



Compassvale Secondary School
English Language & Literature Department
2019 Mid-Year Examination
Paper 1 Table of Specifications (TOS)

Level: Secondary 4/5

Stream: 4 Express / 5 Normal Academic

Setter: Ritchell Choong

Section A (10 marks)

Editing

Over the weekend, 700 firefighters were deployed to battle a forest fire raging out	
of control in sparse populated Muli county in China's Sichuan province. The	1 sparsely (wf)
Chinese leadership had issued orders to respond immediately to the emergency,	2 ✓
before the blaze spiralled out of hand despite initial efforts to contain it. To make	3 after (conj)/ but (conj)
things worst , the harsh terrain in Muli county posed fresh challenges for	4 worse (wf)
emergency workers placed on the scene. Amid brave battles to put up the raging	5 out (prep)
fire who had destroyed 3,000 hectares of forest, firefighters had to endure high	6 that/which (relative pronoun)
altitudes at 4,000 metres above sea levels and steep trails. One wrong step and	7 ✓
they were doomed, but as true heroes, they refuse to walk away. For two days,	8 refused (t)
they worked hard to contain the forest fire and a sudden change in wind direction	9 but (conj) / when
ignited a huge fireball, killing 30 people in the maelstrom. The news were	10 was (sva)
devastating for their families. Many lives will forever be changed.	

[Option 1]

Section B (30 Marks)

Situational Writing

Task Fulfilment

For the 10 marks awarded for the 'Task Fulfilment', candidates need to demonstrate the following:

- Awareness of purpose, audience and context
- Relevance
- Development and organisation of ideas
- Appropriate use of given information and visual stimulus

Purpose: To apply for a volunteer position at the RC

Audience: Chairman of the Residents' Committee

>Tone Must be polite, persuasive and enthusiastic

Context

The local residents' committee in your neighbourhood is offering volunteer opportunities to teenagers over the holidays. They aim to expose youth to the needs of the community and allow them to develop skills that would be useful.

Candidates are applying to participate in some of these activities.

Format : Letter to an External Agency

541 Sengkang Ave 1
#04-561
Singapore 440541

3 May 2019

Chairman
Rivervale Residents' Committee
51 Rivervale Crescent
Singapore 440051

Dear Sir / Madam

Application for Volunteer Role

Yours sincerely
(Signature)
Name
(School)

Development and organisation of Ideas

The letter must reflect the following ideas (with sufficient amplification where relevant):

Introduction should include the following:

- Introduction of self
- Purpose of letter: to apply for position
- Expression of enthusiasm/excitement for the role.

Task Requirements

- RP1: The role you would like to apply for
- RP2: the reasons for your choice
 - (Refer to 2nd paragraph of each option; and explain the types of activities, questions and ideas you'll have for each option)
- RP3: the qualities or prior experiences you have which will enable you to contribute better
 - (Refer to 3rd paragraph of each option)
- RP4: Other ideas to improve the living environment of your neighbourhood.
 - (Own invention)

Option	RP2: the reasons for your choice	RP3: the qualities or prior experiences you have which will enable you to contribute better (Refer to 3 rd paragraph of each option)
Residents' Scribe	• Enjoy listening to people and helping them: listen to the residents share about their children's education, housing grants, application for HDB flats and request for healthcare subsidies • You can speak various languages like mandarin, cantonese, hokkien, malay, tamil and you want to help with these skills. • You know how difficult it is not to be able to express yourself, so you want to help them communicate • You have always been interested in how to help other people solve their problems.	Qualities: • Good listener • Believe it is important to be empathetic towards others and understand their concerns • Approachable and friendly • Proficient in English, Chinese and Malay. • Good grades for EL Prior experiences: • Translator for visiting exchange students • Able to speak with family members, grandparents in dialects • Learnt lessons at language classes. • Leadership experiences where you helped to sort out problems amongst people you lead.

Youth Mentor	• Love working with young children. • They are creative, energetic, innocent and happy and you enjoy playing with them and giving them meaningful activities to do like: • Excursions to the nearby park / playground / activity centre • Plan a treasure hunt / sketching in nature activity for children • Create painting, arts and crafts and other activities to engage their psychomotor skills within the classroom • Sandwich making activity that allows children to make food for their working parents. • You are also good at art or planning events so you believe you can help to create those experiences.	Qualities • Patient • Creative • Love arts and craft • Able to explain tasks well • Friendly, approachable Prior experiences: • Mom is a babysitter • Have younger siblings at home • Take care of younger cousins • Volunteered at other Childcare centres • Coach other younger children in church/community centres etc. • OSLP, VIA working with similar groups of people who need help.
Community Gardener	• Have green fingers, enjoy nature • Love gardening and how it brings about peace and relaxation. • Want to set up a fruit and vegetable garden for the community because it's more diverse than what you can do at home.: Create the space the gardening space. Plan the design of the garden and the types of seedlings to grow. • Want to meet more people of similar interests: Form a local gardening club to: grow and take care of local flowers, root vegetables, fruit and herbs for local harvesting. • It will brighten our environment. • Design: plant-a-tree, gdesign activities for families and neighbours to enjoy together.	Qualities • Patient • Creative • Loves/ believes in the importance of beautifying the environment • Loves nature • Enjoys planting and gardening Prior Experiences: • Personal garden at home • Does gardening/planting of herbs, flowers at home / in school • Has done an internship at NParks before

RP4:	ANY ideas to develop • community space, • community bonding and unity, • making transportation, goods and services all more accessible • youth involvement • elderly involvement • inclusion of people from all races, religions, nationalities, abilities or backgrounds
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Candidates' own ideas are encouraged although given information and visual stimulus should also be used to support personal opinion.

For the language, mark out of a possible 20.

> Please refer to Band Descriptors in the new Syllabus Marking **Guide**

Section C (30 marks)

S/N	Topic	Setter's Remarks
1	Text Type: <u>Descriptive and Personal Reflective</u> 'What matters most is that you have tried your best.' Write about a time when this was true. How did you realise this?	A candidate attempting this topic ought to have the following in his/her essay: - <i>Candidates should describe an occasion where a lot of effort was put in to do something.</i> - <i>Candidates should use descriptive language that evoke feelings and experiences of hard work – mainly utilising past tense and past perfect tense to narrate the events.</i> - <i>There should also be a clear evaluation of how 'trying one's best' is the most important thing that matters in that experience and how the events led up to that evaluation.</i> - <i>Candidates should use language of evaluation or reflection, and mainly using the simple present tense.</i> - <i>Vivid images of events should be rewarded highly</i> Candidates attempting this topic should have mastery over their language and content to sustain the readers' interest level. - Students must demonstrate the ability to use the past and present tense where appropriate - Use of precise and wide vocabulary, and variety of sentence structures should separate the strong scripts from the weaker ones.
2	Text type: <u>Discursive/ Argumentative</u> It is often said that it is more important to be healthy than wealthy. What is your opinion?	A candidate attempting this topic ought to have the following in his/her essay: - <i>a strong introduction and a thesis statement</i> - <i>Depending how the candidate interprets the question, this can be a discursive or argumentative essay.</i> - <i>Stand can be anywhere on the spectrum but viewpoints should never contradict itself.</i> - <i>Clear Topic sentences/ Evidence/ Explanation should be found within the content paragraphs.</i> Whether argumentative or discursive, both essay types should include an evaluation of "importance". It should have a metric to measure importance. A suggestion of how importance can be measured is by how it affects quality of life. So: the essay should have a discussion on how good physical health (or the lack of) affects one's experience/quality of life. It should also be discussed how monetary wealth (or the lack of) would affect one's quality of life. Stronger scripts may also discuss how the positive effects of good health on life can lead to wealth. Or it can consider how good health may not be the only factor that leads to a 'rich' life. <u>Possible ideas for why Health is more important:</u>

		- Good health allows one to try new physical things with no major complications. - Good health allows one to spend meaningful hours and time with loved ones. - Good health allows one to continue working hard and earning money and growing one's wealth. <u>Possible views of why being healthy is not more important than wealth:</u> - Health may mean one can lead a long life, but without a good job, or opportunities, quality of life is tough too. - Poverty is difficult even when one is healthy. - Having money can also help one recover from health ailments better/faster. Alternative views would consider that good health is not the only factor that allows for quality life. Discursive essays should provide a balanced view – and take a stand anywhere on the spectrum. Argumentative essays should firmly take one side and refute any counterarguments. In both cases, candidates may use their understanding of the world and their own, personal experiences to supplement the points raised in their essay. Candidates should have mastery over their language, vocabulary and content to sustain the readers' interest level.
3	<u>Text Type:</u> <u>Discursive</u> What are some major opportunities and challenges young people in your society face these days?	A candidate attempting this topic ought to have the following in his/her essay: - <i>a strong introduction and a thesis statement</i> - <i>Some background information about the world that young people live in these days. (e.g. the VUCA world today, technological affordances, globalisation etc)</i> - <i>Clear Topic sentences/ Evidence/ Explanation should be found within the content paragraphs.</i> <u>A discussion on opportunities:</u> - Technological advancements facilitate learning, collaboration. - New developments allow students to become creative with their designs and solutions. - There are many new, exciting job types which require soft skills and human collaboration. - There will be many experiences that allow them to work internationally, opportunities to make lives better for the community. <u>A discussion on the challenges:</u> - Everything is changing and in flux. Jobs that they will apply for probably don't even exist now. - Political systems and governments are impermanent and messy. The world is changing rapidly, so it is hard to catch up.

		- Technology renders things irrelevant very quickly. - Social relationships are breaking down because of a lack of real connection. Candidates may use their personal experiences to supplement the points raised in their essay. Candidates should discuss a minimum of 2 opportunities and 2 challenges. They should not take a stand as this is not a requirement of the question. Candidates should have mastery over their language and content to sustain the readers' interest level.
4	<u>Text type: Reflective / Recount / Hybrid</u> A meaningful friendship is one of the most valued relationships one can have. Write about the times you have found this to be true. Why were these friendships so important to you?	A candidate attempting this topic ought to have the following in his/her essay: - <i>Candidates should describe at least 2 occasions when they realised the importance of a meaningful friendship and it is valuable to them.</i> - <i>Candidates should use descriptive language that evoke feelings and experiences of how these friendships affected the candidate – mainly utilising past tense and past perfect tense to narrate the events.</i> - <i>There should also be a clear evaluation of how 'a meaningful friendship' became one of the most valued relationships to the candidate in those occasions.</i> - <i>There should also be an evaluation of those friendships and why they were important.</i> - <i>Candidates should use language of evaluation or reflection, and mainly using the simple present tenses to</i> - <i>Vivid images of events should be rewarded highly</i> Candidates attempting this topic should have mastery over their language and content to sustain the readers' interest level. - Students must demonstrate the ability to use the past and present tense where appropriate - Use of precise and wide vocabulary, and variety of sentence structures should separate the strong scripts from the weaker ones.

ANSWER



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**COMPASSVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL
2019 MID-YEAR EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2 [1128/02]
Secondary Four Express / Five Normal Academic**

Section A [5 marks]

Text 1

Refer to Text 1 on page 2 of the Insert for Questions 1 – 4.

- 1 How does the poster suggest the current popularity of the Singapore Performing Arts Festival?

It has attracted over 1 million performers yearly. [1]

Accept: It has over 300 festivals affiliated worldwide! Attracted over 1 million performers yearly.

- 2 Look at the photograph of a group of 4 people found at the bottom of the poster. With reference to the information presented below it, what idea does the photograph convey about joining the festival?

The photograph shows a confident person in a job interview/performing confidently in a job interview[1] which shows that participants will gain relevant/valuable communication/interpersonal skills. [1] [2]

- 3 Refer to the section headed **Feedback and Recognition**. Provide two ways individual participants will benefit from this class.

They will receive a report form of their performance and certificates. [1]

DNA: mini master-class to comment on the overall performance of the class as a whole as the focus is on individual participant.

- 4 Which sentence summarises the main benefit of the programme?

'The world of performing arts will encourage students to develop communication and interpersonal skills.' [1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 on pages 3 and 4 of the Insert for Questions 5 – 13.

- 5** At the beginning of the text, the children are kept indoors to avoid the heat. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 indicates their desire to be outdoors.

‘the children strained to get out’ suggests that they were doing their best/putting in excessive effort to be out.

‘Their faces were red and bloated with the effort’ suggests that they were physically exerting themselves in their attempt/tried very hard to convince their mother.

‘everything was still curtained and shuttered in a way that stifled the children’ suggests that the children felt confined/trapped indoors.

‘lungs were stuffed with cotton wool and their noses with dust’ / ‘if they didn’t burst out into the light and see the sun and feel the air, they would choke’ suggests that they felt very suffocated/stifled and yearn to bask in the sun/have fresh air around them.
[3]

Accept any 3 answers

- 6** In Paragraph 2, explain how the expression ‘burst out like seeds from a crackling, overripe pod’ (line 10) is particularly effective in describing the children’s behaviour?

It highlighted/emphasised how they could not wait/can hardly wait to get released/outdoors.

They were waiting eagerly to be unleashed/released outdoors.

They could not contain their excitement to be released outdoors. [1]

Accept any one answer.

DNA: They were excited. [need to indicate the reason for their excitement]

- 7** (i) What does Raghu’s reply, “You cheated!” (line 16) suggest about his state of mind?

He was feeling indignant/a sense of injustice

or

he thought it was unfair. [1]

- (ii) Give another word in the paragraph which suggests a similar idea.

‘protest’ [1]

- 8 In Paragraph 4, provide two reasons to explain why Vinod was feeling insecure.

He felt himself too exposed sitting on an upturned flowerpot and thought that he will be easily discovered/caught. [1]

[need to explain the reason for feeling exposed]

He did not have confidence to run away/escape as he was shorter than Raghu.[1] [2]

DNA: 'when matched against Raghu's long, hefty, footballer legs' as it does not explicitly convey the idea of Vinod being compromised by height.

- 9 (i) In Paragraph 5, 'He chuckled aloud with astonishment at his own temerity.'

(lines 28-29) Suggest why Vinod did that.

He was surprised with his boldness/courage to have gone into/entered the dark room. [1]

(ii) 'came charging round the garage only to find the upturned flowerpot. Snarling, he bent to pick up a stick and went off, whacking it against the garage and shed walls as if to beat out his prey' (lines 30-32).

Which words or phrases in the given sentences describe the actions of Raghu?

Descriptions of Raghu's actions	Words or phrases from the passage
(i) rush forward to attack	charging
(ii) fuming	snarling
(iii) hitting hard	whacking

[3]

- 10 In Paragraph 6, explain why it was ironical that Vinod 'felt almost relieved to hear Raghu' (line 36) is an irony.

He was trying to hide from Raghu in order not to be caught,/not to be discovered[1] however, he felt reassured by his presence as he was afraid of the dark. [1] [2]

- 11 Vinod desires to defeat Raghu in the game. Identify two separate words in the Paragraph 6 which convey this.

'winner' and 'triumph'

[1]

DNA: 'defeat' 'unconquered'

12

In Paragraph 7, explain why Vinod feels that 'His success had occupied him so wholly?' (line 52).

He was too focused on/put all his effort in hiding and trying to elude the seeker/not being caught instead of getting to the den to touch it.
[1]

Or

He had forgotten that he had to touch the den to win as he was too focused in eluding Raghu.

Or

He had forgotten to get to the den to touch it.

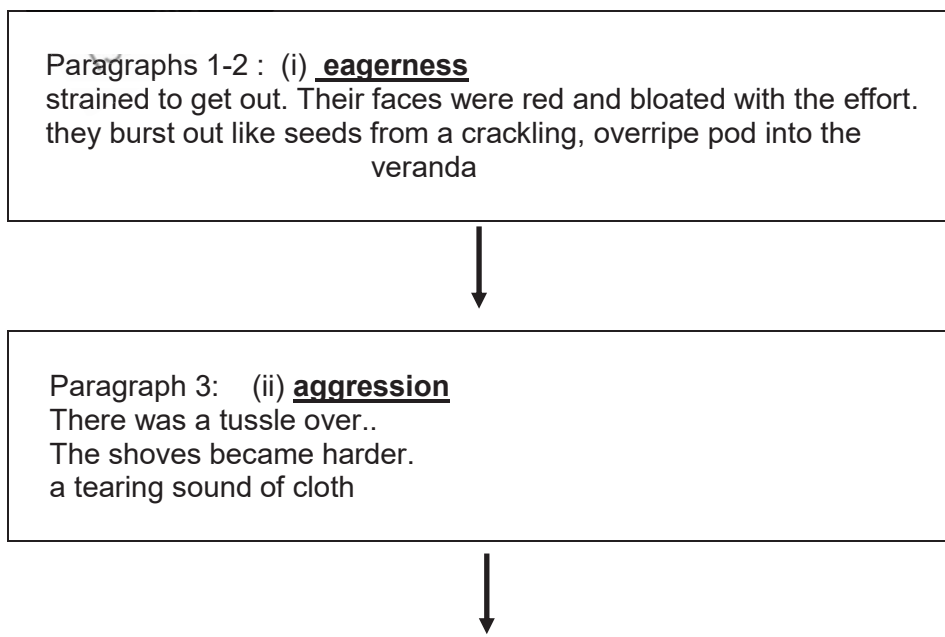
DNA: final dash to victory and the ringing cry of "Den!" does not specify the place he has to reach.

- 13 The structure of the text reflects the children's moods at different stages of their game. Complete the flowchart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main moods presented in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use.

The children's moods

regret	eagerness	irritation	confusion	dismay	trepidation	aggression
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Flow chart



Paragraphs 4-6: (iii) **trepidation**

Also with fear.

He leapt up

Stood frozen inside the shed.

wondered if it would not be better to be captured by Raghu



Paragraph 7 : (iv) **dismay**

It then occurred to him that he could have slipped out long ago,
dashed across the yard to the veranda,
and touched the “den.” It was
necessary to do that to win. He had
forgotten.

[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 5 and 6 of the Insert for Questions 14 – 18.

- 14 (i) In Paragraph 1, the writer says ‘this idyllic-sounding environment sustains an industry responsible for the deaths of over 3 million sharks a year.’ What is the predicament presented here?

The beautiful/peaceful/ideal environment [1] becomes responsible for/encourages[1] the high number/high rate of deaths of sharks.

[2]

or

The place that contains the world's most diverse coral reefs[1] is responsible for/ encourages[1] the high number/high rate of deaths of sharks.

DNA: It is responsible for 3 million sharks. [focus is not on the specific number, but the volume of deaths caused]

- (ii) From the same paragraph, what is the challenge faced in protecting the shark fin industry? **Answer in your own words.**

From text: Distinguishing the species from which fins are sourced can be extremely difficult, as the mixing of catches is a common practice that hampers traceability efforts.

Sharks are usually caught together with other types of fish/species[1] which deters attempts/makes it difficult to identify the fins. [1]

[2]

- 15 From Paragraph 2, identify a word that suggests that global trade is a major force behind overfishing.

‘overwhelmingly.’

[1]

- 16 Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Jasmine and Damien, who have read the article.



Jasmine

Finning of sharks has led to significant growth and development in Indonesia.

I think we should not ignore other countries benefiting from this trade as well.

Damien
Damien



- (i) State one way Jasmine’s view may be supported, using information from paragraph 2. **Answer in your own words.**

Lifted : enormous profits have transformed remote coastal villages to cash-based communities.

The distant/secluded fishing villages[1] progressed to using money transactions resulting from the huge gains[1] from shark finning.

[2]

- (i) From the same paragraph, give a phrase which Damien can use to support his view.

‘the gainful sale of their fins in international markets.’ [1]

17

In Paragraph 7, the writer says that ‘Extinction must not make the decision for us’ (line 45). State the writer’s tone in this sentence and explain its effect.

Cautionary/warning/tone of caution to[1] create a sense of urgency/to stop activities that prevent the extinction of sharks.[1]

[2]

DNA: Cautious tone

DNA: reflect [the writer wants action to be taken based on the severity of the issue]

- 18 **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise how the authorities are responsible for the shark population being on the verge of extinction and the measures required to ensure its survival.

Use only information from paragraphs 3 to 6.

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 authorities are responsible for the declining shark population as.....

	Lifted	Edited
1	<u>Shark finning and the mixing of catches</u> tend to take place in the <u>open seas or in remote ports</u> , where there is <u>little to no oversight</u> .	there is no supervision/surveillance done in open seas or secluded/faraway ports where different species are caught together.
2	authorities show little interest in controlling illegal wildlife trade, including that in shark fins.	authorities lack interest in managing illegal shark finning.
3	their enforcement capabilities are very limited because they <u>cannot inspect and run DNA tests on every single fin</u> that arrives at their customs	unable to implement laws to monitor and conduct DNA on each fin
4(a)	<u>to determine the area where the shark was caught,</u>	to identify the location
4 (b)	<u>or even determine the species.</u>	or ascertain the species
5	While there are ways to mitigate biologically unsustainable or environmentally harmful shark bycatch, there is very <u>little evidence</u> of fisheries management authorities or industry <u>insisting on rapid adoption of such methods.</u>	unwillingness to quickly effect/embrace measures to reduce environmentally harmful shark catch.
6	bycatch mitigation measures may well be resisted if bycatch consists of sharks for which fins can be sold.	non-compliance/aversion to such methods if it compromises sale of fins.
7	available enforcement and compliance systems are far <u>too poorly applied</u> for wildlife trade	Existing laws are poorly implemented to protect wildlife trade.
8	it would likely to take <u>too long</u> [and that is a luxury not currently afforded to many shark species.]	Implementation will take too long
9	Enforcement will take time to improve /unlikely to improve	
	measures to ensure its survival	
9	halt the consumption	ban consumption
10	and trade in all shark fin.	and sale

11	Consumers have to act fast and decide what is acceptable and what is not when it comes to vulnerable, uncontrolled species.	consumers need to be discerning about the species about to be extinct
12	Traditions change all the time according to new knowledge and shifting values/it is slowly declining in Hong Kong and mainland China, where young people are starting to see it as a cultural practice that is worth abandoning.	youths are becoming averse to consumption of shark's fin

The authorities are responsible for the declining shark population as.....

There is no surveillance in open seas or secluded ports where different species are caught together. Besides lack of interest in managing illegal shark finning, laws are not implemented to monitor and conduct DNA on each fin. The authorities are unwilling to quickly embrace measures to reduce shark catch. To save the shark population, consumption and sale of shark's fin should be banned. Consumers need to be discerning. Finally, youths are becoming averse to consumption of shark's fin, ensuring its survival.

