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ST. MARGARET'S SECONDARY SCHOOL.
Mid-Year Examinations 2019

CANDIDATE NAME

CLASS

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REGISTER NUMBER

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1128/01

Paper 1 Writing
Insert

3 May 2019

1 hour 50 minutes

Secondary 4 Express / 5 Normal (Academic)

Additional Materials: Nil

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains **Section A**.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Section A [10 marks]

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about creating additional land in Singapore. The first and the 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 beautiful clothes.

✓

Mr Shinichi Takiguchi looks out of the windows of his hotel room and all he
 can see is a sea. He believes that will change in time. He is in a team **1**
 working for construction giant Shimizu Corporation to build a floating city **2**
 for at least 50 000 people. They have been poring through maps of **3**
 Singapore, discussed potential locations. They are sure what they call the **4**
 Green Float will one day be part of the sea view because they have the **5**
 technology required to realise it. Building on water is one of the possibility **6**
 for Singapore as it looks for new spaces when people can live, work and **7**
 play. According to the Land Use Plan, about 6 000 more hectares of land is **8**
 needed by 2013 for a population expect to be 6.9 million. The city state is **9**
 leaving no stone unturn in these efforts. Other land-scarce cities are also **10**
 using unusual locations to overcome limited land.



ST. MARGARET'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mid-Year Examinations 2019

CANDIDATE NAME

CLASS

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REGISTER NUMBER

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1128/01

Paper 1 Writing

3 May 2019

Secondary 4 Express / 5 Normal (Academic)

1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper
Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

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

Section A is an Insert.

For **Section A**, write your answers in the spaces provided on the Insert.

For **Section B** and **Section C** write your answers on the separate Answer Paper provided.

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

Section B [30 marks]

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

You should look at the information on the flyer printed on page 3, study the information carefully and plan your answer before beginning to write.

Your Singaporean uncle who has been working in another country has decided to return to Singapore to retire. He would like to find out about the kind of support he can get from the community to help him live alone as a wheelchair-bound elderly person in the country.

You came across the attached flyer and having thought about your uncle's well-being, have decided to write a letter to him to address his concerns. In your letter:

- encourage him to return to Singapore
- recommend two of the three programmes which will help him settle in well
- tell him how he can use the programmes offered
- explain how he will benefit from the programmes recommended

Write your letter in clear, accurate English and in a warm, respectful tone, to assure your uncle that he will be comfortable in Singapore.

You may add any other details that might be of interest.

You should use your own words as much as possible.

Help for the Silver Generation



Silver Homes

Seniors need a clean, safe and healthy home to live in, so volunteers will help remove and/or re-organise personal belongings. General house cleaning and home improvement work are also offered on a regular basis.

Silver Screen

Seniors need to monitor their health. Volunteers tell them about subsidised functional screening to help detect age and health-related issues early. Volunteers also accompany the elderly on medical appointments. The seniors can call the volunteers when necessary.



Silver Friends

Seniors need friends to cheer them up. Those with little home support and/or disabilities can look forward to outings together with other seniors. The befriending team will also come in to celebrate special days and give the elderly emotional support. The seniors will be occupied a few hours each week.

Know someone who needs help?

Write to Daniel at silver_singapore@pa.gov.sg and help will be on the way!

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. Write about an occasion when you celebrated an important event in your life. What did you learn from the experience?
2. “The people we meet help shape our values”. Discuss how your encounters with different individuals have made you who you are today.
3. What are your favourite hawker dishes in Singapore? What features make these worthy of you sharing them with tourists?
4. “Schools prepare students sufficiently for work in the future”. Do you agree?



ST. MARGARET'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
Mid-Year Examinations 2019

CANDIDATE NAME

CLASS

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REGISTER NUMBER

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1128/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

Insert

3 May 2019

Secondary 4 Express / 5 Normal (Academic)

1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Materials: Question Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

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

[Turn over

Section A

Text 1

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

WORLD FOOD WASTE FACTS

Half of food produced globally for human consumption is wasted every year. Many around the world go to bed hungry every night, and yet millions of tonnes of food end up in landfills.



FOOD VALUE CHAIN:



Emerging & mature economies suffer food losses and wastage at the production, post harvest and processing stages. While food losses are also affected by consumer behaviour, marketing chains and channels for distribution contribute towards these losses.

REDUCING FOOD WASTE

Some simple steps for the individual

- ◆ Avoid clutter in your fridge and pantry
- ◆ Pack your lunch
- ◆ Understand expiration dates
- ◆ Shop realistically
- ◆ Learn to preserve
- ◆ Keep your serving sizes in check



Schools can also step up to the challenge by

- ◆ extending lunch periods
- ◆ letting children self-serve
- ◆ collecting excess wholesome food after mealtimes to donate to charitable organisations
- ◆ composting food waste for school gardens

Section B

Text 2

The text below describes a business executive's visit to a tourist island and his interaction with one of the natives. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5–18 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 The travel brochure I had read on the plane was so accurate that the island was completely without surprises. On the drive home from the airport, I saw multicoloured villas with unlikely English names and parks ferociously littered with hibiscus and bougainvillea, the most un-English of flowers. The streets that wound between the parks were kept deliberately narrow and it was accepted, in the interest of quaintness, that cars should be narrowed rather than streets widened. Lining the streets were policemen, attired as London bobbies. Though they looked ridiculous in the short pants they wore, this to me seemed practical and necessary in order to combat the heat. It appeared that every absurdity was condoned by the demand the American tourist made for a genuine British colonial atmosphere. 5 10
- 2 A convention of hoteliers was being held on the island and my presence was felt to be necessary as I was a business consultant to a number of London hotels. However, owing to my aversion to hoteliers and convention hotels, I decided to enjoy my stay in a small guesthouse some miles away. I intended to attend as little of the convention as possible and had equipped myself with a number of books whose reading I had too long postponed. The guesthouse was owned by a Mrs Stubbs whose dark round face was framed in a halo of grey wool. Only the pale grey eyes which turned to me as she opened the door betrayed the uncertainties of her origins. We exchanged greetings. Landladies the world over have a way of chattering as they show you to your room and Mrs Stubbs was no exception. The West Indian voice has a lovely lilt which I found hypnotic and was so entranced by its melody that I failed to appreciate the words. 15 20
- 3 The room was barely adequate but I consoled myself with the thought that it was preferable to being bombarded by the inanities of pop music or the attention of middle-aged Americans who had parasitised the earth. As I began unpacking my precious loads of books, I heard sounds. They were repetitive but not regular enough to suggest that a machine was producing them. I stepped out of my room and followed the sounds through a corridor and out onto a porch where I found their author. 25 30
- 4 A young girl was playing ping-pong against herself; her right hand was playing against her left as she held a bat in each hand. Still apparently engrossed in this odd left–right duel with herself, she said, "You must be the lodger. I'm Leda. Mrs Stubbs is my mother." I introduced myself and she invited me to play with her. From the outset, it was evident to both of us that I was by far the better player. Leda played with a fierce intensity that I found difficult to understand, retrieving impossible smashes only to lose the point. Much later, I realised that she did most things with uncompromising intensity. Believing 35

that the game meant much more to her than to me, I offered her several easy 40
 lobs which she hit unsmilingly into my face. We must have played ten games,
 all of which Leda lost. I was tired and wanted to stop. Leda agreed to and saw
 this as a concession defeat occasioned by my age. Wearing a tiny smile of
 triumph, she came round to my side of the table to congratulate me.

5 “I suppose, like all visitors, you love this island.” 45

6 “On the contrary, I rather dislike it and would not be here except that my
 business demands it.”

7 “Oh.” She seemed pleasantly surprised. “There are some nice places one can
 walk to if you like walking.”

8 I loved walking and appreciated the offer to be taken around. As we walked, I 50
 learnt something about Leda. She was eighteen and had a part-time job in a
 sweet shop. On leaving school, most of her friends had become receptionists
 in hotels or obtained jobs with travel agencies. Leda had, however, refused
 to. For as far back as she could remember, both she and her mother had
 humiliated themselves pandering to the whims of tourists. She went on to 55
 explain that the people on the island could only relate to each other through
 the tourist.

9 The next day, Leda showed me coves where the sea changed colour, sea-
 worn tree stumps which resembled miniature dinosaurs and caves where the
 rock face had been eroded into beautiful and bizarre patterns. I agreed to be 60
 shown different parts of the island over the next few days as there was nothing
 else much to do.

10 On my last day on the island, Leda suddenly said, “Will you take me to London
 tomorrow?” The request was no surprise. In five days, I had come to
 understand her isolation and desire for escape. I accepted her own view of 65
 herself as a lonely human oasis in a desert of traveller’s cheques, package
 holidays and people obsessed with self-indulgence. She assured me that her
 mother would let her go as she would have a better life in London. While I
 agreed to take her with me to London, I did not intend to carry it out. The next
 day, I packed my bags and took them to the closing session of the convention, 70
 after which we were booked to return on a special chartered flight to London.

Adapted from *Island*
 by Gopal Baratham

Section C

Text 3

The article below is about some aspects of the city of Bangkok. Read it carefully and answer Questions 19-28 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 Modern day Bangkok is an assault on the senses. The metropolis has experienced decades of uncontrolled development, yet it retains an allure that makes it one of Asia's most exotic cities. Bangkok's life and landscape were transformed during the early nineties when the city was the beating heart of a roaring 'tiger economy.' In thirty years, leafy avenues lined with wooden houses have turned into Manhattan-style thoroughfares with towering skyscrapers, while today, open-air markets are still surrounded by air-conditioned shopping malls. Thai culture is however, everywhere – a wellspring of smells, tastes, sounds and sights. 5
- 2 Bangkok has always acted as a magnet. Villagers who eke out a hand-to-mouth existence in wooden shacks empty out, hopeful for jobs and a better life. It is also not a city off the beaten track. Travellers of all kinds have visited the city for centuries. The tourist should give himself enough time to see some of the treasures which have given the city its iconic status. The Wat Arun or Temple of Dawn is particularly beautiful at sunset and can be viewed from the deck of an evening river cruise boat. Chinatown is a colourful area and during the Chinese New Year, the dynamism and spirit of celebration spread across the town like wildfire. Interestingly, gleaming Mercedes cars are a common sight in Chinatown. Chatuchak Weekend Market has reached a landmark status. Its sheer size and diverse collections of merchandise attract tourists. Besides the usual market goods, a variety of caged animals are sold. Meanwhile, the floating markets in Bangkok are one of the city's greatest attractions, with alluring local food and traditional Thai souvenirs. Damnoen Saduak, the most famous of these is usually bursting with tourists. Amphawa is the second most popular. Most people who visit this market are Thai, making it that much more authentic. 10 15 20 25
- 3 It is impossible to imagine the city scene in Bangkok and not factor in the ubiquitous tuk-tuk or three-wheeled scooter. One of the enduring symbols of Bangkok, they prove to be a handy way to zip through traffic especially since traffic jams are legendary in the city. More of a novelty than a practical way to travel, their open air nature provides ample opportunities to take photos. It is however important to ensure that valuables are kept away from the open sides as snatching has been known to happen. 30
- 4 Driven by the Thais' natural entrepreneurial spirit and long working hours, Bangkok enjoys its status as one of Asia's most successful commercial centres. Nevertheless, life in Bangkok is infused with the distinctly Thai spirit of *sanook* or fun. To the light-hearted Thais, enjoyment is a guiding principle to the point that seriousness is almost frowned upon. Kite-fighting contests are held in parks. Motion pictures are extremely popular and there is a thriving Thai cinema industry. Additionally, Bangkok's arts scene is blossoming with new galleries and exhibitions are now well attended events. 35 40

- 5 Bangkok's transportation system was originally based on water travel. The city's maze of canals connected with the river earned it the name "Venice of the East". The advent of the automobile has, however, resulted in about six million cars and many narrow streets. This has resulted in traffic being close to gridlock, causing air pollution. The Bangkok Mass Transit System, commonly known as the BTS or Skytrain as well as underground train service have had some palliative effect. Meanwhile, efforts to improve air quality include stricter controls on vehicle emissions. Canals which used to traverse the city have been replaced by intricate road networks. This has proven to be more than an aesthetic loss, however, because the waterway system had served to drain the waterlogged delta; flooding of the lower-lying parts of the city has thus become increasingly frequent. According to a World Bank report, nearly forty percent of Bangkok will also be inundated in the future due to extreme rainfall and changes in weather patterns. The government has scrambled to ameliorate the problem by constructing a municipal canal network of up to 2,600 km with pumping stations and eight underground tunnels to evacuate water. 45 50 55
- 6 The population explosion in the ever-expanding metropolis has caused the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) a multitude of woes. One of these is the extraordinary amount of trash that the city's residents throw away. In 2005, the city was tossing out almost 9,000 tons of waste such as plastics, foam and paper each day. By 2015, the mountain of daily garbage doubled. The city's garbage disposal system is already overburdened and landfills on the city's edge are insufficient. The BMA encourages residents to practise the 4Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle and repair. There is already an inbuilt grassroots system for recycling in the city's *saleng* men who comb the streets with pushcarts powered by bicycles or motorcycles. They buy old newspapers, plastic, glass, cardboard and metals which they sell to recycling plants for a small profit. 60 65 70

Adapted from *Enchanting Bangkok*

by Mick Shippen



ST. MARGARET'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mid-Year Examinations 2019

CANDIDATE NAME

CLASS

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REGISTER NUMBER

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1128/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

3 May 2019

Secondary 4 Express / 5 Normal (Academic)

1 hour 50 minutes

Candidates answer in the Question Booklet

Additional Materials: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your class, register number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

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.

Section A [5 marks]

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

- 1** Which sentence gives the main message of the webpage?
-
-[1]
- 2** Look at the section on the “FOOD VALUE CHAIN”. Explain how the information presented in the section complements the photo.
-
-[1]
- 3** What does the word “challenge” suggest about the task faced by individuals and schools with regard to the problem of food waste?
-
-[1]
- 4(a)** “Shop realistically”. How would an individual do this to reduce food wastage?
-
-[1]
- (b)** How can schools contribute to the community in the process of trying to reduce food wastage?
-
-[1]

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 2 on page 3 of the Insert for Questions 5-18.

- 5** At the beginning of the text, the writer arrives on the island. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 shows how he found certain features in discord with the place he was visiting.
Support your ideas with two details from Paragraph 1.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

- 6** "...every absurdity was condoned..." (line 10).
From Paragraph 1, which "absurdity" did the writer find particularly odd?

.....

.....[1]

- 7** According to Paragraph 2, how did the writer intend to spend his time on the island?

.....

.....[2]

- 8(a)** In Paragraph 2, how was the writer first able to tell that Mrs Stubbs was not English?

.....[1]

- (b)** What characteristic of Mrs Stubbs in Paragraph 2 did the writer seem to find familiar?

.....

.....[1]

- 9** In Paragraph 3, we are told that the writer found his room at the guesthouse “barely adequate.” Explain what he means by this.

.....
[1]

- 10** “...being bombarded by the inanities of pop music or the attention of middle-aged Americans who had parasitised the earth” (lines 26-27).
 What does this suggest about the writer’s attitude to pop music and middle-aged Americans?

.....[1]

- 11** In Paragraph 3, what made the writer curious about the sounds he heard?

.....
[1]

- 12** “Still apparently engrossed in this odd left-right duel with herself...” (lines 33-34).
 Why does the writer use the word “apparently”?

.....
[1]

- 13** What does “uncompromising” in Paragraph 4 suggest about the type of person Leda was?

.....[1]

- 14** Explain the writer’s kind gesture in Paragraph 4.

.....
[1]

- 15** In Paragraph 4, why did Leda have a “tiny smile of triumph” despite having lost the game to the writer?

.....

[1]

- 16** According to Paragraph 8, why did Leda not want to work in a hotel or travel agency?

.....
[1]

- 17** "...the people on the island could only relate to each other through the tourist" (lines 56-57).
 What does this suggest about the relationship between the people on the island?

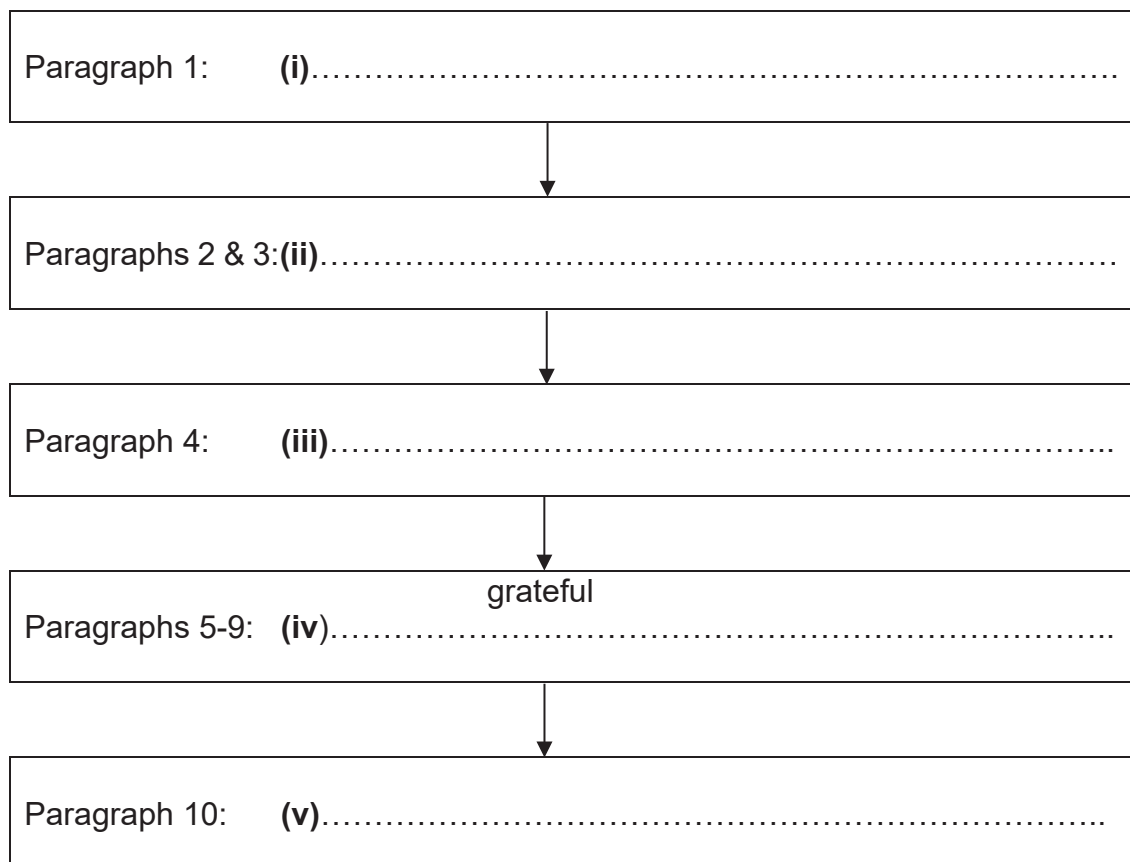
.....[1]

- 18** The structure of the text reflects the writer's different feelings during his time on the island. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word to show how the writer was feeling at different stages of his stay.

The writer's feelings

remorseful	baffled	indifferent	unfazed
contented	disappointed	sympathetic	

Flow Chart



[4]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 5-6 of the Insert for Questions 19-28.

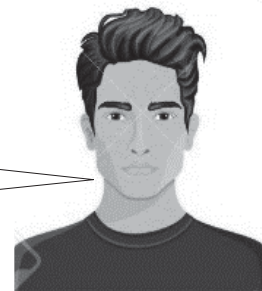
- 19 “...an assault on the senses” (line 1).
What senses is the writer referring to?
-
-[1]
- 20 From Paragraph 1, give an example to show how tradition and modernity can be seen on the streets of Bangkok.
-
-[1]
- 21 In Paragraph 2, how do “wooden shacks” and “gleaming Mercedes cars” show the contrast between two different lifestyles?
-
-
-[1]
- 22 In Paragraph 2, what is one unique feature of the Chatuchak Weekend Market?
-[1]
- 23 Here is part of a conversation between two students, Siew Leng and Arvind.

Siew Leng



Tourists enjoy visiting the floating markets in Bangkok.

That's probably because they can learn something about the culture of the people.



Arvind

From Paragraph 2, what can Arvind say to support his view?

.....
[1]

- 24** According to Paragraph 3, why might it be easy for one to experience a ride on the tuk-tuk? **Answer in your own words.**

.....
[1]

- 25** From Paragraph 3, what does “legendary” suggest about the traffic jams in Bangkok?

.....[1]

- 26** From Paragraph 4, give two examples of activities the Thais in Bangkok engage in to avoid the stresses of life.

.....
[2]

- 27** In Paragraph 5, which phrase tells us that Bangkok had a complex waterway system?

.....[1]

28 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the environmental challenges that Bangkok has faced and the measures adopted to resolve them.

Use information only from Paragraphs 5 and 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 city of Bangkok has faced environmental problems, one of

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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