been guzzled down but I had only hiked about two kilometres. The Borneo jungle loomed all around, more threatening now. When I was wearily resting next to a waterfall, some Germans passed by. When I told them my naïve plan, they smiled wryly but, impassively, said nothing. A few hours later, I was parched but out of water and starting to panic. I was resolute about continuing, although sweat was pouring out of me like a garden hose left on to tinkle into the grass. The path got rougher with everything being sharp, jagged or piercing, shredding my arms and legs.

3 Soon, the sun was getting lower in the sky, making me ponder on my predicament. If I turned back, I would be tromping through the deep dark jungle at night, with jealous monkeys for company, and I would never make it safely. I would step on a snake, stumble into one of the numerous deep crevices along the path or I would sink and be overwhelmed in quicksand. I had to press on, exit the jungle and get onto a pure tropical beach.

4 It was envisaging the beach, lovely, open and safe, that kept one foot moving in front of the other. Inevitably, the sun went down before I was anywhere near my destination. 'Went down' is just a euphemism though because, in reality, it plummeted. From the time it cast its first orange hues until complete darkness required only ten minutes. I pulled out my headlamp, happy with myself, reckoning that while I demonstratively had little sense for being in this situation to begin with, I had enough to bring a light.

5 The jungle at night was terrifying with the sounds of nightmares−things that howled from above and things that chortled from behind trees, long slippery things that squirmed and danced against your skin and when you pawed at them disappeared into thin air. Feeling compelled to do something, I darted around, at first making blind plunges in random directions. I apprehended the danger straight away and, so, attempted to be rational and figure out a path. However, cane, in every dark direction, was blocking me in: tall, thick and unassailable.

6 For some unfathomable reason, I decided to take a picture of myself, wanting to see what I looked like when petrified. Then I yelled for help, as deafeningly as possible, in the empty and echoing blackness. Nothing. I wandered aimlessly for another hour in the black sauna of the night. As I plodded on, one old adage kept popping up in my head: *when you get lost in the wilderness, the thing to do is to head down.* If you follow a downward slope, eventually you will come to a stream or river that flows to the sea. Follow that enough and you will find people.

7 Thus, I searched for the nearest downward slope, and let myself start sliding down it, the weight of my tent-filled backpack propelling me forward. While I was sliding down, loose gravel and dirt caved under me. I shone my light ahead and, in a flash of approaching death, noticed that there was no ground. Suddenly, I was on a precipice. About one metre in front of me was a 30-metre drop, a cliff that led down to an angry sea crashing

against jagged rocks. In panic, I started to scramble back up, but the backpack, and my position, made it impossible. I was being edged forward to die. *45*

Adapted from 'Lost in the Borneo jungle: A survival story' by Seth Pevey

Section C

Text 3

The text is an article about teak, a tropical hardwood tree species. Read it carefully and answer Questions 16-21 in the Question Booklet.

1 Often nicknamed as "The King of Hardwood", teak is one of the best wood you can find in the world for furniture. It is highly prized for its grains and hue and its resistance to cracking, warping, rotting and corrosion when in contact with steel. Other than its beauty and durability, it possesses some natural properties that other woods do not have. Unfortunately, natural teak forests are declining worldwide and the quality of naturally grown teak wood is deteriorating.

2 The tree that teak comes from, *Tectona grandis*, is native to the tropics, particularly in Southeast Asian nations such as Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Indonesian government considers teak such a valuable natural resource that it has a corporation, PT Perum Perhutani, in place dedicated to managing its official teak plantations in Java and Madura. On such plantations in Java, only a predetermined number of trees can be felled each year and each tree is replaced with a new one that is planted on the plantation. Teak's reputation made its way out of Asia around the 7th century, when the Dutch colonized Indonesia. Since then, teak has been used to outfit and adorn the residences of the wealthy and powerful. The strength and durability of teak wood is definitely world-renowned. For example, in caves in Western India, even objects made from teak more than 2,000 years ago have been found intact. This is untreated and uncared-for wood.

3 There is an abundance of natural oils and rubber locked right into the tight grain of the wood to keep back water and keep it from becoming misshapened or breaking. All woods contain oils that protect the tree – think of tea tree oil. Teak, however, can retain these oils and its rubber even after being felled and processed. Due to this, teak has greater naturally weather-resistant properties than just about any other type of wood. It has been used to construct ships for many centuries because it can stand up to elements such as rain for many years. When dried to a proper moisture level – around 10 percent of its original content – the oils and rubber weatherproof the wood. The oils also protect the wood from dry rot, which is a common problem in older wooden furniture. Furthermore, the oils and rubber protect the heart of the wood from invaders like fungi and parasites that can destroy other woods.

4 As the demand for teak increases, "Plantation Teak" has been developed in countries such as Indonesia and Costa Rica. In this method, the tropical hardwood tree from which teak is obtained is exclusively planted for either commercial or ecological purposes. Most teak comes from countries where native forests are clear-cut, thousands of acres at a time. Non-teak "waste trees" are often burnt to further clear the land, which may be used for abusive agricultural practices or left vulnerable to erosion. Consequently, plantation teak is an improvement over clear-cutting natural forests. It is, however, a long way from being sustainable because most plantations comprise no other tree species, just row upon row of teak trees. These monocultures do little to provide needed animal habitat. In addition, because the trees were planted at the same time, they are harvested at the same time. It is clear-cutting under a different name. Furthermore, plantation teak is rapidly grown and harvested, resulting in grains that are further apart and less defined. This affects the beauty of the furniture that will be made from the wood. It also results in poorer quality wood that is more likely to crack or warp. The soil in these plantations is said to be inferior, causing some teak to be less lustrous and have a lighter colour.

5 While the teak industry can have environmental impacts, teak planting serves local communities as a savings account, as the time until trees reach harvestable dimensions is comparatively long. It can take between 20 and 80 years before a teak tree planted

today is harvested for wood. In the long run, this helps smallholders improve their livelihoods and the livelihoods of their children.

Adapted from https://home.howstuffworks.com/home-decor/decorating-styles-techniques/teak-wood-furniture.htm and https://greyandsanders.com/blog/post/all-about-teak/

Class	Index Number	Name

BUKIT MERAH SECONDARY SCHOOL

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2019
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS/ 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **1128/02**

Paper 2 Comprehension **7 May 2019**

1 hour 50 minutes

Candidates answer in the Question Booklet.
Additional Materials: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and register number in the spaces provided on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue, correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **all** questions.
Write your answers in the spaces provided in the Question Booklet.
The Insert contains the texts for all the sections.

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

For Examiner's Use	
Section A	/5
Section B	/20
Section C	/10
Summary	/15
Total	**/50**

This document consists of **8** printed pages and **1** Insert.

Setter: Leow Ser Leng **[Turn over**

Section A [5 marks]

Text 1

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

1 The webpage begins with the tagline 'Where Business, Technology and Innovation Collide in Singapore!' What does 'Collide' suggest about the impact of the event on participants?

…….

…….. [1]

2 Refer to the section under 'Networking'.

(i) How does the photograph support the information presented in this section?

……..……

……..[1]

(ii) Identify a phrase that encourages the reader to be involved in networking.

……..……

…….. [1]

3 Who is the target audience of this webpage?

……[1]

4 How does the webpage persuade its target audience to participate in the event?

…….

…….. [1]

Section B [20 marks]

Text 2

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

5 **(i)** Which **word** in Paragraph 1 suggests that the writer anticipated his trek to be an easy one?

…… [1]

(ii) What does this word suggest about the writer's assessment of the situation?

…… [1]

6 Paragraph 2 describes the challenges faced by the writer. Explain how the language used in the paragraph emphasises how the writer found the experience to be physically demanding. Support your answer with **three** details from the paragraph.

(i) ……

…… [1]

(ii) ……

…… [1]

(iii) ……

…… [1]

7 'Soon, the sun was getting lower in the sky, making me ponder on my predicament.' (line 14).

(i) Explain why the writer had to ponder on his predicament.

……

…… [1]

(ii) What was his final decision?

……

…… [1]

8 " 'Went down' is just a euphemism though because, in reality, it plummeted." (line 22).

How is the word 'plummeted' used effectively here?

……

…….. [1]

9 What tone is the writer conveying in the last sentence of Paragraph 4?

……[1]

10 The writer says that he 'attempted to be rational' (line 30).

Which **two** of his actions show that he was not rational?

……

…….. [1]

11 In Paragraph 6, the writer describes taking a photograph of himself. Why do you think his action was 'unfathomable' (line 33)?

……

……

…… [2]

12 The writer describes the night as 'the black sauna' (lines 35-36). What does this suggest about the environment he was in?

……

…… [1]

13 Explain why it was a bad decision for the writer to slide down the nearest slope.

……

…… [1]

14 From Paragraph 7, identify **four** elements in nature that threatened the writer's safety.

……

…… [2]

15 The structure of the text reflects the writer's experience at different stages of the trek. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase to summarise the main experience at each stage. There are some extra phrases in the box that you do not need to use.

Stages of the trek

visualising scenery	considering options	initial plans	recognising peril
blind faith	seeking guidance	final plans	

Flow Chart

Paragraph 1-2

(i) ……

↓

Paragraph 3-4

(ii) ……

↓

Paragraph 5

(iii) ……

↓

Paragraph 6-7

(iv) ……

[4]

[Turn over

Section C [25 marks]

Text 3

Refer to Text 3 on pages 5-6 of the Insert for Questions 16-21.

16 Write down the characteristics of teak which lead to its ‘beauty’ (line 3) and ‘durability’ (line 4).

Description	***Characteristics***
Beauty	
Durability	

[2]

17 With reference to Paragraph 1, what are the current problems faced by the teak industry? **Answer in your own words**.

……..……

……..……..……...……

……

……..……..……..……. [2]

18 The writer says that ‘in caves in Western India, even objects made from teak more than 2,000 years ago have been found intact’ (lines 16-17).

Why does the writer include the above example?

……

……[1]

19 Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Victor and Lily, who have read the article

Victor

Plantation teak is a definite improvement from clear cutting forests.

However, plantation teak is not a completely sustainable method of farming.

Lily

(a) Give **two** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 4 to support Victor's view.

(i) ……

…… [1]

(ii) ……

…… [1]

(b) With reference to Paragraph 4, how would Lily explain her position?

……

…… [1]

20 Explain fully how teak planting serves the local communities as 'a savings account' (lines 45-46).

……

……

…… [2]

[Turn over

21 **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise the qualities and uses of teak.
Use only the information from Paragraphs 2 and 3

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).

Teak is a valuable natural resource which ……

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…… No. of words: [15]